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# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## St. Mary Mercy staff discuss pandemic

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

"It's been a long year." Dr. Patricia Paz-Arabo, the medical director of the emergency department at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, said everything changed when the hospital admitted its first COVID-19 patient March 13, 2020.

"We had all been following the news and then it came to Michigan," she recalled. "Shortly after that, we had our first patient. That was really when we realized it was here and we really needed to know more. The whole country didn't know much at that time." Livonia quickly became unique in having a higher COVID-19 fatality rate than surrounding communities, in large

part because of its older population. "It escalated quickly in just one week," Paz-Arabo said. "Once it hit our nursing homes, and Livonia has several, we were seeing ambulances coming in very regularly. The staff kind of had to change their mindsets." The hospital eventually converted non-ICU space, like its old emergency room, to treat coronavirus patients.

Staff was thankful to never be in a position of needing to share ventilators between patients or taking someone off a ventilator so someone else could have it. Like healthcare workers around the country, St. Mary Mercy staff found it frustrating to fight a virus they didn't know much about.

See STAFF, Page 4A



An employee removes a marinara-style pizza from the oven at Palermo's in Canton Township. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Canton pizza restaurant marks 40 years in business

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton Township was a much different place when Paul and Fay Palazzolo decided to open Palermo Pizzeria & Restaurant in 1981. Very little development could be found along Ford Road west of Canton Center. Police officers would patrol the

area and stop by the eatery on horseback. But despite this, Paul Palazzolo said he had a feeling Canton would need an Italian restaurant after he spent time in the township working odd construction jobs when he was younger while also working at a Downriver restaurant. "I don't want to outsmart myself, but I envisioned this town really taking off,"

he said. "As I was looking and thinking about it, working construction, I said, 'You know what? This town might need an Italian restaurant eventually like the one I'm working at.'" So he went to the township hall to sign paperwork to open the restaurant, and the rest is history.

See PALERMO'S, Page 6A

## PCCS looking to fill vacant board seat

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The health-related resignation of school board trustee Leonardo Savage created a vacancy that the Plymouth-Canton Schools Board of Education has 30 days (from March 9) to fill. Savage announced his resignation March 5 after ongoing health challenges forced him to miss all but two of 20

board of education meetings since Aug. 1. According to board policy 142.5, Savage's seat became vacant immediately upon the board's acceptance of his resignation. Savage's seat will be filled by board appointment, board President Patti McCoin said. If the board does not fill the seat in 30 days, Wayne RESA will make an appointment, McCoin said.

Savage's successor will hold the seat until the November 2022 election. Members of the Plymouth and Canton communities who are interested in filling the vacant seat should submit a letter of interest that includes their qualifications to Diane Robertson, the school district's executive secretary, no later than 4 p.m. Friday. See BOARD, Page 5A

## FOIA requests shed light on issues in schools

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It can be helpful to shed a little light on things. Sunshine Week, observed this year March 14-20, exists to educate the public on the need for open government. Open meetings, access to records and sunshine laws all help the public get information needed to hold their elected officials and tax-funded institutions accountable.

"Across the country, citizens and journalists are using open government laws at the local, state and federal levels to request data on nursing home deaths from COVID-19, release investigations of police shootings, and provide information on federally funded small business loans," said Judy Putnam, a retired news columnist for the Lansing State Journal. "These are needed efforts to shed light on actions of public bodies."

Though city council meetings and school budgets may seem less than exciting, people like Putnam, a Michigan Coalition for Open Government board member, argue keeping an eye on government has never mattered more.

"Information is power," Phil Allmen, Hometown Life editor said, said. "We can make informed decisions if we have information available. Knowing the government is supposed to represent us, it's up to us to make sure our representatives actually are working for us."

Locally, pandemic-related school closures and controversy among some districts' administration prompted journalists and citizens alike to request documents from individual districts throughout 2020 using the Freedom of Information Act. Hometown Life obtained those inquiries through its own FOIA requests.

Here's what people requested:

### Farmington Public Schools

Farmington received 41 FOIA requests last year, many surrounding

See REQUESTS, Page 5A



# Police share details about fatal shooting by DEA

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

Garden City police issued a lengthy report detailing their version of what happened the evening federal agents shot Alonte Damar Murphy on Pardo Street.

The 22-year-old man tied to a few small-time prior offenses in the Garden City 21st District Court was fatally shot the evening of Feb. 24.

When it initially happened, Garden City police released on Facebook a brief statement from the Drug Enforcement Administration in Detroit: "While assisting Garden City Police Department with an investigation, members of a DEA Detroit task force were involved in a shooting at approximately 5:10 p.m. A suspect sustained injury, was treated on

scene and transported to Beaumont Hospital, Dearborn. An investigation is ongoing."

It wasn't enough for Murphy's mother, who told TV reporters her son was shot outside his home while demanding answers to her questions about the shooting.

According to Garden City police, who released the Facebook report on Saturday, a person entered the headquarters at 1:18 a.m. Feb. 24 to report an assault by Murphy. The person said Murphy had a firearm during a domestic violence incident.

The person was taken to the hospital for treatment, and Garden City detectives obtained a search warrant and searched the home. They also began searching for Murphy, "who also had several active warrants for his arrest,"

police said.

DEA task force members aided Garden City police in their surveillance of the home where the alleged assault happened. Murphy pulled up in a vehicle at about 5 p.m.

DEA task force members "made contact" in front of the home.

"Murphy, armed with a semiautomatic handgun, exchanged gunfire with DEA task force members," police said in the media release.

Several bullets struck a police vehicle being used for cover. Once the gunfire was over, task force members confirmed that Murphy was injured and had him transported to a hospital, where he later died from his injuries.

Online Third Circuit Court records show that a warrant for Murphy's arrest was recommended on assault, weapons

and domestic violence charges associated with the initial report at headquarters.

The online record of the case in 21st District Court, where Murphy would have been arraigned, showed that the assault and weapons charges were felonies and the domestic violence charge was considered a misdemeanor.

Murphy's previous 21st District Court record was for incidents involving allegations of interference with the flow of traffic, no proof of insurance and driving under unsafe conditions.

He had no other court record in Third Circuit beyond the warrant for the alleged domestic violence incident.

Murphy's mother could not be reached for comment.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com).

## Kroger set to begin giving COVID-19 shots

Susan Selasky [DetroitFreePress.com](http://DetroitFreePress.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Kroger Co. of Michigan announced Friday that its Kroger Health division is now offering COVID-19 vaccinations at Kroger store pharmacies in Michigan.

Kroger received a limited supply of vaccines through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership plan, according to a news release. As doses are received, they will be allocated and administered across all 103 Kroger pharmacies in Michigan.

Kroger will administer doses according to state and local health department rollout guidelines, the release said.

"We are strongly encouraging all customers and associates to receive the vaccine to curb the spread of COVID-19 in our communities," Ban George, health and wellness leader for the Kroger Co. of Michigan, said in the release.

In February, the Cincinnati-based grocery giant announced it would give a \$100 bonus to its employees who get the COVID-19 vaccine when eligible.

Individuals must meet the current phase eligibility criteria in order to make a vaccination appointment at [kroger.com/covidvaccine](http://kroger.com/covidvaccine) or by calling 866-211-5320.

### hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by  
Observer & Eccentric Media

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#### Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50  
\$104 per 12 months home delivery

#### Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737  
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon  
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## Women lose weight, find friends in Kidney Foundation program

Shelby Tankersley [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There are few things sweeter than good friends.

A group of women found that out when they joined the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's diabetes prevention program in 2019. All eight women, who live throughout Farmington Hills, Wayne, Inkster and Dearborn Heights, were pre-diabetic at the time and used the program to lose weight.

Some of them knew each other beforehand and some did not, but they all left the program close friends. When they get together now, greetings come in the form of happy shouts, teasing jokes and pandemic-friendly elbow bumps.

"It's really a lifestyle change," Octavia Smith, of Inkster, said. "It takes time to change a lifestyle, so a year-long program is really beneficial to doing that."

Throughout the year-long program, which teaches participants how to live a healthy lifestyle and avoid a type 2 diabetes diagnosis, the women found motivation through their friends.

"Some people — I won't say who, Cynthia — would pick on people — that would be me — to get up at 5:45 in the morning to go to boot camp," Liz



A group of women who met at a diabetes education program at the Western Wayne County Family Health Centers lost a lot of weight and inspired each other. Pictured are Cynthia Hicks, Joyce Williams, Octavia Smith, Barbara Donald, Louise Edje, Cherisse Haynes, Elizabeth Walker, Mable Strom, Graziano Galloway and Dawn Dolinski. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Walker, of Dearborn Heights, said jokingly. "I've never even went to my job that early."

One way they kept each other accountable was walking in the parking lot of the Western Wayne Family Health Center in Inkster. Now, they primarily keep in touch over texting and Zoom.

"We started walking right here in this parking lot," Cynthia Hicks, of Inkster,

said. "When we got to week five of the program, it was about fitness. So, we started walking in this parking lot."

The program has moved online during the pandemic. People can register for an upcoming online class at [readysetprevent.org](http://readysetprevent.org).

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

## Four claim \$1B Mega Millions jackpot

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

Four members of an Oakland County lottery club finally cashed in their \$1 billion winning Mega Millions jackpot ticket bought in Novi in January.

The Michigan Lottery revealed Friday the Wolverine FLL Club as winners of the third largest jackpot in U.S. history. Kurt Panouses, an attorney and club representative, accepted the prize.

"A club member saw a sign that the jackpot was up to \$1 billion and remembered that they hadn't bought their tickets yet, so they pulled into the Kroger," Panouses said. "When you play of course you dream of winning, but the reality of it has been incredible... This kind of money will impact the families of our club members for

generations to come. We plan to stay humble and pay it forward through charitable giving in southeast Michigan."

The club bought the ticket with winning numbers 4-26-42-50-60 and Mega Ball 24 at the Novi Kroger, 47650 Grand River Ave. After 37 drawings without an overall winner, the club's lucky numbers were picked Jan. 22.

After taxes on the \$1.05 billion, the four club members will split about \$557 million taken in a lump sum (the winnings are about \$776 million before taxes).

"This kind of money will impact the families of our club members for generations to come," Panouses said. "We plan to stay humble and pay it forward through charitable giving in southeast Michigan."

Jake Harris, Michigan Lottery communications specialist, said he is thrilled for them, for state schools that benefit from lottery ticket purchases, and for the resulting philanthropy.

"Winners that are going to help charities is great to hear," he said. "There are

really great things that came out of this and we're happy to have played a part."

The winners were not teachers as was hotly speculated in the days after the ticket was drawn, but the call to the lottery office was no less exciting for Harris.

"To do a billion dollar claim, well, any time we get a call from a winner, it's pretty exciting," he said. "It's a life-changing call for them."

The \$1.05 billion jackpot is the largest prize ever won in Michigan, and third largest prize won in the United States. The national and world record for a lottery jackpot is \$1.586 billion. That Powerball jackpot was won on Jan. 13, 2016, and split between three winning tickets (California, Florida, and Tennessee). The second largest prize was a \$1.537 billion jackpot won on Oct. 23, 2018 by a South Carolina Player.

State law requires winners to be made public. Before the \$1 billion winner, Michigan's largest lottery prize ever won by a Michigan player was a \$337 million Powerball jackpot won Aug. 15, 2012.

### Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

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The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will accept bids for services and equipment for FY2021 of the Universal Services Fund (USF) E-rate Program. Specifications are available from the following web site:

<http://www.pccsk12.com/departments/business-office/bids>

All questions regarding the Structure Cabling RFP and the Network Electronics RFP should be directed to Mark Salzer at [techrfp@pccsk12.com](mailto:techrfp@pccsk12.com). Sealed bids for both RFPs will be received at the E.J. McClendon Center until 10 AM on Friday, April 2, 2021. The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education reserves the right to reject or decline all bids

Board of Education  
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools  
Doug Brooks, Secretary

#### Statement of Assurance of Compliance with Federal Law

It is the policy of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, height, weight, disability, religion or marital status in any of its programs, activities or employment.

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

The Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing for the 2021 sidewalk program on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:00pm at Plymouth Township Hall, located at 9955 North Haggerty Road in the township board room.

The repair program will require the replacement of any 4", 6", and 8" depth sidewalk determined to be defective per the township sidewalk ordinance. At this meeting, a resolution to require the sidewalk repairs in 2021 will be considered by the township board and any public questions or concerns on the sidewalk program may be voiced. If your property is found to have sidewalk defects needing repairs, you will receive a letter from the township with information on the program and the estimated costs for the sidewalk repairs on your property. For any questions regarding the program, please call the township engineer at (248) 844-6279 or email [sidewalks@plymouthtwp.org](mailto:sidewalks@plymouthtwp.org).

Jerry Vorva  
Plymouth Township Clerk

# HOW HAS COVID-19 CHANGED YOUR LIFE?

Last Thursday marked one year since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

Since then, life in the United States has drastically changed. From remote work and school schedules to new ways to attend events and church services, COVID-19 has altered how we live. And some of the changes could go on long after the virus is under control.

Since the first case in January 2020, the U.S. has seen nearly 530,000 deaths and 29 million cases. And now virus variants are creeping across the nation.

On the anniversary of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the state, the Michigan health department reported the state total increased to 601,284 confirmed cases and 15,706 deaths since March 2020.

Everyone's lives changed. We talked to those who live, work and play in our local communities to see what changes they've made in the past year.

Avery Seltenright, 13, finds it a challenge to wear masks and carry plastic dividers around at Muir Middle School in Huron Valley, where he is an eighth grader. "I've been watching TV and playing video games more," he said. "For the most part, it really sucks."



Londyn Jones was 3 months old when COVID-19 landed in Michigan one year ago. Her parents, Milly and Rob Jones, of Milford, found the pandemic to be a blessing of sorts. It has given them coveted time together in Londyn's first year of life, although they miss other family members, including Rob's mom and stepdad in England. "We've really enjoyed it. Most people think we're crazy," Milly laughs. "Someday we will tell Londyn we went through a pandemic and we got to all stay home together."

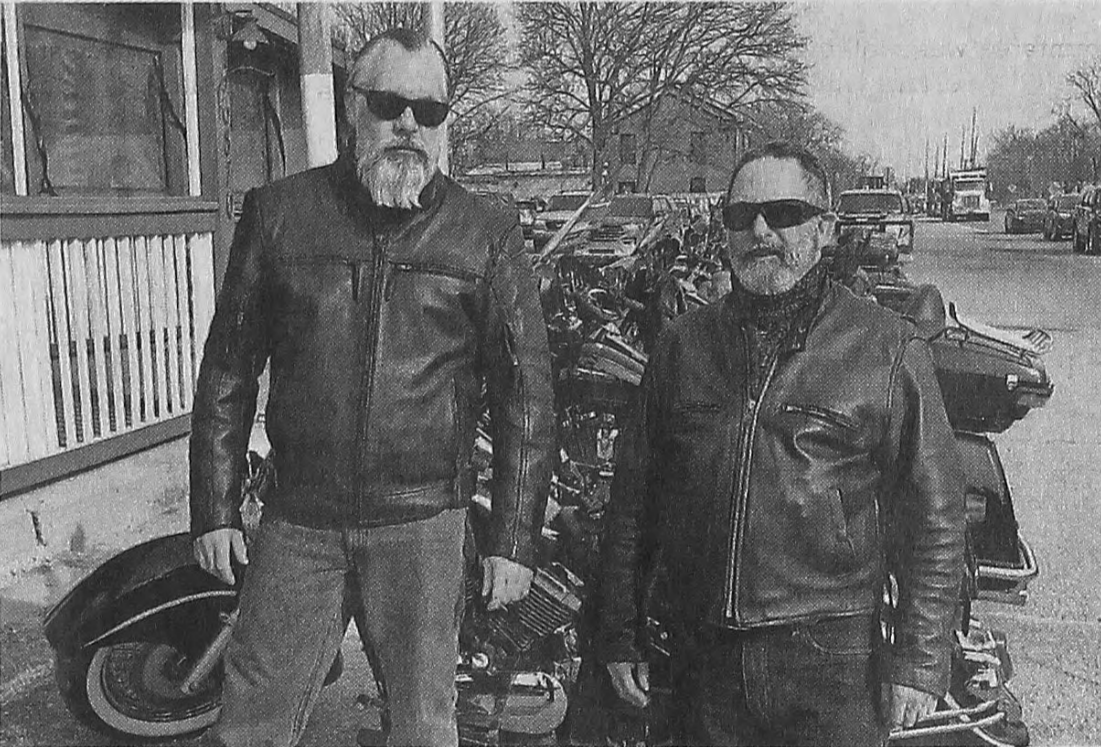
PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Gina Garofola, 26, of South Lyon, lost her job at a Detroit design firm as a result of the pandemic, but maintains a positive outlook that "everything happens for a reason." She is focusing more these days on doing things to increase her happiness as well as her physical and mental health, including more reading and outdoor exercise.



Fifteen-year-old Courie Pace, pictured at Tattan Park in Westland, said while the pandemic has been difficult in that it's kept her from seeing friends, it's given her extra time to pursue her dream of becoming an actress. "Because I'm at home so much, I get to spend more time practicing acting and working on my YouTube channel. This year taught me not to take life for granted," she said.



John Chittick, left, and Mark Rothman discuss the changes COVID-19 has wrought in their lives during a visit to the New Hudson Inn on March 9. Rothman, 63, of Highland, never stopped his work in the auto industry, but Chittick, 54, a member of the International Alliance of Theater and Stage Employees Local 38, has been out of work. "COVID-19 was a big hit to everyone in the entertainment industry," he said. "COVID will be around, we will have to live and deal with it. Hopefully people will be more cautious and respectful of health."



Hayden Tynensky has experienced the pandemic as a South Lyon East student and as a cashier at the New Hudson Walmart. The latter has caused him frustration in the past year as he witnessed customers yelling at each other. Much of the school year was virtual, which he noted makes it hard to keep up on lessons. The pandemic "opened my eyes to a lot of things," he said.

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Livonia St. Mary Mercy Hospital employees talk about their experiences during the coronavirus pandemic March 12. From left are emergency room nurse ChuChu Antonio, ER Department Chair Patricia Paz-Arabo, and vascular technician Brent Gale. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Staff

Continued from Page 1A

"For two or three weeks, we thought we were going to break," Brent Gale, a vascular nurse at the hospital, said. "We've got some badass ER nurses, and to see them start to waver was kind of tough."

Paz-Arabo said it was inspiring to see her colleagues want to serve the community so badly despite the uphill battle they were fighting. Gale said getting taken out of rotation and given a break was often frustrating to people because they wanted to be in the thick of things.

"Our residents were really courageous," Paz-Arabo said. "They said, 'We're younger, if we get it we're going to do OK compared to the seniors.'"

The pandemic also had a profound impact on their lives outside of work. Paz-Arabo said she and her children went through a phase where they didn't want to hug each other, and Gale said he hasn't seen his parents in over a year.

"One of my coworkers, I'll never forget it, said, 'I'm naked in the garage before I go into the house and shower and check in with my baby girl,'" ER Nurse ChuChu Antonio said.

But many of them felt supported by their families and the community. In Livonia, business donated food to the

hospital and there's been several mass outpourings of thanks.

"I was lucky to have a very understanding wife and daughter ... My wife adopted the mindset that we had been through it all already," Gale said.

Still, the front lines were lonely at times.

"You were shunned a little bit like, 'Hey, you're a hero. Don't come near me,'" Gale said. "That was really hard."

The three healthcare workers said the last few weeks have felt like a turnaround. Though they still have COVID briefings several times a week and Kool & the Gang's "Celebration" still plays in the halls after a coronavirus patient gets discharged, things feel far less scary

than they once did.

"We didn't realize the stress we were under until it lifted a little bit," Gale said.

Now, hospital staff are trying to remind the community to seek medical attention when they need it. Paz-Arabo said people often come in sicker because they're foregoing preventative care. Mental health is also a concern.

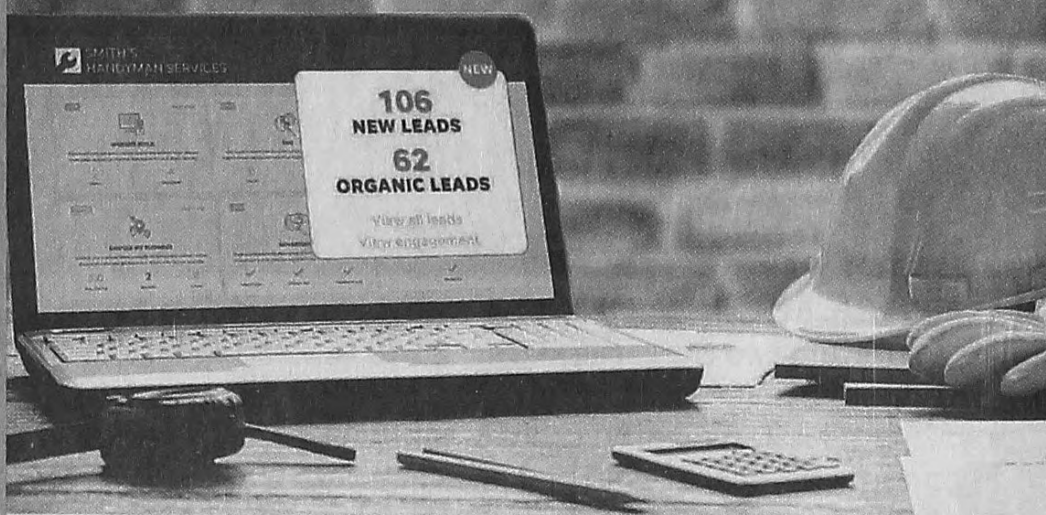
"Come and get your checkups," Gale said. "The hospital is a safe place."

But if the last year has shown them anything, it's that they can and will make it through.

"I'm very proud of being a nurse here," Antonio said.

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

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# State to open vaccines to residents 16 and up in April

Dave Boucher and Kristen Jordan Shamus

Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Every Michigander 16 and older will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in April, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the state health department said.

Starting March 22, anyone 16 and up with a qualifying medical condition will also be eligible.

"The safe COVID-19 vaccine is the most effective way to protect you, your family and others from the virus," Whitmer said in a news release. "I urge all eligible Michiganders to get one of the three COVID-19 vaccines. It is essential to getting our country back to normal. ... And as always: mask up, practice safe social distancing and avoid large indoor gatherings where COVID-19 can easily spread from person to person."

Right now, Michiganders 65 and up are eligible for vaccines. Those ages 50 to 64 with a pre-existing condition are eligible as well. Starting March 22, anyone 50 or older is eligible.

As of last week, more than 1 million Michigan residents have been fully vaccinated. That's about 12.5% of the population that the state wants to vaccinate. The state is aiming to vaccinate at least 70% of all residents 16 and older by the end of the year.

"As providers are scheduling appointments, they should consider an individual's risk of exposure due to their employment and their vulnerability to severe disease in determining how to schedule appointments," says a news release from the state. "It is anticipated that it may still take several weeks beyond April 5 for everyone who wishes to receive a vaccine to have an appointment."

Underlying medical conditions that would allow anyone 16 or older to be eligible March 22 include:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cancer
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Diabetes (Type 1 or 2)
- Down syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant, blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune-weakening medicines)
- Liver disease
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- Obesity or severe obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m2 or higher)
- Overweight (BMI greater than 25 kg/m2, but below 30 kg/m2)
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)

Those who are eligible are encouraged to check the website of their local health department or hospital system, contact their local pharmacy or call the state

hotline. The number is 888-535-6136 (press 1) and will be staffed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

President Joe Biden announced that every American adult will be eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine by May 1, and that there'll be enough doses for all U.S. adults by the end of May.

"We're making progress, but there's more work to do," said Jeff Zients, the White House COVID-19 response coordinator. "... all of us need to do our part, and that if we do, there's a good chance that families and friends will be able to safely gather in small groups to celebrate Independence Day."

To get there, Zients said, all states, tribes and territories are being directed to make all adults eligible for COVID-19 vaccines no later than May 1.

"That's earlier than expected," Zients said, "reflects our success working with vaccine manufacturers ... and also our progress in increasing both the number of vaccinators, and the number of places that people can get vaccinated."

Ford Field will be among 20 federally run mass vaccination sites, opening by March 24, Zients said. As many as 6,000 people a day will be able to get vaccinated there.

"We need to make it easier for every American to get vaccinated," Zients said. "Too often, it's too difficult, too time consuming and too frustrating for people to identify where vaccines are available and where to schedule an appointment."

By May 1, as vaccines are available in more places, administration will launch a federally supported website that will show the locations near them that have available vaccines.

## Board

Continued from Page 1A

"This gives board members an opportunity to get the (letters of interest) and review them ahead of (in-person interviews)," McCoin said.

Candidates will be invited to attend an in-person interview session with the remaining six board members at 7 p.m. March 24.

"Each person will get two to three minutes to give their qualifications and tell why they're interested in the school board," McCoin said. "Then (each board member) will rank the candidates one, two or three. The top several candidates will advance to the next round."

The tabulation of the board members' rankings will be completed by non-board members, McCoin explained, "so we don't actually see those rankings and ... nobody (on the board) knows if the (finalists) were the top-ranked or second."

"Then we interview those (finalist) candidates individually with a pre-determined list of questions so everybody is asked the same questions," McCoin said. "Then we vote again. From that, we will get the candidate who will be appointed to the board and they will be sworn in."

Interested candidates can find all of the information they need to apply on the district's website.

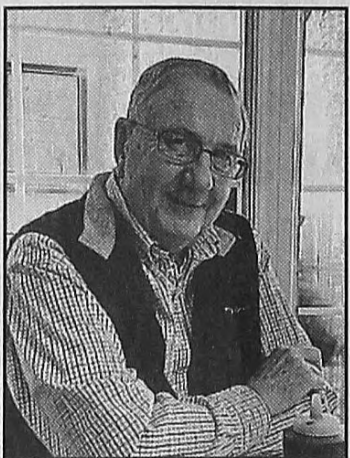
Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.

## Obituaries

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### Glen E. Evans, Jr.

LIVONIA - 85, passed away March 9, 2021, surrounded by family. Glen was born July 1, 1935, in Ironton, Ohio, the son of Glen and Goldie Evans. He proudly worked 42 years at Detroit Diesel and enjoyed golfing and woodworking. Glen loved antiquing with his wife and sweetheart, Nancy. His children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were very special to him. Above all, Glen's faith and hope rested in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Glen is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Nancy; children, Tim (Sharron) Evans, Craig (Lori) Evans and Teri (Michael) Wyman; grandchildren, Josh (Caroline) Evans, Sarah Evans, Jacob Evans, Jonathan Evans, Brad (Jessica) Evans, Tad Evans, Chad Evans, Anna Wyman and Abby (Erik) Sayas; great-grandchildren, Warren Evans, David Evans, Bryson Evans, Annalyse Bailey and Hazel Sayas; brothers, Rodger (Darlene) Evans, Virgil (Cheryl) Evans; and sister-in-law, Joyce Evans. Sadly, he was preceded in death by his brother, Bob Evans. Funeral services were held and interment followed at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia, MI. Memorial contributions suggested to Camp Michawana, 5800 Head Lake Road, Hastings, MI, 49058. Arrangements entrusted to Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington (248-474-5200). [heeney-sundquist.com](http://heeney-sundquist.com)



HEENEY-SUNDQUIST



Community members who wanted a return to in-person schooling despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic made FOIA requests to Plymouth-Canton schools in 2020. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS

## Requests

Continued from Page 1A

conflict between school board members and former Superintendent Bob Herrera's November resignation. Inquiries came from residents as well as journalists from Hometown Life, the Detroit News and the Farmington Voice.

Local watchdogs in Farmington include Julie Poisson, a district parent, and Tera Shamey, a former district employee who continues to work with minority and low income students, also submitted requests. Poisson alone made nine requests.

Richard Mukamal, a former school board trustee, also made a request for information regarding former school board Vice President Terry Johnson as well as current President Terri Weems and trustee Angie Smith. Johnson resigned the same night Herrera did.

### Livonia Public Schools

Livonia schools received 20 FOIA requests in 2020.

Research groups like the Mackinac Center For Public Policy and the Michigan Education Association asked for information on a variety of topics like employee compensation and how much the district spends in a year. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, a trade union, also made a request regarding employee compensation. These are commonplace requests and are something most districts receive on an annual basis.

The district also received an inquiry from Alan Helmkamp, a lawyer, requesting information on an altercation that took place between a Stevenson High School coach and a line judge at a football game in October.

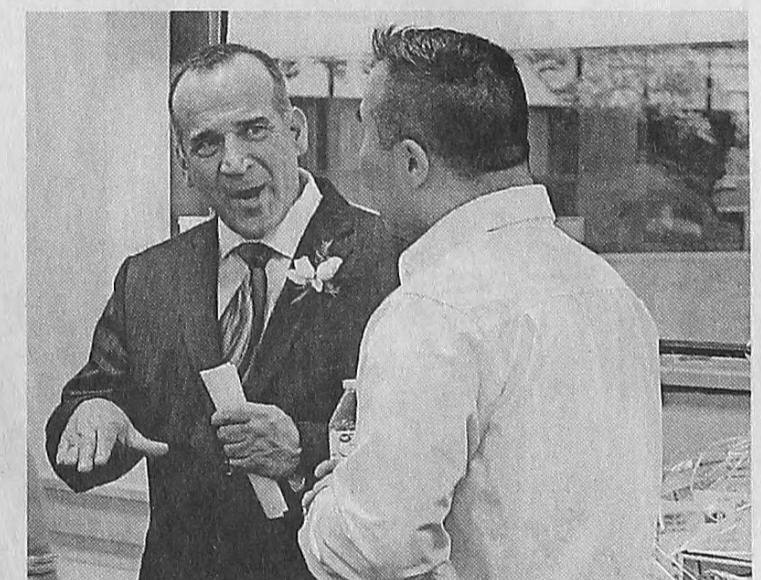
### Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Throughout 2020, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools received 19 FOIA requests.

Hometown Life sports reporter Colin Gay made two requests, one regarding former baseball coach Jeff Rhein, who was dismissed after just one season.

Clinton Mikel, a lawyer with Healthcare Law Partners, made four requests. Mikel made a wide range of requests that included the districts return to school plans, past FERPA violations, special needs programs and names of teachers opposed to reopening schools.

The district received two other requests from



Many of the FOIA requests Farmington received in 2020 were related to the resignation of former Superintendent Robert Herrera, seen at left.

community members regarding schools reopening. The issue was hotly debated in the community and prompted a protest in January, among other things.

### Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Fourteen FOIA requests came through Wayne-Westland's legal office in 2020.

Five of those requests came from Timothy Gilbert, a former candidate for school board, who requested information on former Superintendent Shelley Holt's resignation agreement. Two of his requests mention school board member Melandie Hines, another candidate running for school board at the time.

Hometown Life's Gay submitted two requests to the district, including one regarding its hiring practices and another regarding Andrew Hein, a wrestling coach who was dismissed in April 2020 after getting into a rollover vehicle crash while driving students from a competition.

### Clarenceville School District

As one of the smaller districts in the area, Clarenceville received just seven FOIA requests in 2020.

Three of the requests centered on Jason DeBandt, a former teacher in the district accused of sexually assaulting female students. DeBandt was most recently employed by Farmington Public Schools. Susan Vela, a reporter at Hometown Life, made one of the requests.

The district's other four requests appear to be for research purposes.

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



Co-owners Fay and Paul Palazzolo talk about 40 years in business at Palermo's.  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Palermo's

Continued from Page 1A

Now, 40 years later, Palermo Pizzeria & Restaurant is a Canton staple. Located at 44938 Ford Road, Paul and Fay Palazzolo, along with Fay's brother John Marniaci, are celebrating that anniversary with their longtime and new customers.

The restaurant originally opened in the Kennedy Plaza on the other side of Canton Center Road first before outgrowing it a few years later. It's been through the economic downturn more than a decade ago and the continued growth along Ford Road. All the while, Palermo's served up plenty of pizza, pasta, salads and burgers.

It's lasted longer than the other Italian/pizza restaurants that were also open at the time in Canton: Roman Forum closed its doors in 2014 after 38 years in business and the dine-in Pizza Hut closed in 2019, though the national company still operates a takeout business along Ford Road.

Since opening, they have followed the mantra: if it's good, don't fix it.

"We've been very consistent with our recipes. That's the key," Paul Palazzolo said. We've always had fresh ingredients. Most of the stuff we prep when we come in in the morning. Everything is done from scratch.

"We're still doing the same thing we did 40 years ago."

That recipe paid dividends for them: they continue to attract and appreciate a wide clientele base not only from Canton but from those who used to live in

town and return just for their food.

They said they have at least one regular customer who drives from out-of-state just for their cooking.

"I know one gentleman in particular, every other Friday night, he drives from Ohio to Canton to get pizza," Fay Palazzolo said.

After the state ordered restaurant dining rooms closed last spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Palazzolos said they did not see a huge change in the business as delivery and carryout has always been a major driver. The couple is happy to have the dining room reopened at 50% capacity again, seeing plenty of customers waiting for a seat.

"We've not really slowed down much," Paul Palazzolo said. "We've been busy all along."

They hope customers will come in and celebrate with them all throughout March: the shop currently is running a special where customers can buy one menu item and get a second for 40% off, Monday through Thursday.

Today, the couple hope to continue building on the legacy they've created. There's no plans to expand any time soon — the couple did run a small carryout shop in Westland on Wayne Road that lasted a few years — but the plan is to continue on and make it another 10 years to celebrate their 50th anniversary with many of their employees, including some that have been around for more than 30 years.

"We were blessed," Fay Palazzolo said. "And we continue to be blessed."

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



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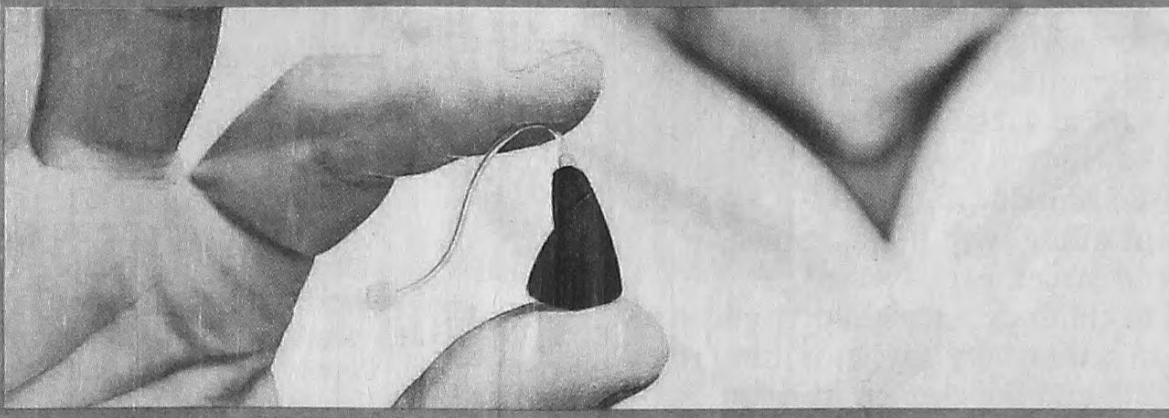
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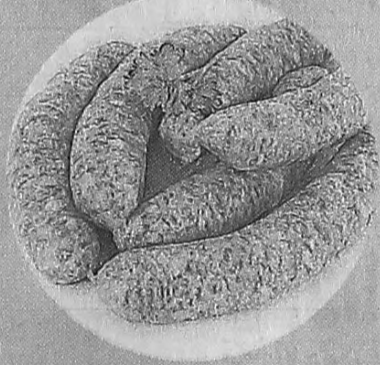
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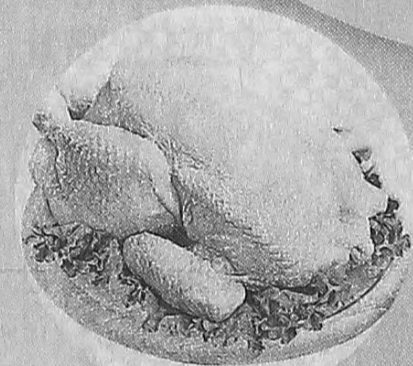
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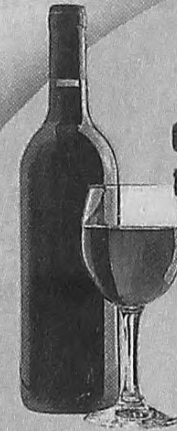
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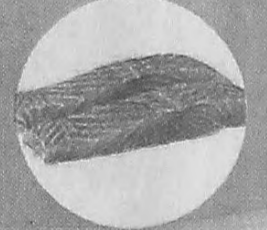
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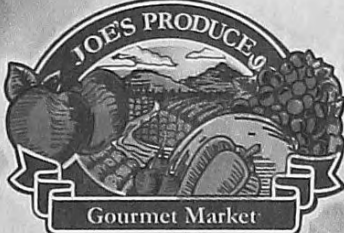


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# SPORTS

## North Farmington keeps first-place hopes

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

North Farmington didn't want Ferndale to win the OAA Red on its home floor. So the Raiders, in turn, played their best defensive game of the season. The Raiders basketball team (7-2) limited the Eagles (8-3) to their lowest scoring output since Dec. 21, 2017, beat-

ing Ferndale, 39-35, on the road <arch 11. This was the third time this season North Farmington allowed 40 points in a game, with opposing offenses averaging 43.33 points per game against the Raiders in 2021. "One possession at a time, we had to make sure we did things correctly," North Farmington head coach Todd Negoshian said. "We had to finish posses-

sions, we had to get stops. It just feels good to give us a fighting chance heading into the last week." Ahead of this game, North Farmington senior Deon Hayes said this team was not focused on scoring. Instead, it was thinking about halting Treyvon Lewis and the rest of the Ferndale offense's ability to score, using pressure from the trap defense and two-three

zone to force turnovers and missed baskets. This approach is nothing new for North Farmington, with the senior guard saying it's something the team works on each day in practice. To Hayes, the outcome came down to the effort shown in the final minute of

**See HOPES, Page 2B**

## South Lyon East beats rival

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

South Lyon East got over the hump. The girls basketball team has been working toward a Lakes Valley Conference championship since the conference was formed, finishing the 2019-20 season tied for second place with Waterford Mott.

Despite coming into the March 10 conference game against South Lyon on the back end of three games in three days, the Cougars (10-4) earned at least a share of the conference title, beating the Lions (5-5), 43-25, on the road.

"It's honestly been amazing. We just love each other so much," South Lyon East senior Nina Perl said. "The last few years, we've been really close to conferences, but haven't done it. It feels incredible to do it with this team, all my best friends. We're just playing very well."

South Lyon East was able to beat South Lyon like it had other LVC teams throughout its undefeated conference schedule.

The Cougars limited the Lions to 25 points, the fifth time this season South Lyon East has limited a team to under 30 points — all wins — while spreading the ball around to different scorers across the floor.

But while Perl and junior Ella Kruschka, who led the team with 19 points, were the main recipients of the South Lyon offense, combining for 34 of the team's 43 points, South Lyon East junior Taylor Anderson provided the fuel defensively and in the passing game that led to opportunities for the two main scorers.

Despite only scoring two points, Anderson was the main distributor at the point for South Lyon East, also recording seven rebounds, four blocks and three steals, turning defense into offense for the Cougars.

"She brings a lot of energy, you can see that," Perl, who scored 15 for South Lyon East, said. "She's an amazing passer and plays really good defense, blocks shots, she pushes the ball very well. It's been great to have her."

An 11-0 run in the first quarter and a 12-2 run in the third helped five South



South Lyon East's Taylor Anderson puts up a shot as a South Lyon player defends. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See EAST, Page 2B

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# Novi AD Gordon to retire after school year

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

For Brian Gordon, it was time. After 31 years as an educator — coaching teams for 20 years and working as an athletic administrator for 11 — the Novi athletic director decided that the 2020-21 school year would be his last with the school, announcing his retirement.

Gordon admitted he was considering retirement last season. But with the COVID-19 pandemic, with where high school athletics were at, it didn't feel right. He wanted to make sure he left Novi in a good place, a better place than what he inherited nine years ago.

"Our program has had so many different successes and challenges, like all athletic programs," Gordon said. "I took over a program that was one of the top in the state. I simply said I had the best job in the state when it comes to athletic directorships.

"All I tried to do was light the torch a little brighter than when I came in."

As he prepares for his final spring season as athletic director, Gordon feels the culture is strong at Novi. Over the past nine seasons, he said, the athletic program developed a family atmosphere, one that's united on giving kids an opportunity to succeed on and off the field.

"There's nothing bigger than the program," he said. "We're just part of it."

To Chris Housey, this was the atmosphere he wanted in a high school athletic program. Ever since taking over the boys basketball head coaching job, he tried to relay the message of the overall program to his team: that they are a family and in this together.

"Good or bad, we're going to figure it out and put our heads down and go to work," Housey said. "That's the kind of attitude that was what attracted me to Novi.

"It's actively promoted by the guy on top."

## A unified culture

Gordon wanted to uphold the traditions of Novi in his time as athletic director. But he wanted to make sure he gave it his own flavor.

He wanted to make sure each student had the opportunity to be a part of the athletic program, a part of the culture the Wildcats developed. With this, Gordon, along with Brighton athletic director John Thompson and former Northville athletic director Bryan Masi, helped establish Unified Sports in the KLAAs.



Novi High School Athletic Director Brian Gordon will retire after leading the school for the last nine years and after more than 30 years in high school sports.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

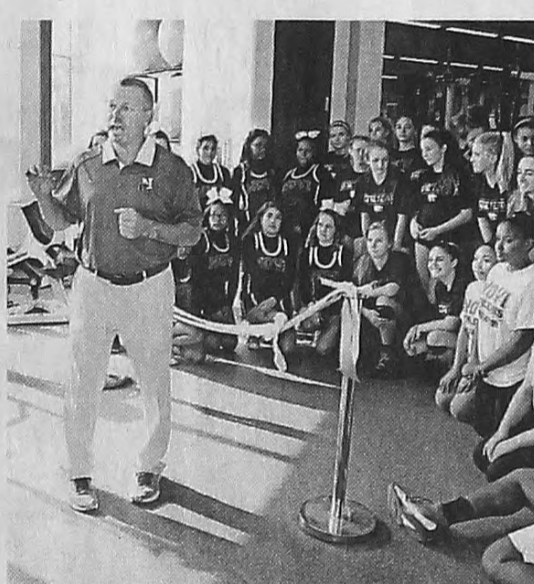
The Unified Sports program offers students with intellectual disabilities a chance to play sports, something Gordon said spreads the culture of the athletic program even further than it normally would.

"It just goes to show the power of sport," Gordon said. "It's amazing how sport can really make a difference in kids' lives and how it can bring communities together for the right reason. When you watch Unified sports, it is truly the purest form: the smiles on the parents' faces, the kids' faces, the coaches' faces."

Establishing the Unified Sports basketball team four years ago, head coach Andrew Saari said it started with 15-20 students and has blossomed to more than 40 this past season.

In August, Novi was recognized as a National Banner Unified Champion School by Special Olympics North America.

"I think Brian and the Novi athletic department is all about providing opportunities for all kids regardless of



Gordon talks about the school's new workout facility during a 2015 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

their ability, regardless of where they come from," Saari said. "I think the Novi community is really big on making sure we provide all students with an opportunity to be a part of the school"

## Big shoes to fill

Through the last school year with Novi, Gordon stepped back and realized how lucky the Wildcats had it.

Despite a pandemic, the athletic program was able to have a full fall season with people in the stands, still giving student-athletes an opportunity to create memories in a time, he said, they needed it.

But he knew that if he were to have passed the job along to a new athletic director during the course of the pandemic, Novi would not have been in the best shape possible.

"If it were somebody sitting in this chair who had never done this job before, it would have been pretty challenging," Gordon said. "There's a lot of behind-the-scenes stuff where some folks don't necessarily understand why we're doing what we're doing.

"Having some experience and our league sticking together as a group how we did our business at Novi was the same way we did business at Hartland. We're all in this together and rowing the boat in the right direction where we are trying to find opportunities for kids."

Novi volleyball head coach Kacy Moran saw that firsthand, leading her team to a final four appearance, watching how Gordon and the rest of the athletic staff ensured, through the rapid testing pilot program and other measures put in place, that the Wildcats would get to put a stamp on their season instead of the virus.

"I can't say enough about how much that made a difference to be able to compete this year in my sport and athletes in general," Moran said. "Overall, we are greatly going to miss his leadership, and whoever's next had big shoes to fill."

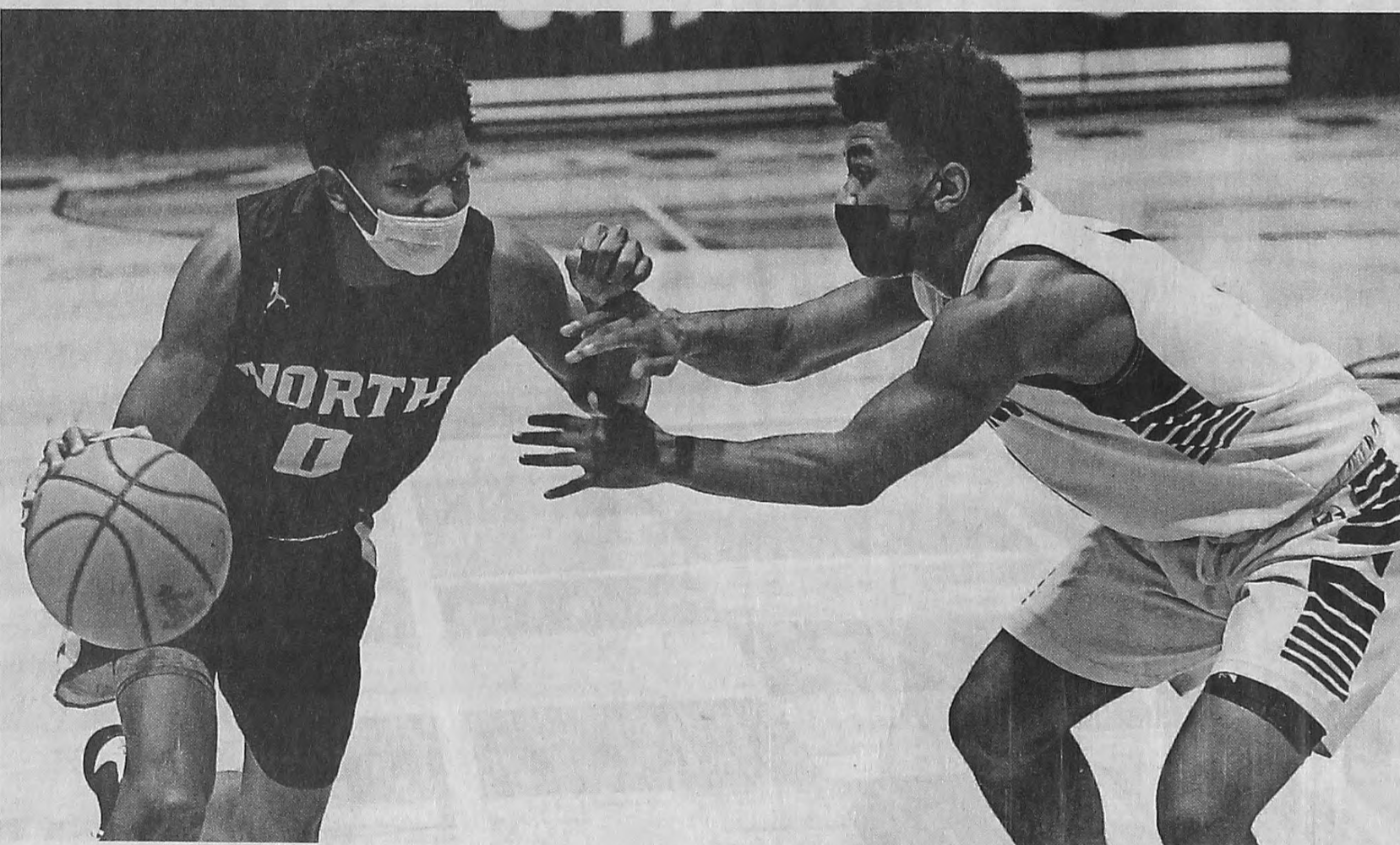
When given praise, whether it's about Novi's successes on the field or the facilities developed off of it, Gordon spreads it elsewhere.

He credits his athletic secretaries Barbara McDougall and Ashley Bootz. He credits his coaching staff, a group former Novi head football coach Jeff Burnside said has an "open-door policy" with their athletic director and his support in whatever situation.

Novi's success was not about Gordon's personal success, and he would not have it any other way.

"Nobody is bigger than the program," Gordon said. "It's what I tell kids: The difference between high school sports and club sports is you are playing for something bigger than yourself."

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



North Farmington's Deon Hayes picks up his dribble and heads to the hoop. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Hopes

Continued from Page 1B

the game.

Up by two points, the senior received the inbound from senior forward Bashier Jihad, hitting both free throws after a foul. Hayes then rushed back into transition defense, recording a steal to secure the win.

"We just played harder than them at the end of the day, that's all," Hayes said.

Leading 13-10 after one quarter of play, the North Farmington defense stepped up in a big way, limiting the Eagles to two points — a layup by sophomore guard Cameron Reed — while the offense ballooned its lead to 10.

Despite being outscored 18-10 in the

third quarter, North Farmington kept its composure, answering each make by the Eagles in the fourth to secure the four-point victory.

Lewis led the Eagles with 15 points, nine of which came in the first quarter.

Over the past two games, Negoshian feels his players have grown up. He said the young kids have become "varsity" players, while the seniors have realized that there's only a week left before the postseason.

With that, he said, the seniors, including Jihad, who led the team with 12 points and 13 rebounds, and Hayes, who recorded nine points, three steals and a block; have stepped up in a major way when it's counted most.

"Just their positive energy of, 'Get on to the next play,'" Negoshian said. "It's March, we can't dwell on things we did

early in the year. Live and forget and move on. Our seniors have done a great job of that in huddles and practices and timeouts and everything."

North Farmington saw what it can do defensively against the team currently leading the OAA Red. The Raiders still have a shot in the division, heading into the final two games of the season.

Despite seeing the potential of what his team can do on any given night, Hayes is still not satisfied.

"I feel like we still have a lot more work to do," Hayes said. "We'll go back into practice and get better as a team."

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

## East

Continued from Page 1B

Lyon East enough of a cushion to secure the win against rival South Lyon, a team the Cougars have not lost to since Feb. 10, 2017.

"We struggled last year. In some regards, we're still struggling, but we've seen a lot of growth from a lot of sophomores that were with us that are now juniors, showing a lot of leadership." South Lyon head coach Chris Schroudt said. "Let's face it: they've had to battle a lot of adversity not only on the basketball court, but in the classroom. There's a lot of positive things to look forward to."

South Lyon junior Megan Macdonald led the team with seven points.

While LVC play has been successful for South Lyon East, the Cougars have struggled in non-conference play. Each of the team's four losses have come against non-conference teams, coming off a six-point loss to Mercy March 9.

But South Lyon East head coach Rob Leadley is encouraged by what he's seen in those games, saying he picked tough opponents to help the Cougars when the games became win-or-go-home.

"We played with all of them," Leadley said. "A lot of those we were in the game in the fourth quarter or we were ahead. We just have to get over the hump a little bit."

Perl said those non-conference games provide hope to the future for this team, a team that has shown what it can do at the top of the LVC, a team that's hoping to return to earn its first district championship since 2015.

"I think we're really confident we can win this year," Perl said.

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

# Rojas, Facundo meet again in CC loss to Davison

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Manny Rojas wanted to face Alex Facundo again.

Heading into its final match of the regular season, the Detroit Catholic Central wrestling team faced Davison: the team the Shamrocks last hoisted a Division 1 team state title trophy against in February 2020, one marred with controversy after Rojas earned the win against Facundo at 189 after an illegal slam call by the Cardinals' then-junior.

Having not faced each other since that moment, Rojas agreed to a rematch at 171 Saturday afternoon, eager to prove a point.

"I want to show that I want to compete with everyone in the country," Rojas said. "I proved that over the summer and I wanted to prove that again."

While Rojas, an Iowa State commit, said he and his coaching staff developed a good game plan for the match coming in and stuck to it, Facundo, a Davison senior who will wrestle at Penn State next season, showed he had something to prove, too.

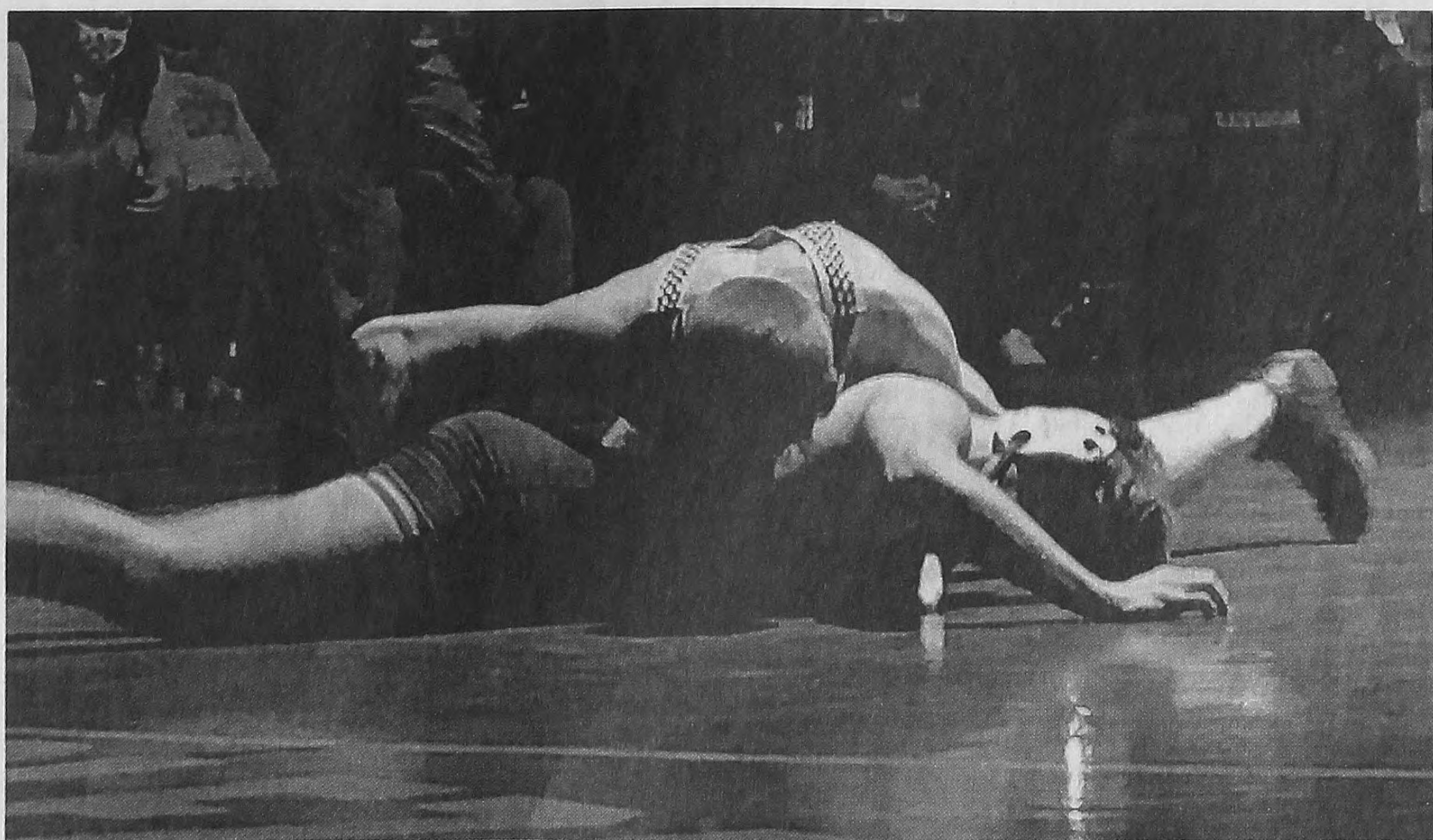
Facundo defeated Rojas in a 9-3 decision, helping Davison defeat Catholic Central, 36-9, to give the Shamrocks their first loss of the 2021 season.

In three periods, Facundo recorded four takedowns of the Catholic Central junior, including a slam in the second period in which he picked Rojas up and slammed him back to the mat, reminiscent of the approach the Davison senior took over a year ago.

"That's as good of a team as you're going to see, led by Alex Facundo: obviously a phenomenal competitor," Catholic Central head coach Mitch Hancock said. "We went right at them tonight. We had a couple of matchups we can make happen at the state tournament. But the matches we wanted to see happened tonight, and I think that helps a lot."

Davison head coach Zac Hall knew the Rojas/Facundo matchup did not have to happen, knowing the Catholic Central junior had been wrestling at 189 a lot this season — winning an individual state title at that weight a season ago.

When Facundo found out he had the



Davison sophomore Josh Barr tries to pin down Catholic Central sophomore Cam Adams in the 160-pound matchup.  
COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

opportunity for a rematch, Hall said he was excited the entire week leading toward the bout.

"We've been ready to wrestle him, hoping we would get it," Hall said. "Kudos to Manny and Mitch for accepting that challenge. But again, Alex will wrestle him anywhere, anytime."

While the Shamrocks lost 11 of 14 matchups Saturday afternoon, six decisions were made by only one point, while Davison sophomore Josh Barr, facing Shamrocks sophomore Cameron Adams, earned the meet's only technical fall with 9.3 seconds left in the third period.

"The score, I think, tells a lot, but then again it doesn't," Hall said. "There's a lot of close matches within that dual there. These guys are going to come to wrestle come showtime here in a couple of weeks. They always do."

Sophomore Drew Heethuis gave Catholic Central its first victory of the day, beating Davison junior Aden Wil-

liams in a 4-1 decision in a battle of top-ranked wrestlers at 112.

After two one-point losses at 130 and 135, respectively, Shamrocks sophomore Dylan Gilcher, the reigning state champion at 112, got the best of Davison sophomore Evan Herriman in a 10-7 decision. Shamrocks freshman Darius Marines recorded the third and final win for the team at 145, beating Davison sophomore Kyle White in a 9-2 upset.

But after a 4-3 decision in favor of Davison senior James Johnson, the tide turned back toward the Cardinals, finishing the meet with six straight wins.

Walking off the mat Saturday, Hancock knows the Shamrocks will likely see Davison again, more than likely in a Division 1 team state final. With that in his head, he knows he has three weeks: three weeks to watch film, to see what went wrong and to move forward.

"To have the film and have a great coaching staff like we do, we'll make some adjustments and make some im-

provements," Hancock said. "And I'll tell you what, we'll have a better effort in three weeks."

Hall and his Davison team left the mat confident, but knew that there would still be more to prove down the line, saying "no rings were won today" and "no banners will be raised today."

Rojas left the mat after his bout with Facundo without the win he wanted, but knew that this was not the matchup that counted most.

Instead of focusing on the outcome of this regular-season match, instead of focusing on the rankings coming out of the match, Rojas was focused on one thing: enjoying his time on the mat, knowing that this matchup, round three, is bound to happen.

"I'm looking forward to it soon," Rojas said.

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

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# Hartland edges Novi for KLAA hockey title

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — Hartland has been near the top of the KLAA and state Division 2 hockey ranks for nearly a decade, a run that isn't likely to end any time soon.

The Eagles keep churning out new talent, with seven sophomores playing on a team that is ranked No. 2 in its division and will head into the state tournament with a 12-2-1 record.

Two of those 10th-graders scored for Hartland in a 2-1 victory over fifth-ranked Novi in the KLAA championship game March 10 at Novi Ice Arena.

Nick Halonen gave Hartland a 1-0 lead with 4:08 left in the first period and Ben Pouliot broke a 1-1 tie by jamming in a loose puck in the crease with 3:25 remaining in the game.

This is Pouliot's first season in high school hockey after scoring 34 goals and 30 assists in 85 games for the Victory Honda 15U AAA team last season.

"We're here for the next three years to win," Pouliot said. "It's awesome. I get to be with my buddies every day, guys from school. I love it. It's just the culture we have here being around each other every day. It's a lot better than travel, AAA."

The goal was the fifth of the season for Pouliot, ending a 10-game goal-less streak after he scored four times in the first four games.

Whether he's putting the puck in the net or not, Pouliot has impressed Hartland coach Rick Gadwa this season with his maturity on the ice.

"He plays like a senior as a sophomore, which is an amazing thing for a coach to see," Gadwa said. "His compete level is out the roof. He brings it every single day, whether it's at practice or a game; he starts with that."

After trailing by a goal most of the game, Novi finally evened the score when Steven Perrine went to the net to poke a shot past goalie Ryan Piros with 13:23 left in the third after the Wildcats won a faceoff in the Eagles' zone.

On the winning goal, senior defenseman Noah Luck blocked a shot on a rush by Novi senior Austin Balconi. Pouliot grabbed the loose puck and carried it into the Wildcats' zone. He cut toward the net for a shot in the slot that was



Hartland's Ben Pouliot, who scored the winning goal with 3:25 remaining, handles the puck in front of Novi's Sam Lewinski in the KLAA hockey championship game March 10 at Novi Ice Arena. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

saved by Novi goalie Austin Muirhead. The puck laid in the crease near Muirhead's right pad and was jammed home by Pouliot.

"I got the puck, I shot it at the net, then everybody crashed," Pouliot said. "As a team, we all went in there and we poked it in. I got the final goal. It was awesome. It was a team goal."

Piros once again put Hartland in a position to win, turning aside 27 of 28 shots. His biggest save came with 11 minutes left in the second period when he stopped a penalty shot by Balconi. The penalty shot was awarded because a Hartland player covered the puck with his glove in the crease.

Piros is 2-for-2 stopping penalty shots this season, having thwarted Ryan Marone of Birmingham Brother Rice in a 3-2 loss on Feb. 13.

"Just waiting him out is the big key," Piros said. "Obviously, there's pressure, but when you have a good group of kids on the bench and you want to battle for them, it means just that much more to make that stop, so it relieves some of the pressure."

It was only the second loss of the season for Novi (9-2-2), which replaced three-time defending champion Livonia Stevenson in the KLAA championship game because the Spartans were shut down because of COVID-19 issues. Each team would have to reach the state championship game to meet again.

"They're one of the best teams in the state," said Gadwa, whose team won its first KLAA title since 2017. "They beat us the last time. We were in another one-goal game with them here. They're not a sleeper whatsoever. They're a very, very

good hockey team."

Novi played in the KLAA championship game only one other time, losing 4-3 to Howell in 2011, the year the Wildcats were state Division 1 champions.

"Most of the seniors are third-year players," Novi coach Mark Vellucci said. "They were here for the so-called rebuild three years ago. We had a great season last year, the second half especially. We had a great game with Stevenson, a triple-overtime loss (in the regional final).

"With the year we've had with COVID and everything, first of all we're fortunate to be playing, and the boys realize that. Second, they're doing everything in their power to stay healthy. We're looking to make a run. I think we put Novi back on the map. ... It's going to be a gauntlet for anyone, but we'll be ready."

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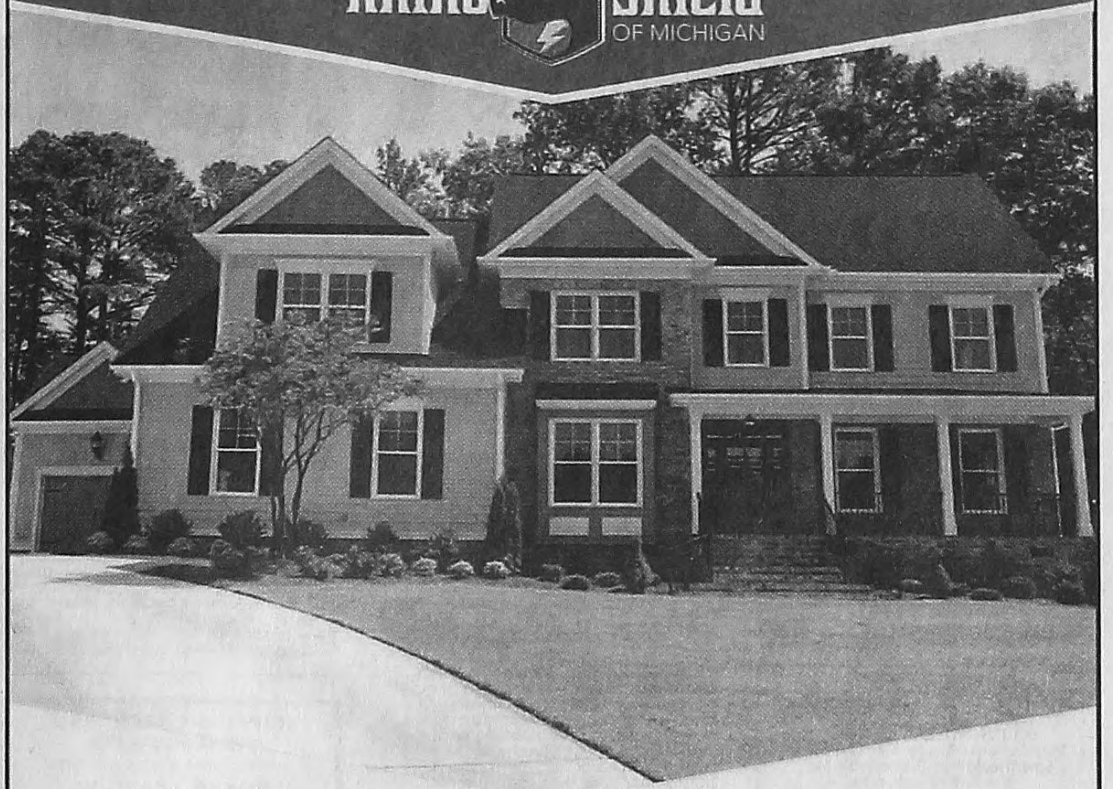
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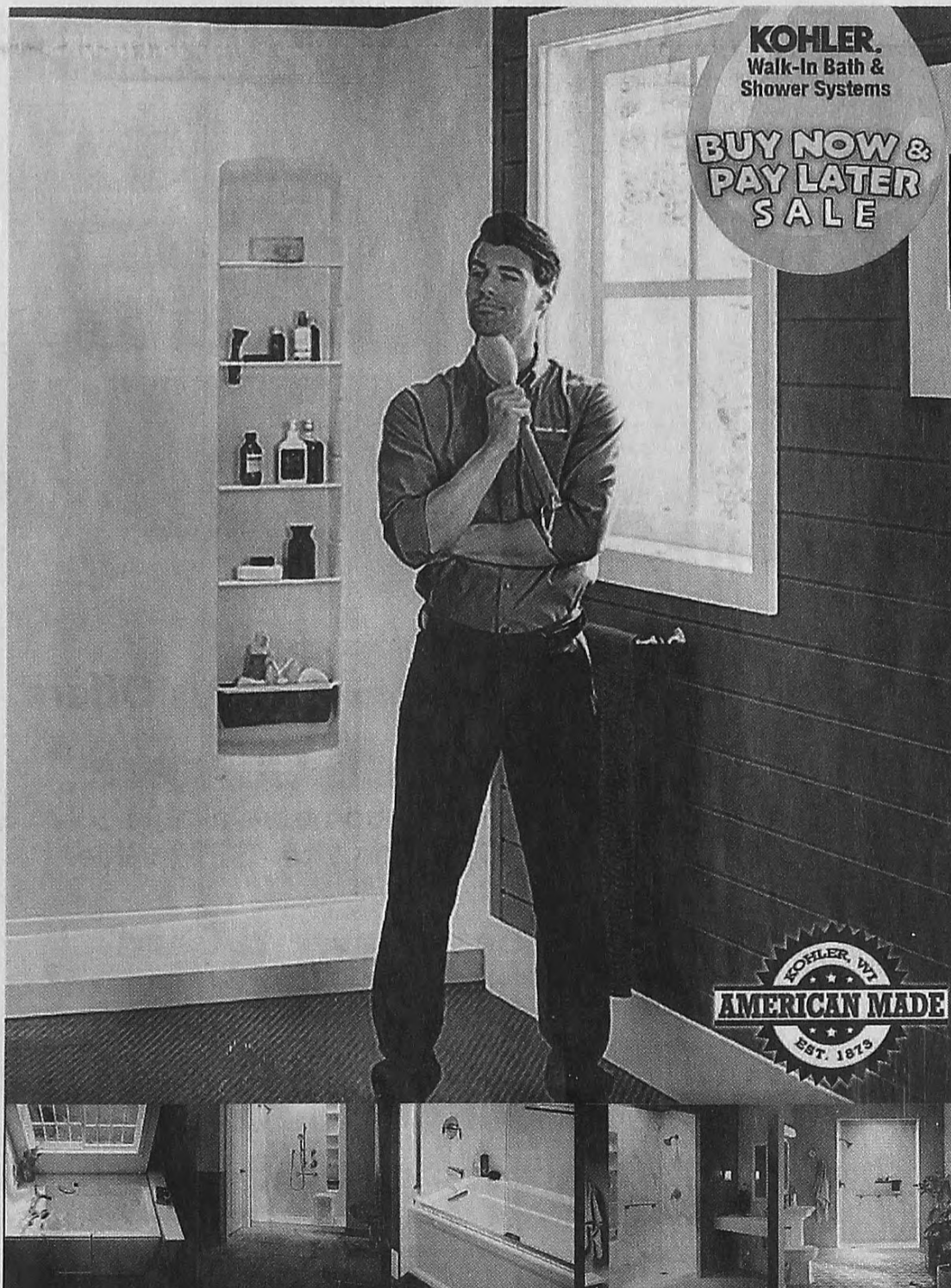
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**Home for Sale - In State**

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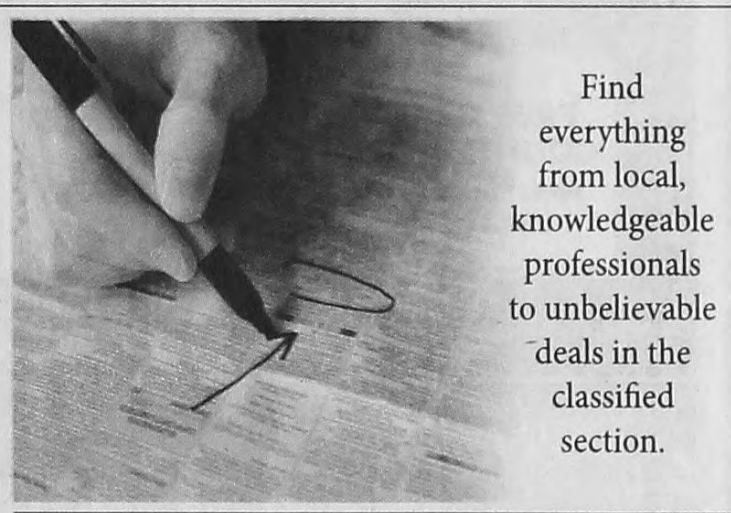
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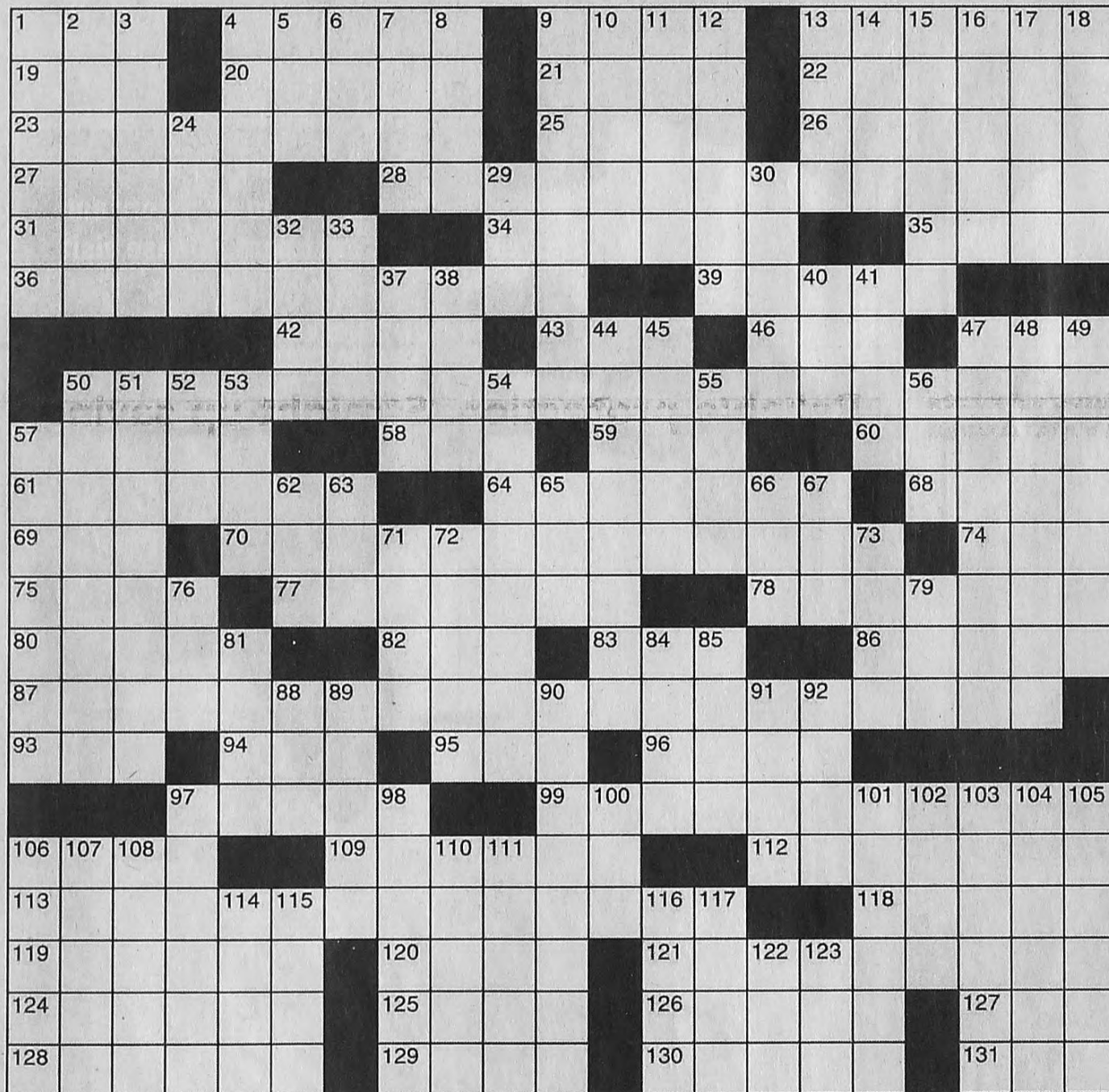
# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

### INTERNAL IDENTIFICATION

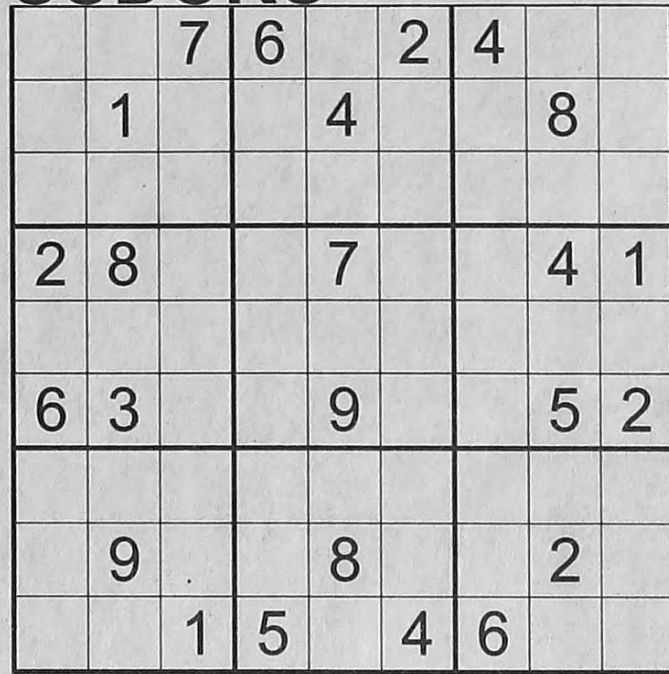
- |                                     |  |   |                                   |  |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                       | 59 "— -ching!"                         | 106 Me, myself —  | 6 Pen brand                       | 50 Division of Canada                                      | 88 Lyricist Gershwin                                |
| 1 Pop's partner                     | 60 1983 Streisand title role           | 109 Stay  | 7 2011-19 Chicago mayor — Emanuel | 51 Very unusual achievement                                | 89 Part of TNT                                      |
| 4 Hooded serpent                    | 61 Popular Toyota model                | 112 Way to watch a film at home                               | 8 Away from the wind              | 52 Yoko of the avant-garde                                 | 90 Group of spectators                              |
| 9 Bygone ruler                      | 64 Person decorating                   | 113 Rapid transit system of a large Spanish city              | 9 Feel great excitement from      | 53 Sword handle  | 91 "Tickle Me" Muppet                               |
| 13 Tavern seats                     | 68 Brain product                       | 118 Footways  | 10 Basking box                    | 54 Ana who won the 2008 French Open                        | 92 French for "nothing"                             |
| 19 Nuptial promise                  | 69 Eden woman                          | 119 First-year athlete  | 11 Baseballer's turn to hit       | 55 Cat with no tail  | 97 Arch used in croquet                             |
| 20 Popular typeface                 | 70 It's south of San Diego, California | 120 Use a wand reader on                                      | 12 Poetry devices                 | 56 "Tell — was dreaming!"                                  | 98 Tightened up                                     |
| 21 Possesses, in the Bible          | 74 "Nunnery" has three                 | 121 Jim Croce hit that's apt for eight answers in this puzzle | 13 Wound mark                     | 57 Glacier or floe   | 100 QB's error: Abbr.                               |
| 22 Is unable to                     | 75 Tee off                             | 122 Current flow measure                                      | 14 Soft powder                    | 62 Maximum or minimum: Abbr.                               | 101 Area for mobile campers                         |
| 23 "Cocoon" co-star                 | 77 Political activist — X              | 125 Comic Idle  | 15 Big Mac components             | 63 Steely Dan album with the hits "Peg" and "Deacon Blues" | 102 Johnson who directed "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" |
| 25 Red gem                          | 78 "No, No, —" (old musical)           | 126 Arctic  | 16 As if scripted                 | 65 NFL's Cowboys, on scoreboards                           | 103 Pets' jinglers                                  |
| 26 Singer Keys                      | 82 Of a maritime mil. branch           | 127 Gun, in slang   | 17 Longest French river           | 66 German "a"  | 104 Golfer Tom who won the 1996 British Open        |
| 27 Talk formally                    | 83 Lofty poem                          | 128 Magoo's title   | 18 Step                           | 67 Hitachi rival   | 105 Be beaten by                                    |
| 28 "Never on Sunday" star           | 86 These, to Gabriela                  | 129 Concluded   | 24 Heaps                          | 71 Arm bone  | 106 James — Garfield                                |
| 31 Suckerfishes                     | 87 Swede transplanted to the U.S., say | 130 "It was — and stormy night ..."                           | 29 Spike of film                  | 72 Living in — (oblivious to current events)               | 107 Actress Watts                                   |
| 34 Tickle pink                      | 93 In position                         | <b>DOWN</b>   | 30 Lauder of perfumery            | 73 "Dedicated to the — Love"                               | 108 Rain units                                      |
| 35 — do-well (idle sort)            | 94 Tycoon                              | 1 Figure skater Ito —   | 32 Prefix with -dextrous          | 76 Swampy area   | 109 PC shortcut                                     |
| 36 She voiced Elsa in "Frozen"      | 95 Olympic code for Quito's country    | 2 Having a smell  | 33 Certain Slav                   | 77 Hitachi rival   | 110 With full force                                 |
| 39 Pigeons                          | 96 Roman 2,051                         | 3 French for "my friend"                                      | 37 Pop singer Diamond             | 78 Swamy area  | 114 St. Pat's isle                                  |
| 42 "Desperate Housewives" character | 97 Earp of Tombstone                   | 4 Shutterbug's shooter  | 38 Greek Z                        | 79 PC key  | 115 Satyrical look                                  |
| 43 Dickens' "Tiny" lad              | 99 "Desk Set" actress                  | 5 Metal deposit   | 40 Small hotel                    | 81 6/6/44  | 116 TV host Kelly                                   |
| 46 Conclude                         |  |   | 41 Small vortex                   | 84 Accurse   | 117 Psalm starter                                   |
| 47 By means of                      |  |   | 44 Shared, as interests           | 85 Austen novel  | 122 Suffix with pay or boff                         |
| 50 18th Constitution addition       |  |   | 45 Phil of skiing                 |  | 123 Road goo  |
| 57 Tehran dweller                   |  |   | 47 Bitter feud                    |  |   |
| 58 Restroom, informally             |  |   | 48 Determined to do               |  |   |
|                                     |  |   | 49 Map books                      |  |   |



#2,030 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 ★★★ 3/18

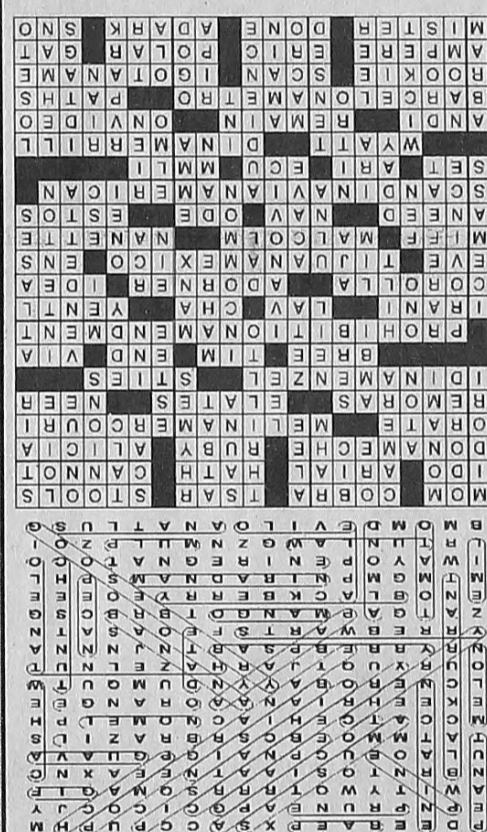
Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using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

## FRUIT AND NUTS

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.



- ALMOND
- APPLE
- APRICOT
- BANANA
- BLACKBERRY
- BLACKCURRANT
- BRAZIL
- CASHEW
- CHESTNUT
- CRANBERRY
- DATE
- FIG
- GOOSEBERRY
- GRAPE
- GUAVA
- HAZELNUT
- LEMON
- LIME
- MANDARIN
- MANGO
- MELON
- NECTARINE
- OLIVE
- ORANGE
- PAPAYA
- PEACH
- PEANUT
- PEAR
- PECAN
- PINE
- PISTACHIO
- PLUM
- POMEGRANATE
- PRUNE
- RAISIN
- RASPBERRY
- SATSUMA
- STRAWBERRY
- SULTANA
- TANGERINE
- TANGELO
- TOMATO
- WALNUT



- FRUIT AND NUTS
- 8 6 9 8
- 7 2 1 5 3 4 6 9
- 5 9 6 8 1 8 7 3 2 4
- 3 4 8 2 6 7 1 7 5
- 6 3 4 8 9 1 7 5 2
- 1 7 9 6 7 4 2 5 8 3
- 2 8 5 3 7 6 9 4 1
- 4 6 3 5 8 2 1 7
- 6 1 2 7 4 3 5 8 6
- 8 5 7 6 1 2 4 3 9

## HOTEL JOB FAIR



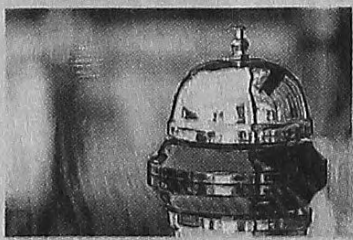
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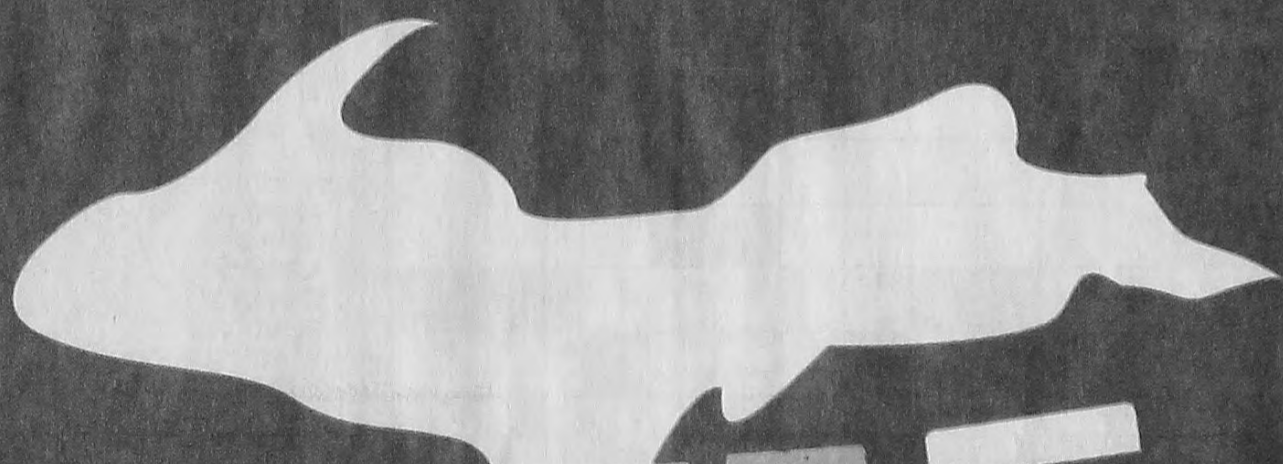
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