



Plymouth wrestler aims to prove doubters wrong

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SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

PCCS elementary bond projects ready to roll

Ed Wright HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Exactly one year after the coronavirus pandemic rained on Plymouth-Canton Schools' successful \$275 million bond passage parade, a huge step was

made toward spending some of those bond dollars.

In its first in-person meeting in several weeks, the Plymouth Canton Board of Education voted 6-0 to approve bid package EL-1, the highlights of which are a four-classroom addition to Dodson

Elementary School and the construction of secure entrances and new main offices to Field, Hulsing and Eriksson elementary schools.

Field, Hulsing and Eriksson — affectionately nicknamed “the triplets” by architects and builders because of their

identical layouts — will also have space added that will allow their students to enjoy separate gymnasiums and cafeterias, which are currently shared by one room.

See **PROJECTS**, Page 6A

Doctors marvel at Plymouth toddler's post-surgery progress

Ed Wright HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

By far the most active person navigating the pathways of Plymouth Township Park March 11 was 3-year-old Gabe Palazzolo, who was also the only one in the area who had undergone a delicate and life-changing spinal surgery less than two months earlier.

Diagnosed with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy just after his first birthday, he was limited to crawling and walking with the assistance of a walker until January's selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) surgery at DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan. The only child of Plymouth's Manny and April Palazzolo is an uplifting example of resilience, cruising through the park with the speed of a sprinter — sometimes with his walker, other times without.

“Now that Gabe has more freedom, I think he feels a new kind of happy,” April Palazzolo said as she watched Manny chase down the super-swift Gabe.

Each year approximately 20-25 children ages 3-8 undergo the SDR procedure at Detroit-based Children's Hospital, Dr. Neena Marupudi, the pediatric neurosurgeon who performed Gabe's surgery, explained.

An approximate one-centimeter incision is made in the patient's lower back, allowing doctors to remove selected nerve roots that cause the stiffness and hypertonicity that prevent children with cerebral palsy from bending their legs.

“It is far less invasive than it was 10, 15 years ago,” Dr. Marupudi said. “It used to be done with a lengthy opening in the lumbar region. This sometimes led to lifelong deformities and scoliosis. We don't see any of these complications now and the children recover a lot faster.”

Dr. Marupudi explained that few of her patients recover as quickly as Gabe,



After undergoing a selective dorsal rhizotomy surgery to help with his cerebral palsy, Gabe Palazzolo, 3, walks around Plymouth Township Park on March 11. Before his surgery, Gabe could not get around while standing on his feet.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See **TODDLER**, Page 6A

Livonia man working as deputy press secretary for White House

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Chris Meagher enjoys understanding how things work. Even as a kid, he enjoyed reading through the daily news.

“I've always liked the behind-the-scenes stuff and how the sausage is made,” he said. “I grew up a big sports fan and always liked the locker room interviews after the game.”



Meagher

The interest led him to pursue a career in journalism and later in the political arena.

Meagher, who grew up in Livonia and graduated from Detroit Catholic Central in Novi, worked for prominent Democrats including Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg in his career. Now, he works in U.S. President Joe Biden's White House as a deputy press secretary. He replaced TJ Ducklo, who resigned following allegations that he threatened a reporter.

“It's obviously a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Meagher said. “You kind of just realize every day when you're walking into the office how special it is and how important it is. You're working on projects that are going to affect people's lives.”

Meagher has been on the job for about two weeks and said his work includes prepping White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki for her daily press briefings and answering a lot of questions.

“A big part of the job is just talking with reporters and answering their questions,” he said. “My office is right

See **MEAGHER**, Page 6A

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Dog training business could move to Westland

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A vacant space along Wayne Road in Westland could see plenty of four-legged visitors soon.

The city's planning commission reviewed and approved a rezoning request during its March 2 meeting that would change the zoning of the property at 920 S. Wayne Road to allow for a dog training facility that seeks to relocate into the building.

"The owner is requesting to rezone the property to CB-3, which is the general business or commercial business district to allow a dog training, grooming and boarding business," said Mohamed Ayoub, city planning director. "I understand they've outgrown their facility."

The company, K-9 Safety Consultants, seeks to occupy the space on Wayne Road between Cherry Hill and Palmer that formerly held the Westland Mini Mall before that business closed several years ago. Jeffrey King, the owner of the strip mall, said K-9 Safety Consultants seek to move from their current location near Drake and Grand River in Farmington Hills, as that space has become too small for their operations.



The vacant space at 920 S. Wayne in Westland may become a dog training facility after the city's planning commission reviewed and approved a rezoning request.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

King said the ownership of the dog training company approached him earlier this year about renting the space, something he was glad to discuss. Find-

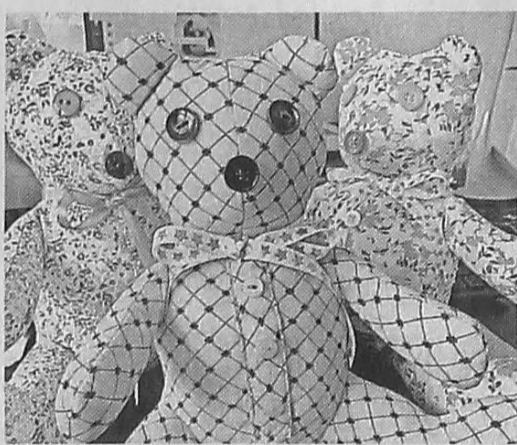
ing tenants for the building, which he purchased in 2019, has been difficult, especially with the tough economic times brought forth with the pandemic.

"As you can imagine with COVID, it's been very difficult to (get people in to look) at the space," he said during the planning commission meeting. "I've done some work on it, I've improved the look and the outside appearance, put some signs out there. Made the place look a lot better overall than it was."

The plaza is mostly vacant, save for a Liberty Mutual tax service office occupying about 2,000 square feet of space. The dog training facility would occupy the middle, larger space that also formerly housed Jumbo Video — which is about 6,000 square feet. Another storefront that formerly housed Moody Teez on the south end of the strip mall is also vacant. King said if the dog training business expands and needs more room, that space could be used.

The rezoning request was unanimously recommended for approval by the planning commission during the meeting. It now goes to the city council for its review and final determination. If the zoning is approved, a separate site plan for the project could return before the city for its approval.

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



Hospice of Michigan makes memory bears to help families remember their lost loved ones.

COURTESY OF HOSPICE OF MICHIGAN

Hospice of Michigan needs help making bears for families

Minnah Arshad [Detroit Free Press](http://DetroitFreePress.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK

Hospice of Michigan is seeking volunteers with sewing experience to help create keepsakes that people can remember loved ones by.

Memory bears, made with favorite shirts and colors, are designed to preserve aspects of loved ones with one-of-a-kind stuffed animals.

"Memories can last a lifetime. Often, patient families choose a favorite shirt or color to make the bear even more characteristic of their loved one," Karen Monts, director of grief support services for Hospice of Michigan, said in a news release.

Hospice of Michigan's grief support services started the memory bear program in June 2014.

For those experiencing a loss, the hospice said it recommends waiting one year before volunteering, to allow time to process their grief.

The program needs volunteers most in Dearborn, Monroe and Cadillac.

Call 313-578-6328 or email jmorris@hom.org if you'd like to volunteer.

Navy names ship in honor of area veteran

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As a young adult, Robert Simanek dedicated his life to serving his country.

Simanek, 90, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1951 and fought in the Korean War. One year later, he faced grave circumstances in which he proved himself nothing short of heroic.



Simanek

The then-22-year-old was serving as a Private First Class when Chinese troops ambushed him and his squad. Simanek ended up throwing himself over a grenade in the hopes of saving the lives of his fellow soldiers. After miraculously surviving the blast and undergoing a year-long recovery, former President Dwight Eisenhower gave Simanek the Medal of Honor. The medal is the U.S. military's highest decoration.

Now, the longtime Farmington Hills resident is again being honored by having a U.S. Navy ship named after him.

The Expeditionary Sea Base USS Robert E. Simanek is under construction and is planned for completion by 2024. When it's finished, it will weigh 100,000 tons fully loaded and, according to a release, will "perform a variety of missions, including launching helicopters, small boats, unmanned sur-



A graphic illustration of the future expeditionary sea base USS Robert E. Simanek (ESB 7). COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY

face vehicles, special operations, troop transportation and maintenance services."

"I didn't think having a ship named after me would happen," Simanek said in a release. "I was tickled to death when I found out about it."

Throughout his military service, Simanek also received a Purple Heart and the Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars. He now lives in a senior

living community in Novi.

Secretary of the Navy Kenneth J. Braithwaite, who happens to be from Livonia, said the ship will "carry on the Navy's sacred mission to secure the sea lanes, stand by our allies, and protect the United States against all adversaries."

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

Stimulus package may impact early tax filers



Money Matters

Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

If you would have asked me last week whether unemployment benefits were taxed, my answer would have been unequivocally, yes. I would have told you that whether you received state or federal unemployment benefits, you would have to pay federal taxes on that amount.

However, if someone were to ask me that question today, I would have a different answer because of the new \$1.9 trillion stimulus package.

The House of Representatives and the Senate have passed a new stimulus plan which was signed by President Joe Biden, and in the new law there is a provision that waives federal taxes on the first \$10,200 in unemployment insurance benefits for those who made less than \$150,000 in adjusted gross income. What is interesting about this legislation is that the provision is retroactive to 2020. In addition, married couples who have an adjusted gross income of less than \$150,000 will each be able to exclude from taxes the first \$10,200 of their unemployment income. Thus, married couples can exclude up to \$20,400 from federal taxes for unemployment benefits.

As of yet, the IRS has not set rules as to how this new rule will be implemented. As a result, many of you may

wish to delay having your returns completed and filed until the law is clarified.

If you have already filed your return, you're probably thinking "now what?" The IRS could make you file an amended return to claim the benefits or take other steps to correct the situation. At this point, it's a wait-and-see approach.

If the IRS requires the filing of an amended return, you will need to file IRS form 1040X electronically or by mail. I recognize many are leery about filing amended returns and think that it will automatically trigger an audit; that is not the case. Obviously, the IRS will review the amended return, but it doesn't necessarily mean the IRS is going to contact you for an in depth audit.

If you have made a mistake on your tax return and filing an amended return would be to your benefit, my recommendation is that as long as you have the backup documentation, there is no reason not to file an amended return. Of course, if the subsequent tax saving is minimal, it may not be worth filing the amended return. On the other hand, if you discover a mistake and the result is that you owe taxes, my advice is for you to file an amended return.

I've always said that if you correct your own mistake, it is much better than when the IRS corrects you. When the IRS contacts you about a mistake, it is much more likely that you will have penalties assessed against you as opposed to if you voluntarily come forward.

Many of you may also be questioning whether the IRS, like last year, will extend the tax deadline due to the change

in the law. At this point in time, the IRS has not said they will extend the deadline. However, always remember, if you are going to have difficulty filing an accurate return by the April 15 deadline, there is no problem filing for an extension. Extensions are automatic and provide until Oct. 15 to file your return.

However, keep in mind that when you file an extension, it is an extension of time to file your return, not to pay your taxes. Therefore, if you are going to owe taxes to the IRS, when you file for an extension, you should make an estimated payment. In that regard, I would rather overestimate a little as opposed to underestimating. If you underestimate, you can be assessed interest and penalties.

Over the last year we have faced many curve balls, and this is another one to add to your list. If you will be affected by the new legislation, my general advice is that it would be prudent to delay completing and filing your return until we have more information.

On the other hand, if you did not receive unemployment in 2020, there is no reason to delay in filing your return. If you have all the information and the time to complete the return, I say, why not. The sooner you complete your return, the sooner you can forget about it and focus on other pressing issues.

Good luck.

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

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Case of the mystery seed packets cracked

Carol Thompson Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LANSING — Remember those mystery seed packets landing, unsolicited, in mailboxes across the U.S. last year?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said they cracked the case last month. The packets were likely sent as part of a "brushing scam," the department said, and did not appear to contain any harmful seeds.

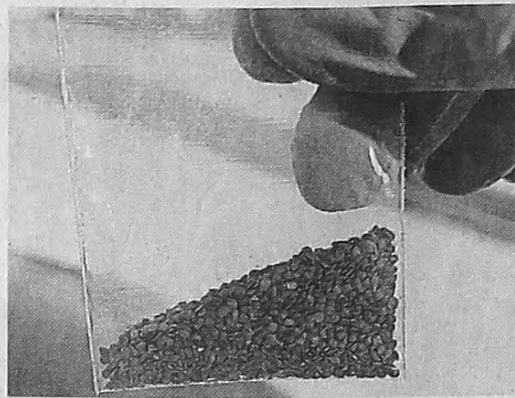
Most of the seed packets contained a mix of horticultural and ornamental plants, such as sunflower, broccoli, radish, green bean and coriander, USDA spokesperson Cecilia Sequeira said.

Brushing scams are fairly common, the USDA said in a February release about the seeds. In a brushing scam, a company will send cheap items to people who didn't purchase them in order to increase their output, hopefully boosting their products' ratings and position in internet searches.

In July, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development was flooded with calls as people around Michigan, including Ingham County, reported receiving packets of seeds they hadn't requested. People in other states were, too.

It was a strange time for state agriculture officials, said Robin Rosenbaum, MDARD plant health section manager. They were inundated with reports of mysterious seed packets appearing across Michigan.

"I'm not kidding you, it was a Friday, I got a couple calls and I thought 'this is



The U.S. Department of Agriculture investigated mysterious seed packets that arrived unsolicited in mailboxes last year. COURTESY OF USDA

weird, there's a couple similar calls," she said. "By Monday, I was getting a hundred calls a day on my cell phone."

Roughly 1,600 Michiganders reported receiving the seeds, she said. The department set up an online reporting system to make it easier to collect information.

Some had ordered seeds but didn't recognize the packets as what they had purchased. Some had not ordered seeds and received the packets by surprise. Even the packets people ordered were sent illegally, the USDA found, because the seller did not have the appropriate permits.

At the time, MDARD and the USDA told people to mail the seeds to agriculture officials. Now, because the seeds do not appear nefarious, MDARD simply recommends destroying them, Rosenbaum said.

Law scholarship rewards high schoolers for tweeting

Sloane Terranella Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

You could win up to \$2,000 and save another person's life by sending out a tweet.

The Michigan Auto Law law firm is offering a series of scholarships, equaling \$5,000 in total. This opportunity is geared toward high school students who create the best tweet, video or graphic that convinces young drivers to stop texting and driving.

The best overall submission will win an award of \$2,000. The best video submission will win \$1,500, the best graphic submission will win \$1,000 and the best tweet will win \$500.

High school juniors and seniors are the only grades eligible for this opportunity. Participants must attend a public or private Michigan high school. According to a news release, finalists will need to provide proof of enrollment with a student ID or transcript.

The annual Kelsey's Law Distracted Driving Awareness Scholarship is named after Kelsey Raffaele of Sault Ste. Marie. In 2010, Raffaele died in a distracted driving accident when she was 17.

Kelsey's mother, Bonnie Raffaele, worked tirelessly with the Michigan Legislature to enact Kelsey's Law in 2013. This law prohibits drivers with Level 1 and Level 2 licenses from using their cellphones while driving except in the case of an emergency. Cellphone use is defined as making a call or answering a call.



Bonnie Raffaele of Sault Ste. Marie talks about her late daughter, Kelsey, who died while using her cell phone while driving in 2010.

MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS

hometownlife.com

"Distracted driving is a problem for all ages, but especially for our newest drivers," Michigan Auto Law President and attorney Steven Gursten said. "Teens play a crucial role in convincing their peers and others of the importance of putting down phones to save lives."

The application deadline is March 31. The awards will be applied toward tuition for any U.S. university, college or technical school. Applicants must be Michigan residents with a valid Michigan driver's license.

Applicants can submit a 30-second long YouTube video, a PNG or JPG graphic, or a tweet that's 110 characters or less. For more information or to apply, click go to michiganautolaw.com/scholarships/kelseys-law/.

Passover in a pandemic: Drive-thru story of Exodus

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Passover in a pandemic requires some creativity.

Several local Chabad Jewish centers are making the ancient story of the Exodus exciting and new again in "Freedom" a drive-thru interactive experience with live animals, actors, and special effects from March 21-23 at 4000 Town Center in Southfield.

It's amazing, something really special," Rabbi Bentzi Geisinsky of the Chabad of Bingham Farms said. "I don't think Moses ever came to Michigan before, but he will be here now."

Visitors to "Freedom" will see the various stages of Moses' life portrayed from infancy to leading the Jewish people, including escape from oppression in Egypt under King Pharaoh, 10 godly plagues and through the Red Sea to climbing Mt. Sinai to receive the 10 Commandments from God.

"It's the story of how the Jewish nation was born," Geisinsky said, "It's not just a story of oppression, but where in

our lives do we have limitations and how do we break free from our own demons."

The production is a unique entertainment created by the Power of Youth, based in Los Angeles and sponsored by Chabad Lubavitch of Michigan.

Rabbi JJ Duchman, producer, said the company put "Freedom" together for the Jewish community "and beyond," with all welcome to learn about Passover in a COVID-safe experience that will be enjoyed entirely from their vehicles.

"We're anticipating 500 to 600 cars, in which passengers will enjoy a whimsical drive-through experience to see what Jewish ancestors did thousands of years ago," he said.

Each vehicle, with up to eight guests, will receive do-it-yourself Seder kits which include interactive items.

Cost per vehicle is \$65. To learn more and register for a 30-minute time slot, visit www.freedomdetroit.com.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Twitter: @SusanBromley10.



Rabbi Bentzi Geisinsky and other chabads plan to host a drive-thru-style Passover experience March 21-23 called Freedom at a location in Southfield. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Westland finance director speaks on recent lawsuits

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Legally, the City of Westland seemed to get off to a rough start in 2021.

A former resident with a rap sheet longer than 10 years sued in January because of yet another arrest, this one resulting in a dismissed armed robbery charge from the summer.

Then a deaf man reliant on miming, gesturing and communicating through sign language sued Westland in February because of a 2018 car wreck involving what he considered unfair police treatment.

These lawsuits came in the lingering shade of the city's \$3.75 million settlement with the family of a man, William Marshall, who died in police custody after ingesting cocaine.

Ronald Buckley, the jail commander at the time, was cleared of a misconduct charge but the former Westland police sergeant has a pending lawsuit against the city, Chief Jeff Jedrusik and other parties in federal court.

And threatening to stir up the disharmony that erupted with Marshall's death, a paramedic involved in Marshall's treatment awaits another trial because of her involvement in the case.

Settlement fallout

Whether the city is being picked on because of the Marshall settlement is a moot point, but taxpayers apparently

need not worry about the financial implications.

Financially, Westland Finance Director Steven Smith said the city has solid insurance through the Livonia-based Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority and annual premiums and overall costs for insurance are ticking up at predictable rates.

"Our premiums are not going up dramatically," Smith said. "It's roughly 2 (or) 2.5% a year (like) the rate of inflation. (Regarding) the Marshall case, if we had a lot of those in the same year, you would see our premium start to jump a lot higher."

General fund money handles most of the city's insurance coverage for employee liability, vehicles and buildings, sewage overflows, data breaches and other uncomfortable matters. Water funds also help manage the costs.

The annual premium for this current budget cycle is approximately \$1 million, compared to about \$882,000 in 2015-2016, indicating an average 2.9% increase for each of the last five years.

For the "true cost" of insurance, which includes coverage for large claims and money on reserve for possible settlements, the city will pay about \$1.3 million this budget cycle, compared to \$1.1 million in 2015-16, an average increase of 2.4% for the last five years.

Both premiums and overall insurance costs jumped their highest, of at least 5%, between the 2016-17 and 2017-18 budget cycles.

Without comment, the city council voted to approve the Marshall settlement in May 2018.

Implications

Westland officials typically do not talk about specific pending legislation. Smith, though, agreed to talk about what the 2021 lawsuits might mean for the city's finances.

"In a given month, there could be 10 cases," Smith said. "These aren't high profile cases. These are somebody, you know, maybe tripped on a sidewalk that was raised or somebody got, say, a flat tire due to a pothole."

Smith would not provide the specific number of lawsuits that the city is now dealing with, but said there is no noticeable uptick in cases filed since Marshall's December 2017 death. And no legal confrontation with the same high-profile consequences has transpired since the tragic preventable death.

The year 2021 began in the wake of nationwide uprisings connected to the Black Lives Matter movement, and Livonia and Farmington Hills also have been sued with allegations against their police departments in the new year.

"Given just the nature of things right now, I think everybody wants to sue somebody," Smith said. "... If people think they are wronged or if they have an opportunity to get some of those big dollars like the commercials say, they may look into filing a claim."

The city's law firm, Fausone Bohn in Northville, handles Westland's District Court cases, which eats up most of the annual \$850,000 it receives as the city's "law department." The firm also spends an average of about \$72,000 a year on litigation costs.

The firm's attorneys also work with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority on Westland cases.

Rights to sue

What suburban Detroit agencies are often dealing with may be small compared to the lawsuits filed against metropolitan police departments and their host cities.

However, a nationwide University of California - Los Angeles study that is now several years old reviewed budgeting practices for police litigation in 100 jurisdictions.

Authored by law professor Joanna Schwartz, the study found that general funds don't always finance settlements and judgements.

About half of the law enforcement agencies reviewed contributed financially but individual police officers "virtually never" pay settlements and judgements against them.

The study also concluded smaller agencies that pay nothing from their budgets toward their lawsuits may still face financial threats if insurers raise premiums or terminate coverage because of large payouts.

Canton ready to show off new Fire Station No. 2

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton Township's new Warren Road fire station has quick-moving doors that are a favorite feature of Chief Christopher Stoecklein's because of their local maker: International Door.

He's also keen on the extra room that comes with the new \$6.5 million station near the intersection with Haggerty Road, like the private bedrooms that means no locker rooms, and the decontamination and alerting features.

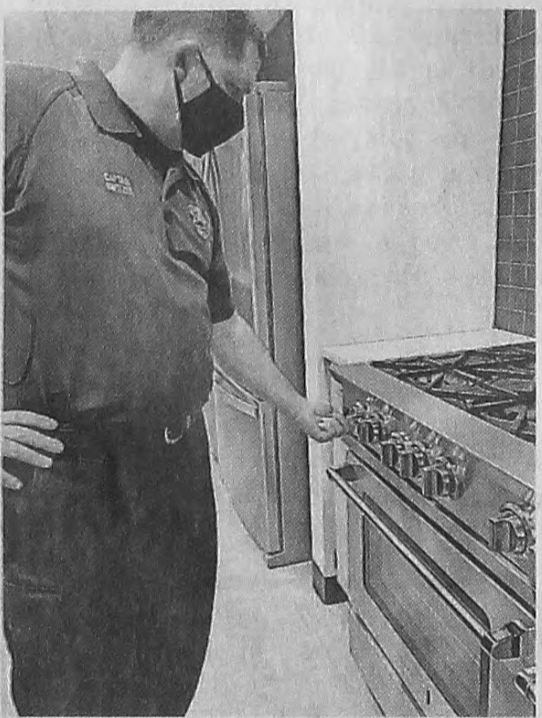
Planning began several years ago and construction took place in the past few. A ladder truck and an engine, plus two ambulances and six firefighters, will officially start moving through the station next week.

They'll be responsible for about nine square miles, the chief said.

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



A ladder truck, fire engine and two ambulances will run out of the new station. PHOTOS BY SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Captain Brian Switzer checks out the new stove.



This is the base of the long table designed by firefighter Brendan Quinn.

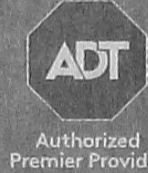


Canton Township officials gathered at the new Fire Station No. 2 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 11.

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ADT THEFT PROTECTION GUARANTEE: The customer presenting ADT with this ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE will be eligible to receive a reimbursement of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) of Customer's homeowner's insurance deductible (if any) if, and only if, ALL of the following requirements are met to ADT's reasonable satisfaction: (i) the property loss was the result of a burglary that took place while the security system installed at Customer's protected premises was in good working order and was "on," and while all of Customer's doors and windows were locked; and (ii) the intruder entered the residence through a door, window or other area equipped with an ADT detection device, and such detection device was not "bypassed"; and (iii) Customer is not in any way in default under the ADT Residential Systems Customer's Order; and (iv) Customer files a written claim with their homeowner's insurance company, and such claim is not rejected or otherwise contested by the insurer; and (v) Customer reports the burglary loss to the appropriate police department and obtains a written police report; and (vi) Customer certifies in writing to ADT (by signing this ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE and presenting it to ADT within sixty (60) days of the property loss) that all of the foregoing requirements have been satisfied. Customer understands that presentation of this ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE signed by Customer is required and understands that ADT reserves the right to reject any application for reimbursement that does not comply with ALL of the requirements. Photocopies or other reproductions of this certificate will NOT be accepted. By signing below, Customer certifies to ADT that all of the foregoing requirements have been satisfied. Please mail to: ADT Security Services, Account Management Support Center, Attn: Theft Protection Guarantee Claims, 14200 E. Exposition Avenue, Aurora, CO 80012. BASIC SYSTEM: \$99 installation, 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,007.64). 24-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,007.64). Offer applies to homeowners only. Basic system requires landline phone. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Cannot be combined with any other offer. 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Microchips Bring Major Changes to Hearing Care

Chicago, IL - The world is going wireless. Phones function flawlessly without cords. We surf the internet from planes. GPS devices give us street directions as we drive. And now-thanks to advanced microchip technology-the hearing impaired can enjoy home entertainment and mobile phone's with the same ease and flexibility as those with normal hearing.

Wireless Transmission of Sound - The ability for hearing aids to receive sound sent wirelessly from the television, stereo and computer is now a reality. Hearing aid patients no longer need awkward neck-style devices to receive wireless audio signals. Individuals can listen "privately" through their hearing instruments, at the volume they prefer. The same microprocessor technology allows hearing aid wearers to enjoy hands-free use of cell and home phones. By using a small Bluetooth™ accessory clipped to a shirt or automobile visor, clear conversation is sent from the phone to both ears. The phone can stay put away in a pocket or handbag during calls.

Options for Noisy Environments - Along with enabling direct-to-ear wireless communication, microprocessors help hearing aid wearers more easily understand speech in noisy environments. New techniques, such as band-splitting and specialized sound classifications, facilitate more natural hearing in challenging environments. Now, instead of across-the-board amplification, patients can prioritize important sounds, such as speech, while retaining auditory awareness of less critical sounds. Patients can also choose to focus on speech exclusively.

Breakthrough in Hearing Technology - The new line of Beltone Imagine hearing aids send phone conversations and TV directly into hearing instruments, while letting users stay connected to their surroundings at the same time. Beltone is the only manufacturer to utilize a robust 2.4 GHz wireless signal which, when coupled with Imagine's advanced microprocessors, allows wireless transmission of sound up to 23 feet from entertainment devices. The Beltone Imagine hearing instrument's Spatial Directionality feature enables more natural hearing in noisy surroundings. Using directional technology, one ear focuses on speech, while the other ear monitors sounds from around the individual.

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Mini pancake shop opens in Garden City

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Rami Kader knows a thing or two about sweets.

The Dearborn Heights resident once owned an ice cream shop in on Ford Road in Dearborn Heights. When he looked to get back into the sweets business, he discovered a new concept that appears fairly unique to the metro Detroit region: specialty mini pancakes.

"I used to work at IHOP, so I'm very good with pancakes," he said.

That led to the creation of Sweet Stacks, Kader's newest shop now open at 28235 Ford Road between Middlebelt and Inkster in Garden City. The shop, which opened in February, focuses on creating small pancakes with a variety of toppings and styles.

For those people who gravitate more toward waffles, the shop sells a variety of bubble waffles and waffle sticks. Ice cream also is served by the scoop for those looking to cool down.

Customers can purchase made-to-order mini pancakes with flavors such as birthday cake, salted caramel, pistachio and even Nutella. For those looking to serve up an impressive dessert at their next small gathering, the shop even sells a variety tray with several colorful options.

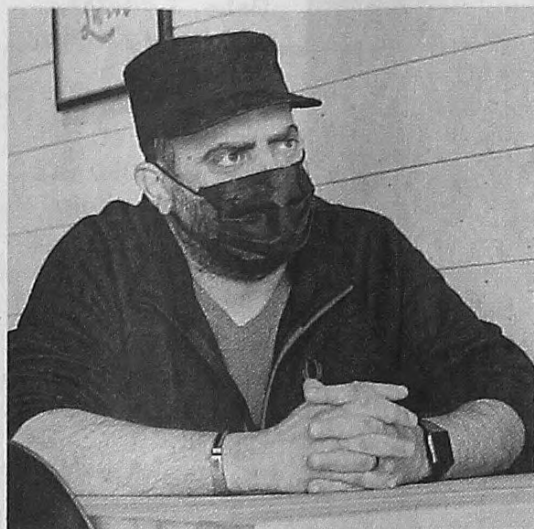
It's a concept, Kader said, that's come in from overseas and doesn't seem to have a similar shop in metro Detroit. He hopes that becomes a successful section of the dessert market.

"It's coming from Europe," he said. "It does exist in England. I just preferred that we have it here in the USA."

He began searching for a space — Kadar opted for Garden City as opposed to the more-crowded area along Ford Road in Dearborn Heights — and signed the lease last year right before the COVID-19 pandemic began. He didn't start construction on the location, a former salon, for several months.

The original hope to open was last summer, Kadar said. The work took about several months to convert the space.

So far, he's seen customers come in and seek to try something new. He said the pistachio pancakes, which include crushed pistachios, pistachio sauce and



Rami Kader talks about getting his dessert shop, Sweet Stacks, open.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Sweet Stacks dessert shop sits at 28235 Ford Road in Garden City.

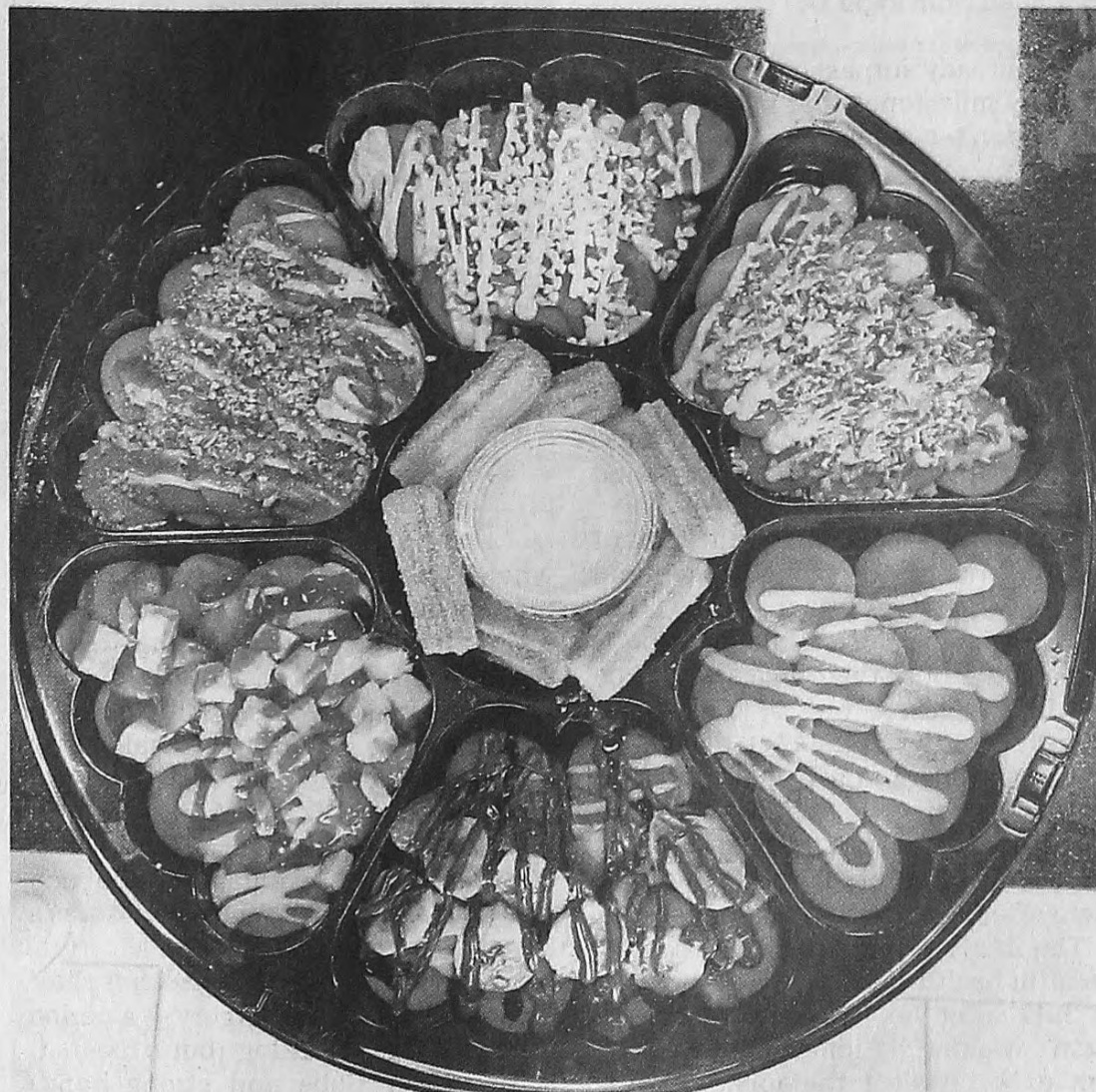
his signature "Sweet Stacks" sauce, as well as the Nutella pancakes, have been one of the top sellers.

Many of the customers tend to be on the younger side, Kadar said, and tends to sell an equal number of pancakes and waffles. He said evenings tend to be when people stop in, though he said he's looking forward to more people learning about the shop.

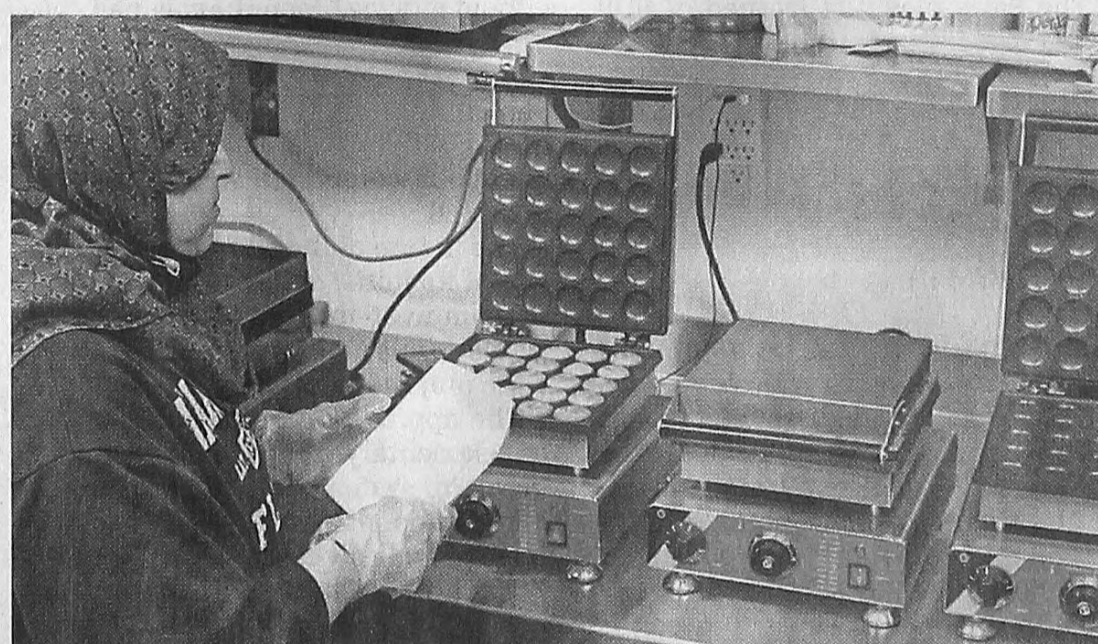
"We still need people to know more about us," he said.

Sweet Stacks is open noon to 9 p.m. daily. A full menu can be found at clover.com/online-ordering/sweet-stacks.

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

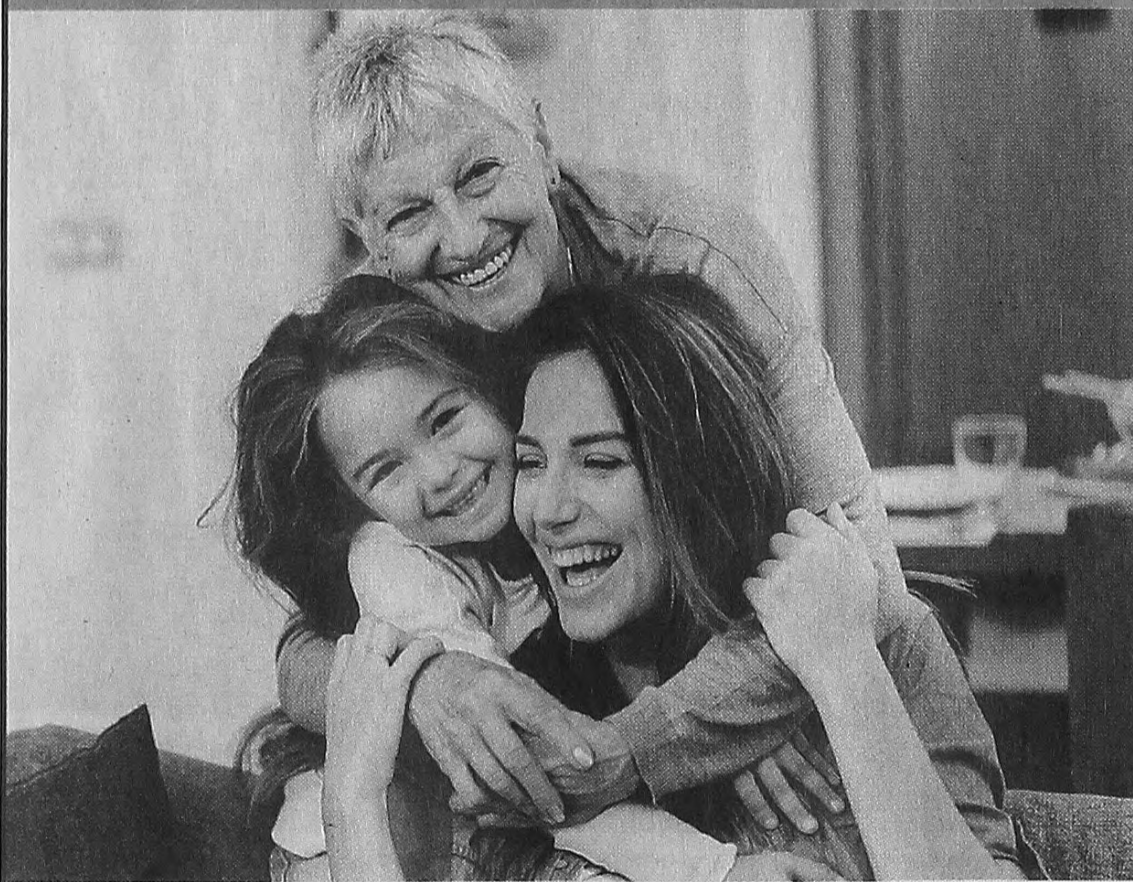


A sample party pack of Sweet Stacks' mini pancakes including strawberry cheesecake and Nutella and bananas.



Rola Kader prepares to pull the tiny, sweet pancakes off the specially designed grill that can produce 25 at a time.

RECONNECT



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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have ringing in your ears? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do people complain that you turn the TV volume up too high? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you ask people to repeat what they say or feel like people mumble? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do family members or coworkers tell you that you are not hearing what they say? |

How Did You Do?

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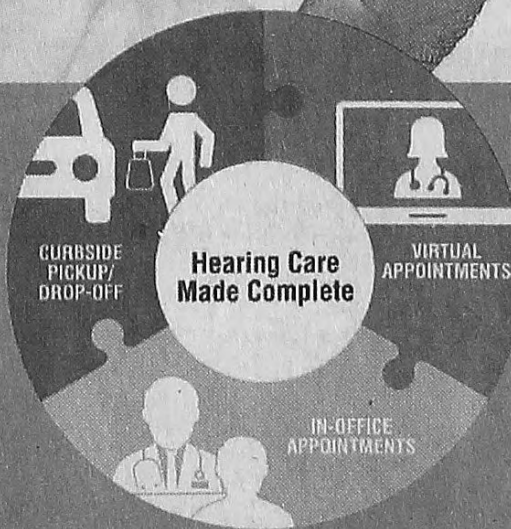
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Toddler

Continued from Page 1A

who is already surpassing post-surgery mobility milestones that most SDR patients don't conquer for six to eight months.

Why has Gabe been able to smash all of the goals and expectations?

"We've been debating this," said Dr. Marupudi. "Part of it is, he's Gabe. He's really a special child. His age and internal motivation are also key factors. The younger the child, the faster the (post-surgery) recovery because their muscles are hyper-tone for a shorter period of time.

"Also, 3-year-olds can bounce out of moderate or minor pain quicker and they have an eagerness to be like other children their age. It's an internal motivation. They push themselves hard to be like other children."

Both high school soccer players — Manny at Salem, April at Livonia Stevenson — the Palazzolos attended Michigan State University but didn't meet until a mutual friend introduced them after college.

The first year of Gabe's life was uneventful health-wise.

"Just after he turned 1, Gabe still wasn't walking by himself, so we took him to a physical therapist," Manny said. "They told us there was a possibility he had cerebral palsy, which we weren't expecting at all."

"It was very shocking," April added. The Palazzolos first learned of SDR



Manny and April Palazzolo talk about their son Gabe, 3, center, and Gabe's having undergone a selective dorsal rhizotomy at Detroit Children's Hospital to help alleviate the symptoms of his cerebral palsy.

JOHN HEIDER/
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

when Gabe was approximately 18 months old.

"At that time, we were hoping that he would get to where he is now by himself, without surgery," Manny said.

The Palazzolos' primary health-care provider wanted to delay the procedure until he was 4 or 5, said April.

"When we sought a second opinion at Children's, they evaluated Gabe and said, 'Let's do it now,'" she said. "It was a life-changing decision for us."

SDR requires a seven-week hospitalization following the surgery — a period that provided daunting (but expected) setbacks for Gabe and strong bond-building between the Palazzolos and the hospital staff.

"The first three days following surgery Gabe had to lay flat on his back, without moving," Manny explained. "He

couldn't even lift his head up by himself; we had to hold him like he was a baby again. But Gabe never complained. Not once. His attitude was amazing."

"Following the surgery, the kids go back to square one as far as their legs are concerned; they lose all tone," April added. "They told us that there would be setbacks before we would see improvement. That part was hard."

Once Gabe overcame the initial hurdles, he quickly became a bright spot for everyone who crossed his path at the hospital.

"He was interacting with everybody: the maintenance staff, the cooks, doctors, nurses, even the guys who cleaned the floors," Manny said. "Everybody knew Gabe's name."

Gabe's in-hospital recovery included intense daily therapy that lasted five to

six hours.

"It was very consuming therapy, but obviously we got outrageous results, so it was worth it," April said. "They said he'd be completely back to his baseline in six months. He reached it in a matter of weeks."

"On day 10 after surgery, Gabe told me, 'My boo boo will feel better' and he wanted to try and walk. I said, OK, not getting my hopes up, but he got right up and took a couple steps."

Gabe's release from the hospital ignited a tidal wave of emotions for the Palazzolos, who walked hand-in-hand with their son through a gauntlet of cheering hospital staff members, most of whom were shedding tears of joy.

"He was acting kind of shy, with all the people watching him, so I was focused on persuading Gabe to walk down the hall," April recounted. "If I had just been in the moment, oh my gosh, I would have been a mess."

"Everyone had worked so hard for this moment, to see Gabe walking by himself out of the hospital, it was such an emotional moment."

While Gabe's progress has been remarkable, there is plenty of grueling (and rewarding) work ahead, the Palazzolos acknowledged.

"He'll have four days a week of pretty intense therapy for two years," April said. "Children's hits their kids pretty hard with therapy because that's when they see the best results."

"Gabe still has a long road ahead of him. This procedure isn't a cure. But through it all, he has shown everybody that he's a fighter."

Projects

Continued from Page 1A

The schools' student drop-off areas will also be extended to increase safety.

The cost of the construction projects and a series of alternate upgrades to the schools is \$17.7 million, \$2.8 million under the original estimated budget.

Construction work on the schools is tentatively slated to start May 1.

The board of education approved the design and bids for EL-1 on Sept. 15, 2020. Bids were due Feb. 4 and recommendations to the district's finance and

operations committee were presented on Feb. 18.

The nature of the bond requires that 85% of its initial series (of three) must be spent in 36 months (from the day it passed), thus adding a level of urgency to the projects' timeline.

The approved alternate projects for the elementary schools include new fire-alarm systems and the painting of ceiling grids inside Eriksson, Field and Hulsing, and new carpeting for Dodson.

McCarthy & Smith spokesperson Brian Geasman explained that Dodson's fire-alarm system will not be replaced because the school is already equipped with an updated system. Dodson

opened in 2001. Hulsing, Field and Eriksson opened in the 1970s.

"The current fire alarm systems at Field, Eriksson and Hulsing are all 100% safe and effective, but replacing them is one of those alternate items that will give the district the best bang for its buck," McCarthy & Smith spokesman Brian Geasman said.

Geasman explained the list of alternates was developed from discussions with school stakeholders. The alternate projects are ideas that were not part of the original plans, he explained.

"If the budget could support some of these great ideas offered by stakeholders, they were incorporated into the pro-

posal so that the district could maximize the bond dollars," Geasman said.

When asked by trustee Shawn Wilson if McCarthy & Smith kept track of bids received from minority-based companies, Geasman said there was an area on the bid applications where minority-owned businesses could identify themselves.

When asked by trustee Doug Brooks what will happen with the approximate \$2.7 million variance — the difference between the original projected budget and the approved budget — Geasman explained that it can be invested in other school enhancement projects.

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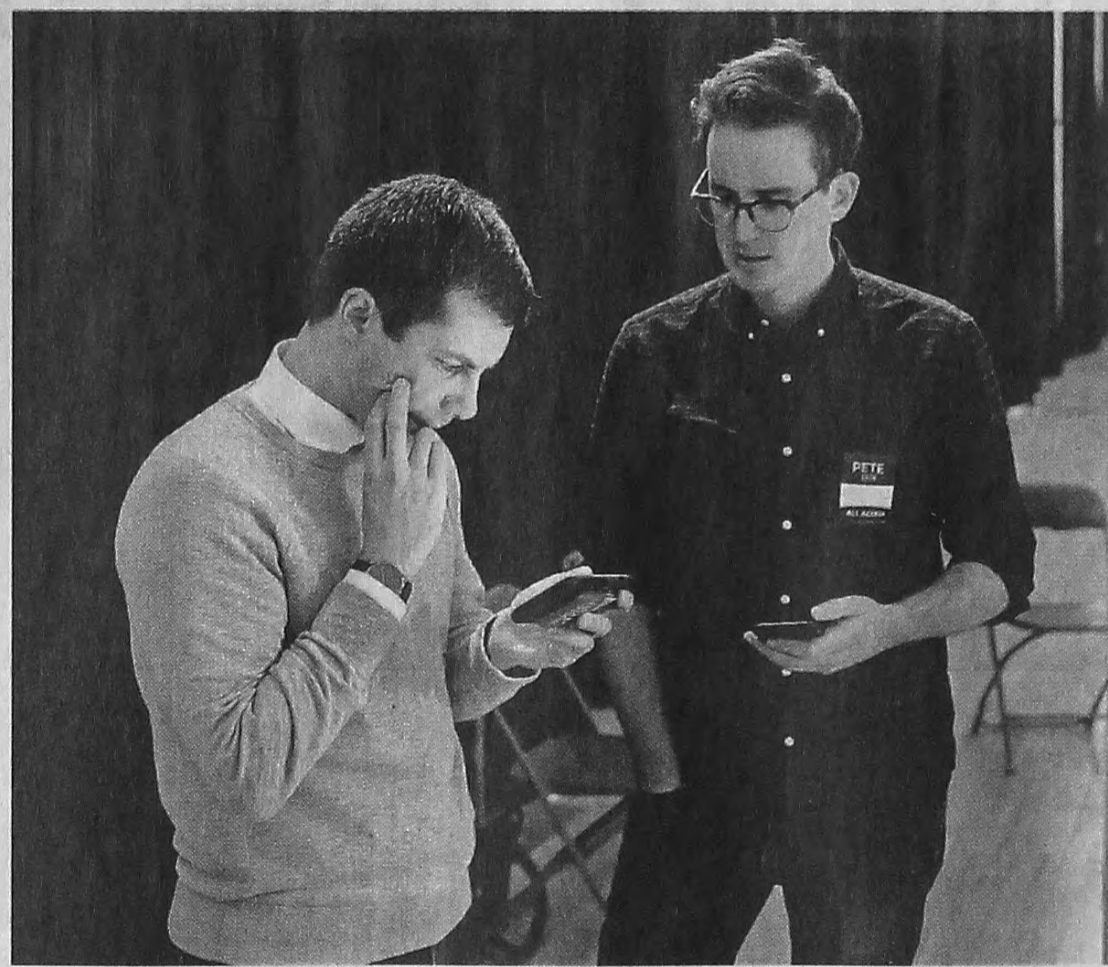
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Chris Meagher, right, who now works as White House deputy press secretary, talks with U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg during Buttigieg's presidential campaign. COURTESY OF CHRIS MEAGHER

Meagher

Continued from Page 1A

off the briefing room, so reporters have access to my office. They can just kind of walk to it, come in the door and ask whatever they want to ask."

Meagher's work in politics has mostly meant working with the press after having spent a few years as a local reporter himself. He said handling communications for Whitmer in the spring of 2020 felt especially meaningful.

"It was really cool to see her up close and see how much she cares about her state, which also happens to be my home state," he said. "It was pretty cool to work for my home state governor."

Before working for Buttigieg as a spokesman in his secretary role, Meagher was the national press secretary for his presidential campaign, which ended in March 2020. He said working on the campaign trail was the experience of a lifetime, and he loved meeting people from across the country. At the end of the day, he enjoys seeing

"My office is right off the briefing room, so reporters have access to my office. They can just kind of walk to it, come in the door and ask whatever they want to ask."

Chris Meagher
White House deputy press secretary

government do what he says it's supposed to: Help people.

"As you can imagine, rural Montana is very different from Chicago and the issues they care about, the needs their communities just look a lot different," he said. "I think Pete and his candidacy meant a lot to a lot of people who finally felt like they were being heard. It was cool to see people respond to his message."

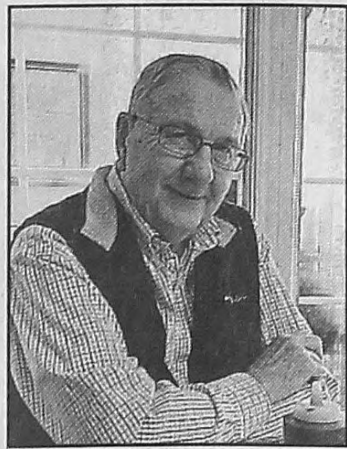
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Obituaries

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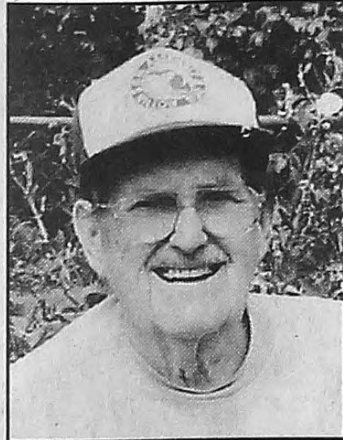
Glen E. Evans, Jr.

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 Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington (248-474-5200). heenev-sundquist.com

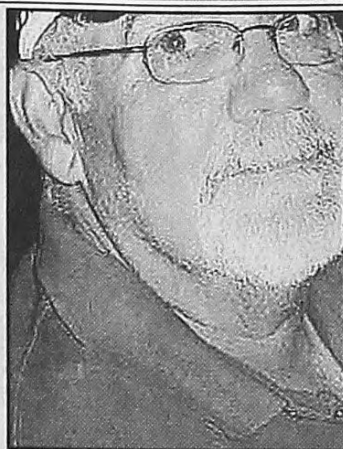
HEENEV-SUNDQUIST



Joseph V. Knapp

Joseph V. Knapp, age 96, passed away March 8, 2021. Beloved husband of Carole. Loving father of Kevin (Melissa), Kenneth, Kelly (Guy) & Joseph. Cherished grandfather of Corbin, Skyler, Kaylee, Kraig & Dylan. Dearest brother of the late Dorothy & Muriel. Also missed by many nieces, nephews & friends. Proud Army Air Corps Veteran. Celebration of Life to be held at a later date.

Hany J Will Funeral Homes

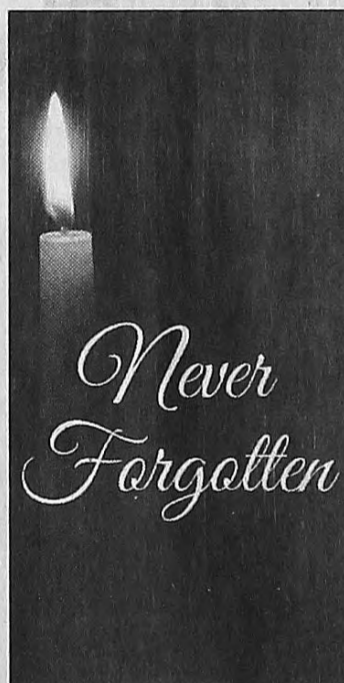


Anthony "Tony" Foster

PEORIA, IL - Anthony "Tony" Foster passed away peacefully on March 8, 2021 in Peoria, Illinois. He was 67 years old.

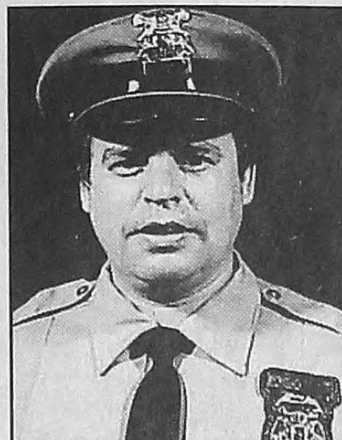
He is survived by his wife of over 30 years, Helen; his children, Sarah (Kyle) Estep, of Canton, MI, Gerald Foster of Peoria, IL, and Shaun Teague, of Wyoming, IL; a brother, Mark (Teresa) Foster of Peoria, IL and a sister, Melodye Foster of Peoria Illinois; and his parents, Gerald and Martha Foster of Bartonville, IL; grandchildren Ryan and Dominick Estep of Canton, MI.

Tony was born January 1, 1954 in Peoria, Illinois. He was an avid fisherman and golfer; he loved spending time outdoors. As to the wishes of the decedent, there will be no services; cremation rights will be accorded.



John Reddy, Jr.

WESTLAND - March 15, 2021 age 79. Beloved husband of the late Shirley. Loving father of Sheri (Timothy Kalnasy) Reddy, John (Kelly) Reddy, Sheila Larimore, Richard Reddy, Nicole (Blue) Jones and special family member, Ann Marie Gallagher. Dear brother of Tom (Phyllis) Taylor, Michael (Lori) Reddy, David (Carol) Reddy, Sheila (John) Rogers, and the late Maureen Reddy. Proud "Pap" of Justin, Alexa, Michael Paul, Katlyn, Illissa, Alicia, Dallas, Austin, Hannah, Brooke, Luke, River and Ryder. Great Grandpa of Landon, Haley, Brinley and Jaxton. John retired in 1997 as the Deputy Police Chief after 30 years of service with the Westland Police Dept. Visitation Friday, March 19th 3-9 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Rd. W., (Btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth, MI. In State, Saturday, March 20th 10 AM until the 11 AM Funeral Service at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannon Rd., Wayne, MI. Interment, Knollwood Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Michael Lutheran Church. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfh.com



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Mary Edith Sestok

BIRMINGHAM, MI - Mary Edith Sestok, lifelong resident of Birmingham, Michigan, died at the age of 69 on January 23, 2021.

Mary is survived by her brothers Charles K. Sestok III (Renee Foley) and Robert H. Sestok; her niece and nephews Erika A. Sestok (Paul Giuntoli), Charles K. Sestok IV, and Evan R. Sestok. She is also survived by numerous extended family members and friends.

Mary was born in Detroit, Michigan on December 20, 1951. She was a graduate of Seaholm High School in Birmingham and of Eastern Michigan University. She was a sustaining member of the Junior League of Birmingham, and she worked for a legal firm in downtown Detroit for many years.

Mary was a joyful person who had an uncanny ability to make anyone feel special and important within minutes of meeting her. You would often find her attending social gatherings with friends and hosting family holiday parties. She always put others before herself and generously sent cards and gifts as a sign of her affection and interest in their happiness. She loved animals, including her miniature Terrier, Lulu. She was an adventurous spirit who visited the Middle East and Eastern Europe in the last year of her life.



Even if you know
what's coming,

you're never
prepared
for how it
feels.

~Natalie Standiford

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A black and white photograph of two young women walking together, smiling and carrying several shopping bags. The woman on the left has long blonde hair and is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and dark pants. The woman on the right has long dark hair and is wearing a dark top and jeans. They are walking on a paved surface, possibly a sidewalk or plaza, with a building in the background.

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SPORTS



Salem netminder Andre Genereux watches a puck slide near his net during a match March 15. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Salem hockey finds new life through emergency goalkeeper

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As Salem hockey prepared to take the ice in its first round matchup against Dearborn Unified, it remembered the ups and downs of the season up to that point.

But to head coach Ryan Ossenmacher, it was not a roller coaster ride. Roller coasters, he said, power their own way through the track. Instead, the path was more like an extremely strenuous bike ride.

"If we want to get to where we want to get to, the reality is we're going to have to work through the downs to get

to the heights," he said.

When senior forward Devan Grayshaw took the ice, before helping Salem to the 5-1 victory, he was floored. He should not have been there. None of his teammates should have.

Over the course of the past two weeks, Salem hockey faced its steepest hill yet, one Salem senior lacrosse goalkeeper Seth Yaekle helped the Rocks summit without even stepping on the ice.

Stepping up

Yaekle had all the qualifications of an emergency goalkeeper: he knew how to skate and he knew what the job de-

scription was, to a degree.

Salem hockey was not really in a position to be picky.

After the Rocks' March 3 game against Livonia Stevenson, the season was paused due to multiple positive COVID-19 cases within the program, leading toward a 14-day quarantine for many players and coaches on the varsity and junior varsity roster, including all available goalkeepers.

Yaekle got the call from Salem senior forward Matthew Rochna, asking him to take over as the team's main goalkeeper until the quarantine period was complete.

See **GOALKEEPER**, Page 3B

Brother Rice shuts out Howell while preparing for playoffs

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ryan Marone has been thinking about what could have been for a year now.

It was his senior night, sure. But to the Brother Rice forward, it was more than that.

On March 12, 2020, the Michigan High School Athletic Association suspended its winter postseason tournaments indefinitely, stripping the Warriors' chance at a Division 2 state title due to COVID-19 something out of their control.

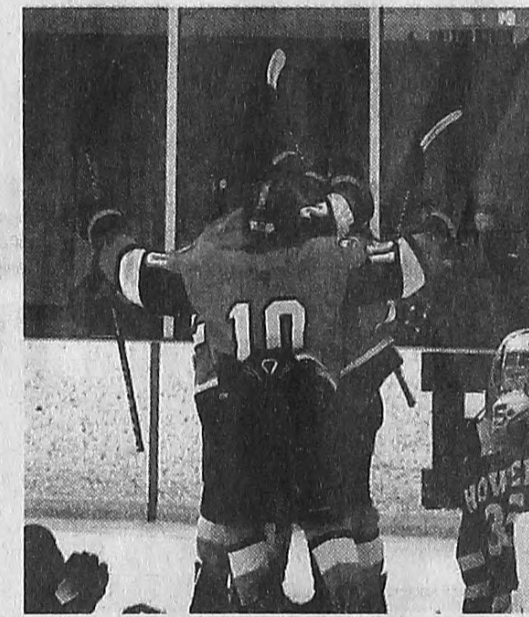
Taking the ice one year later to the day, Marone brought those feelings, those feelings that really have never left, back to the forefront for the final game of the 2021 regular season.

"Basically we got robbed of a state championship," Marone said. "This year, we're just trying to complete that goal."

The Warriors (10-4) finished out the regular season strong, beating Howell (7-8), 5-0, at home March 12.

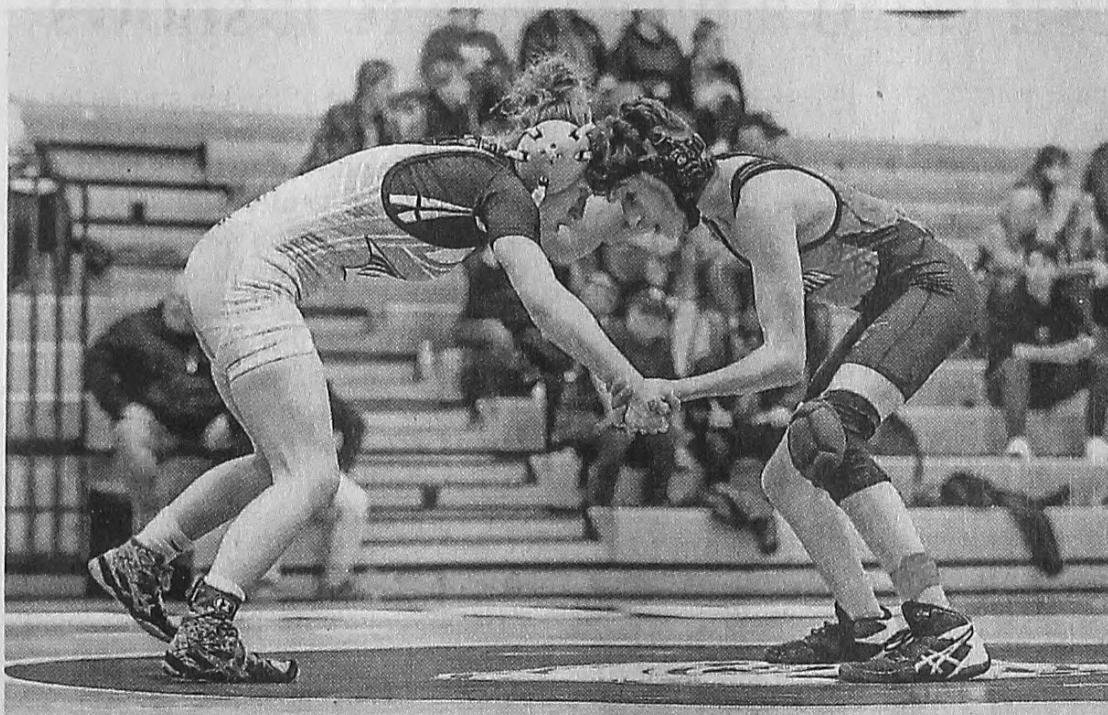
In 2021, Brother Rice has not lost a game where it has scored three goals

See **HOCKEY**, Page 3B



Brother Rice celebrates its first goal. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mallory Floreno aims to prove doubters wrong



Plymouth's Mallory Floreno has been wrestling since seventh grade, seen here in a match from the 2019-20 season. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Nathan Curtis was not Mallory Floreno's biggest fan when he first met her at Plymouth Wrestling Club.

Curtis, still learning the sport himself, saw Floreno as an athlete with a chip on her shoulder, one that came off, in a way, as arrogance.

But he watched her grow, seeing the heart, the grit, the determination in the future Plymouth wrestler. To Curtis, the unbelievable part was not the fact she was a girl.

"When you look into her eyes, when she shakes that person's hand, it ain't a game to her," Curtis said. "This is a lifestyle at this point."

Since finding her place on the mat in seventh grade, Floreno has done just that to the multiple athletes and coach-

es around her: taking a sport she initially joined to make her father mad before fully ingraining herself in the wrestling culture.

To those in her wrestling circle, Floreno is just another athlete, working to get better, working to achieve what she wants to achieve.

But Plymouth head coach Patrick Durocher knows that each time she takes the mat, it represents something bigger than her, something bigger than the team or the bout itself.

Floreno is his only two-time state qualifier in the Plymouth gym, finishing fourth and fifth at the Michigan Wrestling Association Girls Wrestling state finals freshman and sophomore year. And as a junior, she wants to get over the hump and earn a trophy that serves as validation for the doubt associated with

See **WRESTLING**, Page 4B

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South Lyon Unified swarms junior goalkeeper Jake Koth after the team's 4-0 win against Canton to open the playoffs.
COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

South Lyon Unified shuts out Canton 4-0 in playoff opener

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After South Lyon Unified hockey's final game of the regular season, a 6-2 loss to Canton on March 12, all Jake Koth could do was analyze.

The junior goalkeeper knew that his team would face Canton again days later when it meant more: the first-round of the regional playoffs, so he and his team made adjustments and prepared for the worst-case scenario.

You practice for worst-case scenarios and a lot of times, it's shot after shot after shot," Koth said. "You have to be conditioned and ready for it mentally."

This is what Koth saw Tuesday night: a barrage of shots from the Canton offense. But not a single one went through as South Lyon Unified recorded the 4-0 victory in the first round of the playoffs against Canton with the help of 47 saves from the goalkeeper.

South Lyon Unified won its first playoff game since the 2017-18 season, recording its second shutout of the year.

"(Koth) was just a rock back there for us, jumping on rebounds, putting pucks to the corner, making saves," South Lyon Unified head coach Bill McCreary said. "I thought our defense did a very strong job in front of him as well, helping him see pucks, opening up the shooting lanes and tying guys up in front. I thought it was a good job down low for our team."

This schedule is something McCreary is used to.

A season ago, South Lyon Unified faced Novi in the final game of the regular season, recording the tie before a 7-2 drubbing to open the playoffs.

In 2021, South Lyon Unified used that knowledge to its advantage. After allowing multiple power-play goals against the Chiefs in the meeting, the team adjusted its approach, seeing what it needed to do and executing in a major way: killing four power plays in the first two periods.

And after countless chances by the Canton offense, South Lyon Unified ended the stalemate.

In the final minute of the second period senior forward Andrew Ineich, streaking on a two-on-one, took passes from Dominic Dudek and JD Michaels and put the puck in the back of the net: the first goal allowed by Canton senior Michael Renzi after 16 saves.

With just over five minutes to go in the game, South Lyon junior Ryan Savanyu sealed the victory, putting the puck past Renzi for the second score of the day.

South Lyon senior defender Michael Fosbinder and senior forward Shane Milligan added empty-net goals in the final 81 seconds to add to Canton's deficit, its largest since a Feb. 12 loss to Livonia Stevenson.

"They took what we did and, ultimately, we had a ton of chances that we just didn't bury, but what they did that

really killed us was clearing the puck, icing the puck on us," Canton head coach Justin Maedel said. "That slowed us down a lot and it frustrated us because we are a go, go, go team."

After being sidelined with COVID-19 in November when the season was initially set to start, Maedel said he was thankful for what Canton was able to do in 2021. The Chiefs got in all of its 15 regular-season games along with its regional game without a hitch.

In that regard, Maedel takes none of the credit. If anything, he said, he followed what his players were doing.

"This year seemed like the team was more close-knit than last year's team," Maedel said. "I don't know if it was because of COVID, because of the shutdowns. But I was so happy to see the camaraderie we did have and it truly is a blessing that these kids got to play."

Despite playing the same team twice within five days, McCreary knew the potential of his group. He knew what they could do and was expecting a different result when South Lyon Unified took the ice Tuesday.

"We knew that the last game against them wasn't our best," McCreary said. "Our guys were excited to get back at it and have a different result."

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.

New Lions WR Williams doesn't 'see it as a rebuild'

Dave Birkett

Detroit Free Press

USA TODAY NETWORK

Tyrell Williams wasn't thinking about joining a rebuild in free agency. He wants to win, and thinks he can do it next season with the Lions.

"I guess I don't really see it as a rebuild," Williams said in his introductory video conference Monday. "I feel like any team can come out there, it's the NFL, and no matter whether the media wants to make it a rebuild or whatever they want to say, I feel like we have a chance to go out there and make the playoffs, win the Super Bowl."

The Lions signed Williams to a one-year deal last week, after he was cut by the Las Vegas Raiders, and the veteran currently sits No. 1 on their soon-to-be-changing depth chart at wide receiver.

Kenny Golladay, Marvin Jones and Danny Amendola are expected to sign elsewhere in free agency, and the Lions will be looking to add more pass catchers when the new league year opens at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

The free agent negotiating period got off to a slow start Monday as the Lions agreed to a three-year deal to keep defensive end Romeo Okwara and a one-year contract with linebacker Jalen Reeves-Maybin, but failed to make any splash additions after missing out on top safety John Johnson, who signed with the Cleveland Browns.

They also lost linebacker Jarrad Davis and return man/receiver Jamal Agnew to other teams.

Williams, who missed all of last season with a torn shoulder labrum, said he is 95% healed and feeling "great" five months after surgery.

"I've been catching passes, I've been running routes and doing all that stuff and getting back to my normal offseason routine," he said. "So I feel good, I feel strong, feel like if we had a game next week I'd be out there. I feel great."

Williams played two seasons for new Lions offensive coordinator Anthony Lynn with the Los Angeles Chargers, and said that relationship was a big factor in his signing with Detroit.

"He's a great leader, he's been a great coach," Williams said. "I think he did a great job of being a head coach and I think he'll do a great job being a coordinator and I'm excited for it, the scheme and the offense that he's going to bring."

How Williams fits in the offense remains to be seen, and will hinge somewhat on who else the Lions add at receiver.

Williams has not caught more than 43 passes in a season since 2016, but has been an effective deep threat throughout his career.

Contact Dave Birkett at dbirkett@freepress.com. Follow him on Twitter @davebirkett.

Lions TE Hill delivers on son's request: Go to a place where it snows

Dave Birkett Detroit Free Press

USA TODAY NETWORK

When Josh Hill told his oldest son he was being released by the only NFL team he's played for, the Saints, he was greeted with surprising enthusiasm.

"He was excited," Hill said Tuesday. "He said, 'Let's go somewhere where there's snow. I'm tired of this heat down here.' And I was like, 'All right, we'll see.' So I guess his wish was granted. He's going to see some snow."

Hill signed a one-year contract with the Lions last Saturday and said he and his family will move to Detroit after the school year ends, ensuring snow is in their future.

He is expected to serve as the Lions' No. 2 tight end this fall, a blocking complement to T.J. Hockenson, though he said in his introductory video conference Tuesday his role is still "to be determined."

"I'm just going to go into camp and try to bring different assets to the table, really do anything they ask me to do and just bring a workman's mentality to it," Hill said.

Hill started 61 games in eight seasons with the Saints after signing with the team as an undrafted free agent. He had eight catches for 46 yards last season, his lowest total since his rookie year, but is one of four active tight ends who has caught a touchdown pass every season since 2013.

He spoke by Zoom from his Louisiana



Tight end T.J. Hockenson of the Detroit Lions carries the football as wide receiver Marvin Jones, left, of the Detroit Lions blocks cornerback Malcolm Butler (21) of the Tennessee Titans during the second quarter of the game at Nissan Stadium on Dec. 20, 2020, in Nashville, Tennessee. FREDERICK BREEDON, GETTY IMAGES

home Tuesday, with a painting of the French Quarter hanging on the wall behind him, and said leaving the place where he's raised his children will not be easy.

"It is tough," he said. "We kind of made this our home base. We stayed here throughout the year, so when you have — we've got four kids, so moving those relationships and everything, there's growing pains with that of

course."

One thing that should help, and one of the big selling points for Hill in signing with Detroit, is new Lions head coach Dan Campbell, Hill's position coach in New Orleans the past five seasons.

Hill said he and Campbell have a unique relationship and credited Campbell for teaching him how to prepare for games.

"I'll save some of the big stories for a later time, but as far as Dan goes, the thing that stands out to me is his commitment to the game," Hill said. "The way that he works, the way that he puts his guys in positions to succeed and just the amount that he cares about the players and just what he's doing, you're getting a genuine guy."

One of Lions' two additions so far in veteran free agency, along with receiver Tyrell Williams, Hill said he is looking forward to playing alongside Hockenson, who made the Pro Bowl last year in his second NFL season.

"Haven't spoke to him yet but looks like a guy that loves to play the game," Hill said. "He looks like he's having fun, he plays hard. Watched some of his film, he's an exciting player so I'm anxious to get to work with him and kind of build on that relationship."

As for leaving New Orleans, Hill said he will miss quarterback Drew Brees, who retired Sunday after a Hall-of-Fame career.

"What a special guy," Hill said. "Off the field, on the field. He spoke into my life a lot about being a father. Obviously, the way that he plays the game is very committed. No matter what the situation was, he was locked in and ready to go. Sad to see him go, but I'm extremely grateful for those eight years. I enjoyed the hell out of it."

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Goalkeeper

Continued from Page 1B

"At first I was kind of skittish," Yaekle said. "I know it's kind of hard, and I had never played goalie before. I was like, 'I'll give it a try,' because the next-best case was a soccer goalie that didn't know how to skate."

"I'm their best shot."

While most of the team was at home, Yaekle and a few other players, including one junior varsity player and two who previously hung up their skates, practiced at Victory Ice Arena, making due with what they had until the expected return of seven varsity players prior to Monday's matchup.

"You have guys that want to step in for their teammates, step in for their buddies, step in for their school and do something they have never done before," the Salem head coach said.

"They simply said: 'We can help.'"

After a week of practices, Yaekle found his groove and felt ready to go for however long he was needed. But Salem found out it would not need his services after all.

The Rocks learned Friday that Wayne County had shortened its mandatory 14-day quarantine to 10 days, allowing Salem to have a full roster for its first play-off game.

Ossenmacher led Salem's first practice in two weeks Sunday, the only ice



Seth Yaekle served as Salem hockey's emergency goalkeeper as the majority of the varsity and junior-varsity teams remained in quarantine.

COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

time prior to the postseason. He said he saw rust, but also zip in his players' skates: a drive to achieve the goals they had set prior to the start of the season after having almost lost it to something out of their control.

When Grayshaw returned to the ice, all he could think of was how heartbroken he was at the moment he thought

his season was taken away.

Taking the ice, a new fire appeared for him and for each of his teammates, something each of them could rally behind.

"I think we stepped on there and we realized 'Holy cow, we're here,'" Grayshaw said. "So let's just focus, give it our all."

"I had no doubt about tonight at all." Salem recorded 45 shots on net and five goals — including two power-play scores — against Dearborn Unified in the first round of the playoffs, the most goals the team had scored in a game since Feb. 17.

To Ossenmacher, Salem's resurgence is a credit to the senior leaders, the captains on the roster.

"A team of lesser young men would have crumbled and fallen apart, and it's not attributed to me, it's attributed to them," he said.

To Salem, it's attributed to Yaekle, who stood right next to the bench Monday night, clad in a Salem hockey pull-over and a blue baseball cap turned backward, ready to go at a moment's notice.

After the game, Yaekle stepped out of the locker room with a bombastic blue wrestling belt, carrying it over his shoulder like a trophy. To him, this was the evidence of him taking a chance when a group of players had its season on the line.

It was evidence of how Salem's season remained alive.

"I just thought I had nothing to lose," Yaekle said. "I got nothing to prove to anybody, so I might as well give it a shot and put my best foot forward."

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.

Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

or more.

In the first period, the Warriors offense made sure it was taking advantage of the breaks Howell was giving them.

Sophomore forward Andrew Marone and senior forward Sam Yono each scored first-period power-play goals, connecting on two of the Warriors 15 shots on goal in the first 17 minutes.

After a score by junior forward Parker Young gave Brother Rice a three-goal advantage after two periods — taking passes from Ryan Marone and Luke Dudley on a fast break of three skaters

against Howell goalkeeper Ean Badgett — the Warriors added two more goals in the third period: a power-play score by senior captain Alec Hamady and a goal from Peter Rosa.

"We haven't really had the floodgates open on offense until the last few games," Brother Rice head coach Ken Chaput said. "It's good to see people put pucks in the net, it's good to see the confidence of kids. You like to see them enjoy and have fun while staying locked in."

Even despite a slew of penalties on both sides — combining for 16 whistles, including 10 by Howell — the Highlanders failed to break senior Drake Danou's seal at goal, recording 23 saves.

"This is the kind of team we're going to face if we're fortunate enough to get to a

regional final game or a final four, like we were heading toward last year," Howell head coach Rocky Johnson said. "This is the kind of team you are going to play and, quite frankly, you have to step up and play with some intensity and some heart."

"This kind of gives them a wake-up call of what they're going to see."

As Brother Rice put a stamp on its regular season with its third shutout of the season, Chaput knows this playoff run means more than most.

The head coach described it as a "two-year run" at a championship, saying that his team has learned to seize each opportunity.

But Chaput knows it's not a given. He knows that one encounter with a COVID-19-positive player or coach could end

the season for a player or even a team.

However, that's why Chaput and the rest of the team's focus is on what they have in front of them: responding to a game against a team that was on its way to the Final Four in 2020 with a 5-0 shut-out.

And with playoffs looming, Marone's mentality has not shifted. He's hoping he has a chance to finish the job that last year's group started.

"Next game, if we lose, we're done," he said. "That's how it is: We have to win every game."

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Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

her success only because of her gender. "She goes out and does what she can to prove everybody wrong. If somebody tells her she doesn't belong on a mat, she goes out and beats the kid so that they believe she does as much as the rest," Durocher said. "For those who might doubt she can win a state title, she's going to go and train and do just that."

"It's fun to watch her take the narrative that's thrown at her and just try and flip it on its head."

'My time is now'

At the start of her wrestling career, no one would be Floreno's partner. She said she would be partnered with a coach or force herself into a group.

After two years with the club team, serving as an assistant captain her eighth-grade season, Floreno began to shift her mentality. She wanted to put up a fight. She wanted to put herself in a position to be accepted as one of their own.

Heading into high school, Floreno realized she needed to do more.

"It was like, 'You know, this is my time now,'" Floreno said. "I'm not taking any more bull**** from people. This is up to me to do it and prove my worth."

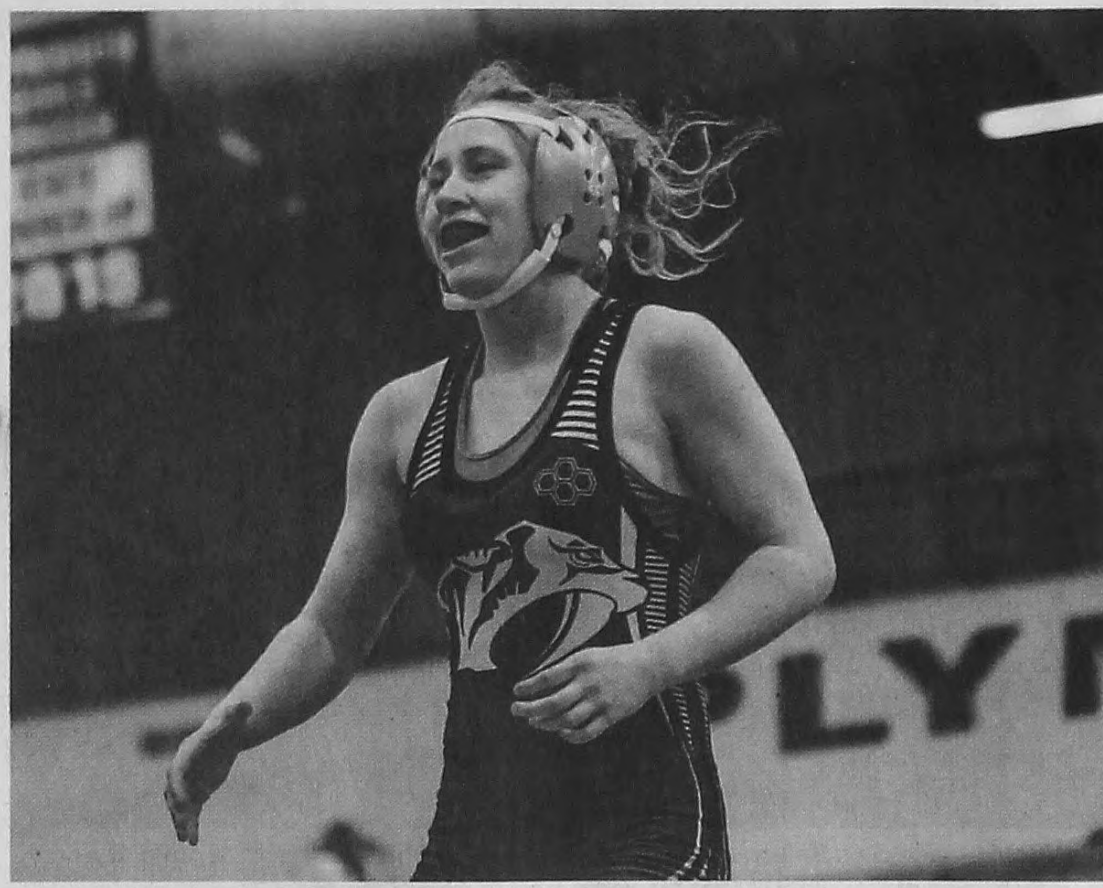
When Floreno first entered Plymouth's wrestling room, Durocher said it felt different. She brought a different energy, a different passion for the sport.

She always wanted to get better, he said, asking for help, finding ways to make herself better.

To the Plymouth head coach, it was refreshing. Floreno was in the room for the same reason as everyone else, and with that he didn't treat her any differently.

"There is this stigma about the girls and they shouldn't be in the starting lineup or this, that or the other. I never treated it like that," Durocher said. "If someone wants to come into my program and they are going to show me they are going to work hard and get better, that's what I'm looking for."

Facing Floreno, Curtis said he sees a wrestler who's fast on her feet and does not like to pause, using her flexibility to overcome pure strength on the mat.



Plymouth junior Mallory Floreno has finished in fourth and fifth place at the AMW Girls state finals in her freshman and sophomore years, respectively.

MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The Plymouth junior is a sound wrestler in terms of technique, and many opponents say they are surprised at the level of strength she has. But what Curtis said truly separates Floreno from other wrestlers is her determination. "She's a special breed for sure," Curtis said. "Just the way she wrestles and how she turns her rage into fuel."

Turning rage into fuel

That rage, that fuel, that determination comes from discrimination Floreno said she faced ever since she first got onto the wrestling mat.

She hears it from parents who tell her to pick another sport because it's a "guy sport." She hears it from other coaches who chose to put her out of lineups on club teams in middle school or chose to forfeit a match in a dual meet because she's a girl.

It comes from opponents, telling her that she is a state qualifier only because she is a girl, the only reason why she wins at all is because they let her win.

But these are ideas she likes to shut down as soon as the whistle blows.

"Once I get out onto the mat, the only thing I'm doing is kicking someone's

butt and doing what I can while I'm out there," Floreno said.

Durocher said the junior wrestler is very good at taking these comments in stride. But it's not something inherent when she first started wrestling. It was something she had to learn from coaches and from members of the girls wrestling community around the state of Michigan.

She looked at Kendra Ryan, a senior wrestler at Fenton, who finished in first place at the MWA Girls Wrestling finals at 107.

"Every time I practice with her, she kicks my ass, 100%. I want to get to her level... She has the confidence," Floreno said. "She's always able to go out there and just do what she has to do. She doesn't do anything else. She wrestles how she wants to wrestle and moves on from it."

Floreno sends this message to the middle school athletes she coaches: to not doubt themselves, to not hold yourself to the comparison of male athletes, but to instead believe in yourself and your ability.

While this is something she preaches, Floreno knows it's easier said than done.

She said she used to beat herself up, expecting herself to remain consistent, expecting herself to beat anyone that faces her no matter how much bigger or stronger the wrestler is.

Floreno said it's due to her anxiety disorder, making her overthink everything, putting herself down, especially if the rest of the team has found success.

"If they are all winning, I'm going to feel like 'Everyone thinks I suck, everyone is going to think I'm not as good just because I didn't beat this guy,'" Floreno said. "That's something that constantly goes through my head when I'm out there."

As she's grown, Floreno earned she has five minutes to grieve over a lost match before shifting her focus to the next one. She remembers it's not a life-or-death situation but it's a moment to learn and grow from, inching her closer to her goal of a state title.

In the middle of her junior season, Floreno's main focus is preparing for the MWA Girls state tournament.

After losing in the state quarterfinal to the eventual champion last season, she did not lose another match, finishing fifth in the state at 112.

Now, she's confident she will be a state champion.

She pictures herself in that moment in the middle of the ring with her hand raised in victory by the referee. Floreno said she will look at her parents and coaches, knowing their hard work had paid off.

She would remember the hours, the sweat, the tears culminating in that one hand raise.

"It really makes me feel like I'm above all the doubts that everyone had for me," Floreno said. "All the random parents who would tell me random stuff at tournaments, all the boys who would refuse to wrestle me, all the ones who would make fun of me before and after my matches, it feels like that one moment, I'm coming over all of that."

"It's my time to show and prove everyone wrong."

For Curtis, who has had a front row seat to Floreno's growth, it's not an if, but when.

"No matter what, there's going to be a state title before Mallory Floreno."

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There are limited appointments available, and you must book yours before **March 31st**...

Final week!
Call before appointments are gone!

which means this is the **FINAL** week!

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40% OFF¹
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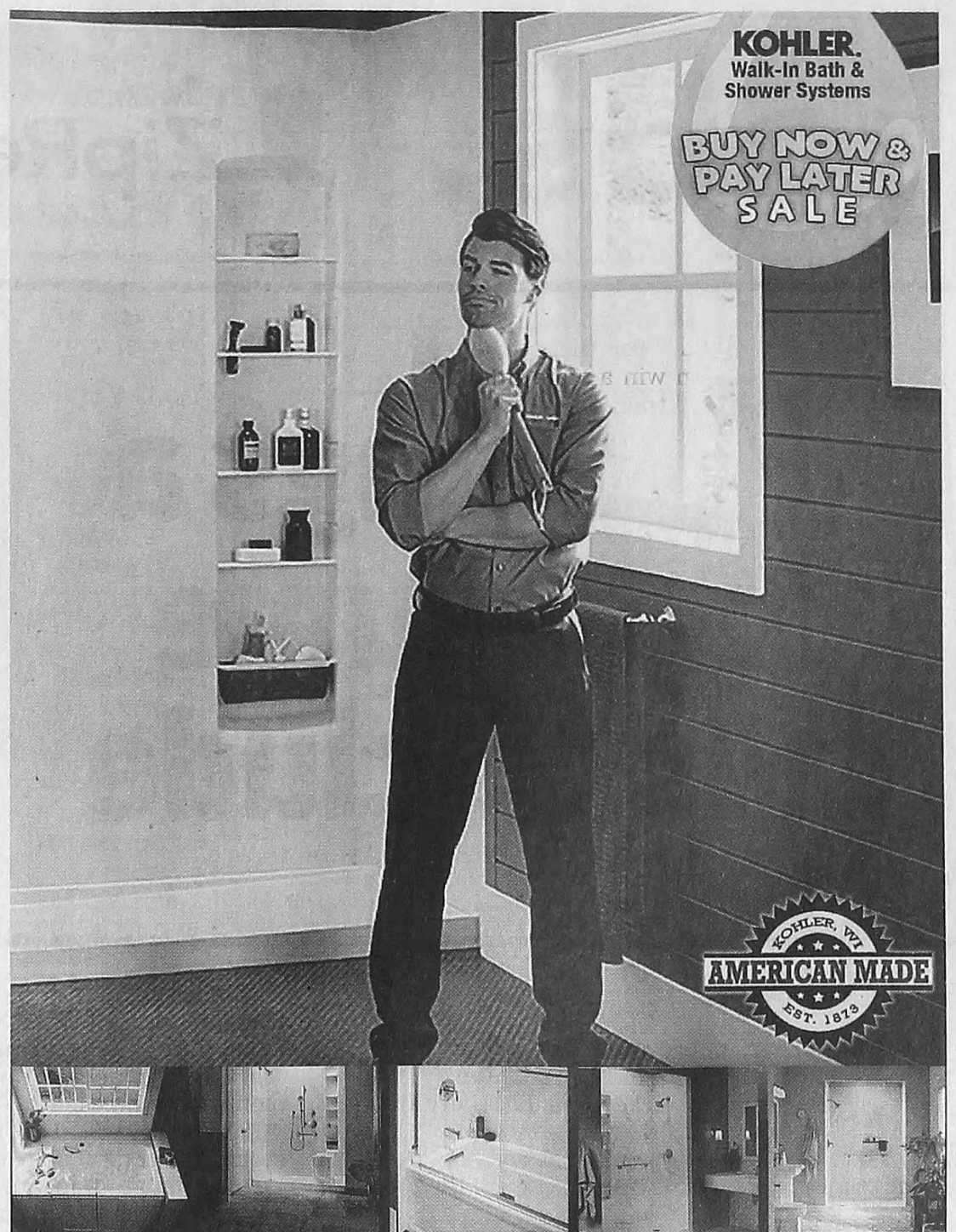
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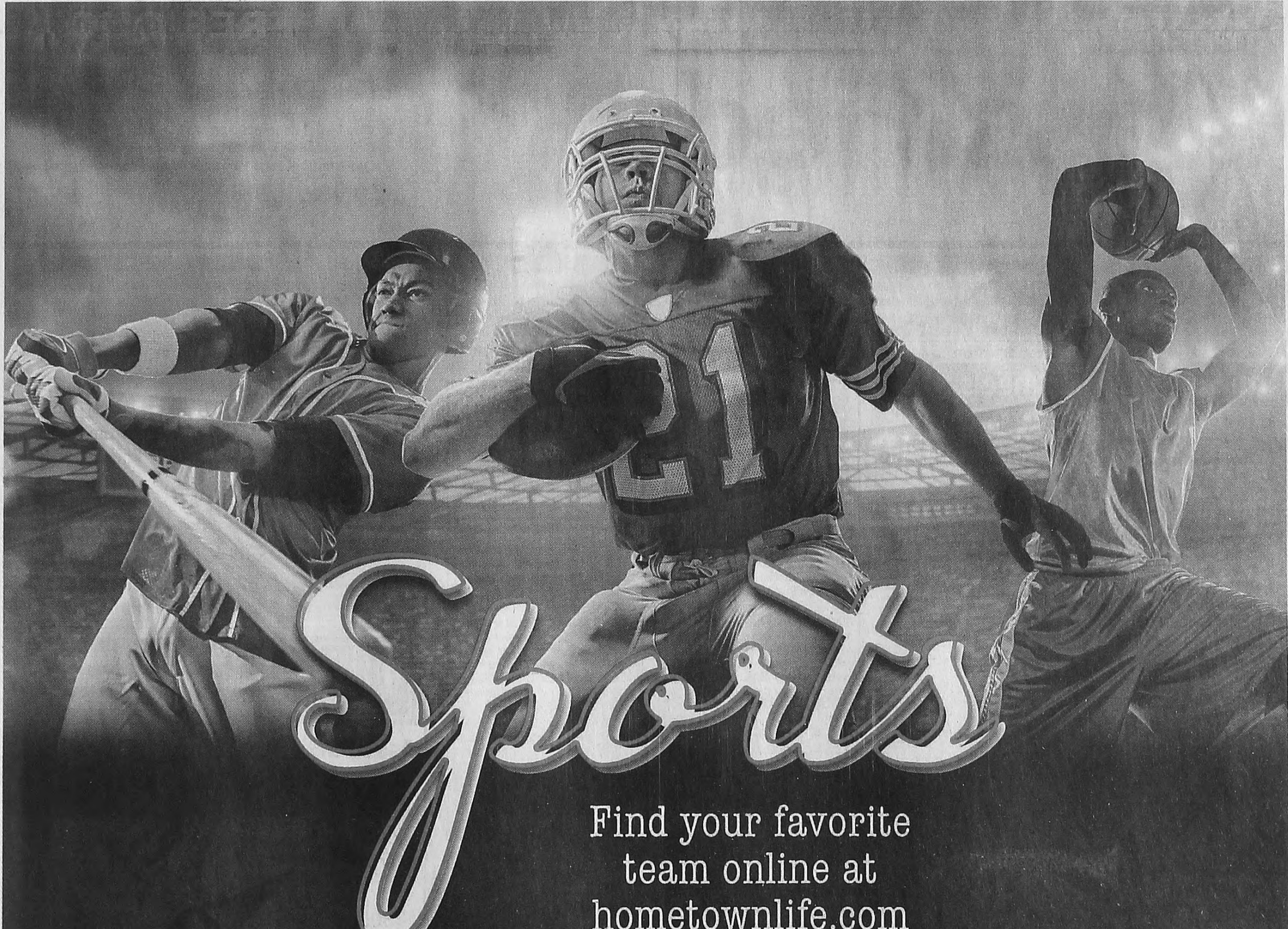
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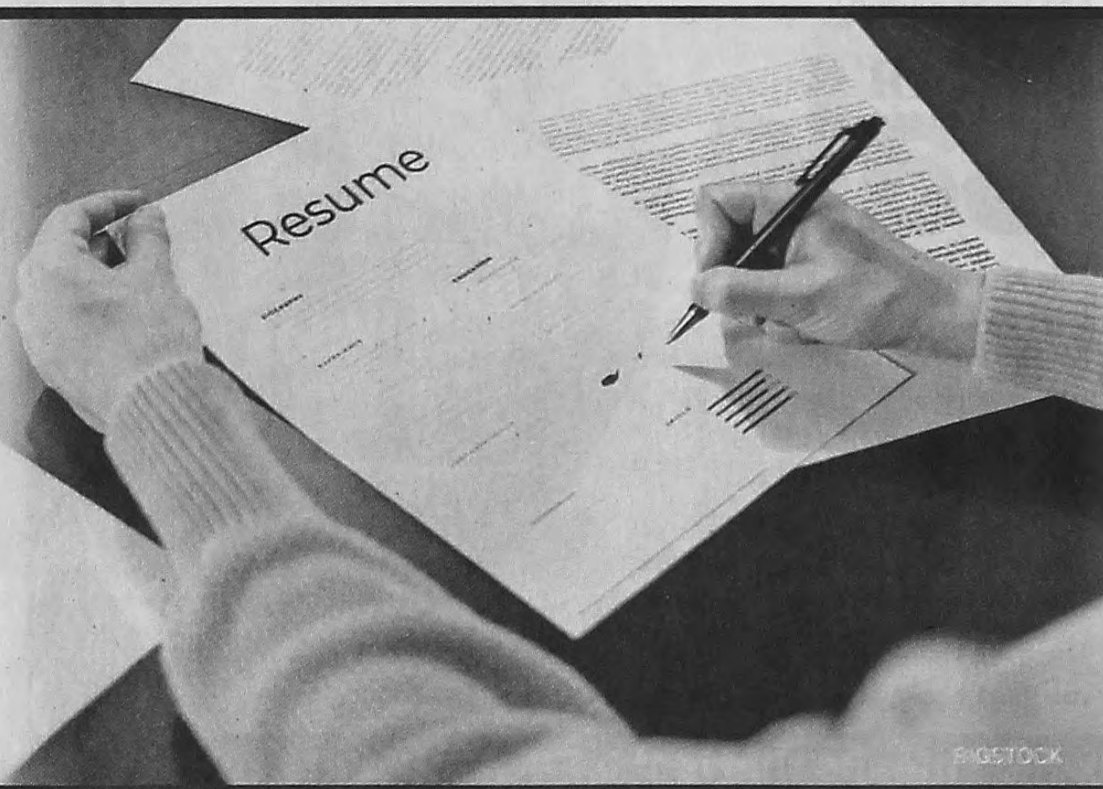
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4 things a resume must include



ZipRecruiter.com

There are many opinions on what information you should and shouldn't include on your resume. But there are certain basics that must be there.

Here's the good news: You already have all the answers to this test. These are the big four.

1. Contact Information

Include your name, as well as the proper pronunciation if you find that others have trouble with it. Below it, include the phone number you use most. Also include an email address. If you're still in college or graduate school, use your .edu address to show that you do actually go to that school, but if you are already in the workforce use your personal email. (Not your work address!)

Be sure that your personal email address is something professional and appropriate, and is with an email provider like Gmail or

Outlook. An email address ending in something like @hotmail.com or @earthlink.net could make you seem out of touch to some recruiters, many of whom increasingly value tech-savvy candidates.

For your physical address, you only need to include your city, state and ZIP code. If you are planning to relocate or are open to it, let employers know that on your resume as well.

2. Work experience

The main event! This is the meat and potatoes of your resume, so you'll want to put thought into picking out the most impactful accomplishments that are relevant to the role you're looking for. For each job you've held, add your title, company name, and city and state of the office you worked in, listed from most recent to least. Below each role, list two to four of your biggest and most relevant duties, with numbers to back them up. Include links to work examples, portfolios or anything else that will make you stand out, even if it's

not directly related to the role.

3. Education

Unless you're a recent graduate, this info goes below your work experience. Only list your high school education if you did not pursue higher education and you have graduated within the last few years. For college and graduate school, include the name, the institution's city and state, your degree, and any honors received.

4. Skills

When it comes to listing your skills, be as specific as possible, prioritizing the ones that can be applied to the role you are seeking. For each of the skills, include the number of years you've performed it. Also, if you have any licenses (with your license number), certifications or training courses you have completed/are taking, list those out as well.

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