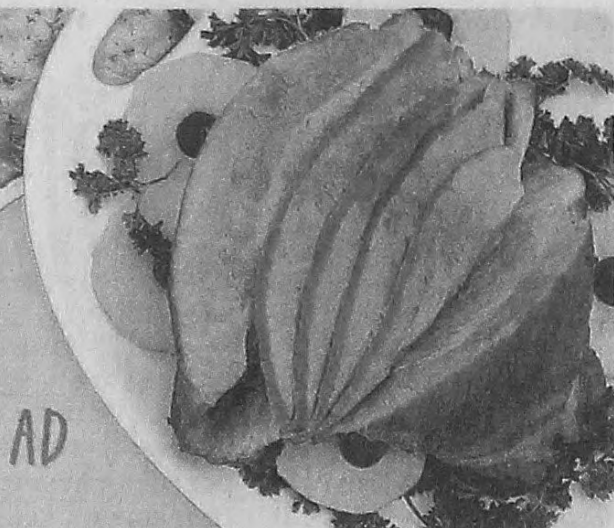




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CANTON

# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Livonia may regulate Airbnb, Vrbo homes

City officials say safety is at top of mind in decision

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

Livonia is one step closer to cracking down on short-term rentals like Airbnb and Vrbo.

City Councilman Rob Donovic offered a first reading of an ordinance that would regulate short-term rentals at Livonia's March 22 meeting.

"It's the first step in the right direction to prevent bad behavior," Council

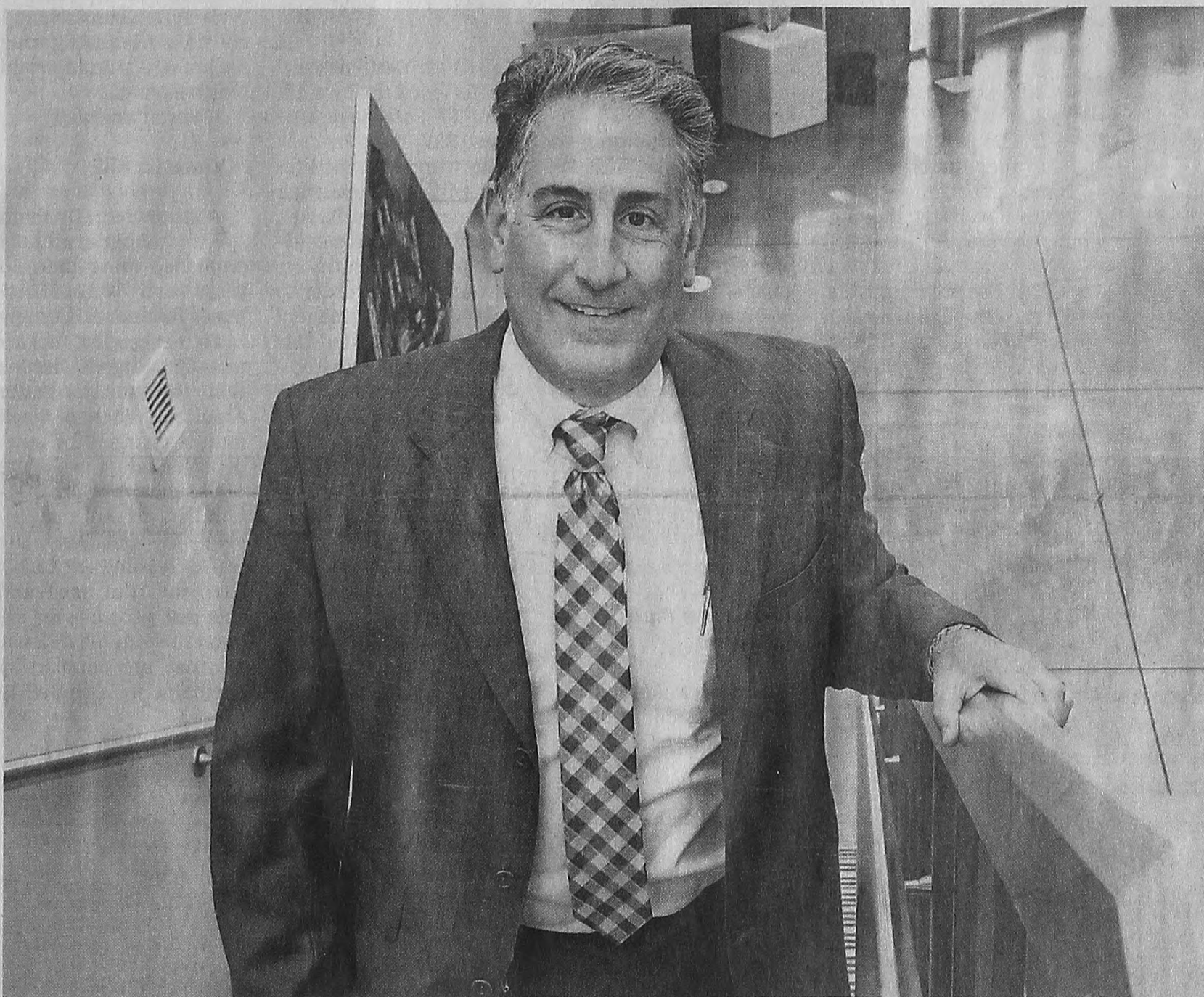
President Kathleen McIntyre said.

The regulations, if approved, would not ban short-term rentals, of which the city has several, but would require short-term rental properties — those property owners who rent a home or room for less than 30 days a year — to submit the properties to the same

checks other rental properties do.

These regulations would require owners to have a license and undergo annual inspections. They'd also need to follow rules like making a bathroom available to occupants, having a fire

See **LIVONIA**, Page 5A



Farmington Hills City Manager Gary Mekjian previously has worked in Southfield, Lincoln Park and the Charter Township of West Bloomfield. "... Farmington Hills is one heck of a well-run organization," he said. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Farmington Hills manager excited to serve hometown

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

When Gary Mekjian finished college, he expected to go to work designing infrastructure like skyscrapers and dams. He had no idea public work was something he'd have fun with.

"I've really enjoyed it," he said. "I've enjoyed taking my knowledge and using it and leveraging it to develop a community."

Following work in cities of Southfield and Lincoln Park as well as the Charter Township of West Bloomfield, Mekjian landed in Farmington Hills as the city's

director of public services in 2010. He says he'd wanted to work in the city, which happens to be where he grew up, since at least 1999.

"I realized that Farmington Hills is one heck of a well-run organization,"

See **MANAGER**, Page 5A

## Canton man pleads guilty to CSC charges

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

A Canton man pleaded guilty March 19 to four of 18 criminal sexual conduct charges for forcing his sexual attentions on children and coercing them into being assaulted.

Shailesh Patel, 53, is looking at a possible sentence of 35 years in prison because of his sexual relations with girls he knew through a Hindu temple where he volunteered.

Keeping his hands posed in prayer against his chest, Patel exchanged pleasantries with Third Circuit Judge

Shannon Walker.

"Good morning, ma'am, how are you today?" Patel asked.

"I'm doing good," Walker responded. "How about yourself, sir?"

"Good. Good. Just great," he said.

See **CHARGES**, Page 6A

## Industrial buildings proposed in Plymouth Township

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

Add two more industrial buildings planned for Plymouth Township.

The township's planning commission recently reviewed two new construction projects planned in the Metro Plymouth Business Park along Concept Drive off Haggerty between Plymouth and Schoolcraft roads.

The projects, reviewed by the commission during an in-person meeting held March 17 at Plymouth Township Hall, came before the board from the same company that sought earlier this year to construct another industrial building in the business park, Hillside Investments.

The buildings would be located at 41336 Concept Drive., on the northeastern intersection with Haggerty, and the other would be farther down the road at 41015 Concept Drive.

Both buildings currently do not have tenants lined for them yet, Trevor Wilson, the petitioner with Hillside Investments, said to the commission. Despite not having a tenant yet, Wilson said he was confident the space would get filled rather quickly.

"They're looking to build now," he said. "We just need to have something ready for them."

The structure at 41015 Concept Dr., would be just less than 30,000 square feet in total size.

If approved, it would mark plenty of construction of new facilities in that area: in addition to these two structures, another was reviewed and recommended for approval by the planning commission earlier this year. At that time, that building did not have a proposed tenant announced.

The planning commission voted to recommend preliminary site plan approval on both projects, though some commissioners wanted to see more done to improve the looks of the buildings.

Commissioner Bill Pratt said the building proposed at 41336 Concept Drive, could use some design improvements to make it look more attractive, especially since it abutted Haggerty Road at the entrance of the business park.

See **BUILDINGS**, Page 5A



# Hometown Life staff book recommendations

**Susan Bromley**

Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

March is Reading Month.

We love to read and hope you do, too (our livelihood depends on it). If you're looking for a break from the latest news and

an escape into a great book, we've got some reads for you.

Maybe you'll stay close to home and read about a famous murder that is believed to have happened right here in a Hometown community, or perhaps you'll travel far on a boat in the Pacific

with only a tiger for a companion.

We've got Mexican folklore, poetic giraffes, courtroom drama, a musician's memoir, the zombie apocalypse and a pandemic to nearly end all pandemics.

These are stories in which you see the worst and best of the human experience, both real and imagined.

Here are our staff recommendations, we hope you find something to pique your interest and take you somewhere new.

## hometownlife.com

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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:

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### The Walking Dead Compendium

**Author:** Robert Kirkland

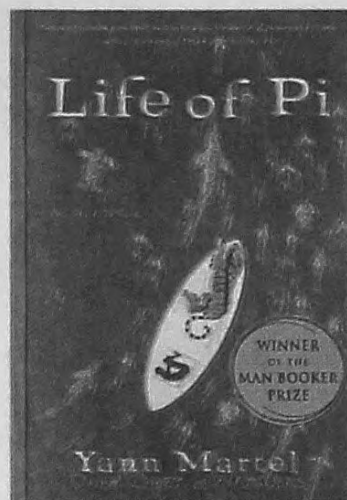
The graphic novel that spawned the popular zombie-themed television series started out as a series of books. There are four compendiums that combine the published chapters in the story. It's fascinating to see where the original story takes you compared to the TV adaptation. I gravitate toward post-apocalyptic themes when reading for pleasure.

- Philip Allmen

### Gods of Jade and Shadow

**Author:** Silvia Moreno-Garcia

The book is parts fairy tale and historical romance. It became a noteworthy read by delving into the creation and survival of certain Mexican myths. The protagonist is not the Cinderella she initially seems. My parents owned a huge garage-sale book about fairy



**"Life of Pi" by Yann Martel explores spirituality and the truths we tell ourselves in order to survive.**

tales and myths from across the globe, and it's fair to say I read most of it. Myths, I think, lead to questions and answers about our beginnings and who we are. They're a great standard of troubled times and the lessons to be gained. They remind us that our conflicts are ancient ones.

- Susan Vela

### Giraffes Can't Dance

**Author:** Giles Andreae, illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees

Of all the books I've read to my 2-year-old since he was born, this one is my favorite. A book about doing things your own way, it's a great lesson to teach children to embrace their uniqueness. The illustrations are lovely, the rhyme scheme is superb and it contains one of my favorite lines: "Listen to the swaying grass and listen to the trees. To me the sweetest music is those branches in the breeze. So imagine that the lovely moon is playing just for you - everything makes music if you really want it to." Gives me chills every time.

- David Veselenak

### Hollywood Park: A Memoir

**Author:** Mikel Jollett  
This memoir is a perfect example of how one's



**Charles Brandt's book "I Heard You Paint Houses" was released in 2005.**

journey through the most formative years of one's life can affect the output of the art they create later. Mikel Jollett used his childhood experiences - fleeing from Synanon at age 5 with his brother while longing for parental figures and a sense of youth - to turn into a love of music, more specifically lyrics for his band The Airborne Toxic Event. It's not an easy read by any means, but it's inspiring to see what motivates people to create their art.

- Colin Gay

### Life of Pi

**Author:** Yann Martel

This book follows Piscine "Pi" Patel as he survives 227 days at sea while trapped in a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger he names Richard Parker. "Life of Pi" explores spirituality and the truths we tell ourselves in order to survive. The imagery Martel creates in this novel is simply incredible, too. It's one of my all-time favorite books. If you're not super into reading (and are somehow reading this list), the 2012 film adaptation of "Pi" is also great.

- Shelby Tankersley

### I Heard You Paint Houses

**Author:** Charles Brandt  
Backed by years of

first-hand sleuthing this book reveals - without much doubt - the killer of Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa. It is a story told by its subject "Irishman" Frank Sheeran, who said he put two bullets in the head of Hoffa, a person he considered a good friend, in a home near Detroit in July 1975. The book also goes over in detail Sheeran's life from World War II soldier who had few compunctions about killing German prisoners to his becoming one of the few non-Italians listed by the FBI on its list of Cosa Nostra.

- John Heider

### The Stand

**Author:** Stephen King  
The ultimate, epic pandemic. In King's masterpiece, a superflu kills 99 percent of the population. In post-apocalypse America, survivors are left to find each other and reform society, with supernatural dreams leading them to gravitate toward the forces of good (Mother Abigail) or evil (Randall Flagg). This is my favorite novel, a page-turner I've returned to repeatedly over the years to revisit characters whom I consider friends fighting for humanity and a world worth saving.

- Susan Bromley

### A Time To Kill

**Author:** John Grisham  
Even though it initially published more than 30 years ago, John Grisham's first novel is timely in 2021 because it tackles racially-charged issues that continue to batter America. When a Black man is charged for murder after killing two white punks who raped and attempted to kill his 10-year-old daughter, the weeks leading up to his trial, the trial itself and especially the closing argument from his defense attorney are detailed by Grisham in compelling prose.

- Ed Wright

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Publish: March 25 & April 1, 2021

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| 1GTEC14W3VZ527440  | 1997 | GMC        | SIERRA         |
| 2G4WS52J041240517  | 2004 | BUICK      | CENTURY        |
| WVWP63B2YE233650   | 2004 | VOLKSWAGEN | PASSAT         |
| 2G4WB52K241337811  | 2004 | BUICK      | REGAL          |
| 1GNDV33L96D196930  | 2006 | CHEVROLET  | UPLANDER       |
| 1G1ZS58FX7F224190  | 2007 | CHEVROLET  | MALIBU         |
| 1GNDX03E34D143860  | 2004 | CHEVROLET  | VENTURE        |
| 1D4REZGG3BC667625  | 2011 | DODGE      | DURANGO        |
| EFAKP1133XR115730  | 1999 | FORD       | ESCORO         |
| 1C3CD2AB03N563262  | 2013 | DODGE      | AVENGER        |
| 2G1WT58K279128589  | 2007 | CHEVROLET  | IMPALA         |
| 1FAHP25W18G182551  | 2008 | FORD       | TAURUS         |
| 1D7HU18N98S512648  | 2008 | DODGE      | RAM            |
| 1G2ZG58N874165320  | 2007 | PONTIAC    | G6             |
| JHMCE5649XC047258  | 1999 | HONDA      | ACCORD         |
| 1FAFP532X5A282865  | 2005 | FORD       | TAURUS         |
| 1GNFK130381122595  | 2008 | CHEVROLET  | TAHOE          |
| WBAM5346YJN91401   | 2000 | BMW        | 328 CI         |

Publish: March 25, 2021

# Canton's Luca Pastry plans to open Livonia shop

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

It's a good thing there are several gyms near the Seven Mile and Middlebelt intersection given what new business is moving in later this summer.

Canton Township-based Luca Pastry plans to open a second location at 29609 Seven Mile in a new strip mall constructed in front of the LA Fitness on the site of the former Farmer Jack grocery store.

Adding a second location, owner Michael Cangialosi said, has been his family's goal for several months. So they began looking and found this new build next door to Smoothie King.

"Livonia, it's a great city. It seems like there are quite a bit of other pastry shops and bakeries," the Canton resident said. "We definitely want to be there."

He said the goal was to open another location not too far from their current bakery. They began looking at the Livonia/Farmington/Farmington Hills area and decided north Livonia would be accessible to both communities.

The plan is to open later this summer, Cangialosi said. Once open, they expect to sell the same treats and goodies they're known for in Canton, which includes cannoli, cakes, cookies and more.

The space will look more like a traditional bakery, given the size of the shop: it runs deeper and more narrow than the Canton location, which showcases the baking area a bit more. Luca Pastry first opened in late 2019.

Since the pandemic began more than a year ago, the bakery experienced plenty of ups and downs, Cangialosi said. After shuttering the doors for a month at the beginning, they reopened offering more contactless interactions with customers, including curbside pickup. Since reopening and putting those protocols in place, business has stayed solid and grew over time.

"Since then, we've kept increasing in business," Cangialosi said.

That growth led to the opportunity to open a new store, he said.

Once the new store prepares to open, they hope to drum up interest with some interesting giveaways to the first cus-



Michael Cangialosi holds a tray of ricotta and chocolate cannoli at his Luca Pastry shop in Canton in 2019. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

tomers that come through the door. That includes three days of giveaways that will see such items as cakes and cannolis given to patient — and hungry — customers.

With a second shop arriving later this year, Cangialosi said he believes the

concept they first created in Canton is something that can make it plenty of other places, starting in Livonia.

"We know that the concept can be something that's definitely all over this area if not the country," he said.

Those who can't wait for the Livonia

shop to open can visit the Canton location at 42927 Ford Road and view a menu at [lucapastry.com](http://lucapastry.com).

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

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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

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Plymouth-Canton Community Schools  
Doug Brooks, Secretary

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Publish: March 18 & 25, 2021

LO-0000358799 3x4

### CITY OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021 - 7:00 P.M. ONLINE ZOOM WEBINAR

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

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. online via Zoom to consider the following:

Z21-07 Non-Use Variance Request for 271 S. Main  
Windows facing interior lot line within the side yard setback  
Zoned: B-2, Central Business District  
Applicant: Joe Philips

Z21-08 Non-Use Variance Request for 921 Sutherland  
Garage height  
Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential  
Applicant: Craig Beck

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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

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Publish: March 18, 2021

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# Lawmakers join strike at 7 Up facility

## Teamsters picket over 2-tier pay system at warehouse

**Minnah Arshad** Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

About 80 Teamsters members received some high-profile support Saturday when several members of Michigan's congressional delegation joined them on the picket line outside the 7 Up warehouse in Redford Township.

Democratic U.S. Reps. Rashida Tlaib of Detroit, Haley Stevens of Rochester Hills and Debbie Dingell of Dearborn joined members of Teamsters Local Union 337 on the 10th day of the union's strike against 7 Up and its parent company Keurig Dr Pepper.

Tlaib, Stevens and Dingell joined the strike at noon and stayed for about an hour.

"You all deserve to be able to provide for your family," Tlaib told the crowd. "You shouldn't have to beg them to do the right thing."

Said Dingell: "We gotta make it really clear how simple these issues are. People are not being paid the same amount of money for the same job."

Teamsters Local Union 337 began its strike at 8:30 p.m. March 11, after months of negotiations surrounding a two-tier pay system for warehouse workers and drivers at 7 Up. The pay scale means that people working the same job are paid different rates — workers that joined the company prior to 2005 are paid more than workers that joined after 2005.

"They gave us a last best and final offer, and we had the option to accept that or strike, and the contract offer was overwhelmingly turned down, and it was the second time it was turned down, so the membership decided it was best to strike," Teamsters Local 337 recording secretary and business agent Tony Reisdorf said.

Race was also a topic of discussion surrounding the two-tier system, as the Teamsters said most of the higher-paid tier workers were white, while second-tier people were Black.

"The fact that they are coming to-



Teamsters Local 337 workers are joined by U.S. Reps. Rashida Tlaib, Haley Stevens and Debbie Dingell, and passersby on day 10 of their strike at the 7 Up facility in Redford Township on Saturday. MINNAH ARSHAD/DETROIT FREE PRESS

gether, no matter their diversity and their background, this shows the power of the union," Tlaib told the Free Press.

Strikers were also protesting to get Martin Luther King Jr. Day off. To this, vice president of corporate communications, Vicki Draughn, said union workers had an option in their contract negotiations for nine paid holidays. On this list was MLK Day, which is a paid holiday in other Keurig Dr Pepper locations, including union locations.

"During negotiations, Teamsters Local 337 are able to select MLK Day as one of their nine designated pay holidays, as has been done at many other pay company sites," Draughn said.

"It's a good company. Our issue isn't with local management," said Reisdorf. "These people work their tails off through the pandemic, and this company has operated at 130% volume through the pandemic, have made more money than they've ever made, and we just want our fair share."

Draughn said the offer made to union workers didn't affect pay structure; it increased pay across all tiers.

The Teamsters said they were also striking because the company wanted to start using drivers without commercial driver's licenses to cut costs. Currently, all drivers are certified and drive tractor-trailers, but Reisdorf said 7 Up

wants to use non-CDL A drivers with commercial vans.

There has been one police incident since the beginning of the strike. A man went up to a striker and harassed him. Police reported that the man was not a member of the company or part of 7 Up's hired security personnel.

Reisdorf said hired security has flashed lights, followed strikers to their cars and used other methods to scare strikers.

"Those intimidations create an unsafe environment for these workers to strike," Tlaib said.

See STRIKE, Page 5A

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## Buildings

Continued from Page 1A

"There needs to be some additional look to at least the west and the east side to make it look more how do I want to say this, more nice," he said. "It just seems to me that all you have is different colored squares, basically."

A final site plan approval would still need to come back to the planning commission for either project to move for-

ward.

Getting the approvals in for construction, Wilson said, is a crucial step for companies looking to relocate in the new builds.

"We've even lost deals because we didn't have a project shovel-ready in time," Wilson said. "They're looking to build now. We just need to have something ready for them."

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



Industrial warehouses have been proposed for the vacant parcels of land at 41336 (above left) and 41015 (above right) Concept Drive in Plymouth Township. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Strike

Continued from Page 4A

Draughn said the company had a "contingency plan" in place in case of a strike, and the facility has brought in

teams from other locations to fill in.

Reisdorf also said Teamsters were financially prepared for this, because of the recently passed stimulus check, tax benefits, union funds and savings.

"We're really in a pretty good position, and the guys have prepared for this moment. They've been saving," Reisdorf

said.

Dialogue between the union and company is set to continue.

"We don't want to be in this strike so we're inviting the union to return to the negotiations table," Draughn said.

Tlaib said lawmakers are currently debating the Protecting the Right to Or-

ganize Act, which speaks to the issue at hand.

"We are pushing the PRO Act, which passed the House and is in the Senate, which really protects workers like this, that are doing this fair share, showing up to work, but not being treated equally in the workplace."

## Manager

Continued from Page 1A

he said. "It just seemed that Farmington Hills and the way it carried itself just functioned like a silk robe. There was no panic; they knew exactly what to do."

Mekjian was eventually promoted to assistant city manager in 2016, and recently became the city's manager. Fol-

lowing former Manager Dave Boyer's retirement, city council hired Mekjian for the role in February. He officially took the title March 8. Mekjian was the city's acting manager for several months after Boyer's departure.

Though Boyer's retirement was unexpected, Mekjian said he felt ready to take the lead.

"My concern and care for this for this organization is so deep that I wasn't going to let anyone else take that position,"

he said.

Mekjian said he plans to focus on road work in the short-term, especially in the city's neighborhoods, and looks forward to opening The Hawk, a recreation and community center in the old Harrison High School.

"That's a big project and I'm certainly looking forward to wrapping that up and getting that open to the public," he said. "Hopefully, after this COVID thing is done, people can really start to use it

and benefit from the theater and everything that's in it. It's going to be a phenomenal facility."

Once The Hawk opens, Mekjian and other officials will look to transition the Costick Center to focus more on the city's senior citizens. Mekjian also hopes to improve diversity and inclusion within the city's operations.

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

## Livonia

Continued from Page 1A

escape plan displayed and installing a smoke detector in every room. Several council members stated regulations are imperative for the safety of owners, renters and neighbors.

"It's better that we have a handle on it by putting some restrictions in place," Councilwoman Cathy White said.

The proposed ordinance amendments that would create these restrictions still needs a second reading and a majority council approval.

Council, with a 6-1 vote, also approved a language adjustment on one of the three proposed changes, striking a line saying rentals needed to be owner-occupied.

Councilman Jim Jolly cast the dissenting vote, saying he can't agree with restrictions when he feels short-term rentals in Livonia should be banned altogether.

"I don't think I can support this ordinance at all because ... I don't think it goes far enough," he said. "While we have the ability to do so, I think we should ban short-term rentals."

The city's consideration of regulating short-term rentals stems from two

problematic Airbnbs. Neighbors raised concerns of privacy and safety in May 2019 regarding a home on Flamingo Boulevard. More recently, a home on Antago Street caused concern after three shots were fired outside and police were contacted in early March.

Hometown Life obtained a copy of the Livonia Police Department's Feb. 28 incident report through the Freedom of Information Act.

According to the report, neighbors heard three to four shots around 6 p.m. that evening and saw a navy blue Trailblazer speeding away from a home near the corner of Fargo and Antago. The owner, who uses Airbnb to rent out a

room, was not present when the incident took place.

Officers found two shell casings on the road, but nobody was hurt and officers did not find any property damage or bullet holes in nearby homes.

Residents along both Flamingo and Antago spoke to council Monday. All expressed a desire for restrictions or a ban.

"It's very annoying to be living next to these guys," Julee Bateman, a resident of Antago, said. "I understand rentals, I've done it. But this is a business."

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

# Obituaries

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit [mideathnotices.com/place.php](http://mideathnotices.com/place.php)

### Billie Elaine (Smith) Swelstad

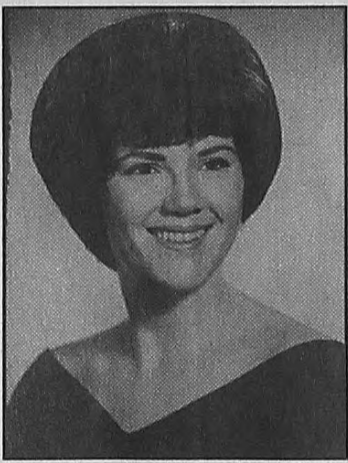
On Friday, March 12, 2021, Billie Elaine (Smith) Swelstad, loving wife and mother of three children, passed away at the age of 78.

Billie was born on March 25, 1942 in Marion, Indiana to Col. William C. (USMCR) and Avis Smith. She graduated from North Central High School in 1960 and received an art degree from Indiana University in 1964, where she met her husband, Ron Swelstad.

Billie loved painting, especially watercolors, and many people admired her work that hung in the many houses she and her family lived in over the years. She was passionate about her Christian faith and was a living example to everyone who knew her. Most of all, she was dedicated to her family, always remembering and celebrating holidays and birthdays with zeal.

Billie was preceded in death by her father, Colonel William C. Smith, her mother, Avis Smith, and her brother Steve Smith. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Ron, their three sons, Eric, Mark, and Mike, and their five grandchildren, Jonathan, Amanda, Taylor, Roman, and Oliver.

A private burial will be held on April 5, 2021 at Mifflin Cemetery in Gahanna, Ohio at 11 am. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Flowers may be sent to Schoedinger Funeral Home at 1051 E Johnstown Rd, Gahanna, OH 43230, who has been entrusted with arrangements for Billie.

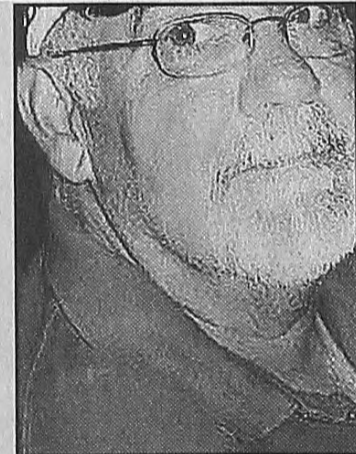


### Gloria Liddle Bourassa

WESTLAND - Gloria Liddle Bourassa, 82, passed away peacefully in her home in Westland, MI on March 16.

She was born on December 4, 1938 to James and Florence Liddle in Detroit, MI. She grew up in Livonia and graduated from Bentley High School in 1956. Gloria married fellow Bentley alum Donald Tartoni in 1963, and they had two children. Together, they moved to Phoenix, AZ in 1976 where Gloria remained for over 40 years. Her second marriage was to Richard Bourassa, also from the Detroit area, who was the love of her life. Through him, she gained three adult step-children. She and Richard were happily married for 32 years before he passed away in 2016. They scraped together their savings shortly after marrying and, leveraging their respective experience in the furniture industry, started a retail furniture store out of their garage. She and Richard grew Only Oak Furniture into several stores and enjoyed over 20 years as a vibrant business. They provided jobs to many people looking for a second chance in life and were grateful for the opportunity to help others find employment and a community in Only Oak. Gloria moved back to Michigan in 2019 to be closer to her sister, Florence Cook of Whitmore Lake. She is survived by her two daughters, Laura Hartgrove and Krista Tartoni, of Surprise, AZ and Chicago, IL, respectively, a step-daughter and two step-sons as well as five grandchildren. She was extraordinarily blessed to live to see her great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 20 at Manns Family Funeral Home in Livonia. [www.mannsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mannsfuneralhome.com)



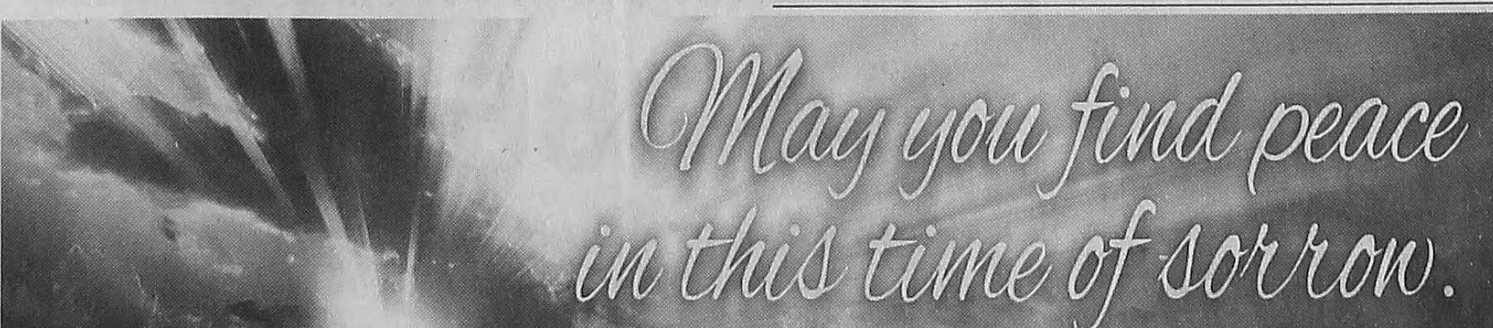
### Anthony "Tony" Foster

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.

Never  
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# Nurse accused of stealing two COVID-19 vaccines from clinic

**Christina Hall** Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Livonia woman is charged in connection with stealing two syringes of COVID-19 vaccine from the city of Detroit's mass drive-thru vaccination clinic in the TCF Center garage.

Saeedeh Elahi, 41, is charged with one count of larceny in a building, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worth said in a news release.

Elahi was arraigned March 17 in 36th District Court in Detroit, where a \$20,000 personal bond was set, according to online court records. She stood mute and a plea of not guilty was entered by the court. A probable cause conference is set for April 13.

Elahi is accused of putting two syringes of the Moderna vaccine and two vaccination cards in her pocket, according to a release from Worthy's office.

Detroit police responded to the third floor of the TCF Center about 1:50 p.m. Monday, Worthy said.

"There is simply no excuse for this alleged conduct," she said. "... This case should send a loud and clear message that this conduct is criminal and will be taken seriously."

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan said there is security, police and cameras throughout the clinic site.

"I have no idea what possessed somebody to think they could slip two syringes out of there. But I'm really pleased with the way the other employ-

ees and the system responded," he said during a briefing.

Elahi's attorney at arraignment, Christopher Brown, had no comment when reached by the Free Press.

According to the state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Elahi has a license as a registered nurse that was issued in October 2011 and expires in October 2022.

Her record also lists a nurse specialty certification as nurse practitioner, with an issue date in February 2016 and an expiration date in October 2022, according to the records.

Hakim Berry, the city's chief operating officer, said that a staff member saw another staffer putting syringes in her pocket in the TCF Center garage.

# Livonia police remind residents to lock car doors

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Temperatures are warming, and Livonia police are once again warning residents to lock their car doors.

According to reports, police responded to a March 7 call from a Sunbury Street resident who had some jewelry and coins stolen from their vehicle's center console.

A few neighbors also reported similar overnight incidents.

Catalytic converter thefts are still happening because of their metals.

A construction manager told police on March 10 someone stole a catalytic converter from a vehicle in a Schoolcraft parking lot.

On March 15, a resident of the Apple Ridge Apartments on Morlock Street went to start his Ford Escape and noticed that it was loud.

He drove to a repair shop, where he was told the vehicle's catalytic converter was missing.

Livonia police have taken about 40 reports regarding stolen catalytic converters since March 2020.

Anyone with information on the suspicious activity is asked to call the department, 734-466-2470.

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

# Teacher accused of sexually assaulting student may settle

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A teacher accused of grooming and sexually assaulting students is working toward a potential settlement with Oakland County prosecutors.

During a March 18 Zoom hearing, Judge Yasmine Poles talked with attor-

neys privately before saying on the record that they're working to see if the case can be resolved before going to trial. The judge scheduled a new April 15 hearing.

Jason Dean faces five counts of criminal sexual conduct. Prosecutors say he took advantage of a 14-year-old student in 2010 when he was teaching at Cedar

Crest Academy, a private K-8 school in Springfield Township.

He also coached soccer and basketball during his sexual relationship with the child.

Prosecutors said Dean also groomed students for future sexual relations while teaching at Wayne Memorial and Northville high schools.

# Charges

Continued from Page 1A

Patel then admitted to violating at least two girls and was scheduled for a May 28 sentencing.

His plea deal means spending 15-35 years in prison for a first-degree CSC charge, nine to 15 years for two second-degree CSC charges and probation for a fourth-degree CSC charge.

The sentences of the various counts would run concurrently, and, according

to the deal, Patel also must plead guilty in a federal case to sexually exploiting children.

During the Zoom hearing, Patel moved his hands that had been posed in prayer out of the camera's view upon admitting guilt.

He was insisting that one of the girls he molested first visited his Inveraray Road home in 2013, upsetting Prosecutor Tara Mathena Hindelang. She had been trying to confirm that they met prior to 2006.



Patel

The judge ordered Patel into private discussions with his attorney. Patel returned for more questioning. He admitted he was with the girl at their temple for youth activities he was leading before 2013 and that he touched her against her will.

According to prosecutors, Patel was married to a youth director at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir on South Canton Center Road and sexually abused children visiting their home about 15 years ago. The BAPS website states the temple is temporarily closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The sexual behavior continued with at least one female who, with her family, continued to attend the same temple as the Patels.

Two young women were key to law enforcers' investigation. During a search of Patel's home, investigators found two computer towers located in his bedroom. Patel indicated he had been using them to download adult pornography.

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



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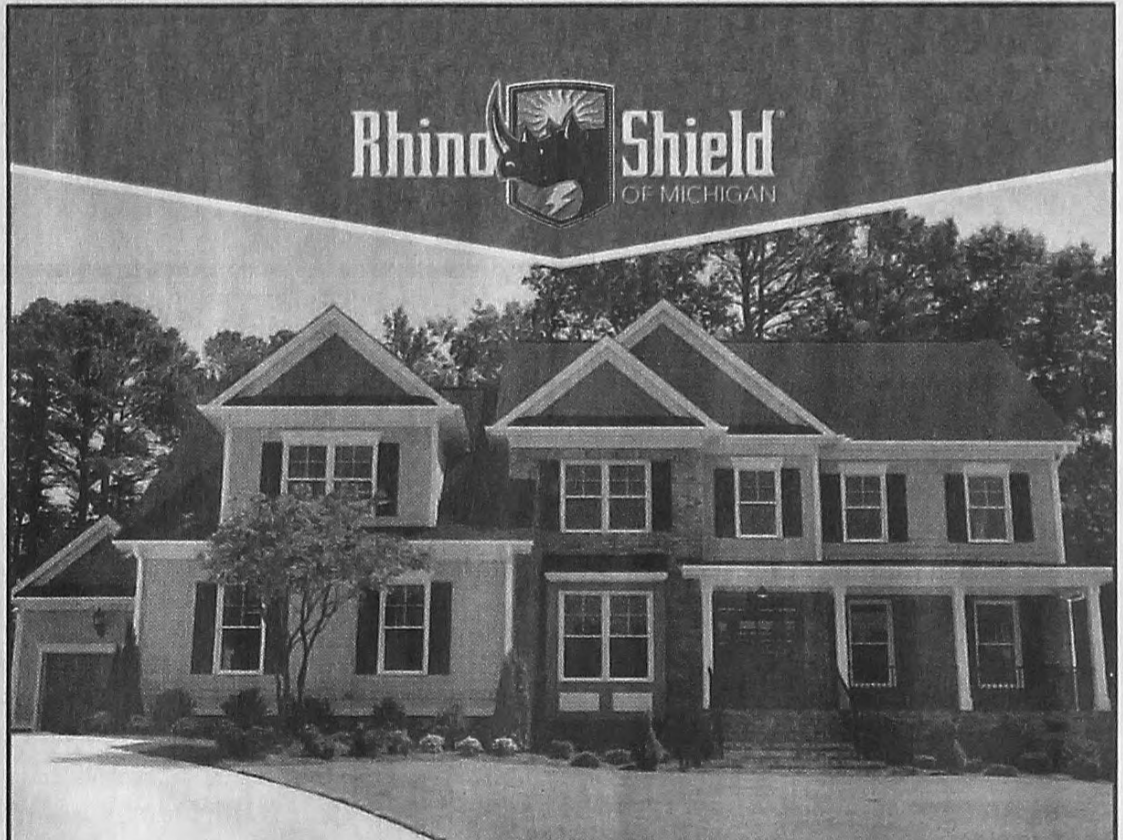


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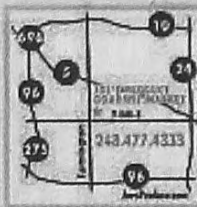


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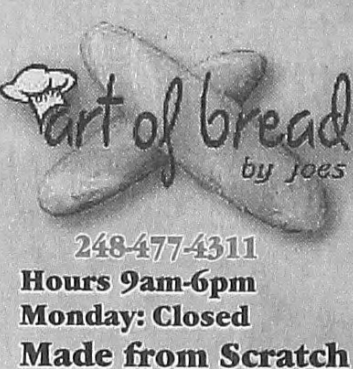
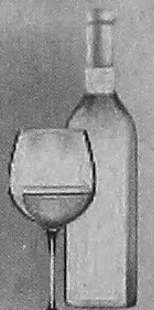
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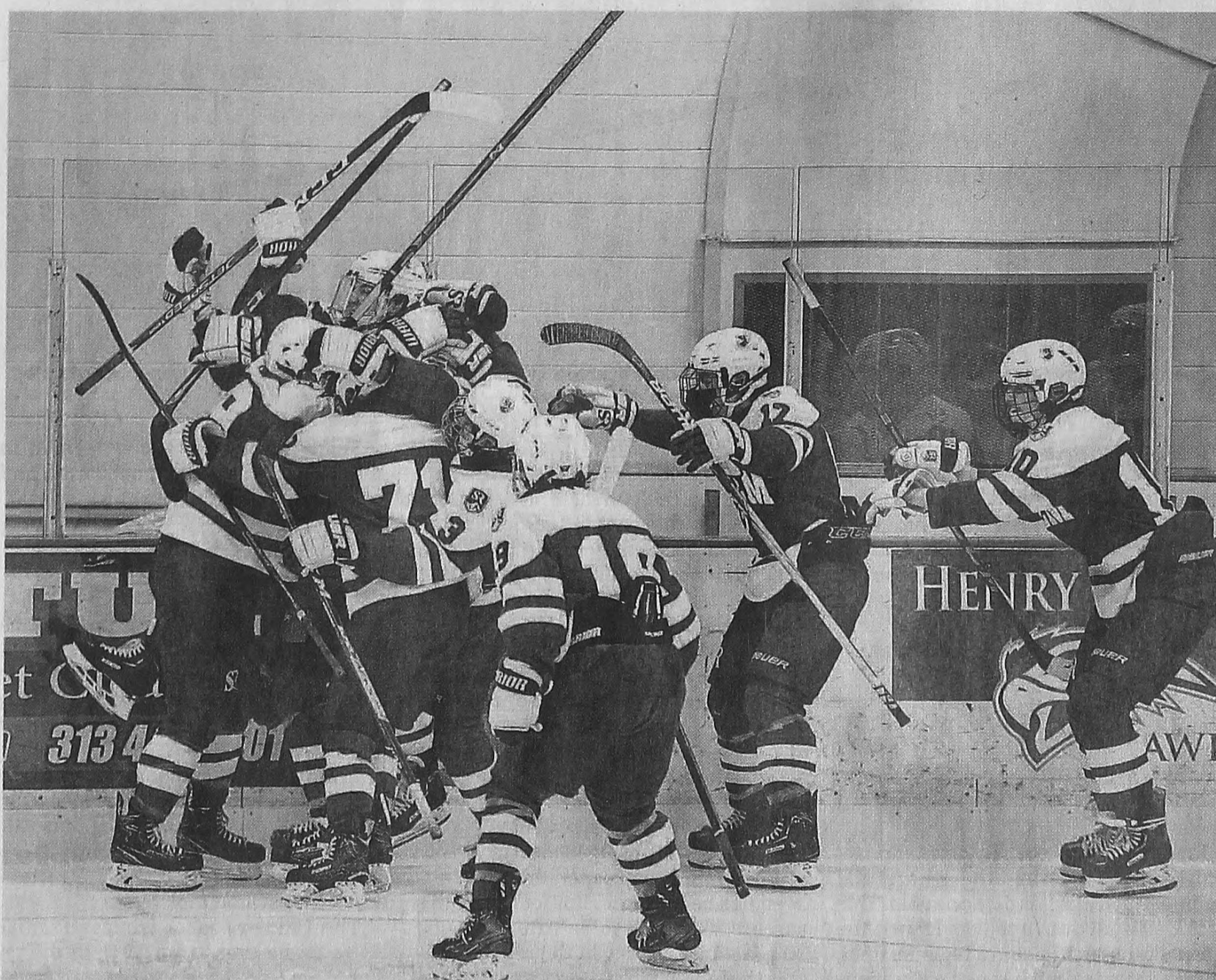
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# SPORTS



Salem hockey players celebrate their game-winning goal in overtime against Plymouth for the regional title. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

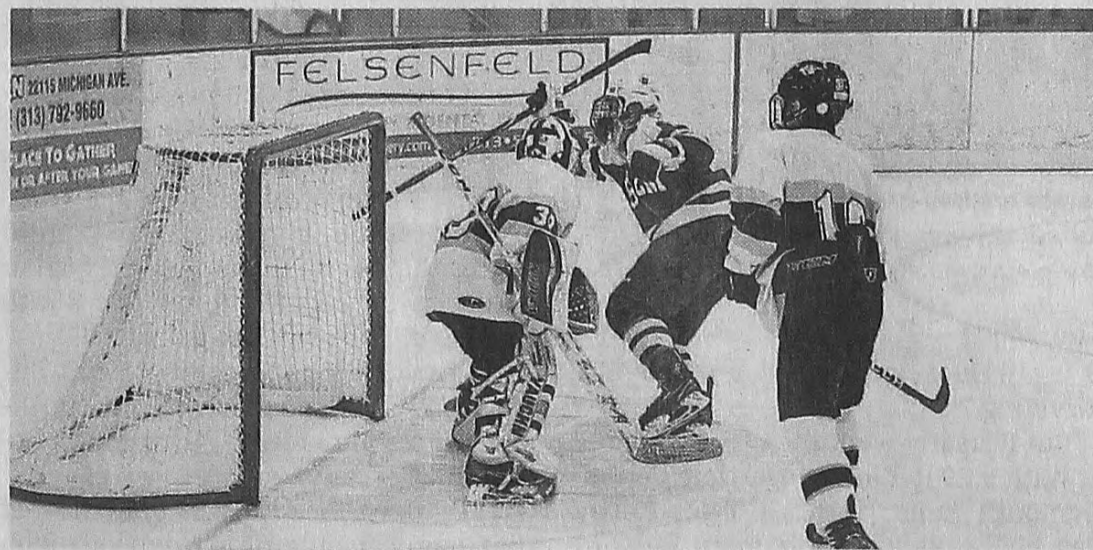
## Salem beats Plymouth in OT, wins 3rd-straight regional title

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Aidan Ross was in the right place at the right time.

Missing the pass on the two-on-one off a break in the fifth minute of overtime, the sophomore in his first year on varsity got next to senior defender Adam Chismar, who took a shot at the net for the win. The puck careened off Plymouth goalkeeper Tanner Olepa's shin guard, right in the direction of Ross.

Ross tucked the rebound to the right of the Plymouth freshman, scoring the



Salem sophomore Aiden Ross scores the winning goal.

See TITLE, Page 2B

## State adds weekly COVID-19 tests to spring sports

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan High School Athletic Association Executive Director Mark Uyl heard rumors of possible guidance coming from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding increased

COVID-19 testing, but did not know the specifics of what was going to be expected.

Now, after the state announced March 19 that COVID-19 rapid testing would be required of all 13- to 19-year-old athletes starting April 2, Uyl still waits on answers from MDHHS about

the frequency and who would be affected.

"We don't have any answers yet in terms of frequency or any of those requirements," Uyl said.

For winter sports, Uyl said it will not

See TESTS, Page 2B

## Hockey players head into final week

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The regional round of the 2021 high school hockey postseason is complete. Only three games remain.

This schedule is nothing new compared to what the rest of the season has been like. Teams have been forced to play three games per week in a condensed 2021 season during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But area teams have only three games before the Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3 state finals, something they did not get to experience a season ago.

As the season turns into its final week, here's a look at where each of Hometown Life's area teams is at heading into the hockey tournament.

### Detroit Catholic Central

Catholic Central was forced to improvise to earn its ninth-straight regional title.

Facing Troy in the Division 1 regional final, the Shamrocks were forced to play with its junior-varsity roster, along with senior forward Billy Shields, after much of the team was put in quarantine. But they still found a way: using goals by Nick Tullio and Matthew Dickow to earn the 2-1 victory.

Head coach Brandon Kaleniecki said he hopes to have much of his roster back for Wednesday's state quarterfinal game against Salem, but that he has not gotten confirmation on their return.

Nevertheless, the Shamrocks still have something to fight for.

Catholic Central, who has won five state titles since 2010, had its season cut short in the final four in 2020, waiting for a state-semifinal game against Byron Center that never came.

In 2021, the Shamrocks have stepped up, allowing more than a single goal in a game three times in 16 games while recording seven shut-outs. Catholic Central's goalkeepers have allowed only 13 goals all season.

Offensively, Shields, Brenden Cwieck and Tommy Shea have led the way, each recording double-digit point totals. Shea leads the team with 10 goals, the only player with double-digit goal totals on the roster.

Detroit Catholic Central will take on Salem in the Division 1 state quarterfinal 8 p.m., Wednesday at Dearborn Ice Skating Center.

See HOCKEY, Page 2B

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# Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

## Salem

Salem has a new-found fire heading into the second week of the tournament.

Heading into the first-round game against Dearborn Unified, the Rocks had not played a game since March 2 after a few COVID-19 cases in the program sidelined most of the varsity and junior-varsity rosters.

But after planning to open its post-season using a half-filled roster and an emergency goalkeeper, Salem was able to return to the ice at full strength after Wayne County cut down its mandatory 14-day quarantine period to 10 days.

Three games into the postseason, the Rocks have outscored teams, 8-2, but only beat Northville and Plymouth, in the semifinals and finals, respectively, by one goal.

Junior Alex Mazzuca, who led the team with seven goals and eight assists in the regular season, along with senior Devan Grayshaw have led the Salem offensive attack, while junior goalkeeper Andre Genereaux recorded a save percentage of 91%.

Salem, who has recorded three-straight Division 1 regional titles, will now face Detroit Catholic Central for the fourth straight season. The Shamrocks have ended the Rocks' season in the past three meetings, outscoring Salem, 15-1.

Salem will take on Detroit Catholic Central in the Division 1 state quarterfinal 8 p.m. Wednesday at Dearborn Ice Skating Center.

## Brother Rice

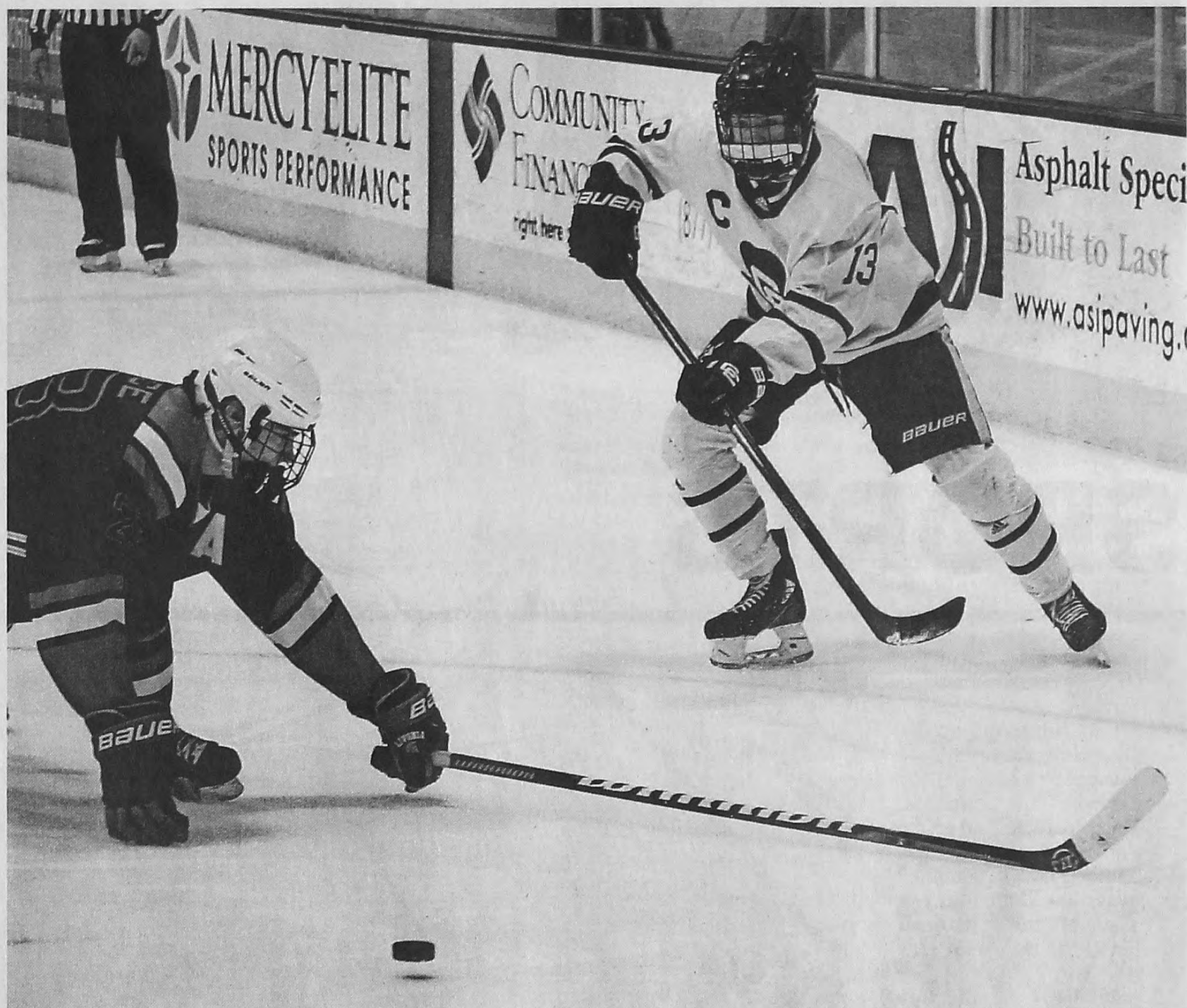
Brother Rice has found its stride in 2021.

After losing to U-D Jesuit, 2-1, after beating the Cubs for the CHSL title, the Warriors have won five-straight games, outscoring opponents, 39-5. In its first 10 games of the season, Brother Rice only recorded 26 goals.

But the Warriors were playing for something more than just its seventh-straight regional title. To head coach Ken Chaput and the rest of the team, Brother Rice is playing for a Division 2 state title two seasons in the making.

The Warriors were cut short of its opportunity in 2020, ending the season waiting for their state semifinal matchup against Marquette.

In 2021, Brother Rice has 13 seniors, along with sophomore and leading goal-



CC senior Tommy Shea will try to finish what the Shamrocks started in the 2020 postseason. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

scorer Andrew Marone, fighting for what last year's team did not have a chance to complete.

Since 2010, Brother Rice has won three state titles along with losing in the state final against Wyandotte Roosevelt in 2011.

Brother Rice will take on Port Huron Northern in the Division 2 state quarterfinal.

## Novi

After losing to Livonia Stevenson, 6-0, on Feb. 19, Novi turned its season around.

In the next 10 games, the Wildcats finished, 7-1-1, losing the KLAA title game against Hartland by one goal. This included a 2-1 overtime win against the Spartans in the Division 2 regional final, giving Novi its first regional championship since 2015 and the program's 11th in

its history.

Over the course of this stretch, a single goal has helped determine Novi's success. In the past 10 games, seven have been decided by one goal or less, including a 3-2 overtime win against Trenton, who the Wildcats will face in the state quarterfinal.

After scoring four goals in the regular season, senior forward Austin Balconi has stepped up, scoring both for the Wildcats' goals in the regional final against Stevenson. In the regular season, seniors Issac Gibbs and Nate Erskine did much of the heavy lifting offensively, with Gibbs scoring 15 goals and Erskine recording 15 assists.

But junior goalkeeper Austin Muirhead has been the anchor for the team's success in the playoffs. After allowing 30 goals in 12 games in the regular season, the junior saved 45-of-47 in the two regional games.

Since the team's last state final in 2011, Novi is 8-9 in the postseason and lost its only quarterfinal game appearance in 2015.

## Cranbrook Kingswood

Cranbrook Kingswood has a rich hockey history, earning 24 regional titles and 17 state titles. But ever since the Cranes moved down to Division 3, they have always been stopped by Detroit Country Day.

In the past two seasons, the Yellowjackets have ended the Cranes' season in regionals, last earning a regional title in 2018. But with Detroit Country Day's season over due to COVID-19, Cranbrook Kingswood took over.

The Cranes beat a winless Pontiac Notre Dame Prep team, 11-0, in the regional final, advancing to the state quarterfinal.

# Title

Continued from Page 1B

first goal of high school career and securing Salem's (8-5) third-straight regional title, beating the Wildcats (7-7-2), 2-1, in overtime.

The sophomore, realizing he had won it for the Rocks, raced toward the Salem bench, fist-pumping then raising his hands in triumph, immediately swarmed by his teammates in celebration.

"We all work insanely hard," Ross said. "No one ever takes a day off. Everyone gets there on time to work hard. It's been ridiculous, hanging out with my buddies and having the time of my life."

To Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher, Ross scoring the winning goal was just representative of what Salem has done all season: finding a way to be victorious never depending on what the team is dealt.

"This is this group," Ossenmacher said. "It doesn't matter who, it doesn't matter when. They are all going to chip in, they are all going to battle for each other. We say we can either be a victim



Salem hockey has won three consecutive regional titles.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

or a survivor, and here we are: We're surviving."

But it nearly went the other way. With 5:29 left in the overtime period, Plymouth junior forward Tyler Kelley was hit by Salem sophomore forward Peter Manginen, falling to the ground. The referee's whistle was blown, giving the Wildcats a two-minute power play.

In those two minutes, the Plymouth offense came alive attacking Salem goalkeeper Andre Genereaux ruthlessly and missing the game-winner by a hair after pinging off the crossbar.

The Salem junior finished with 28

saves, allowing his only goal with 19.3 seconds left in the second period when Plymouth senior forward Sam Williams took a rebound from an attempted shot by Anthony Cassar, tying the game at one heading into the third period.

Salem didn't get its first goal until 7.5 seconds were left in the first period, when Rocks senior defender Jacob Keegan took a rebound and turned it into a goal, assisted by Devan Grayshaw and James Driscoll.

This season, Plymouth played in 10 games that were decided by one goal or less — recording two ties — along with playing in five overtime games.

To Wildcats head coach Darrin Silvester, the regional final was just another example of his team rising to the occasion when adversity hit.

"I think we faced adversity in the fact that many people didn't expect much out of us. We worked through that," Silvester said. "We lost a lot of scoring and our guys had to balance it out, and our guys worked hard to do that and have everybody contribute."

"My kids are happy as hell in the other room. They are hoping that Salem can win it all. They are their friends and the animosity ended, maybe not as soon as

the buzzer went, but within a minute of it."

Ossenmacher knows Salem has seen its fair share of adversity just in the past week, returning after COVID-19 nearly set the team backwards heading into its first-round matchup against Dearborn Unified.

Nevertheless, Salem left with its third regional title in three years and with a date in the state quarterfinal against Detroit Catholic Central — the fourth-straight seasons the Rocks and the Shamrocks have faced off.

"They played their guts out tonight, Wednesday, first game, all season," Ossenmacher said. "A group of lesser men, this isn't possible. I don't know how to explain it, but it's just such a sweet victory for them and all that they have gone through."

But Ross left with something more. Not just a regional championship or another game to prepare for, but a memory of his hands raised in victory and being mobbed by his teammates.

"I'll never forget this goal," he said. Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.

# Tests

Continued from Page 1B

be much of an adjustment, reassuring that the rest of the winter sports post-season will happen as scheduled. Less than 2,000 athletes will be affected by then with 64 basketball teams remaining in the postseason tournament and 896 wrestlers awaiting the individual state finals on April 3.

"We're just hoping that those who have done all the right things that they will be able to reach their finish lines over the next three weeks," he said.

But this is not what has area athletic directors worried.

It's the requirement of testing spring athletes. Starting March 22, as sched-

uled, according to the MHSAA, many schools will be offering as many as nine different spring sports, leading to hundreds of athletes needing to be tested starting April 2.

"It looks like a big, ol' elephant sitting in front of you," Brother Rice Athletic Director Jeff Calcaterra said. "As my family would say, 'How do you eat an elephant? I guess one bite at a time.'"

In the 2021 spring season, Calcaterra said the athletic department would be jumping from only testing about 20 wrestlers during their lunch hours bi-weekly to upwards of 230 spring athletes per week, along with the remaining winter athletes during the first week — something he described as an "insurmountable task," combining the time it takes to reach a positive test along with inputting the data to send to MDHHS.

Novi Athletic Director Brian Gordon said the 13-19 age bracket window means including some middle school athletes, requiring the district to test 500-600 students, something that he said can't be handled by a single office if required daily.

"This is a lot. But then again, after the last 12 months that everyone has endured, I guess the shock is gone," Gordon said. "Tell us what we have to do."

At Livonia Churchill, Athletic Director Marc Hage generally has 350-400 student athletes in spring sports compared to 30 wrestlers during the winter. However, he said, the athletic department plans to deal with the situation for the sake of the bigger picture.

"If this is about keeping kids safe, if this is about making sure we are able to participate, if this is about giving kids a

positive, successful experience, giving them an opportunity to continue high school athletics, then let's do it," he said.

When it comes to spring sports, the MHSAA is still waiting on answers.

Overall, the MHSAA expects three seasons to happen to completion, just like the fall season.

"That finish line is getting closer and closer every day," Uyl said about the winter sports post-season, "and it's not going to change for spring. If that means we are going to have to do extra work and extra testing to make it happen safely and effectively, that's what we are going to do."

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).

# Wayne Memorial falls to Hartland in KLAA final

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

High-octane offense has been key for the Wayne Memorial girls basketball team all season long.

The Zebras came into the KLAA title game averaging 70.6 points per game, scoring more than 70 points in five games this season.

But Wayne Memorial had yet to face a defense like Hartland's.

Coming into the game undefeated, the Eagles (15-0) halted Wayne Memorial, beating the Zebras (12-2), 48-30, for their second-straight KLAA title.

Wayne Memorial shot only 21.6% from the floor, recording its lowest scoring effort since March 4, 2015. Hartland has allowed more than 30 points to an opposing offense only once this season.

"We've pressed all year, within reason — we don't want to embarrass anybody because I've been on the other end of those," Hartland head coach Don Palmer said. "We've pressed and played fast. These kids have played a lot of AAU and that's how they play."

"It would be a mistake, on my part, to try and slow them down."

Palmer knew he had an advantage in the paint. Wayne Memorial played without senior forward Alanna Micheaux, who was out with an injury. Instead, junior Davi' Matthews manned the paint against Hartland senior Lillee Gustafson.

Gustafson, a 6-foot-1 forward, said she has not had a matchup like Matthews, a 6-foot-3 forward, all season long.

"I haven't played a true big girl — I've been taller than everyone," Gustafson said. "So it was a good matchup for me physically and making me better."

But the approach remained: force tipped balls, knowing where the ball is coming to grab it in transition and force quick offense. The Eagles recorded 12 steals and four blocks, despite allowing Wayne Memorial to secure 39 rebounds.

The approach worked early on. Hartland did not allow a Wayne Memorial score until more than five minutes had elapsed in the first quarter, taking a slim 5-0 lead, but one that would hold throughout the contest.

But Wayne Memorial had its chance.



Wayne Memorial sophomore Mayla Ham tries for a free throw against Hartland in the KLAA girls basketball championship. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Trailing, 27-16, at half, the Zebras used a 7-0 run to cut its deficit to four, immediately answered with a 3 by Hartland senior Syd Caddell, who scored 10 points for the Eagles.

In the fourth quarter, Palmer made a change with his defense, consulting his seniors before putting it into action.

"Gustafson was just getting tired. We could protect her with that," Palmer said, going to the 1-3-1 zone in the final eight minutes. "It's helped us, but it hasn't always been that way. It's up and down. Overall, our defense was good, the 1-3-1 was a nice surprise at the right time."

The Zebras only scored five points in the final eight minutes, including a 3 by senior guard Lachelle Austin, who only connected on three-of-16 from the field and recorded eight of the team's 21 turnovers.

Wayne Memorial sophomore Mayla Ham led the team with 11 points and nine rebounds, including four offensive boards.

Hartland junior guard Leah Lappin led the team with 16 points, eight of which came in the Eagles' 15-point first quarter.

Wayne Memorial head coach Jarvis Mitchell was unavailable for comment

after the contest.

For Gustafson, this was another example of Hartland playing as if each game were the team's final opportunity to take the court.

"We don't know if we were going to have another game, or we could get quarantined," she said. "I think that's what we try to do: play every game like it's our last. We don't know if we'll be on the court tomorrow. Something could happen unexpectedly, so I think that's what we are trying to do this year."

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

# Novi beats Stevenson in overtime for regional title

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Once the third-period buzzer sounded and Livonia Stevenson and Novi hockey each went to their locker rooms, tied at 1, Austin Balconi knew Novi was going to win its first regional title since 2015.

Just over three minutes into the first overtime period, the Wildcats senior forward had his chance to seal it.

Balconi took the drop pass from senior forward Issac Gibbs, setting himself up to hit the puck as hard as he could into the top left corner of the net. He watched the puck sail past Stevenson senior goalkeeper Aiden Majewski, ending the game and igniting pandemonium on the Wildcats bench.

Over a year after Novi (12-2-2) lost to Stevenson (9-4) in triple-overtime in the regional final, the Wildcats got its revenge, beating the Spartans, 2-1, for the program's 11th regional title.

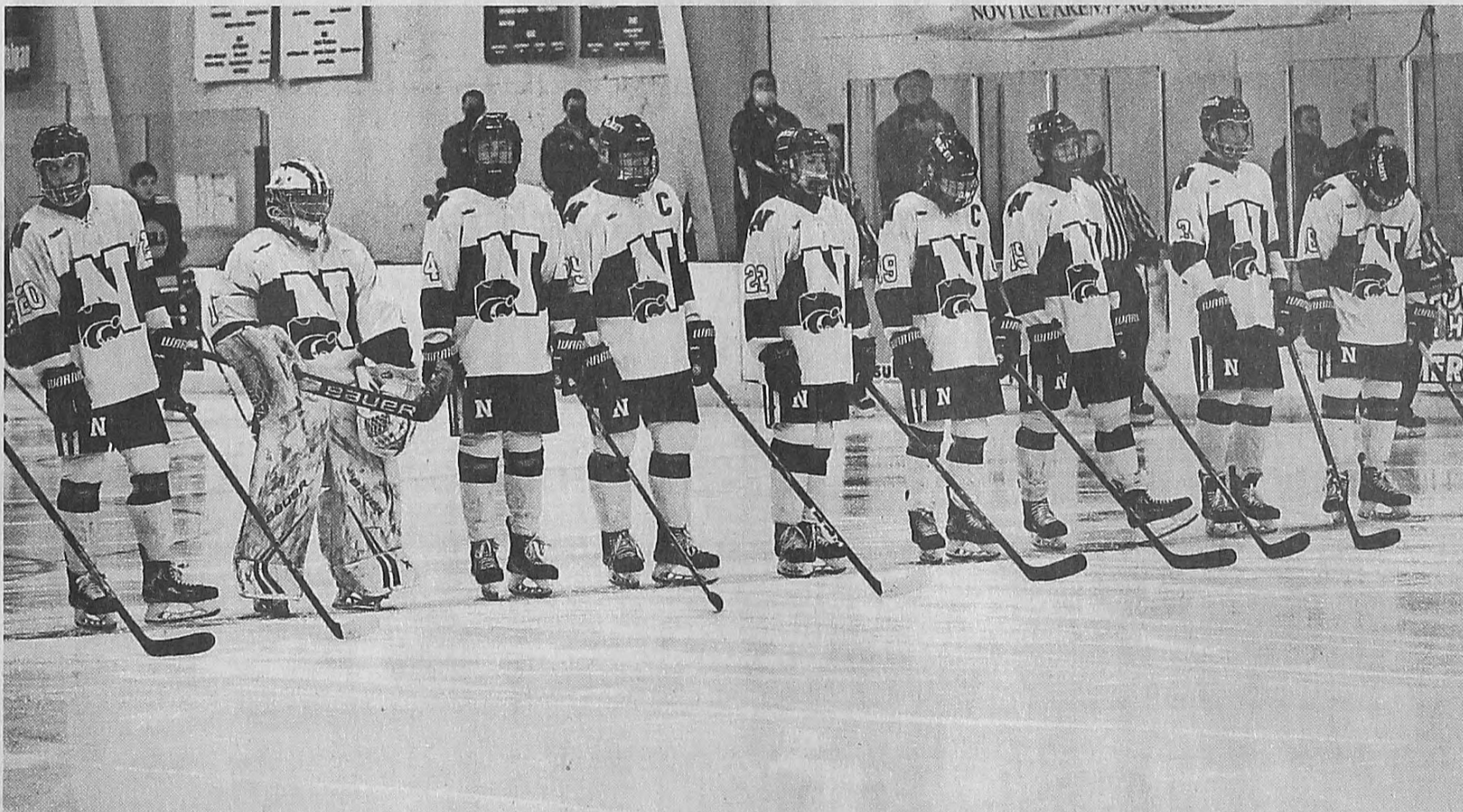
"We were saying we weren't going to lose to this team again," Balconi said. "We took all the pain from last year, losing in this same game and we turned it into hard work and we just worked for this all season. Our entire season's been leading up to this game. It's basically all we have been working for. It was a real team effort, and I couldn't be more happy with how it went."

In a game limited with shot chances, with the Wildcats recording 20 compared to the Spartans' 30, Balconi found the back of the net for Novi twice, taking the lead on an unassisted scrum near net to take the lead with 13:38 left in the second period.

With limited offensive tries, Novi's success came down to Austin Muirhead, the junior goalkeeper who burst onto the scene in the second half of the 2019-20 season, helping the Wildcats navigate Stevenson in their 2-1 triple overtime loss.

Muirhead was able to use an increased level of flexibility at net for Novi, navigating his way to stop nearly every puck that was shot at net, including a split save with 3:28 left in regulation that secured overtime.

"The best thing I can say is guys have confidence in him," Novi head coach Mark Vellucci said. "He's not only going



The Novi hockey team lines up for the national anthem on March 18 before taking on South Lyon United. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Novi senior Austin Balconi scored both of Novi's goals against Stevenson in the 2021 regional final, seen here playing against Stevenson in the 2020 regional final.

to make the first save, but the second and third. We got some good bounces in the first period, and they had a couple of chances. The hockey gods were with us

today."

Trailing by a goal in the second period, momentum seemingly stopped for Stevenson.

Spartans senior forward Brenden Heard was disqualified from the game after a hit against the wall against a Novi player, leading to a five-minute major penal. But the Wildcats failed to capitalize on the power play, giving Stevenson two minutes of four-on-four action after a penalty by Balconi.

Novi and Stevenson combined for 12 penalties, in what proved to be a highly emotional and physical team between the two KLAA rivals.

"It's definitely not a part of the game plan," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said of Heard's disqualification. "I think emotions got the better of, I think at times, both teams. It was an emotional game, and it was physical. Give the referees credit: I think they called a heck of a game. It's just something where, in games like this, situations like this, you try to manage emotions, you try and manage benches,

manage personnel."

With 96 seconds left in the second period, Stevenson junior defender Adam Heard tied the game at one, passing Muirhead for the first, and only, time of the game.

After a scoreless third period, Balconi wanted the chance to end it in overtime. He knew what a win against Stevenson would mean: creating an idea that this Novi team — filled with 12 seniors — has a legitimate shot at a Division 2 state title.

When the puck went in, Balconi felt relief. He knew how much time he had spent preparing for this game in particular: this shot at revenge.

"I was just so ecstatic this was the way it ended."

Novi will take on the winner of Trenton and Ann Arbor Skyline 6 p.m., Tuesday at Dearborn Ice Skating Arena.

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).

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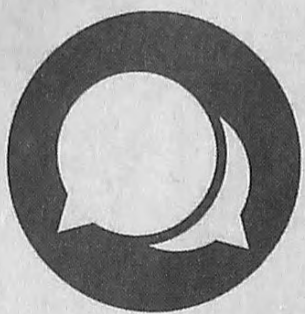
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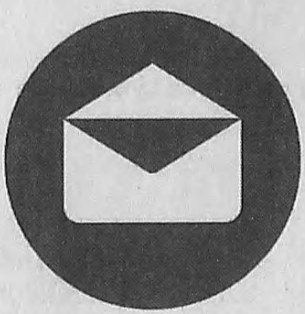
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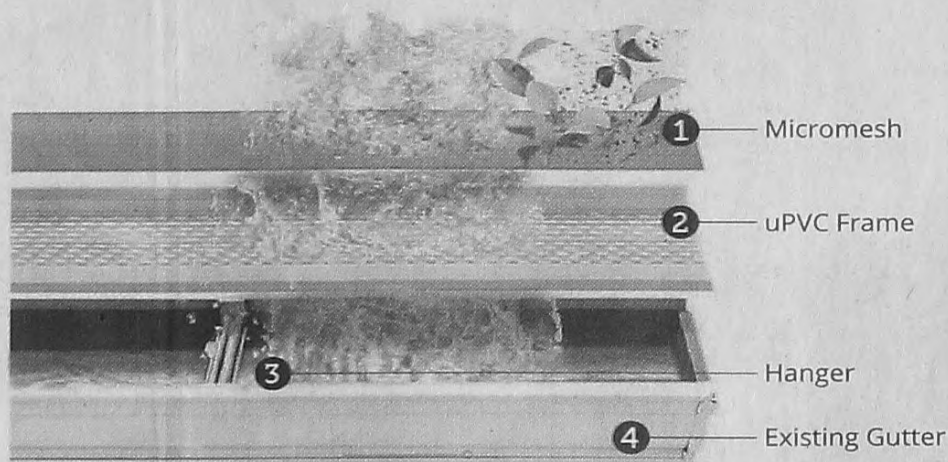
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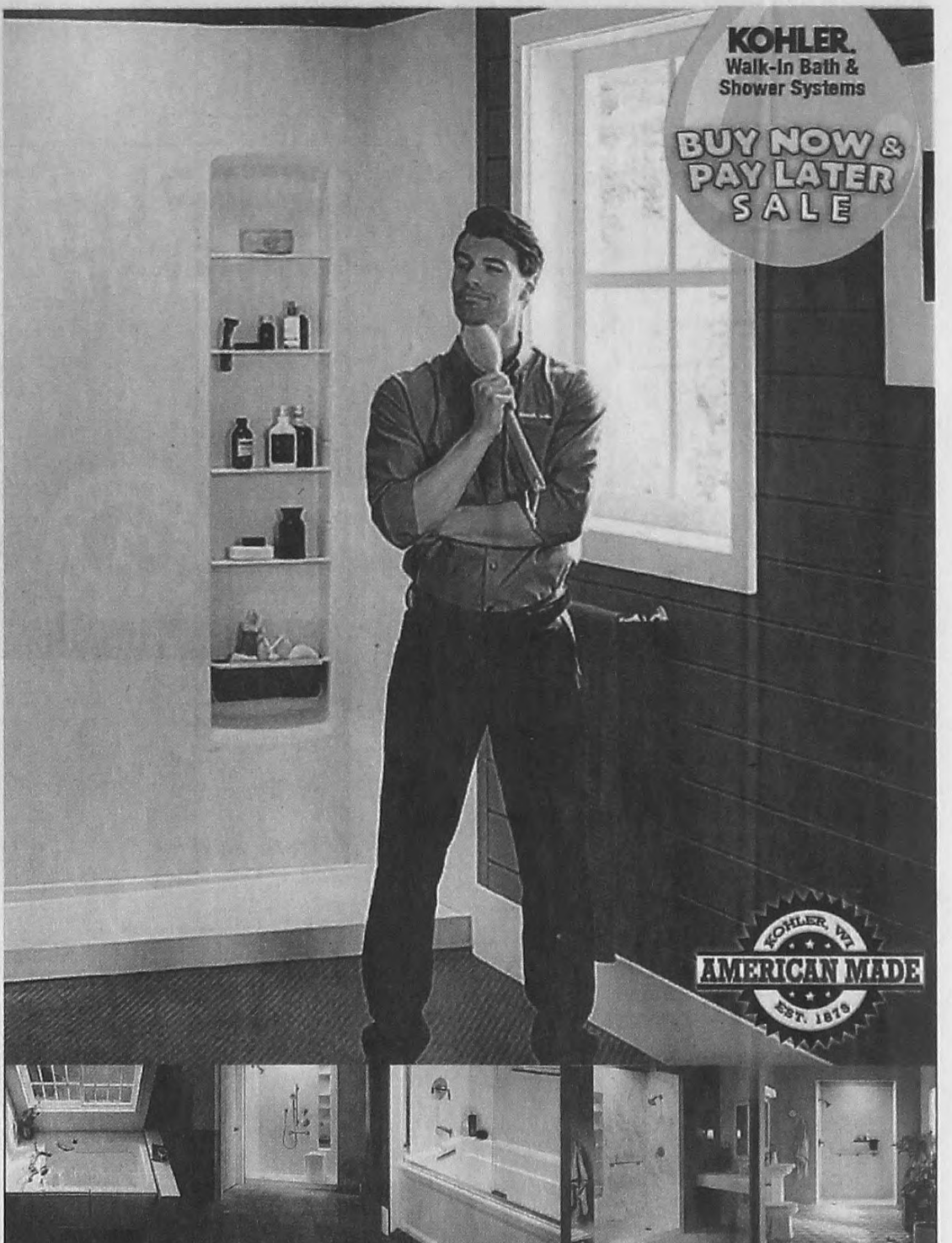
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17' TRAX LS 56K \$11859  
21T5046A North Bros. 734-928-2108

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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

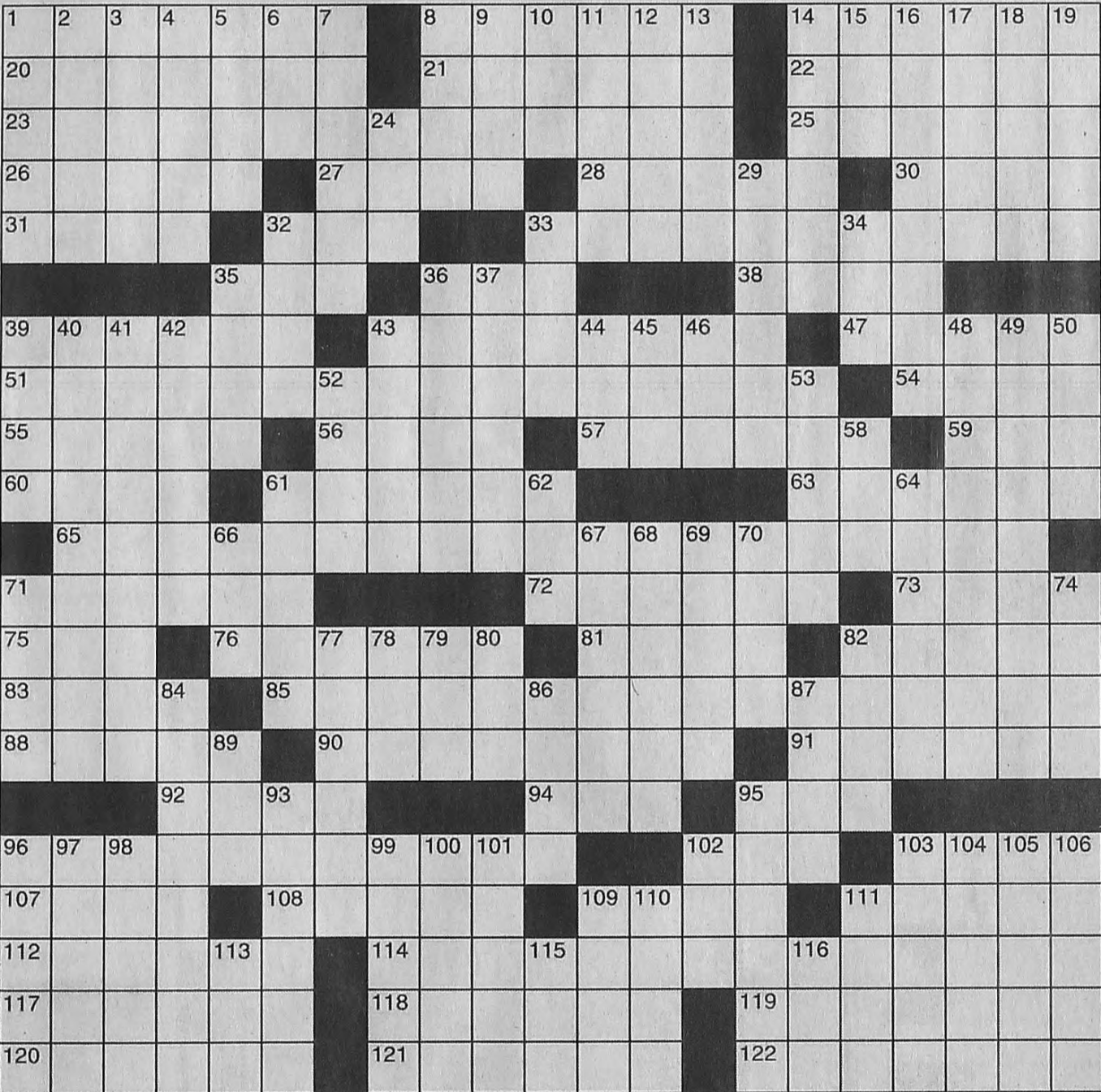
## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

- ACROSS**
- 1 Downhiller's headwear
  - 8 Mexican beach resort
  - 14 Island home of Odysseus
  - 20 University of Wyoming's city
  - 21 Moon-landing program
  - 22 Had to have
  - 23 They appear before a film's first scene
  - 25 Viewed to be
  - 26 Cakes of cornbread
  - 27 Indy units
  - 28 Bichon — (white dog)
  - 30 Stitch's cartoon friend
  - 31 Bleating females
  - 32 Speedy plane
  - 33 It turns a computer on
  - 35 Always, to bards
  - 36 Vintage auto
  - 38 Active Sicilian volcano
  - 39 Holders of emergency supplies
  - 43 Women with babies on the way
- DOWN**
- 47 Puccini work
  - 51 Gala after a presidential oath
  - 54 Cutting noise
  - 55 Quadrillionth: Prefix
  - 56 — epic scale
  - 57 Musical insensitivity
  - 59 Sets for viewing
  - 60 Perfume by Dana
  - 61 Lured
  - 63 "You Gotta Be" singer of 1994
  - 65 Graduation address deliverer
  - 71 Keyless, musically
  - 72 Many a Netflix show theme
  - 73 — Dinka Doo" (Jimmy Durante tune)
  - 75 Candy in collectible dispensers
  - 76 "Mice" or "lice," but not "rice"
  - 81 Blowout, e.g.
  - 82 Look for prey, as a lion
  - 83 Cyber-addresses
  - 85 Membership ceremony
  - 88 Phony; Prefix

### STUDY OF GENESIS

- 4 Lion features
- 5 French buds
- 6 Moral failure
- 7 Bowler, informally
- 8 Koi, e.g.
- 9 Clumsy sorts
- 10 Signal "yes"
- 11 Actor Montgomery
- 12 Radical sort
- 13 GI's "Uh-uh!"
- 14 Owing money
- 15 PGA peg
- 16 Shoe lifts
- 17 Grant entry to
- 18 Singer/rapper Green
- 19 Attach
- 24 Purring pet
- 29 "Remington —"
- 32 Bach's "—, Joy of Man's Desiring"
- 33 Mediocre
- 34 108-card game
- 35 Frozen waffle brand
- 36 Move in circles
- 37 "Lose Yourself" rapper
- 39 Natural ability
- 40 Many short plays
- 41 Hoodwink
- 42 One of the four seasons
- 43 Wildly excited
- 44 Blast stuff
- 45 Sapporo sash
- 46 Prohibit
- 48 Just between us
- 49 Stream in the title of 1957's Best Picture
- 50 Church area
- 52 Horse color pattern
- 53 Fills with freight
- 58 Irish actor Stephen
- 61 Lawyer Melvin called "The King of Torts"
- 62 — Moines
- 64 Minis, midis and maxis
- 66 GPS display
- 67 Tetley competitor
- 68 Bridal gown features
- 69 Grain towers
- 70 Hammer's striking end
- 71 Since Hector was —
- 74 Everybody, in Essen
- 77 Starts to remove a jacket, say
- 78 — de Janeiro
- 79 —Z (total)
- 80 Fashion designer Phillip —
- 82 Name shared by 12 popes
- 84 Least cloudy
- 86 Join forces
- 87 Fall lawn tool
- 89 Rx writer
- 93 A flirtatious look
- 95 Element #8
- 96 Safe securers
- 97 Love, in Italy
- 98 Not stricken
- 99 — or two (on occasion)
- 100 Kidney-related
- 101 "Neon" fish
- 102 Schooner fill
- 103 One of the Bush twins
- 104 Around a line of symmetry
- 105 AI — (a bit firm)
- 106 Knife features
- 109 Birds sitting on clutches
- 110 Conical-bore woodwind
- 111 Hosiery flaw
- 113 GPS display: Abbr.
- 115 Trendy
- 116 "It seems to me," online



#2,031 Average time of solution: 63 minutes  
For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com.

## SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/25  
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!

### COLOR IT...

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.

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

- AMBER
- AUBURN
- AVOCADO
- AZURE
- BEIGE
- BLACK
- BLUE
- BROWN
- BURGUNDY
- CERISE
- CHARCOAL
- COPPER
- CREAM
- CRIMSON
- FAWN
- GOLD
- GREEN
- GREY
- IVORY
- JADE
- KHAKI
- LEMON
- LILAC
- MAGENTA
- MAUVE
- MULBERRY
- MUSTARD
- NAVY
- OCHRE
- ORANGE
- PEACH
- PINK
- PURPLE
- RED
- ROSE
- SALMON
- SCARLET
- SILVER
- SLATE
- TAN
- TEAL
- TERRACOTTA
- TURQUOISE
- VERMILION
- VIOLET
- WHITE
- WINE
- YELLOW



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

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**atcioffice@sbcsocial.net**

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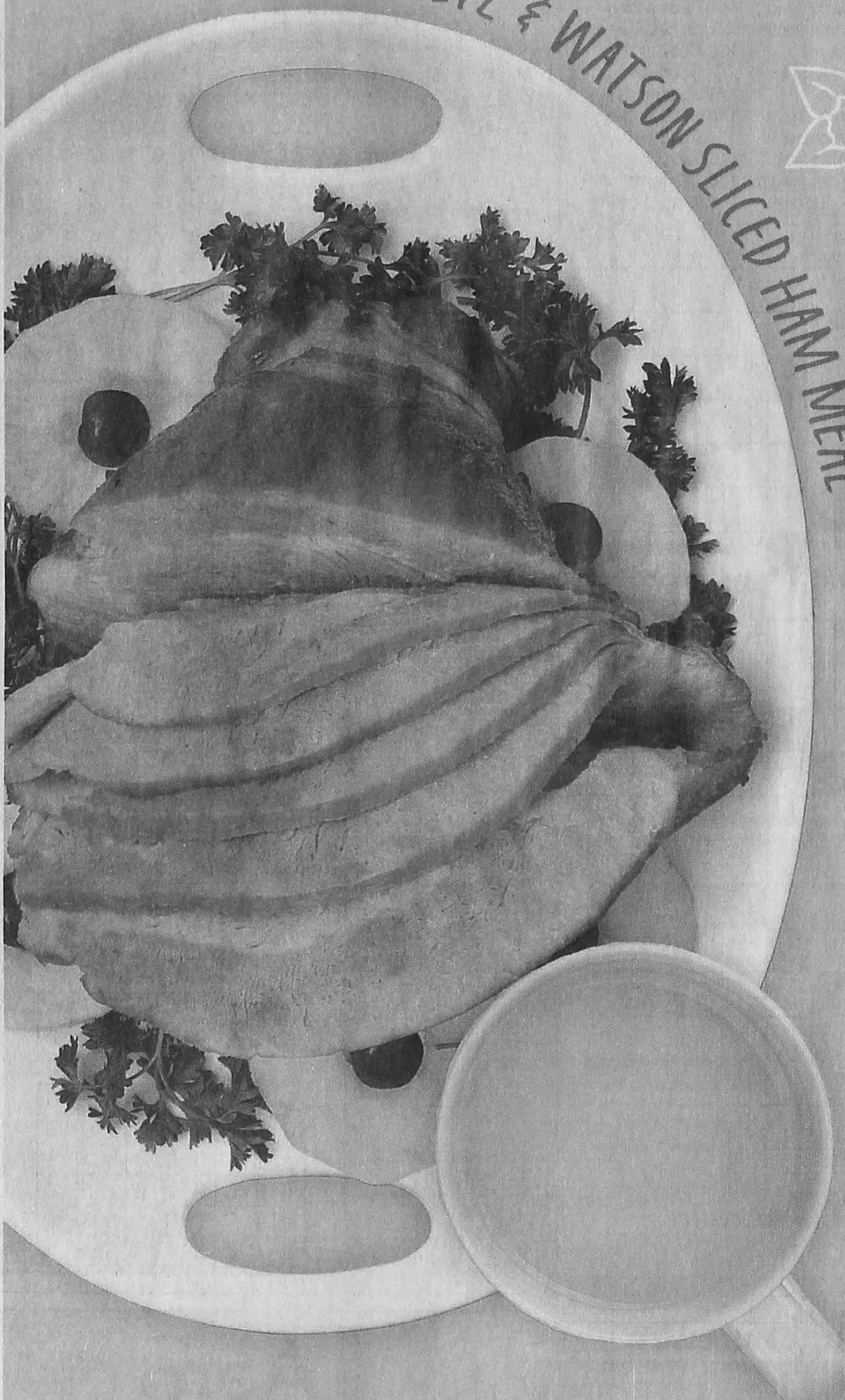
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