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CANTON

OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Canton residents unhappy with sidewalk program

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After connecting the green dots painted on the 24 cement sidewalk slabs that run in front of and alongside Canton Township homeowner Dennis Orlewicz's corner lot property, he ends up with a \$4,500 bill.

The dots mark the slabs that town-

ship engineers deem potentially dangerous to pedestrians and must be replaced at the homeowner's expense - \$245 per slab, Orlewicz noted.

Canton's sidewalk replacement program started in the late 1990s after the township was hit with a lawsuit when a resident was injured while walking.

Orlewicz, who rents out his Carriage Hills subdivision home to his daughter,

Livonia Public Schools administrator Danielle Daniels, understands the need to replace the potentially dangerous pieces of sidewalk; he's just not sure charging residents for the replacement fees is the right approach.

His property is especially vulnerable to the ordinance, Orlewicz said, because he not only owns a home on a corner lot, making him responsible for more than

twice as many slabs than typical residents, but also because a series of slabs in the front of his property have been damaged beyond repair by the roots of a massive silver maple tree planted on a right-of-way owned by Wayne County.

"To be honest, I feel the costs for the sidewalk replacement should be paid

See UNHAPPY, Page 2A



Clout 313 co-owner Katrina McArn hangs some branded merchandise in her Laurel Park Place shop in Livonia on March 9.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Detroit-based apparel shop opens at Laurel Park Place

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

What started as an idea in the McArn household in Detroit has taken shape as Laurel Park Place's newest clothing retailer.

Open last month just north of the Olga's Kitchen inside the Livonia mall at Six Mile and Newburgh, Clout Shop 313 sells a variety of clothing for both men

and women. It first launched several years ago by the married couple, who began the clothing line out of their home. They sold some of their items in shops in Detroit and later began looking for their own space.

"I've always been kind of an entrepreneurial spirit," said Brian McArn. "So I just partnered it up with my love of clothes."

The shop sells Clout Apparel-brand-

ed streetwear fashion such as hats, shirts and more, including some menswear than can go up to size 5X. They hope to roll out a line for children in the coming months as well.

From launching in their home several years ago to traveling around Detroit selling the merchandise, it began catching on and increasing in demand.

See SHOP, Page 2A

Accused killer in #FindDani case scheduled for October trial

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Floyd Galloway, a former security guard accused of murdering a Farmington Hills woman he once worked with, has a new trial date.

A jury will begin considering evidence against Galloway, a 34-year-old prison inmate, on Oct. 12, according to online Oakland Circuit Court records.

For now, prosecutors have a request before the Michigan Supreme Court for a case review.

In prison for a sexual assault to which he pleaded guilty, Galloway faces a premeditated first-degree murder charge in the 2016 disappearance of Danielle Stislicki, 28.

Stislicki's body remains missing, and prosecutors are in the process of asking the Michigan Supreme Court to let them use evidence gathered in Galloway's sexual assault on a Hines Park runner as evidence that he murdered Stislicki.

Oakland Circuit Judge Phyllis McMillen and the Michigan Court of Appeals already have denied the request.

Doctor accused of excessive testing pays \$2M

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

An Oakland County cardiologist with offices in Berkley and Livonia paid \$2 million to resolve allegations that he and his business illegally billed federal healthcare programs for unnecessary or unperformed diagnostic testing.

Federal prosecutors announced Dr. Dinesh Shah's payment to the federal government Thursday.

They accused Shah and his practice, Michigan Physicians Group, of violating the False Claims Act by conducting excessive testing between 2006 and 2017.

Federal prosecutors said Shah and MPG knowingly billed programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Tricare for

See DOCTOR, Page 2A



Unhappy

Continued from Page 1A

for by residents' taxes," Orlewicz said. "Why should I get penalized more because my house is on a corner lot?"

"The tree causing the sidewalk damage in front of the house technically belongs to Wayne County, so why should I have to pay for the damaged slabs it has caused? If Wayne County agrees to come out and cut the tree down at its cost, I'll agree to plant a new tree there.

"The problem is they say they won't cut a tree down unless it's more than 50% dead. ... If I pay to get the sidewalk slabs repaired, who's to say the tree roots won't damage the new slabs in another year or two?"

During its March 9 meeting, the Canton Township Board of Trustees and the township's engineers assigned to oversee the sidewalk replacement program explained to residents that they will do

everything in their power to ease the burden on residents who are hit with a significant replacement bill.

Payments can be made over a five-year billing schedule with 6% interest, Municipal Service Director Jade Smith said. Engineer Erika Hildalgo is also available for at-home appointments for concerned homeowners (she met with Orlewicz and Daniels March 17) so she can visit their residence and explain why slabs must be replaced.

But the program isn't going away, the decision-makers asserted, because the township cannot be put in a position where it could be hit with another costly lawsuit, like the one in 1997.

Daniels questioned whether her father should have to pay for the replacement of the 17 slabs on the side of the house. Their overall condition is acceptable (no apparent cracking or severe pitting), but their levelness does not meet Americans With Disabilities Act guidelines.

"When we need to make improve-

ments to our schools in Livonia that are required by ADA guidelines, there are state or federal funds that cover the costs," Daniels said. "That should be the case with the sidewalks, too."

Orlewicz and Daniels were joined by other residents who shared their sidewalk-related concerns during the public hearing portion of the March 9 meeting.

Mechelle Lefleur said she is tempted to have the sidewalk-damaging tree on the right-of-way in front of her house cut down so that she won't be faced with paying future slab-replacing bills.

"I know Canton loves its tree-lined streets, but if this ordinance isn't changed, there are going to be a lot of trees cut down in the township," Lefleur said during the hearing. "I know I'm not going to go through (paying for replacement slabs) every two years. With Michigan's freezing winters and the ground shifting ... the tree roots are more likely to push up the slabs."

Another resident questioned the quality of the materials used to make

the sidewalks, stating she has seen pitting in newly-placed slabs within a matter of months after they were put in place.

Hidalgo said the contractors the township use for its sidewalk-replacement program use nothing but high-grade, widely-approved materials.

Once residents' sidewalks are marked for repair, they have 60 days to notify the township whether they will hire their own contractor for replacement work or use the township's contractor.

The next collection of subdivisions slated for sidewalk review are: Hidden River Estates, Huntington Place 1 and 2, Kimberly Meadows, Meadow Village of Canton 1 and 2, North Woods Place and Pinewood Estates 1 and 2.

Residents are urged to contact Canton Township's engineering department at 734-394-5150 if they have concerns regarding the sidewalk replacements they are responsible to finance. ewright@hometownlife.com

Doctor

Continued from Page 1A

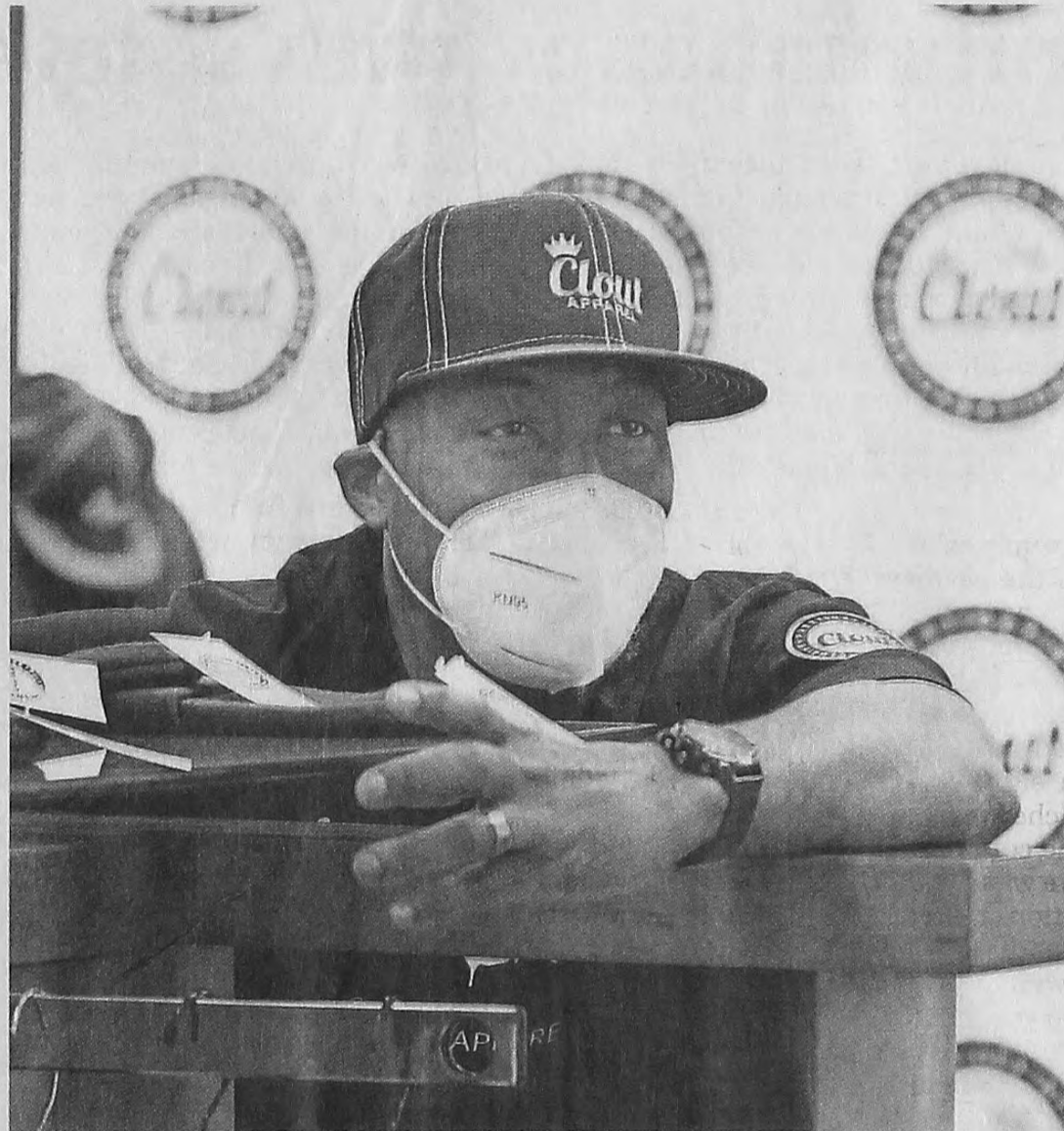
unnecessary diagnostic testing that sometimes happened without prior physician orders.

Investigators focused on testing to determine blood pressure and blood flow.

"Subjecting patients to unnecessary testing in order to fill one's pockets with taxpayer funds will not be tolerated. Such practices are particularly concerning because overuse of some tests can be harmful to patients," Acting U.S. Attorney Saima Mohsin said in a statement.

In addition to the civil settlement agreement, Shah and MPG entered into an integrity agreement with the Office of Inspector General for the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The goal is to provide some oversight of Shah and MPG's billing practices over a three-year period.

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



Clout 313 co-owner Brian McArn talks about getting the Laurel Park Place apparel shop up and running. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Clout 313 sits in the north end of Laurel Park Place, near Dunham's.



Hoodies, shirts, warmups and baseball caps feature the store logo.

hometownlife.com

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Shop

Continued from Page 1A

"It just grew from there," Brian McArn said. "We have repeat customers that come back year after year."

Katrina McArn, who formerly worked at another shop at Laurel Park Place, originally inquired about leasing space in the mall before the COVID-19 pandemic. At that point, having such a shop wasn't a reality after seeing the costs.

"We had talked about a kiosk at one point when I worked here, and then I inquired about spacing and we just could not afford it," she said.

Fast forward several months to the height of the pandemic, the couple visited the mall and stopped to talk to the owner of the boutique next door to their current location, which had recently opened. After hearing about updated lease terms, the couple decided it could be a feasible option.

They took a look at the space and knew instantly it would fit.

"Then I came in here and I fell in love with it," Katrina McArn said. "The price was so great. They really worked with us."

The opening of the shop comes at a time where malls across the United States are struggling. Couple the COVID-19 pandemic with the boom in online retailing and many shops once staples in malls have closed their doors. Laurel Park Place has seen several of shops close in recent years and the mall's parent company, CBL Properties, filed for Chapter 11 protection late last year. Some property in the mall, including the northern anchor tenant space at Laurel Park Place, have seen additions: that space is now occupied by Dunham's after Carson's went out of business several years ago.

The McArns see the changing landscape at malls not as a negative but as a positive for smaller brands like theirs trying to make a name for themselves.

"I think it's a great opportunity for

boutiques and different brands ... to get into the mall, especially if they're willing to work with the shop owners," Brian McArn said. "It's a game changer."

Opening such a store, they said, has attracted an wide-ranging clientele base. They've seen some regulars from their time selling in Detroit, as well as new customers just walking the mall and discovering Clout Apparel for the first time.

"We've had people leave, come back," he said. "That's good, that's always encouraging."

The couple hopes the store at Laurel Park Place isn't their last. They're hoping to bring the brand to plenty of other communities, including a brick-and-mortar location somewhere in Detroit.

The shop is open during regular mall hours, though it is closed on Mondays. The business's online store can be found at cloutshop313.com.

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

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PCCS plan gets students face-to-face daily

Ed Wright hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Despite the emergence of two menacing red flags — rising COVID-19 infection rates in Canton Township and spring break — the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education approved a slightly accelerated extended COVID-19 learning plan.

The March 23 decision was approved on a 4-2 vote. Casting the two no votes were President Patti McCoin and first-year trustee Shawn Wilson, who said he is an advocate of face-to-face learning as long as he can see data that proves it's safe for students.

Following a recent trend, Canton had the third-most confirmed cases (60) of COVID-19 in Wayne County as of March 22, trailing only Dearborn (81) and Livonia (63).

"Looking at it in terms of green, yellow and red, when I look at the students' safety right now, I see red, especially with the rise in community spread and the potential for a surge in cases after spring break," Wilson said. "I was really hoping I would see something tonight that would make me vote yes, but I haven't seen it."

Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Monica Merritt said COVID-19 transmission rates within the schools have been low.

"Our data reflects that our mitigation factors are working," Merritt said. "We're collecting input from people who are in the schools every day — teachers, principals — and they're unified in their belief in what we're doing is right."

The approval will send the district's safe start high school students back to in-person learning five days a week from 7:10 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. until the end of the school year. Students at the three-high school Plymouth-Canton Educational Park campus, who were learning in a 100% remote model until March 1 before moving to a four-half-days-a-week in-person model, started the five-day format March 22.

Students attend mandatory remote classes each weekday afternoon.

Plymouth-Canton Schools initially planned to implement the five-days-a-week learning plan for its high schools on April 19, Merritt revealed.

Beginning March 22, Michigan school districts had to offer at least 20 hours a week of in-person instruction to receive up to a \$450-per-student in-

crease in emergency COVID-19 pandemic funding, due to a law signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on March 9.

School districts must use the extra funding to assist in COVID-related learning obstacles. The deadline to use the funding is September 2022.

Merritt said the district would receive an additional \$227 per student — or roughly \$4 million — by moving up the five-days-a-week model for high school students from April 19 to March 22, adding that the law still needs more clarity.

Plymouth-Canton safe start elementary and middle school students were already attending in-person classes more than 20 hours per week prior to the March 9 revelation of the per-student-funding-increase plan.

"I want to make this perfectly clear: We would never compromise the health or safety of our students for money," Merritt asserted. "We met with our building design team and came to the conclusion that — with the mitigation factors we have in place — moving the five-days-a-week plan up would not pose any increased danger to our students. We concluded that we would be negligent to not move it up."

Merritt was supported by testimony from the district's three high school principals, who were unified in their statements that students at their respective schools have been compliant with the new protocols.

"Our students have been wonderful about wearing their masks, following the re-arranged hallway plans," Canton High School Principal Sharida Lewis. "I have been truly amazed at how polite everyone is when it comes to following the new guidelines."

Salem High School Principal Kim Villarosa explained how students have adapted smoothly to a QR code application that assists with contact tracing.

"When they sit at a table in the cafeteria, they scan a QR code with their phone so that we can monitor who was sitting where, when," Villarosa said. "They've been extremely compliant with this."

"From what we've all seen since the high school students have been back to in-person learning, they know we're all in this together," added Plymouth High School Principal Cheri Steckel.

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

Tax laws differ for severance pay, gifts from employers



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Hi Rick:

I have worked for the same company since I graduated high school more than 20 years ago. As a result of COVID, the company temporarily shut down. I continued to receive my full salary.

I've been told by a friend that there are tax breaks for situations like mine, and that I do not have to pay tax on my full salary; is that correct?

In addition, in January, the company informed me that they were closing for good. Because I have been there for so

long, the owners said that they would give me a year of severance pay. In fact, in January they wrote me a check for one year's salary. They withheld taxes from the payment. I've been told that severance pay is taxed differently than other money. Will I need to pay tax on my severance?

Furthermore, a few weeks ago I received a letter from my former employer with eight checks for \$15,000 apiece. The checks were from the four owners of the company along with their wives. There was a letter with the checks from an attorney who said that these checks had nothing to do with my employment but were a gift for me.

Do you foresee any issues?

Thank you, Carson

Dear Carson:

I have good news and bad news for you. First, the bad news. The money you received last year is fully taxed to you. The fact that you were not working is really not relevant.

With regards to the severance pay, even though you received your salary in one lump sum, that amount is taxed to you as ordinary income.

Although the money you receive from your employer is subject to income tax, I would focus on is how generous your employers were. They were under no obligation to continue your wages, nor give you such a generous severance.

Regarding the checks you received individually from your ex-employer, the good news is that money is not taxed to you. That money is considered a gift, and thus, it is tax free.


Most people are confused when it comes to tax laws regarding gifts. What is confusing is that it is not the person who receives the gift that is liable for taxes; rather, it is the person who gives the gift. Therefore, if there were any gift tax consequences, it would have been on the people who issued the checks.

However, under our tax laws, anyone can gift \$15,000 a year without any tax consequences. Therefore, you should know that your employer and their spouses who wrote you the checks will also have no tax liabilities.

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, please email Rick at rick@bloomadvisors.com.

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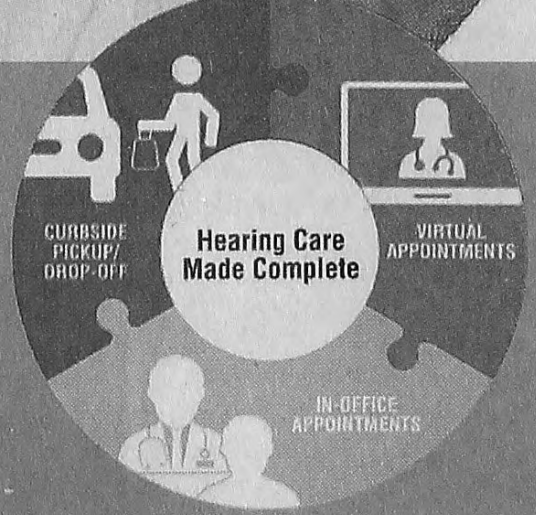
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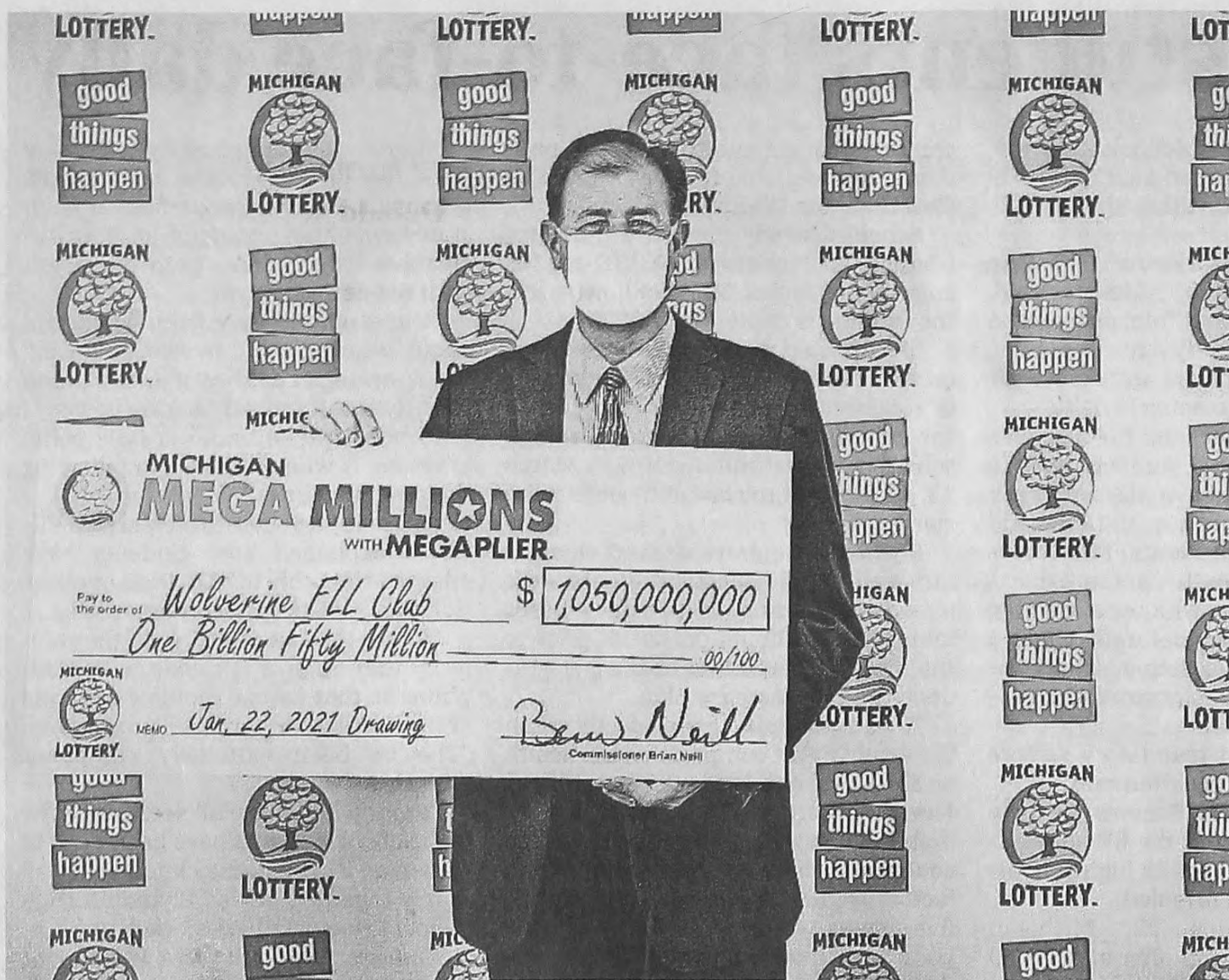
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Kurt D. Panouses represents the four-member Wolverine FLL Club, which won the \$1 billion Mega Millions lottery jackpot in January. COURTESY OF MICHIGAN LOTTERY

Lottery winner burned breakfast, called lawyer

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

What's the first thing you do if you win the lottery? For the winners of the billion dollar Mega Millions jackpot, it was burn breakfast, and then call a lottery lawyer.

That lawyer, Kurt Panouses, established a new club name for his clients, Wolverine FLL, and accepted the prize on their behalf from Michigan Lottery officials March 12.

He shared a few vague tidbits on the winners, while expounding more on the advice he gives them and others who have newfound wealth of mind-boggling proportions.

The winners are "really good friends who are probably best friends now."

They are between the ages of 45 and 65.

They would be better described as all being from southeast Michigan rather than Oakland County.

They have "educational backgrounds" but Panouses would neither confirm nor deny that they are educators as was previously speculated.

They are fans of the University of Michigan, hence the club name under which their prize was claimed the "Wolverine FLL Club" although the Spartans cheer "Go Green" might seem more fitting after they raked in \$557 million after taxes.

One member of the group stopped at the Kroger store at 47650 Grand River while "passing through Novi," after realizing the friends had not yet bought a ticket for the \$1.05 billion Mega Millions. This person selected multiple easy picks and continued home.

The winning numbers, 4-26-42-50-60 and Mega Ball 24 were drawn on Jan. 22, but it wasn't until the following morning that a new life literally dawned on them.

It began with a phone call from one of the friends to the ticket holder, who was making bacon and that the winning ticket was bought at the Novi Kroger.

The holder began looking down all the quick picks to match the first three numbers, Panouses said, and upon finding them, reread them multiple times before letting the eyes slide over to see that the next three numbers in the row completed the winning set of numbers.

"You see all six numbers, and then you hand it to someone else, and then you realize, 'It's us,'" Panouses said. "It's Saturday morning and you forget about the bacon burning. The bacon got thrown out; there's new bacon in the house."

The winners contacted Panouses, a Florida-based estate and tax attorney who gained national renown as a lottery lawyer, advising them on various aspects of wealth as they take on millionaire status.

"To get a phone call from a group that won a billion within 12 hours of their win is a remarkable point of my career," Panouses admitted. "This group did their own research and engaged to assist in this process."

In Michigan, lottery winners purportedly are not allowed anonymity, but Panouses found "some gray area," and successfully claimed the prize in the form of the club name, keeping the winners identities private "so they can live their lives."

"It's scary to come into this kind of wealth," Panouses said. "I will be everyone's shield; that is what I do, I am their shield. I will help this group and give them some privacy so they can live with peace and happiness. You don't want them to come into this wealth and have a negative feeling."

Tips for the newly rich

Among the advice Panouses gives to most lottery winners, including his newest clients:

Keep it secret, keep it safe.

It seems obvious you want a very tight circle to know of your newfound wealth. You also want to protect that tiny slip of incredibly fragile, valuable paper your winning numbers are printed on until the ticket is officially cashed in.

Panouses only told his wife that he knew who the

latest billion dollar winners were. No one in his office knew, nor anyone else until he was flying to Detroit two weeks ago to take possession of the ticket and transport it to the lottery office to make things official.

That lottery ticket was not in a safe deposit box, the advice he gives to clients and which most of them ignore.

"Most people don't trust the bank and hide the ticket somewhere in their house," Panouses said. "The place in their house where they think it is safe — I absolutely cringe."

He's had clients wrap it up and put the ticket in the freezer, and another who bought a vault from Office Depot and drilled it into the concrete floor with the ticket already inside in an envelope.

"He was drilling into hot concrete. It could have caught on fire," Panouses said, horrified.

Take the prize in a lump sum.

He notes that winners don't know where they will be in 25 years. If they're older, it could be six feet under. The tax rate could also change, perhaps for the worse.

He said in the 1960s and 1970s, individuals earning over \$400,000 per year, were taxed in the highest bracket, paying as much as 92 percent on their income.

Retire.

While many people dream of quitting their jobs if they won the lottery, in Panouses' experience, the reality is that new millionaires often say they want to keep working.

He tells them when they look at their bank account and it shows \$10 million or \$100 million, the last thing they will want to do is work. Even if they love their job, he said, they will feel frustration or guilt, taking a job from someone who needs it.

In the current pandemic, he said winners could easily take a leave of absence and blame it on COVID. He said two of the Michigan winners have already retired and the other two are close.

Don't make drastic changes right away.

While Panouses supports a fast retirement for lottery winners and perhaps a new car or a vacation to get away, he tells them to pause any major purchases or massive life changes for six months.

"When I get clients like this, I tell them to let the emotional roller coaster come to a halt before you get off," he said. "This can be very draining on everyone. Be normal people for awhile, let's get the money invested and know what you can spend and put things in perspective."

Invest and give wisely, think ahead.

The new winners each have millions, and they want to keep it and grow it, unlike the client Panouses had that blew through their first annual installment of \$600,000 in less than two months and were broke until their next payout.

Clients need to protect their assets, as well, from scammers or lawsuits. Car insurance for winners' children should not be in the parents' names, for example.

He estimates the Michigan Mega Millions winners can invest that money and generate \$16 million per year risk-free at 3.5 percent interest, meaning \$4 million income per year for each of the four individuals, without a decline in the original balance.

Panouses will also guide the new winners, who he said are very charity-minded, in how to share their wealth for maximum effect.

"These are good people. They all have concern for education and their communities," Panouses said. "We need to do things anonymously, but will set up a charitable organization and we're going to do a bunch of things. Scholarships are important to them and educating people who can't afford to go to college."

"They all want to make their communities better."

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

Former Wayne council member rejects plea deals

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wayne City Manager Lisa Nocerini was the targeted victim of former Councilman Christopher Sanders' alleged 2017 frame job, Wayne County court officials confirmed in court.

Prosecuting attorney Matthew Penney said she was the victim when he laid out the two plea deals he extended to the ex-councilman accused of paying someone to plant a starter pistol and fake drugs in a female city employee's vehicle.

Sanders declined the plea agreement, sending the case to trial.

The agreements would have meant two years of probation and no personal or third-party contact with "the individual, Lisa Nocerini," Penney said over Zoom.

Court officials usually demand that defendants stay away from their alleged victims, and no other names were mentioned.

The plea deals would have allowed Sanders, 52, to avoid jail time by pleading to conspiring in a false felony report or, the second option, pleading guilty to attempting a false felony report and a new count of false report of a misdemeanor.

Sanders spent the past two weeks considering the deals.

"He would like to decline those offers and proceed to trial on this matter," his attorney John Cahalan told Third Circuit Judge Donald Knapp.

The parties return to court April 14 for an update on the case. Sanders cannot change his mind about the deals.

Sanders is accused of paying Jimmie Lee Chandler, 29, of Van Buren Township to break into a female employee's vehicle on Oct. 16, 2017, to place a starter pistol and fake drugs inside.

After the woman left the parking lot, Chandler apparently called 911 to report a false road rage incident associated with the woman's vehicle. She discovered the planted items and contacted Wayne police.

Chandler pleaded guilty to attempting a false felony report and received 18 months of probation, fees and community service if he cannot pay the fees.

After the Zoom hearing, Cahalan said he and Sanders had numerous lengthy discussions about the prosecutor's plea deals.

"He maintains his innocence," Cahalan said over the telephone. "If that's the case and that's what he believes, he shouldn't plead guilty to anything"

Sanders could not be reached for comment. The alleged planting of a starter pistol and fake drugs happened around the same time he, the mayor and other council members were trying to fend off recall petitioners.

Residents were unhappy because Sanders and the others had voted to extend their terms when city elections were moved to even years to coincide with state elections. The move was intended to save \$40,000 for primary and general elections.

Previous media reports indicate that Sanders took more heat than the others because he was apparently soliciting people to publicly criticize Nocerini.

Ultimately recalled, he also was openly critical of her four-year contract when council approved the document in 2016. Sanders said at the time the agreement was vague.

Obituaries

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.



Obituaries

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php

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



Stephen G. Harper

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP - Stephen G. Harper passed away on March 10, 2021 at the age of 78. Mr. Harper was a long time resident of Plymouth Township. He had a B.A. from Washington College, Chestertown MD, and an M.B.A. from Babson College, Wellesley MA. He retired from Ford Motor Company in 2002 after a 35-year career in corporate finance and business planning. His final position was Shareholder Relations Manager.

In the early 1980's, he was one of the founders of the Friends of the Plymouth Library and served as its Treasurer. He was one of the organizers of the successful petition drive and subsequent special election in 1985 that established the Plymouth District Library. He served on the Board of the Plymouth District Library from 1986 to 2004 and rejoined the Board in 2014 where he served through 2021. He has served in all of the Board's officer positions and chaired the Building Committee that built and expanded the present Dunning Hough Library. In 2003, he was appointed to the Library of Michigan's Quality Services Advisory Committee for Library Co-operatives and chaired the Administrative Standards Committee. Since 2004, Mr. Harper has been a member of the Board of The Library Network, the library cooperative serving much of southeastern Michigan, and formerly served as its Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance and Real Estate Committee.

Prior to his work with the libraries, Mr. Harper served on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education and continued as a Board Member of that school district's Educational Excellence Foundation. For thirty years he was also the President of the Board of Directors of Growth Works, a Plymouth-Canton based youth service agency which provides counseling, job training and chemical dependency treatment for young people and their families and, under contract with Wayne County, operates a very successful program for the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders and probationers and their families.

Stephen loved his work but also enjoyed spending summers and holidays on Mackinac Island, where he and Mary Anna had vacationed for over 30 years.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mary Anna, his stepson, Jon Scott Conner, daughter-in-law Tami Conner, 3 grandchildren, Chris (Lindsay) Conner, Caylie Conner and Courtney Conner. Also, 4 great-grandchildren, Caden Conner, Brynlee Conner, Easton Conner and Bowen Conner.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Stephen may be made to Growth Works 271 S. Main St. Plymouth, MI 48170, Plymouth Public Library 233 S. Main St. Plymouth, MI 48170, Educational Excellence Foundation 454 S. Harvey St. Plymouth, MI 48170, The Library Network 41365 Vincenti Ct. Novi, MI 48375 or Mackinac Associates P.O. Box 567 Mackinaw City, MI 49701.

No services will be held at this time.

James Maye

LIVONIA - James Maye "Jimmy the Irish Plumber", of Livonia, age 78. Died peacefully on March 23, 2021.

Loving father of Michele (Michael) Abele, Kathie (Jeff) Henry and Jamey (Diana King) Maye. Longtime companion of Patricia Dillon-Quinn. Dear grandfather of Mackenzie, Samantha, Jonathan and Courtney, Patrick, Sean and Madailin, Shanidiin and Seamus. Former husband of Ruth Maye and brother of Johnny (Donna) Maye.

Jimmy was a licensed Master Plumbing Contractor and established and owned Jim the Irish Plumber until his retirement. He immigrated to the U.S. from Ireland in 1960. Jim was an avid athlete and played gaelic football, hurling, soccer, hockey and he was a ceili dancer. He was a coach and mentor to everyone he met and loved to provide his wisdom and advice.

Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Thursday, March 25, 2021 from 4 - 8 PM with a Rosary Service (time to be determined). Instate at St. Aidan Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Friday, March 26, 2021 from 11 AM until a Funeral Mass at 11:30 AM.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Ardan Academy of Irish Dance or The Salvation Army.

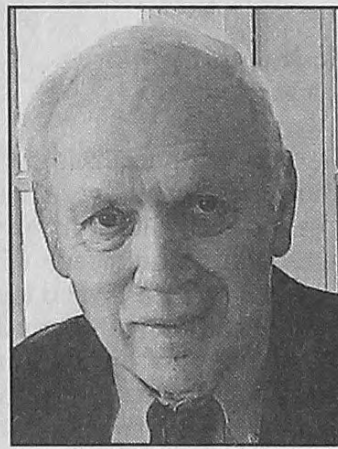
Please share a memory of Jim at www.rggrharris.com



Donald A. Pierce, Jr.

- - died peacefully on March 12, 2021 at the age of 81. Don was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Mary Ellen (Apted) Pierce. He is survived by his children Susan (Steve) Mavrides of Apex, NC; Brad (Elizabeth) Pierce of Cincinnati, OH; and David (Patti) Pierce of Winnetka, IL; and eight grandchildren: Dylan, Stacia, Jake and Spencer Mavrides, Cooper and Graham Pierce, Mackenzie and Durfee Pierce. Don leaves his beloved siblings, Richard (Marie) Pierce of Chelsea, MI and Janet (Bill) Raisch of Hilton Head Island, SC; in-laws Dora (Apted) and Bill Grover of Essex, CT, along with numerous nieces, nephews, and dear friends. The family will hold a private burial at Six Oaks Cemetery, Hilton Head Island. A celebration of Don's life for family and friends will be held 3-5pm on May 8, 2021 at the Birmingham Athletic Club, 4033 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 48301. Memorial contributions can be made to The Kirk Gibson Foundation for Parkinson's or the Palmer Park Tennis Academy/People for Palmer Park. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500.

View obituary and sign tribute wall at AJDesmond.com



Peace

Joe McMahon

- - Joe McMahon - Loving husband, father, Pop Pop, friend, and certified insurance counselor

Joe McMahon was happiest with family, watching sunsets, doting on his little dog, reading, playing chess, and telling tales of his cloak-and-dagger days. Joe died peacefully of natural causes after a series of illnesses.

Joe was born to William Joseph McMahon Sr. and Gladys (née Kernaghan) on December 24, 1940, in Detroit. He grew up in Highland Park, MI, studied engineering, then joined the U.S. Army in 1961. He served in the 76th USASA Special Operations Unit in Taiwan as part of a mutual security agreement to defend the island and Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist government in exile from Mao Zedong's Communists during the Chinese Civil War. He earned decorations for good conduct, marksmanship, and as a sharpshooter while amassing material for many family legends. After his honorable discharge, Joe returned to Detroit. Three days later, he met and fell in love with Dorothy Marie Zelenak. They were married a year later.

During their 56 years of marriage, Joe and Dorothy briefly lived in Chicago, where eldest son Christopher Sean was born, before settling in Troy, MI, the birthplace of Timothy Craig, and later Bloomfield Hills. During his nearly 60 years in the insurance industry, Joe established and grew several successful businesses, including Benchmark Financial Inc. in Bingham Farms. He provided a bountiful life for his family that included coaching both sons at hockey, private school educations, ski trips, university degrees, lazy days on Beaver Island, as well as family adventures to exotic locations, and more.

Joe was honored as best man at both of his sons' weddings and was known as a wise and patient counselor on all matters, personal and professional. He was generous of spirit and quickly earned the love and respect of Vivienne Bettina Gertrud Jones, Chris' wife, and the adoration of Francesca Marie, their daughter. Dorothy, Chris, Tim, Vivienne, and Francesca are eternally grateful for the love and effort he invested in his family and home life.

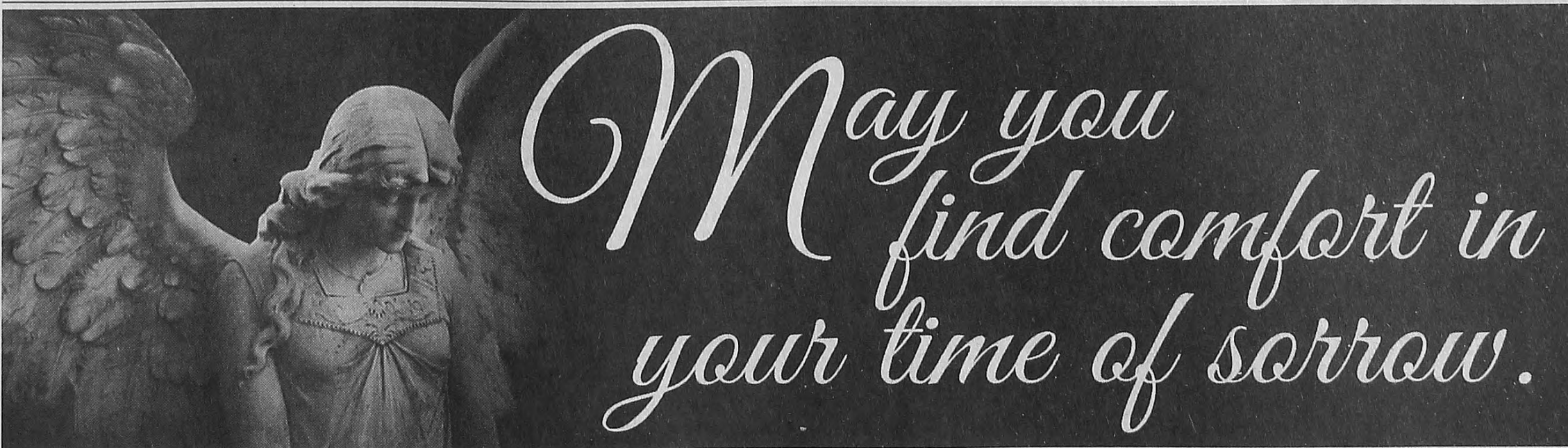
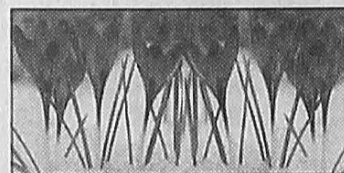
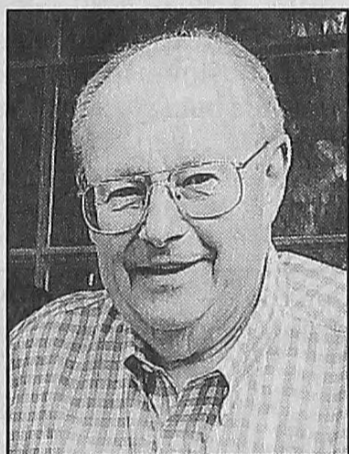
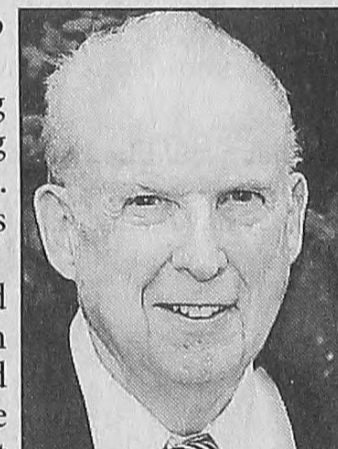
Joe also is survived by Patricia and Janice, daughters of his sister Marion Hazeldine, who preceded him in death, as did his parents and sister Blanche Kawagly.

The family will receive family and friends at a private Mass and reception this summer.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org.

A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500.

View obituary and sign tribute wall at AJDesmond.com



Become a runaway freight train at Destruction Depot

Eric Seals Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Inside an unassuming office building in Whitmore Lake, there is loud laughter as grandma's dishes and teacups are shattered into hundreds of pieces with one swing of a 12-pound truck wrench.

But grandma won't mind. "Finding the biggest, baddest tool you can grab, then finding the most fragile thing off the shelf and beat the living hell out of it? It's just a thrill," said Mike Young, a carpenter and part-time paramedic from Adrian.

Destruction Depot was started in 2018 by Matt and Rachel Crawford. "This is my husband's baby and when he told me on our first date that he always wished he had a place where he could destroy things, I thought he was crazy," Rachel said.

For \$20 per person, you get access to one of three rage rooms where for 45 minutes you can unleash hell.

You can bring in items or, for an additional price, use what's already there. The shelves of items available to smash include everything from crates full of glassware and plates to car windshields. Rachel often hunts for bargains at thrift stores.

Safety gear must be worn, including blue jumpsuits, which "kind of looks like something Michael Myers (from the 'Halloween' horror movies) would wear," Rachel often says with a laugh to customers.

The wall of weapons you can use has everything from crowbars to golf clubs, aluminum bats to sledgehammers or just take one of each. That's allowed.

Crawford says for some what goes on in the rage rooms is very personal. "We get people in for grief and loss. We get people in for therapy, they need a physical outlet. People who often come in have been feeling cooped up, very frustrated and this is physical release for those feelings and have fun doing it."

Jessica Young, who brought her husband, Mike, in for a date night last Friday totally knows what Crawford is say-



Jessica Young throws a 24-inch computer screen for her husband, Mike.



Inside one of the three rage rooms, David Noonan, 19, of Redford destroys a ceramic cornucopia he bought for \$4 inside the Destruction Depot in Whitmore Lake on March 5. PHOTOS BY ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

ing. "The everyday life that we're dealing with right now with COVID, having to wear a mask, everyone hating on each other, coming in here and being able to beat the (crap) out of anything you want? It's the best feeling ever."

After a slow 2020 because of the pandemic, the Destruction Depot has seen its business increase in 2021 with weekends being the busiest.

Online reservations are recommended at destructiondepot.com.

Bed Bath & Beyond closing in Canton

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Add one more large retailer planning to close its doors along Canton Township's busy Ford Road.

Signage outside of the Bed Bath & Beyond at 41936 Ford Road indicate it's in the process of closing and offering discounts on all merchandise inside.

It was unclear how long it would be before the store would close. A message was sent to the company's media relations email Monday afternoon seeking information about how long the store would remain open but was not returned.

Inside the store, signage indicates items inside are 20% percent off and other discounts are not allowed, except for those members of Beyond+, the company's annual discount service.

The closure comes as the company plans to shutter dozens of stores across the country. It was announced last summer that 200 Bed Bath & Beyond stores would close over a two-year span, which totals about 21% of the business's footprint. Part of those closures come as a result of decreased spending amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

It appears the Canton location is the first area store to close down as a part of the company's initiative. Other Michigan stores announced as a part of the closures in the last several months include the Bed Bath & Beyond shops in Allen Park and Wyoming.

Locally, Bed Bath & Beyond continues to operate stores in Westland, Farmington Hills, Novi, Northville Township, White Lake Township and Beverly Hills.

The closure is the second major retailer to announce it's shuttering its doors in recent months along busy Ford Road in Canton. Liquidation sales continue at the JCPenney at 43690 Ford Road as that company plans to close that store soon. Signs outside the store indicate remaining merchandise is 40% to 70% off.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

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USDA Premium Choice Angus Eye of Round Roast
\$5.99 lb
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\$3.99 lb
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Premium Fresh All Natural Western Style Country Ribs
\$2.49 lb
Save 80¢

Premium Fresh All Natural Whole Pork Butt
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Dearborn Flame Glazed Spiral Ham
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Premium Fresh All Natural Pork Steak
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Save \$3.00

Fresh Tilapia Fillets
\$7.99 lb
Save \$1.00

Wild Caught Sockeye Salmon Fillets
\$18.99 lb
Save \$4.00

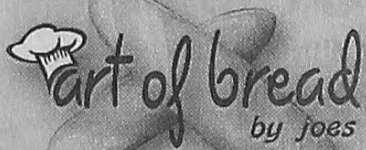
Fresh Wild Whitefish Fillets
\$10.99 lb
Save \$1.00



Fresh Black Pearl Salmon Fillets
\$15.99 lb
Save \$2.00

Fresh Wild Walleye Fillets
\$13.99 lb
Save \$2.00

Wild Caught Coho Salmon Fillets
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\$3.99 ea
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Cedar Hollow Cherrywood Smoked Ham

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\$8.49 lb

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Dearborn Roast Beef

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\$3.99 lb

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Dearborn Smoked Turkey

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USDA Premium Choice Angus New York Strip Steak

\$13.99 lb

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Dearborn Flame Glazed Spiral Ham

\$4.49 lb

Fresh Tilapia Fillets

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\$3.99 lb

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\$29.99 ea 8"

Save \$3.00

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\$15.99 ea

3D Easter Egg Standing Cake Chocolate or Vanilla

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Hot Cross Buns 4 Ct

\$4.99 pkg

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Bacon, Asparagus & Artichoke Focaccia

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SPORTS

KLAA ADs speak against weekly COVID-19 testing for spring sports

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services updated its COVID-19 protocols for athletes in the state, requiring for all athletes ages 13-19 to participate in weekly antigen rapid testing.

The safety measure is something athletic directors

in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association disagree with.

The KLAA athletic directors released a statement, saying it is "unfeasible" to input data for each spring student athlete under the current guidelines and data platform and that a compromise must be made from the current guidelines to limit the amount of testing taken place on a weekly basis.

With this, the KLAA said it believes that the State of

Michigan must provide assistance to every school to make testing all spring athletes even possible.

In the statement, the athletic directors said they believe that weekly testing should only occur for lacrosse and soccer and that the starting date should be pushed back to April 12 to give member schools time to train and plan for the testing protocol, along with

See TESTING, Page 2B

Brother Rice hockey wins seventh straight regional title

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Bloomfield Hills arrived at Oak Park Ice Arena March 19 wanting to play Cinderella.

Playing for its first regional title in school history, the Black Hawks faced Brother Rice: a team that had previously ended their season twice by a combined, 15-3.

Three first-period power plays later, though, the Black Hawks were fired up, holding onto a 3-1 lead, ready to end the Warriors chances at a return to the final four.

But with five seconds left in the first period, Brother Rice sophomore Peter Rosa turned the tide, scoring the team's second goal of the game, giving him and his players more of a sense of confidence heading into the intermission.

"I think it was everything. It gave us momentum," Rosa said. "Going into the locker room, we were confident of what we had to do. We got the job done."

Brother Rice (12-4) exploded for seven goals in the second period, recording the 11-3 mercy-win against

See HOCKEY, Page 2B

Farmington United gymnastics brings home regional title

The Farmington United gymnastics team edged out Bloomfield Hills and Huron Valley United to earn a regional title at Lakeland High School.

Farmington led with a 142.075, while Bloomfield Hills finished in second place with a 141.925 and Huron Valley United finished with a score of 141.725 in third place. Each of these top three teams advance to the state meet.

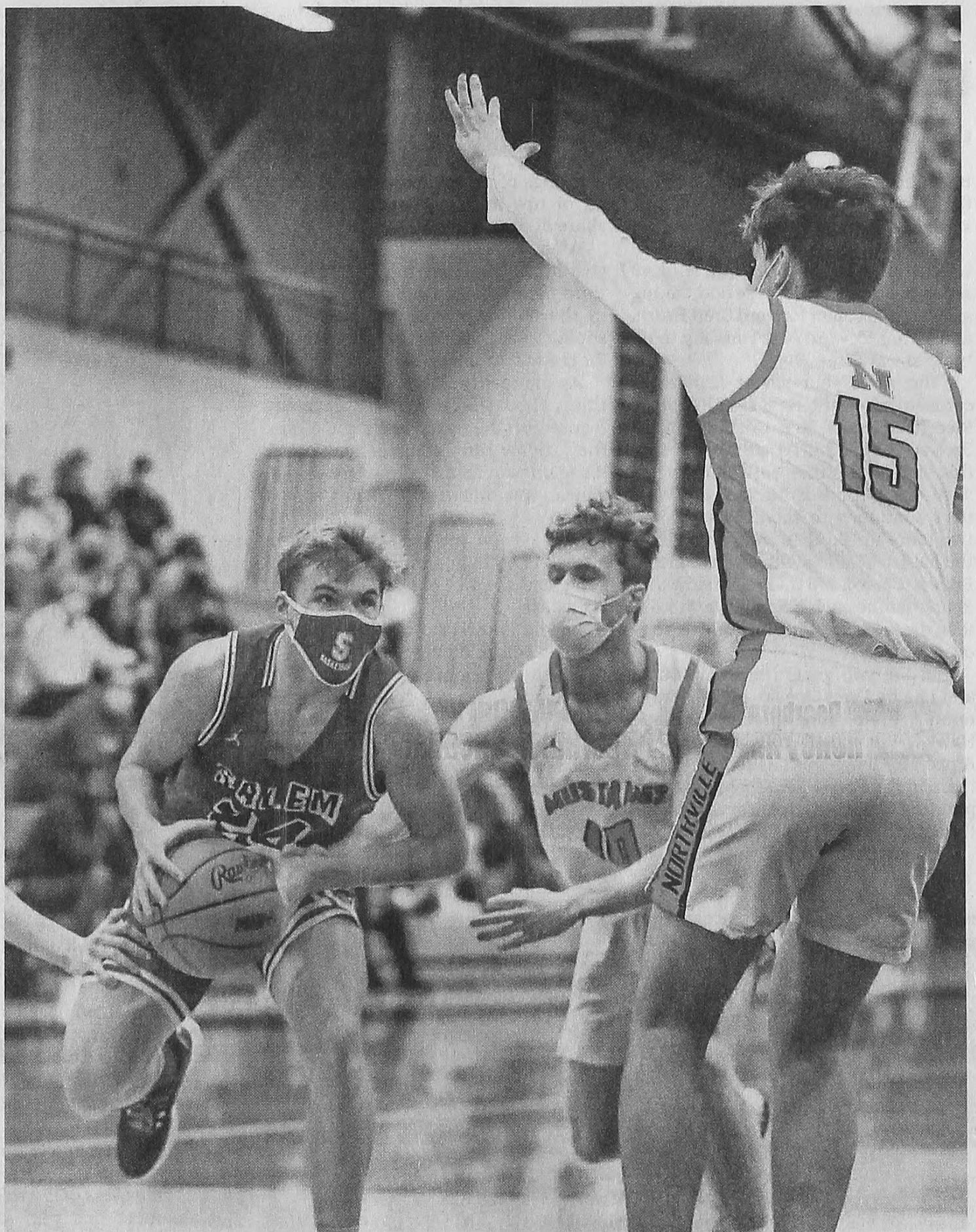
Six gymnasts advanced to the individual state finals, including Sydney Schultz, who finished the all-around competition in first place for the second-straight year.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, half the teams performed in their events before being forced to leave. After his team performed, knowing its score, Farmington United gymnastics coach Jeff Dwyer said the placing came down to the last event.

"A difference of point .15 separated us from Bloomfield — that's a bent leg on a trick — that decided the championship," Dwyer said. "It was a very competitive meet. I was happy to come out on the winning side."

Dwyer said it was the first meet this season where Farmington United had the chance to compete against multiple teams. With this, he said it was difficult to predict where his team stood against others,

See GYMNASTICS, Page 2B



Salem senior Tanner Locke looks for a shot against Northville. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Salem beats Northville in first-round playoff contest

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the playoff opener against Northville, Salem wanted to show how different a team it was from earlier in the season.

The Rocks faced the Mustangs twice before, picking up a 10-point loss before cutting its deficit to three Feb. 12 and 13. But Salem head coach Ryan Nimmerguth knew he was not coaching that same team in the first round of the Michigan high school basketball playoffs.

To the Salem players, they just wanted it more, beating Northville, 41-39, ending the Rocks' five-game playoff losing streak and recording their first postseason win since the 2014-15 season.

"It's been awhile," Nimmerguth said of ending Salem's playoff drought. "It's something we have been building toward. We had some ups and downs during the regular season. The last three weeks, we played hard. We've been playing for that next practice."

Trailing 35-33 late in the fourth quarter after two made free throws by Northville's Brett Rudolph,

See BASKETBALL, Page 2B

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Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

Salem senior guard John Soltis tied the game, went to the other end of the floor, grabbed a rebound that led to a score by junior forward Ashton Wheeler.

Salem senior Charlie Argust scored the team's final four points, and the Rocks defense made late stops to hand Northville its first opening playoff loss since the 2013-14 season.

"They really dug in on the defensive end, they made us work for everything," Northville head coach Todd Sander said. "We missed plenty of shots around the rim. We didn't convert, take advantage of opportunities from the free throw line and down the stretch, we couldn't get that one stop we needed."

But the effort for Salem started well before the fourth quarter.

Despite not having much success offensively early in the second quarter, the Rocks kept the ball away from Northville, recording 11 rebounds — including seven offensive boards.

The Rocks finished the game with 38 rebounds, including 10 by Wheeler, who added nine points and three assists.



Salem head coach Ryan Nimmerguth led his team to its first playoff win since the 2014-15 season. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Tanner Locke, who led the team with 14 points and seven rebounds, said his and Wheeler's presence in and around the paint made the difference against Northville, showing off the team's identity.

"We've had a lot of ups and downs through the season, but lately, we have kind of found our identity as a hard working team," Locke said. "We might not be

the most talented team, but we're always going to be the hardest working."

Northville used a 6-0 run at the end of the third quarter, which was ignited by a 3 by senior Jacob Eyster, to give the Mustangs a two-point lead heading into the final quarter.

But key defensive stops near the end of the quarter secured Salem's sixth win of the season, despite allowing a 3-point make at the buzzer.

"Today was just about emptying the tank," Nimmerguth said. "Play as hard as you can so we have no regrets when you walk off this court. We just want to practice tomorrow, that's all we want to do."

"This team's just fighting. I have nine seniors. They are just fighting to play."

To Argust, who scored nine points for the Rocks, this was representative of what this team had done all season: fight for what it wants.

Now, with a matchup against Detroit Catholic Central Wednesday, Salem is confident, knowing it does not have to be done with its 2021 season yet.

"It feels great to be the Salem team that breaks the curse," Argust said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17.

Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

Bloomfield Hills (7-8) with 7:03 left in the third period for their seventh-straight regional title.

Trailing, 3-2, Brother Rice senior forward Max Brown opened the scoring 63 seconds into the second period, taking assists from senior forward Brett Harris and senior forward Alec Hamady to tie the game at three.

"You need your senior leaders to come up big at the right time," Brother Rice head coach Ken Chaput said of Brown. "I told him, 'I'd rather you score this time of year than early in the year.'"

As the period continued, the Warriors continued to score. Rosa scored two more for Brother Rice, giving him the hat trick, along with a second from Brown. Carson Milanen, Hamady, and Ryan Marone each helped give Brother Rice the 9-3 lead at the end of two periods.

Despite two goals from Kyle Lucia and one by Drew Speaks in the first 12 minutes of the game sparked the Black Hawks, Bloomfield Hills head coach Bruce McAlister said his team hung in there in the seven-goal second period, pointing to the team's character through the middle 17 minutes.

"It's about how tight your group is,

how tight your locker room is," he said. "It's real easy to get dissension: everybody's not on board and pulling the same weight. I told them at the beginning, it's going to be a game of emotional swings of ups and downs. We had a lot of ups at first, certainly had our share of downs."

After Hamady scored his second goal of the game six minutes into the third period, Luke Dudley put the nail in the coffin, putting the puck past sophomore goalkeeper Bryce McElya for the nail in the coffin.

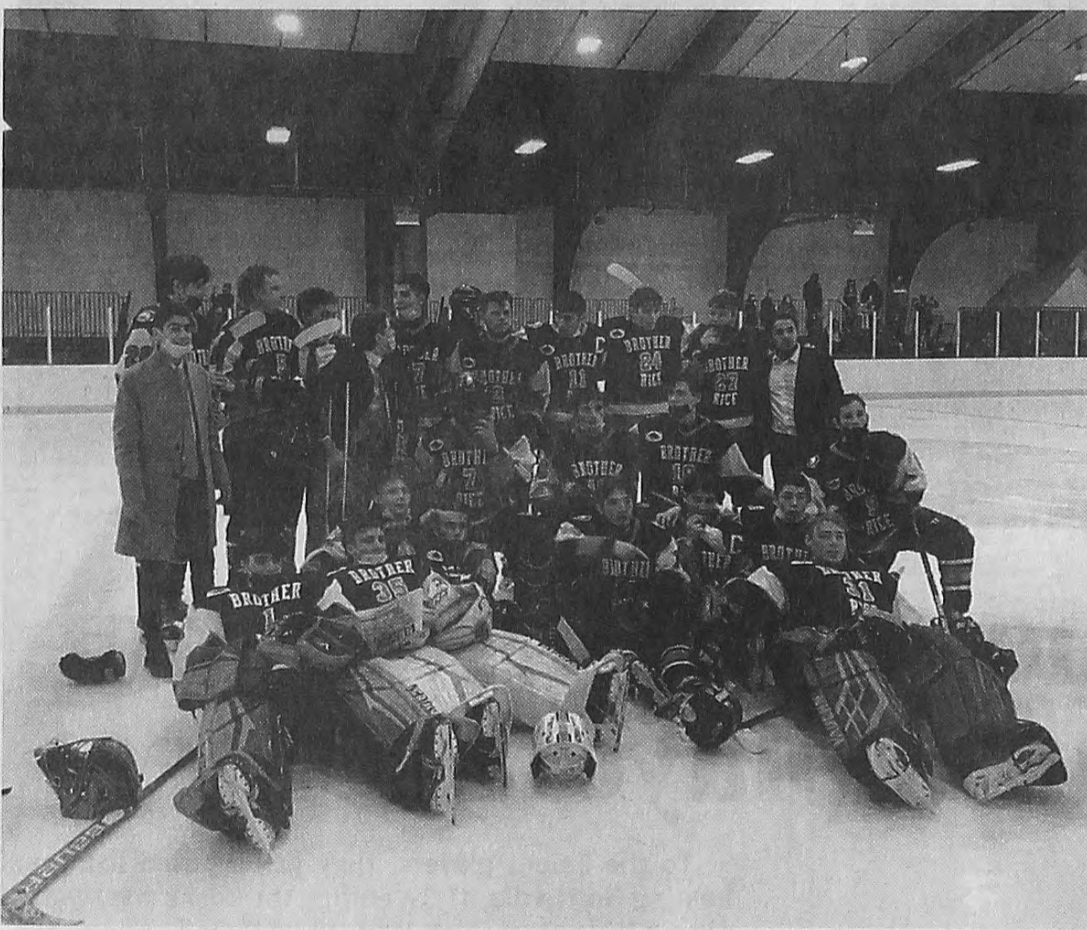
As his team celebrated its regional title, Chaput walked off the ice, already focused on the next matchup. To him, the regional title is the halfway point: his team won its first three postseason games, and now has to win its next three.

This season, playing three games in a week is nothing new, being forced to condense the full regular season into six weeks.

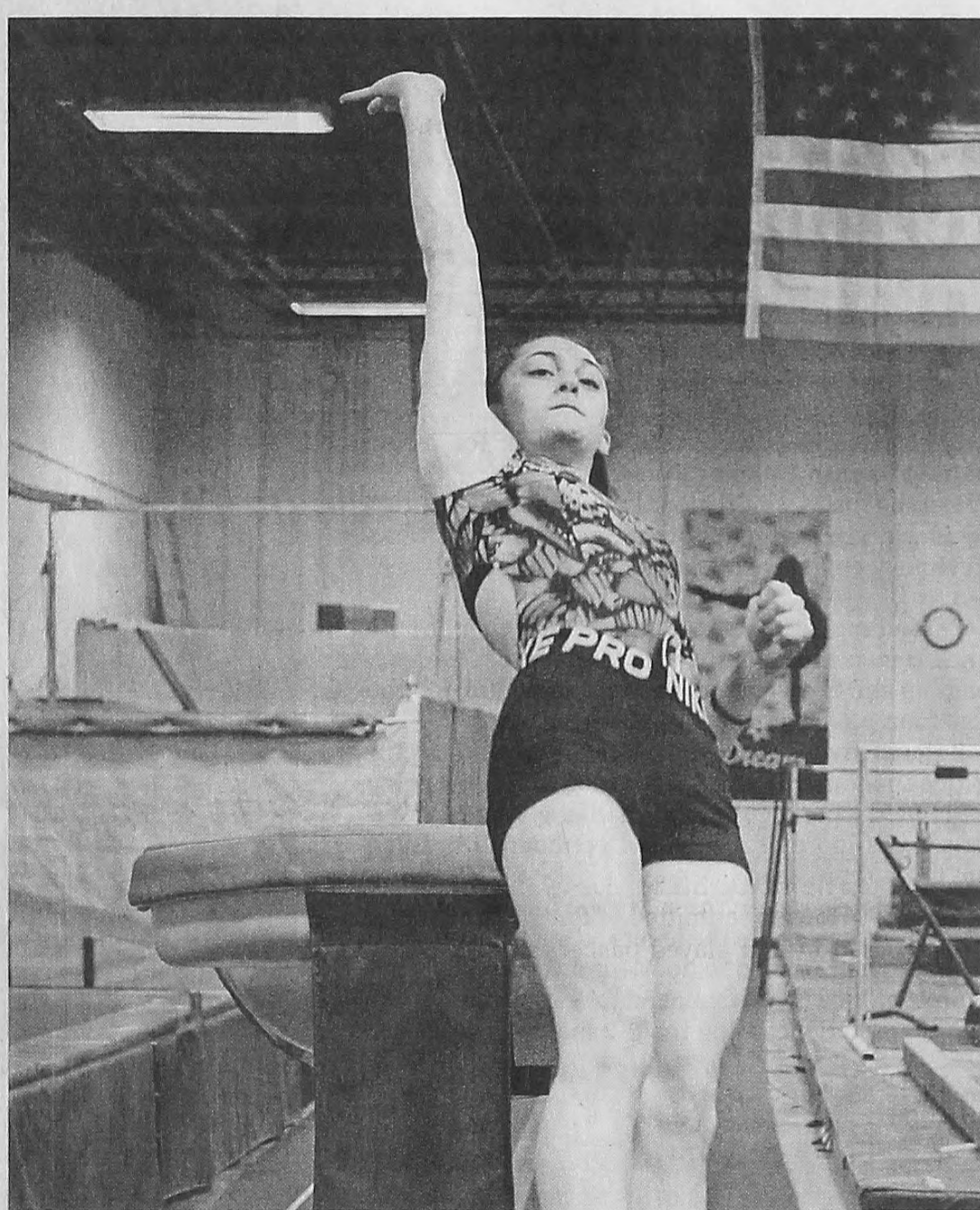
But he knows the quality of teams Brother Rice will play next week. Next week, the Warriors may not be able to come back from a 3-1 deficit.

"We better be ready, and we better be better than we were in the first today, that's for sure," Chaput said.

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The Brother Rice hockey team won its seventh consecutive regional title with an 11-3 win against Bloomfield Hills. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Farmington High gymnast Sydney Schultz comes off the vault during a practice. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Gymnastics

Continued from Page 1B

which could mean closer meets for his team in the near future.

"I think it is going to be a very close state meet this year as all 13 teams scored in the 140's at the regional meet. That makes it really exciting," Dwyer said. "I love when it is close, when anyone has a chance of winning."

The MHSAA 2021 gymnastics team state finals will be held March 26 with the individual state finals March 27. Both competitions will be held at Rockford High School.

Here's how Farmington United did:

All-around
 Sydney Schultz — first place, 36.7
 Kamini Playle — third place, 36.525
 Allie Shultz — fourth place, 34.9
 Grace Spencer — sixth place, 33.625

Vault

Sydney Schultz — first place, 9.5
 Allie Schultz — third place, 9.0
 Zoe Rasico — sixth place, 8.85
 Kristen Fleming — eighth place, 8.75

Bars

Sydney Schultz — first place, 8.975
 Allie Schultz — second place, 8.375
 Kamini Playle and Zoe Rasico — tied for fifth place, 8.2

Grace Spencer — seventh place, 8.075

Beam

Kamini Playle, second place, 9.175
 Sydney Schultz, sixth place, 9.0
 Zoe Rasico, seventh place, 8.9

Floor

Sydney Schultz — second place, 9.225

Allie Schultz — third place, 9.2
 Kamini Playle — seventh place, 8.9

Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Testing

Continued from Page 1B

accounting for many schools' spring break schedules.

In the update by MDHHS, guidelines require athletes in unmasked competition must be tested up to three times weekly and that testing is recommended before any inter-team competition — when players are in close contact with players outside of the local community.

Unmasked practice or competition may only occur after a negative antigen test in the 24 hours leading up to the event or a negative RT-PCR test within 72 hours of the unmasked practice or game.

According to MDHHS, athletes who

have recovered from a confirmed COVID-19 case in the past three months and remain asymptomatic may participate without testing if they provide a letter from their doctor confirming this information.

As of March 11, local health departments in the state reported 162 new and ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks at K-12 schools along with 135 confirmed outbreaks among minors associated with school and club athletics.

According to MDHHS, COVID-19 has risen 105% in the past four weeks among the 10-19 age range in the state.

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Churchill was provided seven boxes of the rapid COVID-19 antigen testing, each containing 40 tests. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Plymouth Christian girls basketball team celebrates its first league title in school history. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL COSTELLO



The Plymouth Christian boys basketball team celebrates its league title.

PCA basketball teams win MIAC Blue titles

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Both Plymouth Christian academy basketball teams had a goal in mind ahead of the start of the 2021 season: to win the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue.

When the regular season ended, both of the Eagles' basketball teams made

history.

The boys team finished its regular season 8-1 in conference play, winning its first conference title since 2000, while the girls team finished 8-1, earning the tiebreaker over Lutheran Northwest for its first title in school history.

Led by junior Anna Fernandez, sophomore Morganne Houk and Ariela Boboc — the lone senior on the roster — the Plymouth Christian girls basketball team won

10 of its 13 game during the regular season, winning six of its last seven games.

The Eagles defense allowed an average of 36 points per game this season, allowing more than 50 points in a win only once this season while limiting opponents to under 10 points twice.

After losing four of its first five games of the 2021 season, the Plymouth boys basketball team exploded, winning 10 of its final 11 matchups, which was only stopped

by a one-point loss to Plymouth.

The Eagles are led by Nathan Etnyre, Nathan Sutrick and Chibikem Anwunah and are hoping to earn its fifth-straight district title, and its first regional title in school history.

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.

Novi opens playoffs with win against Plymouth

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi head basketball coach Chris Housey watched as Plymouth exploded out of the gate, punching his team in the mouth to start the game with a 13-5 lead in the first playoff game of the 2021 season.

In his three years with Novi, Housey learned that each game against Plymouth would be a dogfight, relaying that message to his team before the first-round game, the first playoff game for many on his roster.

"You can tell we were a little tense to begin with," Housey admitted. "But once we settled in and played basketball, we were fine."

Novi (4-1) used a 23-9 first-half run to earn its first playoff win since the 2017-18 season, beating Plymouth (3-13) on its home court, 56-48.

In the third quarter, the pendulum swung back toward Plymouth,

Starting with a 3-point play after a layup by junior point guard Jason Stewart, the Wildcats began to chip away at Novi's lead, regaining the lead nearly three minutes later after another 3-point play by Preston after a foul off a layup.

But after a back-and-forth end to the



The Novi boys basketball team celebrates its first playoff win since the 2017-18 season. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

third quarter led to it being tied at 41, Novi swung the momentum back in its favor, starting the quarter on an 8-0 run and limiting Plymouth to seven points in the final eight minutes for the victory.

Novi was led by sophomore guard Te'John McGowan, who led the team with 14 points, while senior Bryce Lubin added 13.

"It says we got fight," McGowan re-

sponded when asked what this win says about this team. "We had a rough start, got better towards the end. Just kept fighting. Coach said 'Just keep fighting,' throughout the season. It (was) going to get better."

Watching one of his players get his tooth knocked in and Stewart, in the fourth quarter, separate his shoulder, Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup

knew his team gave everything it had. He said Novi adjusted to Plymouth's early pressure, crediting McGowan for taking advantage of easy tries at the rim.

But looking back on the season, a season in which he had only one returning varsity player that had any sort of experience, Soukup was satisfied with where his team ended up.

"We've had bright spots in terms of personal player development even if we didn't have great team success this year," Soukup said. "I was proud of them. They gave everything they could tonight."

Stewart led Plymouth with 14 points.

Housey and his Novi team have had a rough go of it too.

The Wildcats finished the regular season, 3-11, winning only one of their first 12 games before putting together a three-game win streak extending into the playoffs.

"We've lost some close ones, we've lost some not-so-close ones. I just told our guys right now that we learned," Housey said. "They learned what it takes and learned from their mistakes, and now they know, in close games, we're able to pull them out."

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.

Joe Pesci steps down as South Lyon East's football coach

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon East announced Monday that head football coach Joe Pesci will step away from the team after six seasons in the position.

After coaching the team to a 6-30 record in his first four seasons as head coach, Pesci led the Cougars to two playoff appearances in the last three seasons, finishing the 2020 campaign with a 5-3 record — the best in school history — and a third-place finish in the Lakes Valley Conference.

Pesci also served as the football commissioner for the LVC, along with being selected as Regional Coach of the Year for this past season.

"The last six seasons at South Lyon East have offered me the most rewarding coaching experiences of my life," Pesci said in a statement. "There are so many achievements to speak of from playoff victories, to beating South Lyon for the first time, to the creation of Be EAST..."

"I will take great pride in these accomplishments forever and I will always remember that it was the entire South Lyon East football community that made them possible.

"For 23 seasons I have been on a sideline coaching football. As my kids enter a new phase of their lives, I have seen my responsibilities as a father continue to grow and my presence in their lives become more important to them and to me. The opportunity to coach football

will always be there, but we are only given one opportunity to raise a family and that time is short. As a result, I have made the very tough choice to step down from the position of head football coach.

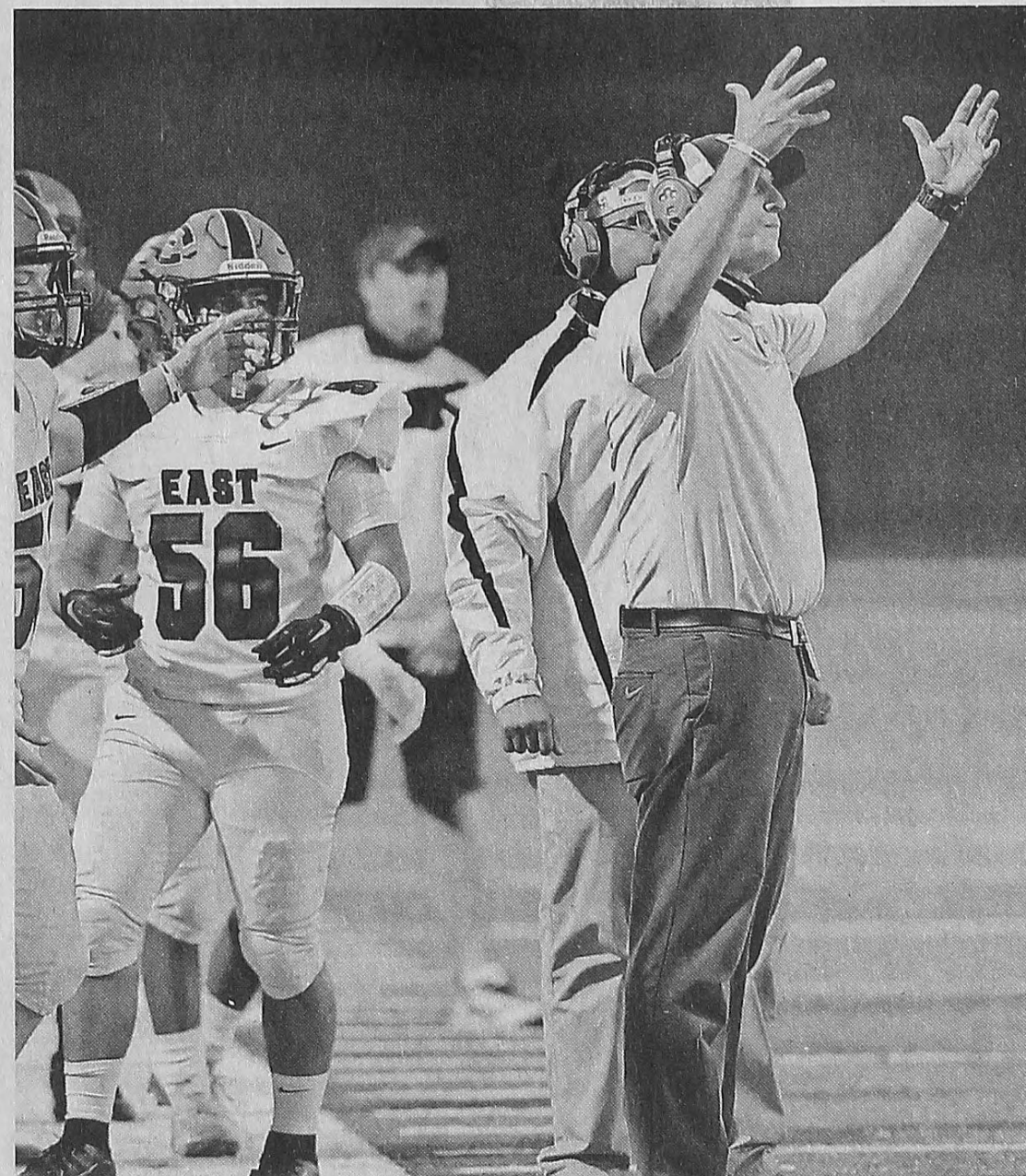
"I will always be grateful for the relationships that this position has allowed me to build with the players and their families. Thank you to the players for the opportunity to be a part of your high school football experience. Thank you to the parents who have supported the coaching staff over the last six years. So much of the program's success is the result of your support. Lastly, thank you to a dedicated football staff. They are the heart and soul of the program and I will always value their loyalty and friendship."

The South Lyon East athletic department will immediately begin its search for its next head football coach, following the South Lyon Community Schools hiring process and scheduling interviews after spring break.

Offseason conditioning and workouts will continue to be led by assistant coaches Chad Stuckey and Jason Wagner.

Kyle Docken and Ed Donovan will remain head coaches of the junior varsity and freshman football teams, respectively.

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.



South Lyon East head coach Joe Pesci reacts to learning that a Lakeland runner, though fumbling the ball as they entered the endzone, was awarded a touchdown during a game. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

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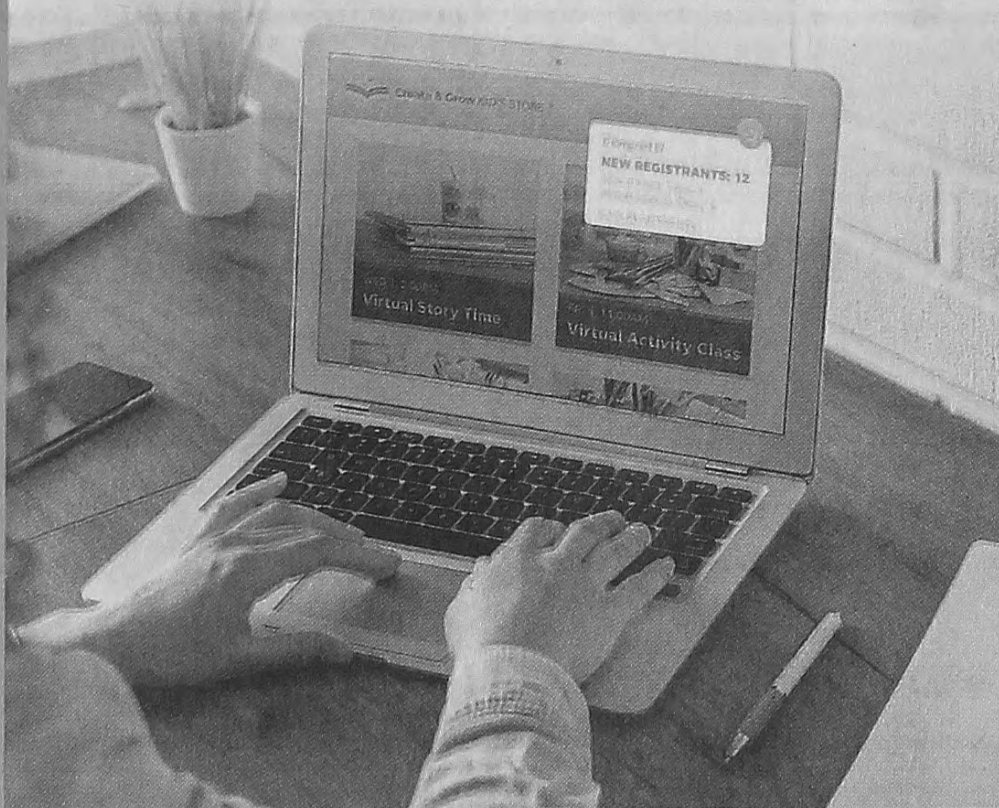
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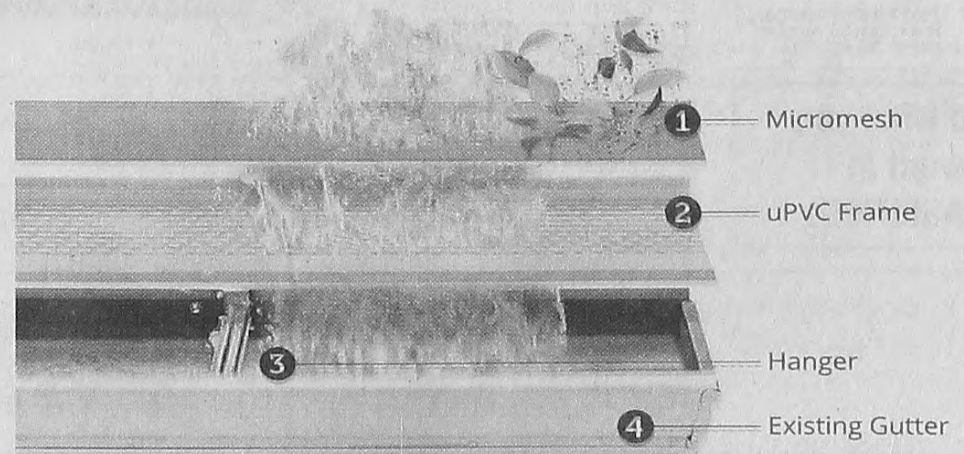
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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Past artifact</p> <p>6 Steal the scene from</p> <p>13 "Chicago P.D." or "Law & Order"</p> <p>20 Kagan of justice</p> <p>21 Indigenes</p> <p>22 Euphoric</p> <p>23 Change in the side of a military formation</p> <p>25 Gates of philanthropy</p> <p>26 Karate instructor</p> <p>27 Female bleater</p> <p>28 Not docked</p> <p>30 Perfect site</p> <p>31 Court throw</p> <p>33 Really funny</p> <p>36 Talk up</p> <p>40 Get tangled</p> <p>42 Paid to get a hand</p> <p>43 Body that voted for the trial resulting in Charles I's execution</p> <p>46 "Baloney!"</p> <p>50 Creative flashes</p> <p>51 Rain forest, for one</p> | <p>52 Sunset's direction, in French</p> <p>55 Tokyo sash</p> <p>56 TV's "Warrior Princess"</p> <p>57 With 77-Across, has a connection with</p> <p>58 "Ad — per aspera"</p> <p>59 Resting atop</p> <p>60 Twilight</p> <p>64 Liaison</p> <p>68 Excited, with "up"</p> <p>69 Wipes away</p> <p>70 Single bullet, say</p> <p>77 See</p> <p>57-Across</p> <p>78 Dress up</p> <p>79 Sign gas</p> <p>80 Last letters</p> <p>84 Big bother</p> <p>85 "Help!" co-star</p> <p>86 Encountered</p> <p>88 Gnat's kin</p> <p>89 Oahu porch</p> <p>91 Vision test</p> <p>94 Bow of film</p> <p>97 Wine vat sediment</p> <p>98 Most snooping</p> | <p>99 "Walker, Texas Ranger" star</p> <p>103 Ernie's buddy</p> <p>104 Dialogue bit</p> <p>105 — facto</p> <p>106 Toothpaste tube inits.</p> <p>108 Louise's film partner</p> <p>113 Fatty</p> <p>115 Old ad question</p> <p>120 Russia and Turkey's place</p> <p>121 Good odor</p> <p>122 Own</p> <p>123 Distributing</p> <p>124 Benefactor</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 NFL officials</p> <p>2 Fanning of "Maleficent"</p> <p>3 Have a slant</p> <p>4 Quaint hotels</p> <p>5 Dessert items on sticks</p> <p>6 Colorful card game</p> <p>7 Covers with blacktop</p> <p>8 Hearty dish</p> <p>9 Noon, e.g.</p> | <p>10 "Hail, Cato!"</p> <p>11 High mil. rank</p> <p>12 Founded, on city signs</p> <p>13 "Enter"</p> <p>14 Like many short plays</p> <p>15 Buddy</p> <p>16 Safeguards</p> <p>17 Language of India</p> <p>18 Limerick writer Nash</p> <p>19 Strike heavily and loudly</p> <p>24 Mazda roadster</p> <p>29 Ordinance</p> <p>32 Belgrade's land</p> <p>33 Vatican City surrounder</p> <p>34 Suffix with Wyoming</p> <p>35 Retained</p> <p>36 Grand — (race event)</p> <p>37 Uncouth</p> <p>38 Premonition</p> <p>39 Film-rating gp.</p> <p>40 Mall stall</p> <p>41 Home to Hanoi, briefly</p> <p>44 Mortgage claim</p> <p>45 Quick bite</p> <p>47 Kachina doll carvers</p> <p>48 Dry as —</p> <p>49 Birds flap them</p> <p>53 Prior to, to bards</p> <p>54 Get for less</p> <p>57 ENT part</p> <p>58 Abbr. at the top of a 111-Down</p> <p>59 Actress O'Connor or Merkel</p> <p>60 Comic Caesar</p> <p>61 "Jeepers!"</p> <p>62 Pot-au- (French dish)</p> <p>63 Suffix with 93-Down</p> <p>64 Popular typeface</p> <p>65 Actress Jane</p> <p>66 Portable bed</p> <p>67 Year, in Rio de Janeiro</p> <p>71 — diavolo (pasta sauce)</p> <p>72 Unpaid debts</p> <p>73 Steenburgen of "Ink"</p> <p>74 Peruvians of old</p> <p>75 Crawl (with)</p> <p>76 Chemical "I"</p> <p>80 Tubular pasta</p> <p>81 Actress Falco</p> <p>82 "I" problems</p> <p>83 Email status</p> <p>85 Lustrous fabric</p> <p>86 Service costs</p> <p>87 Wood splitter</p> <p>88 Editorial page feature</p> <p>90 Consents to</p> <p>92 Film director Roth</p> <p>93 Missouri-to-Iowa direction</p> <p>95 Licorice-like seeds</p> <p>96 People using lassos</p> <p>99 Bracelet part</p> <p>100 Baseball's — Nomo</p> <p>101 Army squads</p> <p>102 Used oars</p> <p>103 Sink part</p> <p>106 — Sea (shrinking Asian lake)</p> <p>107 Amaz of 1950s TV</p> <p>109 Long Spanish river</p> <p>110 Spinks of boxing</p> <p>111 Office note</p> <p>112 Not nearby</p> <p>114 Bullfight cry</p> <p>116 — and cry</p> <p>117 Noted period</p> <p>118 Present label</p> |
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SUDOKU

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

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!

WHAT TO BE

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.

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

ANSWER KEY

- ACCOUNTANT
- ACTOR
- ARCHITECT
- ARTIST
- AUTHOR
- BODYGUARD
- BOUNCER
- BOXER
- BUILDER
- CARPENTER
- CHEF
- CLOWN
- COMEDIAN
- DANCER
- DESIGNER
- DOCTOR
- DRUMMER
- FARMER
- FLORIST
- GARDENER
- JOB
- JOURNALIST
- JUDGE
- LAWYER
- MAGICIAN
- MUSICIAN
- NURSE
- PAINTER
- PHOTOGRAPHER
- PILOT
- PLAYWRIGHT
- POET
- PROGRAMMER
- SAILOR
- SINGER
- SOLDIER
- SURGEON
- TAILOR
- TRAIN DRIVER
- VET
- VICAR
- WAGES
- WAITER
- WELDER

WHAT TO BE

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

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

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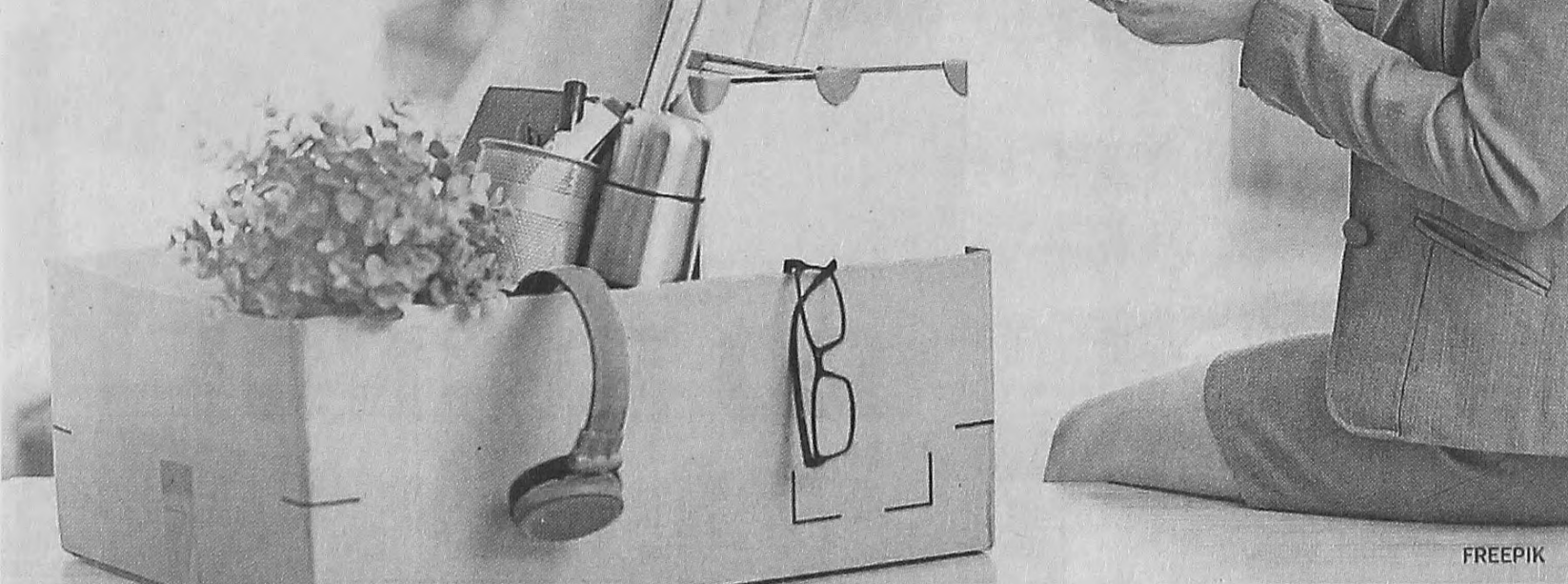
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What to do first if you're LAID OFF



if the number of people exiting meets a certain threshold. Even if severance isn't required, it never hurts to ask, especially if the employer asks you to sign something saying you won't sue. If you aren't planning on taking legal action, ask for compensation before you sign.

- **Send a tasteful goodbye message:** If you still have access to your company email, send a message to your colleagues. It can be simple, letting them know that it is your last day and that you enjoyed working with them. Also mention the type of work you'll be looking for in case they can make an introduction. Include your personal contact information and connect with them on social media so they are able to reach out after you leave.

- **Apply for unemployment:** It can take a while to get registered in your state's unemployment system and even longer to receive your first payment. There is no shame in collecting unemployment. In fact, a part of every paycheck you received while you were working was withheld and went toward it. Unemployment insurance was created for people who are laid off, so visit dol.gov/general/topic/unemployment-insurance for details on how to apply in your state.

- **Post about it on social media:** If you are laid off, there can be benefits to sharing the news right away, and putting it in a positive light. Update your status on LinkedIn and let your followers know you are looking for new opportunities. The news will invite your network to comment and share it, and spreads the word to keep you in mind for new opportunities.

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If you are laid off, furloughed or fired, you're not alone. It happened to more than 35 million people last year, and the tough truth is that there's no real way to protect yourself from it.

Going through this can be difficult, so we've put together a checklist of things you can do as soon as you get the bad news to set yourself up for success:

- **Get paid for outstanding time:** No matter the circumstances surrounding your exit, make sure to

confirm with the human resources department that you will be reimbursed for any accrued vacation days you have not used. In many states, employers are required to. Also see if you can be paid out for unused sick days and overtime work.

- **Request information on COBRA and rolling over your 401(k):** In your conversations with HR, ask them to fill out the paperwork to make you eligible for health insurance coverage via the government's Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act. This provides

you with an option to maintain your current health insurance for some time, despite no longer being with your employer. You are entitled to it, but your employer must take the proper steps. Additionally, request information on rolling over your 401(k). That money belongs to you, and you should move it to an investment account that you control.

- **Ask about severance pay:** Severance could include months-worth of salary and health benefits. It may even be a requirement that your employer pay it in your state

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Holly - Call Teresa at 248-707-0269
Oxford - Call Carrie at 248-444-8959
Or email us at atcioffice@sbcglobal.net

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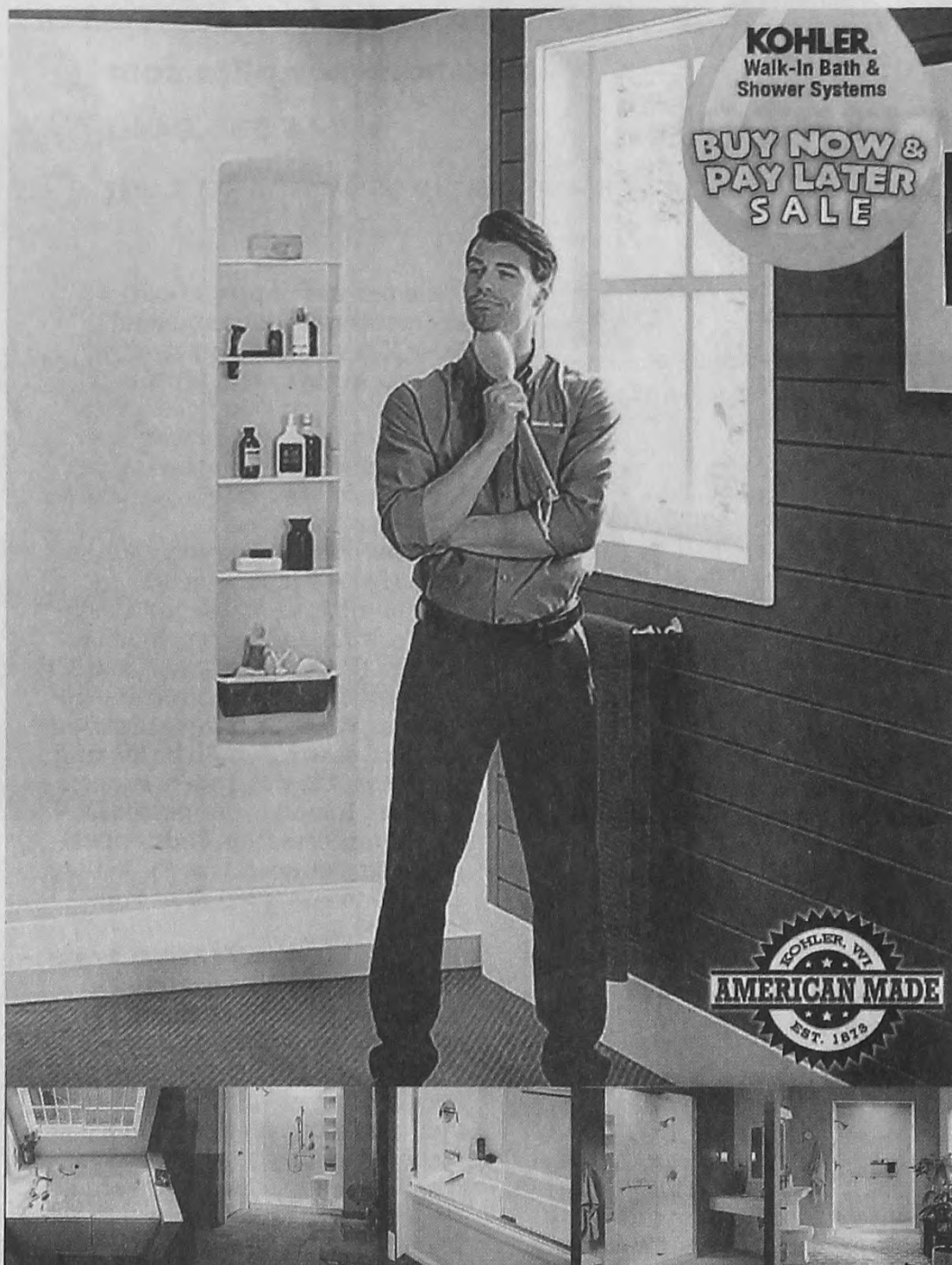
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Wireless Transmission of Sound - The ability for hearing aids to receive sound sent wirelessly from the television, stereo and computer is now a reality. Hearing aid patients no longer need awkward necktie-style devices to receive wireless audio signals. 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.

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