



Wayne Memorial girls hoops team advances to regional final

SPORTS, 2B

CANTON

OBSERVER

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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SPRING BREAK AND THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Schools urge travelers to get tested

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

While Michigan's COVID-19 case rate remains one of the worst in the country, state officials are hoping spring break doesn't become another hurdle for in-person instruction.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is hosting free cor-

onavirus testing at local schools. Districts are encouraging families, especially those who travel for spring break, to get tested before coming back to school. So far, 38 districts have offered to host a testing site.

"What we're really trying to do here is protect our school communities," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, a senior public health physician for MDHHS. "We've

worked really hard to keep schools open.

"We want to make sure we're not introducing a bunch of cases of COVID-19 after people travel."

- Several local sites are available:
- Livonia Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile: 12-7 p.m. April 3.
 - Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 4.

• Wayne RESA, 33500 Van Born: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 5.
Andrea Oquist, superintendent of Livonia Public Schools, said she hopes the community will take advantage of the testing site at Stevenson High School. Stevenson recently closed for several days due to an uptick in COVID-19 cases.

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 2A



Jameson Rabaut, at left on bulldozer, helps to bring to the ground a late veteran's garage in Livonia on March 24.
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Volunteers demolish garage for Livonia veteran's family

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

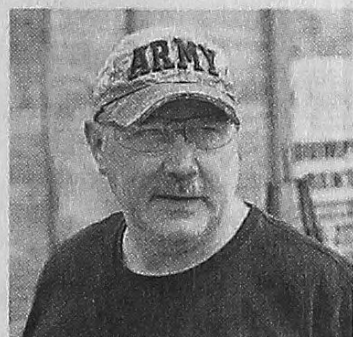
Never underestimate the power of kindness.

That's what Kim Koester learned after being on the receiving end of donated work from several area businesses and community groups.

The Livonia resident's home in the Castle Gardens neighborhood recently became a demolition site, with volunteers showing up to remove a condemned garage well past the point of repairs. The project became a focal point for local businessman Tom Holman, a veteran who steps in to help other veterans and their families with projects a few times a year.

"Veterans have a hard time changing from military to civilian life. And in the military, we've got that camaraderie, we've got that brotherhood," said Holman, who owns Livonia-based Pro Home Repairs. "A lot of us try to keep that brotherhood going after the fact. So there's a lot of veterans in need that can't get help for things like this."

See **VOLUNTEERS**, Page 2A



Holman



The crew set aside metal and pipes for recycling.



Volunteers work to sort the remains of the garage in Livonia on March 24.

Canton PD gets approval for embedded social worker

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Canton Police Department is one of the latest Wayne County law enforcement agencies to add an embedded social worker for runs when police find mental health issues are the underlying problem.

Trustees at their March 23 session approved a one-year pilot program that will cost about \$83,000.

"I'm so glad that we're going to address this and take these steps forward," Trustee Steven Sneiderman said to Police Chief Chad Baugh during the online meeting. "We're a forward-thinking community and you have a forward-thinking department."

Baugh has been exploring the potential for such a program for more than two years, he said, and hopes to get it going by June. He plans to update trustees on successes and challenges as it gets underway.

At the end of the pilot year, he'll either recommend changes, termination or contract renewal.

A contract with Hegira Health Inc., one of three vendors considered for the program, still must be finalized. The Livonia-based company has been around for about 40 years and is considered one of Wayne County's main providers of crisis services.

Hegira Health recently was approved to start a similar partnership with Livonia Police. It already does mobile crisis co-response with Wayne, Westland, Plymouth, and Northville Township, according to Jaime White, Hegira Health's clinical development director.

"The social worker would be a good resource for the entire township, especially as we're trying to rebound from this last year," Baugh said. "There's going to be a lot of side effects."

Hoarding, substance abuse and family crises were among the incidents Baugh listed in which police might alert Hegira that mental health issues could be the cause of a 911 call.

"We do very well with crisis," he said. "We can mitigate the crisis from Day One. It's right afterwards - what happens?"

For its partnership with Canton, Hegira is planning to provide a clinician trained in trauma-informed care, suicide prevention and crisis response who will conduct follow-up care and make sure they connect with various

See **APPROVAL**, Page 2A



K-5 sports key to keeping students, Wayne-Westland school officials say

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

About 3,000 kids live in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools district who don't attend a district school.

At \$8,111 in annual state funding per student, that works out to \$24.33 million the district is missing out on.

Wayne-Westland school officials hope to get at least some of that funding back through retaining and attracting students. After all, money means teachers, textbooks and classroom technology.

One of the ways the district is looking to attract and retain students is the addition of basketball, flag football and cheer for K-5 students and flag football for sixth- through eighth-grade students.

"We're going to use the athletic platform to keep funding here, which is going to have an impact on the academic piece," said Scott Tocco, the district's assistant superintendent of administrative services. "We could provide technology in classrooms that we may be wouldn't have been able to."

Keeping students and parents involved after school will, administrators

hope, also help create a culture people want to be part of.

"If kids are engaged after school ... they're more likely to show up," Maria Mitter, the district's supervisor of family and community engagement, said. "If they're showing up, their academics will likely be improved and they'll have a sense of school pride. It's huge."

Bringing NFL Flag teams to town

The district's first step toward building an athletic program for younger students is through a partnership with NFL Flag, a flag football program for ages 5-17. NFL Flag approached the district wanting to use Wayne-Westland's football facilities. So, administrators struck a deal.

Elementary- and middle-school students in the district may play free of charge through their schools. The first teams in the middle school program will start playing at the high school stadiums in April, and an elementary program should start in the fall.

Mitter said schools in Livonia, Canton, Belleville and Detroit all have Wayne-Westland kids on their football rosters, so the district hopes offering the



Wayne-Westland school officials plan to use football, basketball and cheer to keep kids engaged after school.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

sport early will keep kids in Wayne-Westland schools. With a pipeline starting in kindergarten, administrators also expect the program will make the district's high school teams more competitive in the future.

"It'll change the culture of our buildings," Mitter said. "I mean, people from years ago who went to Wayne are very proud to be a Zebra, and people from John Glenn are very proud to be a Rocket. I don't know if kids are proud to be Zebras and Rockets right now, so we want to build that culture."

Looking to art, band

In the future, Tocco said he also hopes to increase art-focused programs, like band and theater, for young students.

"We didn't set out to focus on football," he said. "It just happened that we wanted to bring something for kids into the K-5 space, and that was something that wasn't available to them."

"I believe band and fine arts will be just as important to this as sports to recruit and retain kids."

Mitter agreed, saying sports is just the beginning. At the end of the day, the district is interested in giving students, parents and staff a feeling of ownership. Whether that comes from being on the basketball team or being in band doesn't matter.

"This is one way to do it, but it's not the answer to it all," Mitter said. "We know we need to move into fine arts and performing arts as well as other areas that will retain and attract students. But, sports is a easy, low-hanging fruit that we can hit right away. It's a jumping off point to really change things."

Contact reporter **Shelby Tankersley** at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

Schools

Continued from Page 1A

"We are committed to doing all that we can to prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19," Oquist said. "This proactive step is one we hope many families will take, so we can be sure students returning to school are healthy, allowing us to vastly limit the number of close-contact quarantines."

"Our collective hope is that we remain on track and in-person for learning, activities and athletics."

While Bagdasarian said MDHHS recommends people refrain from traveling at all, she said those who do should do it safely and take advantage of testing. She said young people are among those most affected in recent COVID-19 case counts, and that could flow into schools.

"The greatest increase is happening in individuals between the ages of 10 and 19," Bagdasarian said. "So, that's concerning. These are kids who may be in in-person learning environments."

For the most part, in-person instruction has proven safe, and officials would like to see it stay that way.

"Schools and the classroom are relatively safe environments," Bagdasarian said. "Those are environments where people are following the rules: wearing masks, social distancing, washing their hands. Even with extracurricular activities where people are on the field or on the court, those tend to be places where there's a lot of supervision and people are following the rules."

"Where transmission seems to be occurring the most is outside those well-regulated areas."

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



Kim Koester looks over photos of her late father, Robert Koester, from his time in the Army. She put the photos out to share with volunteers as they worked to demolish the garage at Robert's home in Livonia. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Volunteers

Continued from Page 1A

Holman's other volunteer projects included a complete remodel of a bathroom for a Hazel Park veteran last year. It's a way of giving back a few times a year, he said.

"I can't afford to do it all day, every day, but I try to do it as much as I can," he said.

Volunteers showed up to Kim Koester's home March 17 with a backhoe to knock down the garage and a large trailer for hauling away debris. Volunteers spent the better part of the day removing debris from the site.

Koester's story came to Holman from Livonia city inspectors. The home was originally owned by her late father, Robert Koester, a Korean War Army veteran. He worked as a plumber after his time in the service, Kim Koester said, laying pipe across several area communities, including Livonia.

It's been a challenging few years for Koester: in addition to losing her father, she's had health challenges that kept her from moving forward with re-

moving the garage. That's when she heard about Holman.

"(A building inspector) connected me with Tom and ... apparently once or twice a year (Tom) does these pro bono projects," she said. "I just didn't have the money to get that garage down."

Much of the garage had become unusable, and many remnants of Robert Koester's life remained inside, including plumbing tools and equipment, as well as vintage license plates.

The space has been a point of contention for Kim Koester for years. Seeing it come down, she said, was a relief given what could happen to her or her neighbors if it were to come down on its own.

"It's been dangerous," she said. "It was roped off across the front and we've just been worried about it falling on the fence, falling on the dogs. ... It's just been scary because you see the roof was caving in."

Holman didn't come alone to the home. A group of volunteers from various organizations and businesses showed up to help with the efforts.

One volunteer was Jeff McAdams with American Legion Post 396 in Garden City, a member of the American Legion Riders at the Post.

"The families are just as important as the veterans themselves," the Garden City resident said. "Basically, that's what our organization is here for: we're here for our community first and our veterans. This is what we do, besides ride motorcycles."

The crew spent the day loading up the trailer with debris, preparing to haul it away and leave the site clean.

Various other groups and businesses donated to the project: Lowe's in Westland, Onsite Hauling in Livonia, Mancina Construction in Livonia and others. Many of the volunteers at the house were also veterans.

"I always get volunteers. They're the heart of this whole thing," Holman said.

Watching from the kitchen as crews tore down the garage, Koester said she couldn't help but think of all the service projects her father had done in the neighborhood throughout the decades.

She hoped the gesture was a fitting reminder of what it's like to help others.

"I think it reflects on my dad, because he would help out neighbors," she said. "I really appreciate it and I feel like they're paying back to the community. My dad did a lot for the community. I think the neighbors would say that."

Approval

Continued from Page 1A

treatments and services.

The focus is supposed to be crisis stabilization, not long-term treatment. Help could include navigating the public health system, accessing benefits information, contacting providers and assisting with transportation.

Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-

Hudak said in a statement that embedded social worker services should help build a stronger community and reduce non-criminal calls for service.

"Police officers respond to many calls in our community including the recent increase in domestic violence, suicide and mental health issues, among others," she said. "Approximately 15% of (Canton Township Police Department) calls for service are non-criminal related and social workers will be Canton's second responders, assist where need-

ed and also provide guidance to resources for our residents."

During the meeting, Trustee Sommer Foster wanted a sense of how Baugh would evaluate the pilot program.

"We'll look at all the metrics," Baugh said. "How many referrals there were (and in) what area were the referrals made. There may be shortcomings."

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Coding school opens in Canton

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Adeel Ajaz wants to help area children learn the ways to become a black belt.

But not in karate. Instead, the Canton Township resident hopes to teach youngsters some sleek skills in coding.

Ajaz is the franchise owner of the recently-opened Code Ninjas, a tutoring center designed to help children learn computer coding. Since opening in mid-March, plenty of students are giving the center a try, with many planning on staying around to learn the ways of JavaScript, Lua and C# languages.

The goal, he said, is to get students learning the skills they need and be confident in using them before they get older.

"We want to make sure they have the tools and technology that gets them interested at a young age," Ajaz said. "You want to cement this stuff at a young age so that they can have confidence in pursuing it in college and so forth."

The progression system at the center of the franchise mirrors similar systems used in actual martial arts, with new students beginning at white belt and working their way up to a black belt.

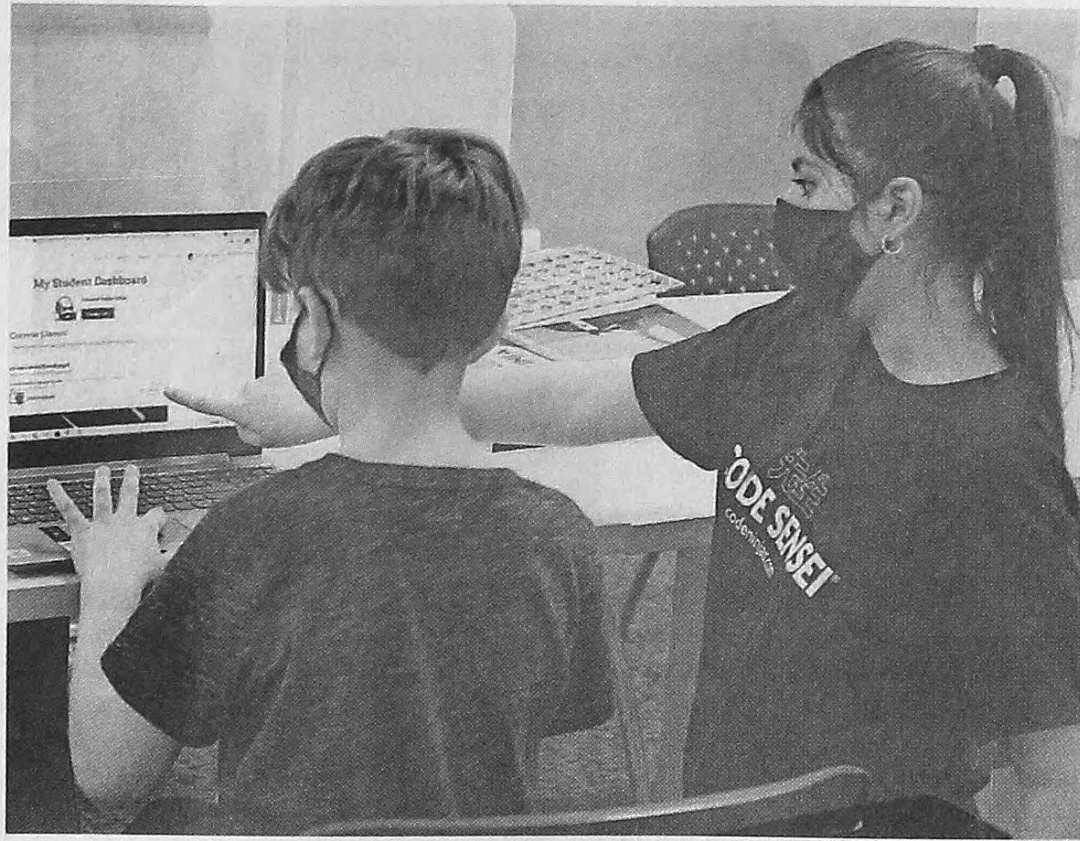
"You start with the white belt, you take a few of those courses. There's a challenge at the very end of that course," he said. "If you pass that challenge, then you've cemented all those concepts that you've learned and then you can go on to the yellow belt."

Ajaz has a background in real estate and technology, and said opening the center in Canton, a community he's called home for nearly 20 years, made plenty of sense when looking at other coding school offerings.

As Ajaz looked around, he saw there weren't many businesses like his in the area and he decided to plant roots close to home.

"This is my hometown. I really thought Canton was good to me," he said. "This place is very central to Ann Arbor, Plymouth, Novi, Brownstown, Taylor. It's a very central location."

The center, located at 6445 N. Canton Center between Ford Road and Warren, occupies the former Sports Nutrition



Code Ninjas "sensei" Zaynah Ateequi, right, works with a student March 23.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

and Vitamin Outlet shop.

Ajaz said the center has been a work in progress for more than a year: he expected to begin work on the space last March, though he was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic that led to the shuttering of construction.

Working with their landlord, Ajaz was able to make it through the year and eventually complete the construction needed to renovate the space to fit their needs.

Code Ninjas has many locations worldwide, and one other open in metro Detroit, located in Macomb Township. Ajaz said others are planned for the region, including in Royal Oak and Rochester Hills.

Students can typically begin classes at age 7, though Ajaz said there's some foundation being laid to bring in younger students as well.

Instruction typically comes after school during the week and on Saturdays in one- or two-hour sessions and instructed through "senseis," the teachers of the courses.

Due to COVID-19, Ajaz said Code Ninjas has implemented a scheduling sys-

tem to make sure that they have the appropriate number of students in at one time.

They also check temperatures at the door, have sneeze guards at work stations and clean on a regular basis.

He said he closely follows what happens at districts such as Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and mirrors what they're doing when it comes to restrictions in order to keep students, employees and parents safe.

"We just want to make sure parents are completely at ease and that they're seeing we're doing everything humanly possible to make sure everything is safe and clean," Ajaz said.

Code Ninjas hopes to have a grand opening event April 16 with local leadership. Those interested in signing up for classes or checking out Code Ninjas can visit for a free session. Learn more, including costs, by visiting the center's website at codeninjas.com/mi-canton.

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PCCS appoints new board member

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton Township resident LaRonda Chastang was appointed by the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education on March 24 to fill the vacancy on the board created by the March 5 resignation of trustee Leonardo Savage.

Chastang was one of 14 people interviewed by the board. Three interviewees advanced to a second round of interviews based on scores they received from board members.

Chastang is Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion for Livonia-based Trinity Health. She formerly served as Assistant Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Michigan Medicine in Ann Arbor.

Chastang has three children and three grandchildren. She earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree from the University of Michigan.

"I am both excited and honored about the opportunity to serve our community of learners," Chastang said. "Being selected from among a dynamic group of applicants is truly humbling, and I commit to work collaboratively alongside the other trustees and superintendent to advance the mission and vision of our district."

School Board President Patti McCoin praised Chastang's leadership experience and passion for equity.

"(Chastang) will provide the board with an important perspective as we continue to ensure that all students learn, prepare and thrive with PCCS," McCoin said.

Chastang will serve the remainder of Savage's term, which ends in December 2022.

Savage resigned due to health issues that prevented him from attending all but two board meetings from August 2020 until his resignation.

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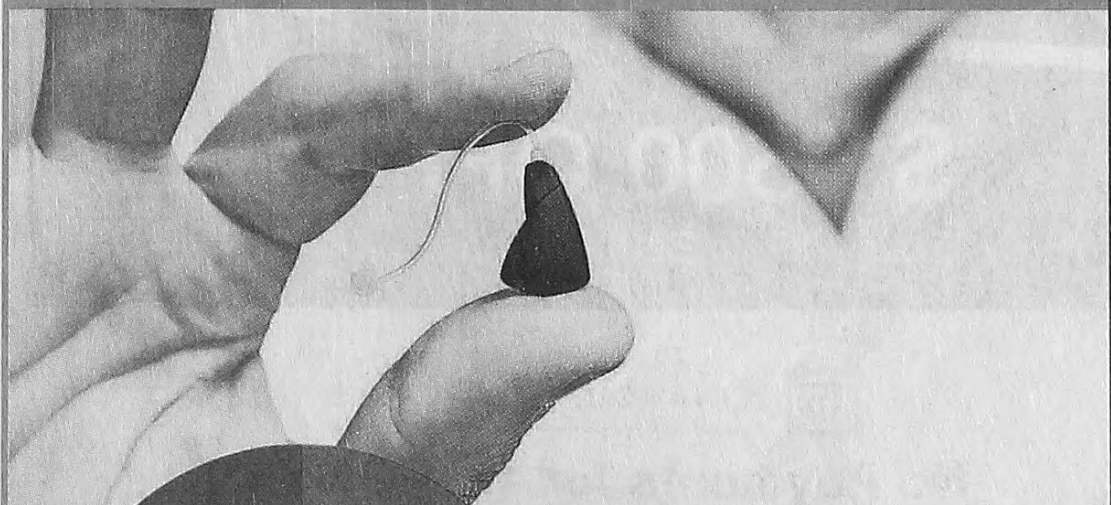
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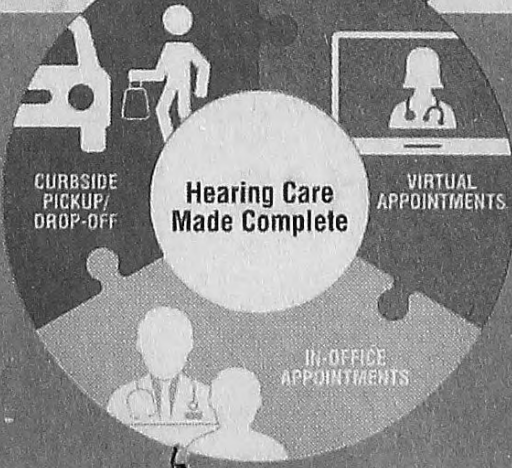
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Livonia Webster development gets green light

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia City Council in March unanimously approved a rezoning and a site plan petition for the former Webster Elementary property at 37855 Lyndon.

The developer, Leo Soave Building Company, proposed 32 single-family homes on the site. The property is surrounded by homes on all four sides. Initial buyers will be able to choose between ranch- and colonial-style options.

Livonia Public Schools sold the property in May 2020 to Novi-based Infinity Homes. Last year, the district also sold the sites of the former Wilson and Adams elementary schools. All three properties have been unused for years.

Though the lands have never been designated as parks, many who live near them use them as such and are disappointed to see them go.

"I think it's very important to have this space," said Michelle Nowak, a resident who takes her dog, Hans, for walks at the old Webster property twice a day.



A rendering of what one of Leo Soave's smaller homes would look like.
COURTESY OF LEO SOAVE BUILDING COMPANY

"You're just going to congest the area all that much more."

Nowak said having common gathering places in subdivisions is one of the things she really enjoys about Livonia. When the new homes are built, she

said there will be a loss for the dog owners, walkers and kids who frequent the field.

"Livonia has all these big open areas and it gives it a little bit of a country feel in a residential setting," Nowak said.



Livonia resident Michelle Nowak talks about how the development will change the former school's property.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"That's always been such a nice thing. It's more of a community thing."

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

Shake Shack location in Livonia moves closer to reality

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The proposed Shake Shack in Livonia appears to have support from the city council to move forward.

The council reviewed plans for the drive-thru restaurant proposed for the site of the former Romano's Macaroni Grill at 39300 W. Seven Mile during its virtual study meeting March 22. An approving resolution was put forth, which will be considered by the council at its next regular meeting in April.

Several council members spoke in support of the project, likening it to the recent approval of a Chick-fil-A, which will open later this year.

Councilman Jim Jolly said it was a testament to Livonia to attract such a highly sought-after business, especially for a drive-thru location for the New York-based restaurant chain.



A rendering of the proposed Shake Shack planned on the site of the former Romano's Macaroni Grill at Seven Mile and Haggerty in Livonia, as shown during the March 9 virtual planning commission meeting. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA

"I think this is exciting to have Livonia on the forefront of attracting that kind of new opportunity," he said.

In addition to the Shake Shack, a sec-

ond building would be erected on the eastern portion of the property for a financial institution, though a tenant for that space has not yet been determined.

More discussion was had surrounding the biggest issue the planning commission had with the project when it narrowly recommended approval several weeks ago: traffic.

Given the busy Haggerty corridor, several council members wanted to make sure those concerns were addressed.

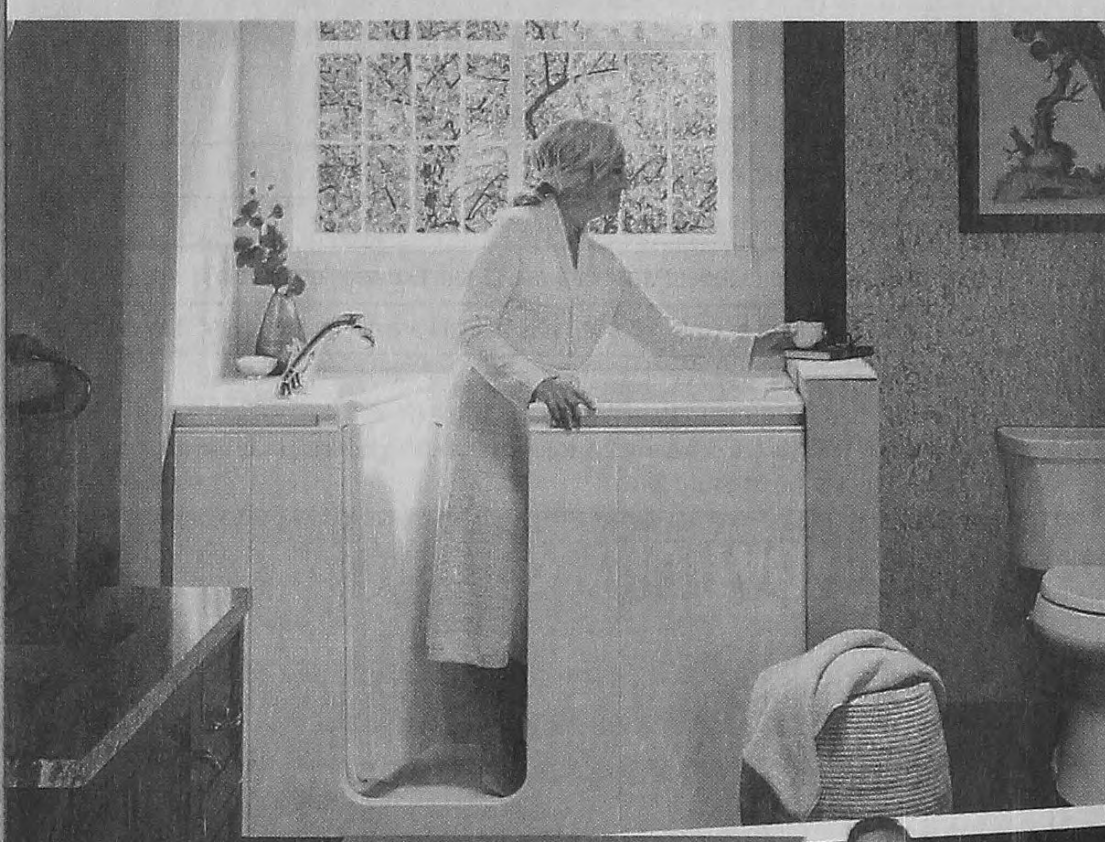
Council Vice President Scott Bahr said he was happy to see the business wants to move to Livonia, but said it would be difficult to remain in Livonia when leaving the restaurant, given certain restrictions on turning east and south out of the proposed redevelopment.

"We're all excited that this is in Livonia, but we're pushing everybody out of Livonia. Nobody can come back in," he said of the turn restrictions. "I just feel like these turn restrictions will cause more problems than what they solve."

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Smart ways to spend your 2020 tax refund



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

It's that time of year when many of you will receive your 2020 tax refund. Many people look at tax refunds as a bonus or as found money and spend their newfound money frivolously. There is absolutely nothing wrong with rewarding ourselves, especially this year.

However, I also encourage you to look at your tax refund as an opportunity to help get in better financial shape.

Last year, the average tax refund was nearly \$3,000. Although \$3,000 is not game-changing money, it is enough to make an impact on your financial affairs. This is an opportunity that you should take advantage of to better your financial situation.

Here are some ideas for your 2020 tax refund that could help with your overall finances.

If you have credit card debt, the best financial move you can make is paying down that debt. After all, with the average credit card interest rate in America at nearly 20 percent, coupled with the fact that the interest is not tax deductible, paying down credit card debt earns an after-tax return of 20 percent.

I can assure you no investment can guarantee you a higher rate of return. In addition to the rate of return, when you pay down debt you are also significantly improving your financial health, and we all know your financial health is key to your overall health.

If you do not have debt, a tax refund can go a long way in helping you build an emergency fund. I've always believed that we all ought to have money set aside to handle unexpected expenses such as a new furnace or car repairs. As opposed to going into debt for these items, it's nice to have an emergency fund you can tap into.

Typically, I tell individuals that they need three to six months of living expenses as an emergency fund. If you have not set up an emergency fund, us-

ing your tax refund is an excellent way to begin.

Another option for your tax refund is to invest the money. If you qualify, you can make a Roth IRA contribution and have that money grow tax free. I am a believer that you can never save too much for your future. If you don't qualify for a Roth IRA, investing the money outside an IRA is another opportunity to consider.

Another potential investment opportunity is to use the money to save for a child or grandchild's college education. Using a 529 Plan such as the Michigan Education Savings Plan allows you to invest money tax free for a loved one's education.

We all know how expensive college is, and anything you can save to help a loved one with their education will be greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, when it comes to tax refunds, too many people deposit it in their checking account and before too long the money disappears and they have no idea where it went.

I encourage you to be smarter with your tax refund and look for opportunities to better improve your financial situation.

Yes, spending money frivolously can have short-term benefits, but those benefits will be forgotten before you know it. On the other hand, if you do something smart with your tax refund, it will pay dividends for years to come.

Remember, if you are receiving a large tax refund, it may mean that you have too much money withheld from your paycheck. If that is the case, you may want to adjust your withholding so that your weekly paycheck will be a little higher and your refund a little lower.

A large refund means that you've given the government an interest-free loan. Giving the government an interest-free loan is not a good financial move.

Good luck.

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

Obituaries

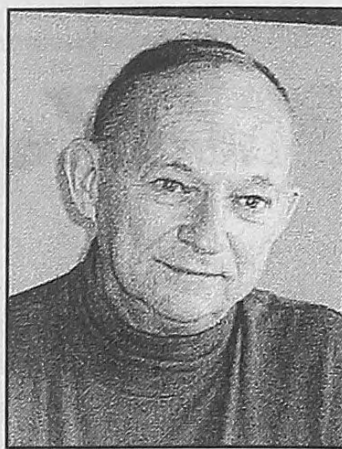
John T. Callan Jr.

John T. Callan Jr., 80, passed away March 19, 2021

Cherished husband of Mary. Devoted and proud father to Patrick, who preceded him in death, Deborah (Alan) Caldwell, Michael (Theresa) Callan, and Mary Jo (Katie Doyle) Callan, and second father to many others. Goofy Grandpa to Zachary, Aaron, Jake, Alexandra, and Emilia. Beloved brother of Mary Ann (Dave) Youngs, Thomas (Nancy Parenteau) Callan, Cathy (Eddie Boyle) Callan, Suzy (Art) Spencer, and the late Patrick Callan. Uncle Johnny to 12 nieces and nephews and 15 great-nieces and nephews.

Known for his quick and irreverent wit, John had a nickname and a warm welcome for nearly everyone he met (except most authority figures). He was generous of spirit, loved Notre Dame, and all things Irish. He was an incredibly kind and loving son, brother, father, friend, and husband, always there to provide joy, laughter, and comfort. John was a self-described "flunky electrician" who started working very young in order to support his siblings and parents, and he taught his kids the importance of working hard in service to others.

John was deeply loved and will be greatly missed. A mass in his honor will be held at St. Kenneth's Catholic Church in Plymouth on April 5th at 11:00 am, and family will be there beginning at 10:00 am to greet those wishing to express condolences. A celebratory memorial, in true Irish style, will be held later this spring when family and friends can gather outside. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Vincent de Paul Society, 3000 Gratiot Avenue, Detroit, MI 48207.



Ralph Edward Snyder

Ralph Edward Snyder was born October 21, 1935 in Detroit, Michigan to Virgil and Lydia Edna Snyder. He was the third of six children and the first boy in the family. He is survived by his sister Hazel Richardson and companion Mary Snyder, nieces and nephews and long time friends of Rex Hall and Ron Drinkert and his God children, David and Ronald Drinkert, and Debra Robillard. Ralph is the former owner of Ace Transformer Service Co. and former Vice-President of Transformer Service Co. of Detroit. He was brought up in the Lutheran faith and was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Detroit as well as St. John's Lutheran Church in Fowlerville. He was also a 42 year member of AA, a 65 year member of the I.B.E.W Local 17, as well as a member long time member of the Foresters. He was loved by all who met him and will be missed by all for his smile and good nature. He was a hard worker his entire life which started out as a paper boy when age 8 and continued throughout his life until 1997, when he retired from his job and selling his company. He was a friend to all neighboring kids and they would wait for him to get home from work and greet him as if he was their father. He always had candy and a few encouraging words for them and more than once would give them money for pop or ice cream at the store or tomatoes from his garden. He was very generous to all and will be missed by all who knew him. When ask what he wanted on his tombstone, he answered, just put "He was a hard worker" Visitation, Tuesday, March 30, from 10:00 a.m. until the service time at 1:00 p.m. at Herrmann Funeral Home, Fowlerville. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to Livingston County EMS, Habitat for Humanity in his honor. His many AA friends may want to remember him by a donation to their local district or AA meeting. Online condolences may be expressed at pjherrmannfuneralhome.com

Bruce C. Russell

NORTHVILLE - BRUCE C. RUSSELL of Northville, Michigan died on March 21, 2021, at the age of 63, after a long hard fight with renal cancer. Bruce passed away peacefully at home in his sleep. Never complaining while bravely accepting his fate, he was a model of courage to those around him.

Mr. Russell currently was an employee of HPI Products, Inc. and was the General Manager of AllPro Vector where he pursued a career in environmentally sound methods of mosquito control. He worked in product development of new products along with marketing and sales of existing product lines.

Bruce had a very natural tendency to leave any place or situation a little better and more joyful than when he arrived. He was known and loved for his simple and matter-of-fact approach to life. He drew people to him with his kind heart, his gentleness, his fun-loving attitude and his tolerance and acceptance of others. His retention of so many loyal friends dating back to elementary school is a testament to his consistent good nature.

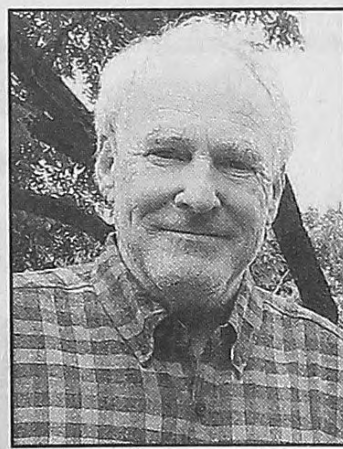
Survivors include wife Wilma (Smith) Russell, daughter Katie Russell, (James Overman), three grandchildren, Alex, Maggie and Oliver. Surviving siblings include sister Carmel Russell Wilson, brothers Dean Russell (Patti), Michael Russell (Karen) and Brian Russell (Margy), along with a multitude of nieces and nephews (who referred to Bruce as their favorite uncle) and a multitude of extended family.

Preceded in death by his parents Dean L. Russell and Jeanne (Pike) Russell and his brother David Eric (Rick) Russell.

A Celebration Service will be planned at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to support the John T. and Carol J. Frost Cancer Research Center Fund of University of Michigan, which supports kidney cancer research.

Checks can be made to "University of Michigan" and sent to the Michigan Medical Office of Development, 1000 Oakbrook Dr., Ste., 100, Ann Arbor MI 48104. You may also call 734-764-6777 or visit the website victors.us/brucerussell to make your gift.



Charles Lewis "Chuck" Westin

JEFFERSON CITY, MO - Mr. Charles Lewis "Chuck" Westin, age 91, of Jefferson City, Mo., passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at Heisinger Bluffs, LSS.

Chuck was born on March 5, 1930 in Howell, Mi., the son of Carl A. and Anna M. (Conrad) Westin. He was married on April 15, 1952 in Grove City, Oh. to Mary Joann Emmelhainz, who preceded him in death on January 20, 2012.

Chuck was a 1948 graduate of Fowlerville High School in Fowlerville, Mi. He went on to graduate from Capital University of Columbus, Oh. in 1952.

He bravely served in the United States Army during the Korean War and was stationed in Thule, Greenland for 13 months. When Chuck returned to civilian life, he taught high school in Ada, Oh. He then worked for 32 years at General Motors Corporation in various facilities around the Detroit area, finishing his career in the Central Office/Human Resources Department until his retirement.

Chuck had a life-long love for music, beginning with piano lessons at an early age. He was most proficient playing the piano and the trumpet, but he played many other instruments as well. Chuck was an accomplished singer and choir director at several different churches during his lifetime. He also shared his considerable solo singing talents at innumerable weddings and special events. Chuck was a great home-handyman, and he could fix just about anything. Most of all, Chuck cherished his family, especially gatherings with his children and grandchildren.

Survivors include: three sons, Steve Westin (Karen) of Jefferson City, Mo., Jeff Westin (Sheila) of Berea, Ky., and Brad Westin (Kathy) of Lynn, Ma.; and five grandchildren, Emma Westin, Hannah Westin, Caitlyn Deaton (Daniel), Nicholas Westin, and Zachary Westin.

Chuck was preceded in death by his loving wife and parents.

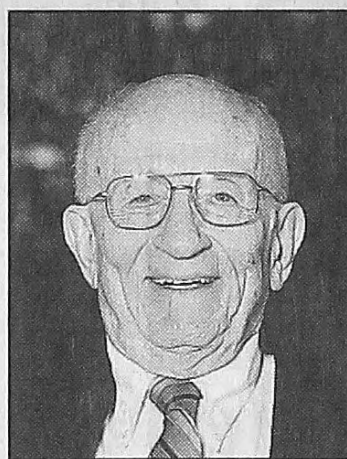
Visitation will be held next Saturday, April 3, 2021 from 10:00 until 11:00 am at Freeman Mortuary. Memorial services will follow at 11:00 am in the Freeman Chapel with Chaplain Jim Mueller officiating. Everyone is welcome to attend the services while following social distancing guidelines.

Interment will take place in the St. George Lutheran Cemetery in Brighton, Mi. at a later date.

A webcast of the service will begin at 11:00 am for friends and family that are not able to attend by going to his memorial page on Freeman Mortuary's website. Friends may mail sympathy cards to the funeral home or leave condolences online to be given to his family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Benevolent Care Fund at Heisinger Bluffs Retirement Center, 1002 West Main Street, Jefferson City, Mo. 65109 or Hospice Compassus, 600 Monroe Street, Suite 100, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Freeman Mortuary. www.freemanmortuary.com



Michael L. Randall

Michael L. Randall of Roseville, Michigan passed away Thursday, March 25, 2021 at the age of 68.

Born in Farmington, Michigan the son of the late William and Nadine Randall.

Michael was a long-time Farmington area music educator and percussion instructor.

Private burial will take place at North Farmington Cemetery, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Donations in memory of Michael may be directed to Birmingham Concert Band, Farmington High School Band or Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps.



May you find peace in your time of sorrow.

Max Nicol

NORTHVILLE, MI - Max Eugene Nicol, of Northville, MI, died peacefully on March 22, 2021.

Max was born April 10, 1924 and spent his childhood in the Metro Detroit area. He attended Cass Tech High School then served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. After graduating from Lawrence Tech in 1949 with an engineering degree, Max worked for the Ford Motor Company for 38 years, first in Product Development at the Design Center and then in Corporate Strategy Staff. Max lived in Plymouth, MI for many years, as well as Northville after his retirement.

Max had many happy memories of time spent at Lake Columbia. He was an avid competitive sailor with many wins, and he liked to play golf and traveled extensively. He was a member of the Plymouth Elks Club for many years.

Max was a loving father to Lisa June Nicol (Bill Pryor), Steve Nicol (Lisa), Martha Nicol Hejka (Tony), and proud grandfather of four and great-grandfather of four.

Remembrances can be shared at frazerfunerals.com.



In Remembrance

Antonio's CUCINA ITALIANA *Roman Village* CUCINA ITALIANA est. 1964 *Antonio's* PICCOLO RISTORANTE

Buona Pasqua!



Easter is a time for prayer and to break bread with friends and family.

Buona Pasqua, Happy Easter, from the Rugiero Family.

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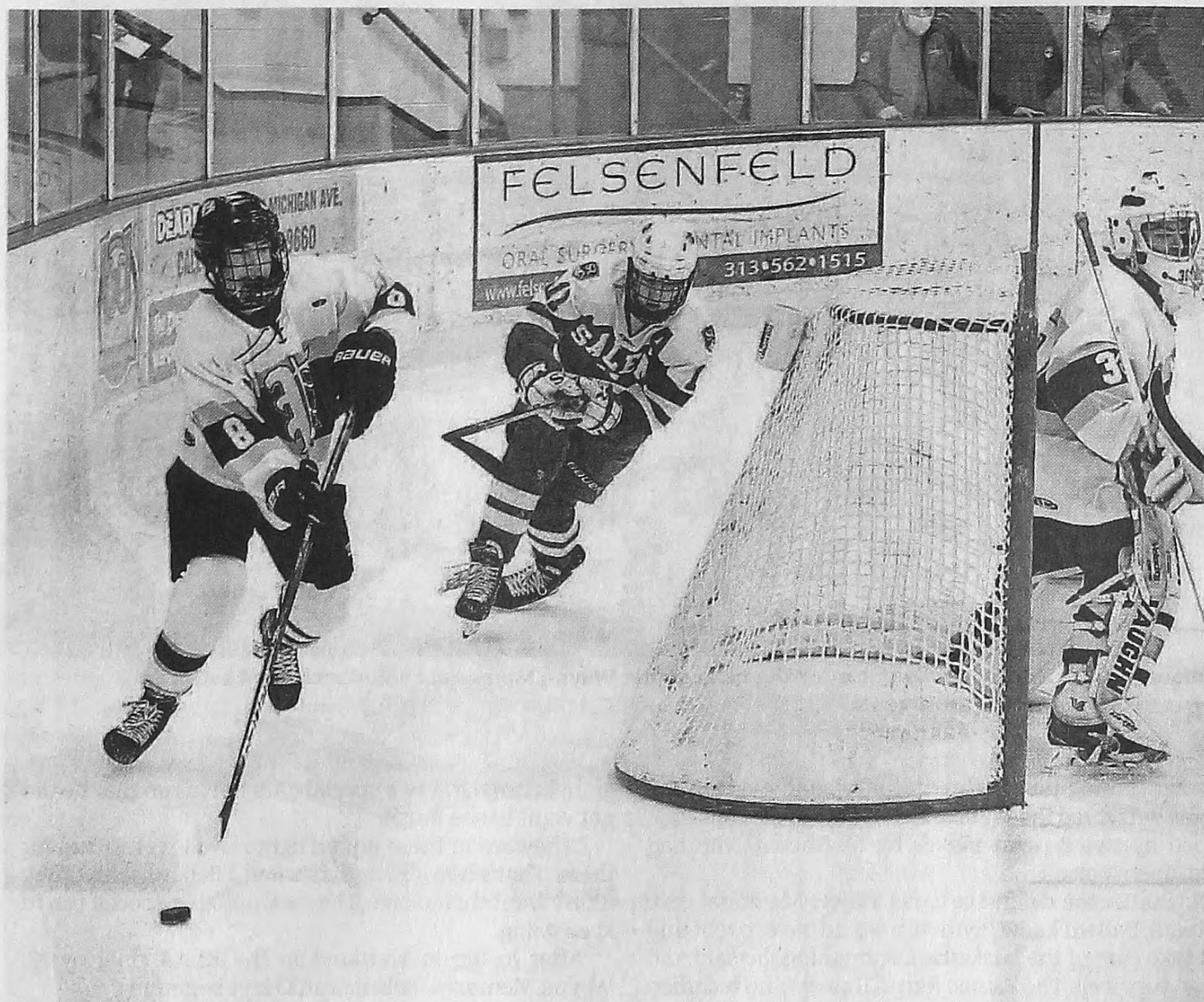
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In observance of Easter Sunday, all locations will be closed Sunday and Monday to allow our staff to spend time with their families.

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SPORTS



Plymouth's Alexander Blankenship takes control of the puck. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Cranbrook Kingswood hockey silences Calumet, wins D3 title

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coming into his freshman year of high school, Jack Wineman had a dream, all 5-foot, 90 pounds of him. He wanted to win a Michigan high school hockey state title with Cranbrook Kingswood.

As a senior, grown into a 5-foot-7, 150-pound forward and one of the top goal-scorers in the state, Wineman and the Cranes (15-4) fulfilled that wish, beating Calumet (18-1-1), 4-1, in the Division 3 state hockey final for the team's first state title since 2015.

Cranbrook Kingswood has won 18 hockey state titles in its school's history, and three since 2010.

"We've been building this for the past four years," Wineman said. "Isaac (Cheli) and Alex (Ceritano) have been my linemates for three, four years. It would not have been possible without my teammates and coaches. I'm just so happy we won, it's a dream come true."

Coming into the game having allowed three goals or more in a game four times in the 2021 season, Cranbrook Kingswood's success started on the defensive end. But it did not come down to senior Julian Zvyagin at goal, who saved nine of Calumet's 10 shots on goal.

Through the first two periods, Calumet recorded only nine shots on goal, trying to respond to a defense that consistently boxed their forwards out, not letting shots get to goal and forcing dump pucks, something Zvyagin said the Cranes have been good at all season.

"I think (the Cranbrook defense) just wanted it more than the other team," Zvyagin said.

For Calumet, the Cranes defense, which allowed only one power-play goal in the second period, is what kept the Cooper Kings at arm's length, according to head coach Dan Gianchino.

"Their defense is big and strong and fast," Gianchino said. "They are almost college-sized defensemen out there for us to play against. They limited us in what we could do."

Offensively, Cranbrook Kingswood played its style of offense.

After the Calumet defense killed their first power play of the game, Cranes defenseman Nathan Hooker scored from the left seconds with six seconds left in the team's second man-advantage, taking passes from Jacob Budabin and Max Bergen.

See **KINGSWOOD**, Page 3B

COVID-19 defined state's high school hockey season

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Detroit Catholic Central won the Division 1 hockey title, head coach Brandon Kaleniecki was relieved.

The Shamrocks had been carrying the weight of the unknown for an entire calendar year after their season was shut down in the 2020 state semifinals due to the emergence of COVID-19.

"That wears on you, it wears on everybody," Kaleniecki said. "You can see: the smiles on their faces says it all. They are so deserving."

After COVID-19 pushed back the start of the season from late November to Feb. 8, Michigan high school

hockey teams began a seven-week sprint to the state finals, with many scheduling three games per week until the playoffs started.

All players and coaches wanted was a chance to play, a chance they got, something that Livonia Stevenson head hockey coach David Mitchell remembered even after his team's overtime loss to Novi in the regional final.

"I still believe it was the right thing to do. I still believe that, ultimately, for the mental health of our schools, our community and our kids," Mitchell said.

"As we went through this, I would say that I would rather have this day and experience this than not even getting the chance or the opportunity. Especially for

See **COACHES**, Page 2B

Late goal seals Brother Rice hockey's sixth state title

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As the clock ticked down at the end of the third period, Brother Rice and Byron Center seemed destined for overtime.

But with the game tied at 1 going into the final 10 seconds, facing a scrum against the Byron Center net, Alec Hamady saw an opportunity to end things.

Not knowing how much time was left in the clock, the Brother Rice senior tried to set up a designated play, looking for his teammate come from the back side to tip it in.

Hamady took the rebound, hit Byron Center goalkeeper Carson MacKenzie again, took another rebound and connected between MacKenzie's legs for what he described as the biggest goal of his life.

With 6.7 seconds left, Brother Rice (15-4) secured its sixth state title in school history, beating Byron Center (18-1), 2-1, in the 2021 Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 2 hockey state final.

"There's no way I can really describe it," Hamady said. "Just an unbelievable feeling to have something so magical stripped from us last year and then the next year, to just come out here and win it all, it's just an amazing feeling."

Up until the final seconds of the third period, Brother Rice and Byron Center played extremely even hockey.

Scoreless at the start of the third period, Brother

Rice senior Carson Moilanen took a rebound off a try from senior teammate Max Brown to connect for the first goal of the game. Byron Center answered 10 seconds later, taking the puck off the faceoff leading to a Mason Breit goal to tie the game at one.

But even when Byron Center seemed to be in full attack mode, especially when earning a power play in the middle of the second period, Brother Rice senior goalkeeper Drake Danou was not fazed. He knew what he had to do: put his body in front of the puck as much as possible, ending the game with 23 saves on 24 shots.

"When I'm getting all those saves (and) I'm giving all of myself, that helps everybody," Danou said.

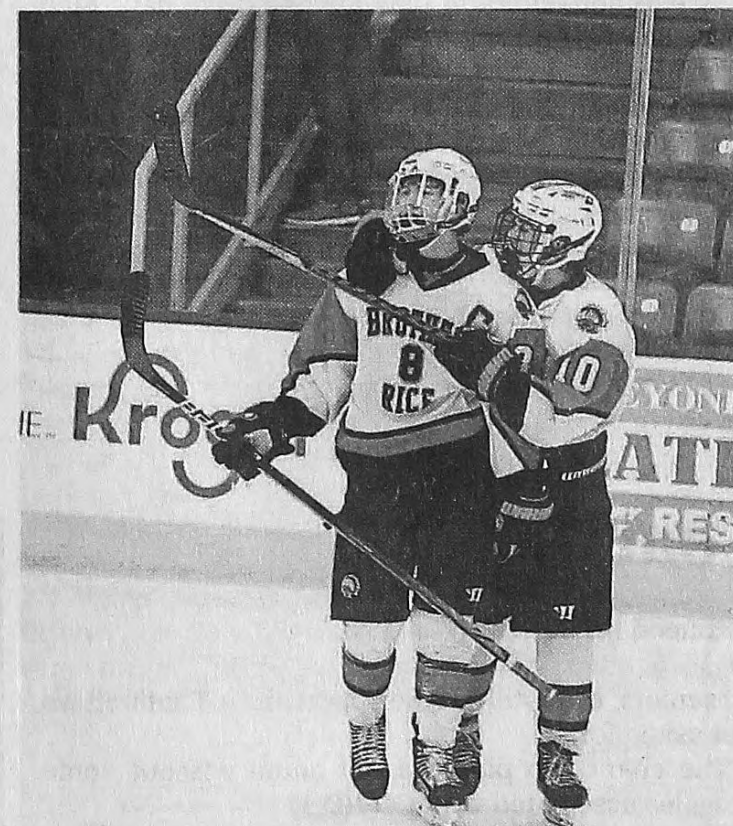
MacKenzie found his way in front of the majority of Brother Rice's offensive tries in what turned out to be a defensive slugfest, saving 27 shots, including seven in the final period.

"For a sophomore to go out there and play a game like that, I'm so excited for his future because he's going to play spectacular," Byron Center head coach Taylor Keyworth said. "If this is the lowest he goes, we're going to be in every game as long as he's on this team."

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the hockey team due to circumstances outside of the team's control, Brother Rice head coach Ken Chaput allowed one thing to be consistent.

At the first practice of the season, he gathered his players and pointed up to the banners.

See **TITLE**, Page 2B

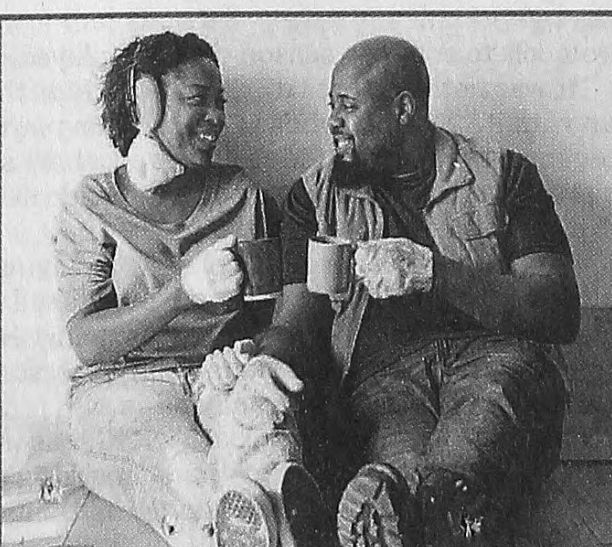


Brother Rice sophomore Peter Rose celebrates senior captain Alec Hamady after his game-winning goal. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Wayne Memorial dominates Plymouth, advances to regional final

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth head coach Ryan Ballard thought he knew what the Wayne Memorial defense was going to look like in their regional semifinal matchup.

He expected a full-court press with either a 1-2-2 or 1-3-1 zone, working in practices, leading up to the game, to find those open windows to run the offense the Wildcats like to run.

On the first possession, Plymouth senior Ella Riley found one of those windows, starting the game with a corner 3. Wayne Memorial head coach Jarvis Mitchell changed up the look to man defense, locking up Plymouth's offense with its size and physicality, and the Zebras took over.

Using the momentum from a 19-4 first-quarter run, Wayne Memorial (15-2) asserted its dominance in the Regional 5 semifinal, beating Plymouth (12-8), 51-27, Monday night at Northville.

No matter the game, Mitchell said he never really goes into games with certain game plans or expectations for how his team is going to play. For him, it just comes down to pure will on the court.

"All of my kids have the freedom to play as they will," he said. "The only thing I'm expecting out of each player is to play hard. I can't say 'I want Lachelle Austin to have 10 assists, I want Paris Bass to have 15 points, I want Mayla Ham to have 20 points.'

"I'm not saying that. What I'm saying is you have one expectancy here and that's to play hard."

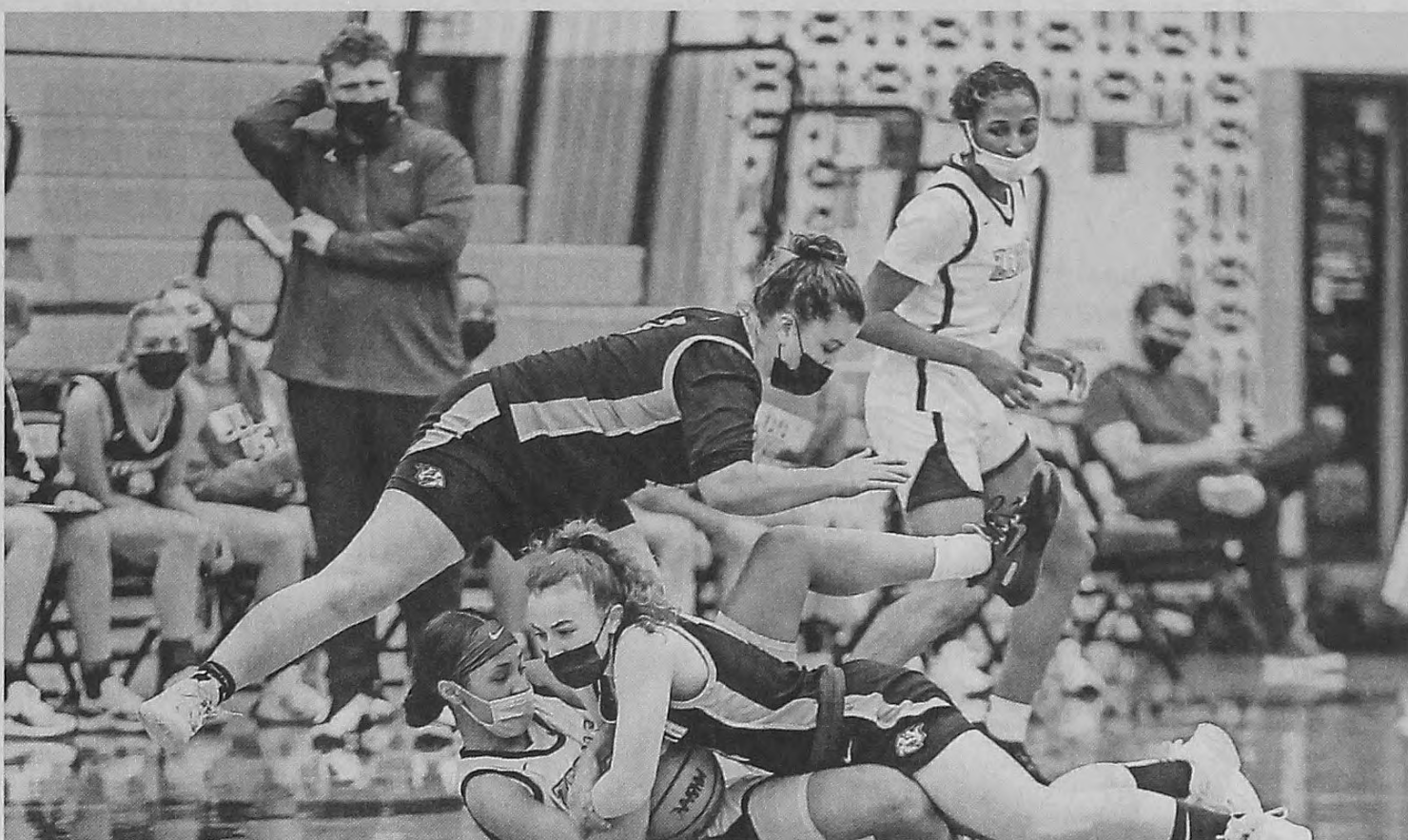
But heading into this game, Mitchell did have one advantage: Davai Matthews.

A 6-foot-3 junior forward that Mitchell describes as "multi-dimensional" due to her ability to crash the boards while also pulling up from deep, Matthews faced a Plymouth roster without a player over 6 feet tall.

Facing a Plymouth defense without senior forward Ellissa Simmons, was away from the team due to a COVID-19 contact-trace quarantine, Matthews took possession from the outside and worked her way in, trying to get wide-open looks or find people with wide-open looks.

Even with the advantage she had, leading the team with 14 points, seven rebounds and four blocks, Matthews knows success is not based on her personal numbers.

"It's about winning," Matthews said. "That's all we're worried about right now. We're not worried about our own points, rebounds. We're worried about winning the game all together."



Plymouth senior Erin Donnelly dives for the ball against Wayne Memorial senior Lachelle Austin.

MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

After scoring four points in the second quarter, the Zebras outscored the Wildcats, 21-10, in the third quarter, helped by two 3-point makes by Matthews, who had wide-open looks.

No matter the defensive looks Wayne Memorial gave his team, Ballard knew Plymouth would have to rebound and take care of the basketball, something, he said, did not go very well. The Zebras forced 11 steals and recorded 42 rebounds, 19 of which came off the offensive glass.

"I felt like this may be a problem because we haven't seen Wayne's athleticism and length all season long," Ballard said. "Hartland's really good, but they don't play the same way."

Riley scored 15 of the team's 27 points, all coming from the 3-point line, including three in the second half.

Wayne Memorial senior Lachelle Austin added 11 points, including two 3-pointers, sophomore Paris Bass added five offensive rebounds and sophomore Mayla Ham recorded five assists and four steals.

To Ballard, his senior class — Riley, Simmons, Kyra Brandon and Erin Donnelly — worked extremely hard, winning more games than any other player has in pro-

gram history. It was a special group on a run that he did not want to see finish.

"They are in there crying right now. I feel so bad for them. That's how much they cared," Ballard said. "They didn't want this to end. They wanted this special run to keep going."

After losing to Hartland in the KLAAs final by 18, Wayne Memorial feels its run is just beginning.

The Zebras have earned double-digit wins in two of their first three playoff games, allowing less than 30 points to Redford Thurston and Plymouth.

Matthews knows Wayne Memorial has been counted out, playing with only two seniors for the rest of the season after an injury to senior forward Alanna Micheaux. Moving forward, she wants to show the rest of the state that Wayne Memorial should not be the underdog.

"We are the underdog, but we can prove that we are the number one team in the state," Matthews said.

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

Title

Continued from Page 1B

"That's our goal," he remembered telling them.

In 2021, it took an adjustment for the team as a whole, continuing to preach the message of playing the game the Brother Rice way as his team struggled to find its groove early in the season.

In the final two-and-a-half weeks of the season, though, Chaput said Brother Rice found it: The Warriors were locked in. And that mentality alone, led them to a state championship, a chance to avenge what they lost out on last year.

"We're not scared to play anybody. We have high goals. The state championship is the highest goal you can have. These guys buy into it and figure it out very quickly that they are going to be challenged every time we play and there's expectations.

"They came together as needed and you saw the result."

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



Team members on CC's bench pound on the boards at the start of their game against Livonia Stevenson.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Coaches

Continued from Page 1B

our seniors, they still got the opportunity. That's all we ever asked for."

The chance to play did not come without some struggles associated with COVID-19.

The virus ended Detroit Country Day's season prematurely, also leading to season-ending scares for teams like Salem, Northville, Novi and Catholic Central.

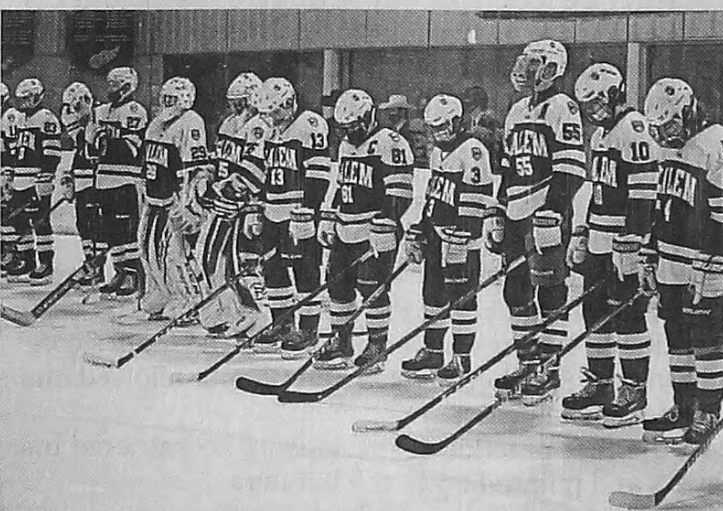
But all they asked for was an opportunity, something that Plymouth Head Hockey Coach Darrin Silvester did not let his team forget as the season continued, whether it was an opportunity for an overtime game or an opportunity for an extra practice or drill.

He learned that each practice, each drill, each time on the ice was not to be taken for granted, and to appreciate what they were given.

"Every one of our players, they try (to) find the glass-half-full of everything that's going to be there," Silvester said. "We got a lot more than maybe others really expected this season was going to be. We're very thankful for it."

Canton Head Hockey Coach Justin Maedel saw a group unite under the shared circumstances it went through.

After being sidelined due to COVID-19 in November right as the entire season was pushed to 2021, he watched his players leading the charge: making sure the team and those around the team were following



Salem players stand for the national anthem.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

protocols to ensure a season could be played.

"It was nothing that I did. It was the kids that truly ran with it," Maedel, whose Canton team played a full 16-game season, said. "Me and my coaching staff, we (saw) it, so then it intrigued us and it made us want to give full force what we could do."

To Mitchell, preparing to play and playing in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic broadened his and his team's scope on what they were doing. He felt it was a lesson of personal responsibility, a lesson of how people impact others on a daily basis.

For the Stevenson head coach's 13th season, it was "a trip to hell and back," constantly checking on players who were living in bubbles, doing anything to make

sure they and their teammates could play.

Moving forward, Mitchell's main focus is how he and his players can use the lessons learned from playing in a pandemic.

"What type of young men does that make us? What type of families do they have as they grow older? What type of people do they become? Because character is everything," Mitchell said. "I will go to bat for these guys. Their character is impeccable and (that's) what they showed."

After his team's state quarterfinal loss to Catholic Central, Salem Head coach Ryan Ossenmacher was in awe of his players.

The Rocks nearly lost out on a chance to complete its season after a few COVID-19 cases inside the program led to the team preparing for the regional rounds with three emergency goalkeepers and a group of junior-varsity and previously cut players.

But Ossenmacher saw a group that was ready, that was grinding even before the season was secured. He said he had not been prouder of any group in his coaching career based on their perseverance alone.

So when he addressed his team for the final time in the locker room at Dearborn Ice Skating Arena, Salem having just fallen short of their goal, but had defined how their season ended, Ossenmacher tried to put all of these thoughts in a single phrase.

"The message was simple," he said. "We love you guys."

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

Brother Rice advances to D2 state finals

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brother Rice would not stop trying. From the moment the team took the ice in the third period, forwards laced a bombardment of pucks toward Trenton senior goalkeeper Luc Miklos, seemingly grasping every shot that came his way, contorting his body like his life depended on it to try and half the unrelenting roar of the Warriors.

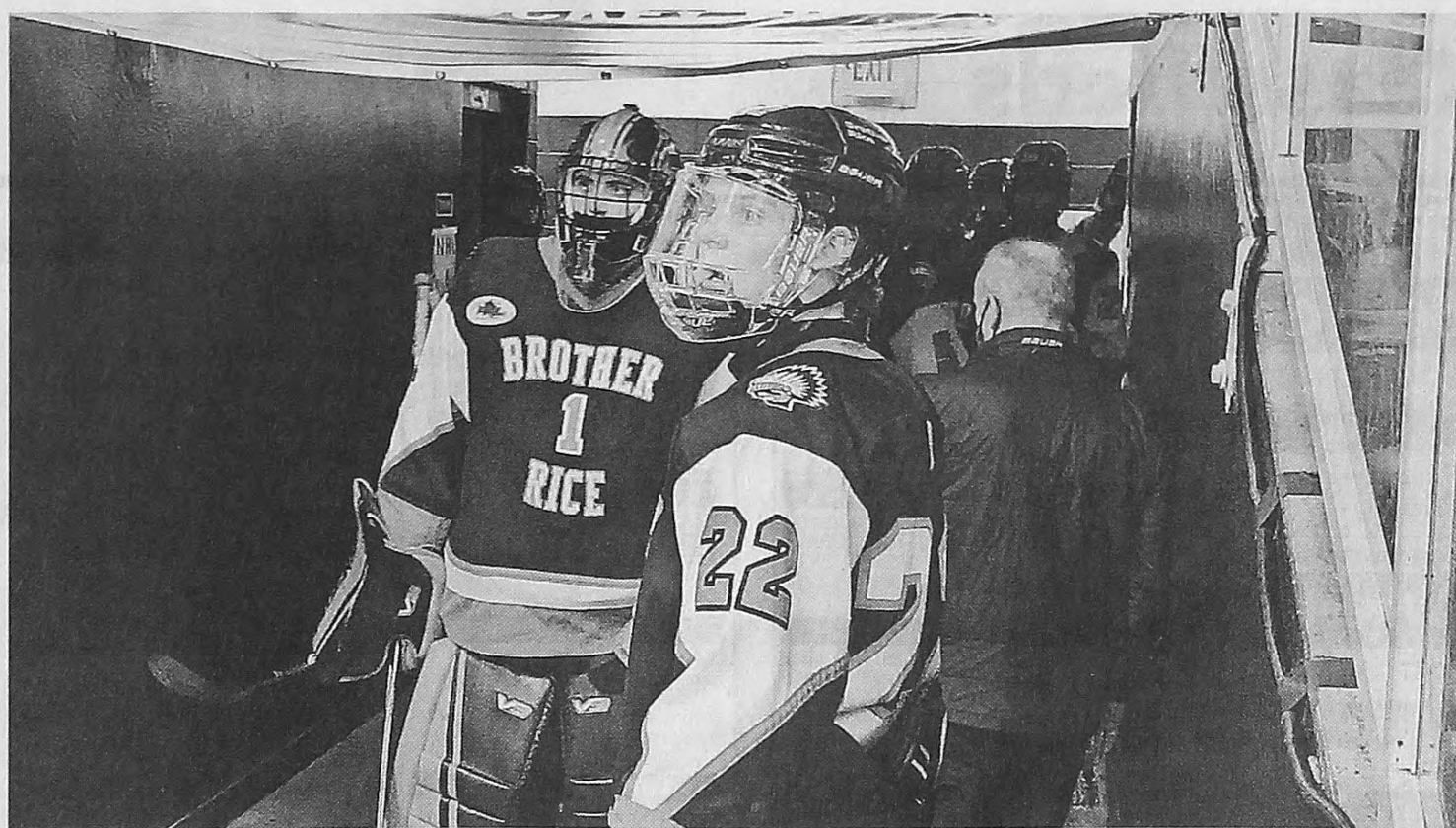
But Brother Rice continued to push, breaking the seal. Tied at one goal each at the start of the third period, the Warriors scored two goals in the final 17 minutes to earn a trip to the Division 2 state finals, beating Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League foe Trenton, 4-2, in the state semifinal.

From puck drop, Brother Rice head coach Ken Chaput felt his team was on, consistent through the entire game and showing it through their speed and tenacity in offensive situations.

"I felt the game was ours five minutes into the game," Chaput said. "I could see that we had the speed going. Everybody engaged, everybody doing the right thing. And we were on. As long as we kept to our game plan and kept our mental focus, I felt like we were in great shape even when it was 1-1."

Brother Rice finished the game with 43 shots on goal, 40 of which were corralled by Trenton's senior goalkeeper.

"Luc stood on his head. I'm proud of him after not playing a lot last year to being our man this year and starting. Improvements that he made are incredible,"



Brother Rice seniors Max Brown and Drake Danou look out onto the ice prior to the team's state semifinal win against Trenton. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Trenton head coach Chad Clements said. "He gave us a chance to win, which is all you can really ask from your goalie each and every night."

At the start of the third period, Ryan Marone proved to be the spark plug the Warrior offense needed. Racing down the ice, sophomore Peter Rosa passed the puck behind the net to sophomore forward Andrew Marone, who dished it in front of the net to set up his brother, who put it past Miklos for the leading goal.

Nine minutes later, senior Brett Harris, who scored the first goal of the game for the Warriors in the first period, put another in the back of the net — his 10th of the season — to give his team the two-goal advantage.

"We're a good, fast-paced team," Rosa said, who scored once and assisted two goals in the state semifinal.

"We have some high-end people, top to bottom. Everyone's been contributing. We've been playing with a pace, making sure we're taking care of our play in the d-zone and taking over the offensive play."

After Trenton senior Rory Szczepaniak cut the team's deficit to one with 82 seconds left in the game — his second of the day after a game-tying score off a rebound late in the first period — Rosa connected on an empty-netter to give Brother Rice the victory.

The Brother Rice defense allowed only 27 shots on goal, 25 of which were saved by goalkeeper Drake Danou.

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

Last-second U-D Jesuit layup ends Brother Rice's season

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With 24.9 seconds left on the clock, Brother Rice head coach Rick Palmer went through the team's next defensive possession on the bench with his starters. The Warriors held a 35-34 lead against undefeated U-D Jesuit in the Division 1 regional semifinal, and all they had to do was make one more stop.

Prior to the exit of the huddle, Palmer pointed in the direction of sophomore Xavier Thomas and freshman Keithan Gillmore and said, "Rebound:" the final message before Brother Rice decided if its season would continue.

With seven seconds left in the game, Cubs junior Phil Ragan passed the ball to sophomore Sonny Wilson — one-on-one with Brother Rice sophomore Curtis Williams. Wilson drove toward the hoop, throwing up a layup attempt that bounced around the rim a few times and fell with 0.5 seconds left, ending the Warriors season with a storyline they knew all too well.

After losing to U-D Jesuit (11-0) in the Catholic High School League final on a last-second basket, Brother Rice (8-5) ended its season in the same way, falling to the Cubs, 36-35, at De La Salle.

The Warriors' last three losses of the season came in the final seconds of the fourth quarter twice to U-D Jesuit and once to Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

"Sonny Wilson made a great play," Brother Rice head coach Rick Palmer said. "We defended it much better than we did in the Catholic League final. We didn't lose the game there. We lost the game with how many offensive rebounds we gave up in the fourth quarter."

"It's frustrating because it's just the little things. We're right there and there's not much we can do about it at this point."

Trailing 27-24 early in the fourth quarter, Brother Rice sophomore Johnathan Blackwell turned the tide himself, leading the team on an 8-2 run in which he scored all eight points.

After a finish by Williams extending the lead to four, Ragan recorded a layup, stole the ball back and scored again to bring the Cubs to within one with 1:03 left in the game.



Brother Rice's last three losses of the 2021 season came on final-second scores by U-D Jesuit — twice — and Orchard Lake St. Mary's. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Blackwell returned to the free-throw line with 29.9 seconds left and hit only one-of-two attempts, giving U-D Jesuit the chance to win in the final seconds.

"This one hurts more because it's over," Palmer said. "The Catholic League, you sit there and tell them, 'We feel like we can win the whole tournament.' We really did. Obviously, we were right there against an undefeated team. I thought we overcame a lot today, but we didn't come up with enough of the rebounds down the stretch that we needed."

Early on in the regional semifinal, the battle of Catholic League rivals proved to get heated.

After Brother Rice recorded five first-quarter fouls compared to U-D Jesuit's one, a referee pulled both coaches aside and issued warnings.

Fouls continued to plague both teams in what proved to be a highly physical and emotional contest, combining for 29 fouls, including nine by Brother Rice in the second half.

"Mick Cronin has a great quote: 'Winners know why they win and losers complain about the refs,'" Palmer said. "We're not going to sit here and blame the refs. We had every chance to make the plays we needed to make."

After Brother Rice took a 9-6 first-quarter lead, both teams — with only one senior between the two teams getting playing time — were tied at 14 and 24, respec-

tively, at the end of the second and third quarters.

Williams led the Warriors with 14 points, while Blackwell added 13. Wilson was the Cubs' only double-digit scorer with 16, recording 12 in the second half.

To Palmer, Brother Rice is close. He knows that games coming down to the last possession is the last piece to the puzzle of his young core of four sophomores and two freshmen: with freshman Warren Marshall getting key minutes off the bench.

The Brother Rice head coach was confident that his team was ready to get over the hump against a team that has not beaten U-D Jesuit since Feb. 10, 2015 and make a state tournament run.

To Palmer, it doesn't matter their age. He thought they were ready. It just came down to the little things.

"I love our group. I wouldn't trade them for anybody," Palmer said. "They are developing, but we think we were ready this year to win. There's no guarantees next year, and there's no one in there thinking, 'Oh, we'll get them next year.'"

"We'll worry about next year here in the next couple days."

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

Kingswood

Continued from Page 1B

Nearly three minutes later, the Cranes handed the Copper Kings a two-goal deficit.

After Nicklas Wade forced a turnover after shoving a Calumet defender, Jack Wineman took the puck on a fastbreak, putting it past Aksel Loukus for the second goal of the game.

Early in the second period, Cranes forward Isaac Cheli scored the team's third goal of the game, what he viewed as an emotional turning point in the game. Cranbrook iced the game in the third period when Ty Esterline scored on a dish from Lucas Hunter.

To senior Alex Ceritano, this style of play, both offensively and defensively, came from the work put in even before the team knew it would have a season.

"During the pandemic, everyone was working so hard on and off the ice," Ceritano said. "When all the rinks shut down, every single member of the team, whether they were a key part of the team or a new guy,

they all wanted to get better as many ways as they (could)."

To Zvyagin, this was a new atmosphere he had never been a part of, joining Cranbrook Kingswood for the first time as a senior.

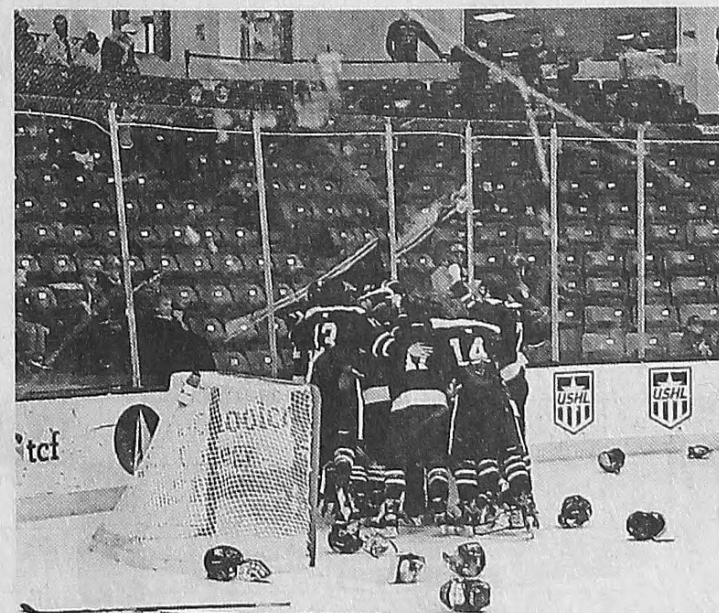
"In past years, I haven't had very loving teams," Zvyagin said. "Going forward, I can really strive to make myself bring everybody in and also look for that in other guys that they will accept me and bring me into the team like these guys did."

To Wineman, this is why the state title was so special.

Coming into such a storied program, ending the state-title drought put Cranbrook Kingswood hockey back on the map.

"All the seniors from past years that didn't get to make it to this point, this is for them," Wineman said. "This is for all of us. We're fulfilling a dream they didn't get to accomplish."

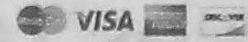
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The Cranbrook Kingswood hockey has won its first state title since 2015. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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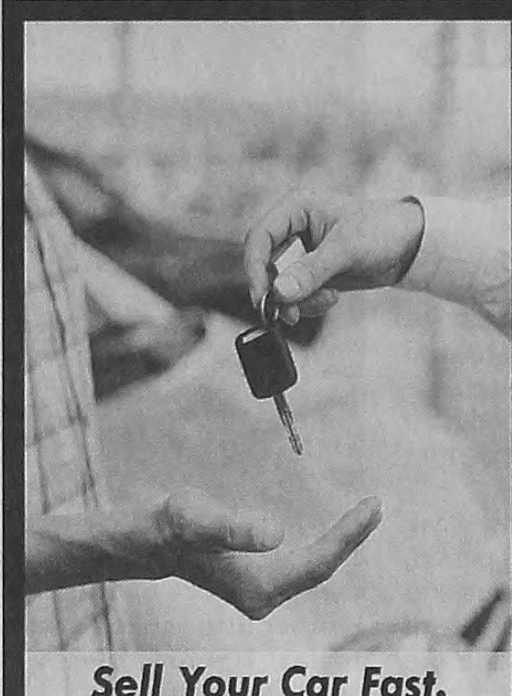
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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

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- ACROSS**
- 1 It may follow "Co."
 - 4 Give a hug
 - 11 Fave buds
 - 15 Location
 - 19 Sheep sound
 - 20 Flan topping
 - 21 Smell — (be suspicious)
 - 22 — -pedi
 - 23 Groups with queens and workers
 - 25 Talk wildly
 - 26 Lickety-split
 - 27 — IRA
 - 28 Ending for host
 - 29 Nitric acid, old-style
 - 31 Knife incision
 - 33 Best Actor awards, e.g.
 - 37 Blood vessel
 - 38 Dairy Queen treat
 - 41 Freshen up
 - 43 Apple product
 - 44 Tax-taking org.
 - 45 Razor-billed seabird
 - 46 Made a lap
 - 47 Xenon and neon
 - 51 Some nameplates
 - 53 Certain recyclable
 - 56 Syringe fluid
 - 57 "Touched" actor Beatty
 - 58 Suffix with Midwest
 - 59 Like dweebs
 - 60 Sleep lab study
 - 63 Ocean route
 - 65 Expectation
 - 66 Airport uniform inits.
 - 69 Peddle stuff on the street
 - 73 The, in Cannes
 - 74 Apple product
 - 76 View lustfully
 - 77 Really clean
 - 79 Whole bunch
 - 81 Patriotic ladies' gp.
 - 82 "I told ya!"
 - 84 Hoarse
 - 88 Rival of Evander "The Real Deal"
 - 91 Petroleum distillate used as fuel
 - 93 "Death Be Not Proud" poet
 - 94 Pro vote
 - 95 URL letters
 - 96 Ocean east of N. Car.
 - 97 Eternally, poetically
 - 98 Make thrilled
 - 100 Be really successful
 - 103 — de corps
 - 106 Spanish wife
 - 107 Ozeki's sport
 - 108 Tiny garden pest
 - 111 Mothers
 - 114 Witty writer
 - 116 Showoff's cry
 - 117 Spanish coin
 - 118 Basis of this puzzle's theme
 - 122 Part of QED
 - 123 Deli dish
 - 124 Ouzo flavorer
 - 125 Walk- (small parts)
 - 126 — terrier (dog breed)
 - 127 Wallet bills
 - 128 Items in the classifieds
 - 129 Word that can follow the starts of nine answers in this puzzle to make the names of
 - 118-Across
 - 1 Steel girder
 - 2 Measurable in microns
 - 3 Cow carrier on rails
 - 4 With 24-Down, organic cotton garb, maybe
 - 5 Drone, e.g.
 - 6 Dudes
 - 7 Demand from a kidnapper
 - 8 Gallic friend
 - 9 Fair grade
 - 10 Golfer Ernie
 - 11 Brand of root beer
 - 12 German wife
 - 13 — bean (risotto bit)
 - 14 Tennis great Edberg
 - 15 Mobile device worn on the wrist
 - 16 Adhesive in an art class
 - 17 Broadcasting
 - 18 Buzzed
 - 24 See 4-Down
 - 29 "How — you?"
 - 30 Salem's state
 - 32 Victory
 - 34 Suffix with land or moon
 - 35 "How — you?"
 - 36 "My Way" lyricist Paul
 - 38 Wee devils
 - 39 Prior to, to a bard
 - 40 Pack animal
 - 41 Material carried away in a deluge
 - 42 End-of-list abbr.
 - 46 Soda insert
 - 48 Bar furniture
 - 49 Flee to marry
 - 50 Monica of the court
 - 52 Sine — non
 - 54 Perceives
 - 55 Purchaser
 - 57 Unaided vision, with "the"
 - 61 Nita of silent films
 - 62 Lamb's mom
 - 63 Stage array
 - 64 Curved bit
 - 66 Unassertive
 - 67 — Gyra (jazz group)
 - 68 Hank of baseball
 - 70 Speechify
 - 71 — a soul (nobody)
 - 72 Excess amount
 - 75 Restaurant rendezvous
 - 78 Crank's cry for Audrey Tautou
 - 82 Guide for a DIYer
 - 83 Nobel winner Sadat
 - 85 Sauna alternative
 - 86 Remarkable events
 - 87 Lawn locale
 - 89 Kit — bar
 - 90 Graceful bird
 - 91 Slangy refusal
 - 92 From — B
 - 99 Unmoving
 - 100 Drone, e.g.
 - 101 Most docile
 - 102 Litigant
 - 103 — Park, Colorado
 - 104 Fire initiator
 - 105 March 14, to math lovers
 - 106 Stores safely
 - 109 Pack animal
 - 110 Gulf nation
 - 112 Location
 - 113 Storage site
 - 115 Org.'s kin
 - 118 Logger's tool
 - 119 Spanish "a"
 - 120 Dowel, e.g.
 - 121 Figs. on a masthead

SUDOKU

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

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!

AM...PM

Can you find all the words with AM or PM? 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.

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

ANSWER KEY

- AMATEUR
- AMBER
- AMID
- AMINO
- AMNESIA
- AMUSE
- BAMBOO
- BEAM
- BLAME
- CAMEL
- CAMERA
- CAMP
- CAMPMATE
- CHAMPION
- CHIPMUNK
- CLAM
- CREAM
- DAMAGED
- DEVELOPMENT
- DRAMA
- ENAMEL
- ENCAMPMENT
- EQUIPMENT
- FLAME
- GRAM
- HAM
- HELPMATE
- JAM
- MADAM
- NAME
- RAM
- ROAM
- SAMPLE
- SCREAM
- SHAME
- SHIPMATE
- SHIPMENT
- STAMP
- SWAMP
- SWARM
- TOPMOST
- UPMARKET
- UPMOST
- VAMPIRE

AM...PM

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

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

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Publish: April 4, 2021

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PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD**

REGULAR MEETING

April 20, 2021

7:30 P.M.

TO BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its Regular Meeting on April 20, 2021. The meeting will be offered electronically. Interested persons may access the Zoom and Conference Call as follows +1 312 626 6799 or 1 646 518 9805, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87898617518> Meeting ID: 878 9861 7518 Passcode: 33857711. Please see agenda on website www.plymouthlibrary.org. The agenda will be posted by April 19, 2021

The District Library Board will provide auxiliary aids and services of materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Carol Souchock, Director, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 at 734 453-0750 x 218.

Publish: April 4, 2021

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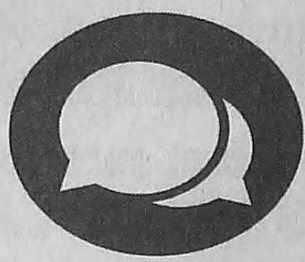
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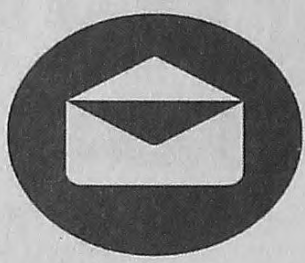
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