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SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Attorney: Livonia ordinances regulate rentals

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Nearly two years after concerns about short-term rental homes like Airbnb were brought to Livonia city council, the city determined its ordinances already regulate rentals whether they're short-term or not.

The city just needs to start enforcing those ordinances.

"I believe we do have ordinances in effect that could preclude some of the activities we've seen in rentals," City Attorney Paul Bernier said. "We have tools right now to enforce this. It is illegal to have any rental in the City of Livonia that is unlicensed."

On Monday, council considered ordinance amendments that would regulate and create guidelines for short-term rentals, in which a homeowner is renting out a home or room for less than 30 days a year. Bernier noted the city's current ordinances do not separate long-term and short-term rentals, so both are already accounted for.

Council did not vote on the ordinance changes, but unanimously voted to send it to committee for further discussion. Committee is generally used for members to have in-depth discussion on an item. However, council may or may not take up the issue again.

See **RENTALS**, Page 3A

New protein shake shop opens in Farmington Hills

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Being forced to do curbside pickup for food during the COVID-19 pandemic led to Alexandria Joubert to open one of Farmington Hills' newest businesses.

The Harrison High School alumna worked last spring as an educator in Detroit and would often stop and pick up food via curbside. After seeing how the experience went as a customer, she decided she could operate a similar business to serve people in her hometown of Farmington Hills.

"That's how I fell in love with the idea," Joubert said. "I went curbside to a healthy shake and tea shop, got my first shake and went home and told my mom we need one in our city."

After months of work, she opened The Hills Nutrition, a protein shake and tea shop at 27861 Orchard Lake. Located in the Orchard Twelve Plaza on the northwest corner of 12 Mile, the shop specializes in meal replacement shakes packed with protein that come in a plethora of flavors such as orange pineapple banana, butterscotch cookie and birthday cake. She plans to rotate themed flavors each week.

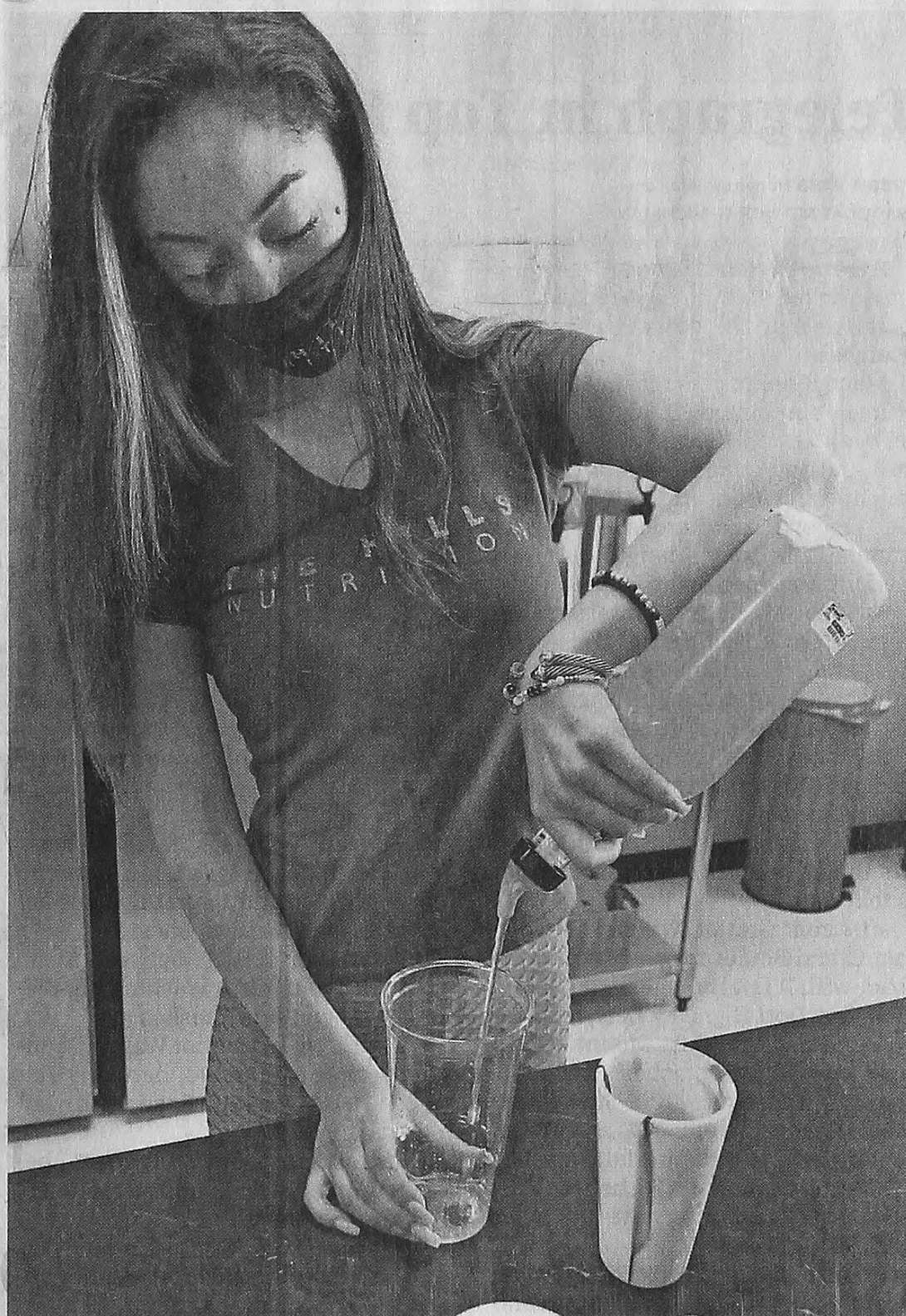
While the shop is open, she has not done a lot of marketing, but has seen quite a few customers stop in and out, including the Jouberts' former teachers.

"We've had a lot of people come in and out," Joubert said. "We've seen a lot of people in the community, a lot of people we have connections with."

A family business

Joubert began looking around for a location to open the shop and decided on the busy 12 Mile/Orchard Lake intersection.

See **SHOP**, Page 4A



The Hills Nutrition owner Alexandria Joubert mixes up a Ring Pop tea at the new protein shake shop's Farmington Hills location. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

83-year-old train span in dire need of replacement

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The 83-year-old span that supports tons of trains and their cargo as they roll over Plymouth Township's traffic-heavy Ann Arbor Road is safe, asserts CSX Railroad — a claim Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise has no reason to doubt.

The overpass is far from perfect, however, Heise added, noting everything from downtrodden aesthetics, the lack of a pedestrian walkway parallel to Ann Arbor Road and a dire need for spruced-up landscaping near what is unofficially the township's welcoming arch for westbound visitors.

Following an onsite meeting with CSX officials earlier this month, Heise is optimistic the structure could be in line for some long-overdue tender-loving care.

"Railroad companies are protected by federal law, so they have no obligation to listen to local governments like us," Heise said. "To get CSX out here to discuss our issues with the overpass is a step in the right direction."

"CSX inspects the structure on a regular basis and they believe the bridge is safe. I'm not an expert on those things, so I guess I have to take their word for it. What we're trying to do as a township — and with the help of our downtown development authority — is beautify the area. After 80 years, it could use a fresh coat of paint."

With pedestrians' safety in mind, Heise would also like to see a sidewalk constructed on the north side of Ann Arbor Road that stretches underneath the overpass.

"As it is now, the only pedestrian walkway under the viaduct is basically a trail carved out over years from humans traversing underneath the bridge," Heise said. "It would have to have some form of covering or canopy to protect pedestrians from debris that could fall from the top of the bridge. There are loose, tennis ball-sized stones up there that, if in the wrong place at the wrong time, could fall from the bridge and become a hazard."

Heise said the lack of a formal walkway forces pedestrians to walk over the tracks, technically a violation of federal law since Sept. 11, 2001.

See **SPAN**, Page 4A

Dog park part of proposed Westland budget

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland's administration is hoping to bring a few "firsts" to the city in the next year.

Mayor Bill Wild recently presented city council with a budget proposal for the 2021-22 fiscal year. If approved, the

budget allows the city, among other things, to fund an all-electric police vehicle, a full-time diversity director, a dog park and pickleball courts.

Parks improvements

Westland already has a dog park at Hawthorne Ridge Park on Hines Drive,

which is operated by Wayne County. But, Wild said there's been a growing demand for another dog park.

Land that used to house the city's building department at 37137 Marquette Street offers plenty of space for a dog park, according to the mayor.

See **BUDGET**, Page 3A



A visit to Cranbrook House and Gardens



John Heider
Staff photographer

During these pandemic times it's necessary for safety's sake to make a reservation to visit the Cranbrook Art Museum or Science Center. Or if you want to tour Cranbrook's famous house, you'll need to arrange that beforehand too.

However, you can just show up to Bloomfield Hills' Cranbrook Gardens seven days a week — it closes at 7 p.m. — and just wander about its rewarding many multiple of acres of woods, trails, gardens and ponds.

Doing so means you won't have to head inside to a crowded room with masked people or know who sculptor Carl Milles is (however you'll see his work frequently outside) or know who architect Eliel Saarinen is (ditto). All you'll need to appreciate the Cranbrook grounds is a map explaining what's where or, for the more adventuresome, figure your own way around.

Cranbrook, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989, is located at 380 Lone Pine Road just west of Woodward. It's an educational community of more than 300 acres founded in the early 1900s by newspaper mogul George Gough Booth. It features the above-mentioned science center, art museum and schools.

Walking tours beginning on June 1, but I'll recommend the socially distanced-friendly hike that you can take right now.

Begin at the free parking lot for Cranbrook located near its Tower Cottage visitor center, just a bit east of the Nichols Gate on Lone Pine. Park your car and make sure you've got a good pair of walking shoes; you'll meander at least

See **HEIDER, Page 6A**



Cranbrook Gardens volunteer Sarah Stever works on raking up some winter leftovers at the property's Sunken Garden on April 8. The gardens are located off Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills, east of Telegraph. **JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM**



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Time to spring clean personal financial records

Spring has finally arrived in Michigan, and it feels great. The arrival of spring also means the majority of taxpayers have already filed their 2020 returns. Therefore, this is a great time of year to do a little spring cleaning of your financial records.

Many people have a fear of destroying financial records over concerns that they will need the documentation sometime in the future. However, over saving leads to clutter, which means when you actually need to find something, you most likely will run in to trouble.

From a tax standpoint, people tend to save their tax records from the beginning of time. However, it's unnecessary.

See **BLOOM, Page 3A**

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Telegraph in Top 10 dangerous roads ranking

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A metro Detroit stretch of Telegraph Road ranked sixth in a statewide Top 10 ranking of the most deadly road stretches.

MoneyGeek, a personal finances resource, pinpointed Telegraph Road, between Grand River Avenue in Detroit and Joy Road in Redford Township and Dearborn Heights, as one of the most treacherous five-mile stretches filled with dangerous intersections and speeding travelers.

An analysis of 2,751 fatal crashes from 2017 to 2019, including those with bikes and pedestrians, concluded that stretch of Telegraph Road experienced eight fatal crashes during that period.

In MoneyGeek's ranking, the fourth through 10th deadliest stretches also experienced eight fatalities.

The ranking of dangerous roads, less than five miles long, was in order as follows:

- Detroit: Gratiot Avenue, between East Grand Boulevard and Seven Mile Road, with 11 fatal crashes

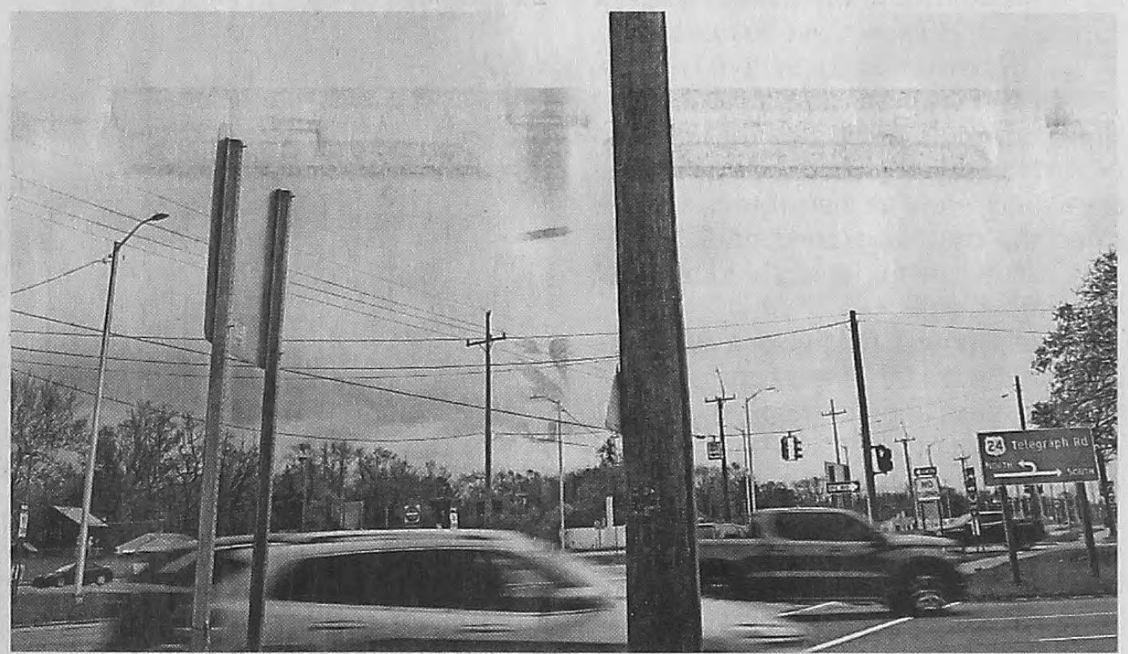
- Flint: Dort Highway, between East Pierson Road and East Mount Morris Road, with 10 fatal crashes

- Grand Rapids: 28th Street, between Eastern Avenue SE and Byron Center Avenue, with nine fatal crashes

- Detroit: Interstate 75, between Interstate 96 and Interstate 94, with eight fatal crashes

- Grand Rapids: U.S. 131, between Wealthy Street SE in Grand Rapids and 44th Street SW in Wyoming, with eight fatal crashes

- Wayne County: Telegraph Road, Grand River Avenue in Detroit to Joy Road in Redford Township and Dear-



Telegraph Road, south of Grand River Avenue and into Redford Township, is one of the more accident-prone areas in recent times. **JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM**

born Heights, with eight fatal crashes

- Detroit: Seven Mile Road, between Telegraph Road and John C. Lodge Freeway, with eight fatal crashes

- Ludington: U.S. 10, between North Stiles Road and North Washington Avenue, with eight fatal crashes

- Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport: Interstate 94, between Viking Road and Telegraph Road, with eight fatal crashes

- Detroit: East Davison Street, between Conant Street and Interstate 96, with eight fatal crashes

According to MoneyGeek's analysis, some of these treacherous thoroughfares are known for their multiple intersections and large traffic volumes.

For the mentioned stretch of Telegraph Road, the daily traffic count ranged from about 47,000 to approximately 60,000 in 2019, depending on

the area, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Higher speeds also contribute to their hazardous conditions.

Drunken drivers were associated with about 30% of the deadly wrecks analyzed. Only 5% happened in winter conditions.

In Michigan, May through September experience the highest number of fatal crashes. The rate tends to peak in August. It falls slightly in September and October.

Wayne County experienced 444 fatal crashes, resulting in 481 deaths, from 2017 and 2019. Oakland County had the next highest number, with 182 fatal crashes, resulting in 189 deaths for the same period.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

Livonia halts in-person learning at 2 high schools

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Public Schools is hitting the pause button on in-person learning at two of its high schools.

Superintendent Andrea Oquist sent a letter to parents Wednesday, stating an uptick in COVID-19 cases and close contact quarantines led to a decision to close Franklin and Stevenson high schools for a week. Students will take all online classes April 15-23.

"Ongoing, daily study of local case

data and a high number of students who have tested positive or are on 'close contact quarantine' at these two schools necessitate this pause," Oquist wrote. "While we were hopeful that the post-spring break case numbers would sharply decline by early this week, that has not been the case at FHS and SHS."

The Franklin Transition Program and spring athletics will be unaffected by the pause.

On Tuesday, Franklin reported 12 new cases among students. Stevenson, which also closed for a week in March,

reported four new student cases. Neither school reported any new staff cases that day.

"Throughout this year, we have made these decisions on a school-by-school basis whenever we can," Oquist said. "We take this decision very seriously and make it with the understanding that it impacts our students, staff and families greatly when there is a change in the mode of instruction."

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

Temporary parking opens in Plymouth

David Veselenak hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Having a hard time finding a parking spot to run in and grab a to-go order in downtown Plymouth? A recent change to some temporary parking may have you covered.

Several parking spots originally connected to 15-minute parking for specific businesses have now been converted for use by anyone needing to run into a local business quickly.

With restaurant capacity increased to 50% earlier this spring, Downtown Development Authority Director Tony Bruscatto said it became clear there was a need for the in-and-out parking to open up for more shops as more people come downtown. Couple that with the loss of some on-street parking from extended patios for restaurants and it can be tough to park if customers need to run in for a quick pickup.

"That program worked really well, but as the restaurants became open at 50%, we're seeing more and more vehicular traffic downtown and a need for more parking," he said.

So, working with the city the signs originally designated for specific businesses are now general temporary parking. Several are strategically placed around downtown, including along Penniman, Ann Arbor Trail and Forest, to name a few.

The spots originally were designated for temporary parking last year during the height of shutdowns in

spring 2020 as businesses began to reopen for curbside pickup and appointment shopping. The signs are designated for 15-minute parking seven days a week.

It's just the latest step an area downtown is making to continue bringing people in. Other efforts have been made in Plymouth, including adding more outdoor dining space by placing platforms over some on-street parking.

Elle Dare, owner of Genuine Toy Co., on Forest Avenue downtown said she's still happy to see the parking spaces exist. Two are in front of the toy shop, and were originally designated for use for their business for several months. She said she still has plenty of customers that will peruse the store's offerings as posted on Facebook and call ahead to pick up a toy or game. That business model is something that will happen for the next little bit: the store recently announced on Facebook it switched to curbside pickup only until the end of the month due to the increased number of COVID-19 cases in Michigan.

Regardless of what they were signed for, she said she'd see people use them to run in real quick somewhere else and pick something up, something that never bothered her. Having them not designated for a specific store, she said, is helpful to all the merchants downtown whose business uses them.

"It was never a problem. People would pull in, get their stuff," Dare said.

Personal income in Oakland County increased in 2019

Kristi Tanner and Adrienne Roberts

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Before the pandemic caused widespread job losses last year, personal income per capita in Oakland County increased in 2019 compared with the year prior, rising to \$73,271, a 2.7% increase.

Personal income per capita is measured as the total personal income of an area divided by the population. In 2019, Oakland County ranked 64th in Michigan in terms of personal income per capita growth. In 2018, income grew by 3.8%.

Nationwide, personal income per capita increased by 3.5% to \$56,490 in 2019 compared with 2018. That increase was smaller than the previous year's 4.8%. The majority of the 3,000-plus counties the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) tracks continued to see personal income per capita rise in 2019, the latest data available.

The fastest growth could be found in two rural Kansas counties: Sheridan and Greeley. Sheridan County grew at a rate of 35% to \$62,156 per capita in 2019. Greeley County grew at a rate of 30% to \$98,916.

Xan Wedel, who leads the state data center at the Institute for Policy and Social Research at the University of Kansas, says government payments such as tariff subsidies under former President Donald Trump's administration influenced the growth. In Greeley and Sheridan counties the ratio of farms to people is roughly one farm for every five and eight residents, respectively.

Farm income was a clear driver of growth in both counties, with cash receipts from the marketing of livestock and other products being the primary contributor to annual gains followed by government payments. Farm proprietor income, which includes government payments, increased by 125% statewide between 2018 and 2019. And government payments to Kansas farms nearly doubled to \$1.37 billion during the same time period, according to BEA data.

Nationwide, three counties saw income levels drop by more than 10%: Towner, N.D.; Cavalier, N.D.; and Buffalo, S.D.

Despite the annual declines, both North Dakota counties have income levels above the U.S. average and experienced large gains in personal income per capita, greater than 30%, the year prior. On the other hand, Buffalo County in central South Dakota has experienced two consecutive years of declining income, down to \$20,682 in 2019, and is one of the lowest-ranked counties in the country for personal income per capita. The Crow Creek Indian Reservation comprises a large share of the county.

The U.S. county with the highest income per capita is Teton, Wyoming, at \$229,825.



The Hills Nutrition has some indoor seating and its owner plans to add some tables outside the Twelve Mile Road shop. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Shop

Continued from Page 1A

Knowing how much traffic the intersection saw and its accessibility made it the correct space to open her shop. She signed a lease in a vacant storefront that had been used for storage and began renovations, including the floor, the bar and much more, a process that took several months. The shop opened in late March.

The concept is similar to several other shops across the region, including Livonia Nutrition, which opened up last fall near Eight Mile and Farmington. Joubert said there's a very loose affiliation between the shops, though they all operate independently.

While Joubert is the owner, the shop has become a bit of a family business: both her brother, Jacob Joubert, and her mother, Jennifer Joubert, assist in working in the shop.

Jennifer Joubert said she's proud of her daughter for launching her own business, saying it's important to support small businesses these days as a Black

woman. She said the traditional roles have been switched in that her daughter is now teaching how to help in the shop.

, saying it's important to support small businesses these days and

"I'm in training," she joked. "It's kind of a reverse situation of taking direction from your children."

The shop has limited seating at the bar inside, though Joubert said she hopes to have additional indoor seating, as well as outdoor seating, in the future. She also hopes to partner with local fitness instructors and have events take place in the nearby outdoor common space of the shopping center such as group fitness classes.

The shop also offers curbside pickup for those who may not want to come inside and pick up their drinks. The Hills Nutrition is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. More information, including a menu, can be found on the store's Facebook page by searching "The Hills Nutrition."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

Span

Continued from Page 1A

"I'd also like to see a repainting of the four corners of the concrete itself," Heise said. "Currently, there's a lot of cracking, there's graffiti ... it just looks really bad."

At the very least, CSX engineers are open-minded about a fresh coat of paint being applied to the structure, Heise said.

"We need to at least make it more of a welcoming sight for people coming into the community," he said. "Who's going to pay for all this is another question. Part of it can be funded by our DDA, which does have funds for some of these improvements. I'd like to see CSX help out financially, too."

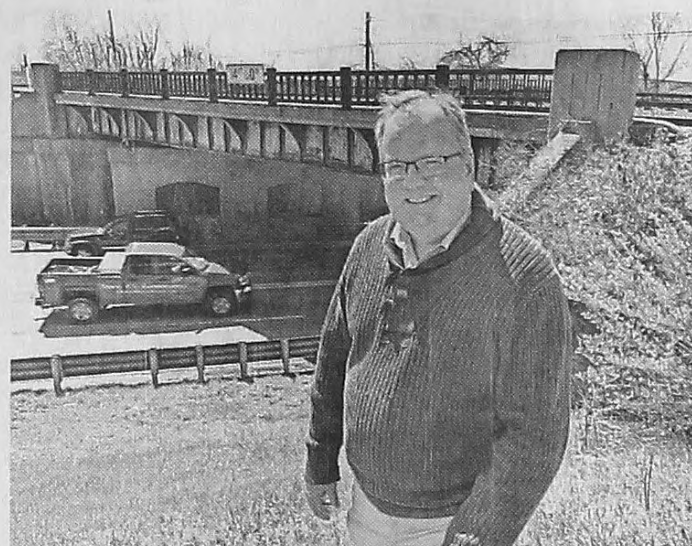
"We can also look to MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) as well because Ann Arbor Road is formerly M-14, which makes it a state road. If the state is fixing the darned roads, it'd be nice if it can help us make the darned overpass look a little better."

Heise said he has learned from experience that the railroads don't always move swiftly when it comes to projects like the Plymouth Township train overpass.

"Our DDA has already paid CSX about \$14,000 to help us in the (overpass improvement) study," he said. "Back in 2004 the township looked at beautifying the overpass, so we shared those plans and renderings with CSX."

Despite the age of the structure, there are no imminent concerns about pieces of concrete falling off the overpass, the supervisor added.

"But when you walk up there like I did (with the CSX representatives) last week, you can see that there are all these tennis ball-sized rocks that kind of hold the foundation together," he explained. "Theoretically, it's



Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise stands near the Ann Arbor Road railroad overpass west of Haggerty on April 13. The 83-year-old bridge is slated to be replaced soon.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

easy to see their concern that a train could come through and, in an unusual circumstance, knock a rock off the bridge."

Heise said a poor run-off system creates water build up on Ann Arbor Road during heavy rains. During the colder winter months, ice becomes an issue.

"Additional landscaping around the structure could help prevent some of the run-off we're seeing," Heise said. "That's just another facet of the project we're hoping gets off the ground sooner rather than later."

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

Obituaries

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

Carol Morris Rasmussen

Carol Morris Rasmussen of Farmington Hills, Michigan was born On November 3, 1934 in Detroit, MI. and passed into eternal life On March 27, 2021 in North Richland Hills, TX. Age 86

Carol Graduated From Fulton High School in Fulton KY. For many years Carol worked for the Sony Corp. as a receptionist, as well as a wife and mother of four children and many beloved pets. She loved to garden, and read. Carol was also an international traveler, with many adventures and experiences to share with her many close friends. Carol was also a long time, active member of the North Congressional Church in Farmington Hills, MI.

Preceded in death by Hallie Foy Morris (mother), Adrian Morris (father), Marjorie Rucker (Jack), William Morris (Dottie)brother, and Husband, Burt Rasmussen.

Surviving children: Jane Barbour (Richard), Eric Rasmussen (Miriam), Karl Rasmussen, and Karen Mehta (Raj).

Grandchildren include: Benjamin Mehta, Sarah Rasmussen, Cameron Rasmussen, Amanda Rasmussen, Jason Rasmussen, and Krissy Mays.

Carol also had 7 great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A Zoom memorial service is planned for Saturday, May 8th, at 1:00. It will be conducted from the North Congregational Church of Farmington, Hills MI, 36520 W 12 mile rd. Farmington Hills, MI. Phone 248-848-1750. Pastor Mary Biedron will be presiding. Carol has asked that all donations go to the church. If you are interested in attending the zoom service, Please contact the church for the link code.

A graveside ceremony will take place in Fulton KY. to be announced at a later date.

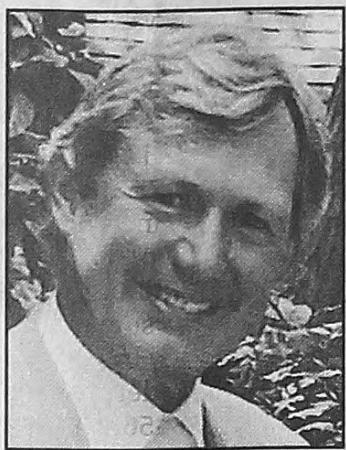


Obituaries

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Joseph Alexander Psenka Jr

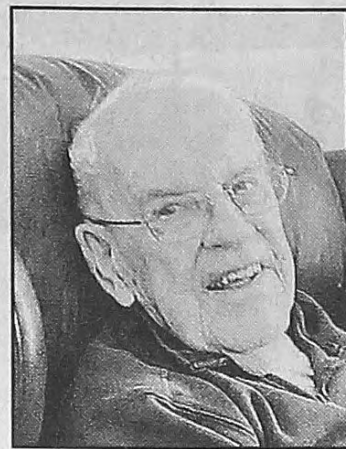
LELAND AND BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Joseph Alexander Psenka, Jr of Leland and Bloomfield Hills, MI, passed away March 3, 2021 in Phoenix, AZ.



Joe was born in 1945 to Joseph and Thelma (Neimi) Psenka. His family lived in Flint and Detroit before settling in Bloomfield Hills in 1954. A 1969 graduate of Kettering University, Joe was an entrepreneur in the auto industry and worked with the US military and other customers around the world. In 1987, he and his family moved to Leland, MI, where they started the Snowbird Inn, and where he planted his dream apple orchard. Joe courageously pursued alternative therapies and thrived for decades beyond a grim cancer prognosis. He freely shared his triumphant health story and resources, which positively impacted hundreds of lives. Joe is survived by his sisters Joanne Psenka and Carolyn Psenka (Thomas Killion), his children, Dr Jonathan "Jake" Psenka (Anne Marie Dohm), Lisa Psenka (Gregory Jolliffe), and Charles Psenka, and grandchildren, Illia and Rocco Psenka, Sierra Creamer, Harper Flees, Taylor, Aaron and Dylan Jolliffe, and Charles Jr, Dylan, and Max Psenka, who will remember Grandpa Joe as a gentle and loving presence in their lives. He will be very missed by his family, friends, associates, and dear companion, Martha Sintz. A celebration of life will be held in Leland later this summer. Memorial contributions may be made to Kettering University (kettering.edu/give)

Richard "Dick" F. Lucas

HARBOR SPRINGS - Richard "Dick" F. Lucas, 92, of Harbor Springs, formerly of Birmingham, died April 7, 2021 at Pineview Cottage after a long battle with Parkinson disease.



Dick was born on November 17, 1928 in Syracuse, New York, the son of Frank G. and Grace L. (Ireland) Lucas. He grew up in Pontiac, Michigan and graduated from Pontiac High School and received his mechanical engineering degree at General Motors Institute.

On October 29, 1955, he married the love of his life, Bonnie L. Frederick in Pontiac, Michigan.

Dick served state-side as a Corporal in the US Army during the Korean War from 1951-1953.

In 1991, Dick retired as an executive of General Motors in General Motors Export sales. He served in many executive management positions during his 45 year career mostly at GMC Truck & Bus.

In his retirement, Dick served on the board of Birchwood Farms Golf & Country Club for many years and was board president from 1997-1999. He joined the local Kiwanis club and loved to golf, play bridge, and travel the world. He was an avid sports fan for all Detroit teams and the University of Michigan. Go Blue!

Dick was a kind and loving husband, father and grandfather and was adored by his family. He had a wonderful sense of humor and loved teasing his family and friends.

Dick is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 65 years, Bonnie Lucas of Harbor Springs; four children, Steven (Annette) Lucas, Karen (Kevin) Mercer, Roger (Jennifer) Lucas and Linda Newman; grandchildren, Stephanie Lucas, Ryan Lucas, Michelle (Grant) Robison, Leslie (Josephine) Mercer-Dermawan, Daniel Mercer, Sean Lucas, Charlotte Lucas, William Lucas, Rachel Newman, and Lucas Newman; and one great grandchild, Simon Robison.

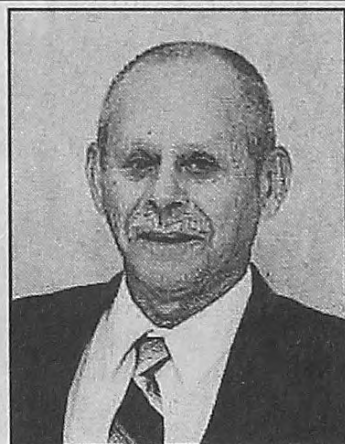
He is preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Grace Lucas; and his sisters, Evelyn (Norman) Windiate and Eleanor (Russell) Johnson.

The Lucas family would like to thank Pineview Cottage and their entire staff for their loving care of Dick.

Anyone wishing to express their condolences with a charitable donation are asked to please consider the First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs (PO Box 866, Harbor Springs, MI 49740) or the charity of your choice.

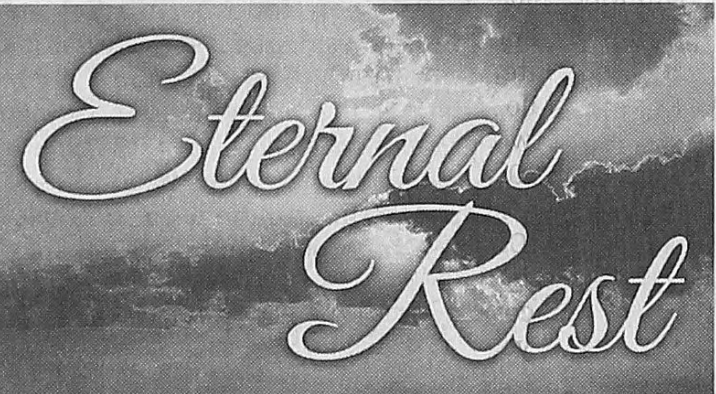
Dick will be laid to rest at Lakeview Cemetery in Harbor Springs. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, services are postponed and will be announced at a later date.

Stone Funeral Home, Inc. of Petoskey is caring for his arrangements.



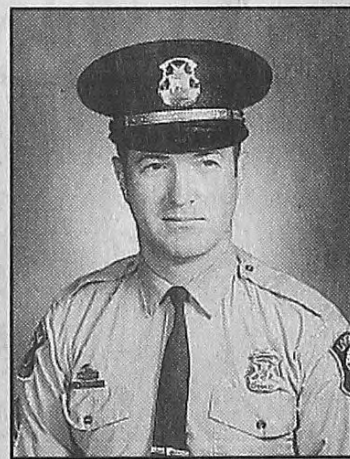
Robert "Bob" Karakula

LIVONIA - Robert "Bob" Karakula of Livonia, passed away at the age of 81, suddenly on April 6, 2021. Beloved son of the late Walter and Mary. Cherished brother of Walter (the late Lillian), Theresa Karakula, and Stephen (Barbara). Proud uncle to many nieces and nephews. Also survived by many other loving family and friends. Bob graduated from St. Casimir High School in Detroit. He honorably served in the United States Airforce for 5 years. Retired from the Chrysler Warren Truck Plant in 1996. Due to Covid restrictions a celebration of life will take place at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or a charity of your choice. Please share memories at fredwoodfuneral-home.com.



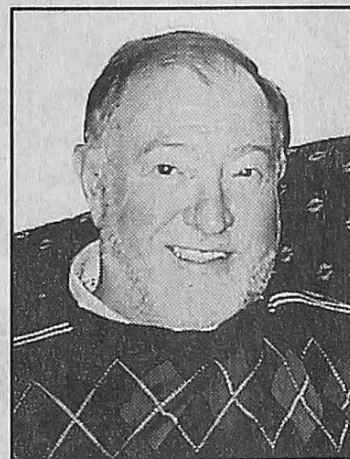
William R. Hoff Sr.

SUTTONS BAY - William (Bill) Hoff, 82, of Suttons Bay, formerly of Livonia, passed away Saturday, April 10, 2021 peacefully at his home overlooking West Grand Traverse Bay surrounded by his loving family.



William was born in Detroit in March of 1939 to the late Charles and Eleanor Kuehner Hoff. Bill often expressed his gratitude for being raised by loving, caring parents, and having 79 good, healthy years, as well as the time to say his good-byes and prepare for his final chapter. He was diagnosed with oropharyngeal cancer in late 2018. He was preceded in death by his dear wife Julienne Nora who succumbed to cancer in 1997.

He is survived by his beloved wife Suzanne, a 2nd mother to his children and grandchildren; his children, Lynnette M. Chapman, Theresa M. Pinto (Thomas Lohkamp), William R. Hoff Jr. (Jennifer); his first wife, good friend and mother of their children, Geraldine (Penny) Schell; grandchildren, Joseph Hoff (Yovana), Wm. (Woody) Hoff (Bianca), Madison Pinto, Kamryn Hoff, Megyn Hoff, Danny Hoff and great grandsons, Joseph Hoff and Guillermo (Bill) Hoff; siblings, Mary Ann Waack (Ralph; deceased), Janet Herman (Lloyd) and Charles J. Hoff (Dorothea; deceased) and much loved nieces and nephews. Bill was very proud of his three children who received MS degrees which were put to good use in their professions. He taught them to be strong, independent thinkers and be confident in their ambitions. He is grateful that his children and grandchildren share and live his values. Bill often said that he was very blessed.



His church family at St. Michael Catholic Church in Suttons Bay, especially the Social, Justice and Peace group, was very important to him, as were his friends and the good people of northwest Michigan.

Bill proudly served his country in the United States Army National Guard from 1956 to 1964. Bill's grandfather, originally from Cincinnati, and whom Bill was named after, suggested that he consider a law enforcement career after high school. His original goal was to become a teacher, however, the idea of protecting and helping people prevailed and resulted in his 34-year law enforcement career. He obtained his four-year degree with honors from Madonna University in Livonia, and attended polygraph training in New

York City. A polygraphist for ten years, he conducted over 2,300 examinations. During that time he also served as the internal affairs officer for the department, having to arrest and convict a fellow officer and city employees for crimes committed. He graduated from the F.B.I. National Academy in Quantico, VA. Advancing in rank throughout his career, he served his last five years as Deputy Chief of a 200-person department. Bill received numerous awards from county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies including a US flag flown over the United States Capital on September 27, 1990 in his honor.

Bill excelled at golf and cross country running in school. He loved the outdoors, and viewed nature as a 2nd religion. As Albert Einstein once said, "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." From his youth until 2017, Bill camped with family and hiked 50 of the 59 major national parks, plus visited hundreds of other State and National Parks and Monuments. He visited every state, as well as Canada and Mexico. Being on the water, whether in a canoe, fishing boat or his double cabin cruiser, was always a favorite pastime. Exploring, studying American history and RV'ing over 340,000 miles in 55 years, most while visiting his children out west, was a yearly event.

Engaging in discussions with diverse people and learning from friends such as the Crackerbarrel discussion group in Northport and the League of Women Voters Leelanau County were an ongoing pleasure. Checking the stock market on a daily basis, beginning in his early 20's up until his death, was a not-to-be missed pastime. Bill continued his efforts in supporting those in need by volunteering, as well as with donations to charities that aligned with his values.

One of his greatest wishes is that all who love him do not mourn his passing, but reminisce about a life well lived.

A celebration of Bill's life will be announced in the summer of 2021.

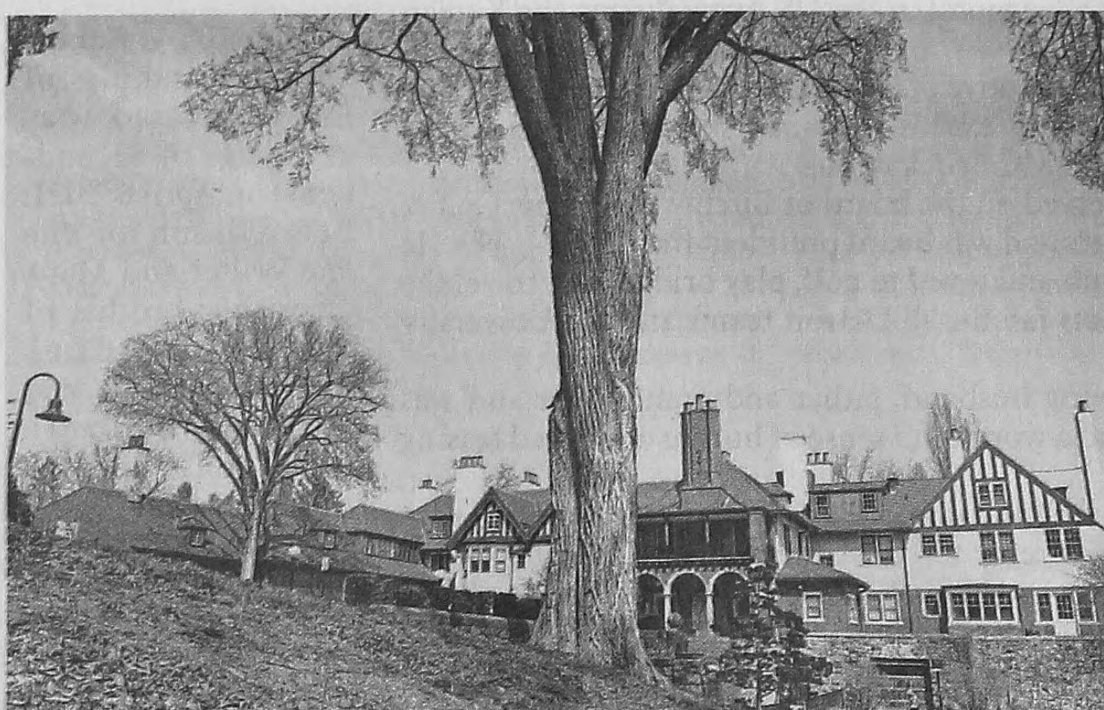
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Dr. Julienne Hoff Nursing Scholarship, c/o John Doyle, Director of Development, Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150 and/or Leelanau Conservancy, PO Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654.

Please share condolences with Bill's family at www.martinson.info Arrangements are with the Martinson Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Leelanau.





Visitors enjoy an afternoon at Cranbrook's property near its middle school.



An elm tree towers over the Cranbrook Home. The home's exterior and the grounds of Cranbrook, including its Sunken Garden and Japanese Garden, can be toured seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. through the summer.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A pine tree's reflection competes with blooming Japanese cherry trees at Cranbrook's Japanese Garden on April 8.

Heider

Continued from Page 2A

four miles to cover the gardens and property near the Cranbrook House.

Head north from the lot and swing by the Tower Cottage for maps or information. Take a gander at the Albert Kahn-designed main home at Cranbrook and wonder "how much would it cost to heat this 30,000-square-foot home in a typ-

ical Michigan winter?" (A lot).

Hang a right at the house and head down to the Sunken Garden; it's just about 20 feet below the home's level and features dozens of different perennials which should be blooming by mid-May.

From the Sunken Garden head through the gate to the east and then hang a left to the north. After passing a meadow filled with wildflowers in about 200 yards you'll come to the Japanese Garden with its well-manicured cedars, Japanese (red) Bridge and fuki

plants (also known as giant butter burrs).

After the Japanese Garden head around Kingswood Lake counterclockwise just to add a half mile to your hike and then head up the hill to the southwest to the Cranbrook Art Museum. Staying outside you'll be able to enjoy dozens of examples of the sculptor Carl Mille's creations around the exterior of the museum. The Orpheus Fountain, Europa and the Bull (at the Triton Pool) and others are eye-catching creations.

Finally, while still outside, take a gander at the museum building and other architectural creations of Finnish designer Eliel Saarinen who lived at the nearby Saarinen House as an artist and designer-in-residence at Cranbrook from 1925-1942. The museum's doors and its graphics by the Finn are worth the price of admission alone. Which is free, if you're not heading inside.

For more information, go to housegardens.cranbrook.edu or call 248-645-3147.



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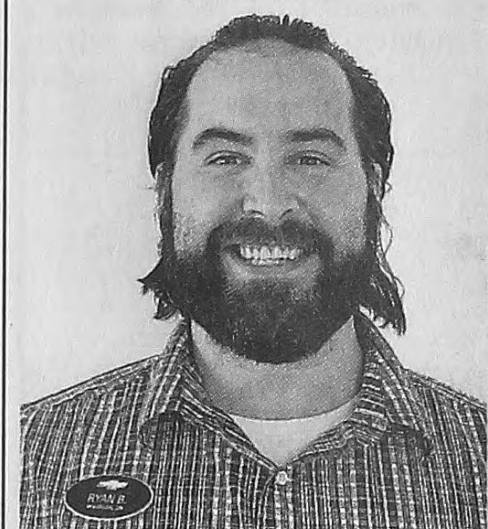
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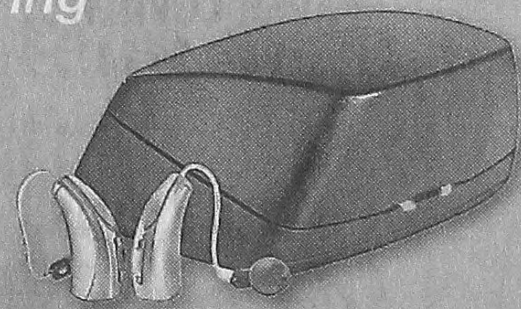
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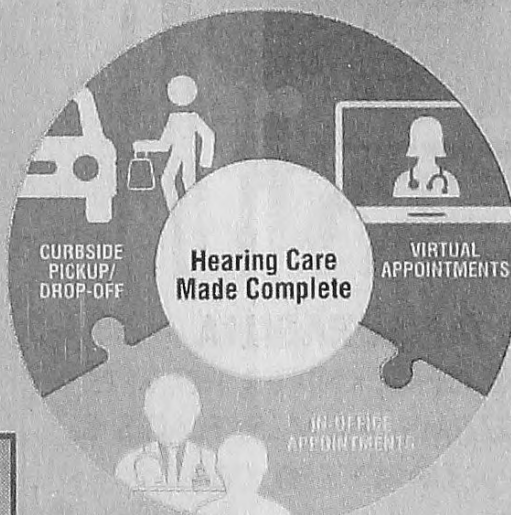
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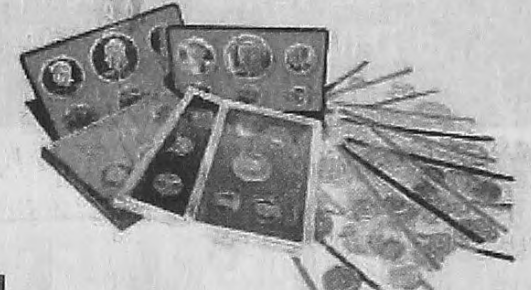
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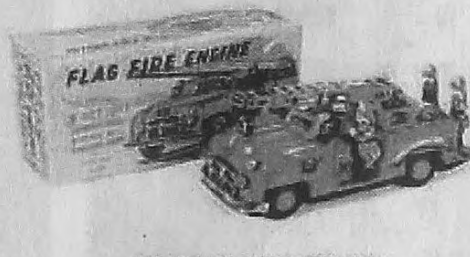
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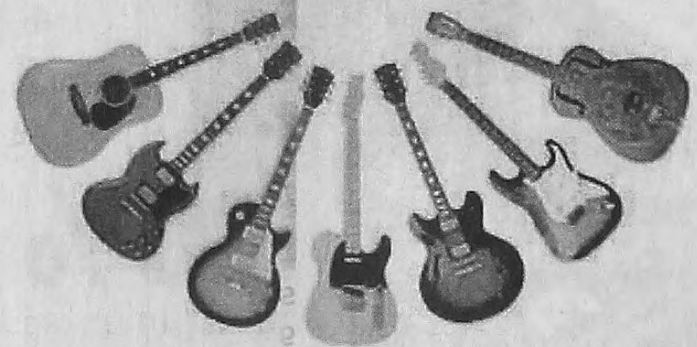
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SPORTS

Seaholm swim and dive achieves season-long goal

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Tom Wyllie knows what it takes to lead Seaholm's boys swim and dive team to a state title. Coming into his 24th season as the program's head coach, the Maples had won three state titles, last hoisting a first-place trophy in 2015.

A trophy is Wyllie's goal year in and year out, awarded to the top four at states. But in 2021, towing 12 seniors and what he described as one of the best diving programs in the state, the head coach widened his expectations. He wanted the whole thing: a Division 2 state title.

He described this preseason goal to his team with an analogy most teenagers would understand: asking someone on a date.

"We're going to put ourselves out there. We're going to ask the state championship for a date," Wyllie said. "Is it going to be a yes? We don't know, but let's go for it."

The Maples got the yes it was looking for, winning its fourth team state title in the past 24 years, but in a way that seems unconventional for some, yet conventional for Seaholm: scoring in every single event while earning only one individual state title.

The team title came from a team effort, something Wyllie believed in from

the start.

"There's no better team than our team," Wyllie said. "There may be a faster team, but there's no better team."

Meeting expectations

Kameron Liberman did not grow up as a diver. He was molded into one, transitioning from the mat to the board after figuring out he would be too tall for gymnastics the summer before his freshman year of high school.

From his first jump, expectations were placed on Liberman. Coaches and teammates saw his potential, comparing him to former Seaholm diver and state champion Sebastian Fay, whose

name adorns many of the school's diving records.

"Before my first year, everyone was like, 'Oh, you are going to be like Sebastian. You are going to take his records off the board,'" Liberman said. "I knew it was possible. I knew the environment was one that made a good diver before. I did kind of have an expectation for that."

Liberman immersed himself in the sport of diving with the help of Seaholm head diving coach Chalmers McGillivray, starting with a 12th-place finish at states as a freshman and bumping up to fifth as a sophomore — a

See **SWIMMING**, Page 3B



The Seaholm bench watches their teammates on the field during their April 12 game against North Farmington.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Baseball veterans show young Seaholm roster the path to success

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Facing a threatening North Farmington offense in the fifth inning of a tie game, Jimmy Love was not stressed. He was composed. He knew what he had to do.

With runners on first and second with no outs, the Birmingham Seaholm senior starting pitcher struck out one Raiders hitter and forced a flyout to left. After a double steal put both runners in scoring position, Love walked the next hitter, ending the inning with a swinging strikeout.

He walked off the mound nonchalantly, the game still tied.

"Every pitcher gets in jams," Love said. "You just have to do your thing and get out of it, do what you know you are capable of."

That mindset came from experience.

Love is only one of two players — along with centerfielder Sam Schumaker — who were on the 2019 Seaholm varsity roster. When taking the mound Monday afternoon, it was with a completely different roster, including two freshmen starting at third base and shortstop.

Seaholm head coach John Toth viewed Love's comeback as a lesson for those younger members of the roster, a lecture on where he expects them to be



Seaholm's Hunter Kaplan winds up with a runner on first, during the Maples' game April 12 against North Farmington.

as their Maples careers continue.

"That's a game young kids could lose right there in the fifth inning," Seaholm head baseball coach John Toth said. "But Jim being Jim, buckled down, got us out of it."

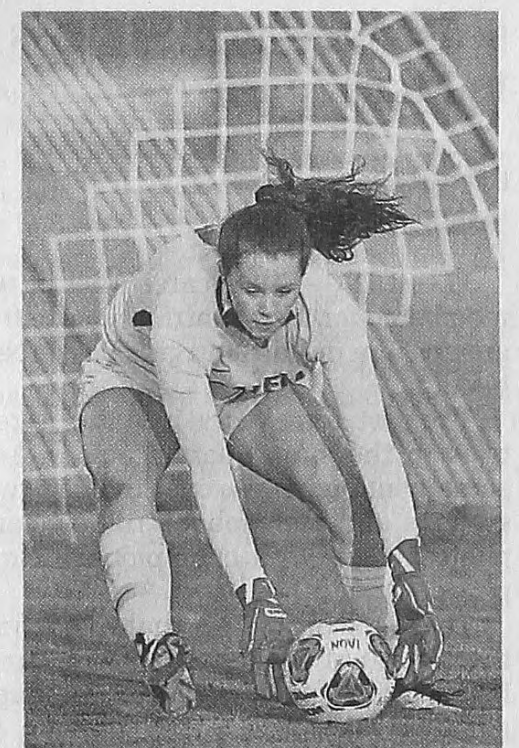
"That's huge they are learning how to win now as opposed to losing now and trying to win late."

Love remembers when he was in the

shoes of the majority of his teammates.

In 2019, he was a wide-eyed sophomore, playing a bunch of innings for a Seaholm team that won the OAA before losing to Brother Rice in the district final. He remembers the lessons learned from a senior-heavy roster, the learning curve that everyone went through as the

See **BASEBALL**, Page 4B



Salem goalie Ava Holloway scoops up a shot near the net.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Novi, Salem girls soccer teams learn from draw

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Todd Pheiffer's team never really talked about Novi's win streak.

If anything, when it came to an end April 8 against Northville, there was a sigh of relief. It was off the shoulders of the three seniors — the only returning varsity players — and an amalgamation of seven freshmen and sophomores who had never played Wildcats soccer before.

Early on in the 2021 season, Pheiffer said Novi's goal is simple: get better each game, something he feels the Wildcats (1-1-1) have done, tying Salem (1-0-1) in their third game of the season, 1-1.

Even after winning its first game, 3-1, against Howell, the head coach felt his team improved against Northville, allowing a single goal with five minutes left against the Mustangs to suffer its first loss since May 21, 2018.

Pheiffer saw it against the Rocks Tuesday night.

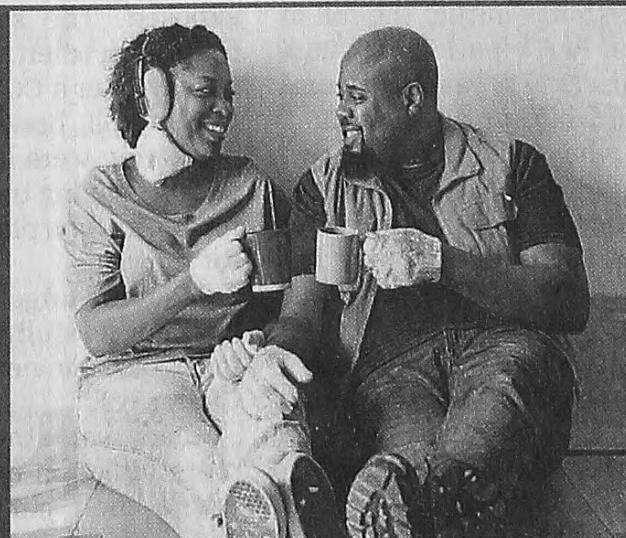
After an uninspired offensive start in the first half, Novi pressed on the gas at the start of the second, pressing the Salem defense hard until it mustered a goal from freshman Lindsay Dahlinger — who

See **SOCCER**, Page 4B

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Bryce Hall restarts commitment process, picks Penn

Colin Gay hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Bryce Hall never thought he would have to go through the recruitment process again.

The Cranbrook Kingswood senior defensive lineman thought he found his college home, committing to Yale in early October. But as his senior season finished up and a new year started, Hall realized the Ivy League was not for him, knowing that circumstances at the school would not work out for him and his family.

After a long and strenuous initial commitment process, Hall started over in late January, trying to find a spot at a school that had not filled up its spots in the 2021 class. On April 4, he found that spot, committing to the University of Pennsylvania to play football.

"It feels I was holding 475 on my back, just walking around with it and somebody just took it off my back," Hall



Hall

He confided in the people he trusted, including Cranbrook Kingswood head basketball coach Shane Finney and Athletic Director and head football coach Stephen Graf, who told him to be patient and not to rush into the first thing that's on the table.

"They said, 'You are a good football player,'" Hall said. "There will be somewhere for you to go."

With Penn, Hall had an idea of what he was getting into.

He talked to former teammate and Penn freshman linebacker Jack Fairman about what it was like to play for the Quakers, hearing about the weightlifting programs and the culture surround-

ing the football program.

Heading into his freshman year in Division 1 football, Hall wants to earn his place with the Quakers, saying he's focused on working for his spot instead of what may come with that in terms of individual success.

Hall knows that nothing is given to you. "I want to play. That's always been my thing. I want to do my best to be able to get on the field and contribute to the team's success," he said. "I'm also realizing that this isn't high school anymore and every dude you are competing against was that dude in their high school."

Hall's final high school football season did not go as planned. Cranbrook Kingswood failed to win any of its five games, losing its first-round playoff game against Madison Heights Lamphere. He also suffered a shoulder injury in the second quarter of the playoff game and was forced to sit the rest of the game.

To the senior, those final games did not feel real.

On senior night, Hall remembered what it was like watching Cranes seniors take the field each Friday night, watching as a seventh grader from the stands.

"Those guys felt so much older that I was," Hall said. "Now I'm looking at the freshmen this year and I'm like, I was in your spot. That was me."

For those who are watching him like he would watch the seniors, Hall wanted to make sure he left a message each time he took the field, no matter what the outcome was.

"Cherish the moments you have and make every moment that you are out there on the field," he said. "Get better every moment you are out there."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Eagles' dream basketball season ends in quarterfinals

Hartland scores season low in 42-32 loss to Midland Dow

Bill Khan LivingstonDaily.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FLUSHING — Their careers will be remembered for their contributions to the greatest era in Hartland girls basketball history.

The last four years included three trips to the state quarterfinals, a 34-game winning streak over the last two seasons and a scrapbook full of team photos taken with championship trophies.

That's the big picture that will define the careers of seniors Syd Caddell and Lillee Gustafson, not the one disappointing night when their dreams of making history with their teammates ended in a 42-32 Division 1 quarterfinal loss to Midland Dow Monday at Flushing.

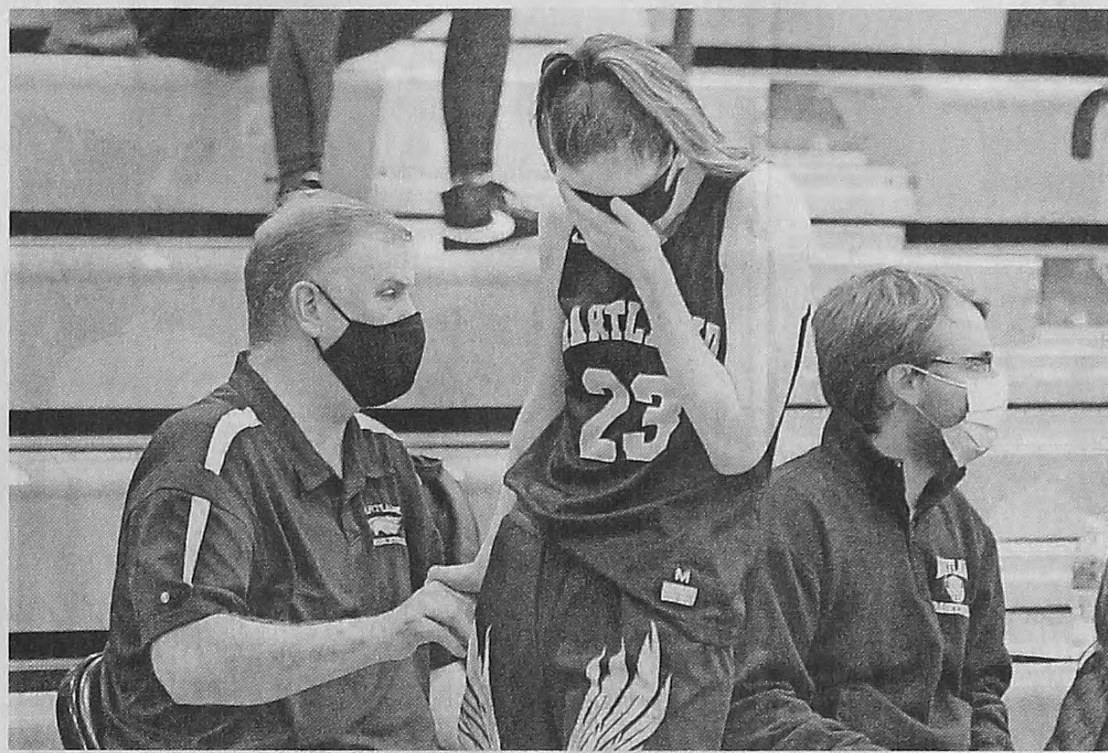
Caddell was a varsity player right from the beginning as a freshman, while Gustafson was promoted from the junior varsity for a quarterfinal run in ninth grade.

They helped Hartland become a big-name program in Michigan high school girls basketball as the No. 2 team going into last year's abbreviated playoffs and the No. 1 team this season. The Eagles were 20-0 coming into the game against 19-0 Dow.

"I'll remember this team forever," Gustafson said. "We were really close. I'm just sad this season's over."

It will be left to the 12 remaining players to chase the first state basketball championship by a Livingston County boys or girls team. Caddell will move on to compete in track and field at the University of Toledo, while Gustafson will continue playing basketball at Davenport University.

"I'm just incredibly proud being a captain this year and leading them this far with Lillee," Caddell said. "I don't



Hartland's Gracey Metz reacts in the final moments of a state playoff loss to Midland Dow. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

even know how I could have done it without the rest of the girls. It makes me really happy. This was my last game, so I'm going on to track; that's what I'm going to do. It's kind of hard this is going to be it, but I'm glad I did it with them."

This was perhaps Hartland's greatest chance to get to the final four in its four quarterfinal appearances since 2015. The Eagles lost 44-36 to Saginaw Heritage in 2015, 54-44 to Wayne Memorial in 2018 and 44-24 to Heritage in 2019.

Last year's team was on track to reach the quarterfinals, but the plug was pulled on winter tournaments four hours before the Eagles were scheduled to play for a regional championship. Monday's outcome wasn't what Hartland wanted, but at least the players got closure this time around.

"You can't define yourself after one game," Hartland coach Don Palmer said. "This one hurts, because this is the last game for some of these kids, but we won the league, we won the district, we won the regional, we won the association. So, there was a lot of winning there.

That was with three great players the year before graduating. So, you have to look at that. Right now, the seniors are inconsolable, but they heal quicker than us old guys."

Hartland won its first 20 games by at least 11 points, never allowing more than 38 points and never trailing after halftime.

It looked like business as usual for the Eagles when they led 11-5 after one quarter, but Dow went on a 14-0 run to take a 19-11 lead late in the first half. The Chargers held Hartland scoreless in the second quarter until Gustafson scored 28 seconds before halftime.

Dow extended its lead to 24-16 early in the third quarter before the Eagles began to look like themselves again. Hartland went on an 11-2 run, tying the game 26-26 on Gracey Metz's second straight 3-pointer with 1:45 left in the third quarter. The score was tied 28-28 entering the fourth.

Down 30-28, Hartland got in the bonus with 5:10 left in the game, but missed three one-and-ones while the

game was hanging in the balance. The Chargers scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter to go up 35-28 with 2:40 remaining. A 3-pointer by Amanda Roach with 1:43 to go made it a four-point game, but Alexa Kolnitys sealed it at the free throw line by going 6-for-6 in the final 1:33.

Gustafson had 12 points and Metz 10 for Hartland, which was forced to pass the ball around the perimeter and settle for long 3-point attempts all night.

Dow was able to hold Hartland to a season-low 32 points despite scrambling to change its game plan after senior Chloe McVey was injured near the end of practice Sunday. McVey, wearing a walking boot on her left foot, was announced as a starter and was on the court to start the game. After Hartland inbounded the ball, play was stopped and she was replaced by Kennedy Caldwell.

"We switched up the game plan once Chloe went down, so not a lot of time to change," Dow coach Kyle Theisen said.

"Alexa played high instead of low, Kennedy obviously had a lot more minutes, Kourtney (Fischer) had a lot more minutes. Chloe going down changes everything in the last 20 minutes of practice Sunday. We had a walk-through today. For them to go out and execute a changed game plan after working for three straight days is just unbelievable and speaks to the basketball I.Q. of these girls."

Dow will play in the state semifinals for the first time, having lost its only quarterfinal appearance in 2010.

While Hartland will have three returning starters who will be fourth-year varsity players next season, replacing Gustafson in the middle won't be easy.

"We have to work and see if we can develop a post player," Palmer said. "I think our kids coming back have to come back a little better and stronger. We need to get a little tougher. Gracey Metz played very, very hard tonight and Leah Lappin played hard. We've got to get a little stronger in other positions in terms of a little more toughness."

Poll: Youth sports stumble on COVID-19 virus precautions

Christina Hall DetroitFreePress.com
USA TODAY NETWORK

A majority of parents are giving their child's sports organization high marks for communication about COVID-19 safety protocols, but one in four gave low marks — fair or poor — for consistent enforcement of virus precautions, according to the results of a new national poll released Tuesday.

The poll, conducted by C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health at the University of Michigan, comes at a time when officials say youth sports help to fuel rising COVID-19 cases in Michigan and elsewhere in the country.

Last week, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer asked Michiganders to voluntarily refrain from youth sports, eating indoors at restaurants and asked high schools to move to virtual learning for two weeks after spring break as the state battles its third coronavirus surge. On Monday, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said these activities should be shut down to curb the virus' spread.

Younger Michiganders are getting sick and being hospitalized, as health officials push to get more COVID-19 vac-

cines in arms, particularly those of younger people — those age 16 and older — who are now eligible for a shot. The results of the new poll are based on responses from 1,630 parents of children ages 6 to 18 years old. The parents were surveyed about youth sports participation between August and January, according to a release.

"As kids return to playing sports, it's critical that teams and facilities enforce COVID guidelines to keep players, coaches and families as safe as possible and to reduce community spread," said Sarah Clark, the poll's co-director.

Close to one-fourth of parents said their child participated in school, travel or community sports during the fall or winter months. Participation was 25% for children ages 12 to 18 years old, compared to 21% for children ages 6 to 11.

Of parents whose child did not participate in a sport, one in three said the sport was canceled and one in four wouldn't allow their child to play because of COVID-19-related concerns. Three in four parents thought their child's team "mostly got it right" when it came to resuming sports, 13% of parents felt officials were too strict, while 14% thought they were too lenient, according to the release.

Some of the poll's other findings were:

- The majority of parents gave excellent or good ratings to their child's school or sports league for clear communication, treating children fairly and listening to parent concerns about the virus.

- Of those whose child participated in sports, more than 90% said they received information from the school or league about masks and social distancing guidelines for players and spectators.

- Four out of five parents received information about when players should sit out of practice or games after being exposed. The same percent felt informed on when their child could return to play after a COVID-19 diagnosis.

The poll, however, found that rules on testing were less clear, with 59% of parents saying they are seeing communication when players should get tested for the virus.

"Parents largely felt that sports officials successfully communicated about most of their new COVID-19 policies," Clark says.

Clark said that parents will need more direction on whether, when and where their child should get tested.

That's important, Clark said, as COVID-19 cases are rising among younger people.

The poll results also detailed what parents would do if their child developed the virus during a sports season. It found:

- 40% said they would wait the number of days specified by team or league guidelines to return.

- Half said they would have their child cleared to play by a doctor.

- 5% said they would base the decision on when the child felt well enough to play.

More parents of older children would wait the specified number of days, while fewer parents of teens would have their child cleared by a doctor, the poll found. Clark said parents should talk with their child's doctor for guidance on when their child should return to playing.

Clark said parents also should reinforce with their child not to share water bottles or food and to use hand sanitizer during breaks. They should keep social distance and wear masks themselves when they attend their child's games. And players and families should avoid indoor gatherings before and after sporting events, especially with unvaccinated groups, according to the release.

Swimming

Continued from Page 1B

disappointment for Liberman, who was seeded third.

After not being able to participate in the state meet as a junior due to COVID-19, Liberman entered his senior season as the front-runner in Division 2. He knew a state title was possible, but he knew it wouldn't be easy.

And when the moment came, Liberman delivered, finishing in first place with a 523.15, 62.95 points ahead of the second-place finisher.

"It was everything I have really wanted since I was a freshman and I came to my first state meet," Liberman said. "It's been a goal of mine for four years. I was so happy I had finally gotten there.

"I was proud of myself for not letting things like the pandemic or my competitors get into my head or anything. I'm happy I was able to focus."

Liberman, who has signed to dive at Michigan next season, and his two diving teammates — sophomore Grayson Davis and senior Aidan Wise — did their jobs, each scoring for Seaholm before the swimmers had a chance to compete.

The next day, it was the Maples swimmers' turn to add to the total.



Seaholm has won four state titles under head coach Tom Wyllie. COURTESY OF KAMERON LIBERMAN

'One bite at a time'

Over the course of his four-year swimming career at Seaholm, senior Tom Girdler learned to take things one step at a time. Instead, what comes to mind is a phrase Wyllie always told the team: "Eat the elephant one bite at a time."

At first, Girdler would see something that's not easy to wrap his head around — the elephant — and would be scared of it. But as he focused on the small parts, it would not become as intimidating.

To him, this was the 2021 state title, the goal that Wyllie and the rest of his teammates set as their destination, even in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic.

When swimmers across the state were not allowed in the pool area until the end of the competition. Instead, they camped out in front of a television in their hotel's lobby, screaming with the parents of the swim team's parents

and preparing for the pool the best they could.

As practices transitioned back into the pool and the winter season officially kicked off, Wyllie began to build his arsenal for the state meet, watching as swimmers accumulated their state-qualifying times.

For the head coach, his team's pre-season goal became tangible after Seaholm won the Oakland County title, realizing that his team had the potential to achieve what it had set out to do.

"I have a saying that I've used over the years: We don't shoot for the moon because when you shoot for the moon and miss, you might land right back on earth," Wyllie said. "If you shoot for the stars and miss, you might land on the moon."

"Let's shoot for the state championship, and if we don't win it, we could be second or third. But when we saw that performance at the county meet, we were like, 'Maybe we can reach the stars this year.'"

At the Division 2 state meet, Seaholm reached the stars.

The Maples had 11 All-State finishes, including a third-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly by Cami Wilson, a second-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke by Girdler and two top-three performances in the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relays.

The Division 2 state title capped off Seaholm's first undefeated season in the pool under Wyllie.

"I think every swimmer on our team played a key role into winning the title this year," Girdler said. "I don't think it's one swimmer carrying our load. It's a complete team effort and I don't think we can do it without one person missing."

Relief and celebration

On Saturday, all Liberman could do was wait.

The senior and his diving teammates were not allowed in the pool area until the end of the competition. Instead, they camped out in front of a television in their hotel's lobby, screaming with the parents of the swim team's parents

as their sons raced.

Once the results were announced, the entire swim and dive team gathered on the pool deck to celebrate.

"It was a crazy moment that would never happen in real life. It would only happen this year," Liberman said. "It was all really surreal."

For Girdler, this trophy held more weight, more satisfaction than others he had earned in the past, knowing all of the work and sacrifices the team as a whole put into the 2021 season.

Wyllie was elated, yet relieved. When his team celebrated he thought back to the uncertainty that clouded over the team dating back to last fall.

"At the beginning of the season we were all worried: Is there going to be a season or not?" Wyllie said. "We started late and decided we are just going to move forward, we're going to assume there will be a season."

Seaholm put itself out there, and it paid off.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17.



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Baseball

Continued from Page 1B

Maples found a level of success they never found before.

In 2021, after a season was lost to the COVID-19 pandemic, Love is expected to show his teammates what Seaholm varsity baseball is about, based solely on the fact that he has experience. It's his job to make sure everyone is ready and prepared, immersing each of the players with the confidence of knowing Seaholm will field the better team in each game it plays.

"It's not much of an adjustment. They are just not used to it yet," Love said. "They're learning quickly, and they are definitely winners."

Seaholm showed its progress in the bottom half of that fifth inning.

After Love got the Maples out of a jam, the offense returned the favor, scoring six runs on five hits — including an RBI single by Love — to break open the seal against its OAA opponent.

Through their first four full games of the season — the second game of Monday's doubleheader was called for darkness and will be completed at a later date — Seaholm has won three games, finding its stride early with an inexperienced roster.

Toth knows there's a lot still to learn. "I came down today at 3:19 and no one was doing anything," he said. "I was like, 'Guys, we play at 4.'"

But Seaholm has started to win, earlier than originally thought. Toth knows



Daniel Hanus rounds third before heading back to the bag.

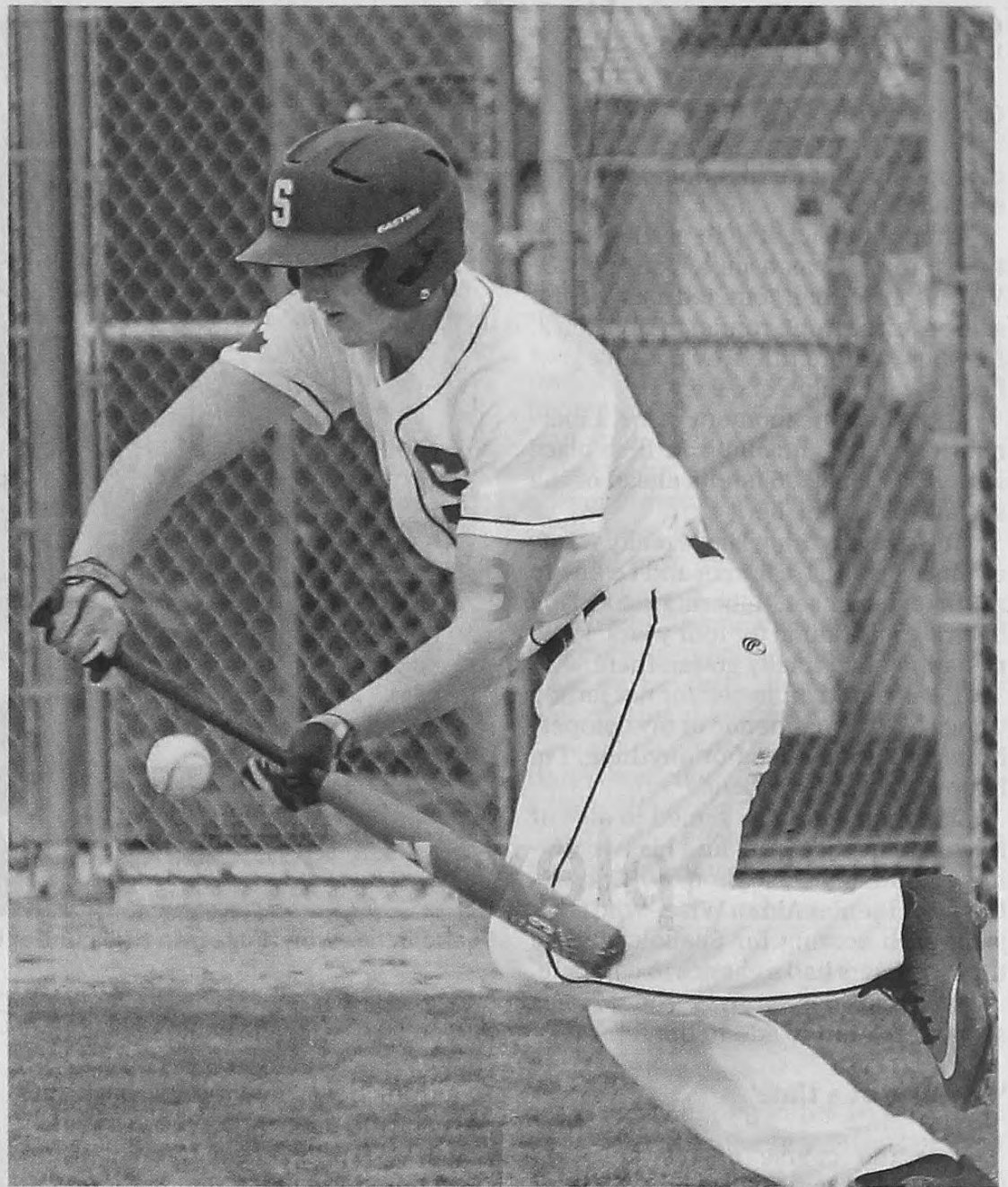
that the Maples will continue to improve, gaining confidence as the season rolls along.

Love also has high expectations for what is to come from this freshman class even after he's gone, saying, "In two or three years, they should be blowing out every team they play."

But the senior's job now, in 2021, is to show them the path to that success, those same lessons he was taught by seniors in 2019.

"Stay in game mode," Love said. "Game ready, 24/7."

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.



Maple Sam Schumaker drags a bunt towards third base during Seaholm's game April 12 against North Farmington. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

opened the season with two assists against Howell — assisted by junior Samantha Maday.

"They are not afraid to be out there," Pheiffer said of his seven newcomers to the starting lineup. "They are not intimidated by the situation, and a lot of credit for that goes to our seniors. We've welcomed them in."

The seniors, including goalkeeper Abbey Pheiffer, have given the group

confidence too.

After allowing a first-half goal from Salem's Olivia Schuck, Pheiffer stepped up late when the Novi defense needed her, saving two shots at the end of the game — including a dive to her right — to secure the one-goal draw.

"There's a lot of confidence," Todd Pheiffer said. "Abbey's confidence in the defense and the defense's confidence in her that we can take a couple of chances, go out and press them and not be caught on our heels because we know Abbey is able to make that big save."

Salem head coach Kyle Karns has an idea of what he's working with, but has

not seen it fully in action.

The Rocks came into the season with 14 seniors, all of which played significant minutes for their 2019 team that finished 5-9-4 and in third place in the KLAAs Black.

But in 2021, Karns has not seen them all together.

"We're still at a place where we don't have our full team back," he said. "I think that's going to be the case for everybody."

"Just bits and pieces here and there, and we are still trying to figure things out."

With only two games played this season, Karns knows Salem is still a work in progress. He saw improvement from the Rocks' 1-0 opening win against Harland, ruling shots on goal and corner

kicks against Novi, but failed to finish all but one: a Schuck spike with no keeper in sight.

Karns has seen only 80 minutes of soccer from a team that is incomplete. He knows there are things to learn and areas to grow into. But he has something that many teams don't have in 2021: experience.

"It's a group that knows the system that we like to play and played together in that format before," Karns said. "It is a luxury to have, but again, it's kind of getting everybody back together again, getting back into the groove of things."

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Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: April 18, 2021

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Bid proposals will be received by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools through BuildingConnected.com by **April 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM** local time when they will be publicly opened. The District will not open, consider, or accept any bids received after the date and time specified.

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A virtual pre-bid meeting will be held on April 9, 2021 at 1:00 PM at <http://links.pccsk12.com/BMprebidmtg>

The meeting is not mandatory.

The Board of Education reserves the right to: reject any or all bid proposals, either in whole or in part; waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; accept bid alternates; and to award a contract in any manner deemed by the Board of Education, in its sole discretion, to be in their best interests.

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Between March and April each year, new construction hires jump by 40%, on average, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey.

Last year was an anomaly, of course. Construction employment and hires fell last April amid lockdowns and broader panic over the COVID-19 pandemic. But the spring/summer hiring surge came a month later as most projects resumed.

Whereas past recessions have generally caused steeper job losses in construction than in most service-sector industries, the COVID-19 recession has seen the reverse. As of February 2021, employment levels were "only" down 4% in construction, compared with 6.5% in service-sector industries, according to BLS' Current Employment Statistics.

Companies primarily involved in residential building have experienced something of a boom since pre-pandemic February and homebuilder confidence has been historically high. Amid record-low mortgage rates, new housing starts reached a new record high in December and investments in home renovations surged as Americans pulled cash out of their homes through refinancing and poured it

back into home offices, home gyms, play spaces and swimming pools.

As of late March 2021, increases in lumber prices and mortgage rates have posed a challenge for home builders. But there is plenty of good news on the way for the industry, too. COVID-19 cases have fallen, vaccination rates have increased, job growth is rising again, and the economic recovery appears to be picking up. The Federal Reserve expects the economy to grow 6.5% in 2021, but has indicated it will keep rates low for the foreseeable future.

Further, unprecedented fiscal stimulus is making its way into Americans' bank accounts. Especially for the many Americans who have neither lost jobs nor income since the pandemic began, some of that money will go into new housing or home improvements. And for those who put home purchase or home improvement plans on hold last spring/summer amid heightened uncertainty, the coming building season offers the chance for a fresh start.

That is good news for construction workers, 9.6% of whom were unemployed as of February 2021, according to BLS. The industry currently has the fourth-highest unemployment rate, after mining, leisure and hospitality, and agriculture, but that could change in the coming months. As of mid-March, construction-related fields dominate the list of fastest-growing jobs in the ZipRecruiter marketplace.

To the extent that online job posting volumes are a crystal ball, offering insight into employer sentiment and future hiring plans, they point to a strong recovery in the construction industry this spring and summer.

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“

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”

Abby Ruiz,
Retention Specialist,
The Arizona Republic

Abby is one of Gannett's emerging leaders and we invite you to become another! Gannett has over 250 locations nationwide with a variety of packaging and production roles that accommodate many of the transferable skill sets that you may already have.

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“Working for Gannett has helped me to develop new skills and has built me to become a better version of myself. My leadership team saw potential and took a risk offering me this new role. They continue to guide me to become the best leader I could be and for that, I love my job.”

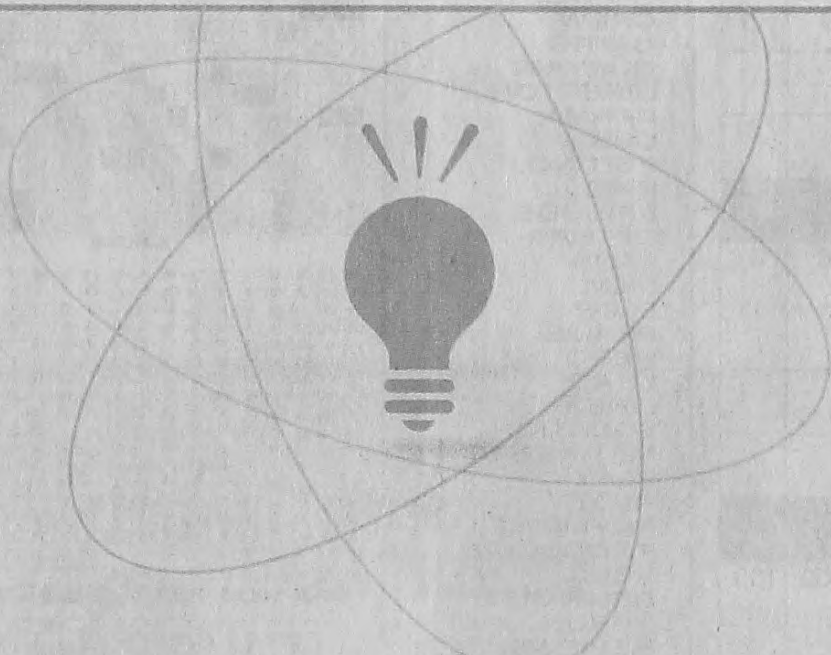
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Contact **Sydney Vernon, Sr. Manager/Talent Acquisition**
@ 914-694-5335 or e-mail: svernon@gannett.com

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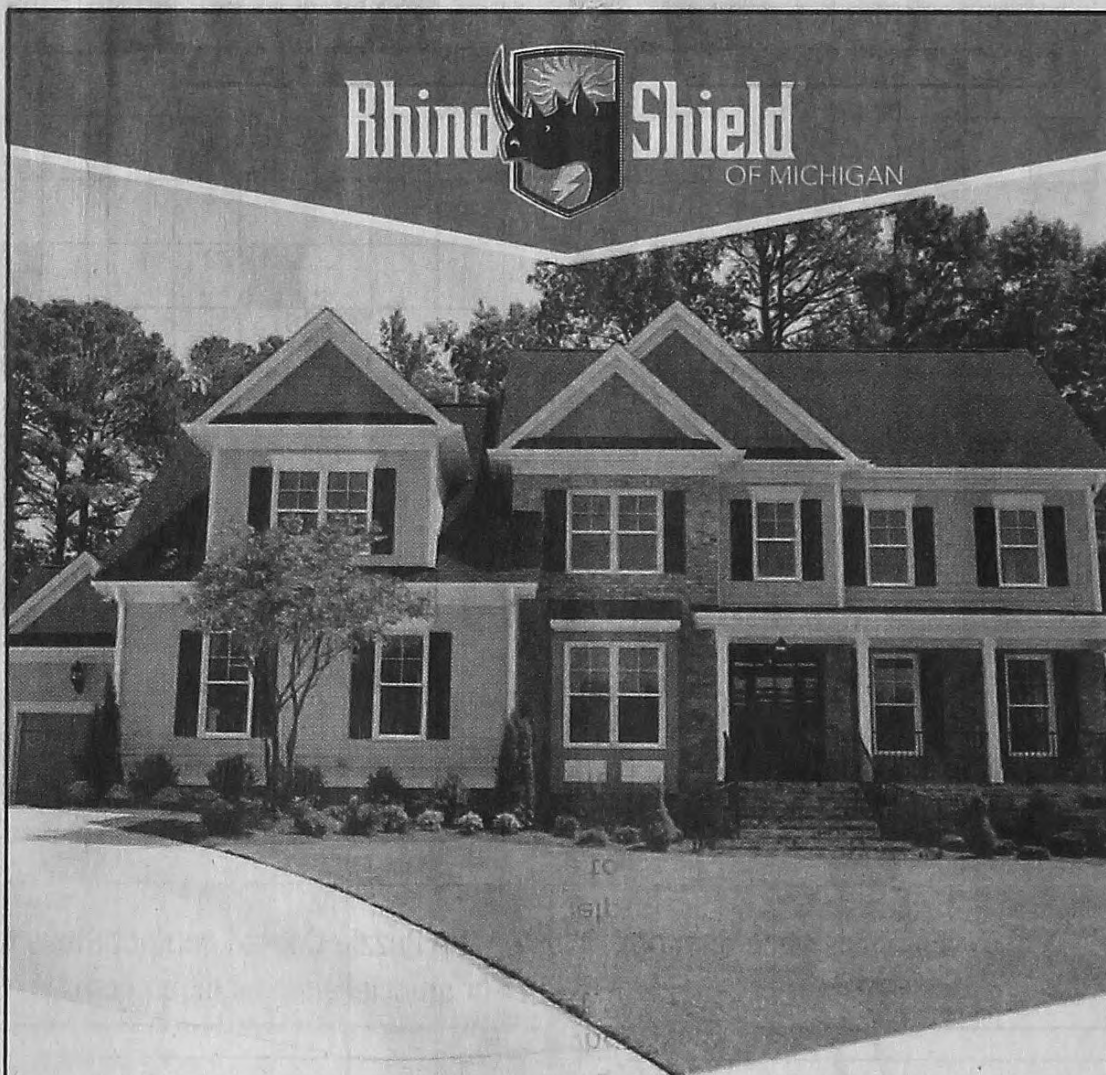


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