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THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Farmington library board puts director on leave

Vice president, treasurer announce resignations

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The Farmington Community Library board gave a group of vocal residents what they wanted last week. The board approved a 4-3 no confidence vote in Director Riti Grover and placed her on paid administrative leave effective immediately during its meeting April 16. Grover, who was hired in late 2019, has been criticized for how she

interacts with staff and for her handling of library finances.

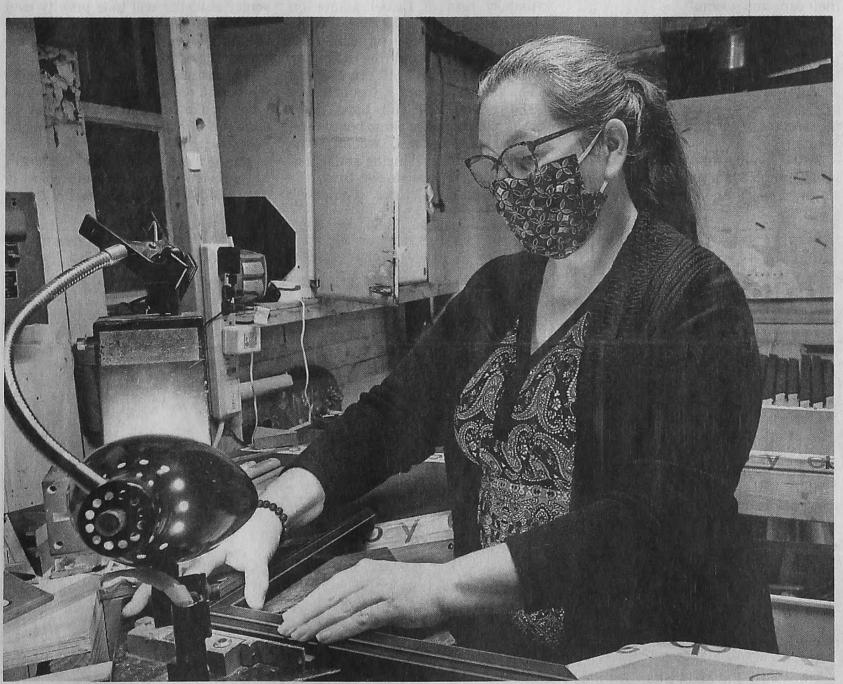
"I just don't feel that Riti has been fully transparent or accountable for her actions and just the emotional damage that was being done to staff," Jim White, the board's president, said. "It was just something that I could not tolerate."

Community members who have long

advocated for Grover's resignation say they felt heard following the board's decision. Grover and the board will meet again to discuss her employment in the coming weeks.

"I think it was the only thing the board could do," said Patricia Ballard, a

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With 20/40 vision in her left eye as the result of an October incident in which a 40-pound sandbag crashed through her car's windshield, Plymouth Frame Works owner Cindy Eckley checks alignment with her hands as she assembles frames.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Man in I-96 sandbag drop incident plans insanity defense

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Cindy Eckley's recovery blipped this spring when she learned the man accused of hurling a 40-pound sandbag at her from an Interstate 96 overpass was pursuing an insanity defense.

The latest in the prosecution of David Vincent-Charles Garcia seemed more than vexing to the Plymouth business owner.

Her vision was permanently damaged by the glass that pierced her left eye once a 40-pound load of construction materials shattered her windshield six months ago.

"He has a long criminal history," said Eckley, rejecting Garcia's claims of mental illness. "He has a long record. Not once on any of his other charges has this been brought up. It's just a stall tactic.

"He needs to do time. His behavior

has escalated to the point where he could have killed me. He's a danger to society."

In the case that determines how soon Eckley,
48, can move on with her
life Carcia 41 of Brigh

life, Garcia, 41, of Brighton is awaiting trial on felony charges of throwing objects at cars causing serious impairment, assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and malicious destruction of personal property.

Criminal record

Garcia does have an extensive court record that stretches back to at least 2003, where he faced a domestic violence charge and a driving infraction in Canton's 35th District Court.

Garcia then had a Romulus address,

and the charges are more plentiful in that city's 34th District Court. Online records indicate Garcia was a frequent visitor to the courthouse because of allegations involving drugs, larceny, assault, domestic violence and driving infractions.

An assault and domestic violence case out of Romulus took Garcia to Third Circuit Court in Detroit in 2007, after he waived a preliminary examination and the case automatically moved to the higher court.

There, Garcia pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon. The domestic violence charge was dismissed, and he was given two years' probation. He returned to court four years later because of a probation violation.

There were a couple more driving

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Livonia Spree canceled for second year in a row due to pandemic

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Bad news, Livonia Spree fans: The beloved summer event isn't happening this year.

Dan Spurling, president of the Livonia Anniversary Committee, said it's just not possible to hold an event Spree's size in the middle of a pandemic. The festival usually draws between 400,000 and 600,000 people every

"People say, 'Well you can social distance' and all that, but that's a lot of people," he said.

Spurling said canceling last year's event was a sad, stressful ordeal and it's disappointing to have to do it again.

"On fireworks day last year I just sat there and said there was just nothing to do," he said. "It was the first Father's Day in like 30 years that I was home. Normally the kids would come see me up at Spree. It was a weird year."

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Livonia plans outdoor prom, graduation

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

About a year ago Livonia schools, along with those across Michigan, were looking at canceling traditional rites of passage like high school graduation ceremonies and prom. Livonia ended up holding drive-thru graduation ceremonies and canceling prom at its three high schools.

This year, district officials are moving those events outdoors so they can happen in-person for the class 2021.

"Typically our senior honors night, prom and commencement are all opportunities for that senior class to be together one last time," Andrew Pesci, principal of Franklin High School, said. "For us as a staff who have worked closely with so many students,

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former library employee and advocate with the Restore the Farmington Community Library group that has been critical of library operations and some of its governing board members..

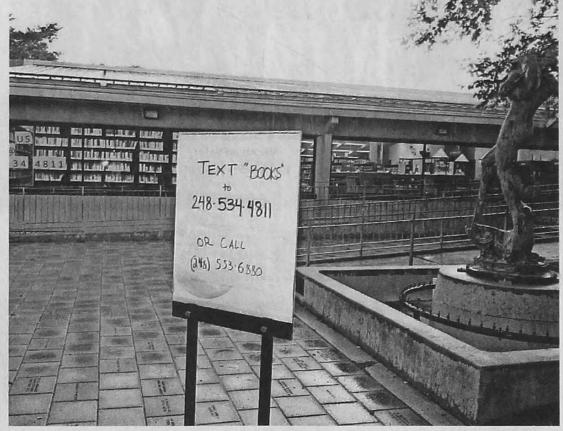
Grover and the board have been under community scrutiny since the spring of 2020 following widespread staff furloughs early in the pandemic. During public meetings, staff have repeatedly told the board they feel un-

"This morning, customers brought in a sign that said 'Once upon a time, we put the community back in the community library," said Jeff Pavlik, co-owner of Sunflour Bakehaus in Farmington who has been advocating for Grover's resignation and library reform. "I think that's how people feel now."

Grover's temporary exit was not the only change announced Thursday.

Bill Largent, the board's vice president, announced his intent to resign upon the sale of his Farmington Hills home.

Largent has publicly criticized library



In the early months of the coronavirus pandemic, the Farmington Community Library allowed patrons to pick up books curbside. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

have spoken out against board deci-

staff and community members who sions. This led to a community petition calling for his resignation last year.

More than 1,400 people signed it. Board treasurer Paul Huyck also resigned, but did not state a reason why.

Largent and Huyck both represent Farmington Hills on the board, which includes four Farmington Hills representatives and four from Farmington. Farmington Hills Mayor Vicki Barnett makes appointments when seats are available.

White said he hopes restructuring will give the board and the community a clean slate.

"We truly want to make sure this is the best possible library for everyone," White said. "Thank you to everyone for your continued interest and concern about what's happening to the library."

Community advocates said they feel the same way.

"The main goal of Restore is not to keep things status quo, but to give the best possible service to a community that deserves a great library," Ballard said. "Libraries can provide so much, especially during a pandemic, and Farmington isn't seeing that. Hopefully, this is the start of good things to come."

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

Livonia

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it's an opportunity to have those conversations and have those moments with them that we love. It was devastating not having the opportunity to do those traditional events."

Graduation on the football field

Livonia once held its various high school graduations outside, and administrators are optimistic revisiting that format will go off without a hitch. The district has held graduation at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth in recent years.

Each school will have a planned graduation and one backup date in the event

of inclement weather. The district may limit how many guests each student can bring, but hasn't made that decision yet.

"These events are all traditions, and they're very important traditions," Dan Willenborg, district director of secondary programs, said. "They kind of serve as a rite of passage from your student days to your young adult days. So we're doing everything we can for kids to wear their caps and gowns."

School staff are just as excited as students and families would be for the inperson event. Willenborg said many of the district's middle and elementary school teachers also enjoy attending graduation and seeing students' final moments as Patriots, Chargers and Spartans.

"We're looking forward to this time of year more so than ever because it's a celebration, it's a culmination, it's a full recognition of all the hard work and all the years students have gone through to reach this," Pesci said. "The fact that it was taken away last year felt a little empty, and I'm hopeful despite of chaos going on around us we'll be able to have this piece of normalcy."

Prom also on the football field

Usually held at Laurel Manor on Schoolcraft in Livonia, all three Livonia high schools will have prom at their football stadiums and the adjoining parking lots this year. All three events will be limited to about 300 people.

The proms will still have fancy clothes, plated meals, photo booths and music as they normally would. Some things, like couples dancing and lots of close seating, will be absent. Given the outdoor setting, all three events will likely have plenty of yard games for students to play.

"People can still get out there and cut a rug by themselves, I suppose," Willenborg said. "This is the last time they're going to be together as a senior class, and we want to honor that."

Guest tickets will likely be limited and given out through a lottery system because of the limited capacity, with senior students will take priority over underclassman and guests. The proms will also not have backup dates in the event of poor weather.

"Unfortunately, that's the reality when you're having it outdoors and when you're in the pandemic that we continue to have to navigate through," Pesci said.

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Spree

Continued from Page 1A

But with COVID-19 cases back on the rise and general uncertainty in possible restrictions, time-consuming aspects like planning the event and selling tickets are near impossible.

"People don't realize it takes a whole year to plan this thing," Spurling said. "When you don't know what's going on, it's hard to plan."

Spurling is, however, "very hopeful" to welcome Spree lovers back to the festival in 2022. He loves seeing the event bring people joy and hopes to experience that again soon.

"I really enjoy seeing the crowds," Spurling said. "I enjoy seeing the families enjoying themselves. You know, you burn yourself out the two weeks beforehand and then you come to Spree - I'll stand in the back during the fireworks and you can hear all the 'oohing and aahing' coming from the crowd and it's just unbelievable. That just kind of recharges you."

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

hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

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Follow us on Faceboook: @OEHometown

Subscription Rates: Newsstand price: \$1.50

\$104 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737 Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon Afterhours, leave voicemail Email: cserv@dnps.com

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Incident

Continued from Page 1A

infractions to deal with in Livingston and Oakland counties before the night of Oct. 4, when Garcia apparently hurled several 40-pound sandbags from the Old Plank Road overpass in Lyon Township as Eckley drove toward her Livonia home on I-96.

She had spent the day with the women in her family, a reunion she hadn't experienced in a while because of COVID-19.

As Eckley felt around for her phone to call 911, Garcia apparently left the overpass. He ran toward a truck with a flashlight.

Court testimony

In court, David Masters testified that he was driving toward his New Hudson place of work when he saw Garcia and agreed to take the man home. Garcia had told him that his vehicle broke down on the interstate.

During the ride, Garcia apparently confessed that he feels an urge to hurt people when bad things happen.

He also told Masters that he walked up to the bridge and threw the sandbags onto the highway.

"I asked him if he had hit any cars. He said, yeah, he did. He hit one," Masters testified. "He seemed very calm and collected."

Masters called 911 upon dropping off Garcia, a self-employed man who had shared his name, age, phone number and that he was trained in siding and roofing work when hitching a ride.

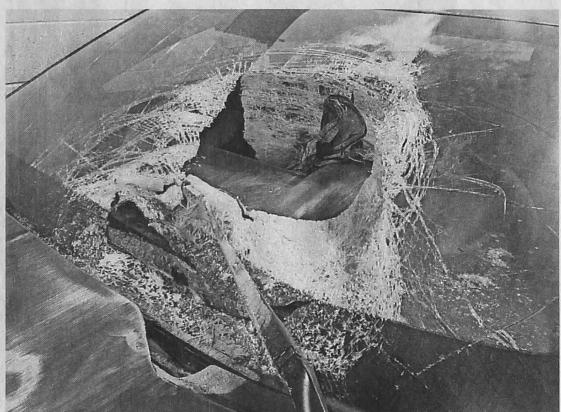
Garcia is awaiting trial on home confinement. He must wear a tether but can leave home for work and other specific purposes.

His attorney Andrew Mikos notified the court of his intent to pursue an insanity defense in February. The notice reads as follows: "Defendant, by and through his undersigned counsel, notifies the plaintiff and the court that, pursuant to MCL 768.20a, the defendant intends to introduce an insanity defense."

Oakland Circuit Court Judge Victoria Valentine has ordered an evaluation. A forensic psychiatrist or other qualified personnel will provide their opinion on Garcia's mental state.

The overpass

Eckley was driving her dream car -



What was left of the front windshield of Cindy Eckley's vehicle after it was smashed by a 40-pound sandbag thrown from an Interstate 96 overpass. COURTESY OF CINDY ECKLEY

a sleek 2014 metallic charcoal gray Chevy Camaro - when sand and glass blasted through the interior, wrecking the vehicle and threatening her life.

The double vision is gone. However, a shard cut her left cornea and permanently damaged the left eye, leaving her stuck with 20/40 vision - with trifocal glasses - on that side of her face.

She now prepares frames by both sight and touch at her downtown Plymouth art gallery, Frame Works.

Realizing the magnitude of what she survived, Eckley has spent days fighting insurance companies to get medical bills totaling thousands of dollars paid. She fears Garcia's insanity defense will push back a court resolution and thus some car issues.

She took pictures and video of the damaged Camaro for the car insurance company, which said the car could be restored for about \$3,000.

"This car, after I've seen it in person, is pretty much totaled," Eckley said. "The entire interior of the car was sandblasted with 40 pounds of sand and gravel at 73 miles an hour. It shot past me and is piled up in the back windshield. The back windshield is completely etched. The VIN number was sandblasted off the front of the dash.

"My car is being held as evidence and who knows when the actual trial is going to happen. I have to wait for the actual trial to happen to then be able to go after (the car insurance company) to get money for the car. It's ridiculous."

She has purchased a new car and done her best to move beyond the night she was sandbagged and sandblasted.

Trying to move on

Eckley returned to full-time hours just before Christmas.

"Christmas is our busiest season and we had a record-breaking December," she shared. "That was great but it just meant that I had to be here.

"I would work for a few hours. Then I would sit back here, kind of nauseous, put my head between my legs for about 20 minutes. Then it was like 'OK.' I'd force myself to go at it because who else is going to do it and there's deadlines and everyone is helping as much as they can."

Existence has been a definite struggle for this female business owner. And so she navigates her anger slowly.

"I saw him up there," Eckley said. "He waited for my vehicle. It's not like he was angry and at the spur of the moment was just throwing things and didn't know what he was doing."

Eckley slows her articulation of frus-

tration with Garcia's insanity defense. "No. He timed it. He stood there. He lined the sandbags up and he waited for a victim. He wanted to hurt someone."

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

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The Redford Union Education Association, a union made of school employees, has some harsh words for Superintendent Jasen Witt.

An overwhelming 93% of the association voted to say they have "no confidence" in Witt's leadership. Of the 149 eligible voters, 145 of whom cast ballots, 135 made the no confidence vote.

135 made the no confidence vote.

Steve Losey, the president of the education association and a 26-year teacher in the district, said people will leave if

in the district, said people will leave if
Witt is hired as the next permanent superintendent.
Losey said 23 staff, 16 of them teachers, have left the district in the last year.

"They're going to see people leaving," Losey said.
"That's what it comes down to. In the climate we have where there's a teacher shortage going on, it's going to be very difficult for them to find teachers."

Witt is one of five finalists for the district's open superintendent job. The others are Shaun Black of Detroit schools, Larry Gray II of Detroit schools, Jeffrey Robinson of Detroit schools and Marie Schluter of Redford Union. The school board is aiming to install a new superintendent in July and was scheduled to interview the finalists on April 20.

Losey said he feels the school board needs to understand how little faith teachers have in Witt before hiring a new superintendent. Witt was Redford Union's assistant superintendent of human resources and labor relations before the school board appointed him to the top administrative position until a permanent superintendent is found.

"There's a lot going on that's disrespectful and doesn't honor the people who have been here for years and gone through a lot of issues with this district," Losey said. "They need to understand that who they're

Ninety-three percent of the Redford Union Education Association voted to say they have "no confidence" in Superintendent Jasen Witt's leadership. Of the 149 eligible voters, 145 of whom cast ballots, 135 made the no confidence vote.

bringing in as the commander in chief needs to be able to work with the rest of the district."

Losey said a major discrepancy among association members are pay gaps. According to a release, members also view his handling of the pandemic and open political stances problematic.

"We've been a group of teachers here in the Redford Union district that have been frozen on the pay step scale for roughly seven and a half out of eight years," Losey said. "We've got a lot of younger folks who don't realize their worth as far as what they should be getting paid."

The education association also endorsed the \$59.2 million bond the district is asking voters to approve May 4. After such a public rebuke from educators, Losey said the onus is on the school board to win the public's trust.

"I'm hoping the school board takes note and talks to the constituents to let them know they want that bond passed," he said.

Witt has not responded to a voicemail requesting comment and School Board President Lisa Gubachy has not responded to an email requesting comment.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley a stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448.

Plymouth-Canton school goes remote due to high COVID-19 rate

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

With nearly 25% of its students out of school due to COVID-19-related issues, Plymouth-Canton's Pioneer Middle School shifted to fully-remote learning April 19-27, the district announced.

"Pioneer is approaching 25% of students who are out of school either as a positive case, a close contact quarantine, or due to a parent self-selecting to keep their students home," Pioneer Principal Kevin Rhein revealed on the school's website. "As a standard, the district uses a 75% attendance guideline when making decisions concerning in-person learning.

"The impact on the continuity of learning is becoming a challenge, and we believe it is beneficial to pause in-person learning at the school for one week. This will allow the majority of students currently on close contact quarantine to resume in-person instruction on Tuesday, April 27."

Pioneer students follow their normal bell schedule online. Classes start at 8 a.m. and end at 2:45 p.m. Students also follow their normal lunch/recess schedule for the week and access Canvas and Zoom as they did on their previous virtual school days.

Teachers will be reestablishing their Zoom links in Canvas and creating new lessons, the school's website explained.

Twenty-three Plymouth-Canton students and one staff member tested positive for COVID-19 on April 15 and 16. Fourteen of the infected students attend the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high schools, two are middle school students and six attend elementary schools. The staff member works at Field Elementary School. A Starkweather High School student also tested positive. None of these positive cases were Pioneer students or staff.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@home-townlife.com or 517-375-1113.

Auction underway for braille books charity Seedlings

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is hosting an online auction running April 20-27.

Michigan-made gifts to jewelry or gift certificates to local businesses. Don't see anything you like? Make a

The Livonia-based charity typically holds an inperson bowling fundraiser. Due to the COVID-19, Seed-

lings shifted its focus to the online auction.

Due to COVID-19, this auction will be curbside pickup by appointment only. Check out the more than 70
items and register to bid at www.biddingforgood.com/
braillebooks.

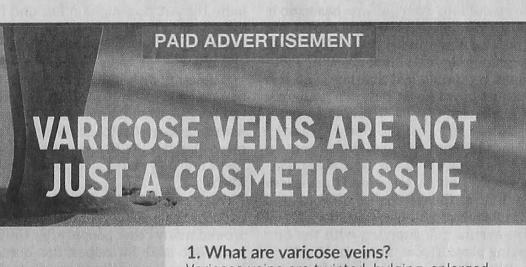
Auction items vary from various themed baskets or

Michigan-made gifts to jewelry or gift certificates to local businesses. Don't see anything you like? Make a monetary donation or fund one of Seedlings' ongoing needs.

Organizers hope to raise \$10,000 for 1,000 braille books for children around the world who have vision loss. Bidding continue until 10 p.m. April 27. Seedlings' office is at 14151 Farmington Road, Livonia.

For more information, contact Karen Smith at Seedlink7@ameritech.net.







Varicose veins Q&A with Dr. Corcoran, Henry Ford Health System vascular surgeon

PAUL CORCORAN, M.D.

Varicose veins are twisted, bulging, enlarged veins visible beneath the surface of the skin. For some, it may be more than a cosmetic issue, and cause symptoms that include pain, swelling, heaviness and cramping. They are different than spider veins (tiny red veins), but these sometimes accompany varicose veins.

2. How common are they?

Varicose veins affect up to 35% of Americans.

3. What causes varicose veins?

Weak or damaged valves inside veins let blood flow back into veins, rather than travel to the heart. Pooling blood in the veins causes them to twist and swell into varicose veins.

4. Who gets them?

Risk factors may include age, history of leg blood clots, family history, hormones, standing or sitting for a long time, or vein valve defects at birth.

5. Do varicose veins need to be treated? If left untreated, symptoms may worsen and complications may arise, including deep vein thrombosis, a potentially serious condition. Early diagnosis is key for the most effective outcome.

6. What treatment options are available? Our physicians are all fellowship-trained, board-certified experts offering the most advanced treatments – including noninvasive and minimally invasive procedures.

The majority of procedures are performed in a convenient, safe office setting. The Henry Ford Vein Center team has all available resources to treat even the most complex cases.

To request a consultation with one of our local experts, call (313) 916-3980. To learn more about our advanced treatment options, visit HenryFord.com/VeinCenter.





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COVID-19 cases increasing in Michigan

Mike Stucka
USA TODAY NETWORK

COVID-19.

New coronavirus cases increased in 3.5% in Michigan in the latest week ending Sunday as the state added 53,296 cases. The previous week had 51,512 new cases of the virus that causes

Michigan ranked first among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week the United States added 472,154 reported cases of coronavirus, a decrease of 3.4% from the week before. Across the country, 21 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Many states did not report cases on Easter. Delayed reporting from the holiday will make some state-to-state comparisons inaccurate, and also some instate week-to-week comparisons inaccurate.

Michigan added backlogged deaths through early April, making week-toweek comparisons inaccurate.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in St. Clair, Sanilac and Tuscola counties. Adding the most new cases overall were Wayne County, with 10,048 cases; Oakland County, with 6,654 cases; and Macomb County, with 5,917. Weekly case counts rose in 49 counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties.

Michigan ranked 28th among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 38.7% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 39.5%, a USA TODAY analysis of CDC data shows.

In the week ending Sunday, Michigan reported administering another 662,384 vaccine doses, compared to 647,780 the week before that. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 6,158,414 doses.

Across Michigan, cases fell in 34 counties, with the best declines in St. Clair, Eaton and Macomb counties.

In Michigan, 371 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 304 people were reported dead.

A total of 873,700 people in Michigan

have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 17,934 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 31,670,031 people have tested positive and 567,217 people have died.

In the Johns Hopkins University coronavirus data, cases and deaths for the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Federal Correctional Institution separately from Michigan counties.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control. If you have questions about the data or the story, contact Mike Stucka at mstucka@gannett.com.

Some annual events returning this spring

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

With spring typically comes the return of flowers, warm weather and the hope for summer. This year, it also marks the return of some spring events canceled in 2020.

Several events that typically take place this time of year were abruptly halted a year ago due to shutdowns associated with the beginning of the CO-VID-19 pandemic. But now, with more knowledge surrounding the coronavirus and government shutdowns at a minimum, several groups plan to move forward with springtime events, albeit in a little different fashion.

That includes the Livonia Home Show, which did not take place last year. This year, the show makes its return, though will be staged a little differently: instead of being held inside the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center at Five Mile and Hubbard, it will take place right outside the building at the inline skating rink.

"We're just taking the same model and putting it in the outdoor rink," said Dan West, president of the Livonia Chamber Commerce, the group putting on the home show. "It is our belief that, if we have it outside, more people will walk through it."

The home show takes place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 24, and, unlike previous years, admission is free. Those looking to make improvements to their home are encouraged to come and speak to the several dozen exhibitors setting up booths.

Also joining the outdoor event circuit is downtown Plymouth. On the same day, a spring artisan market will take place 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Gathering Pavilion across from Kellogg Park.

Tony Bruscato, director for the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, said they've seen success with other small-scale events in downtown Plymouth the last few months and decided to open with a larger, outdoor event.

"We're starting to warm up a bit and we wanted to have something for people to come downtown and participate in," he said. "They just wanted to be out and do something."



Art on the Grand is expected to return June 5-6 in downtown Farmington after being canceled last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. SUBMITTED

Calling the Ice Festival and its strolling atmosphere earlier this year a success, Bruscato said part of the event will also consist of a sidewalk sale. Shops looking to participate can set up their wares outside their business. So far, Bruscato said several have expressed interest at joining the sale, especially given how successful the model was recently shown to be.

"The Ice Festival was very successful because people were walking around downtown," he said. "It's because it was spread around town."

Events still on even with rising cases

While groups can plan as much as possible, there are still wildcards when it comes to staging events. The main culprit is the coronavirus itself.

Groups have to contend with the number of COVID-19 cases and what the general atmosphere is in the state. Even with Michigan leading the nation in new COVID-19 cases by population, groups say they can manage events so long as proper procedures are in place.

West said having the home show outdoors — where virus transmission is scientifically shown to be dramatically less than being indoors — made sense when looking to plan the event. The demographic the show tends to attract also skews toward older people, a group more likely to have received a COVID-19 vaccination already.

"Many of those people have been vaccinated already," he said.

When it comes to seeing how to put on an outdoor event, all one has to do is look to Garden City. The western Wayne County community successfully staged its Lucky Squirrel market event three times beginning last summer, and has learned how to best put on a gathering in a safe and COVID-friendly manner.

After canceling the first two Lucky Squirrel events last year, the city put on the market in July, August and September in the parking lot behind businesses on the northeast corner of Ford and Middlebelt roads. It expects to hold all five events this summer, with the first taking place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 15.

with the loss of those early spring sales came a hunger from the dozens of vendors usually setting up shop for the monthly event. Registration for vendors for the 2021 markets opened Jan. 1 and the first market was filled in less than three weeks, said Theresa Manuel, administrative assistant for the Garden City Downtown Development Authority. Especially with the loss of two markets last year, it appears vendors are itching to return.

"People that have learned about the Lucky Squirrel, they're anxious to make some money," she said.

Spacing booths out has never been a problem since social distancing become the norm, Manuel said. Vendors were given squares to set up in that are slightly larger than what's advertised to help encourage distancing. Multiple entry points to the market also help keep guests apart from each other as well, Manuel said.

Still unknowns in the summer

Despite some spring events, it's still unclear the future for some of the area's premiere summer events.

The fate of several large-scale gatherings such as Canton Liberty Fest and Art in the Park in Plymouth have not had final decisions made on whether they will take place this summer. Some, such as Art on the Grand on June 5-6 in downtown Farmington, are scheduled to move forward.

Some events have already gotten the ax for a second straight year. Those include the Redford Summer Festival and fireworks typically held at Bell Creek Park, as well as two events in Birmingham: the Art Birmingham fair and Birmingham Village Fair. The Livonia Spree was canceled for a second straight year, as well.

The outdoor home show marks the first major in-person event organized by the Livonia Chamber since a luncheon featuring Gov. Gretchen Whitmertook place March 9, 2020, one day before the first COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Michigan.

West said he knows it will take some people a while to feel comfortable being around many other people after the last year, but said he hopes the outdoor home show can help keep people feeling connected to the community while doing it in a safe manner.

"Some people are going to need more time to get back to going to community events than others," West said. "People are going to need time to put their toe in the water and go through the process before going back to community events.

"People just want to see people. They want to talk to people."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

Prosecutor: MSP used Taser on state Rep. Jewell Jones

Paul Egan Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

LANSING — State Rep. Jewell Jones was so confrontational after driving his vehicle into a ditch on I-96 while allegedly drunk that state troopers used a Taser and pepper spray on him, a prosecutor said Friday.

Livingston County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Carolyn Henry said Jones, D-Inkster, drove so recklessly between Southfield and Fowlerville on April 6 that numerous other motorists called 911 to report his driving.

After Jones drove the vehicle into a ditch, his unidentified passenger required medical attention and Jones became confrontational with emergency medical technicians and police, producing badges instead of the photo identification police requested and attempting to show "his status of importance, as he put it," said Henry, who did not specify what types of badges Jones allegedly displayed.

Jones had a semi-automatic .40-caliber Glock handgun in the cup holder of the vehicle, she said.

Jones had a blood alcohol content of at least 0.17%, according to the complaint. That is more than twice the 0.08% limit at which a person can be convicted of drunken driving.

At his Friday arraignment in 53rd District Court in Howell, Magistrate Jerry Sherwood released Jones, who has been free since the day after the incident, on a \$15,000 personal bond — meaning he did not have to post any money — and ordered him to abstain from alcohol, illegal drugs and recreational marijuana, submit to random drug and alcohol testing, and surrender to the Michigan State Police all weapons except those he needs for his Michigan National Guard duty.

Jones, who was 25 at the time of the incident but has since turned 26, is charged with resisting and obstructing a police officer, operating a motor vehicle with a high blood alcohol content, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, possession of a weapon while under the influence of alcohol and reckless driving.

The most serious felony charge, resisting and obstructing a police officer, carries a maximum penalty of two years in prison. Jones faces four counts under that charge.

Ali Hammoud, the Dearborn attorney

representing Jones, said Jones is presumed innocent. Jones is an auxiliary police officer in Inkster and a deacon in his church, Hammoud said.

"Rep. Jones will continue to faithfully serve" his constituents, Hammoud said after the hearing.

Jones is separately charged with resisting and obstructing two Michigan State Police troopers, one Fowlerville police officer and one paramedic, according to the complaint.

Jones spent a night in the Livingston County Jail following the crash on I-96 in Handy Township near Fowlerville, police said.

Jones, who stood beside Hammoud at Hammoud's law office for the video arraignment, is in his third and final term in the state House and has not been available for comment. But he posted a message to his Instagram account in the last week in which he expressed confidence that God will protect him

"This last week has literally been the craziest week I've ever had ... as a civilian," Jones said.

But because of his religious faith, "even now, in the midst of so much confusion, I find peace," he said.

A date for a preliminary examination has not been set.

Gideon D'Assandro, a spokesman for House Speaker Jason Wentworth, R-Farwell, said no decision has been made about what discipline Jones might face in the Legislature while the outcome of his case is pending.

"The details of this situation continue to be very disappointing for an elected community leader," D'Assandro said. Wentworth is speaking with House Minority Leader Donna Lasinski, D-Scio Township, "on how to handle the situation as it moves forward," D'Assandro said.

In 2018, Jones was pulled over by Michigan State Police on I-94 for speeding, window tint and having an obstructed license plate, the Dearborn Press & Guide reported. During the traffic stop, troopers found open intoxicants in the car. Neither Jones nor any of his passengers was drunk, but alcohol was open in the car, which is a misdemeanor, MSP spokeswoman Shanon Banner told the newspaper.

However, Jones has no previous criminal record, only a record of traffic offenses, Henry told the magistrate Friday.

Obituaries

Richard E. Trapp

Richard E. Trapp -12/31/31, died peacefully with his wife of 66 years at his side on April 13, 2021. Richard (Dick) was a graduate of St. John's Military Academy and Hillsdale College. He served in the army as a radio repairman, and later joined the George W. Trapp Company, a storm



door & window manufacturer started in 1930 by his father, where his innovation and creativity drove a company that spanned three generations. An avid skier into his 80's Richard shared many an apres ski cold beer with friends and family at the bottom of ski areas all over the world. Richard took his family skiing in his motor home every other weekend to Shanty Creek and Sugar Loaf Mountain, where he was on the National Ski Patrol for many years. Richard and his wife Rosemary were world travelers and had many adventures including bungee jumping out of a hot air balloon, tandem skydiving, white water rafting, and flying a fighter jet. Dick Trapp was a regular participant in the Detroit Turkey Trot, Belle Isle 200 bike ride and took his children and grandchildren to the Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade and Detroit Fireworks for most of his life. He was active in the community and served on the Board of the Livonia Family Y and Redford Kiwanis. Despite all the world travels and experiences, Dick's favorite moments were those spent at the family cottage, where for over 50 years the family has gathered to celebrate the Fourth of July. Dick appreciated a "rip-snorter" camp fire, a lake view, a cold beer, and good conversation with family, friends (and often friends of friends) about skiing, windsurfing, or anything having to do with chainsaws, tools, or uses for duct tape.

Dick is survived by his adoring wife Rosemary, children Darby (Eland) and Bob, Richard (Rusty) and SallyJo, Bill and Caroline, Andrew and Amy, and grandchildren Logan, LeeAnne, Lauren, Baxter, Michelle, Davis, Lucy, and Will.

Donations can be made in Dick's honor to the National Ski Patrol, at:

https://nspserves.org/donate/

A Zoom service will be held on Saturday, April 17th at 4:00pm EST. Contact the family for details.



Frank Kasper

Frank Kasper was born November 4, 1931 and passed away at the age of 89 on April 13, 2021. Beloved husband of Joyce for 62 wonderful years. Cherished father of Brian (Barbara) Kasper, Phil (Kelly) Kasper and Kevin Kasper. Proud grandpa to Ben Kasper, Katie (Corey) Redman and Emily Kasper. uncle to many nieces and nephews. Frank is preceded in death by his brother Bill Kasper.

Frank will be remembered for serving his country during the Korean War in the U.S Army, a long time art teacher in Detroit public Schools and a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

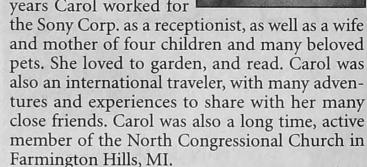
Services were handled through Harry J Will Funeral Home.

Hany J Will Funeral Homes

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



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 (Rai).

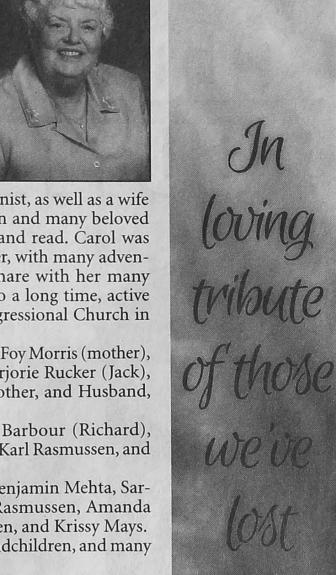
Grandchildren include: Benjamin Mehta, Sarah Rasmussen, Cameron Rasmussen, Amanda

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.





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.

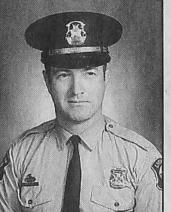
Nora who succumbed to cancer in 1997. He is survived by his beloved wife Suzanne, a 2nd mother to his children and grandchildren; his children, Lynnette M. Chapman, Theresa M. Pinto (Thomas Lohkamp), William R. Hoff Jr. (Jennifer); his first wife, good friend and mother of their children, Geraldine (Penny) Schell; grandchildren, Joseph Hoff (Yovana), Wm. (Woody) Hoff (Bianca), Madison Pinto, Kamryn Hoff, Megyn Hoff, Danny

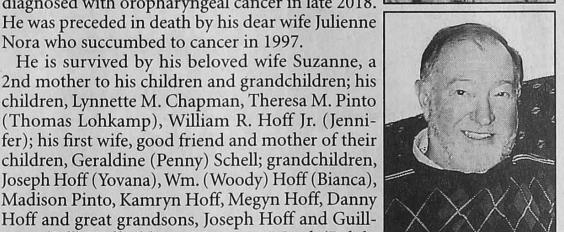
Hoff and great grandsons, Joseph Hoff and Guill-

ermo (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 ing, but reminisce about a life well lived. 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

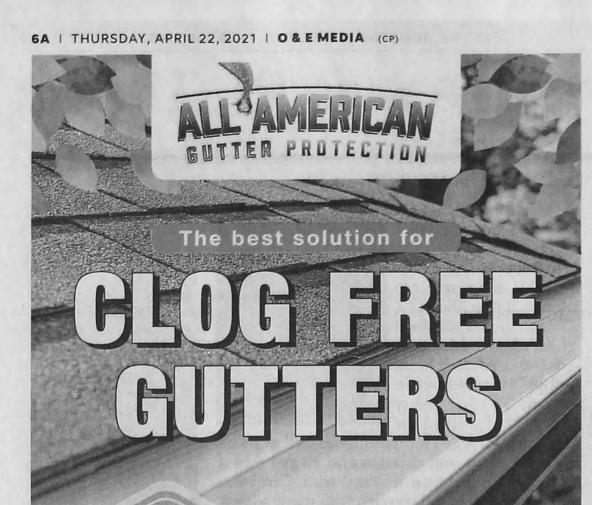
aligned with his values. One of his greatest wishes is that all who love him do not mourn his pass-

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.







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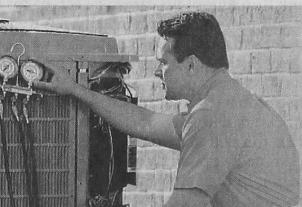
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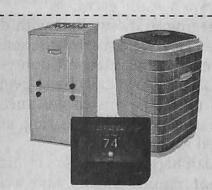
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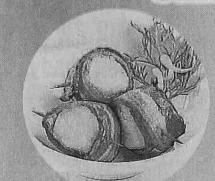
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SPORTS

Churchill splits doubleheader against Franklin

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Churchill had its fair share of opportunities in the first of two games against city rival Livonia Franklin.

The Chargers mustered six walks and five hits, but scored only two runs, leaving seven runners on base. The Patriots, however, were clicking, as freshman TJ

Calleja recorded three of the team's seven hits while also shutting the door on the final two innings, saving a 4-2 Franklin win.

Churchill head coach Lawrence Scheffer knew in tight games, players can't make mistakes. He grouped his players together after the first game, telling them to keep working, to emphasize how important splitting a doubleheader was in KLAA action.

Churchill junior Dominic Krupinski was told to throw the first game out the

"It's something that we changed in the second game, doing the little things," Krupinski said.

The little things turned into a big rally for the Churchill offense. The Chargers broke open the floodgates in the fifth inning, scoring six runs on four hits — including a two-RBI double by the sophomore — and two errors to help lead to a 9-4 victory in six innings.

"That was a big inning for us, especially this whole season," Krupinski said. "We've kind of been in a drought as a team.

See CHURCHILL, Page 2B



Plymouth's Tanner Younglas records a hit against rival team Canton on April 15. Plymouth won, 8-5. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth baseball defeats rival Canton in first win of the season

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth baseball has not gotten off to the hottest start in 2021. Coming into the April 15 game, the Wildcats had not won a game, losing eight-straight

games to start the spring campaign. But head coach Scott McGregor had a rallying cry for his team ahead of its first

meeting with Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rivals Canton: Are you going to remember your winless start to the season, or are you going to remember beating your rival at home?

"They bought into it and right now, that's what you are going after," the head coach said.

That proved to be enough juice, fueling a four-run sixth inning that helped

Plymouth (1-8) to an 8-5 win against Canton (1-4).

"We're just putting it together. We're just learning," McGregor said. "We're learning what kind of team we have because we finally got everyone back from COVID quarantines. We're still learning. We're going to peak when we peak, but right now, we're just trying to find out who we are and we're going to compete."

Deadlocked at one run a piece in the bottom of the fourth inning, Devin Beauchamp gave Plymouth the two-run lead, scoring both Benjamin Withem and Ethan Todd on a two-RBI single in

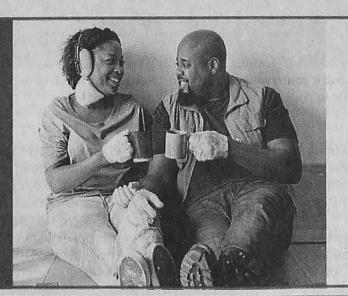
McGregor has not had a set lineup yet this season, rewarding Beauchamp with

See WIN, Page 2B

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Merchant becomes Stevenson's main offensive weapon

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Luke Merchant comes from a family of athletes.

His father played baseball for Michigan State. His aunt is Suzy Merchant, the Michigan State women's basketball coach. And for Luke, he started playing basketball at age 5 just because of his

"I was just a bigger kid growing up," he said. "Basketball was just the go-to sport for that, and it ended up working out."

As one of nine seniors on the 2021 Livonia Stevenson basketball roster, Merchant helped the Spartans return to prominence in the KLAA. The 6-foot-2 forward led the team with 11.3 points and 9.4 rebounds, earning all-conference honors while helping Stevenson to its first district title since 2007.

The Stevenson coaching staff saw promise from Merchant immediately, promoting him to the junior varsity roster as a freshman and to the varsity team as a sophomore, playing three seasons with the Spartans.

Merchant's first two seasons on varsity were spent more as a complimentary piece to the standout scorers: picking up players like Evan Bradford or Steven Shimko on the boards or in assist totals instead of being the main guy.

In 2021, heading into his first year as Stevenson's head coach, Eoghann Stephens made it clear to Merchant that he Athlete of the Week

Luke Merchant won Hometown Life's Athlete of the Week award for the week of April 5, earning 8,903 (61.72%) of the 14,424 total votes cast.

Detroit Catholic Central wrestler Drew Heethuis finished in second place with 4,357 votes (30.21%).

Wayne Memorial basketball player Lachelle Austin and Seaholm wrestler Jackson Vance finished in third and fourth place, respectively.

would be forced to become that main

"This year was a lot of responsibility like, 'Look Luke: you have to score," Stephens said. "You have to help run our offense."

The offense was something Merchant was already comfortable with.

The senior had been playing with many of the same guys for eight years, increasing his level of trust in his teammates and having a better idea of the role he would play: the attack-first forward that specializes in doing what his head coach describes as the "dirty work" down low.

As Merchant stepped up, Stephens saw him as an example of a leader without being a huge character. Merchant was somebody the coaches and the players trusted.

It showed in the final seconds of Stevenson's regional semifinal against



Spartan Luke Merchant puts up a shot. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Salem.

After inbounding the ball to senior teammate Evan Asante, Merchant got the ball back. Senior center Ethan Young immediately stepped up, setting the screen and giving the senior forward room to work. Merchant took the ball to the basket, passing a slew of Rocks defenders to give the Spartans the lead as the clock ticked toward the final buzzer.

"At the end of the game, there was no doubt about what we wanted to run, who we wanted to have the ball and where we wanted everybody else around that situation," Stephens said.

"We wanted the ball in Luke's hands, drive to the rim. You know he's going to get that shot at the rim. He's not going to let anyone else stop him. He's going to finish it."

Merchant was driven by the fact he never liked to lose. Each time he took the court, he wanted to leave his all.

This bloomed into confidence for the senior, a player who, three years ago, wanted to play college basketball but didn't see any opportunities coming his way. Now, after his senior season came to a close, that goal is becoming a reality.

Merchant said he has talked to multiple programs and plans to play basketball somewhere next year without knowing exactly where yet.

As for Stevenson, he hopes the five juniors and one sophomore on the 2021 roster took notes. He hopes his tenacity, his mantra of never giving up continues to ring in the gym even after he's no longer a Spartan.

"Stevenson basketball has been off the map for awhile," Merchant said. "Getting to regionals for the first time since 2007 hopefully put us on the map, gives us some more love.

"I think it's going to show all the younger kids what Stevenson basketball is about. Hopefully they can do what we did this year."

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.

Churchill

Continued from Page 1B

"That was kind of a big pick-me-up for the guys energy wise. That was our best inning of the year so far, and it's something to build on."

In the two games, Krupinski recorded four hits and a walk in eight at bats, driving in four runs for the Patriots from the No. 3 spot in the lineup.

After going hitless in four at bats in the first game Churchill senior Jimmy Targosz, who had been out 10 days due to COVID-19 contact tracing, gave the Chargers its first lead of the day with an RBI double, adding two walks in game

If the fifth inning of the second game did not happen, Franklin head coach Matt Fournier would have been extremely happy with what his team did against rival Churchill, especially with only having 10 players that were available to play.

"We're always a team that wants to be gritty over pretty," Fournier said. "We said no matter what, we're going to come out today and keep punching, keep punching and make the plays we are capable of making and limit what they can do. Game one, we did that all day long.

"Twelve out of the 13 were great innings today. The kids played their hearts out. We're extremely proud of that, but again our goal was to win two."

While Calleja shut the door in the final two innings of the first game, earning the save after five innings of two-run baseball by Kevin Davis, he struggled in game two. The sophomore allowed seven runs on five hits, striking out one in one inning of work.

"He's a youngster. For him, the high-



Livonia Franklin sophomore TJ Calleja waits for the pitch from Livonia Churchill. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

est of the highs in the first one, and the second: they hit the ball on him a little bit," Fournier said.

"We just said, 'Listen, you did what you were supposed to do. You got ground ball and they found spots."

After throwing a shutout inning in

game one, Churchill sophomore Jack Schwesing allowed four runs on six hits, striking out three and letting the defense do much of the work.

"This kid's been unbelievable so far," Krupinski said of the sophomore. "His first two or three outings have been

lights out. Nobody's really touched him so far."

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.

Win

Continued from Page 1B

the leadoff spot after seeing the success the first baseman had early: finishing the game with two hits and two RBI.

"He's earned it. He's been hitting the heck out of the ball," McGregor said. "He earned his spot to take the leadoff role and he showed it today."

Canton put together a chance at an answer in the top of the fifth against Todd, who relieved starter William Holmes after 4.1 innings of work - allowing two hits and two walks while striking out six.

The Canton offense loaded the bases on two walks and a single with one out. Senior Nathan Herberholtz hit a sacrifice fly to Plymouth's Ryan Campbell in center field. Instead of trying to beat the runner home, Campbell threw the ball to his shortstop, who fired it right at third base to record the double play, allowing the Wildcats to keep their lead.

In response, the Plymouth offense went on a two-out rally of its own in the bottom of the sixth.

After Canton sophomore Jack Will recorded a strikeout and a groundout to



The Plymouth team meets in the outfield after its first win of the season. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

second to open the inning, the Wildcats burst open their offense, scoring four runs on four hits, a walk and an error by lead.

shortstop Caleb Williams to take a 8-3 Will kept runners in motion, record-

ing two balks in the inning that led to ejections of both Canton's first-base coach and pitching coach.

Canton head coach Mark Blomshield declined to comment for this story.

Canton tried to mount a comeback in the seventh inning against Plymouth pitcher Tannery Coffey, scoring three runs on three hits and a walk, but the reliever stranded the bases loaded, forcing a ground out to shortstop to end the game.

Along with starting the double-play in the fifth inning to keep the lead, Campbell finished with three hits in four at bats — including a double — two RBI and two runs scored.

Herberholtz finished with three RBI for Canton, including two on an RBI double in the seventh.

After earning his first win as the head coach of Plymouth baseball, McGregor learned how Wildcats baseball will be won: as a team, playing hard for all seven innings of work.

In the midst of the uncertainty surrounding the season, this is the mentality McGregor expects in each game played.

"Any given day, you don't know if you are going to a practice or a game or what teammates are going to a practice or a game," McGregor said. "Facing that adversity and being able to adapt to it and run with it and knowing that if one guy's down, another guy will pick up that spot, that's really what we are learning."

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.

Henry heads to draft, will sign with agent

Chris Solari Detroit Free Press **USA TODAY NETWORK**

Aaron Henry will enter the NBA draft for the second straight spring.

The Michigan State basketball junior announced via social media he will again test the process of turning pro. This time, however, Henry said he plans to sign with an agent and likely forgo his remaining eligibility at MSU. He declared for the 2020 draft last April but withdrew his name in August.

"Being a professional basketball player has been my dream since I was a kid...," Henry wrote on Instagram. "My time at Michigan State has prepared me for anything and I will always be a Spartan for Life."

Henry spent the weekend working out with Chris Brickley in New York according to videos posted to the NBA skills trainer's Instagram. The 6-foot-6, 210-pound wing from Indianapolis earned third-team All-Big Ten honors this season, leading the Spartans with 15.4 points, 5.6 rebounds, 3.6 assists, 1.3 blocks and 1.3 steals in 32.5 minutes. Henry shot 44.9% overall and 29.6% on 3-pointers.

"Aaron coming back this year was I think the best thing with all the uncertainties with COVID," Henry's father, James, told the Free Press on March 9. "Aaron was going to get drafted, although it was going to be in a lower place than what it's gonna to be this year ultimately. But I was like, 'Man, go back, do this the right way, show the things that the teams say that you needed to show." Recent mock drafts put Henry in the

Michigan State's Aaron Henry dunks in front of U-M's Hunter Dickinson (1) and Franz Wagner in March. GETTY IMAGES

early second round, with ESPN ranking him as the No. 32 prospect, CBSSports.com ranking him No. 33 and Sports Illustrated projecting him to go to Brooklyn at pick No. 42.

However, The Athletic's Sam Vecenie in his most recent mock draft projects Henry as a late first-round pick to the Philadelphia 76ers at No. 28. Bleacher Report's Jonathan Wasserman projects Henry to the Nets one pick earlier at No. 27 due to his offensive development this

"Few players have helped themselves

more over the last month than Henry," Vecenie wrote. "He's long been one of the best wing defenders in college hoops, but he's starting to add the offensive aggressiveness to match. ... He's tough and plays with a real edge as a driver. He's not a great shooter, but he's much better directly off the catch than he is off the bounce. He's asked to create more plays now than he will be in the pros, which leads to some ineffi-

"But if you think the shooting can improve, he's a great defender with NBA size on the wing, a good passer and a tough dude who knows what it takes to win from his years under (coach) Tom Izzo. I'm a believer in Henry, and teams are starting to come around on him."

The NBA has yet to announce if the annual scouting combine that was canceled a year ago will be held, or when and where this year's draft will be held.

Henry had two more years of eligibility left with the COVID-19 waiver for the 2020-21 season. Izzo in a statement late Monday said he plans to "give him all the help that I can so that he can achieve his dreams."

"Aaron Henry making the decision to put his name in for the NBA draft this year is not surprising and is something I fully support," Izzo said. "He and his family went through the exploration process last year and came away with a much better understanding of what he'd need to do in order to make the next step for his basketball career. ...

LVC boys hoops all-conference honorees named

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With the high school basketball season complete, postseason awards are still coming in. Here's a look at who earned All-Conference honors for Hometown Life's four Lakes Valley Conference teams.

South Lyon East

Senior guard Bryce Bird Senior forward Drake Willenborg Senior guard Zander Desentz Senior guard Adam Trent (Honorable Mention)

South Lyon

Senior guard Lucas Doty Junior guard Quinn Fracassi Junior guard Logan Doty (Honorable Mention)

Lakeland

Senior guard Shane Ells Junior forward Caleb Zurek Sophomore forward Andrew Turnquist (Honorable Mention)

Milford

Sophomore forward Sam Lewis Senior guard Eric Elizondo (Honorable Mention)

MSU to allow 6,000 fans at next Saturday's spring game

Chris Solari Detroit Free Press **USA TODAY NETWORK**

Michigan State football's spring game will return with fans.

The university announced it will cap attendance at 6,000 fans — about 8% of the 75,005 capacity — for the 2 p.m. Green and White scrimmage next Saturday at Spartan Stadium. The game will be broadcast on Big Ten Network.

"We have great fans, and our fans are hungry," MSU coach Mel Tucker said. "They want to see the Spartans, they want to see us out there playing, they

Beekman echoed Tucker's excitement. "There's a buzz building around the Spartan football program, and I know many more tuning in on television and radio," Beekman said.

Tickets are available to the general public on msuspartans.com, with a chance to secure up to four per person. Five hundred tickets also are open for MSU students.

MSU's protocols require everyone ordering a digital ticket to enter a valid email address to receive the tickets. The email addresses will be documented by the Spartan Ticket Office for contact tracing purposes. All email addresses receiving digital tickets from the Spartan Ticket Office will be sent a link 24 hours prior to the event to complete a mandatory health screening. The completed health screening form must be shown to stadium personnel before entering Spartan Stadium.

Face masks and coverings are required on campus, per MSU policy.

Cleary esports coach turns gaming passion into career

Sara Kellner Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Jarod Ericksen has always loved video games and recently turned his passion for gaming into a career. Now he wants to extend that opportunity to prospective students at Cleary University.

Cleary hired Ericksen in February to be the head coach of its newly established esports team - a group of athletes who play video games competitively.

Esports is one of the fastest-growing sports in college athletics. There were less than 10 teams in 2016 and today there are almost 200, according to the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE).

As a member of NACE, Cleary's athletes will compete in tournaments against esports teams across the nation. Ericksen is also working with other coaches in the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference to organize conference tournaments.

Ericksen has dabbled in a few different careers, including coaching soccer, teaching piano lessons and working at a barbershop. But one passion Ericksen always had was video games. And he was good at them too; he was ranked in the top 1% of players in League of Legends and Heroes of the Storm, two battle arena games where teams of players try to destroy other teams' bases.

He considered becoming a professional esports athlete. Pro gamers make a living by winning prize money at competitions, signing with a professional team or gaining sponsorships.

But instead, Ericksen decided to turn his focus to coaching esports. He provided private lessons, started a coaching company, and eventually began working at a junior college in Illinois as the coach of its newly formed esports

This spring, he moved to Michigan to step into a full-time position as Cleary's esports coach.

As he begins laying out plans for the team and their new practice and tournament facility, Ericksen is trying to recruit 15 athletes to be on the esports team and is offering partial scholarships to those who are selected.

"There are tons of kids out there, and probably tons of kids who play video

want to see us out there winning." In a statement, athletic director Bill

our student-athletes and coaches will love to have fans in attendance, with

Jarod Ericksen, esports coach at Cleary University, plays League of Legends in his Tyrone Township home April 9. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

games," Ericksen said. "Through this program, they can do what they would do otherwise - play video games - but be part of something bigger and get money

to go to school." Cleary's esports team will compete in four games: League of Legends, Overwatch, Rocket League and Hearthstone. League of Legends and Overwatch are team-based strategy games, Rocket League is a sports game with similar rules to soccer and Hearthstone is an online multiplayer card game.

Prospective athletes can be of any skill level - although Ericksen said they need to have at least some experience with the game in which they choose to

compete.

Athletes are expected to attend practices several times a week, as well as team workouts with Cleary's athletic trainers. Ericksen said he follows the "healthy body, healthy mind" philosophy, so he wants his athletes to be physically fit just like other athletes on cam-

Not only is the team a good way for Cleary to recruit students, but Ericksen is hoping to integrate academics into the team. Students interested in sports management or marketing can benefit from competing on or assisting with the

Construction is just beginning on a

practice and tournament facility in Cleary Commons - one of the main buildings on campus. Ericksen said the new home for the eports team will include 24 computer stations, and a viewing gallery with multiple TV screens for spectators to watch competitions.

Ericksen is recruiting athletes locally in high schools and globally online. He is hoping to find students who enjoy video games and want to earn a college degree while competing. Athletes must be undergraduate students, but they can be any age or gender.

Those who are interested in the team can fill out Cleary's recruitment form

online.

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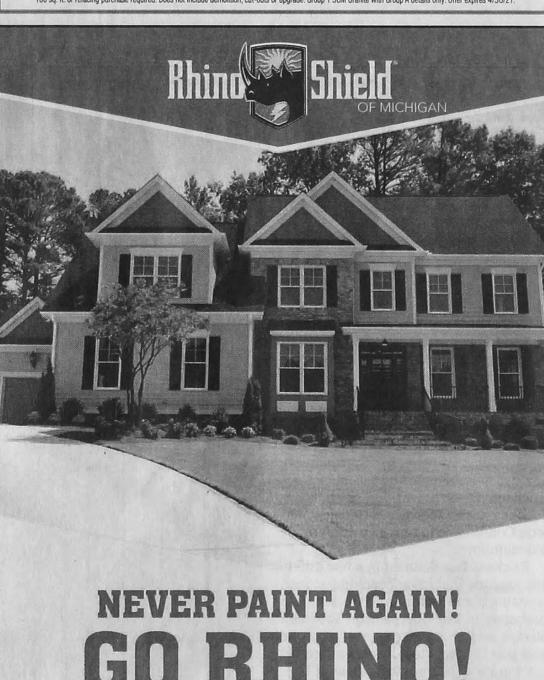


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CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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\$1,650.00	2015	FORD	FOCUS	SILVER	1FADP3F24FL207575			
\$1,405.00	2010	CHRYSLER	300	BLACK	2C3CA5CVXAH212954			
\$1,320.00	2010	FORD	ESCAPE	BLACK	1FMCU0D7XAKA02915			
\$1,205.00	2007	FORD	EXPLORER	WHITE	1FMEU33K17UA11466			
\$1,165.00	2004	BUICK	RENDEZVOUS	BLACK	3G5DB03E04S573229			
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\$1,055.00			IMPALA	WHITE	2G1WT58KX89280296 1FAHP35N99W216563			
\$995.00			FOCUS	RED				
\$955.00	2005	JEEP	GRAND CHEROKEE	BLUE	1J4GR48K05C630800 JA4MS41X18Z016594 1G11A5SLXFF266274			
\$905.00	2008	MITSUBISHI	OUTLANDER	RED				
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\$615.00	2012	FORD	ESCAPE	TAN	1FMCU0D7XCKA38400			
h: April 27, 2021					LO-00003			

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth Housing Commission is pleased to be opening its Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Waiting List on April 30th, 2021 through May 4th, 2021. After May 4th, 2021, the waiting list will be closed, and the application will no longer be available. All applications must be completed and submitted on-line.

The application can be obtained via a link on our website http://www.phchousing.net or go directly to https://plymouths82021.hdswaitinglist.com. DO NOT come to the Plymouth Housing Commission offices, we will NOT be distributing any applications. You will need access to the internet. For any updated information refer to our website. For any updated information you may call (734)455-3670, extension 246.

Publish: April 22 & 25, 2021

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Observer & Eccentric



NOTICE PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Plymouth Charter Township Department of Public Works within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice should be mailed to Plymouth Charter Township, Department of Public Works, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Failure to provide the written notice will prevent recovery of damages. Contact the Department of Public Works, 734-354-3270, Extension 3, for assistance immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup.

Thank You.

PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

JERRY VORVA, CLERK Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: April 8 & 22, 2021

LO-0000358896 3v2.5

City of Plymouth Zoning Board of Appeals Notice Thursday, May 6, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. Online Zoom Webinar

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

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. online via Zoom to consider the following:

Z21-09 Non-Use Variance Request for 933 Church Front Yard Setback Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential Applicant: Joseph Philips

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator

201 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 234

Publish: April 22, 2021

O-0000359108 3X3.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 6, 2021 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

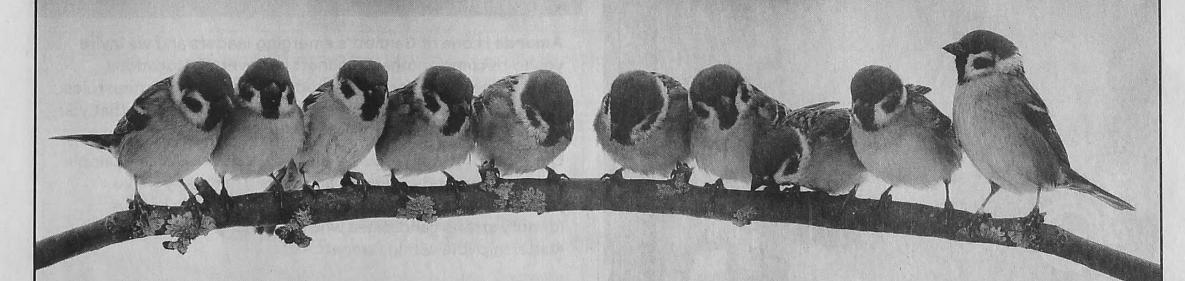
- Application 1619, 78-57-04-0269-000, 45209 Woodleigh Way, R-1-S zoning district is requesting one variance to construct a 11'x12' covered deck that would reduce the rear yard setback to 33' feet whereas 50' feet is required. The original application was 1607 from August 2020 which was tabled and is now being brought back as the Planning Commission may change the Ordinance at their May 2021 meeting. Variance requested is Seventeen (17) feet.
- 2. Application 1620, 78-058-99-0011-000, 45230 Joy RD, R-1 zoning district is requesting one variance to install 80' of 6' privacy fence in the front yard due to the lot configuration of front yard lot to rear yard lot of neighbor. Variance requested to allow a 6' fence be installed in the front yard.
- 3. Application 1621, 78-061-03-0105-001, 9204 Morrison, R-1 zoning district is requesting one variance to install a 6' privacy fence to the front established building line without a means of egress whereas a 6' privacy fence can only be installed to the rear established building line without a means of egress. Variance requested to install a 6' privacy fence to the front established building line.
- 4. Application 1622, 78-043-01-0037-000, 51110 W Hills DR, R-1-H zoning district is requesting one variance to construct a (13x11) sunroom reducing the rear yard setback to 45' feet whereas a 50' foot rear yard is required. Variance requested is 5' feet of rear yard setback reducing the rear yard to 45' feet.
- 5. Application 1623, 78-005-99-0001-001, 47411 5 Mile RD, C-2 zoning district is requesting 4 variances to the signage at Plymouth Plaza for the Panera's site as follows:
 - a. The request is to allow a green background color on the Panera's insert to the monument signs at both locations, one on 5 Mile Road and one on Beck Road for Plymouth Plaza whereas only 1 background color is allowed. Variance requested is a second background color of green on the two monument signs at Plymouth Plaza for Panera's.
 - b. The request is to allow an additional directional sign without an ingress/egress drive at Plymouth Plaza for Panera's whereas only (1) directional sign is allowed per ingress/egress drive. Variance requested is for (1) additional directional sign at Plymouth Plaza for Panera's.
 - c. The request is to allow Panera's to have a wall sign on the east wall without a public means of ingress/egress whereas wall signs are not allowed without a public means of ingress/egress. Variance requested is to allow a wall sign on the east wall of Panera's without a public means of ingress/egress.
 - d. The request is to allow Panera's to have a wall sign on the south wall without a public means of ingress/egress whereas wall signs are not allowed without a public means of ingress/egress. Variance requested is to allow a wall sign on the south wall of Panera's without a public means of ingress/egress.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Publish: April 22, 2021

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Casco Products Corp. seeks a Senior Power Electronics Engineer in Novi, Michigan to design hardware and other electronic circuit designs for electromechanical and electronic devices and components for General Motors vehicles from concept to release and end of life. Must have Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering or related field and have five years of experience in power supply design and power conversion; embedded control design; design for EMC; PCB design; and electronic circuit design. 40 hours per week. Apply at https://career.cascoauto.com. Must refer to Requisition # SPEE2021N when applying.

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7 Engineering & IT

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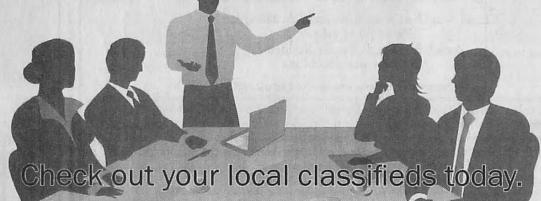
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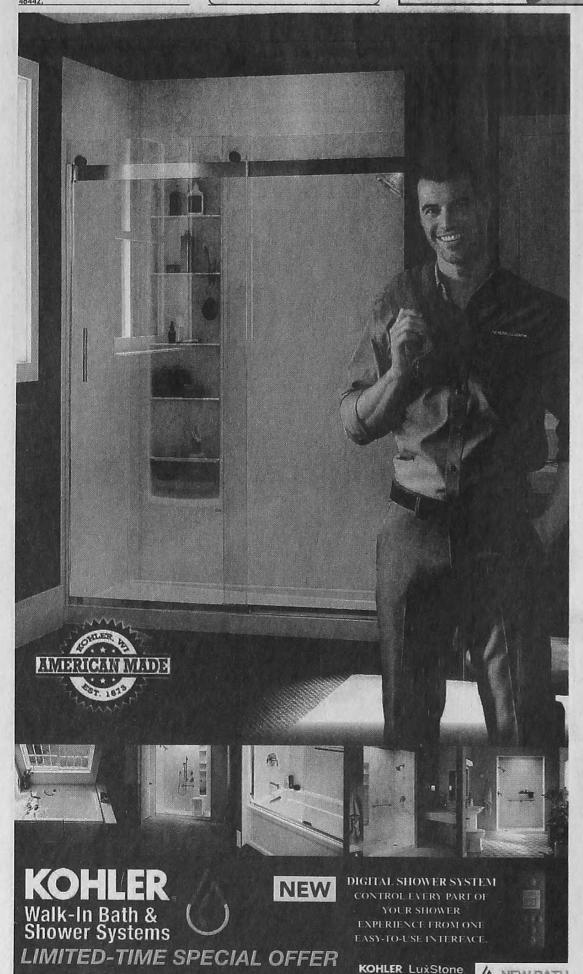
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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com.

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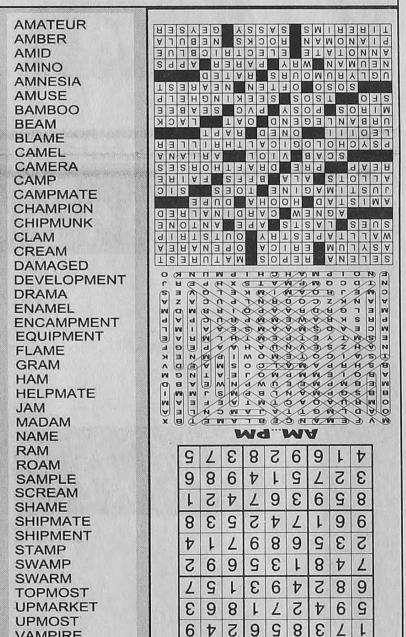
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	7		8		6		4	
5			2					3
		2				1		
7							9	2
				8				
9	6							8
		9				4		
3					4			6
	1		9		8		7	

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

						A	M	[PN	1						
Can diag	you fi	nd all . The	the w	ords v s will a	vith A	M or P s be in	M? F	Read I	oackw ine. C	ards o	or forv	vards, off the	up or list a	down s you	, ever	i iem.
M	٧	F	E	M	A	N	C	E	В	L	A	M	E	T	В	X
0	A	D	L	M	G	Т	T	A	J	A	M	C	N	L	E	A
0	M	R	U	A	0	A	C	T	M	T	A	E	F	E	A	M
В	В	S	G	P	M	A	N	L	В	P	M	S	J	M	M	1
M	E	В	M	P	M	E	E	U	W	P	N	W	E	A	В	D
A	R	0	1	E	M	M	P	M	0	J	E	A	T	N	G	M
В	S	Н	R	P	A	M	A	L	C	0	S	M	A	E	D	٧
T	S	A	1	C	0	T	E	M	0	W	1	P	M	N	E	K
N	A	Н	Z	S	E	V	N	U	A	Н	A	A	P	E	G	F
E	S	M	T	Y	E	Т	P	E	M	Т	Н	L	M	R	A	E
M	C	E	A	D	S	M	A	A	M	S	E	A	A	1	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	0	1	R	R	M	D	M
A	A	N	K	Z	C	0	D	R	N	L	P	U	C	A	Z	A
С	M	E	J	R	0	A	M	1	M	K	E	L	Q	V	E	S
N	Т	D	C	Q	M	P	M	A	Т	S	X	Н	P	E	R	J
E	N	0	1	P	M	A	Н	C	Н	1	P	M	U	N	K	0





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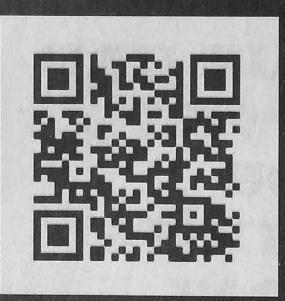
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