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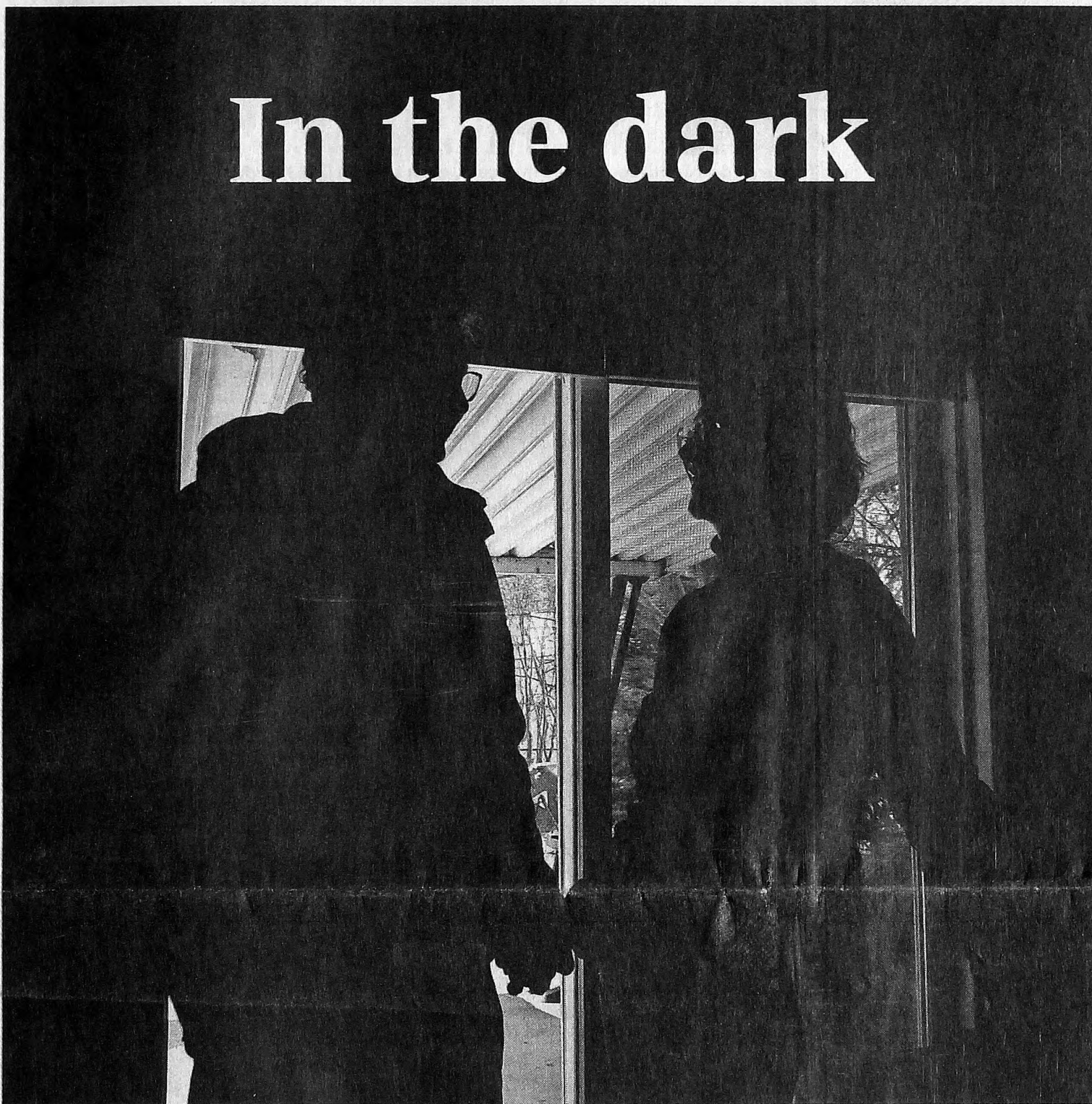
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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In the dark



Doug and Paulette Mullen have spent many hours in the dark at their home in Livonia due to repeated power outages.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Repeated power outages, lack of improvements frustrate Livonia residents

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When inclement weather rolls in, they've got a system.

Do the laundry. Empty the ice maker. Open the garage if you'll need to leave. Move food out of the fridge. Skip getting

groceries. Make sure everything is charged.

"It's this strange little cycle we're in," Livonia resident Paulette Mullen said. "As soon as they predict high winds, I'm starting to prepare for an outage."

The residents of Denne Street and their surrounding neighbors — roughly

100 households — have gone 161 hours without power since June 2021. That's almost seven days.

They've lost fridges full of food, dealt with cold homes and have been unable to work at times. Power loss

See **OUTAGES**, Page 2A

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

Sidewalks, new grocery chain, trash hauling on 2022 docket

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sidewalks, trash haulers, a grocery store and economic development should dominate the headlines in Plymouth Township in 2022 — although not necessarily in that order.

A flurry of change is expected in the municipality, Supervisor Kurt Heise assured, noting that maintaining a solid base of core services remains leadership's No. 1 priority.

"My mission is to give our police and law enforcement the tools they need to keep our community safe and the same goes for our fire department," Heise said. "There are some in our community who would like to dismantle our fire department and take us back to the bad old days, and that's not going to happen."

"We're fully staffed now in the fire department and they have all the equipment they need to do their job."

Economic development in the township is booming and will continue to do so throughout 2022, Heise added.

"The Henry Ford Hospital facility at Haggerty and Ann Arbor roads is scheduled to open in the fall with the out-buildings — Chipotle, AT&T and Henry Ford Optimeyes — coming online some time this spring."

"We have a tremendous amount of activity happening along the MITC (Michigan International Technology Center) corridor (off Five Mile Road, west of Beck Road)."

"Every parcel in Plymouth and Northville (townships) has significant activity underway and the Detroit parcel is in the process of being sold to a developer."

See **DOCKET**, Page 2A

Deer culls will continue at Kensington Metropark to thin herd

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Deer culls at Kensington Metropark in Milford will continue after threats last year canceled the cull and prompted a reexamination of how deer herds are managed in the parks.

Huron-Clinton Metroparks officials recently released a 68-page report in which they determined that sharpshooters remain the best strategy for controlling overpopulation of deer herds.

Danielle Mauter, chief of marketing and communications for Huron-Clinton Metroparks, wrote in an email that staff

are performing aerial surveys across 11 parks in the system, including Kensington, to calculate updated deer herd population numbers, upon which "the need for any deer management activities will be determined."

"To ensure the safety of our staff, exact dates of any required deer culls will

not be published publicly," Mauter said. "Safety is of utmost importance, and all park closures will be planned with a keen focus on ensuring community safety and the safety of those conducting any needed deer culling activity."

See **CULLS**, Page 2A

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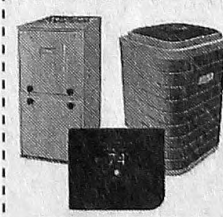
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Outages

Continued from Page 1A

has lasted as long as 72 hours and the most recent outage, which happened in December, lasted 30 hours.

"We understand that there's been catastrophic storms," Mullen said. "But I don't know anyone who's had the kind of outages we've had ... We're frustrated. We've called and we've made complaints, and nothing happens."

The neighbors say, for the most part, DTE representatives have been unhelpful.

The company offers a \$25 electric reliability credit up to once per year for frequent or extended power outages, which is nowhere near enough to replace a fridge full of perishables.

Residents recalled one time since June when the company came to investigate the repeated outages. Tony Ignasiak, an engineering supervisor for DTE, said only one of the four major outages on Denne Street has been related to equipment. Everything else has been because of extreme weather.

"The weather we saw in 2021 – we experienced five tornadoes in our service territory and we've also seen eight different storms with tropical wind gusts between 40 and 70 miles an hour – is just not something that we've seen before," he said.

Ignasiak added he understands that four lengthy power outages is frustrating, saying he'd probably feel the same way the people living on Denne Street do.

According to Ignasiak, areas with repeated outages are usually a priority when the company works to restore power after a storm. In 2021, the company announced a \$70 million investment into tree trimming and has community pages for people to keep tabs on improvements happening in their area.

Residents like Mullen and her husband Doug, who've lived on Denne Street for 25 years, say power issues are just part of life on their street. Doug Mullen traveled to Toledo for a generator in early January, and neighbors say having one is a "must" on their street.

"In the City of Livonia, why is a generator a 'must-have?'" Jamie Slatin, who's lived on Denne for 30 years, asked rhetorically. "I mean, we pay a lot to live here."

Ignasiak said power grids built since the 1970s generally get installed underground. Overhead power lines, which older communities like Denne Street in Livonia has, can be hard to replace.

"For the places that have existing overhead, there's a lot of complications that come with it," he said. "It's very destructive to everyone's landscaping because we have to bore trenches and tear



Denne Street in Livonia has seen frequent power outages in recent years, even though DTE has done a fair amount of tree trimming near power lines. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Doug and Paulette Mullen lost their power for more than 150 hours at their Denne Street home in Livonia in 2021 and are hoping for answers from DTE.

up driveways."

The city, Paulette Mullen says, is sympathetic. But there's not much local

officials can do to help them. Josh Sabo, Livonia's communications director, said city administration has hosted DTE for

several meetings and is advocating for solutions to residents' concerns.

"Obviously, we cannot dictate DTE's priorities," he said. "But, we do hope to be able to be an advocate for our residents. They have, in the last few months, announced a pretty significant investment in tree trimming, pole replacement and updates to the grid. We want to make sure Livonia is getting its fair share of that investment."

Sabo said, even though the city has no control over DTE, it's important people notify the city when they have issues.

"We appreciate when people reach out to the city about these issues because we can only advocate for solutions of problems that we know exist," he said. "We're grateful for the folks on that street and across the city who report those issues they have."

But still, it's not summer anymore. When Denne Street's power goes out, residents' houses get cold. The lost time, work hours and food is getting exhausting, and they're just hoping for an answer.

"It's not going to be two hours or four hours," Paulette Mullen said. "It's going to be a whole day."

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

Docket

Continued from Page 1A

Heise said among his biggest goals for 2022 is the beginning of a roads improvement project for Five Mile Road west of Beck.

"Everybody recognizes that the road is in great need of improvement," he said. "It needs to be taken apart, expanded, strengthened and put back together again so we can accommodate the development traffic that is going to be coming through there in the decades ahead."

Heise said he's working on securing \$33 million from the State of Michigan

to fund the rebuilding of Five Mile "and to build the necessary water and sewer infrastructure that is needed along the corridor."

A large national-chain grocery store is headed to the vacant property just west of Esporta Fitness on Ann Arbor Road, Heise confirmed.

"It has to remain a secret which chain it is for now," Heise said.

A plan to add pedestrian sidewalks and potentially bike paths along several busy roadways in the township — including along Ann Arbor Trail near Plymouth Township Park, parallel to North Territorial and Ann Arbor Road — should be set in motion in 2022.

"We want to make sure we provide safe pedestrian access along all of our

major roads," Heise said. "There are roads that have some sidewalks, but they're not fully installed, so we want to fill in the gaps."

Heise said he learned the first week of January that the township can spend the \$2.8 million COVID-19 relief funding it will receive from the federal government on any project that is considered a government service.

"Unless the Board of Trustees wants to go in a different direction — and I don't believe they do — we can use the COVID Relief money on the sidewalk gap project," Heise said.

As its current contract with waste hauler GFL nears an end in the fall, the township is accepting bids from companies to assume that role.

"Our goal is to select a trash hauler for the next five years," Heise said. "We're expecting three to five bidders and we may go back to GFL. It's just that their contract is coming to a close in the fall and we want to make sure we're getting the best value and reliability for our dollar. In a lot of ways, this will be the biggest decision we make this year."

Heise concluded by revealing that the Michigan Department of Transportation has plans to resurface Ann Arbor Road from Napier to Canton Center roads in 2022, while improving traffic signals and adding left-hand turn signals at the intersection of Beck and Ann Arbor roads.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com.

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Culls

Continued from Page 1A

Weather conditions can also impact the ability to perform a cull on a specific date, she noted. The park will close at 4 p.m. on days when culls are planned, with closure signs posted.

Metroparks staff strives to follow Department of Natural Resources recommendations to keep white-tailed deer population at a density threshold of 15-20 deer per square mile, which protects the health of deer and avoids detrimental impact on the ecosystem, including plant species and other wildlife.

Last year, an aerial survey found that Kensington had about 120 deer in the 4,500 acre park and planned to cull approximately 50 deer last February.

However, the cull was canceled after a Royal Oak man threatened to shoot police officers taking part in the cull.

She was unsure if a significant increase in the deer population at Ken-

sington occurred due to last year's cull cancellation. However, if the cull takes place this year as it has most years since 1999, special precautions will again be taken to avoid killing any albino deer.

"Adjustments will continue to be made to hunting zones to greatly minimize the chance of impacting any of these known deer," Mauter said. "While state law does not specifically protect these deer, Metroparks staff understand that this unique animal is enjoyed by many visitors, photographers and wildlife enthusiasts and are taking all possible precautions to avoid it during culls."

The public will no longer be notified of deer culls, a change made during a comprehensive review of the Deer Herd and Ecosystem Management Plan, which will be in effect through 2026. Mauter said there are no notification requirements under permitting or local ordinances, but "as part of the Metroparks commitment to transparency," adjacent park neighbors and municipal leaders will be notified.

She stressed that the park's management plan ensures that officials are "do-

ing everything possible to humanely address overpopulation while supporting a healthy, thriving herd and protecting the diverse flora and fauna throughout the parks."

"The plan really speaks to the importance of balancing that ecosystem and making sure that the total ecosystem is healthy," she said.

The report noted that "non-lethal techniques" including sterilization or relocation of deer, are generally well-accepted by the public, however, "limited effectiveness and/or high cost may prevent their exclusive use to resolve deer conflicts."

Deer culling will continue to be conducted by trained sharpshooters, with continuing reexamination of the practice promised by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

Since 1999, when deer culling was first implemented in the metroparks, there have been only three years in which deer have not been culled at Kensington.

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

Meijer offers free home delivery on orders over \$35

Susan Selasky Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

If you're hesitant about grocery shopping and want to stay out of stores, there's a new deal at Meijer stores. The Grand Rapids-based retailer is offering free home delivery of groceries as well as other items for a limited time.

The free delivery service starts this week and will continue through Jan. 29, according to a news release. You can shop online or through the grocer's app. Free delivery is offered on orders of \$35 or more.

You can shop for just about anything from grocery items to pet supplies, beer and wine.

Orders are filled by a Meijer personal shopper and can be scheduled for deliv-

ery or you can pick it up at your preferred store.

Orders need to be placed through meijer.com or the Meijer app. Free delivery doesn't apply to third parties such as Shipt, Instacart or Doordah.

If you're a mPerks member, you can use earned rewards and you can clip and use digital coupons.

Meijer cited "ongoing challenging times" for offering customers a chance to use the service. Omicron, the most contagious coronavirus variant of the pandemic, continues to rage on across the state and the nation. The variant is driving up case rates, hospitalizations and disrupting everything from restaurants to schools.

The free delivery offer is available at all Meijer stores chainwide.



Meijer cited "ongoing challenging times" for offering customers a chance to use their home delivery service for free through Jan. 29. PROVIDED BY MEIJER

Three common mistakes when investing for the future



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

I recently did an interview where I was asked to identify the three mistakes that most investors make. I thought I would share my answers with you.

Not having a game plan: Most investors simply invest in what is hot and popular. This is a serious mistake. To be a successful investor, you must develop a plan based upon your goals and objectives. It is your goals and objectives that guide you in how to invest your money.

In addition, investors must know the timeframe they have to achieve their goal. Someone who is retiring 30 years from now would invest differently than someone who is retiring a year from now. I like to analogize it to going on vacation. When you go on a vacation, you do not pack first and then decide where you are going. You only pack once you know your destination, what you're go-

If you're a long-term investor, the stock market in general is not very risky. On the other hand, if you're investing for six months down the road, the stock market is very risky.

ing to do when you arrive and how long you will be gone. It would be a serious mistake to pack first, and then decide to the location.

Investors who start investing before developing a game plan are doing the same thing as packing your suitcase before you know where you're going to go. It is important for all investors to have a game plan before you begin investing.

Not understanding risk: Frequently, I hear people say things like U.S. treasuries and CDs are risk free; unfortunately, that is not the case. As far as I'm

concerned, there is no investment that is risk free. If you invest in a federally insured CD, we all know that when the CD matures, you're going to get your money. However, that doesn't make it risk free.

CDs are accompanied by purchasing power risk. This means that money is not keeping up with the increased cost of living. Particularly in today's world of high inflation, purchasing power risk, if ignored, can cause major problems. Therefore, it's important for investors to identify the risk in an investment before investing, and make sure they're willing to accept that risk.

It is important in understanding risk to remember that risk is a function of time. If you're a long-term investor, the stock market in general is not very risky. On the other hand, if you're investing for six months down the road, the stock market is very risky. The exact opposite applies to CDs. If you're investing for six months down the road, CDs are not very risky. However, if you're a long-term investor, the purchasing power risk in a CD is substantial.

Three common mistakes adults make when investing for the future. Owning five stocks that are all technology-based is not diversification. To be diversified, you must have investments in different areas. For example, to be diversified in the stock market you need exposure to large companies, small companies, and mid-size companies, both domestic and international. In the fixed-income area, you need a variety of fixed-income investments such as corporate bonds, government bonds and international bonds. When you do not diversify, you end up keeping all your eggs in one basket, and that is a mistake for investors.

To be a successful investor, it is important to start with a game plan, understand the risks involved, and maintain a diversified portfolio. Success is certainly not guaranteed by doing these things; however, it will give you the best opportunity to be successful over the long run.

Good luck.
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. Email your questions to rick@bloomadvisors.com.

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A concert crowd in August 2015 at DTE Energy Music Theatre. Pine Knob Music Theatre is again the official designation for the beloved Clarkston amphitheater.

DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE PHOTOS

DTE Energy Music Theatre reverts to original name

Brian McCollum Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Since 2001, the Pine Knob name had survived only in spirit at the venue rechristened DTE Energy Music Theatre, conjuring the old summer charm of loud and festive concert nights north of Detroit.

Now, that classic name is headed back to the marquee: Pine Knob Music Theatre is again the official designation for the beloved Clarkston amphitheater, which routinely ranks among the top-grossing in the country.

The Pine Knob renaming was revealed by venue operator 313 Presents, following the expiration of DTE Energy's 20-year naming deal in late December. New partners United Wholesale Mortgage (UWM) and Trinity Health were also announced as part of a multi-year agreement that will keep "Pine Knob" intact for some time to come.

The company also unveiled a logo that harks back to the Pine Knob original — including the vintage, 1970s-style font — with a new twist on its woody summer theme.

The revival of the Pine Knob name, coming as the amphitheater embarks on a 50th anniversary celebration, will be music to the ears of Michigan music fans, many of whom continued to use the old moniker years after the switch.

For concertgoers who came of age in the '70s, '80s and '90s, it might also serve as a shot of nostalgic comfort after nearly two years of pandemic-induced upheaval in the live-music world.

Affection for the old name ran deep, becoming a badge of authenticity for performers and audiences: One of the easiest applause lines for a visiting artist was an enthusiastic "Hello, Pine Knob!" from the stage, while apparel makers found a cottage industry with shirts and other items sporting the slogan "I Still Call it Pine Knob."

The resurrection of a classic name marks a rare reversal in the modern entertainment and sports world, where corporate naming sponsorships have become a multibillion-dollar business and key revenue source. Just a handful of A-list concert venues have withstood the renaming trend, among them New York's Madison Square Garden, L.A.'s Hollywood Bowl and Colorado's Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

And now Pine Knob, one of the oldest and most successful U.S. amphitheaters built explicitly for popular music, will rejoice that list of venerable names.

313 Presents touts the Pine Knob renaming as a nod to the past and a new vision for the future. The company is a joint venture between the Ilitch and Tom Gores entertainment operations, also overseeing shows at Little Caesars Arena, the Fox Theatre and several other venues.

The amphitheater was acquired by Gores in 2011 when he purchased the Detroit Pistons, the Palace of Auburn Hills and related interests from the Davidson family.



The Pine Knob renaming was revealed Friday, following the expiration of DTE Energy's 20-year naming deal in December.

"It's a great milestone. It's perfect for the 50th anniversary. The summer music season is a ritual for people in our part of the world," said Howard Handler, president of 313 Presents. "This is where you spend a lot of great summer nights. We're really excited for the '22 season and the future of this whole thing."

The journey to restoring the Pine Knob name started in 2020, when "we realized the potential to reimagine the partnership model," Handler said.

Handler, a metro Detroit native who headed off for executive marketing work with the NFL, Madison Square Garden and Major League Soccer, returned to Michigan in late 2019 to take the 313 reins. He said he was struck by the enduring resonance of the Pine Knob name nearly two decades after it was retired.

"We realized that DTE was unlikely to return (as naming sponsor), that their priorities had changed, and that we were in a position to have some different conversations," said Handler, citing talks with UWM and Trinity Health. "We told them our basic idea — 'hey, we're thinking about bringing the original name back' — and both of them were really, really excited. They thought it was the smartest thing, and they wanted to participate."

It involved what Handler called "an intensive process to update the brand," including research that revealed younger audiences were familiar with the Pine Knob name. 313 Presents officials also interviewed hundreds of venue guests, vendors and artists.

Troy firm Simons-Michelson-Zieve was enlisted to design the new logo, charged with tapping Pine Knob's emotional connection in the region while giving the emblem a modern spin.

"We landed on the clear favorite that

touches the right buttons in terms of music, summer, fun and outdoors. We put it through the wringer," Handler said. "We hope it strikes the right balance between tipping our hat to the rich memories and nostalgia, while being a contemporary take on the scenic landscape that's symbolic of Michigan's premier summer concert destination. It's vintage, but it's also meant to look toward the future and be very much a 21st century brand."

The Pine Knob rechristening comes as part of an anniversary season that will officially mark 50 years on June 25 — the date in 1972 when David Cassidy inaugurated the venue with an afternoon concert. The Clarkston amphitheater, opened by Joe Locricchio and Gary Francell and operated by the Nederlander family, became a go-to summer spot for touring bands and local acts such as Bob Seger, who ultimately played 33 dates at the venue.

The venue was acquired by Bill Davidson from the Nederlanders in 1990.

As summer amphitheaters — "sheds" in industry parlance — increasingly became the backbone of the touring business, Pine Knob soared. By the '90s, it regularly ranked first in attendance among North American amphitheaters, sometimes drawing nearly a million concertgoers annually.

The venue reassumed that throne in 2019, the last full year of shows before the pandemic, leading the nation with 598,617 in attendance, based on data compiled by the trade magazine Pollstar.

DTE Energy purchased naming rights for Pine Knob ahead of the 2001 season in an initial 10-year deal valued at \$1 million annually. It followed the merger of Detroit Edison and Michigan Consolidated Gas, as DTE became the

company's public-facing name. The utility embarked on a high-profile branding campaign across the region, placing its logo at center ice in Joe Louis Arena and behind centerfield at Comerica Park.

DTE renewed the amphitheater deal in 2010 with another 10-year contract, though new terms were not disclosed.

DTE Energy said in a Friday statement it purchased the naming rights in 2001 "to solidify the company name among consumers in its service territory."

"Having achieved our goal, we made the decision to let the contract expire and return those dollars back to DTE operations," the statement read.

Pine Knob's new partners will feature prominently at the venue: United Wholesale Mortgage will take over exclusive naming rights at the west entrance and parking lot. Trinity Health will do the same at the VIP entrance and parking lot.

The 2022 anniversary season is shaping up to be among Pine Knob's busiest in many years, said Dave Clark, president of Live Nation's Michigan division. Live Nation books and promotes the bulk of the schedule in Clarkston.

This summer's calendar already includes a host of shows initially scheduled in 2020 and 2021, but postponed amid surges of COVID-19 cases, and coming weeks will bring a barrage of new show announcements, including Pine Knob mainstays and first-time headliners, Clark said.

Clark celebrated the revival of the Pine Knob name as a move that will click with older music fans while serving as a dose of "retro cool" for younger patrons.

"That venue has proven to be the glue that holds artists and fans together," Clark said.

New Plymouth High pool 20 years in the making

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In-season Saturday practices for Plymouth High School's boys swim-and-dive team usually consist of training in the school's weight room before trudging a couple hundred yards to Salem High School for workouts in the Rocks' pool.

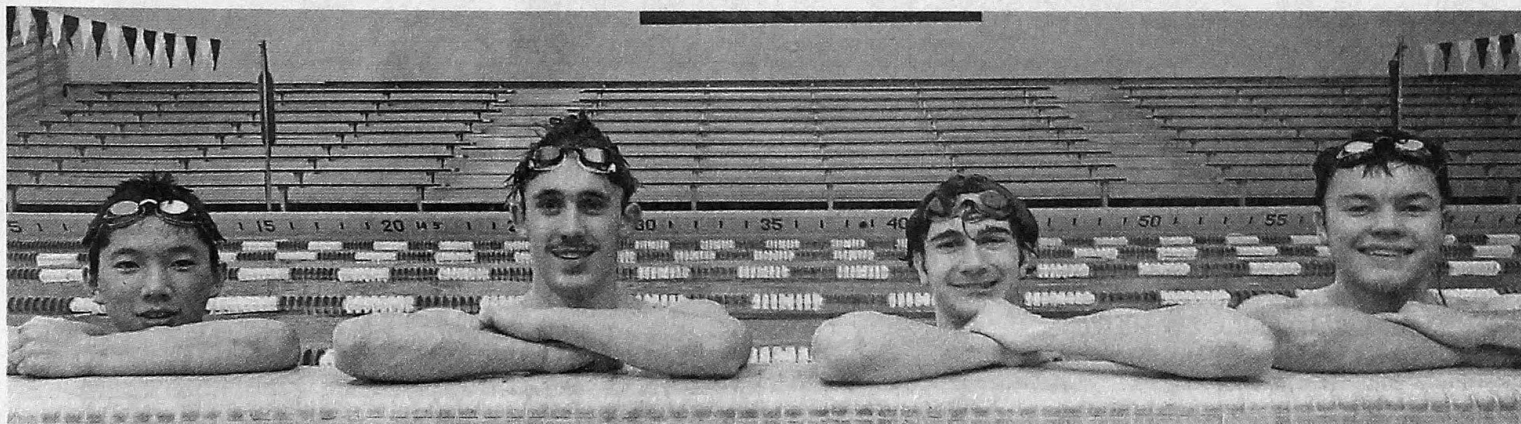
One of the only schools of its size in Michigan without a natatorium to call their own, the Wildcats have been visitors in every meet they've competed in since Plymouth opened in 2002.

"I guess since I've never had a home pool in high school, I don't miss it because you can't miss what you've never had," Plymouth senior Matthew Bey said. "But that doesn't mean I haven't thought about what it would have been like.

"I swam year-round for five years, so I know what it's like to have a home pool, just not in high school. It would have been nice, but we've figured it out over the years."

Plymouth's boys and girls swim-and-dive teams' 20-year stretch of never hosting a home meet should come to a long-awaited end in 2024 when construction is slated to be completed on a \$15 million 2020 bond project that will include a sparkling new natatorium and all-purpose room on the southeast corner of the building.

According to documents posted online for the Jan. 11, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education meeting, ground-breaking for the project will happen this spring, with construction scheduled to be completed in winter 2023.



Four Plymouth High swimmers hang out in Salem High's pool Jan. 13. From left are Albert Chen, Matthew Bey, Anthony Dushary, and Curtis Moore. Plymouth is planning for a pool on its own campus soon so it no longer has to share Salem's. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Barring delays, the grand opening is set for spring 2024 — too late for Bey, but almost perfect for current freshman Mark Holdridge, who should get an opportunity to help christen the new pool during his junior season.

"I was really excited when I heard we'd be getting our own pool," said Holdridge, the son of Plymouth boys swim-and-dive coach Bob Holdridge. "Some people have said we may even be able to host the conference meet once the pool's ready because it will have the standard eight lanes and plenty of space for all the teams.

"I feel kind of sad for our juniors and seniors who won't be able to compete in the new pool, especially because they're a really good group of swimmers. But I'm sure they'll be able to come back and swim in the pool, just not in meets."

Plymouth's new pool will be a standard eight-lane model with seating to accommodate up to 500 spectators, Bob

Holdridge said.

"I'm excited for the swimmers because instead of competing all the time in a pool decked out in Salem blue or Canton red, they'll finally have a place to call home," Holdridge said. "The toughest part of it — other than not having home meets — is the scheduling of practices. We always have to work around the two other schools' schedules.

"The nice thing about the new pool, too, is that club teams in the area — for instance, the Plymouth-Canton Cruisers — will be able to host tournaments because it is a standard eight-lane pool, and we'll have an opportunity to host conference meets."

Holdridge said Canton and Salem's pools are only six lanes — the standard size when those schools were built in the 1970s.

"I'm confident we'll be able to attract more swimmers once the new pool is operational," Holdridge added. "I think

not having our own pool has held back some students from trying out."

Plymouth sophomore Albert Chen will be keeping his fingers crossed (when he's not swimming, that is) that the pool is finished on time so that he can enjoy some home cooking for at least his senior season.

"I'm told it may be finished on time for my senior year, but it may be a bit late for me," he said. "The biggest inconvenience with not having our own pool has been the practices, which are held at different times based on when Salem has meets or practices. We don't complain, though."

Holdridge said other than Birmingham Brother Rice, Plymouth is the only Division 1 high school he knows of in southeastern Michigan without its own pool.

"But they use (Birmingham) Marian's right next door, so it's not too big of an inconvenience," he added.

Canton police say man tried to abduct boy waiting for school bus

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A hooded man apparently tried to physically abduct a 12-year-old boy waiting for a school bus in Canton Township today.

Township police said the child was

waiting in the 51000 block of Mott Road, which is part of the College Park Estates mobile home community, when the attack happened at about 7:20 a.m. Jan. 19.

The boy fought off the man and fled. Police are looking for a suspect described as approximately 30 years old,

standing 6 feet tall and of thin build. Apparently, he also was clean shaven with short blond spiked hair.

Wearing a black hoodie and gray pants, he was driving a white, four-door sedan, which may have been a Ford Taurus.

Anyone with information about the

suspect or incident is asked to call the Canton Police Department, 734-394-5400.

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

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Birmingham Restaurant Week returns

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Birmingham Restaurant Week returns looking a bit more normal this year.

In-person dining returns for the annual celebration of the city's culinary scene this year after COVID-19 restrictions limited in-person dining during last year's event. Restaurant Week technically runs for two weeks, running Jan. 24-28 and Jan. 31 to Feb. 4.

This year, more than 15 restaurants will participate, with many offering special restaurant week menus and some with offerings for different weeks.

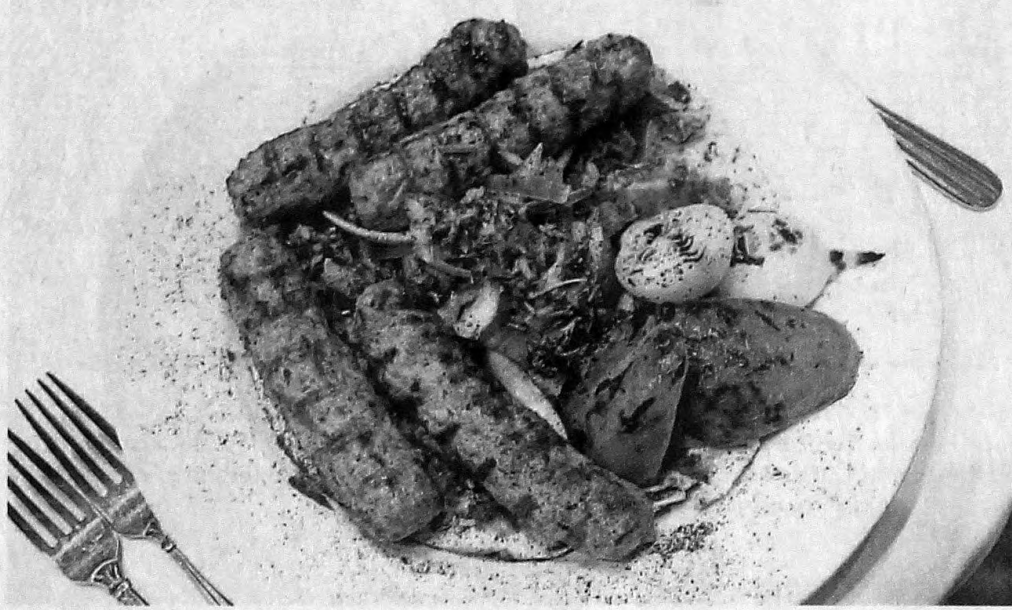
"Downtown Birmingham is known regionally as a premier dining destination, offering a variety of restaurants and cuisines. Restaurant Week is a great time to try something new, or visit your local favorites for special menus and pricing," Sean Kammer, executive director of the Birmingham Shopping District, said in a statement. "The atmosphere remains festive this time of year, with thousands of lights lining the downtown streetscape. Plus, in the last few months, several new retailers have opened, so you may want to plan some extra time to walk around and see the shops while you're here."

Restaurants participating in the annual celebration include The French Lady, Streetside Seafood, Phoenicia, Hazel's, Mare Mediterranean and more. A full list of the participating restaurants can be found at allinbirmingham.com. There, customers can also see the special menus for the event posted by the participating restaurants.

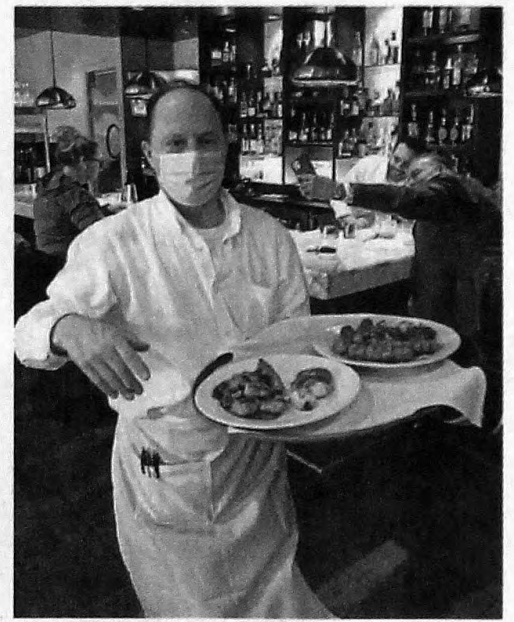
The event featured more carryout options last year, since it began when indoor dining was still prohibited by the state in response to high levels of COVID-19 cases. This year, the event returns with no restrictions on indoor dining.

Another change this year is parking in the downtown structures. Unlike last year when the parking structures were free to park in, the structures reverted back to charging depending on how long visitors were parked inside.

But no worries to those who eat quickly: the first two hours of parking in downtown Birmingham remain free.



A dish of shish kebab from Phoenicia's. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM




Food fresh from the kitchen.




Phoenicia's dining room is one of more than 15 restaurants participating in Birmingham Restaurant Week this year.

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Obituaries

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Evadon Milo Gardner

Evadon (Eve) Gardner was born in Detroit, MI. Daughter of Victoria and Milo Stephanoff. Survived by her husband of 65 years Bob, daughters Michelle and Elyse, grandson Adam, granddaughter Tori, great granddaughter Ellie and siblings Steve and Mary Stephanoff. A stay at home mom until 1976, Eve joined Mary Kay Cosmetics as a consultant and 7 years later in 1983 as a Director earning multiple sales awards and prizes. Her motivation to succeed was her dream to send both of her daughters to college which she fulfilled with Michelle earning a degree from the University of Michigan and Elyse a Michigan State University graduate. Eve was involved in various clubs and organizations including the Bloomfield Hills Village Club, Women's Architectural League, Nomads Travel Club, and was a long time member of the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. Her true love was her family and friends and will be greatly missed by all. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-549-0500.

Sign tribute wall at AJDesmond.com



Angelo A. Pentolino

(1918 – 2021)

WW II veteran, Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor

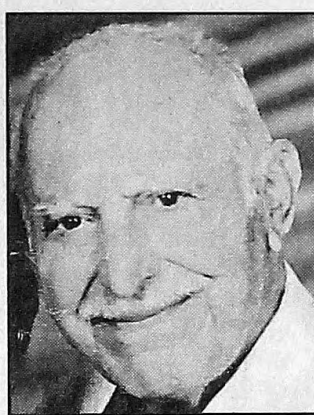
The family of Angelo A. Pentolino announce his passing in November 2021 at 103 years of age.

Born of Italian immigrant parents, Angelo graduated from Detroit's Northern Senior High School. He served in World War II under the Caribbean Defense Command which was protecting the Panama Canal.

Following the war, he met his future wife, Grace, at the Graystone Ballroom in Detroit. They would be married 70 years. While starting a family, Angelo completed his law degree and graduated from the University of Detroit. He worked in criminal law for Wayne County for 28 years, becoming their Assistant Prosecutor. In 1978, he was appointed a Federal judge under the Health, Education, and Welfare agency (now called the Department of Health and Human Services).

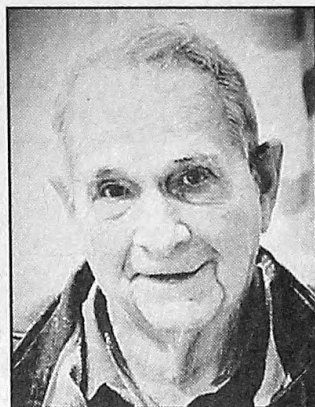
Throughout his life, Angelo volunteered time and was active in charitable and church-related organizations. He was a member of The Alhambra and a fourth degree of the Knights of Columbus. As a former parishioner of Redford Township St. Valentine Parish, he served in the Men's Club and Usher's club.

He is fondly remembered for the love of his family and is survived by his four children, Kamala Carol Quale of Eugene, OR; Mary Grace Ash of Plymouth, MI; Jim Pentolino of Brea, CA; and John Pentolino of Laguna Niguel, CA. Along with 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.



Gordon Ray Rutherford

Gordon Ray Rutherford, 88, died January 15, 2022. He was born in Detroit Michigan; the only child of Gordon and Mildred Rutherford. Gordon attended Cooley High School where he sung in the choir. He graduated from Alma College in 1956 with a degree in Economics and played baseball for the school. He earned his Master's Degree in teaching from Wayne State University. He taught elementary school in Livonia, MI for 25 years. He took early retirement to help run Little Guys and Dolls Preschool and Day Care Center in Livonia with his wife for 42 years. Gordon loved baseball and played in an Oldtimers league in Hamtramck, MI and served as an Assistant coach for Clarenceville and Churchill High School baseball teams. He also loved boating and enjoying water skiing well into his 70s. He is survived by his wife Camille of 55 years; Daughter Lynne (Timothy) Zacharias; Son Mark (Jackie) Rutherford; Grandchildren Noah, Megan and Gavin Zacharias and Anna, Cal and Tyler Rutherford. A funeral is planned for Saturday, January 29 at 11:00 am at His Church Anglican, 34500 Six Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48152. Family will receive family and friends at 10:00 am prior to service. In Lieu of flowers please send donations to His Church Anglican or to the Judson Center.



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shine down to let us know they are happy.

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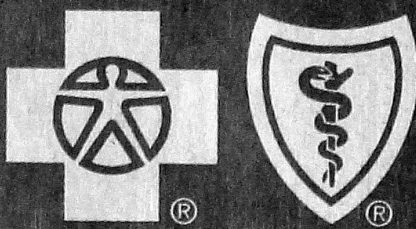
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~Natalie Standiford

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SPORTS

PCA junior ties 45-point scoring record

Leads basketball team to win over Inner-City Baptist, 85-56

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Nate Pierson missed his first three shots. And that's about all the junior missed in Plymouth Christian's 85-56 win over Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

He finished with 45 points, tying the program record for most points scored in a game set by Pat McCarthy in 1985.

"I did not realize I had a chance to beat the record until I was at 41, and my teammate Jordan (Scott) told me to go for the record," Pierson said.

The Eagles (4-3) needed every single one of Pierson's points early on, too. They clung to just a three-point half-

time lead, despite him posting 20 points in the first two quarters. His 25-point effort in the second half helped them pull off the big victory with no trouble.

"I am so proud of Nate and his great accomplishment tonight," coach Matt Windle said. "Since having to sit out last year (after transferring to PCA), he has put in hundreds of hours of work into his game and has shot thousands of shots. Tonight's feat was no accident."

Peirson buried seven 3-pointers, 10 two-point field goals and went 4 of 4 from the foul line.

"So at the start of the game, it was like a normal game," Pierson said. "Started off cold, missed a couple of shots and then started getting a rhythm.

My teammates did a great job of setting me up, and I was able to make shots."

Also pitching in were Scott with 16 points and Chibi Anwunah with 12.

Jacob Frank led ICB with 20 points.

"I am so proud of Nate's performance tonight," Scott said. "He brings so much to this team, and his work ethic and drive all showed tonight."

Added Anwunah: "Pierson is not only a lights-out shooter but also an extremely good finisher around the rim while constantly looking for the next open man. ... He will definitely be a large part of opponents' scouting reports."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for HometownLife. Twitter: @folsombrandonj.



Plymouth Christian's Nate Pierson attempts a layup against Allen Park Inter-City Baptist on Jan. 13. COURTESY OF MIKE COSTELLO

Seaholm basketball bounces back from COVID-19

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Body language doesn't lie. Or does it?

Birmingham Seaholm coach Mike DeGeeter spent most of the Jan. 15 matchup against Bishop Foley with his shoulders slumped in disbelief. Several possessions even saw him rolling his eyes in disgust.

And then there was Bishop Foley coach Matthew Stefani, a former Maples assistant himself, who walked on to the court and waved his hands in the air, basically asking for the Ventures' crowd to get hyped after Nathan Brewer sank a pair of foul shots 11 minutes, 10 seconds into the action.

Thanks to a 14-4 run in the third quarter, Seaholm outlasted Bishop Foley for a 29-23 victory. Yes, you're reading that correctly. That is not a football final score.

The difference in body language, though?

DeGeeter was upset with how poorly the Maples (2-6) executed offensively. Several possessions were orchestrated to perfection. Balls were pushed around the arc. Selective shots were taken. Big men were in position for rebounds.

The problem is almost all of Seaholm's shots, outside of the third quarter, missed the target.

That's why DeGeeter was so upset afterward.

"I mean, it was god-awful, and we weren't executing anything," he said. "I don't want to make excuses, but we haven't practiced with the same five guys this year. We just had our point guard leave on Thursday with COVID. And we just had two guys come back after a week off with COVID, so you can tell it's haphazard.

"Our defense is still where it should be, but we can't stop the middle drive. If we can't stop the middle drive, everything else is kind of a moot point, right?"

Right.

See SEAHOLM, Page 2B



Cranbrook's Max Bergen (left) skates past Warren De La Salle's Colton Fuqua on Jan. 12 at Mt. Clemens Ice Arena. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Exciting finish highlights Pilots vs. Cranes hockey

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

High school hockey games rarely start on time.

Especially when it comes to Zambonis cleaning the ice and youth teams going over their allotted time for practices.

So there Warren De La Salle coach Sean Clark was Wednesday night at

Mt. Clemens Ice Arena, nervously walking in and out of the locker room and all around the arena's concourse waiting for the opening puck to drop.

It wasn't your typical matchup either. It was No. 1 DLS vs. No. 2 Cranbrook, according to Michigan High School Hockey Hub's latest Division 3 poll.

"Tonight should be a good one," a parent en route to the restroom said to Clark, who flashed back a jittery smile.

Clark had every reason to be nervous. The Pilots beat Cranbrook 3-1 on Dec. 1, and he knew it was going to take a similar effort to get past the Cranes, the defending state champions, a second time.

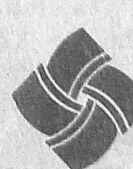
"I joked that we had to score three goals to win tonight, and we did. But they're a heck of a team," Clark said.

See HOCKEY, Page 2B

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Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

"Especially early on. They played hard, and they came at us. We were really in trouble there, and our goaltender kept it a two-goal game after the first, and that was the key for us."

Cranbrook (9-2-1) appeared like it was going to run away with the road victory after senior Jacob Budabin and Ty Esterline both scored in the opening period, but DLS built some momentum late.

The Pilots (12-2-0) scored twice in a 38-second span in the final four minutes to pull off a 3-2 comeback victory.

DLS's Robert Vanderdonck pushed in an unassisted power-play goal with 4:24 remaining to knot the score at 2.

Less than a minute later, the Pilots got a breakaway down the near side of the ice, and then Jacob Lawrence sauced a pass in front of the net for Jacob Jansen, who one-timed the game-winner on the backside.

"Well, you can't give up odd-man rushes," Cranbrook coach John LaFontaine said. "Obviously, with their power play, our net-front D didn't get the job done. I give them (DLS) credit. They took advantage of their power plays, and they beat us on special teams. You can't let the game-winning goal in with an odd-man rush. They (DLS) did a nice job capitalizing on the odd-man rush."

Cranbrook goalie Gunnar Dudlar (24 saves) played well, especially in the opening 30 minutes.

His only other gaffe was when Lawrence scored on the power play with 1:56 left in the second period, pushing in a tough goal in the middle of a scrum in front of the net.

"He played great," LaFontaine said. "They (Cranbrook's defense) just left him hung to dry."

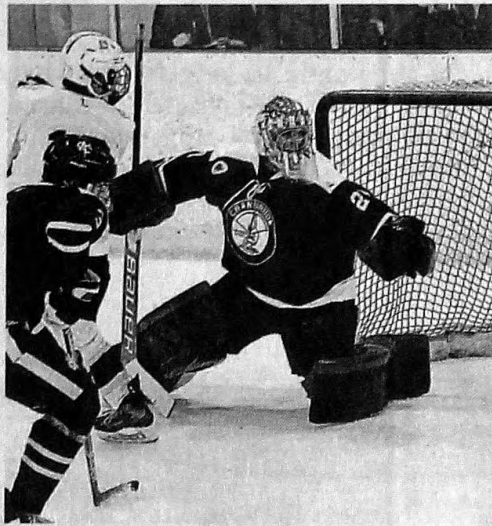
"It was a 2-1 game with five minutes left, and it should've been our game. We took a penalty, and we gave up a power-play goal. It's 2-2, and we're going to give up an odd-man rush for the game-winner."

Clark said he had a couple of his skaters returning to the lineup after a week away, so it took some time for the team to rebuild its chemistry and for the returners to find their legs on the ice.

But he didn't expect Cranbrook to



Cranbrook's Nathan Hooker skates with the puck against Warren De La Salle on Jan. 12 at Mt. Clemens Ice Arena. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

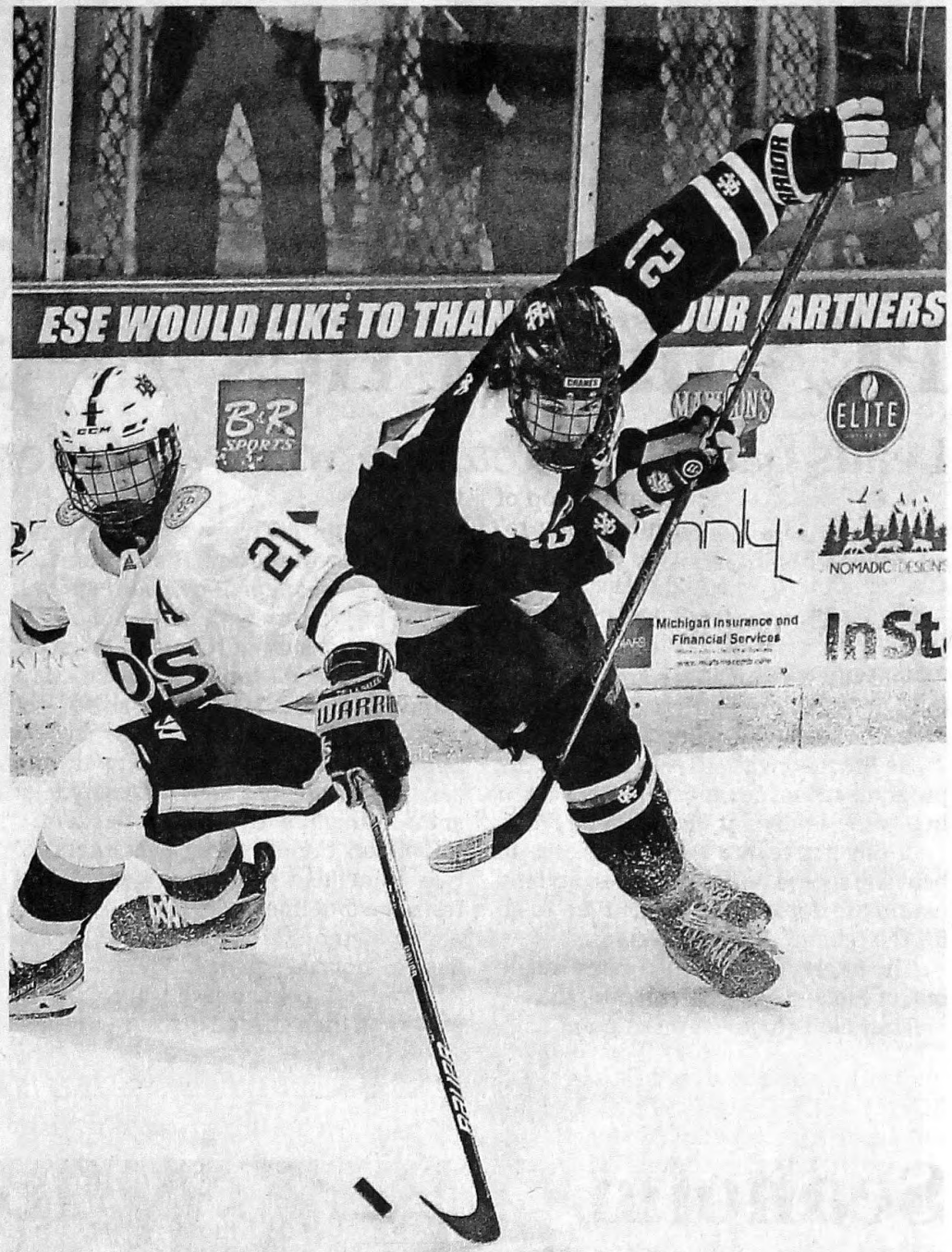


Cranbrook goalie Gunnar Dudlar slides in front of the net against Warren De La Salle.

take its foot off the gas with just a one-goal lead so late in the game.

"It was mostly if they weren't going to be disciplined, we're going to execute, make plays and make them pay for taking penalties," Clark said. "We talked about playing fast and playing through pucks, and it worked out."

"It's one of those things where we killed off a penalty and built momentum off that. We got a power-play where we



Cranbrook's Ethan Hellman (right) battles Warren De La Salle's Branden Stabnick.

scored, and we kind of carried the momentum into the next shift to get another one. It's something that was kind of building for us, I think."

The two Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League teams aren't scheduled to meet again in the regular season, but it's possible they could face each other in the playoffs.

The Cranes will likely enter that matchup with a sour taste in their

mouths.

"Would be fun," LaFontaine said. "Oh, yeah, we'll remember this. They're (DLS) a good team. That's a hell of a team. Five-on-five, I thought, for a lot of game, we carried the play, but we can't take the penalties that we took."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.



Seaholm's John Chinonis dribbles against Bishop Foley on Jan. 15. The Maples won, 29-23. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Seaholm

Continued from Page 1B

The Ventures had no trouble beating Seaholm with drives in the paint. The only trouble for them was they couldn't convert high-percentage shots into actual points.

Time after time, 2-footers, 5-footers, layups and free throws just rimmed out.

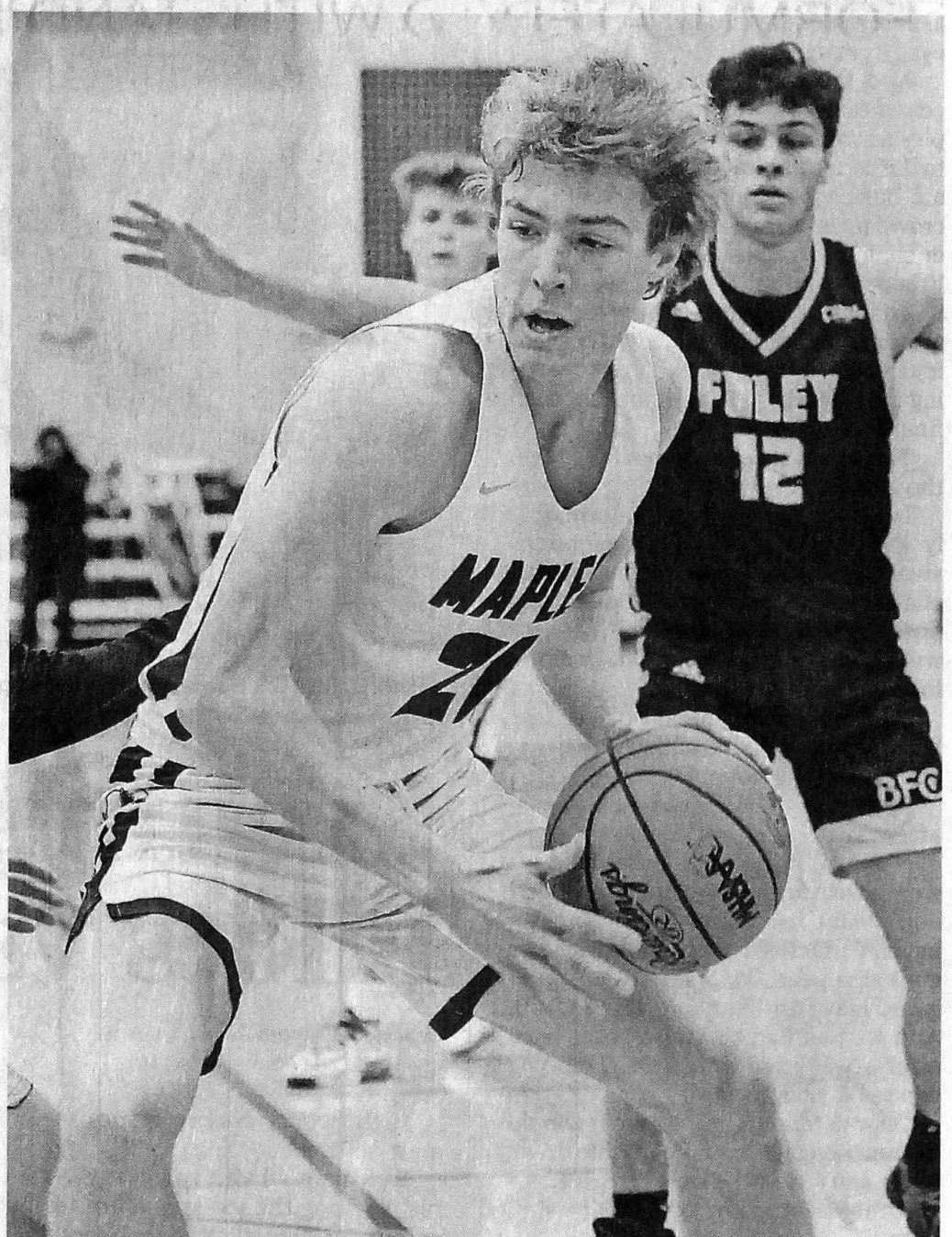
Bishop Foley (5-4) was held scoreless for the entire 8 minutes of the first quarter.

Brewer's two free throws almost half-

way through the next period were the first two points they scored. Hence, that's why Stefani walked onto the court and tried to get his Madison Heights crowd excited.

The Ventures trailed 7-0 entering the second quarter, but they wound up leading 13-11 at halftime after Drew Mleczo buried a long-range 2-pointer at the buzzer.

Hunter Baldwin opened the second half with a reverse layup along the baseline, and the Maples proceeded to score 14 of the next 18 points. That included Nicholas Kelley (10 points) nailing a pair of 3-pointers.



Seaholm's Hunter Baldwin totaled six points for the Maples.

"We definitely came out with a little fire," DeGeeter said. "After playing a (first) half like that, there's only one way to go — up. I thought we executed better and got guys in space."

Seaholm scored just one basket in the fourth, which was enough to ice the victory, and it was a pretty one. A transition possession ended with Baldwin throwing down a dunk on the east end of the arena where the Maples' student section was located. The football players and wrestlers erupted with excitement up in the bleachers.

Bishop Foley made seven-straight free throws to finish the game.

Baldwin and Fred Sparby totaled six points apiece for the Maples.

"We need to focus, hunker down and use our brains more than our brawn," DeGeeter said about future games. "There's no lack of work ethic. You see our guys on the floor. You see us blocking out. There's a big hole on the floor when a shot's going up. It's up top where we're having problems. I don't know if that's because the kids are at home or because of COVID. I don't know. We're in and out (of in-person learning)."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Twitter: @folsombrandonj.

BOYS BASKETBALL WEEK 1

Folsom's top 5 teams in western metro Detroit

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

To coincide with the first Associated Press basketball rankings of the season, Hometown Life sports reporter Brandon Folsom is releasing his first poll focused on area teams.

There are no surprises at the top of the poll, but things get interesting toward the bottom. There are several talented teams that should make the race to March a fun one to watch.

Note: These records are based on results from before Jan. 17.

1. Birmingham Brother Rice (7-1, 1-1 CHSL-Central)

There's no doubt about it: The Catholic League-Central is the best division in Michigan. The conference champion will likely have two or three losses because all five teams are currently ranked in the top 10 of just about every poll out there. The Warriors didn't get the start to league play they wanted, losing to Detroit U-D Jesuit, but they bounced back with a buzzer-beater win at No. 1 Orchard Lake St. Mary's. They have the best junior-dominated roster in the state, and it'd be a shocker if they don't win a state title by 2023.

2. Novi Detroit Catholic Central (7-1, 1-1 CHSL-Central)

This is more of a 1a. and 1b. situation. The Shamrocks' lone loss was to Detroit King in December. Since Brother Rice knocked off St. Mary's, King has moved atop the rankings and is currently the best team in the state. So that's not a bad loss on CC's resume. The Shamrocks aren't as deep as Brother Rice, but their top-four or five guys might be a little more talented.

3. North Farmington (9-1, 3-0 OAA-Red)

The Raiders' lone loss was to Williamston and it had nothing to do with

their play on the court. Their entire team has battled COVID-19 layoffs since late December, so they were shorthanded for that game. Other than that, they've been lights-out and have already knocked off Clarkston and West Bloomfield in the Oakland Activities Association-Red, one of the toughest divisions in Michigan. A win over Ferndale likely guarantees they'll never leave these rankings.

4. Canton (4-4, 4-0 KLAA-West)

Don't be thrown off by the Chiefs' record. They lost their first four games, but each game was against a team currently ranked in the top 21 of The D Zone 100. Some of those teams even spent time in the top 10 earlier this winter. Hamtramck, Warren De La Salle, Orchard Lake St. Mary's and Detroit Renaissance. Ever heard of them? Yeah, that's a tough slate. So Canton might be the best team in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association. All it needs to do is keep beating the teams it's supposed to beat.

5. Northville (6-2, 3-1 KLAA-West)

The Mustangs didn't show up against Canton, but there's a chance they're not too far behind the Chiefs, and the rematch should be a better game. Other than that, they're just a steady team. They are fundamentally strong, from boxing out to playing heads-up defense and finding high-percentage shots. They get the nod at No. 5 over 8-0 White Lake Lakeland because of their potential but don't be surprised if the Eagles take this spot in the future.

In the hunt (in no particular order): Bloomfield Hills, Detroit Country Day, Livonia Stevenson, Milford, Plymouth, Plymouth Christian Academy, Redford Union, Salem, South Lyon East, White Lake Lakeland.

Follow Brandon Folsom on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

GIRLS BASKETBALL WEEK 1

Folsom's top 5 teams in western metro Detroit

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

To coincide with the first Associated Press basketball rankings of the season being released this week, Hometown Life sports reporter Brandon Folsom is releasing his first poll.

There are four standout teams, ones that should make big playoff runs in March. And there are several teams that are worthy of Folsom's No. 5 spot. Check back each week to see who's looking good as the regular season winds down.

Note: These records are based on results from before Jan. 17.

1. Redford Westfield Prep (10-1)

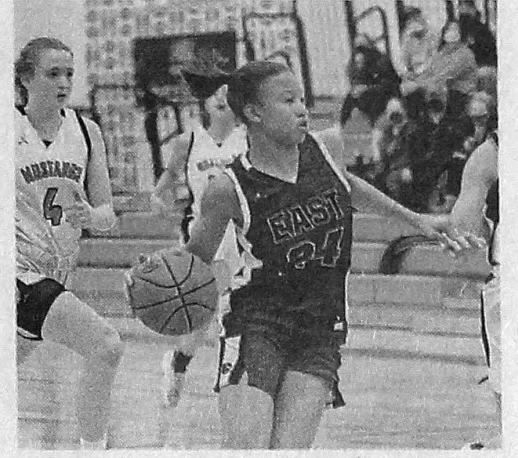
The Warriors aren't just one of the best teams in Michigan, they're beating teams across state lines as well. They've played a stacked schedule against Class A and B schools with their talented roster of speedy guards and athletic forwards. Their lone loss? A three-point close-call at Ypsilanti Arbor Prep.

2. Wayne Memorial (8-1, 5-0 KLAA-East)

No one in the league is anywhere as talented as the Zebras, who are led by Mayla Ham, Paris Bass, Davai Matthews, three Division I college prospects. Their lone loss? Yep, that was to Arbor Prep in the season opener. As we know, that's nothing to scoff at. Expect Wayne to make a deep playoff run.

3. South Lyon East (7-2, 5-0 LVC)

It'd be lazy to say Central Michigan commit Taylor Anderson is carrying the Cougars. She's not doing it alone. This team is loaded with talent. From forward Anna Lissan to guard Ella Kruschka and everyone in between, these girls are easily one of the 20 best teams in the state. They lost to West



South Lyon East's Taylor Anderson.
BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Bloomfield early on. Since then, their only other loss? Yep, that was to Arbor Prep.

4. Farmington Hills Mercy (7-2, 3-1 CHSL-Central)

The Marlins won the arm-wrestling match against rival Marian, but it's not going to get any easier for them. Their division has three, possibly four, of the 25 best teams in the state. If they can beat Dearborn Divine Child in the rematch, stave off Marian again and beat Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, they could be dangerous entering the postseason.

5. Livonia Frankin (6-2, 5-2 KLAA-East)

It's going to take a lot to keep the Patriots in the top five because there are several equally-as-talented squads on their heels right now. Anyone from Marian to Detroit Country Day, Northville and Plymouth Christian could be in this final spot.

In the hunt (in no particular order): Bloomfield Hills Marian, Birmingham Seaholm, Detroit Country Day, Livonia Clarenceville, Livonia Stevenson, North Farmington, Northville, Plymouth Christian Academy, White Lake Lakeland.

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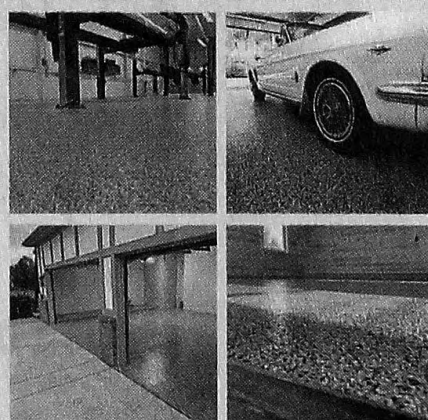
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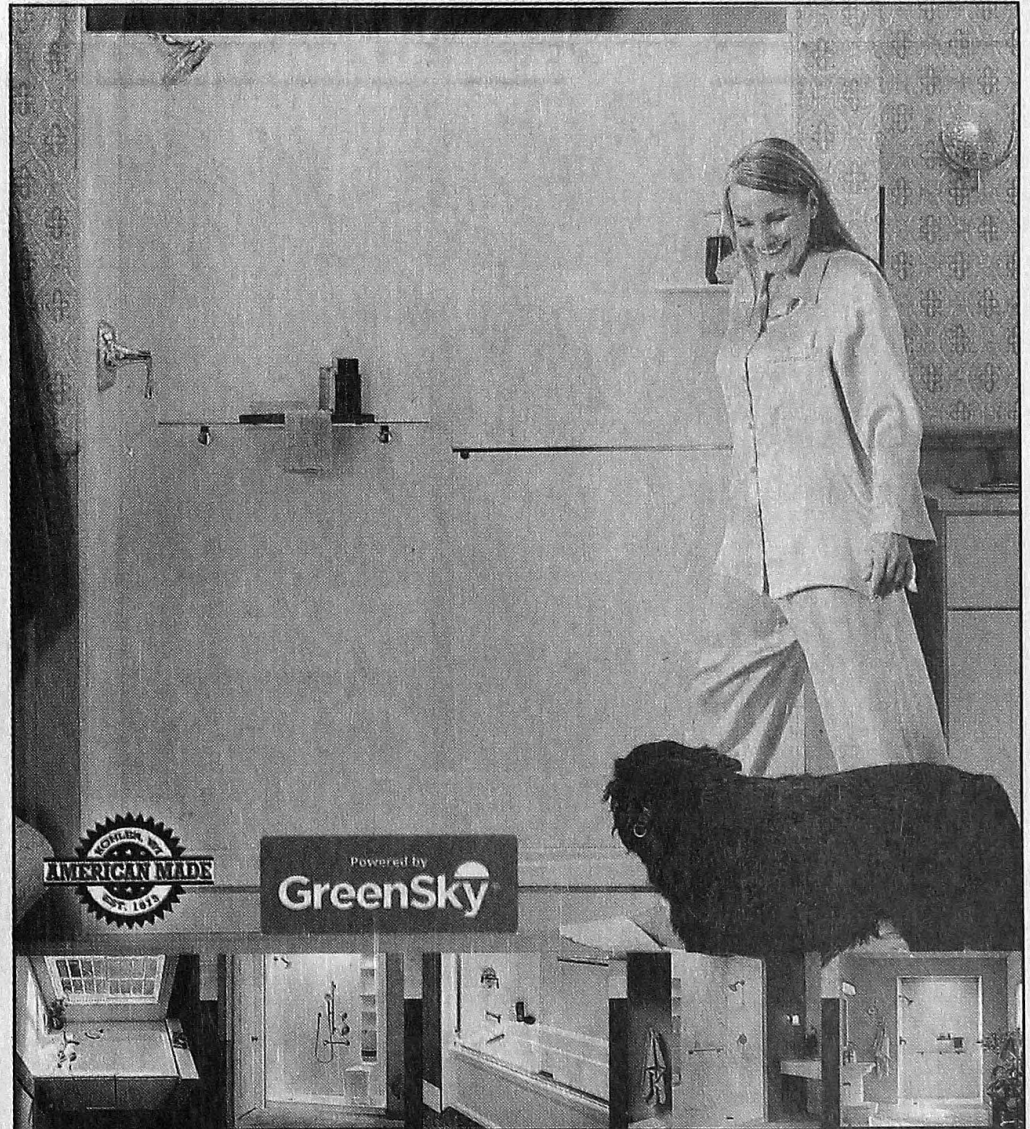


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Novi grad, teammate win ice dancing at US Figure Skating Championships

Mike Organ Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Madison Chock and Evan Bates won their third ice dance national title Jan. 8 at the 2022 U.S. Figure Skating Championships at Bridgestone Arena.

The win sends Chock and Bates to their third Olympic Winter Games.

Chock, 29, and Bates, 32, staged a near-flawless, ultra-modern free dance performance after taking just a 2.5-point lead over rivals and reigning champions Madison Hubbell, 30, and Zachary Donahue, 31, in the rhythm dance Friday.

"It feels really good to be sitting here and to have won the national championship again against some of the toughest competitors that we've ever faced," Bates, a 2010 Novi High School graduate said. "We really had to work hard for it. The training and the preparation, we needed all of it because it wasn't easy and it wasn't necessarily the best performance that we dreamt up (Saturday). But I'm really proud of all the work we put in because it showed up and we relied on it."

Chock and Bates scored 135.43 in the free dance for a total of 227.37, which was enough to hold off Hubbell and Donahue, who scored higher in the free at 136.2 and finished at 225.59 to earn the silver.

It was the final national championship for Hubbell and Donahue.

"For Zach and I, our performance meant a lot to us," Hubbell said. "We wanted to end our career at the U.S. Championships with a performance (Saturday) that we're both very satisfied with. We couldn't make up the 2.5 points from a poorly-skated short program, but we're really satisfied with the feeling that we left this championship with."

Bates said it was important for he and Chock to keep their composure after Hubbell and Donahue performed so well in the free. Going last among the 14 teams in the competition also made it tough for Chock and Bates.

"It was frankly a challenging set of



Madison Chock and Evan Bates hold their gold medals during the championship ceremony at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships on Jan. 8 in Nashville, Tennessee. ANDREW NELLES/TENNESSEAN.COM

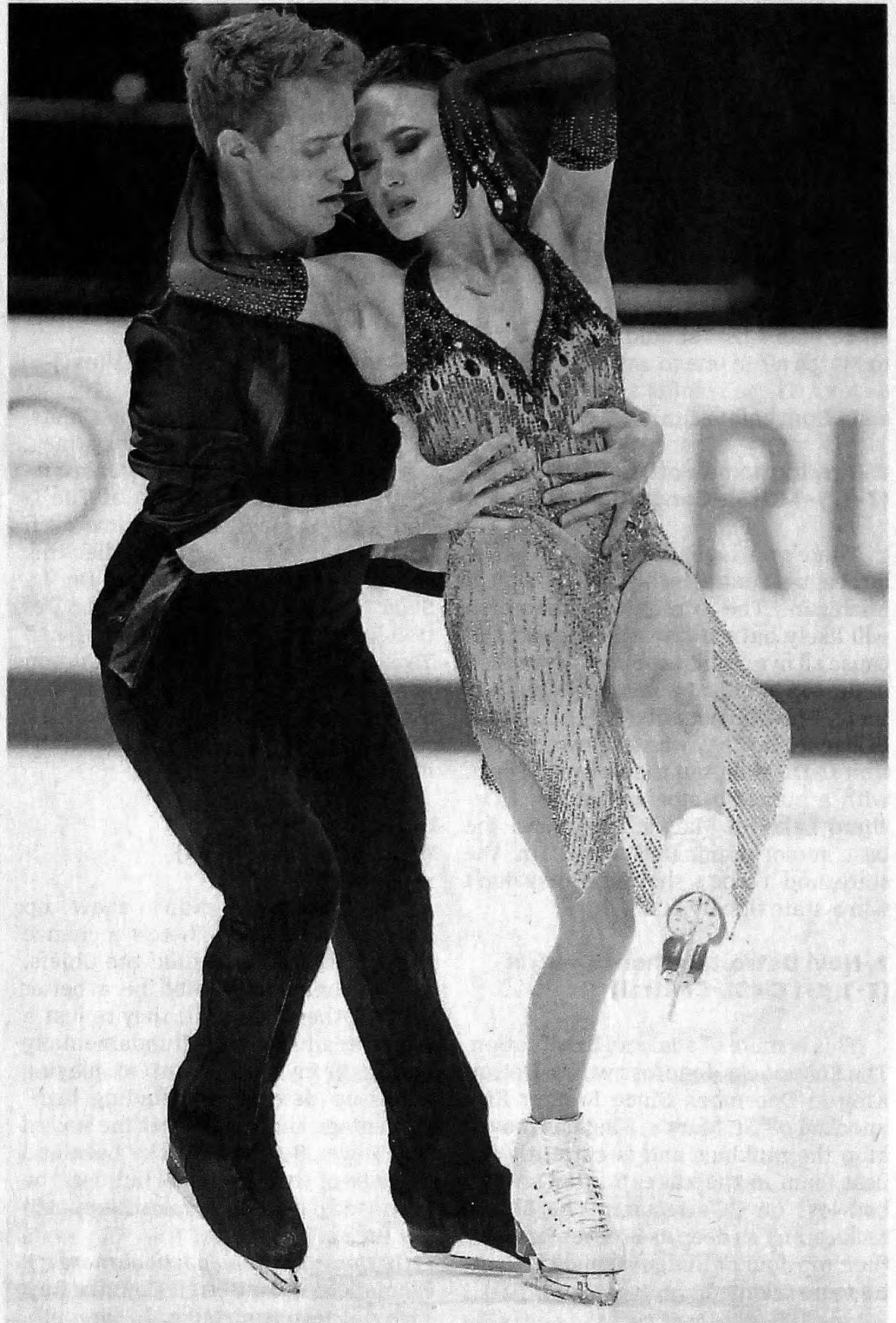
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circumstances being last and knowing that Zach and Maddie had skated well just based on crowd response," Bates said. "And I expected them to skate well. That's why we really relied on our training."

"We've been working very hard to be as prepared as we can be for this next stretch in our careers."

Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker (205.68) won the bronze.

Hubbell and Donahue and Hawayek and Baker will join Chock and Bates at the Olympics in Beijing.



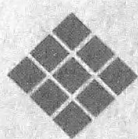
Madison Chock and Evan Bates skate in the Championship Ice Dance event during the U.S. Figure Skating Championships on Jan. 7 at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee. Chock and Bates finished in first place in the Rhythm Dance portion of the Championship Ice Dance event. GEORGE WALKER IV/THE TENNESSEAN



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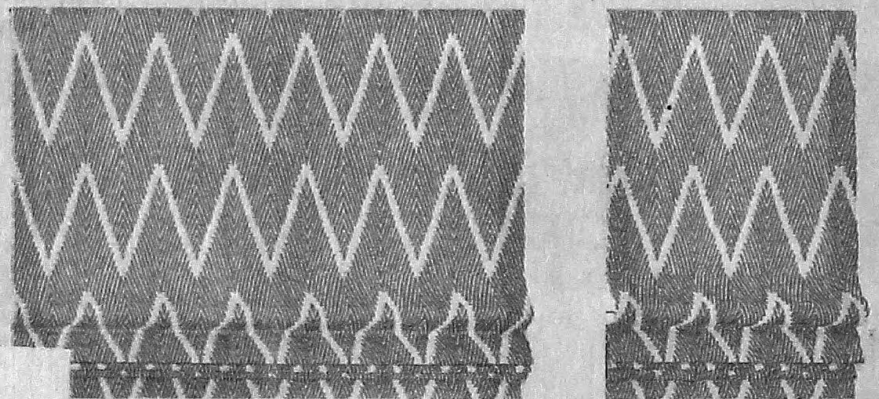
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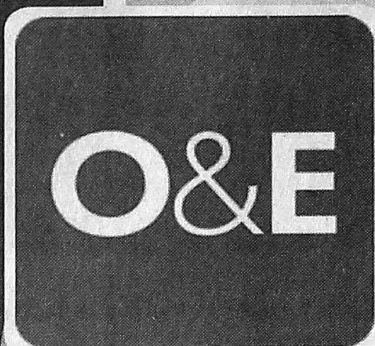
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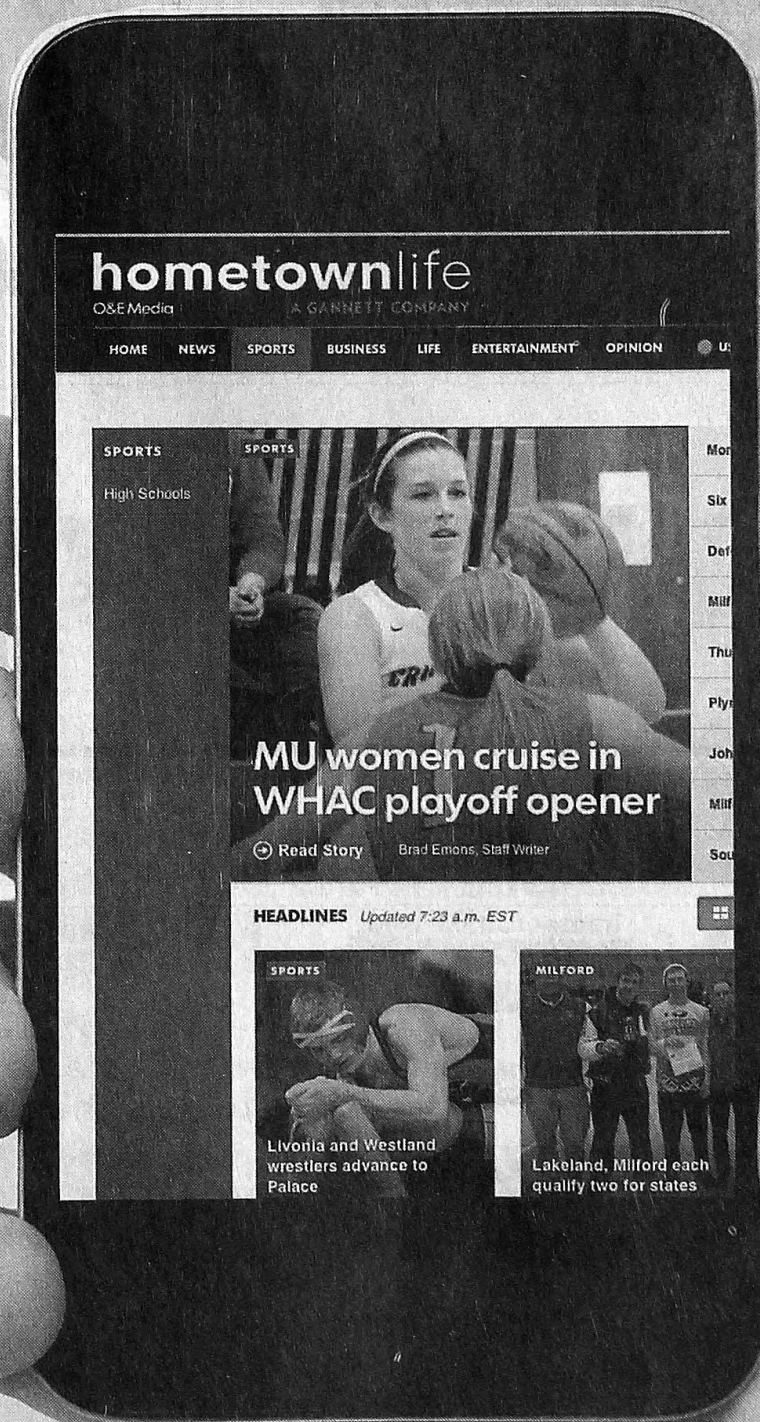
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The Big Quit and the Tightest Labor Market Ever

By Ziprecruiter.com

It is usual for businesses to report difficulty retaining qualified workers and attracting new ones, even in normal times. But the recent Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) report, with data through the end of November, confirms what many businesses know to be true: This time is different.

An all-time record high 4.5 million workers quit their jobs in November, with quits hitting new records in accommodation and food services, healthcare and social assistance, professional and business services, and state and local government (excluding education).

But replacing those workers is proving unusually challenging. Although businesses are advertising 10.6 million job openings, there are only 6.9 million unemployed people actively seeking them. That is an all-time record-low ratio of unemployed people to vacancies (0.62)—a sign that this is the tightest labor market ever.

A Record-Low Ratio of Unemployed Job Seekers to Job Openings

Prior to the pandemic, there were usually about 2.3 unemployed people per job opening. Following recessions, that ratio has tended to surge: to 3.0 af-

ter the dotcom bubble crash, to 6.5 after the Great Recession, and to 5.0 at the bleakest point of the Covid recession.

But it has now fallen more quickly than ever before and to the lowest point on record, thanks to a strong demand-driven economic recovery, paired with a protracted pandemic-induced decline in labor force participation. There are now 50.6% more job openings than before the pandemic overall, and over 100% more in manufacturing.

A Record-Low Ratio of Hires per Job Opening

The number of hires per opening is near the all-time record low reached in October after a dramatic post-pandemic drop. With so few candidates to choose from, employers are struggling to complete hires. In other words, job openings are yielding fewer hires than usual.

Before 2015, there were usually *more* hires made during each month than vacancies left at the end of the month. But towards the end of the 10-year economic expansion following the Great Recession, job openings had soared above hires, with the hires-per-opening ratio falling to 0.76. That in itself was a remarkable development and it produced aggressive competition between firms for talent.



But the pandemic economy has smashed all prior records. In November, firms only hired 6.7 million people, despite the 10.6 million job openings advertised, a ratio of just 0.65.

Record-High Retirements and Quits

Given difficulty attracting new talent, employers are hanging onto the workers they have for dear life. Historically, layoffs and discharges have been fairly frequent, accounting for 40% of all separations from employment, on average. That share has now been below 25% for five straight months.

While layoffs have fallen, quits and retirements have surged. Since 2000, about 1.9% of workers have voluntarily quit their jobs each month. The quits rate in November stood at a record-high 3% overall—and 6.4% in the leisure and hospitality sector. Quits have soared in establishments of all sizes, not only in

small businesses, as was the case earlier in the pandemic.

So-called “other separations”—a term that mostly refers to retirements—are also higher than usual. There have been 1.15 million “other separations” in the past three months—the most in one quarter since 2016.

In other words, companies are not only battling record-high recruitment challenges, but retention difficulties, too.

How Companies are Responding

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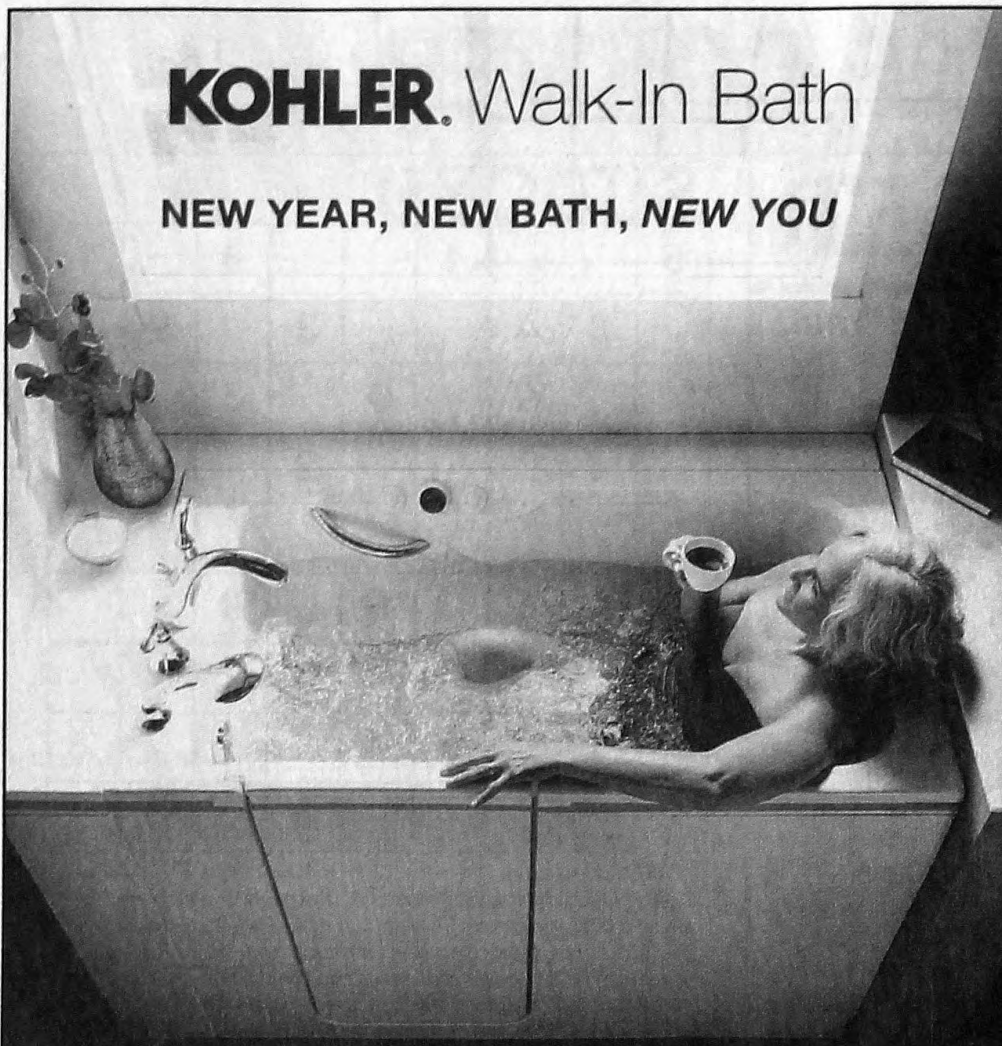
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