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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Westland wants YMCA, Wayne Metro partnership

Proposed community center would open in 2024

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The proposed redevelopment of Marshall Upper Elementary School as a community center is starting to take shape in Westland. The city has been mulling over whether it wants to pur-

chase the building for nearly a year. "This goes well beyond a recreational facility," Westland City Council President Jim Hart said. "It's a community center."

The city is considering partnering with YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and Wayne Metropolitan Community Ac-

tion Agency to turn the property into a place people can come to exercise, learn and socialize. If the center is rehabbed in the timeline it's currently on, it would open in the spring of 2024.

"We're just looking for a community space," Hart said. "That could be recreation, some sort of adult education, cooking classes, development and fitness opportunities."

"What I like about this is, if we go through with this, it's all under one roof."

Council recently heard a presentation from Plante Moran, a management consulting company helping the city on its due diligence for the Marshall site.

See **PARTNERSHIP**, Page 4A



Aurelia Piotrowski, left, and her daughter, Kathy Asherman, talk about their many years of managing the counter at Delta Diamond. The downtown Plymouth business is closing after 49 years. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Jewelry store in Plymouth closing after nearly 50 years

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A jewel of downtown Plymouth is about to close its doors.

After operating in the western Wayne County city since the mid-1970s, Delta Diamond will close at the end of the month.

"We're leaving at the right time for us," said owner Aurelia Piotrowski, the wife of Thomas Piotrowski, who owned the shop until his death in 2016. "We're holding our heads up high and we're going to try different things."

The shop originally opened in 1973 in Dearborn before moving to Plymouth a few years later, first operating in the

Mayflower House before eventually landing in its current home at 895 W. Ann Arbor Trail, where it's been for several decades.

"Town has a different vibe, but it's good," said Kathy Aschermann, Piotrowski's daughter and a gemologist at

See **CLOSING**, Page 4A

Farmington Hills couple 'had a great respect for each other'

Helene St. James Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

They met like a scene out of a romantic comedy movie, venturing on a double blind date where they became enchanted with one another instead of their original dates. That led to a soda and a hayride - and a lifetime together.

Vera and John Kerastas were married 73 years, raising three children while they traveled the world and stoked their zest for life. They were born in Detroit to immigrant families and met at Wayne State University, where he was enrolled after serving in World War II and she was studying chemistry.

After spending a few years trying to decide whether they were mature enough to have children, they had three: John in 1953, Nancy in 1958 and Eric in 1962. The Kerastases settled in Farmington Hills in 1962.

"They had a great respect for each other," their eldest son, John, said. "We never heard them have a loud argument of any sort. They were always able to come together - Mom would take the lead on some things, Dad would take the lead on some other things. They complemented each other so well."

John died Jan. 15, and Vera died Jan. 19. Both were 97. They were at home, surrounded by their children and grandchildren.

"When my dad passed, my mom was not doing well, and I'm sure that

See **COUPLE**, Page 4A

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Federal agents seize fake vaccination cards

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Federal agents inspecting international mail at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago seized two packages heading to Livonia from Moldova, an east European country, after discovering counterfeit COVID-19 material.

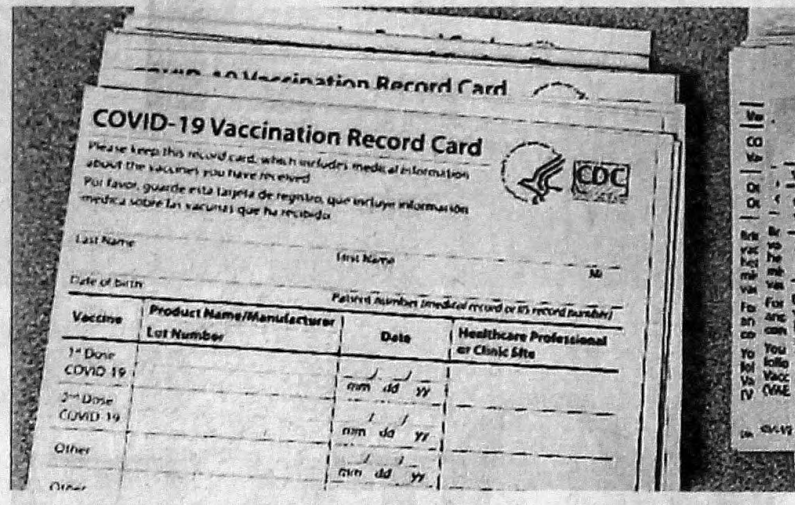
One parcel contained 100 counterfeit COVID-19 vaccination cards and the other contained 30 counterfeit cards, according to a Twitter post from U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Chicago. They were heading to two separate Livonia residences when they were

inspected on Sunday. "Criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to make \$\$\$," the agency posted on Twitter.

Spokesman Steve Bansbach said 20% of all international mail goes through O'Hare, where federal agents are stationed.

An investigation was turned over to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

No other information was available. Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.



Federal agents seized two packages containing counterfeit COVID-19 materials and heading to Livonia from Moldova, a European country. COURTESY OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

Hookah lounge visitor shoots, injures 2 in Farmington Hills

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills police are investigating an early Saturday morning shooting that took place at a hookah lounge and sent two people to the hospital.

The reported shooting happened in-

side the Vibe Hookah Lounge on Northwestern Highway, near Fourteen Mile Road, at about 2:10 a.m. Jan. 29, police said in a report.

The shooter apparently was provided a gun by another man. Once armed, the shooter physically assaulted and shot the victims, who were treated at an area hospital for their injuries.

Police did not provide the level of the victims' injuries.

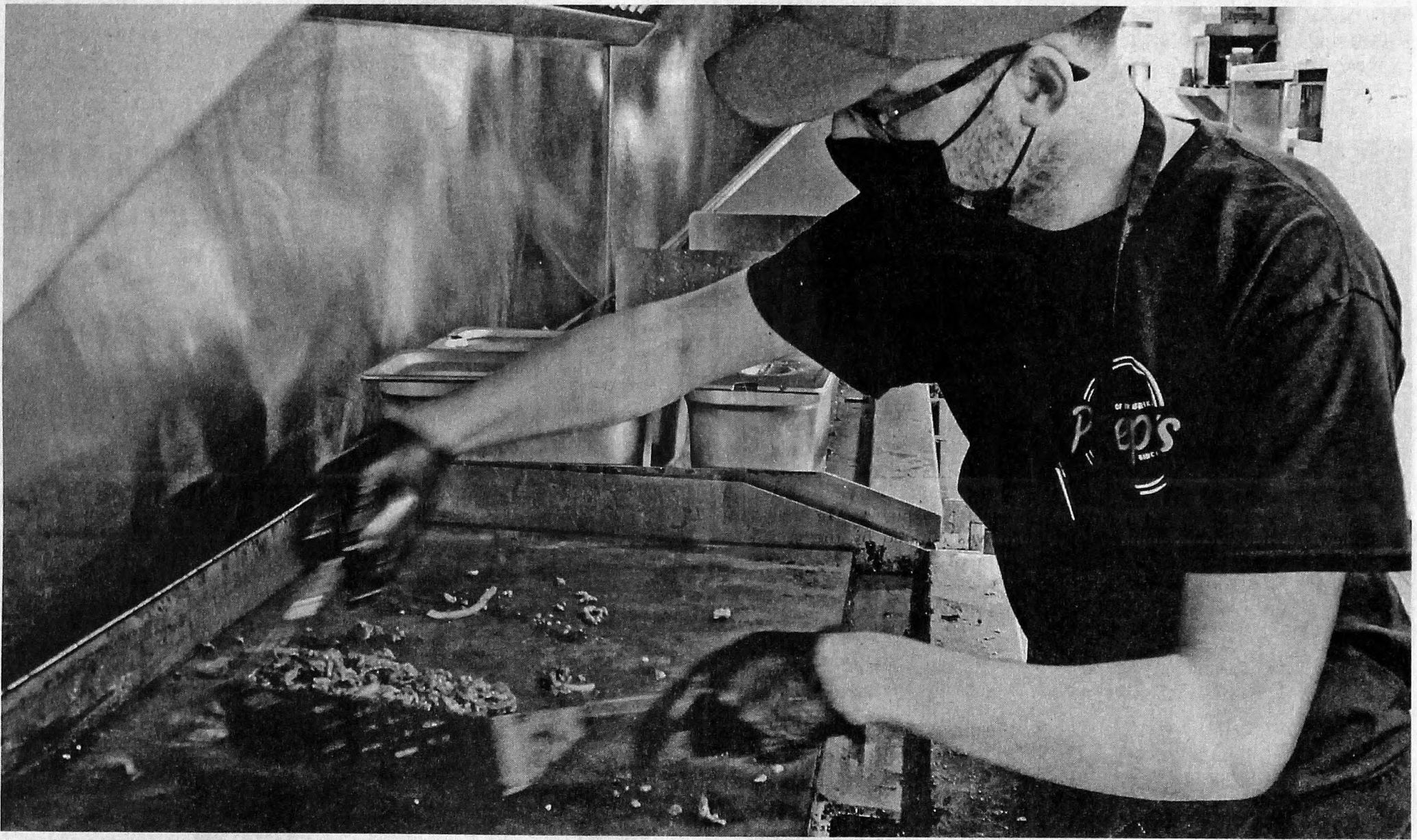
Police said there is no evidence of a threat to the general public, but they are increasing patrols of the area and continuing to search for the shooter and the man who gave him the weapon.

"This is a very active investigation, with detectives continuously develop-

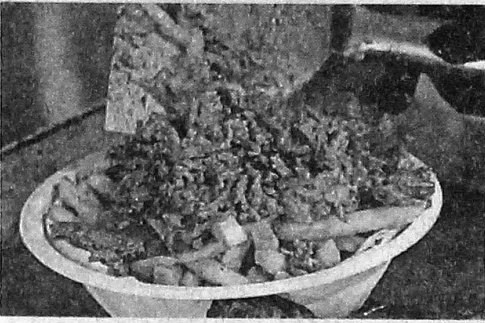
ing and receiving new information," Chief Jeff King said in a statement.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact the Farmington Hills Police Department command desk at 248-871-2610.

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



Peepo's cook Hamoudy Aboudrabi prepares an Afrikan bowl to be poured over fries. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A Peepo's Afrikan bowl.

Downriver eatery brings dishes to Canton

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Celebrating Canton Township's rich diversity was one reason Mahmoud Elhassan wanted to locate a restaurant in the community.

After several years of work, he and his family have done just that: Peepo's, a sub shop specializing in Middle Eastern fare, opened last fall at 41810 Ford Road. The shop, opened in a former salon space, is the second one ran by the family.

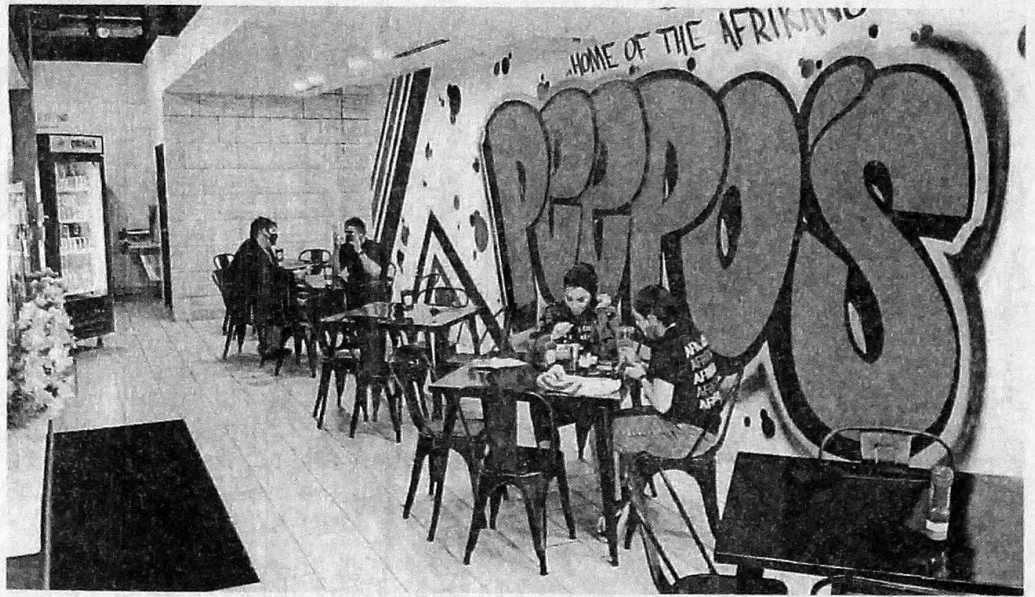
Elhassan, a Dearborn Heights resident, came to the United States from Lebanon in the mid-2000s. He and other family members, including his brother-in-law Ali Elromh, began working at restaurants around the area in communities without a lot of Middle Eastern offerings when they decided to go into business themselves. That launched the Peepo's restaurant on Beech Daly in Taylor in 2011.

"I wanted to bring something here that nobody is serving," Elhassan said. "We grew so much."

Elhassan said he began looking in the Canton region several years ago, trying to find the perfect spot to open a second shop. That's when he discovered the space in the shopping center on the north side of the road between Haggerty and Lilley.

"No location was eye-catching more than this location," he said. "I looked all over."

"I love the community here because it's so diverse. I've never seen any diverse community like Canton."



Peepo's in Canton has indoor seating available for its patrons.

The menu — trimmed down from what it was in years' past — brings some traditional American subs such as chicken and steak and cheese, as well as appetizers and smoothies. Dishes with Middle Eastern influence include shawarma and the Afrikan, a dish created by Peepo's that can be made a variety of ways including a sub, bowl or salad.

Despite its name, the dish doesn't hail from Africa. The name is an homage to the spicy foods found on the African continent. Seeking a unique name, they began using the name "Afrikan" and it's become what Peepo's is known for in the region.

"It's a name that we came up with for the hot sauce that we use," he said. "It worked out fine, honestly. It was very

catchy."

The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. In addition to online ordering, the shop also offers catering and ordering through third-party delivery sites such as DoorDash and Grubhub. A menu can be found at the restaurant's website, peeposubs.com.

Elhassan said he's pleased to bring their offerings to a new community and hopes to attract plenty of guests looking for a unique dish to their restaurant.

"It has been a blessing," he said. "We cannot wait for everyone in Canton to come try our food."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.

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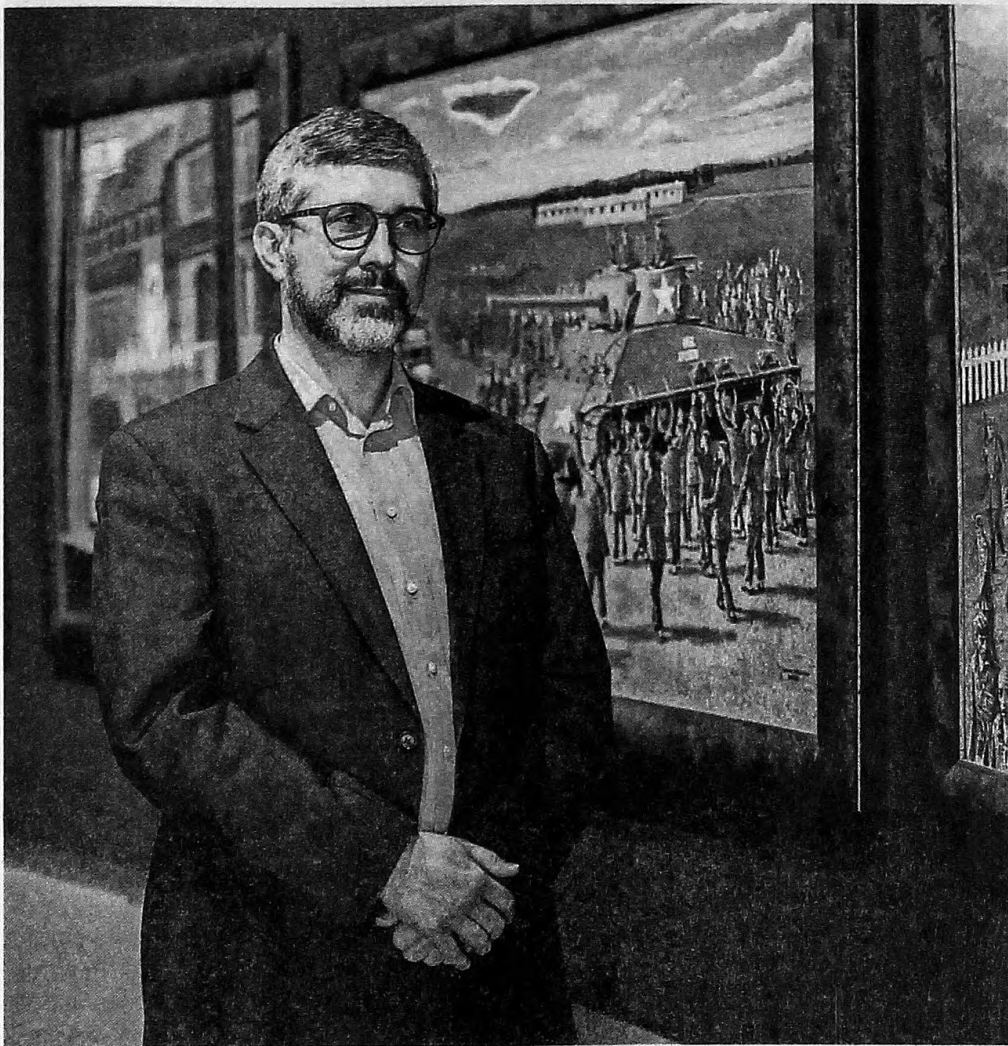
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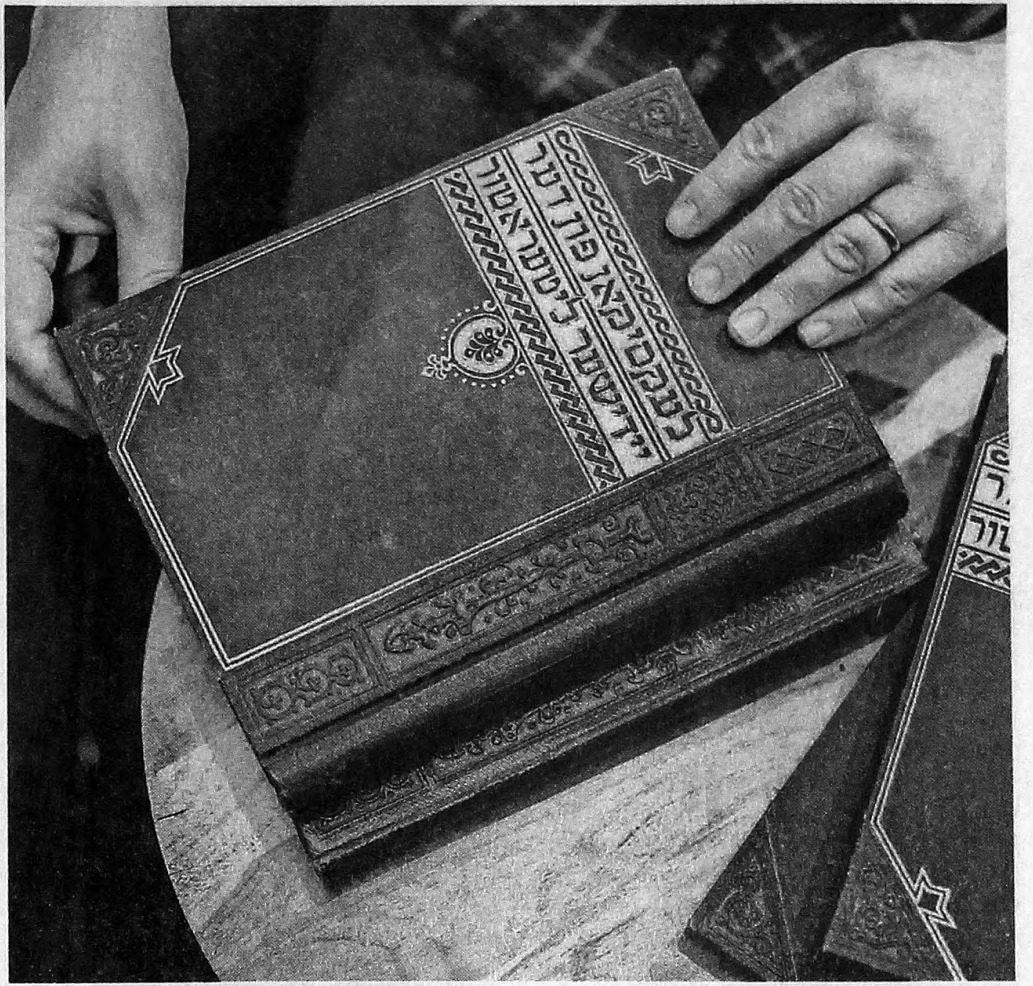
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Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, Zekelman Holocaust Center CEO, believes in telling the story of the Holocaust in ways that are accessible to modern audiences.

PHOTOS BY ANNIE BARKER/DETROIT FREE PRESS



"The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis," an exhibition at the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills, tells the story of people who hid and shepherded important Jewish books and documents the Nazis sought to destroy. Exhibitions Curator Mark Mulder discovered the pictured volumes of Yiddish literature at a used books sale.

Artifacts rescued from Nazis on display in Detroit

Duante Beddingfield Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

When the Nazis began invading Lithuania in 1941, a group of 40 intellectuals formed what they called the Paper Brigade, risking their lives to save volumes of Judaica for the next generation.

They rescued books, artifacts, scrolls, photographs, artworks, diaries and literature from the hands of the Nazis by hiding them in plain sight.

Dozens of artifacts and reproductions telling the story of that effort are now on display at the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills, 28123 Orchard Lake Road.

The exhibit, "The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis," is on display through May 31. It's named for the book that inspired it, by David E. Fishman, a professor of Jewish history at The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

"The Book Smugglers" weaves the true tale of residents of the Jewish ghettos of Vilna, Lithuania, who rescued thousands of rare books and manuscripts by hiding them on their persons, burying them in bunkers and smuggling them across borders to keep their culture and heritage from being destroyed by Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

The city of Vilna was known as "the Jerusalem of Lithuania" for its rich Jewish culture. Despite Jewish residents being ostracized from mainstream society and persecuted on a daily basis, art, music, literature, poetry, theater and opera thrived within their community, creating an oasis from the poor treat-

ment they faced prior to World War II. "The volume is enormous," Fishman told the Free Press. "We're talking tens of thousands of documents."

"A lot of the rescued material is from the wartime. So, for instance, you have a call to arms from the armed resistance of the Vilna ghetto preparing for an uprising, and at the end, there's an appeal: 'They're not sending you to a labor camp; they're sending you to your deaths! Rise up and fight!'"

Among the materials on display is the record book of the Great Synagogue of Vilna.

"The building itself was destroyed," Fishman said, "but its record book spans 150 years, from the 1760s till the 1910s. That book, with all the transactions and meetings of the board of that synagogue, has survived."

About 100 artifacts and reproductions are on display in the exhibition, which was curated by the Holocaust Museum Houston. It includes panels with paintings and drawings, photographs, poetry, diaries, testimonies and music representing the Jewish heritage of Vilna. It focuses on pre-WWII Vilna, contributions of five members of the Paper Brigade and the results of their historic, heroic mission. The show carries major themes of resistance in the face of fascism and the persistence of cultural identity.

"This is truly an incredible tale of heroism, resistance, and friendship and of unwavering devotion-including the readiness to risk one's life to save literature and art," said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, Holocaust Center CEO. "Dr. Fishman thoroughly researched this astonishing

account by reviewing Jewish, German, and Soviet documents, including diaries, letters, memoirs, and by interviewing several of the story's participants."

Mayerfeld believes it's important to tell the story of the Holocaust in ways that are accessible to modern audiences.

"The items (in the exhibition) tell a story about a culture that's been destroyed," he said. "In today's papers, you're reading about genocides that are being committed right now. The term 'genocide' does not only mean the murder of all of the people. It's the murder of their culture, the destruction of all the different pieces that make that up. It involves deliberate starvation, murder, systemic annihilation of individuals but

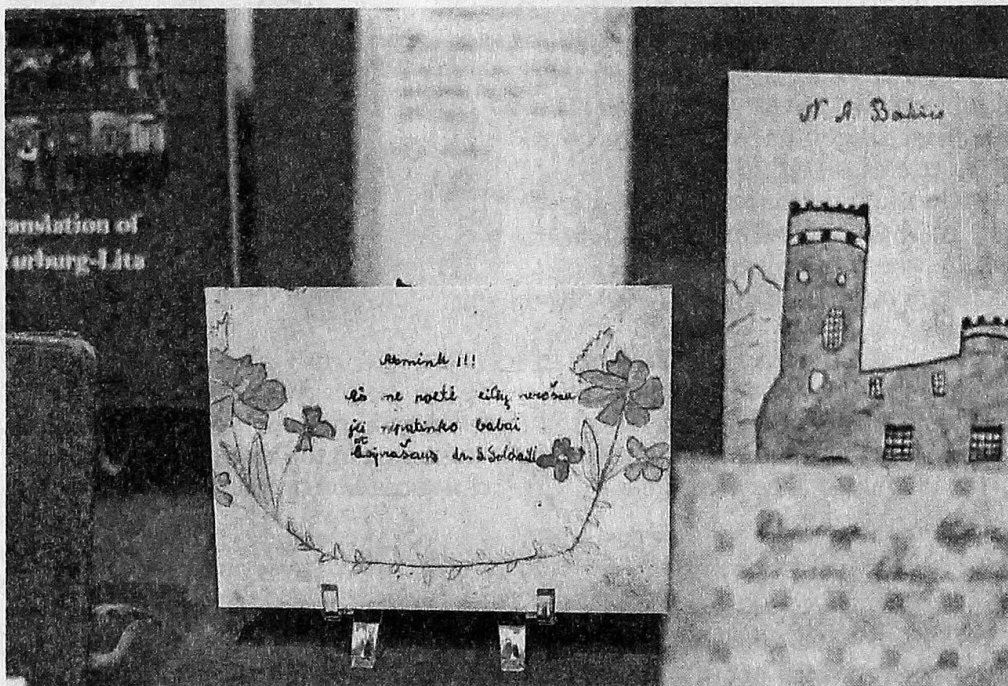
also a community.

"We're not telling anybody what to think. But we want them to have the background of information."

Fishman spent seven years researching and writing the book. He said the major lesson he took away is that there are many types of heroism, pointing to the examples of Allied soldiers and the Paper Brigade.

"What's remarkable about this," he said, "is that this story is set in the Holocaust, but it's not a downer. This is an inspiring story, one that should give us the strength to put our best foot forward in the many challenges we face today."

For more information, visit holocaustcenter.org or call 248-553-2400.



Sections from Diane Tobin's autograph album, a gift from friends when she left Lithuania to come to the United States, are part of the exhibit at the center.

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Couple

Continued from Page 1A

deep sorrow pushed her to the grave," John said. "We all knew when my dad went, my mom would follow soon."

A studious beginning

Vera Rose Zuzich was born April 18, 1924, the second child of Croatian immigrants. An excellent student, she was the salutatorian for her high school class. With the support of her father, she enrolled in college to study chemistry. She graduated cum laude.

"She grew up in a Croatian household, and the community really gave her father a lot of resistance for sending her to college and letting her work in a man's field," Nancy said. "But she chose chemistry because she wasn't interested in traditional jobs for women."

"She was quite pleased to be working, to have her own income. She worked for Difco Laboratories. She had a very large lab to herself. Her boss was just convinced she didn't know what she was doing, and any time she was reading something, he would come in and check."

Vera didn't let daily challenges as a woman chemist in the 1940s deter her from being recognized for her work.

"She was in the pharmaceuticals and she was the only female chemist there," Eric said. "Unfortunately, there was bigotry. She asked for a raise and the president of the company came down and told her how he couldn't afford the raise for my mother."

"She worked there for a number of years until she was pregnant with my brother. Back then, you couldn't both work and raise a kid."

John William Kerastas was born May 22, 1924, to immigrants from Greece and England. From an early age, he displayed habits that would be his trademark throughout his life. When he started working as a paper boy at age 12, he put his earnings in a savings account. In high school, he competed in swimming and diving. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force (the direct predecessor of the U.S. Air Force). He trained as a weather forecaster at UC Berkeley and served three years, stationed in New Guinea, Australia and the Philippines.

The Pacific theater is also where John attempted to hunt wild boar, and thought better of swimming with sharks.

"Dad was part of a weather program," Eric said. "He was supposed to be on an airplane, and each airplane would have a weatherman. They changed that, so he was monitoring enemy troops while he did weather on this New Guinea island that had head hunters on it."

"Dad and a couple other folks were talking to the cook, who wanted to have fresh food instead of the rations and canned stuff they had. The cook said he'd make them the best pork dinner they ever had if they went out and shot a boar. So Dad and a couple buddies took a Jeep and went out with their carbines and started walking out in the grass. And the grass got taller and taller and finally got over their heads, and they



Vera and John Kerastas on their wedding day Aug. 28, 1948.

PROVIDED BY KERASTAS FAMILY

thought, 'We can't even see what's going to happen, and these things have razor-sharp tusks.' So they gave up and went home."

On another island, troops had fashioned something of an underwater fence.

"Dad was out swimming," Eric said, "and he saw there were a number of holes in the shark fence, so he said to himself, 'Maybe I'm not that smart swimming out here, because this fence is no good.'"

An adventurous couple

After the war, John returned to Detroit. He was a student at Wayne State when he was talked into going on a double date. He didn't know the girl he was set up with, and her friend – the other woman on the date – caught his eye.

When John met Vera again at a soda shop, he bought her an ice cream sundae and asked for a date. They married three years later, on Aug. 28, 1948.

"They told us that early on, every year they talked about, should we have kids," Nancy said. "And they would laugh and say, we're not mature enough. Finally they decided we'll never be mature enough, let's just do it."

They were loving and strict parents, determined to instill their core values in their children. They taught them to be self-sufficient, to value their own uniqueness, and to embrace diversity. They didn't tolerate meanness.

"They were very service-oriented, particularly my mother," Nancy said. "I can remember from a small age, she was always doing some sort of volunteer

work. There was an orphanage when I was young, the Sarah Fisher Home. I can remember being a small child and after Halloween, she would have us take out a third of our candy and then we'd bring the rest to the orphanage and do a trick or treat for them."

"They had very high standards for themselves and for us. We learned integrity, loyalty, honor, honesty."

The Kerastases loved to broaden their knowledge through travel. Their journeys took them to Russia, Egypt, the Amazon, Japan and China.

During a trip to Switzerland, John – unbeknownst to Vera at the time – found that mountain guides weren't available, so he clambered over a fence and decided to get a taste of climbing the Matterhorn.

"My dad had a sense of adventure, whether it was whitewater rafting, which he convinced Mom to do, or going to Russia after the USSR fell," Eric said. "They wanted to experience different things. They were both lifelong learners. Especially Dad. He had an adventurous spirit."

Later in life they enjoyed cruises, where John would go on the excursions and Vera would come away from dinners knowing everything about the other guests at the table.

They loved good conversation and good food. (And sweet food. A few years back Eric bought Vera a 5-pound bar of milk chocolate. "It was gone in six weeks," John recalled.)

'You judge on character. On heart'

John worked as a financial analyst for

Ford Motor Company for 36 years, during which he was awarded three new cars for helping improve manufacturing processes.

Throughout his life, he was savvy about money and investments.

"He put money in Pfizer and, in his own words, made a killing, and he gave everybody a big cash gift last Christmas," Eric said. "He was an astute investor who managed his own portfolio till the end."

"They cared about their family, deeply. They were always there and present for their family, good times and bad, and there has been bad. ... Dad supported people in hard times. They taught us that race, creed, doesn't matter. You judge on character. On heart."

Vera and John loved being around people and being active. Vera overcame scarlet fever as a child, colon cancer in her 50s and breast cancer in her 80s.

She and John were regulars at the Farmington YMCA until it shut down for several months in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vera would use the training studio to work out, often wearing a pink shirt proclaiming "fight like a girl" in support of breast cancer awareness. John would swim, hearkening back to his days on his high school team. After working out, they would gather around a table and enjoy coffee with friends.

At their funeral service Jan. 22, a longtime Y member described how they would depart.

"Cathy Hasse told the story about them pretty much every day leaving the Y," Eric said. "Dad would put his stuff in his left hand, Mom would put her stuff in her right hand, and they'd lock arms and walk out like that. Together."

Vera dealt with congestive heart failure late in life. Toward the end, John's epiglottis stopped functioning, making eating and drinking painful. Through-out everything, they were there for one another.

"Particularly my father, was a wonderful example of how to handle old age," Nancy said. "They were both having pain and illness, and it was joy to be around my father. He would say, 'You can choose to focus on the negative, but why would you do that when there is so much positive?' He was always so full of joy."

John always maintained his unquenchable thirst for knowledge. He watched the news, read his newspaper, and made use of his laptop when he was confined to his bed at the end.

"He enjoyed lectures – anything from astrophysics to how to sing to history," Eric said. "And he loved doing puzzles. Even five days before he passed, he'd always leave the last piece for Mom to put in. They had a very loving partnership."

Vera and John witnessed tremendous change in their lifetime. They grew up in the Great Depression, were shaped by a world war, and forged a life together centered on respect and finding joy in one another and the world.

"My dad was fearless, I think, because he never thought he would survive World War II," Nancy said. "He would always say, 'You can't wait for life to be easy to be joyful. You can't wait for life to be easy to choose to be happy.'"

Closing

Continued from Page 1A

the shop. "Everything changes. You can't have all retail and no service."

"You have to have a good mix. And it has ebbed and flowed and changed."

Aurelia Piotrowski, a nurse by trade, said she always enjoyed parts of living with a jeweler, including traveling with her husband to various shows across the country.

There was discussion among the

family about closing the shop when Thomas Piotrowski died, but they ultimately decided to keep the shop open in his memory.

"It was his dream, his vision. It really was," Aschermann said. "We had that initial conversation about five years ago and we said, 'Let's see what we can do and shelve it for a while.'"

The jewelry business has changed dramatically with everything that's happened in recent years.

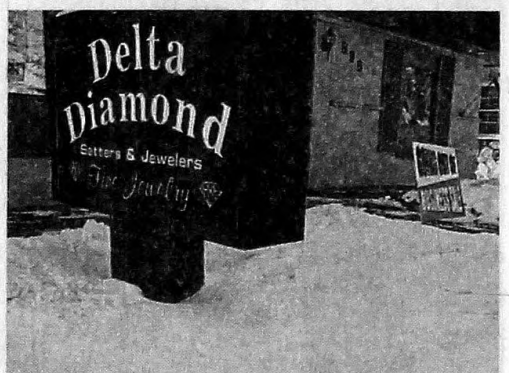
"The industry has changed, the market has changed," Aschermann said. "Brick-and-mortar retail has changed."

The store specializes in all things fine jewelry. Items are currently discounted, with pieces on sale for as much as 70% off. Those discounts will remain until the store closes Feb. 26.

Delta Diamond has sold to multiple generations in the community. The classics are the store's biggest sellers.

"Everyone loves diamonds," Piotrowski said.

The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday through Saturday until it closes. More information can be found at deltadiamondplymouth.com.



Delta Diamond is going out of business after being in the town since 1977.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Partnership

Continued from Page 1A

The city has until March 1 to decide whether it wants to purchase the property from Wayne-Westland Community Schools. City and school officials could extend that deadline, if their respective governing bodies agreed.

"The two big takeaways that council really needs are understanding how much everybody is in for – how much is our piece – and understanding how much the operational costs are," Hart said. "Knowing exactly what that looks like is kind of what the council is really holding out for."

Marshall, at 35100 Bayview St., already has a gymnasium and a track as

well as outdoor baseball, football and tennis facilities. Some of the building's art-focused assets include theater and band space.

According to Plante Moran, the cost to redevelop Marshall into a community center would be \$15 million, which Hart said he expects the city would split with YMCA and Wayne Metro.

Hart said the building is structurally sound but needs a new roof, HVAC improvements and electricity efficiency upgrades.

If the city pursues redevelopment, YMCA would run day-to-day operations at Marshall. Westland previously operated the Melvin G. Bailey Recreation Center until it closed in 2012. City officials said such a project now would be more efficient to bring in a third party for operations.

"We don't have that skill set," Hart said. "We're talking about operating a recreational facility and handling all the programming – the YMCA has been doing that for years."

Wayne Metro would operate in a smaller, two-story building on the property. Hart said the space would give Wayne Metro a more permanent base in the community to do its work, which focuses on poverty elimination and health.

Hart says council likely will hold a study session before March 1 to further discuss the project. He said he and his colleagues are excited about what the project could mean for the community.

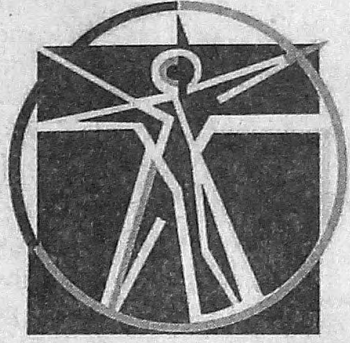
"Everybody has been wanting a recreation center since the Bailey closed," Hart said. "The Bailey closed because it was old, falling apart and what it would

have taken to fix it was just astronomical. At that time, the city just couldn't shoulder that cost. Here, we have an opportunity to bring a recreation center back."

The YMCA of Metro Detroit operates seven facilities with the closest YMCAs – Detroit, Southgate and Farmington Hills – which are all more than 15 miles away from Westland. It also offers outreach programs in Plymouth.

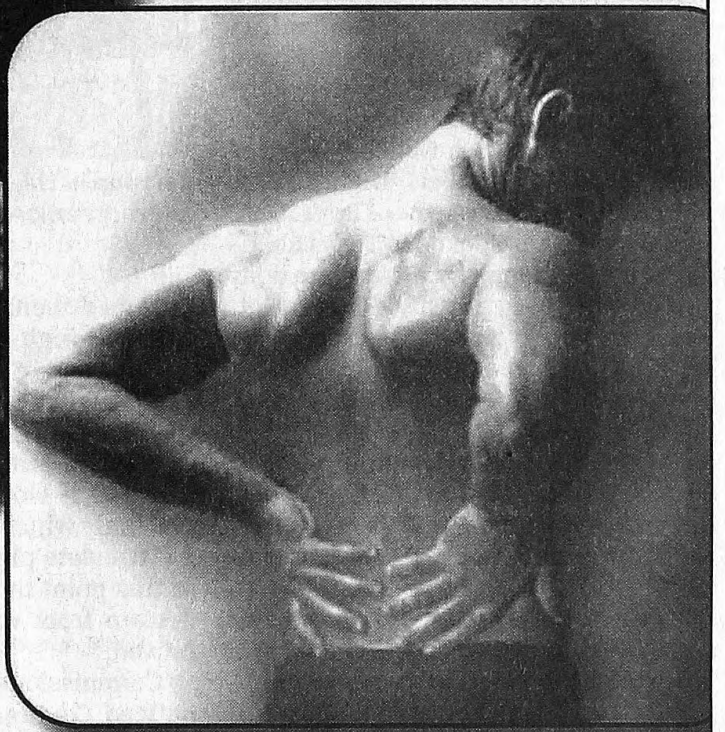
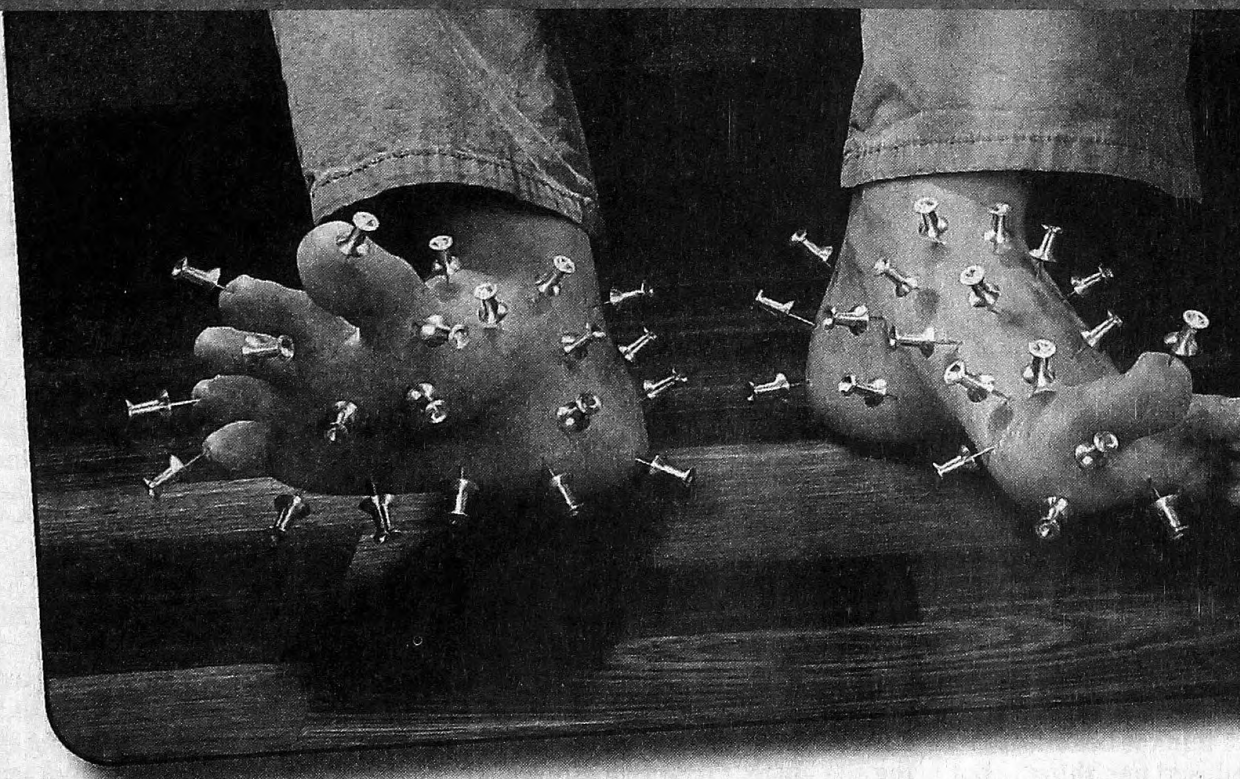
The YMCA previously owned a facility in Livonia, but it closed in May 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. YMCA leaders cited a decade's worth of financial losses and needed facility improvements as the reason.

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



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Novi planning commission denies Carvana request

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It appears no more cars are coming to a vacant lot in one of Novi's newest and most recognizable commercial developments.

Carvana, which opened its lone Michigan car vending machine in 2020 at the Adell Center in Novi, wants to store some of its additional inventory in a vacant lot east of the Texas Roadhouse restaurant at the center located west of Novi Road and south of Interstate 96.

That stands in conflict with the recommendation of the city's planning staff, however. Citing the area's zoning, which is TC-Town Center, the city's planning staff recommended to the planning commission that it deny the proposed amendment to the zoning first approved several years ago.

A representative for Carvana told the planning commission during its meeting Jan. 26 at the Novi Civic Center the additional lot is needed not due to problems with the business but with the booming success the used vehicle market has seen since Carvana opened in Novi.

"I also want to note that all the things Carvana said in 2018 were true. But the fact is that circumstances have changed due to the success of Carvana," said Dennis Cowan, an attorney representing the company. "It is purely a way station, so to speak, for these vehicles which have already been purchased."

Cowan, a former mayor of Royal Oak, said Carvana has spoken to Texas Roadhouse and said management there does not have an issue with the additional lot. He said the lot would simply serve as a lot to keep cars before they are loaded into the vending machine for customers to be picked up.

"I want to keep this a simple puzzle, I don't want to turn it into a Rubik's cube," he said. "We are simply asking that common sense and fairness prevail here."

The city's planning commissioners weren't ready to approve the plans, however. They voted unanimously during the meeting to deny the request.

Commissioner Michael Lynch said he remembers when the project first came before the planning commission in 2018. He said the issue of parking was



Carvana in the Adell Center development in Novi. The planning commission denied Carvana's request to expand parking.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

broached then, and he wanted to stick with the original agreement.

"We had a discussion about how small the parking lot was. I remember this vividly," he said. "We were promised if we were to approve this special use that it would just be the vending machine, which I think is beautiful."

"We were promised one thing ... but at this point in time, I'm not willing to deviate from what's already been approved."

Commissioner Gary Becker said he noticed Carvana-owned vehicles were parked in places they should not be when he visited the site the day of the meeting, including vehicles parked in handicap spaces, as well as vehicles

parked on pavement not designated for parking.

He also said it appeared vehicles are not leaving the lot within the 48-hour window Carvana said they would, as evident by the snow still on some vehicles two days after a snowstorm. That showed him vehicles were staying on the site longer than originally stated.

"If this new application is approved, it would provide 77 total parking spaces, of which the applicant said 16 are needed for employees, leaving 61 on-the-ground parking spaces and 28 additional spaces in the tower, 89 spaces for their presold vehicles," Becker said. "The applicant has not provided any evidence that they are currently meeting

the requirement of every vehicle being driven off by a new owner every 48 hours upon arrival of the site."

Commissioner John Avdoulos said the distance between the car vending machine and the lot made it hard for him to consider the change. Walking distance between the two spaces would span several hundred feet across the Adell Center.

"That makes it a difficult use and a difficult situation," he said. "I think it if was maybe next to it, then we could have had better discussion."

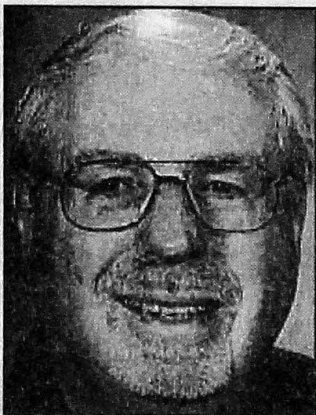
Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

Obituaries

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George A. Jurick

SUGAR SPRINGS / GLADWIN - George Jurick, 82, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at MidMichigan-Gladwin. He was born in Jamaica, New York on July 2, 1939 to the late George J. & Ruth (Landgrover) Jurick. He married the former Diane Anderson



on January 5, 1963 in New York, and they moved to the Gladwin area from Livonia, Michigan in 1997. Diane preceded George in death on December 26, 2005. George was a graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey Class of 1962. He was a mechanical engineer at Sikorsky Aircraft, United Illuminating Company and was retired from Ford Motor Company, Light Truck Division in 1997, after thirty years of service. He was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church, served on the church council, Sugar Springs Lakes Committee, Harrison Sportsman Club, Roush Road Crew, Trout Lake POA, Theta XI Fraternity and the NRA. He enjoyed golfing, boating, driving high-performance cars, motorcycling and target & skeet shooting. He is survived by his sons Christopher & Mellit Jurick, Gary & Pamela Jurick and Glen & Pamala Jurick; 9 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren; 2 sisters Lorraine & Edward Duffy and Janet Jansen and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife and brother-in-law Arthur Jansen. Funeral services will be held Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 4 pm at the Lee-Ramsay Funeral Home-GLADWIN CHAPEL, with inurnment at Highland Cemetery. Family will greet friends at the funeral chapel on Saturday from 12 pm Noon until services begin at 4 pm.



Mary Ann Karczewski

FARMINGTON HILLS - Age 59, passed away peacefully at home, January 28, 2022. Mary is preceded in death by her parents, William and Susan and her infant brother, William. Loving niece of many aunts and uncles, and cherished cousin to many caring cousins. A funeral Mass celebrating Mary's life will be Thursday, February 3, 10 am (in state 9:30 am), Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23815 Power Rd, Farmington. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Make donations to New Horizons in her name. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Heeneysundquist, downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). heeneysundquist.com

HEENEYSUNDQUIST

When you should get a prenuptial agreement



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Dear Rick:

I have some questions about a prenuptial agreement. I am in my mid-40s and have never been married. Last year I met someone, and we are planning to get married this summer.

I currently have a nice-sized portfolio and own my business. In addition, my house is paid in full. My future spouse, on the other hand, has minimal assets. I have had friends who say I should get a prenuptial agreement; others tell me don't bother since they're not enforceable.

Are prenuptial agreements enforceable and, if they are, do you think I need one? Is it something that I can do myself? I have not had great experiences with lawyers, and I'd like to avoid them if I can.

Thank you, Tony

Dear Tony:

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage. I wish you both nothing but happiness.

With regard to prenuptial agreements, the answer is yes, and yes. Because you have a business and substantial assets, you should have a prenuptial agreement. If the marriage does not work, a divorce can be expensive for you, and your business can be at risk. A prenuptial agreement can protect you and your business.

If prenuptial agreements are drafted correctly, they are enforceable in courts of law. On the other hand, there is a chance for litigation if prenuptial agreements are done incorrectly.

In order to have an enforceable prenuptial agreement, it is critical to allot sufficient time for both sides to review and study the agreement. Some prenuptial agreements are so

If prenuptial agreements are drafted correctly, they are enforceable in courts of law.

one-sided and unfair or unjust to one of the parties that they may not be enforced. It is important to have the agreement drafted by someone, presumably a lawyer, who deeply understands prenuptial agreements and has experience in this area.

I always recommend that each party have their own attorney to advise them. It is important that there are no conflicts of interest or undue influence by either of the parties.

Unfortunately, many marriages end in divorce. Prenuptial agreements make separation between parties easier. When a young couple is getting married and they don't have many assets, prenuptial agreements are not as important. However, if someone is married later in life and they have substantial assets or they own a business, prenuptial agreements are important.

Therefore, in the situation at hand, I recommend a prenuptial agreement. However, I would suggest hiring an attorney to draft it and encourage your fiancée to obtain separate and independent counsel to review it on their behalf.

I recognize some people think prenuptial agreements are wrong and that if you get married for love then you should not have to think about the relationship ending. Remember that a prenuptial agreement doesn't encourage divorce or separation but rather, makes it much easier if the parties want to terminate their relationship. I hope you never look at the prenup again after it is written, however, if you must, you'll be glad you took the time to draft the agreement.

Good luck.

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

In Memoriam



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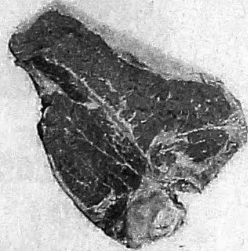
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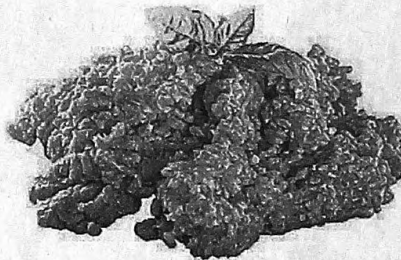
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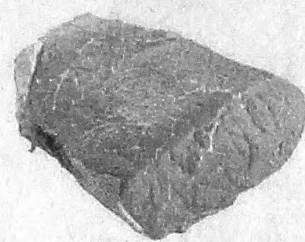
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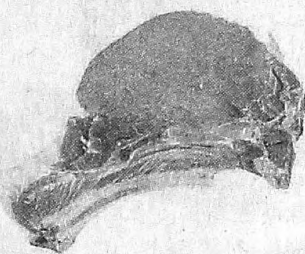
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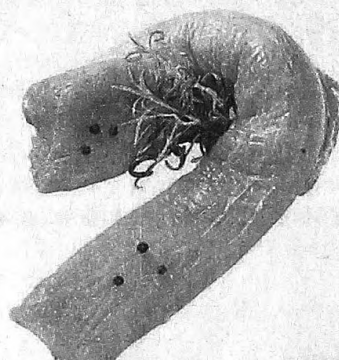
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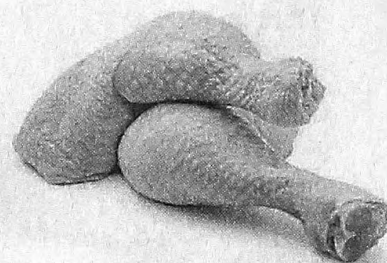
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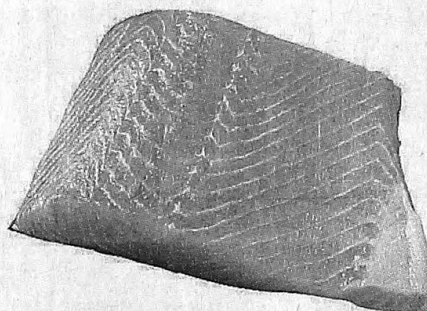


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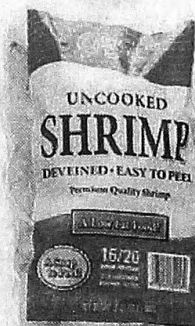
Seafood



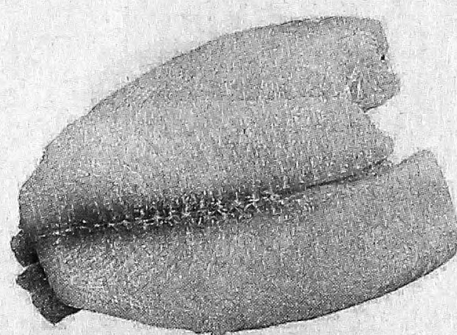
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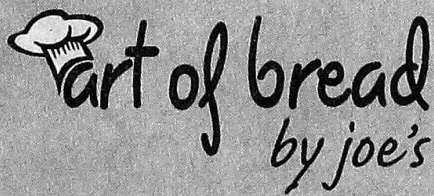
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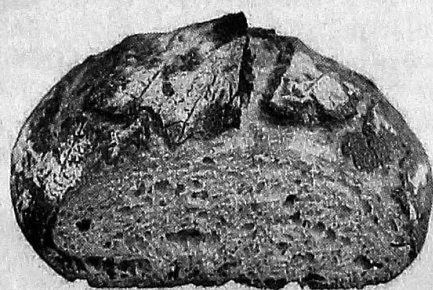


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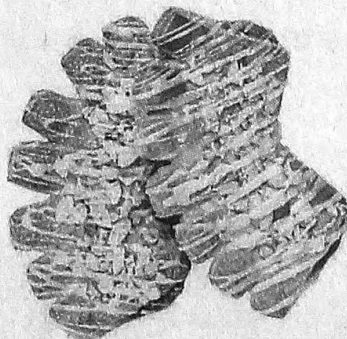


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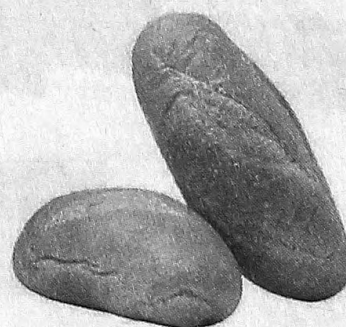
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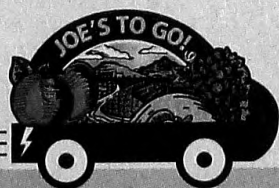
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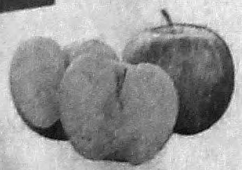


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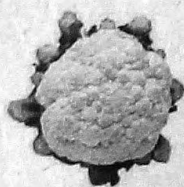
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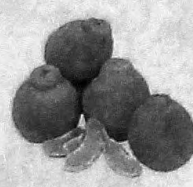
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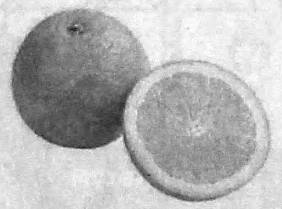
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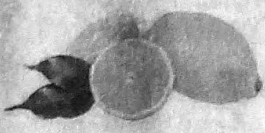
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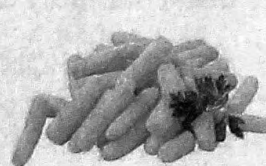
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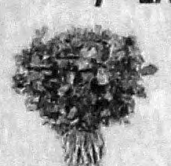
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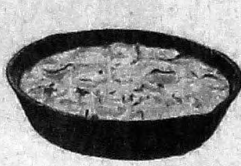
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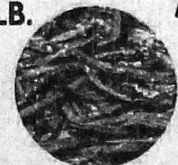
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SPORTS

Milford football assistant to be head coach

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Andrew Micovich couldn't have asked for a better birthday present in early January.

Now he's hoping to keep the celebration going until at least late November as Milford's new varsity football coach.

Huron Valley School District fired former coach Garfrey Smith following this past season, despite the fourth-year coach leading the Mavericks to a 7-3 record and their best season since 2006. He compiled a career record of 10-25 after three one-win seasons to begin his tenure at Milford.

Athletic director Jim Marszalek interviewed Micovich, an assistant under Smith for three seasons, for the opening during the first week of the new year. Micovich learned a day after his birthday on Jan. 6 that he had won the job.

Now he's looking to continue building up the program where Smith left off. "It was a nice little birthday present when Jim called and offered the position," Micovich told Hometown Life. "Coach Smith and our other coaches did a good job putting together that foundation since he arrived here. We have a top-notch weight training facility, and our weight training program is already installed, which is huge for where we

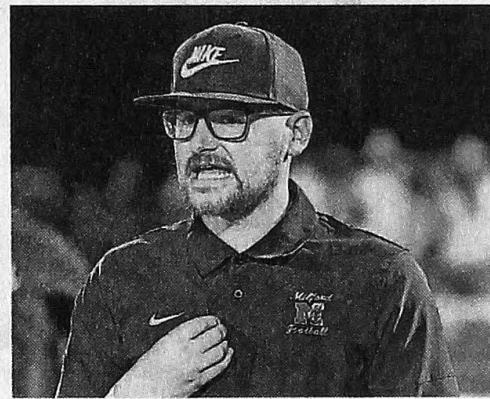
want to be at this point."

Micovich, 29, graduated from Waterford Kettering in 2011, so he's got plenty of experience with several Lakes Valley Conference teams. Plus, his coaching resume is pretty impressive.

He spent the first four years of his coaching career at the JV and freshmen ranks at both Kettering and Ortonville-Brandon in a variety of positions, including coaching running backs, acting as both an offensive and defensive coordinator and even being the head coach of the Blackhawks' JV.

He tried his hand at the varsity level

See COACH, Page 2B



Milford High School promoted assistant Andrew Micovich to head football coach in early January. COURTESY OF MILFORD ATHLETICS



North Farmington's Ryan Hurst dribbles against Davison during the Freedom Classic showcase Jan. 15 at River Rouge. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Transfer student Hurst helping North Farmington's title pursuit

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

North Farmington coach Todd Negoshian shook his head and had a somewhat worried look on his face.

This was back on Dec. 18 following a blowout victory over Westland John

Glenn during River Rouge's annual season tip-off showcase.

His concern? The Raiders were in the midst of battling COVID-19 protocols. Players were missing. Assistants were out. The team chemistry wasn't exactly where he wanted it yet. Especially with the team adding West Bloomfield trans-

fer Ryan Hurst, one of the top scorers in metro Detroit. There was still work to be done, and Negoshian knew it as he walked the halls near the ROTC room at River Rouge.

Fast forward to Jan 15, on that same River Rouge court. The Raiders had just blown out Davison, and, this time, Ne-

goshian wore a big smile as he wrapped an arm around Hurst and posed for a picture in the arena. Hurst was being recognized as the game's MVP after posting 26 points during the MLK Jr. Freedom Classic showcase game.

See TRANSFER, Page 2B

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Our top 5 boys basketball teams: Week 3

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's a new No. 1 in Hometown Life's top five boys basketball rankings this week.

Once again, a shakeup in the Catholic League-Central means Brother Rice and Detroit Catholic Central are swapping positions atop the poll.

Unfortunately for Detroit Country Day, it was on the wrong end of a buzzer-beater and got booted from the rankings. But that paved the way for Bloomfield Hills, which is one of the hottest teams in the area right now, to make an appearance here.

Here's where each team landed:

Note: These records are based on results from before Sunday, Jan. 30.

1. Birmingham Brother Rice 8-3, 2-3 CHSL-Central (Last week: No. 2)

The Warriors picked up the best win of the week, as they snapped a seven-year losing streak to Detroit U-D Jesuit with a convincing victory on the road. What's more, the Cubs were actually in first place in the Catholic League-Central before the matchup, so, once again, there's been a major shakeup in the di-

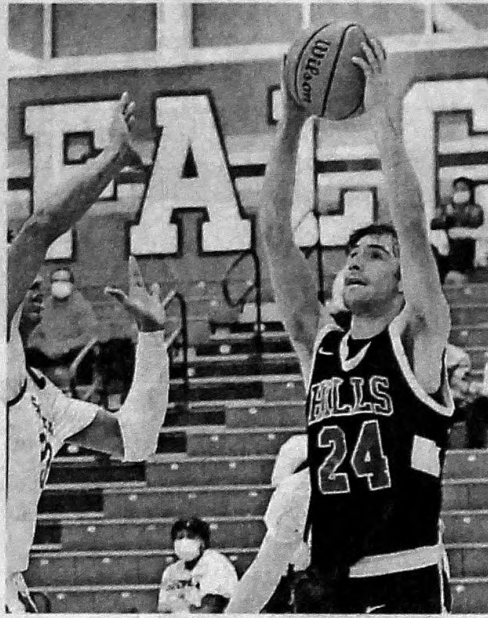
vision standings. Rice is back on top of these rankings, despite still being one win away from .500 in the Central.

2. Novi Detroit Catholic Central 8-3, 2-2 CHSL-Central (Last week: No. 1)

The Shamrocks dropped one spot in the rankings after losing by two points to U-D Jesuit. They're still in the running for the league title, and they'll get a chance to make it back to No. 1 in these rankings with a pair of wins this week. They're certainly talented enough to get back on top. They've just got to get past Warren DeLa Salle and St. Mary's, which will certainly be a challenge.

3. North Farmington 10-2, 4-1 OAA-Red (Last week: No. 3)

The Raiders bounced back nicely from their loss to first-place Ferndale by beating Rochester Adams. The bad news is two of their next three games are against Clarkston and West Bloomfield, the other two really good programs in the Oakland Activities Association-White. They must win those games to get a chance to win the league title when they rematch Ferndale on Feb. 17.



Bloomfield Hills' Noah Adamczyk attempts a layup against Birmingham Groves on Jan. 27.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

4. Canton 7-4, 7-0 KLAA-West (Last week: No. 4)

Since losing four non-conference games to open the season, the Chiefs have won seven straight in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West.

That included coach Jimmy Reddy earning his 200th career win against Salem on Jan. 21. They've beaten each team in their division once already. Now they're looking to earn seven in-season sweeps by closing out their division schedule with seven more victories.

5. Bloomfield Hills 10-2, 2-0 OAA-White (Last week: Unranked)

No one had a better week than the Black Hawks, who opened league play with a pair of huge wins over Troy and Birmingham Groves, two teams who were expected to compete for the White title alongside Bloomfield Hills. They were the first team cut from these rankings a week ago, but now they look like they're going to be mainstays around here going forward, assuming they keep blitzing through their schedule. There might not be a better 3-point shooter in Oakland County than Noah Adamczyk, the junior captain who ignites their offense.

In the hunt (in no particular order): Birmingham Detroit Country Day, Birmingham Groves, Livonia Clarenceville, Livonia Stevenson, Milford, Northville, Plymouth, Plymouth Christian Academy, Redford Union, Salem, White Lake Lakeland.

Brother Rice topples No. 1 Orchard Lake St. Mary's

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Everyone expected the Catholic League-Central to be a meat grinder.

Entering the week, all five teams were ranked in the top 10 of all the polls basketball fans care about.

And, so far, a meat grinder is what

we've gotten.

Detroit U-D Jesuit upset Brother Rice to kick off league play, beating the Warriors 61-42.

Instead of sulking and taking another loss in their next outing, they bounced back and upset top-ranked Orchard Lake St. Mary's, everyone's preseason favorite to win a state championship,

with a buzzer-beater Friday night on the road.

With the score knotted at 43 and only 10 seconds remaining, Brother Rice in-bounded to guard Johnathan Blackwell, who dribbled down to the far corner and whipped a pass back up top to four-star Curtis Williams.

The junior quickly found his footing

just inside the 3-point line and buried a jumper as time expired to give the Warriors the walk-off upset victory, 45-43.

"It's not going to be just a walk in the park," Williams told Hometown Life about CHSL play. "Everybody's got to come to play. Everybody's got to stay positive on the bench and on the court for us to come out with the win."

Transfer

Continued from Page 1B

"He's fitting in pretty well," Todd Negoshian said of his new junior small forward. "I think it's a testament to the kid. He's fitting in well with the guys we've got, and nobody is over-worried about (not sharing the ball). It's a selfless group of guys. They just want to win games, and they don't care who scores. There's zero selfishness. They've become such a close-knit group that it's really fun and special to watch."

Yes, the Raiders (10-2) certainly have been fun and special to watch.

They've been a step ahead of the competition all season long, earning big win after big win. They picked up a two-point close-call victory at Clarkston to kickoff Oakland Activities Association-Red play on Jan. 4, and then they followed it up with a huge 22-point victory against West Bloomfield, Hurst's old school, two days later.

Yeah, they have two blemishes on their record. But those are explainable.

They suffered a non-conference loss to a solid Williamston team because half of their roster was battling COVID-19 issues.

And then they fell just short in a 56-49 loss at home to Ferndale. Several media members predicted the OAA-Red winner to be either North or Ferndale. That game was essentially a coin flip. The rematch is Feb. 17. They'll get another shot at the Eagles.

So how are the Raiders getting it done? Well, their roster, when healthy, is fantastic. Two or three of their rotational players would start on most of the other teams in the OAA.

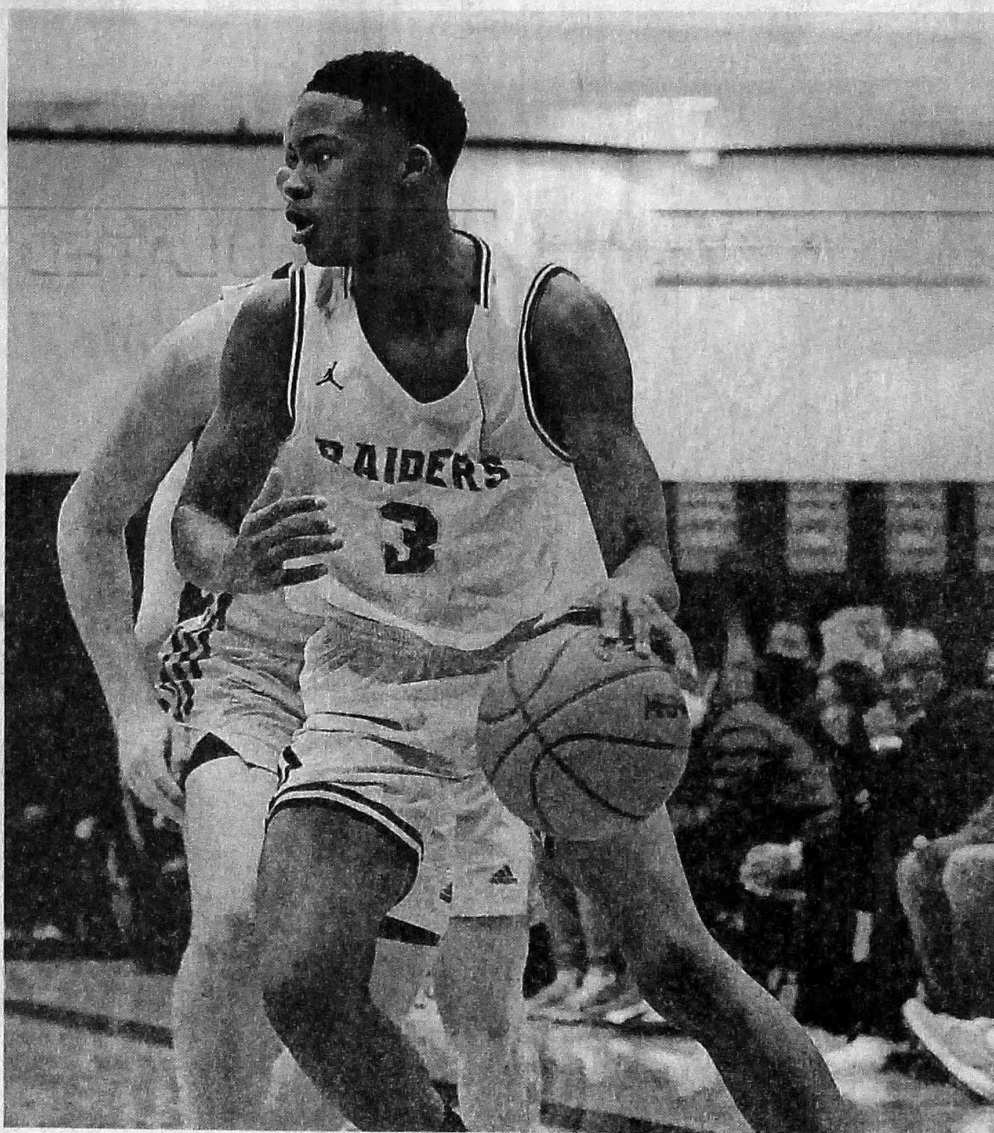
There are the guys down low in starter Aaron Rice and sixth man Lee Hardy, while guards Landon Williams, Tyler Spratt and Jared Frazier are each capable of handling the ball, creating shots for their teammates and scoring themselves. Plus, there's Amari Lee helping out defensively off the bench.

But the glue guy making this thing all work has been Hurst.

The 6-foot-3 junior, who already holds an offer from Miami (Ohio), is just a scoring machine.

It doesn't matter who has the height advantage in the paint, Hurst is using his big frame to out-rebound the opponents to get put-back attempts, and about 1/3 of his scoring comes from doing clean-up work.

He tremendous off the dribble. Whether it's in transition or from just outside the arc, when he starts dribbling to the hoop with a full head of steam, look out! He's about to run someone over for two points.



North Farmington's Tyler Spratt dribbles against Davison during the Freedom Classic showcase Jan. 15 at River Rouge. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plus, he can shoot. He's a great mid-range shooter, but he can also stroke it from outside.

Right now, he's the total package. And he's been the perfect complement to the rest of the Raiders.

"For sure, this summer I've been in the gym working countless hours," said Hurst, a two-star recruit who plays for The Family AAU program. "The last few months, me and my guys have been working hard. We want the state title. The transition has been pretty straight. Coach keeps me accountable. Everything I do, every mistake I make, he corrects me, and they all just hold me accountable."

There wasn't any funny business with Hurst's transfer. Simply put, his family moved homes. Though it is interesting to see a player change schools to one only a few miles away.

"He transferred in the second week of school," Negoshian added. "About a week later, he reached out to me and let me know he was enrolled. I called the school to verify it and make sure it was all legit. Once we got the OK, we started working with him for our four-player workouts. It's just been history from

there.

"From Day 1, it's just been a pleasure to be with all of them together with the way they pick each other up and make each other better. You could tell by the way we practice and how we have fun and joke around that they're (all laid back). Their basketball IQ is so high. There's no selfishness. They only care about winning. They all focus on the little things: Passing it ahead, getting one extra pass to get a teammate a better shot, and everything else."

Hurst said he started training with his new teammates as soon as he could.

Their goal is to win a state championship, and they have a solid chance to do so. They have a tough conference to navigate through first, with rematches against Clarkston, West Bloomfield and Ferndale ahead.

So far, though, Hurst is enjoying his new home gymnasium.

"It's pretty straight. North Farmington is a cool environment," he said. "More chill. Coach keeps me focused. I've got my guys and new teammates, and they keep me focused, pretty much."

Coach

Continued from Page 1B

by becoming the offensive coordinator of then down-trodden Madison Heights Lamphere. Before he got there, the Rams hadn't won a game for 600 days, despite them playing in the Macomb Area Conference-Bronze, a division reserved for struggling teams in the greater Macomb area. In 2017, his Rams scored 210 points, posted a 5-5 record, won the Bronze and qualified for the playoffs for the first time in seven seasons.

The following season, he became Lamphere's defensive coordinator, replacing outgoing assistant Smith, who had just accepted the opening at Milford. One year later, Smith invited Micovich to join him and lead the Mavs' defense.

Micovich became Milford's offensive coordinator last season. The Mavs' offense scored 185 points under his leadership, the second most they've totaled since 2011.

"I think we're on a good direction," Micovich said. "I'm going to change some things, and we'll continue to build off everything from the last couple of years. But I'm not making any crazy changes."

The coaching staff is going to remain mostly intact. Counting Micovich, 12 assistants are returning.

That includes defensive coordinator Matt Wasnich, who will continue employing the team's 3-3-5 scheme. Micovich will continue calling plays on offense.

Other assistants currently helping the varsity are Chip Mobley (special teams), Nick Landry (offensive line), Chris Warzecha (wide receivers), Jeff Kerwin (defensive line), Steve Smetana (offensive line) and Eddie Inglsbee (defensive backs), among several other JV and freshmen assistants.

"We're not looking to change much, but we're looking to evolve what we already do to best fit our kids," Micovich added. "We just want to increase the participation as a program. We want to make ourselves bigger, faster and stronger in the off season. So there won't be a big overhaul. We're in the process of hiring several other candidates that fit in well with our kids and coaching staff. It was important to me to keep the camaraderie that the coaches had last year."

The Mavs open the season by visiting New Boston Huron on Aug. 26.

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

Canton game a brief reprieve from sorrow for Howell

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON — Nothing can replace the loss of two classmates, but at least for 32 minutes Tuesday night Howell's boys basketball players could have a semblance of normalcy.

Playing a game against Canton allowed the Highlanders to temporarily escape the pervasive sense of sorrow around school following the deaths of students Josh Pennala and Len Eskola in a vehicle crash Saturday night.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Pennala and Eskola before the game.

"It was a tough loss for the Howell community," Howell senior Honkala said following a 52-45 loss to Canton. "I know their families pretty well."

Counselors, social workers and therapy dogs were brought to the Howell 10-12 and freshman buildings to help students cope with the tragedy.

"It's been kind of tough," Howell senior Carter Bandemer said. "... We're here as a family, we're here together and we've got each other's backs."

Noting that Honkala was one of the players most affected by the students' deaths, veteran Howell coach Nick Simon said his performance given the circumstances was "as impressive as anything I've seen since I've been here."

Honkala was scoreless in the first half, as Howell had trouble getting the ball inside to the 6-foot-5 center. He scored eight points in the third quarter, helping the Highlanders cut a 22-14 halftime deficit to 28-26. He finished with 11 points.

"The kid's been battling a lot of stuff the last two days," Simon said. "For him to be able to put on that performance is a testament to the kind of guy he is."

Seeing their big man successfully attacking the basket gave a boost to the Highlanders.

"There's certain guys that people just follow," Simon said. "You don't know why. That's Danny. He always has been. Whatever he's doing, people tend to follow."

Honkala spread the credit for Howell's third-quarter turnaround to his teammates.

"I'm not just the only guy," he said. "We've got Carter, Adam (Jones), Ryan



Canton's Cole Vickers, who had a game-high 17 points, hit a 3-pointer while defended by Howell's Brevin Weller (0) and Carter Bandemer (14) on Jan. 25. Canton won, 52-45. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

(Cirella), Brevin (Weller), Nolan (Petru); I can name everyone on our team. If anyone hits big shots, then everyone's feeling it."

Howell was never able to take the lead in the second half, but was still keeping the heat on the Chiefs when a steal and layup by Honkala with less than six minutes remaining in the game cut the deficit to 37-35.

The teams then began trading baskets. Unfortunately for the Highlanders, Canton was hitting 3-pointers while they were getting only two points per bucket.

Lake McIntosh, Omar Suleiman and

Cole Vickers hit 3-pointers during a 9-4 run that gave Canton a 46-39 lead with 3:09 to go.

"It was Lake, Cole and Omar," Canton coach Jimmy Reddy said. "Omar has a big-time shot. He hasn't made a 3 in what seems like a while. He has a nice touch and can shoot it and score. ...

"Our balance has been much better lately, and it needs to be, because people are keyed in on Cole. Obviously, people are going to have a plan for him. Other guys have to step up and score."

The Chiefs put away the game by going 6-for-6 from the line in the final minute.

Canton has won seven consecutive games, all in KLA West play, since beginning the season with an 0-4 record in nonconference games.

The Chiefs hit the midway mark of the division schedule at 7-0, with Hartland (5-1) and Howell (5-2) their closest pursuers.

"We talked about this being a big game for both ends of it, because we get to 7-0 and you give Howell their second loss," Reddy said.

Bandemer and Jones had 10 points each for Howell (6-4 overall).

Vickers had 17 points, McIntosh 16 and Dante Favor nine for Canton.

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Olympic skaters Chock, Bates bursting with personality

Jeff Seidel Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Heck yes, they have some great Olympic stories.

Funny ones.

Like the dog poop story.

"OK, this story is bad," Evan Bates said, hesitantly.

"But it's hilarious," Madison Chock replied on their podcast, "Unlaced with Chock and Bates."

Chock and Bates are getting ready to compete in the ice dance competition at the Beijing Olympics. The opening ceremony is Friday, which has them in a nostalgic mood.

"You have grown so much since it happened," she said, laughing.

"I don't really know how this happened," Bates said. "I pieced it together afterwards."

"Let me lead with — this is your 21st birthday," Chock said giggling. "And you were in Vancouver for the Games."

Yes, that's the best place to start.

When Bates competed in the 2010 Vancouver Games, he returned from the opening ceremony and threw his clothes around his room — hey, he was a college kid back then — and besides, he didn't need that outfit again until the closing ceremony.

But something significant happened at those Games. Bates turned 21 in Vancouver — and just by pure luck — his birthday fell after he was done competing.

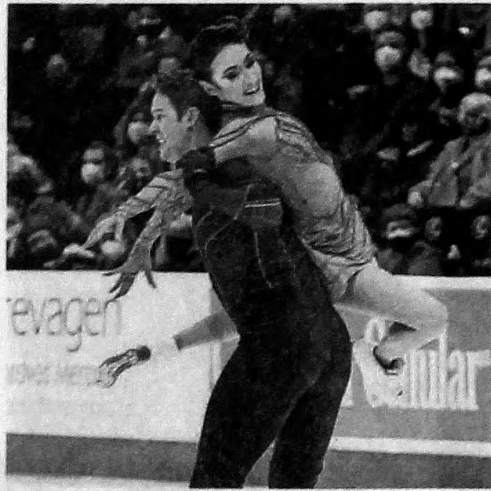
So he hit the town in Vancouver and, let's call it, "went socializing" to celebrate his birthday.

At some point during the night, he must have stepped in some dog doo, tracked it into his room in the athlete's village and stepped on his white Ralph Lauren pants on the floor.

"I didn't really realize until it was time to get ready for the closing ceremonies," Bates said on the podcast. "And I got dressed and we're on a really tight time frame. I put on my white pants and I noticed there's a stain on them and investigate further; and I'm like, I mean, it smells like dog doo."

Yes, he panicked.

"So there I am, about to go to the closing ceremony at my first Olympics, and I've got dog poop on my white Ralph Lauren pants, and it is time to get ready



Madison Chock and Evan Bates compete in the championship ice dance during the U.S. Figure Skating Championships on Jan. 8.

ANDREW NELLES/TENNESSEAN.COM

to go," Bates said. "So obviously, you can't show up looking and smelling like that. So I raced to the laundromat. Luckily, they have a laundromat in the village, but you have to do your own laundry."

"There was somebody there and I just explained the situation and she was kind enough to do the laundry for me while I raced back."

"Oh bless her," Chock said on the podcast.

"And I got the rest of my stuff ready," Bates said. "And I ended up looking pretty fresh."

"Smelling fresh," Chock said.

She laughed.

"Sorry for my hysterical laughter, I've heard that story many times," she said on the podcast, "but every time it just gets me."

"Because it's ridiculous," he said.

"It's so unique," she said, laughing.

Back on the world's stage

Yes, they have been together so long they finish each other's sentences.

Chock, who grew up in Ann Arbor, and Bates, who lived in Novi, have skated together for 10 years. And they talk like they skate — totally in sync, totally in rhythm.

As they tell stories — some embarrassing, some heartwarming — their laughter says everything. They are

driven and full of personality but don't take themselves too seriously. They are the couple next door — if your neighbors are Olympians.

Bates went to Michigan and is a huge fan of the Wolverines, Red Wings, Lions, Tigers and Pistons. He is going to his fourth Olympic Games — the first U.S. skater to do that.

And Chock is going to her third with Bates.

They qualified for the Olympics by winning the U.S. Championship earlier this month, their third national title together.

"We are so thrilled," Chock said. "We couldn't be happier. And it's just amazing to have three national titles now. We just feel such great energy and momentum leading into the Games."

Partner switch

Chock and Bates are partners both on and off the ice.

But they don't remember when they first met, probably around 2006 or so.

They don't even remember the date of their first kiss.

"I'm a bad girlfriend," Chock jokes.

They went on their first date at Baha-ma Breeze on her 16th birthday. He gave her a black zip-up sweater from Pink.

But it was just a one date thing, at least back then.

About three years after that first date, Chock was looking for a new skating partner after Greg Zuerlein, her partner of five years, retired. Over a two-week period in the summer of 2011, she tried out with several guys. Nothing clicked, not until she skated with Bates, who had been skating with Emily Samuelson (they took 11th at the 2010 Olympics).

Chock and Bates have been together ever since, evolving into one of the top ice dance teams in the world. They started out training at Novi Ice Arena and have been on the podium at the World Championship twice, finishing second in 2015 and third in 2016.

In their first Olympics together in 2014, she started running out of the tunnel for the opening ceremony. Like she was a sprinter in the Summer Olympics.

"You were like, stop," Chock said on the podcast. "Please slow down and enjoy this. Do not sprint all the way around."

They took eighth in Sochi in 2014 and ninth at the 2018 Olympics in Pyeongchang.

Chock and Bates are one of about five teams that has a shot to medal in Beijing, including another U.S. team, their good friends Madison Hubbell, of Lansing, and Zachary Donohue.

The U.S. has won a medal in ice dance for four straight Olympics.

"We're just so grateful for the opportunity that this presents," Chock said. "There's a global pandemic going on. And we're so fortunate that the Olympics are happening, and we get to perform and show all of our hard work and share our passion with the world."

Because Chock and Bates will represent the U.S. in the ice dance for the team event — only one team is allowed per discipline — they will have two chances to medal in Beijing. The U.S. has taken bronze in the team event at the last two Olympics.

"We couldn't be more excited," Bates said. "We're just thrilled to get the opportunity to skate in the Olympics. It's just such a such an amazing opportunity. So we're really looking forward to it."

A spark from way up north

After the 2018 Games, Chock and Bates made a massive change.

They left Novi and started training in Montreal.

"I think moving to Montreal really sparked our creativity, it sparked our love for skating and our love for growth," Chock said. "There's no better school or a team of coaches in the world. And we're so fortunate to be a part of the magic and add our own little magic to it as well."

Their first Olympic competition will begin Friday with the rhythm dance in the team event.

But first, they will go through one of their favorite parts of the Olympics: team processing, where they get to pick out their Olympic swag.

"It's like Christmas on steroids," Chock said.

They will get to try on their outfits that they will wear to the opening ceremony.

And this time, Bates promises to keep his off the floor. He's older, more mature. And has learned his lesson.

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Pinckney goalie shines in win over South Lyon

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CHELSEA — Alex Rau arrived at the Arctic Coliseum Thursday morning ready to settle into his usual role on the bench as Pinckney's backup goaltender.

But a mental 180 was required when he was pulled into coach Kenny Grundy's office about two hours before a noon faceoff against South Lyon.

Grundy found out at 11:45 the previous night that senior starter Max Lederer wouldn't be available after backstopping Pinckney to a victory at Jackson Lumen Christi earlier that evening.

The only other option was Rau, a sophomore who had only one start and one other brief appearance in Pinckney's first 14 games.

Grundy was ready with a pep talk when he notified Rau he would be starting.

"I called him in the office this morning and said, 'Alex, you've been kicking but in practice; you can do it in games, and he did,'" Grundy said.

Rau turned aside 32 of 34 shots in a 4-2 victory over South Lyon, the ninth-ranked team in Division 2, in the opening game of the four-day Michigan Public High School Hockey Showcase.

"I had the best time of my life," Rau said. "It was really fun."

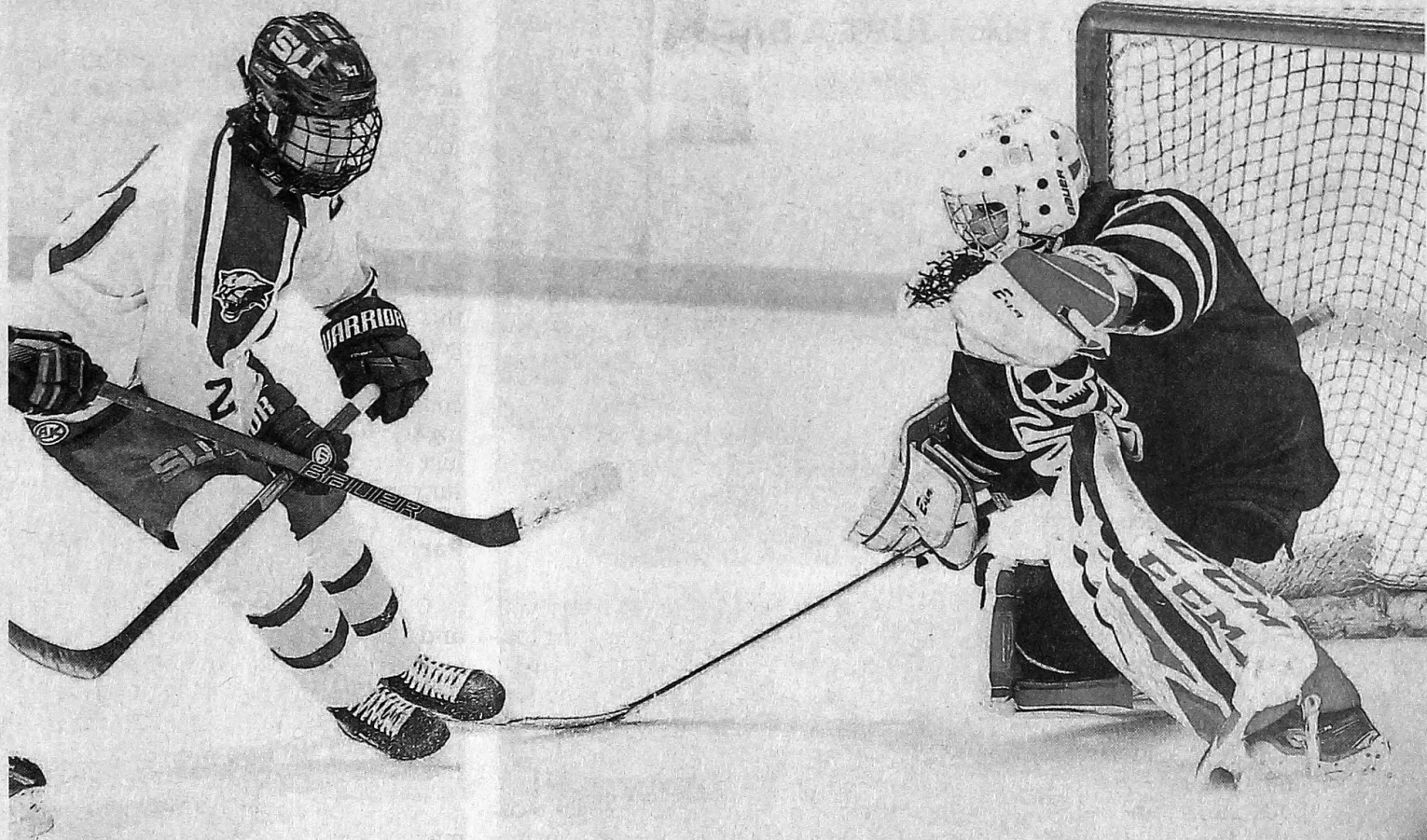
The first thought that entered Rau's head after learning he would start was, "Just stay calm," he said. "I didn't want to get too worked up. I didn't want to go out there and be jumping all over. I've just got to keep my composure and play my game."

In his only other start this season, Rau was on the losing end of a 5-4 overtime decision against Dexter on Dec. 1. He also played the final minutes in a 9-0 rout of Ann Arbor Huron on Jan. 19.

"We all know in practice he's great," senior forward Jacob Meade said. "He's a super athletic goalie. We knew if he could calm his nerves down, he could play an amazing game, and he did."

Pinckney carried the play most of the game, one exception being on the opening shift when South Lyon held the puck in the Pirates' zone for more than a minute. Rau made some key early saves to get himself into the flow of the game.

"It's never good when I'm sitting out



Pinckney's Alex Rau stops a shot by South Lyon's Nick Monzon for one of his 32 saves in a 4-2 victory on Thursday.

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

there cold," Rau said. "Getting into it quick really helped me, especially since it was my second start. I don't get much game-time experience."

Rau's biggest saves came in the third period. With the game tied 1-1, he stopped a backhand on a breakaway by Lucas Nichols with 14:30 remaining. After the Pirates took a 2-1 lead, he preserved that lead by stopping a point-blank shot by Nick Monzon.

Pinckney's Keegan Burns scored the only goal of the first period on a wrist shot from the high slot with 5:25 left in the period.

South Lyon tied it on a power-play goal by Ryan Savanyu with 12:29 left in the second period.

After pressuring South Lyon goalie Jacob Koth the entire game, the Pirates broke through for the go-ahead goal on a fortunate break. Meade carried the puck into the zone down the left side, pulled

up in the circle and sent a pass into the slot. The puck deflected into the net off the stick of South Lyon's Chase Temple with 7:30 left in the game.

"I knew we had an odd-man rush, so I kind of put it on net and hoped something happens and it went in," Meade said. "I got lucky. I think it tipped off a kid's stick and went right in."

Pinckney senior Evan Drus was rewarded for a relentless effort the entire game with an empty-net goal with 1:07 remaining and a goal with the netminder between the pipes just seven seconds later. Temple scored for South Lyon with 0.2 seconds left.

The Pirates were not only without their No. 1 goaltender, but were without leading goal scorer Riley Evans and three other players. Evans had a hat trick in a 7-4 victory over Jackson Lumen Christi Wednesday night, but the 16-goal scorer suffered a knee injury lat-

er in the game.

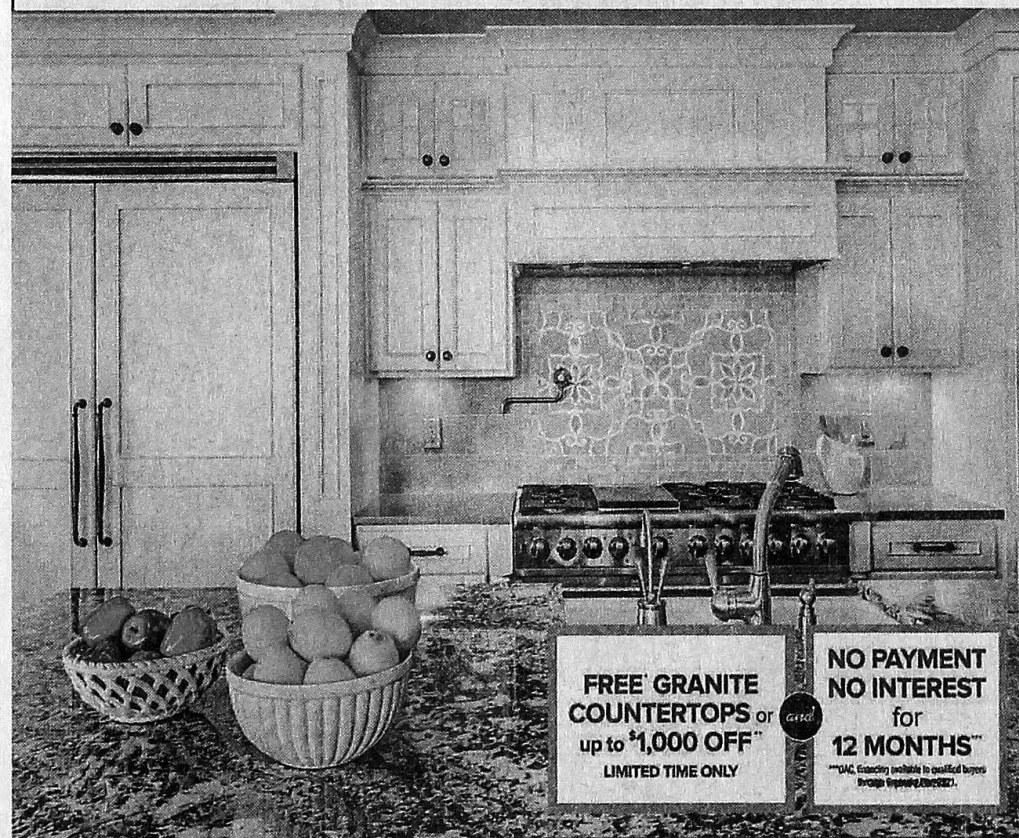
Rolling only two lines, the Pirates beat a team that had a 9-2 record, with one-goal losses to Detroit U-D Jesuit and third-ranked (Division 1) Rockford.

"I've been here for four years," Grundy said. "It's been kind of a rollercoaster. We've had some big wins, but today against South Lyon, rated in the top 10 in the state, for my boys to do what they did, I'm so proud of them. I'm so proud to be Pinckney's hockey coach. These kids were amazing."

The Pirates started the season 2-5, but have gone 7-1 since then. That includes a 4-1 victory over Chelsea, a state Division 3 semifinalist last season.

"We all know in the locker room we're a good team," Meade said. "We just want to prove it to everyone else. We started off slow, we were kind of down. Once we got that big Chelsea win, we knew we were going to just take off from there."

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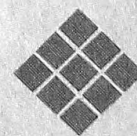
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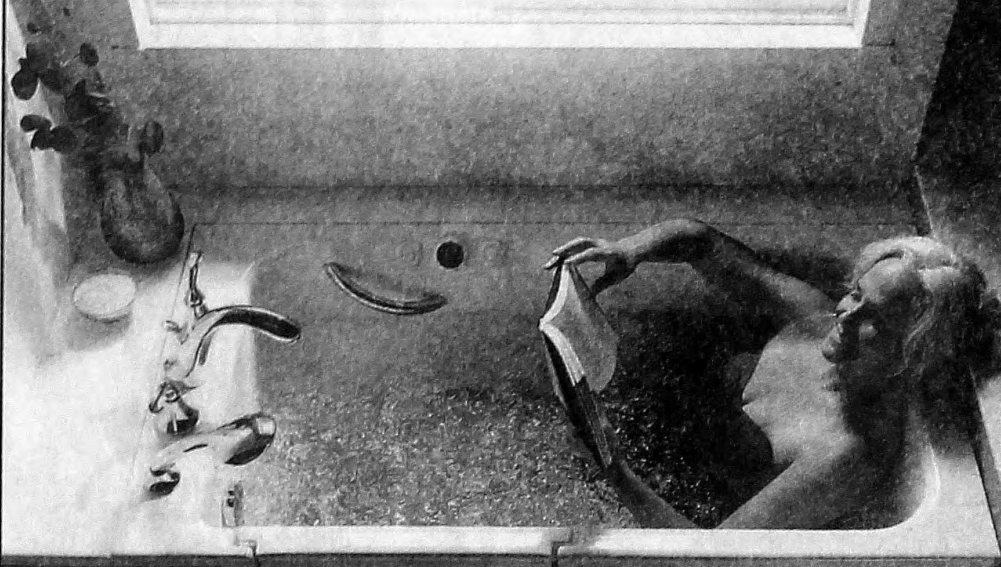
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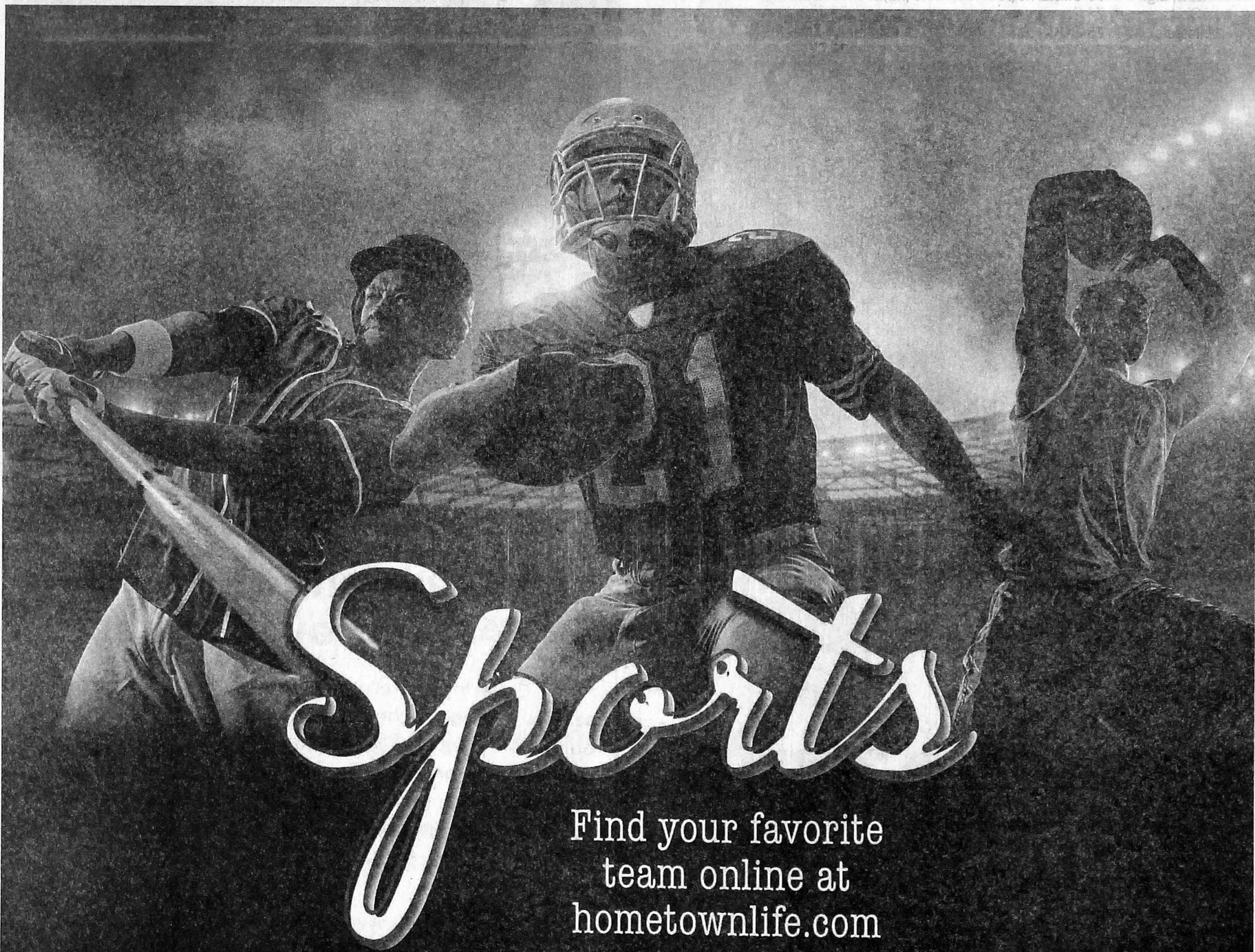
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FORGET THE WHOLE THING

ACROSS

1 Warning about a racy web pic
 5 "West Side Story" knife
 9 Seasoned vet
 15 Bro
 19 French for "yours"
 20 Treat for feet, for short
 21 Pope after Marcellus II
 22 Scads
 23 RFORM
 26 Rapper
 27 Variety show hosts, e.g.
 28 ACLU interests:
 Abbr.
 29 Farming unit
 31 Pasty luau food
 32 Flight takeoff abbr.
 33 NTR
 38 "Peek- —!"
 40 Classic comic Martha
 41 Uplifting poems
 42 Place full of video games
 43 UBL
 46 Chicken cordon —
 47 British chums
 48 Stars and Stripes' nation

DOWN

49 —"wester (certain storm)
 50 "Oh, God!"
 54 Cousins of aves.
 55 Name of some newspapers
 57 GHTE
 62 Actors
 65 Flying
 66 Flying
 67 TRONI
 72 Cast out of the country
 73 Official helper
 74 Pays out
 75 EAKI
 79 Diner check
 80 Start for existing
 83 Name of some newspapers
 84 Vetoer's vote
 85 U.S. tax org.
 88 Aromatic aftershave liquid
 90 QBs' blunders:
 Abbr.
 92 RKE
 96 Person doing a crossword puzzle, e.g.
 99 Outer limit

100 Chimney grime
 101 Great serves
 102 HEER
 105 2000-15 CBS series
 106 Writer Rand
 107 Blood type, in brief
 108 Total
 109 Wakes up
 112 Writer Uris
 114 NTEN
 119 Peel, as fruit
 120 Excited
 121 Cozy corner
 122 Pierce player
 Alan
 123 Cast off hair
 124 Swan constellation
 125 Forest sight
 126 Saclike growth

8 Wine merchants
 9 Unlock, in poems
 10 Resting place for a napkin
 11 Drinker's hwy. offense
 12 Implores
 13 Christina of "Bel Ami"
 14 Put too high a price on
 15 Papa
 16 Perfect world
 17 Be charitable
 18 Gas guzzler
 24 Multivolume U.K. lexicon
 25 Chicago winter hrs.
 30 Blarney Stone's land
 33 Mushroom feature
 34 King, in Lyon
 35 Hubbub
 36 Novelist Deighton
 37 Runs furtively with short, quick steps
 38 Heads of fleets: Abbr.
 39 Regatta entry
 40 Upshot
 44 Evan of figure skating
 45 Univ. helpers
 46 Web automaton

49 Brother of Moe and Curly
 51 Deep black, in poems
 52 Break in friendship
 53 Hairy TV cousin
 56 "Science Friday" ailer
 58 Person tying shoes
 59 Onetime transportation agcy.
 60 Foods created by biotech
 61 Flood-prevention sack
 62 One sharing your blood
 63 Songwriter Carmichael
 64 Salon noise
 67 Large-scale public show
 68 Untrue tales
 69 Neighbor of Mont.
 70 Caress
 71 How money may be lost
 72 Sci-fi gift
 76 Belonging naturally
 77 "One Mic" rapper

78 "— ToK" (#1 hit for Kesha)
 80 On the nose
 81 Viking letter
 82 Rescue crew VIPs
 86 Occupant
 87 Represented
 89 Peruvian singer with a wide range
 91 Notorious emperor
 92 OR workers
 93 Rust may be a sign of it
 94 DVR remote abbr.
 95 Cain, to Eve
 96 Hair-raising sites?
 97 "Is that so?"
 98 Poe's "radiant maiden"
 99 Yuletide quaff
 103 Destitute
 104 Tic- — -toe
 105 Gear tooth
 109 Yard tool
 110 Outer limits
 113 TV neighbor of Homer
 115 Pewter, mostly
 116 Univ. website suffix
 117 Vetoers' votes
 118 Rival of Wade

SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/03

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!

PIRATES

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

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

ADVENTURE
 ANCHOR
 BLACKBEARD
 BLUEBEARD
 BOOTY
 BOW
 CABIN BOY
 CANNON
 CAPTAIN
 CHEST
 CROW'S-NEST
 CUTLASS
 DAGGER
 DECK
 DRUNKEN
 EARRING
 EYE-PATCH
 FIGUREHEAD
 GOLD
 ISLAND
 JEWELS
 JOLLY ROGER
 MAP
 MAST
 PARROT
 PEARLS
 PEG-LEG
 PLANK
 PLUNDER
 PORT
 PRESS GANG
 RIGGING
 RUM
 SAILOR
 SAILS
 SCAR
 SEA
 SHIP
 SKULL
 STARBOARD
 STERN
 SWORN
 THIEVES
 YARDARM

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

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



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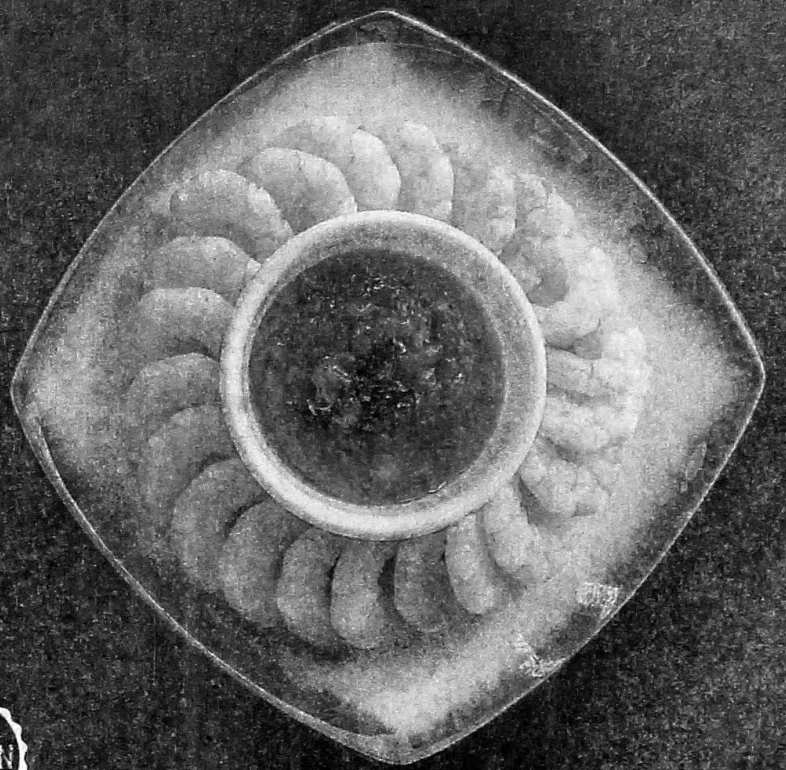
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