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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Ice festival will use pandemic protocol

Plymouth's annual event to repeat 2021 format

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth's annual cure for the mid-winter blues can't catch a break.

The city's popular ice festival was cut short by unseasonably warm weather in 2020, weeks before the COVID-19 pan-

demical surfaced. The 2021 event was absent live ice carving and other interactive programs to promote social distancing as the coronavirus still raged.

Just when it appeared the 40th edition of the festival — scheduled for Feb. 11-13 — was on the road back to normalcy, the omicron variant arrived, ac-

celerating infection rates and forcing organizers to continue the 2021 format that focuses on placing ice sculptures throughout downtown Plymouth with no live demonstrations.

"To help with social distancing, we are spreading ice carving displays in front of merchants and restaurants in the downtown area," event organizer JAG Entertainment announced in a statement on the festival's official web-

site. "We hope you will enjoy and embrace this year's version of the Plymouth Ice Festival and sincerely thank you for your loyal support."

Plymouth Mayor Nick Mroz said protocols used during the festival are decided by JAG Entertainment, which secured permits from the City of Plymouth to run the festival.

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 5A



Livonia's unified games tend to bring packed gyms and tons of smiles along with them. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Livonia United program forges friendships on and off the court

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Paige Bullard, a senior at Livonia Churchill High School, is an ardent defender on the basketball court. When her team conquered the Livonia Franklin squad, 20-16, on Jan. 31, her mind was already on a tournament two weeks away.

Bullard, a special education student, plays for her school's unified basketball team. The beloved co-ed program brings special- and general-education students together for some good-natured fun.

Unified games tend to bring packed gyms and tons of smiles along with them.

"What's not to like about it? It's a

great experience for both our center students and our peers who are part of the program," said Judy Christie, Churchill United's head coach. "Everybody is involved, our gyms are packed, there's so much enthusiasm, so much energy. And the sportsmanship is phenomenal."

See **UNITED**, Page 5A

Roadside memorials healing tool for families of victims

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In Canton Township, a pair of weather-beaten stuffed animals and a few tied-together pine tree branches rest near the base of a utility pole at the northwest corner of the intersection of Ford and Canton Center roads.

The makeshift memorial — flowers, miscellaneous mementos and Christmas decorations have also adorned the site — has provided a symbol of the fragility of life since Sept. 13, when a 38-year-old mother was killed instantly in an early-morning traffic accident that left a second driver with non-life-threatening injuries.

The temporary tribute is one of a few that endure along the edges of southeast Michigan roadways, helping the victims' families cope with grief and reminding onlookers that lives can be shattered in just the blink of an eye.

"Once in a while we'll see someone put fresh flowers out there," said Ana Takessian of nearby Star Jewelry. "It's so devastating, knowing someone died there."

"At the same time, it's heartwarming to know the person meant so much to family and friends that they'll continue to maintain a memorial months after the death."

See **MEMORIALS**, Page 4A

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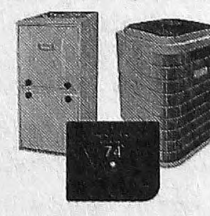


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Police, community groups prepare for Polar Plunge

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Some law enforcers have more experience being bold by getting cold, and they're hyping up the cool factor that goes into taking the Polar Plunge.

After all, a hop, skip or a jump into a freezing Walled Lake means more money for Special Olympics Michigan.

So far, White Lake Township, Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township police departments have signed up for the Feb. 12 plunge.

Along with other teams from businesses, community groups and more, they are well on their way to raising \$40,000 for Special Olympics athletes.

Some other groups participating in-

clude CrossCountry Mortgage Bloomfield Hills Heroes, Farmington Early Childhood Center, Courageous Lion Studios, and Team Misfits (Formerly Team No.VI).

White Lake Township Police Sgt. Brad Connell said the Polar Plunge is a great social event. He recruits jumpers by stressing the competitive camaraderie and excitement that leads up to the no-mercy day.

"It's really fun leading up to it," he said. "Then the morning of ... when you're there ... you're like, 'Why am I doing this? This is an awful idea.' But then as you see some other people start jumping and you get out there on the ice, it kind of hits you like, 'OK. This is going to be awesome.'"

Drenched or finally dry, they know what exists as a distant memory was for a good cause.

"Anybody can do it," Bloomfield Township Officer Kelly McGraw said. "The people that watch, they see a person doing an amazing, challenging thing by jumping in there. We come out fine."

She works out every day. For her, those moments before the plunge - hearing organizers call her name and approaching the frigid waters - are the toughest part of the event.

"You know you've got to go in," she said. "It's freezing cold water. Once you're in, it's kind of a shock."

This is the first year the Farmington Hills Police Department will send a team to Walled Lake, and Chief Jeff King

is building a team on the premise that he will be the first in the water.

Team members have discussed themed costumes.

"We don't know what we're going to be yet, but we're going to be something as a team," he said. "... It's for a great cause. It's great team building. Anything we can do to build that bridge and to establish those great relationships with our community, that's what we're focused on."

During last winter's virtual events, participants raised Polar Plunge funds by making snow angels and running through chilly sprinklers. Statewide, they raised \$709,000, compared to the typical pre-pandemic tally of more than \$1.2 million.

Westland releases survey for resident input on dog park

Courtesy of the City of Westland

The City of Westland has proposed a new dog park. The city's department of parks and recreation is targeting the installation of Westland's first dog park in spring 2022.

Funding for the proposed project will be provided through the parks and recreation budget, allocating \$150,000 for fiscal year 2021-22.

The future location will be next door to the Department of Public Service, 37137 Marquette, and will include a perimeter fence intended to keep both dogs and residents safe. The off-leash dog park will also feature separate sections for small and large dogs to play.

The community will have a chance to have their voices heard on amenities for the dog park. Residents can provide their input by participating in a short online survey to make sure the city's first dog park has everything needed for residents and their dogs, including a good name for the park.

The results of the survey will be discussed at a Parks & Recreation Advisory Council public input meeting at 6 p.m. Feb. 28 at Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road.

"The all-American city looks forward to offering this great new amenity to the Westland residents and their special four-legged friends as well," Mayor Bill Wild said in a release.

Find the survey at surveyking.com/a/westlanddogpark.

hometownlife.com

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Owner Bonnie Butler, right, talks to Plymouth Depot regulars at the shop Jan. 19. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Eats and Sweets in Plymouth has a new name, menu items

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

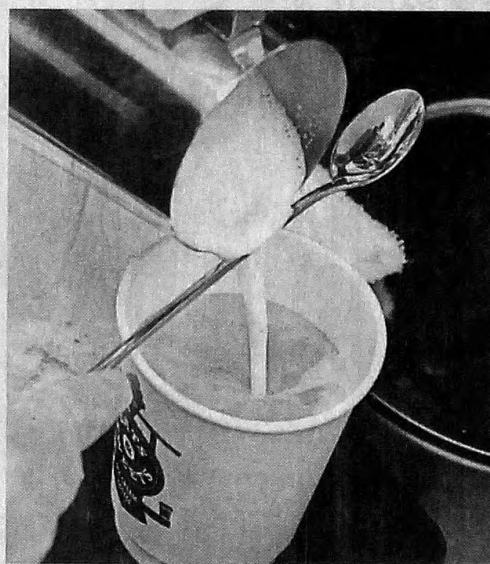
Opening a food establishment in early 2020 began an interesting journey for Bonnie Butler.

Now, after two years in business, she's made some pivotal changes to her cozy shop in the historic train station in Plymouth's Old Village neighborhood, including the name. Gone is Eats and Sweets, the shop's original moniker. Now, the shop serving up coffee, ice cream and elaborate milkshakes goes by Plymouth Depot.

"I wanted to really say who we were, and we are the Plymouth Depot. This is the Plymouth Depot," she said. "This has been around a long time. Eventually I want people to just say 'The Depot.'"

The shop at 900 Starkweather opened in January 2020 serving up ice cream and milkshakes and had an area of the historic building dedicated to gifts. But two years in, Butler began looking at the sales figures and realized something had to change.

"Although we loved when people said, 'Oh this looks like Up North' ... and then they would beeline right into here," Butler said while standing in the ice cream section of the shop, "it just didn't make sense."



Butler prepares a cafe au lait.

Now, Butler has added about 20 additional seats with tables in part of the shop for guests to stay and enjoy their drinks or other treats.

Butler decided to go all-in on food and drink, hoping to attract people to the shop at all hours. She purchased an espresso machine and offers cappuccinos and macchiatos. She's added some other breakfast menu items such as bagels, and has expanded the menu of over-the-top milkshakes.

The decision to revamp came at the

end of 2021 right before Butler typically closes the shop for two weeks around the holidays. After looking over the finances, she began brainstorming other ideas and decided to extend her closure an additional two weeks and get the space ready and products ordered. It reopened in mid-January.

The changes are indicative of what businesses have done to order to stay around amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Butler said 2020 was a good year since they could use the walk-up window for ice cream and other items, but she noticed 2021 was roughly the same. Not seeing any growth, she decided to try out some new approaches.

She said customer support has been key to keeping the doors open. She will regularly get customers from all over.

"The first year was really awesome," she said. "I had people that would come in and say, 'Hey, I want to make sure you stay open.'"

The shop is open 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

More information can be found at plymouthdepot.com.

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

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FEBRUARY 15, 2022
7:30 P.M.

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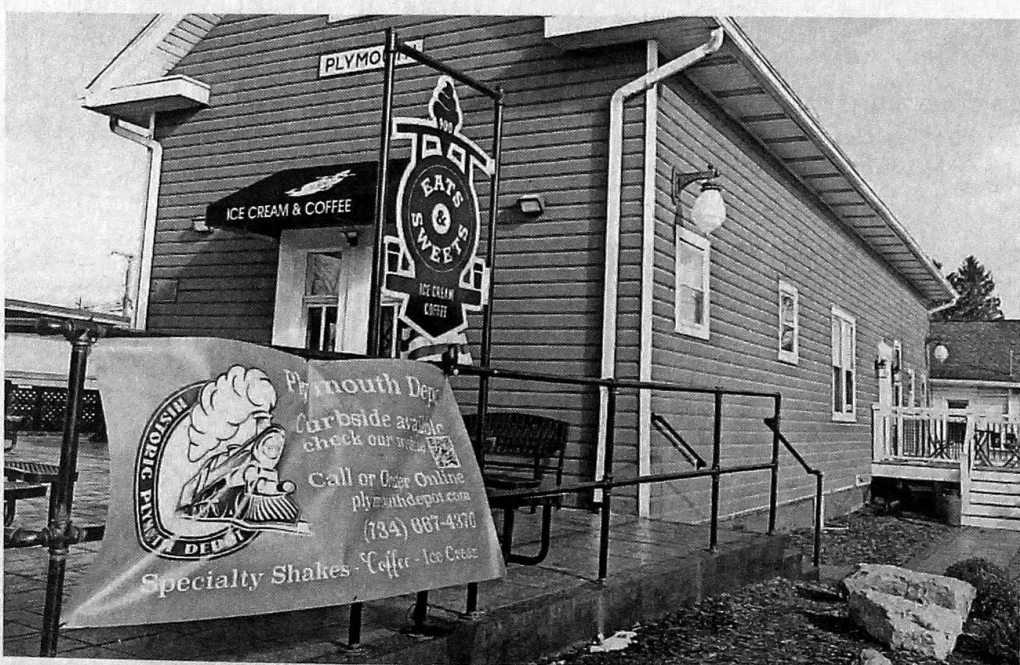
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Please see agenda on website www.plymouthlibrary.org
The agenda will be posted by February 11, 2022

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its Regular Meeting on February 15, 2022. The meeting will be offered electronically.

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



The Plymouth Depot at 900 Starkweather.

Farmington Hills FD adds autism-friendly kits to vehicles

Courtesy of Farmington Hills Fire Department

The Farmington Hills Fire Department added a new tool at its fire stations intended to provide even more compassion, commitment to the community, and dedication to with innovative emergency medical services.

Every responding fire vehicle now carries special autism sensory and communication bags. Each of these bags is equipped with tools to help firefighter/paramedics when they treat someone on the autism spectrum.

The autism sensory and communication bags contain items such as fidget spinners, squishy toys, play dough, and earmuffs designed to help calm the patient by reducing sensory stimuli and providing a sense of comfort.

Members of the fire department are also equipped with emotion cards to help patients express their feelings and needs. Specialized training provides staff members with helpful strategies

and tips for interacting with autistic individuals.

In September 2021, the Farmington Hills Fire Department participated in a "First Response Fights Autism" fundraiser where firefighters received pledges for a workout competition. This collaborative effort with Five Lakes CrossFit in Farmington Hills, which provided the funding for the donation of the new autism sensory and communication bags. The event was originally created by CrossFit 8 Mile and the Southgate Fire Department, then spread to other departments throughout the metro Detroit area.

"We are grateful to everyone who took part in this fundraiser," Farmington Hills Fire Lt. Jim Etzin said. "We now have important tools and resources at our disposal that will help us improve the care we provide to our patients on the autism spectrum."

For more information, contact Lt. Jim Etzin at 248-871-2807.



Firefighter/paramedic Kayla Geffert shows the contents of the Farmington Hills Fire Department's new autism sensory and communication bags. COURTESY OF CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

Residents speak out against proposed childcare center in Novi

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Transforming a nearby golf clubhouse into a children's learning center near Don Jorgensen's neighborhood isn't what he or many of his neighbors want to see.

The president of the Maple Hills association, whose members live near the Maples Golf Club off 14 Mile in Novi, was one of many who spoke before the city's planning commission against the proposal that would see an IXL Learning Center open inside the clubhouse.

"I think we'd like a business there, just not this business," he said.

The plan has been met with plenty of criticism from neighbors in the nearby residential development, with hundreds sending letters to the city opposing the project and many appearing at the Jan. 26 planning commission meeting at the Novi Civic Center.

The center's proposal included transforming the already-existing golf clubhouse in the northwest corner of the city

into a learning center that could accommodate between 125-175 children a day, which exceeds the allowance permitted by the city in that type of zoning district.

In addition, the proposal would convert the nine-hole golf course into open green space, as the course is not expected to reopen for golfers this spring.

"We're not going to change the clubhouse building. We're not going to change the property of the golf course. We won't affect the wetlands," David Landry, an attorney for the petitioner, said. "We're not going to build any building on the golf course. It's going to remain as open space."

The development dates back decades with the golf course and many of the residential properties developed around the same time. The clubhouse formerly held a restaurant, which closed several years ago. The golf course also went through a period of closure nearly a decade ago, when it was shuttered for three years before reopening.

IXL Learning Centers operate other facilities in Northville Township, Bir-

mingham, Green Oak Township and Howell, among other locations.

Among the issues raised by nearby residents included traffic concerns with such a center, especially at peak drop-off and pick-up times, especially with the current clubhouse and residential properties sharing the same road connector.

"It's coming off of our residential property. It's going to block residents from coming in and out," resident Laura Miller said. "We already see the congestion on Novi Road."

Landry said parents won't pick up or drop off children all at the same time, and many will have multiple children per car, reducing the amount of vehicles in the parking lot at any given time.

He said the proposed usage would see less traffic than the previous uses, considering it would only be used during the week and closed on holidays.

"This is a less intensive use than a restaurant, bar and golf course," he said.

The request from IXL Learning Center is for an amendment to the original

Planned Unit Development for the site. That change of use was not recommended by the city's planning staff to the commission, citing the number of students planned for the site exceeded the city's allowance.

The four planning commissioners who were at the meeting agreed, voting to recommend a denial of the change to the city council.

Commissioners cited several reasons for the denial, including issues surrounding traffic and the impact it could have on that part of town, as well as safety concerns.

"It's coming off of a drive that is not that big off of 14 Mile Road. It's just not making sense," Commissioner John Avdoulos said. "I think the size of it and the fact that it's not allowable within the RA zoning district that we currently have, it makes it difficult for me to approve this."

Commissioner Michael Lynch said he wanted to make sure the property of the golf course, which snakes through the community, was taken care of properly, especially moving forward.

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Memorials

Continued from Page 1A

Tragedy grants new perspective

Prior to Sept. 3, 2020, emotions tugged at Gabriella Duhn's heart whenever she drove by a roadside memorial.

"I'd pass one and think, 'Oh, how sad,' and then I'd keep on driving," Duhn recalled. "When you don't know the story of the person who died at the site, it's not nearly as impactful as if you knew them."

On that fateful night 16 months ago, Duhn's 20-year-old son, Dominic, was fatally injured on the shoulder of Sheldon Road when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver. Dominic Duhn was a much-loved student at Michigan State University at the time of his death, a graduate of Northville High School and an Eagle Scout.

During a post-funeral luncheon at the Duhns' Northville home, Gabriella Duhn was approached by Tony Agius, the grandfather of Dominic's longtime girlfriend.

"Tony said, 'Would you mind if I put up a cross where Dominic died?'" Duhn recounted. "Honestly, that wasn't even on my radar at the time because I was still in shock. I told him absolutely, I would love it."

The next day Agius and two of his grandsons — all of whom loved Dominic like he was a member of their family, Gabriella said — erected a three-foot-high white cross with "Dominic 2000-2020" etched on its horizontal section.

"I love how he did it. Very simple, nothing crazy," Gabriella said. "People tell us they say a prayer whenever they drive by Dominic's cross."

"I still get emotional when I drive by that spot."

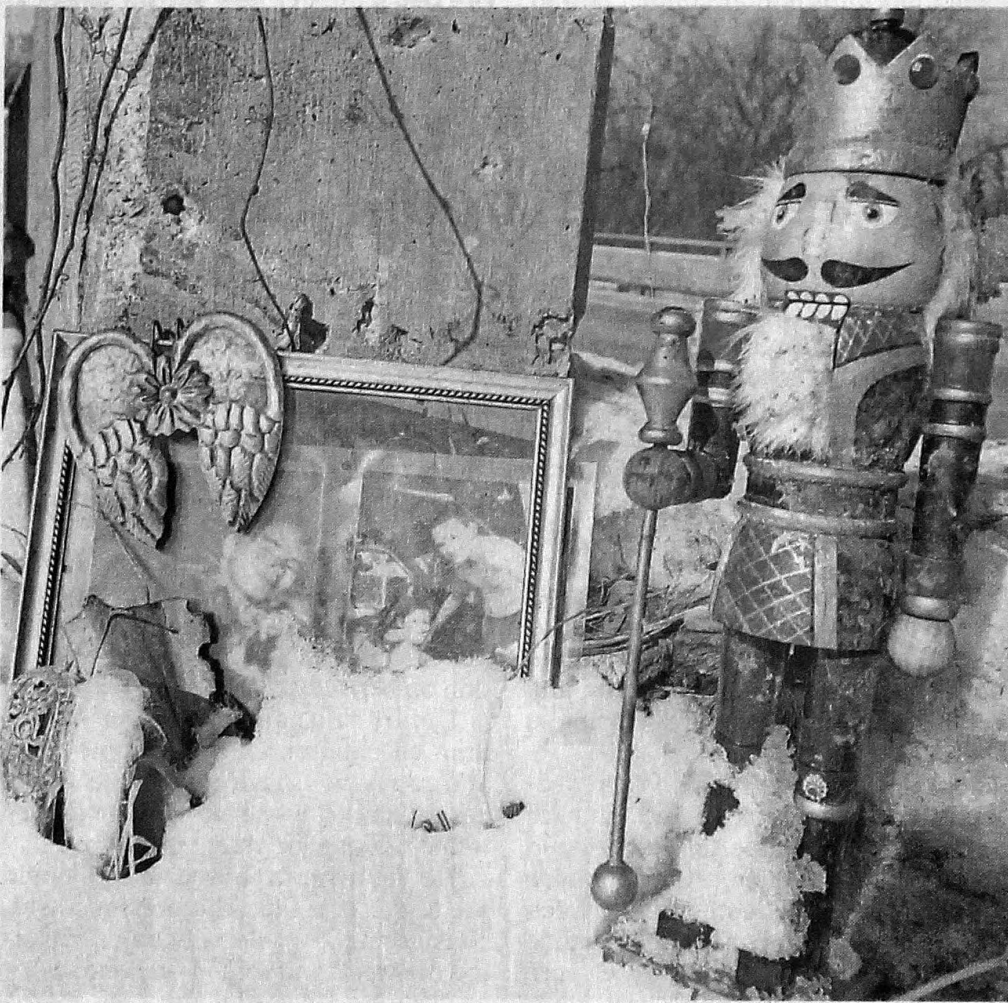
The Duhns' family and friends — as well as complete strangers — periodically place mementos near the memorial: an orange, carved silhouette of a stampeding mustang (Northville High School's mascot), Scouting-related items, a small cross and flowers currently decorate the site.

"One of my husband's friends planted mini sunflowers at the memorial," Gabriella said. "It brings us comfort to know so many people still care."

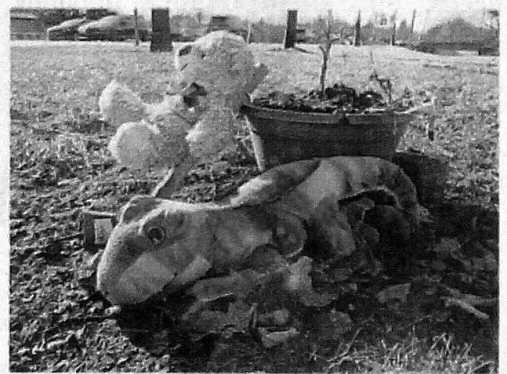
See MEMORIALS, Page 5A



Cindy Hartwick tends to the roadside memorial in the days following the 2016 death of her son Dequoya Carroll. FILE



A nutcracker figure and photos of a car crash victim rest at a five-year-old roadside memorial near the site of Plymouth Township's former Courthouse Grille restaurant. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Two stuffed animals mark the spot for a memorial to a car crash victim on the northwest corner of Ford and Canton Center roads.



The gravesite of Mitchel Kiefer has been a place for his loved ones to heal and celebrate his life since a distracted-driving incident took the Northville resident's life in 2016. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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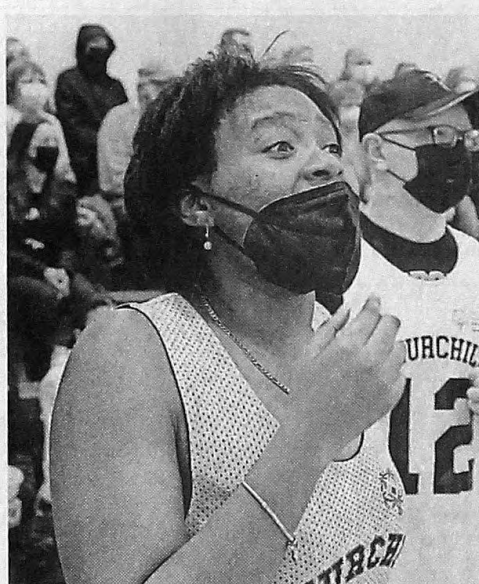
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The Livonia United teams race down court during Monday afternoon play. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



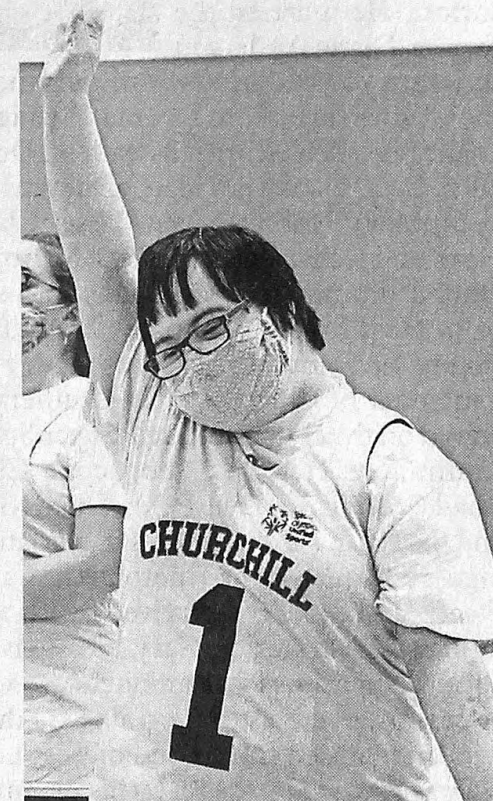
Paige Bullard yells encouragement to her Churchill teammates.



Livonia United player Logan Hatcher raises his arms as he's introduced.



Livonia Franklin United players "bring it in" at the end of the game.



Churchill player Sharon Hengstebeck raises her hand as she's introduced Jan. 31.

United

Continued from Page 1A

Christie said the unified program allows students like Bullard to have those storybook experiences that come with being an athlete in high school, like getting a varsity letter or being interviewed by the local paper after a big win.

The friendships formed on the court lead to a more united school, too.

"To me, it's like a real family," Bullard said. "We're all blessed to be on the team."

Bailey Brooks, a senior peer playing

on the Churchill team, said he enjoys that it feels like everyone is on the same side.

And that seems to be true — the families, students and teachers who came to cheer on their loved ones Jan. 31 were frequently excited by both teams' efforts. A steal, a basket and a well-placed pass could all be celebrated by the whole room.

"I just think it's really fun being out here and being on one team," Brooks said. "It really is one team out here. Everyone is trying to get this team to succeed. It's a great thing to be a part of, for sure."

Special Olympics Michigan started

the Unified Sports League to bring kids together. Livonia's teams play in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association (KLA) just like the varsity programs do, facing off against other local programs.

Unified games require two general-education students, called peers, to be on the court at all times. Churchill and Franklin's peers spent Monday's game facilitating ways for their teammates to take shots.

"Friendships are big," said Tisha Krauss, Franklin United's head coach. "A lot of the (general-education) students work in our classrooms as part of an elective, too. It's awesome because

you see those friendships throughout the school."

Coaches Christie and Krauss, both of whom also teach, say they enjoy the non-physical impacts the programs have on the kids. Unified sports help with self-esteem, understanding and teamwork and create relationships that outlast the season.

By all accounts, the schools are better places because of a little basketball.

"It's the perfect example of being unified," Christie said.

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

Festival

Continued from Page 1A

"It's a private event, and it's up to the organization that was granted the permits to run the event the way they see it," Mroz said. "They're largely following CDC recommendations and guidelines because we're still in the thick of a pandemic."

Similar to 2021, ice sculptures will be carved off site then delivered to strategically decided areas throughout downtown Plymouth.

Mroz said the concept of spreading the sculptures throughout downtown in 2021 was well-received by business owners and visitors alike.

"The concept of people walking around more, with more motion, in the downtown area was a welcome sight to everybody, not just the business owners," Mroz said. "People took to the idea that it was a bit of a tour of downtown Plymouth instead of mostly congregat-

ing in Kellogg Park."

Mroz said he hopes visitors to the festival err on the side of caution.

"We hope everybody enjoys the ice sculptures and to be as safe as possible because we are still in a pandemic," Mroz said. "I recommend wearing masks and social distancing as much as is necessary, and if you're feeling cold symptoms, maybe hold back."

"I thought last year's ice festival was fantastic, especially considering the circumstances. After being cooped up for months, we were able to get out, walk around the city."

"Seeing everybody out really struck a positive note."

The event will officially kick off 5 p.m. Feb. 11 when 50 carvings, which started as 350-pound blocks of ice, will be on display throughout downtown Plymouth.

Further ice festival details can be found on the event's official website.

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



Plymouth Ice Festival attendees get their photo taken with an ice sculpture of Olaf from the Disney movie "Frozen" in 2021. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Memorials

Continued from Page 4A

'Every parent's worst nightmare'

Northville resident Paula Kiefer is reminded of the worst day of her life every time she visits her daughter at MSU. Large signs near the Williamston exit of Interstate 96 read: Mitchel A. Kiefer Distracted Driver Awareness Memorial Highway.

On Sept. 19, 2016, while returning to East Lansing following a brief trip home, Kiefer, a freshman at MSU, was rear-ended by a 21-year-old driver who was posting a message on Instagram while traveling 82 miles per hour, a law enforcement investigation discovered.

The collision pushed Kiefer's vehicle

into eastbound traffic and he was killed in a head-on collision.

Kiefer's death fueled his family and friends to mount a campaign to end distracted driving, and a foundation has been created in Kiefer's name.

"Mitchel's death was like every parent's worst nightmare," Paula Kiefer said. "We never even thought about putting together a roadside memorial where he died. We were focused on his gravesite."

During the harrowing days following their son's death, Steven and Paula Kiefer searched for a fitting gravesite for their 18-year-old son. The journey took them to the southernmost acreage of Northville's Rural Hill Cemetery.

Kiefer's gravesite is a testament to the love his family and friends felt for him. Decorated with memorabilia from his life — a pair of goalie pads he wore in

hockey games during the family's time in Luxembourg rest against a nearby tree — the site is a regular visiting place for those who knew him well.

"It's still a sad place," Paula Kiefer said, "but seeing all the memorabilia his friends leave, it warms my heart because it shows that everybody else who knew him thought he was as wonderful as I did. ... Every time I go to Mitchel's gravesite, I can tell somebody else has been there."

Uncertain future

A few days after Kiefer's death, Dequoya Carroll and Mark Wittrock, both 14 and freshmen at Churchill High School in Livonia, were killed when a stolen 1985 Ford Mustang SVO driven by Carroll collided with another vehicle on Plymouth Road near the Courthouse

Grille and burst into flames.

In the five-plus years since the teenagers' death, an often-updated memorial has drawn the attention of motorists.

Detroit sports memorabilia, stuffed animals and most recently a nutcracker figure bring color to the space.

The memorial's long-term future is murky. District Capital Detroit, a commercial real estate financing company, is on the verge of turning the property into a luxury apartment development.

When contacted by Hometown Life on Jan. 31, a District Capital Detroit spokesperson politely declined comment on the fate of the memorial.

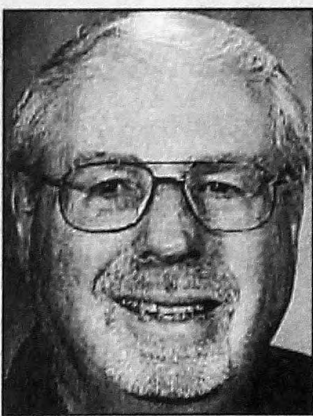
Regardless of its remaining lifespan, the tribute — like the others in western Wayne County — has no doubt brought at least a small level of comfort to people experiencing the most horrific moments life has to offer.

Obituaries

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

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.



Lee-Ramsay Funeral Home - Gladwin Chapel
 11172 Highland Rd.
 Gladwin, MI 49735
 Phone: 586.438.7211 • Fax: 586.438.6418

*May
 Eternal
 Rest
 be
 Granted
 Upon
 Them*

Ruth Alice Melvin

MUSKEGON, FORMERLY OF WAYNE - Ruth Alice Melvin, age 91, passed away Sunday, January 16, 2022 at Sanctuary at the Oaks in Muskegon. Ruth was born on September 29, 1930 in Grand Rapids to Ralph and Mildred "Millie" (Gleason) Thompson. Ruth graduated from Hesperia High School, earned her Bachelors of Science Degree from Central Michigan, and earned her Masters degree in Business Education in 1979. Ruth taught business classes in public high school for 32 years, retiring from Wayne Memorial High School in 1986. After many years in Livonia, Ruth lived in Las Vegas, and then Canadian Lakes. She enjoyed painting and gardening.



Ruth is survived by her daughter, Jackie Melvin of Eugene, Oregon. Ruth was preceded in death by her daughter, Pamela Melvin; and her brothers and sisters, Sue Dye, Walter Thompson, Barbara Jacobsen, and Ann Green.

There will be no services at this time. Ruth will be laid to rest next to her daughter, Pamela at the Volney Cemetery in the spring of 2022. The family offers deep appreciation to the staff at Sanctuary at the Oaks and Harbor Hospice, and remembers Ruth's late niece, Pat Franklin, who cared for her generously. Friends may consider contributions to Harbor Hospice of Muskegon in memory of Ruth. Friends may send a condolence or share a memory with the family online at www.crandellfh.com. Arrangements by Crandell Funeral Home - Fremont Chapel. 231-924-0800.



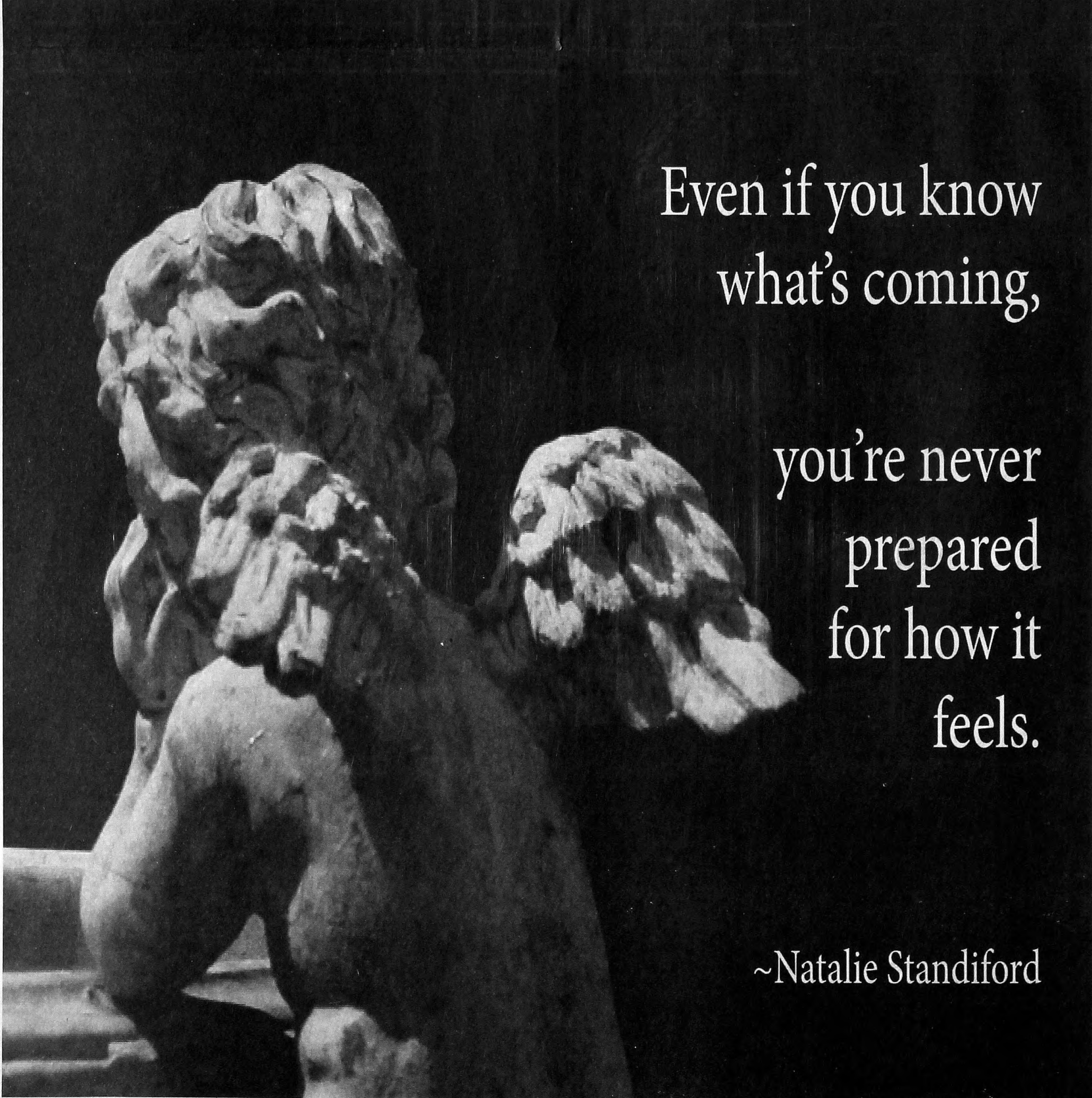
Mary Ann Karczewski

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 Heeney-Sundquist, downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). heeney-sundquist.com

HEENEY-SUNDQUIST

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



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 what's coming,
 you're never
 prepared
 for how it
 feels.

~Natalie Standiford



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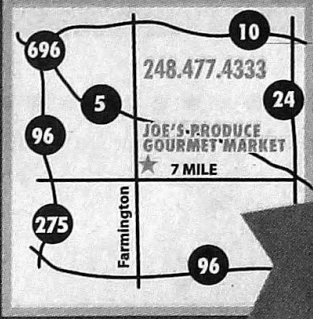
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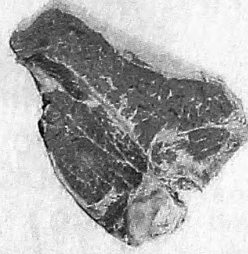
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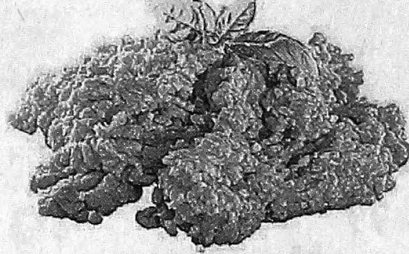
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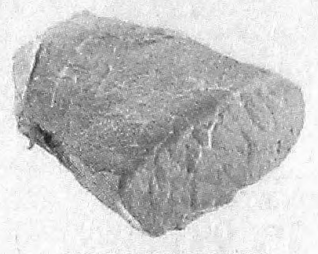
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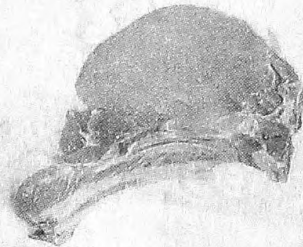
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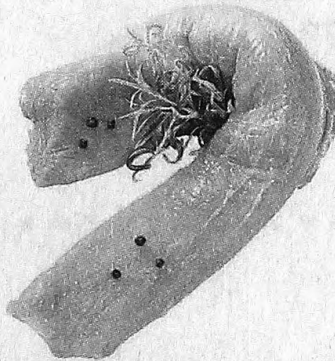
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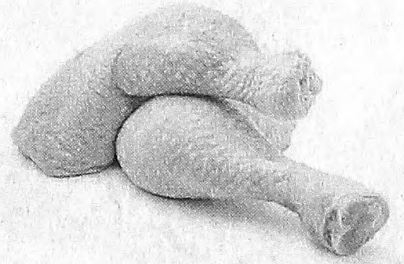
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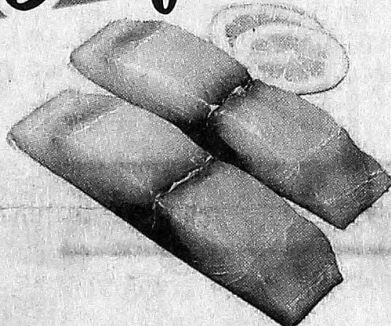
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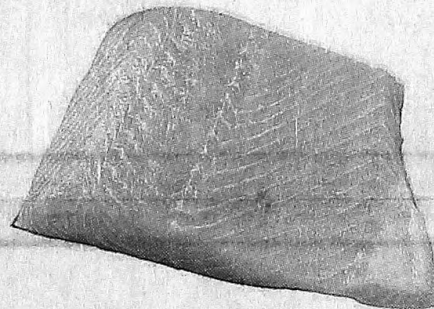
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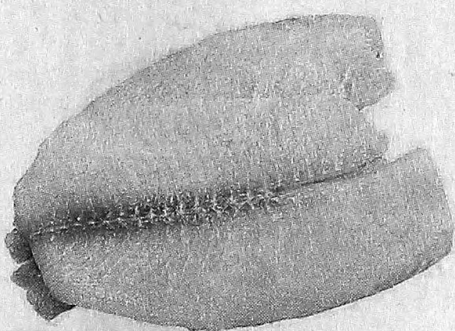
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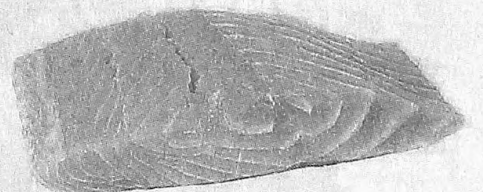
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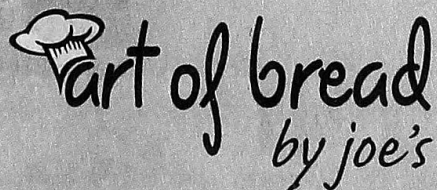
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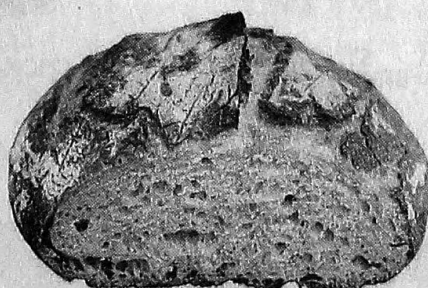
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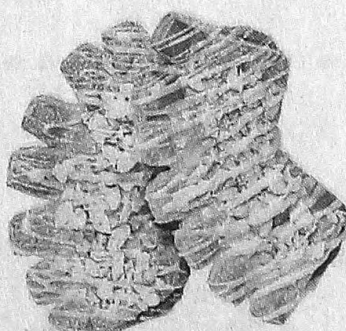
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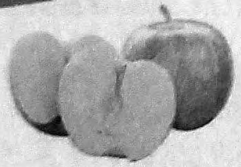


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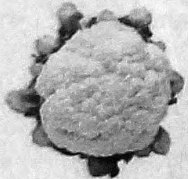
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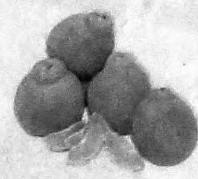
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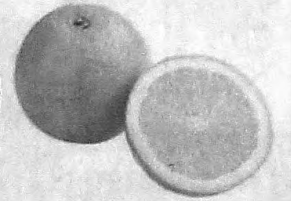
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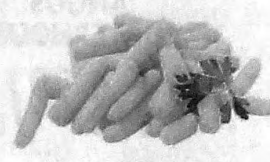
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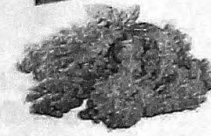


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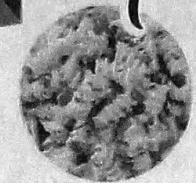


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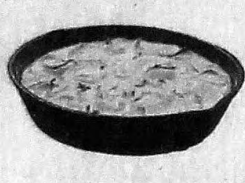
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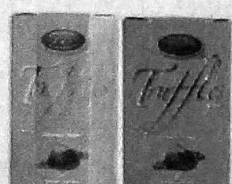
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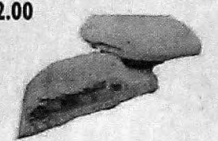
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SPORTS

'He's a clever player:' Black Hawks' Adamczyk too tough to game plan for

The junior guard scored 35 points against Birmingham Groves

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Bloomfield Hills boys basketball team decided to run out the clock for the final shot of the first quarter. Second after second ticked away as

the Black Hawks whipped the ball around on offense.

Finally, it got to Noah Adamczyk, who dribbled a handful of times and then launched a Foster Loyer-lengthed 3-pointer moments before the buzzer sounded.

It went in.

Adamczyk looked up toward the scoreboard and then gave a Michael Jordan shrug to his teammates as he walked back to the Black Hawks' bench during the intermission. He took only a handful of steps before Julian Manna ran up to him and gave a celebratory shove that made Adamczyk stumble briefly.

The shot was pretty impressive, especially considering he had just scored 13 of his team's 14 points in the quarter. But then the junior outdid himself

again.

Same scenario. Same strategy. The final seconds ticked off the scoreboard just before halftime.

Adamczyk dribbled the ball to the spot he made the previous buzzer-beater. Only this time, Birmingham Groves had two defenders draping off of him. It's a wonder the junior wasn't fouled in the process.

He got off the shot while falling side-

See ADAMCZYK, Page 2B

Warriors snap 15-game losing streak to Detroit U-D Jesuit

Johnathan Blackwell and the Warriors used a huge first quarter to separate from the Cubs quickly

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Three men wearing neon yellow vests that had "Detroit U-D Jesuit Dads' Club" printed on the back made a makeshift barricade for the Brother Rice boys basketball team following the Jan. 29 game.

The men were keeping what fans remained from the Cubs' student section away from the Warriors, who were walking back into the locker room to gather their belongings and head home.

But, once the Warriors finally got in there, it took no time at all for them to start spraying fourth-year coach Rick Palmer with water.

They were celebrating their 67-42 thumping of the Cubs.

Wait, who celebrates their regular-season wins like that?

Rice (8-3) hadn't beaten U-D Jesuit since Feb. 10, 2015. The win snapped a 15-game losing streak, which counts Catholic League-Central games, CHSL tournament matchups and one district playoff tilt.

That's right. The Warriors hadn't beaten the Cubs in almost seven years.

"We're going to enjoy wins. Winning is really hard," said Palmer, whose gray track jacket had blotches of water spots all over. "They had a good time in that locker room, especially after coming off two (CHSL) losses. We needed that. Tonight, we were the hungrier team, and we needed to be, coming off of two losses. We might play them one or two more times, so whether you win by two or 30, you've just got to keep moving on."

And that just speaks to how tough the Central is right now.

When league play started, all five

schools — Rice, U-D Jesuit, Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Detroit Catholic Central and Warre DeLaSalle — were ranked in the top 10 of The D Zone 100 as well as all the other polls around the state.

For the last three weeks, it's just been a conga line of each team taking turns in first place of the standings. Rice is one of the best teams in the state, regardless of division, and it's just 2-3 in its conference. Yet both of its wins, a buzzer-beater against St. Mary's and Friday's losing streak-snapper, were against the No. 1 team in the league.

"I think we were No. 1 when we got beat," Palmer said. "This league is really good. All five teams, at any one night, can win. Our two games against U-D were lopsided (the Cubs won 61-42 on Jan. 11), but they might've been the only two non-one-possession games. ...

"Every night in our league, two teams a night have to lose. You lose one or two, everybody's still good. We took it to them, but they did the same thing to us 17 days ago. And they're going to do it to somebody next week, and we've got to turn the page because we've got St. Mary's next week."

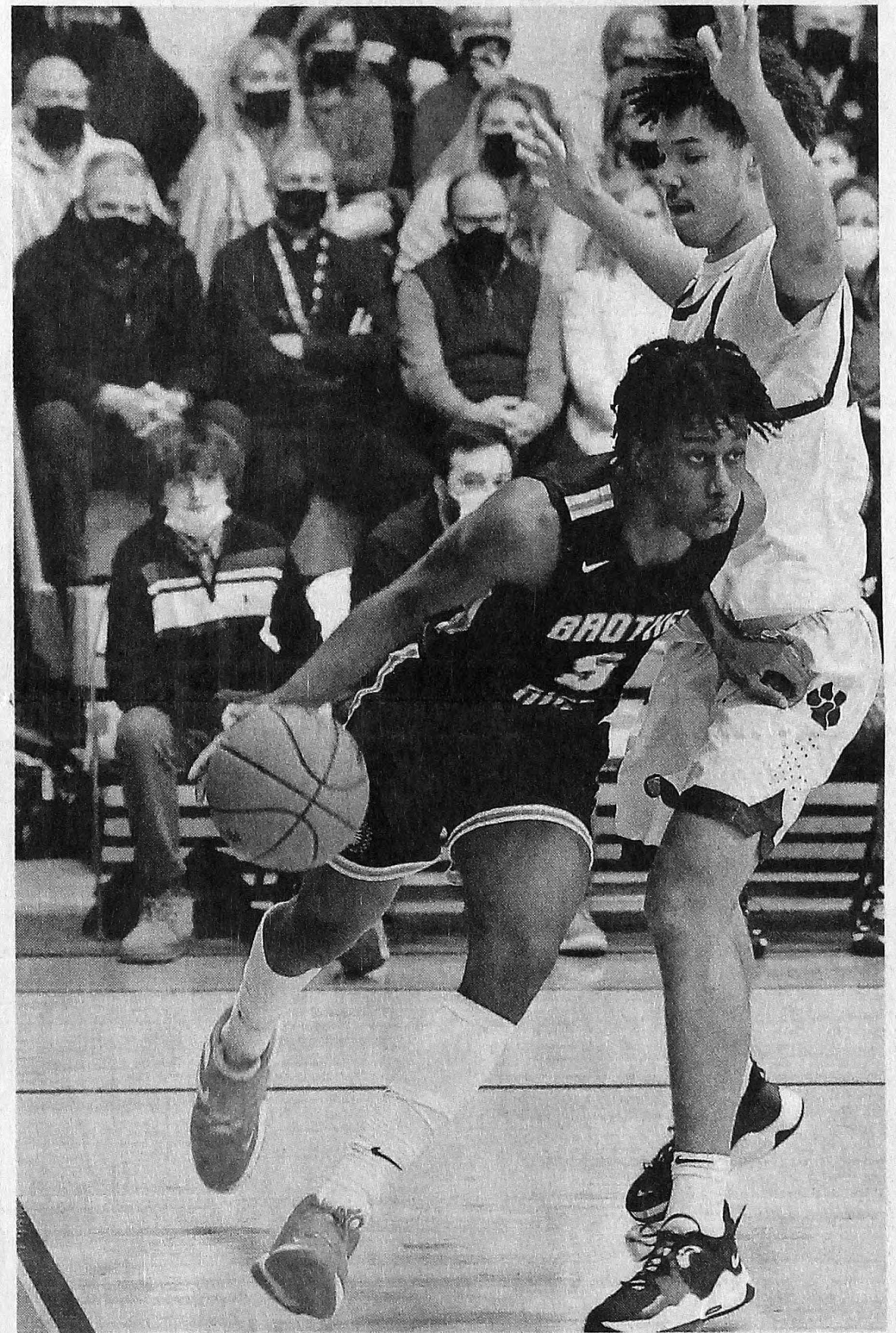
To finally wipe the slate clean with U-D Jesuit, it took a total team effort from Rice, with a great effort from both its starters and its key bench guys.

First, it was three-star recruit Johnathan Blackwell igniting the offense. The guard scored 11 of Rice's 22 points in the first quarter, making five field goals, which included him scoring six-straight points off an alley-oop from Xavier Thomas, cashing in on a back cut to the hoop and scoring at the rim off a dribble drive.

All 13 of his points came in the first half, as U-D Jesuit looked to take away his scoring in the second half.

"I just knew I had to set the tempo for my team because I'm a leader, captain and the point guard," Blackwell said of giving Rice a 22-9 lead to open the game. "Just set the tempo, coming out and scoring. Not being passive, being

See BASKETBALL, Page 4B



Brother Rice's Johnathan Blackwell dribbles during a Catholic League-Central boys basketball game Friday at Detroit U-D Jesuit.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Folsom's top-5 girls basketball teams in western metro Detroit: Week 3

Farmington Hills Mercy shot up the rankings after knocking off a pair of heavyweights last week

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Farmington Hills Mercy girls basketball team survived last week's gauntlet, and they were rewarded for it

in Hometown Life's top-five rankings.

Of course, that meant there was a major shift in the rest of the poll. Moving down was a pair of squads that are capable of making deep playoff runs. So it'll be interesting to see where everyone shakes out in the rankings as the final

month of the regular season wraps up.

Here's where everyone landed this week:

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

1. Redford Westfield Prep (14-1) (Last week: No. 1)

A week ago, the Warriors traveled to Class A Kalamazoo Central and beat the

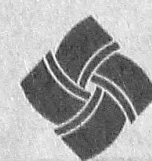
Maroon Giants by 10. Outside of their loss to Ypsilanti Arbor Prep, the favorite to win the Division 2 state title, they've cruised through their schedule, and they've got only three games left before the playoffs start, according to the MHSAA's website. They're not easy games either. They visit Cass Tech and Saline and host Grosse Pointe North.

See RANKINGS, Page 3B

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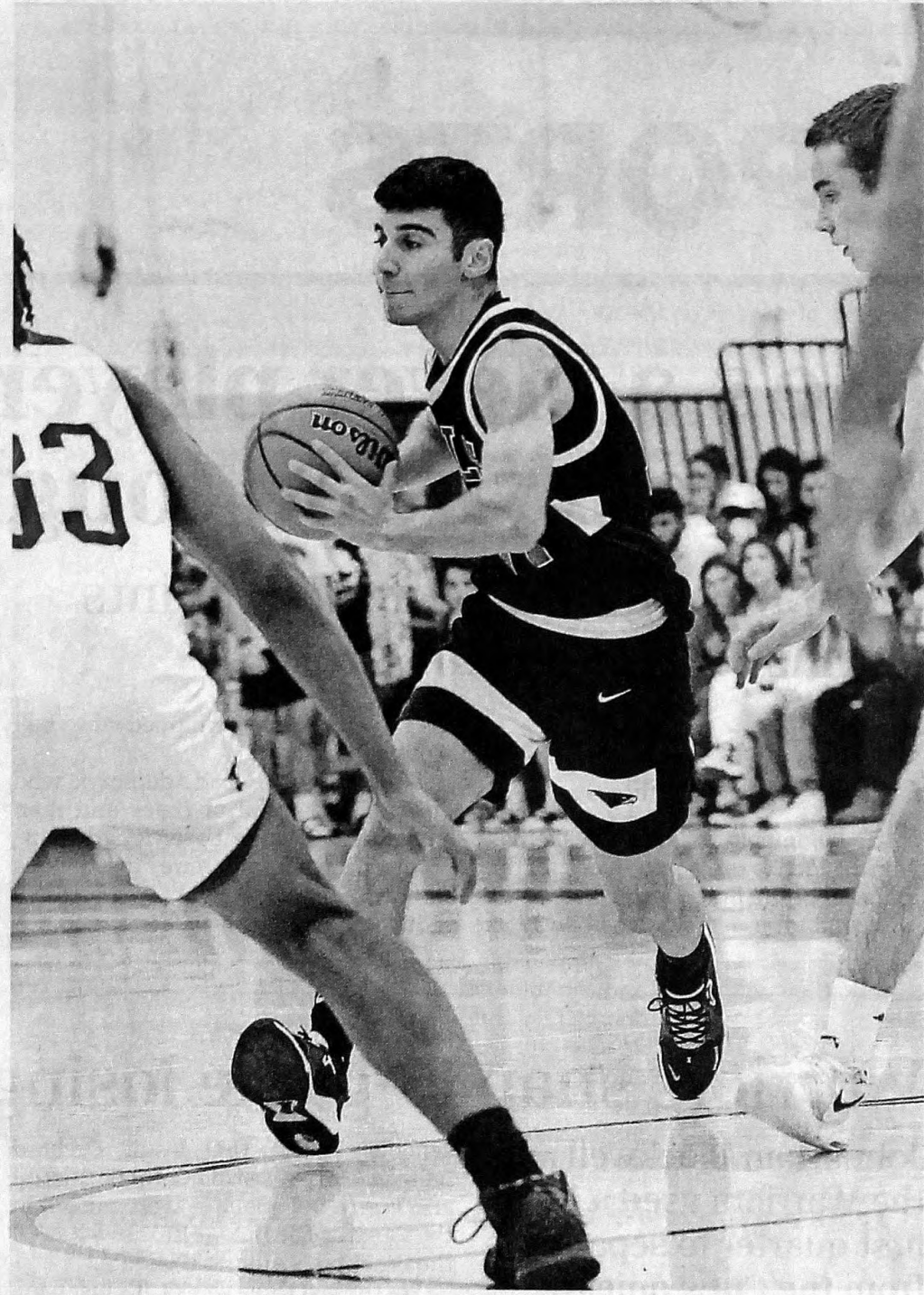


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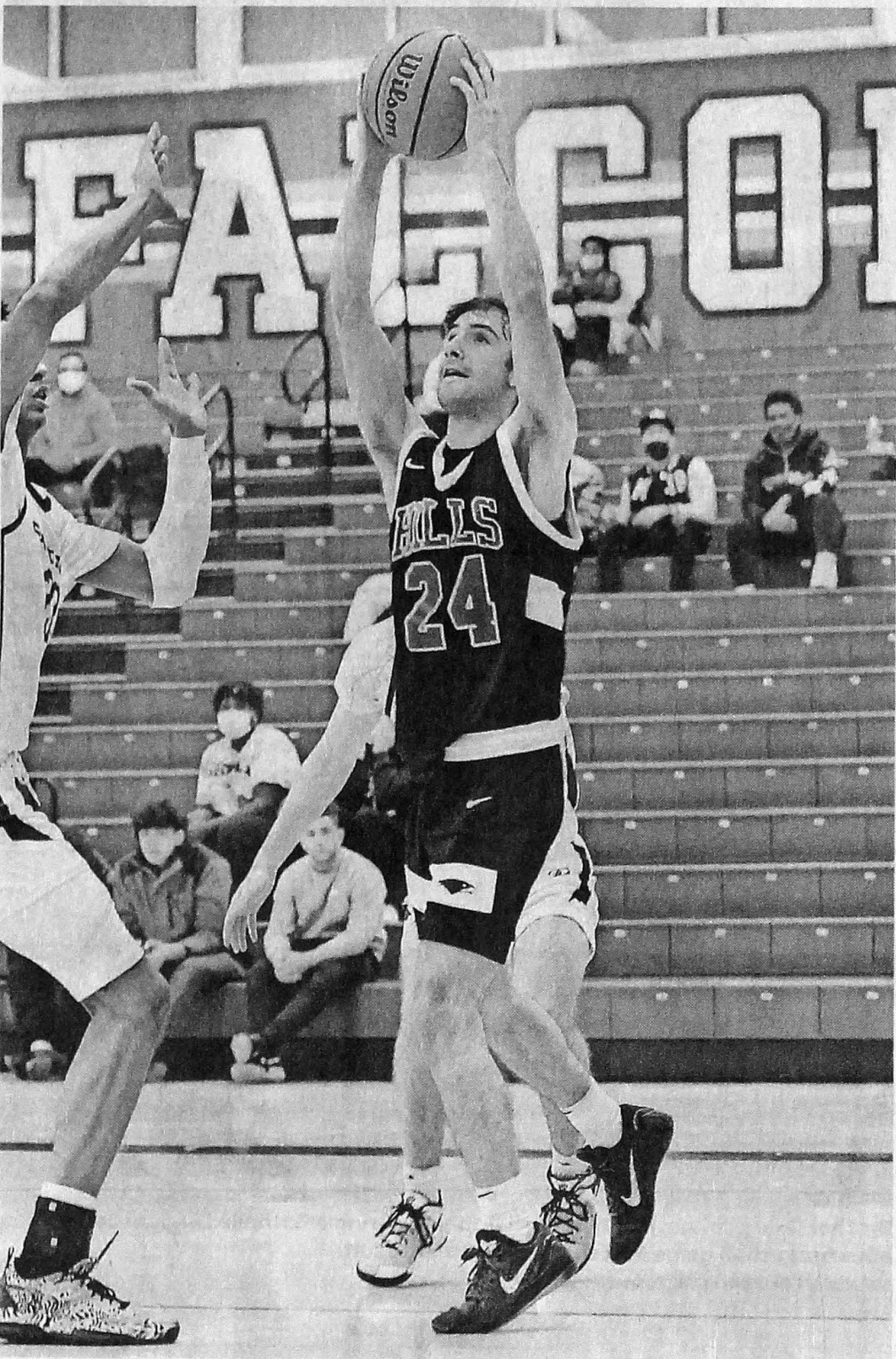
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Birmingham Groves' Quinton Steele rebounds against Bloomfield Hills during an Oakland Activities Association-White boys basketball game on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Bloomfield Hills' Julian Manna passes against Birmingham Groves during an Oakland Activities Association-White boys basketball game on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Bloomfield Hills' Noah Adamczyk attempts a layup against Birmingham Groves during an Oakland Activities Association-White boys basketball game on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Birmingham Groves' Quinton Steele pulls down a rebound against Bloomfield Hills during an Oakland Activities Association-White boys basketball game on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Adamczyk

Continued from Page 1B

ways and, sure enough, it went in at the horn, capping an 18-point period that essentially sealed the 62-46 victory as both teams jogged into their respective locker rooms.

Adamczyk finished with a game-high 35 points, including making a trio of 3s, pushing the Black Hawks (10-2) to a 2-0 record in the Oakland Activities Association-White.

"When Noah goes off like that, it puts us in a really good position to win a game," Bloomfield Hills coach Phil Kurajian said. "So we all have a really good fun time with that. It was really special to watch."

Adamczyk hasn't necessarily been a secret weapon.

He's one of the best shooters in metro Detroit, among other talents. He can also out-dribble most defenders, pass like John Stockton and pick up his team when it's in a lull.

He can also dunk, despite him being just 5-foot-something. His HUDL profile says he's 6 foot, but that's about the only thing you can doubt about him.

Groves coach Benny White said he spent the week practicing to stop Adamczyk.

"The game plan was to make his catches hard," the fourth-year coach said. "I thought in the first half, we didn't do that. We allowed him to catch it where he wanted to and get some rhythm. Good D is not going to stop good O. At the end of the day, he's a good player. ... They've got one player (Adamczyk) you've got to pay attention to. When you do that, it frees up other people, so credit to them, man."

The best part about his game isn't the points *HE* scores. It's the baskets he helps his teammates get.

Possession after possession, he would be double-teamed and that just creates opportunities for his teammates to get open shots or, better yet, high-percentage looks under the rim.

Derrick Lee Jr. scored 13 points for the Black Hawks, followed by Carson Brod-

sky with eight and three others who made at least one bucket.

"If they're running two guys at me, somebody's always open," Adamczyk said. "I just trust my teammates. They trust me. They'll knock down shots. I'll knock down shots. It's just a team thing. If we share the ball, we'll get an open shot. We say, 'Hit singles,' That's our metaphor for it. Make the easy play."

While it's still early in the process, the recruiting trail has been a little too quiet.

He texts regularly with a few college coaches in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and he's even been contacted by some Division I schools.

He's asked to keep the names of the programs he's talking to out of the newspaper. But, in all fairness, it seems more colleges should be at Black Hawks games checking out his skillset.

"A lot of coaches are going to laugh when they read this, but I've been bugging a lot of people," Kurajian said. "There's a lot of interest for Noah. You saw what he can do tonight, and, obvi-

ously, it's not an accident. It's day in and day out with him. He works his butt off. He's a great kid. High-level student. He's a captain as a junior.

"And now I got some more film to bug some coaches with."

Adamczyk said he's not going to worry about recruiting and that he'd rather "keep working until I get to where I need to be."

But even opposing coaches want to see him land with a big-time program.

"I don't know what his college situation looks like, but if people are not trying to get involved with him, they're missing the boat," White said. "He's a clever player. I think he's got a good upside to him at some level."

Only time will tell. Right now, Adamczyk and the Black Hawks are focused on navigating a tough OAA-White schedule, not where he'll play at the next level.

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

Rankings

Continued from Page 1B

2. Farmington Hills Mercy (11-2, 7-1 CHSL-Central) (Last week: No. 4)

What! A! Week! Seriously. No one had as good of a week as the Marlins had. They handled rival Bloomfield Hills Marian at home to pick up the in-season sweep. And that wasn't an easy feat because the Mustangs were still trying to get coach Mary Cicerone her 700th career win. And then Mercy knocked off the No. 1 team in the Catholic League-Central in Dearborn Divine Child and one of the top teams in the entire state. That's right. Mercy is now in first place of the league standings, and the championship is theirs to lose.

3. Wayne Memorial (11-1, 8-0 KLAA-East) (Last week: No. 2)

The Zebras didn't drop down the rankings because they did something wrong. They've won 11 straight since losing the season opener to Arbor Prep, which includes a perfect 8-0 record in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East. Really, they dropped because they're heads and shoulders ahead of their league opponents and haven't played a schedule as challenging as Mercy's. They shouldn't have trouble repeating as league champions, so that'll likely push them back up the rankings in the coming weeks.

4. South Lyon East (10-2, 8-0 LVC) (Last week: No. 3)

The Cougars are 4-0 since losing to Arbor Prep, which includes big wins over Waterford Mott and Milford a week ago. Much like Wayne, they haven't done anything wrong. They've simply just dropped one spot in the rankings because Mercy is playing at a high level against a stacked schedule. It's too bad we can't see a East-Mercy matchup in the future. Their rosters match up well. Taylor Anderson vs. Maya White. Who wouldn't go watch that game?

5. Livonia Franklin (9-2, 6-2 KLAA-East) (Last week: No. 5)

The Patriots' loss to Wayne turned into a two-game losing streak, as they



Mercy High forward Maya White. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

also lost to Dearborn, which has been a competitive squad this season. Ever since, though, they've won four straight. They rematch Wayne and Dearborn in two of their next three games. If they can win at least one of those league matchups, it should solidify their spot

in these rankings.

In the hunt (in no particular order): Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills Marian, Birmingham Seaholm, Detroit Country Day, Livonia Clarenceville, Milford, Northville, Plymouth Christian Academy, South Lyon, White Lake

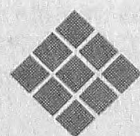
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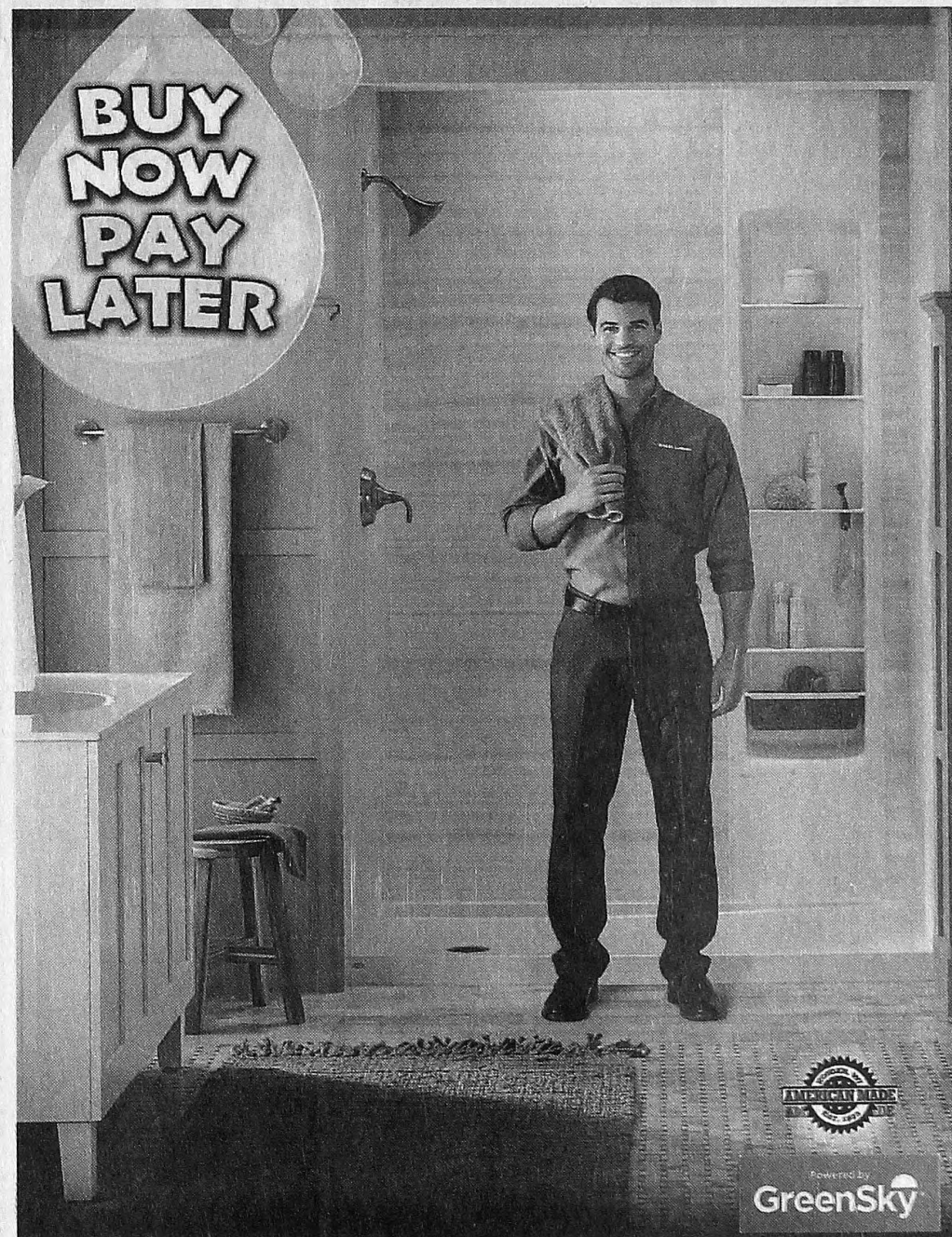


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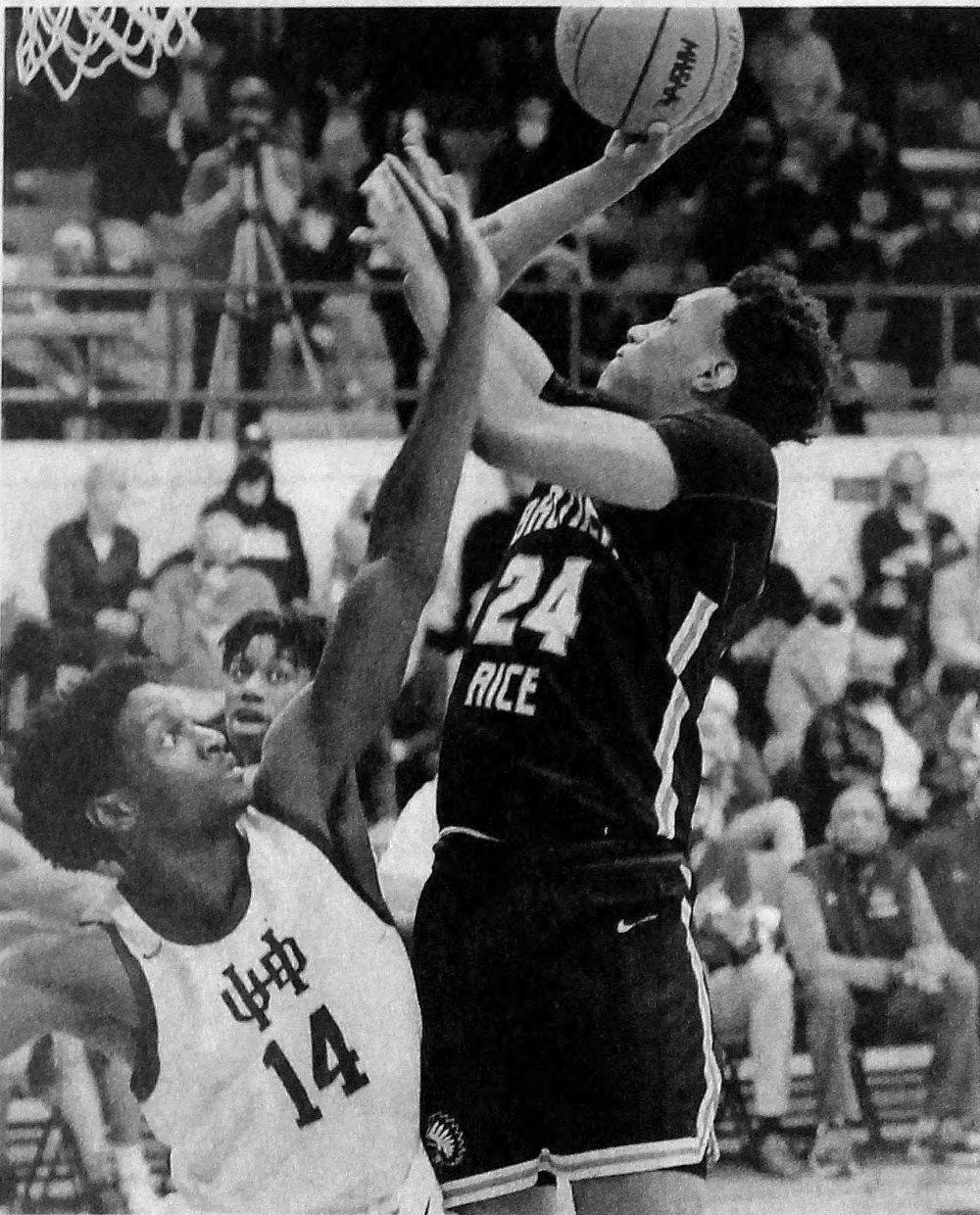
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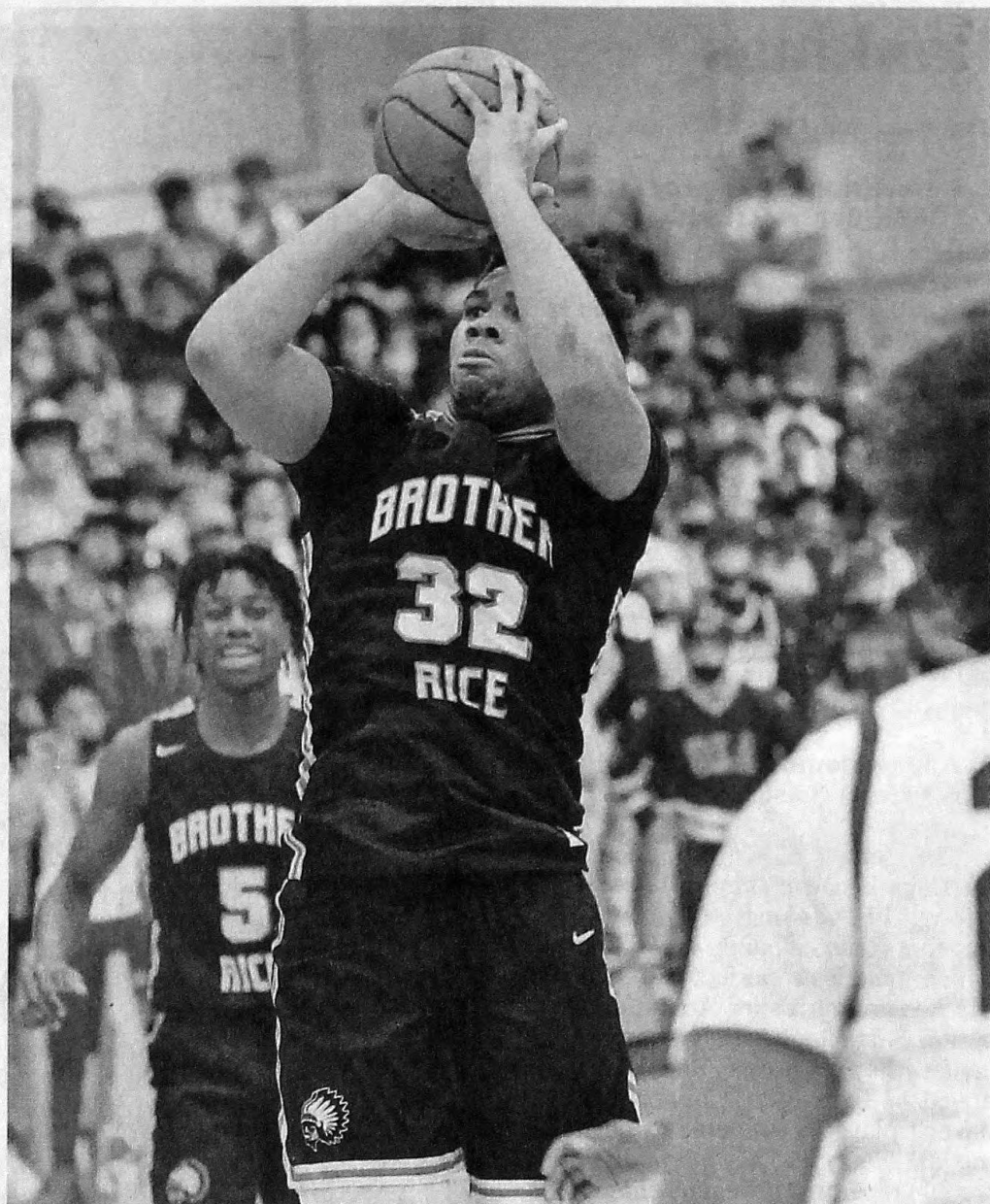
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Brother Rice's Keithan Gilmore shoots during a Catholic League-Central boys basketball game Friday at Detroit U-D Jesuit. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Brother Rice's Xavier Thomas shoots during a Catholic League-Central boys basketball game Friday at Detroit U-D Jesuit. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

aggressive the whole time. I knew coming out of the second half that they were going to key in on me, so I just made the right passes and controlled the tempo."

Also helping in the first half was Keithan Gilmore, who pulled down rebound after rebound, scored on put-back attempts in the paint and put together one of his best performances of the season. The center posted eight points on four baskets in the first half and finished with 12 in all.

The Warriors stayed one step ahead of the Cubs for the entire second half, playing calmly while holding onto their big lead.

Four-star forward Curtis Williams scored 15 of his team-best 19 in the third quarter, which included him burying a 3-pointer from the corner at the buzzer.

Thomas, who scored eight points, brought the ball up the floor against U-D Jesuit's full-court press break. He had no issues with turnovers, nor did he ever panic.

Warren Marshall came off the bench and scored eight of his 11 points. His final bucket gave Rice a 27-point lead, allowing Palmer to sub out his entire lineup

for backups with 2:20 remaining.

"Everyone played really well tonight. We're coming. We're improving," Palmer said. "I said to our team before the game, watching the film of our game the last time we played them, I knew coming into this game we had improved a great deal. Really proud. Really good program win. None of the guys in that locker room had beaten them before. Getting over this hump for us is big psychologically and, hopefully, this can take us on a run."

With U-D Jesuit out of the way, Rice still has rematches with St. Mary's, Catholic Central, and De La Salle ahead. Hopefully, for the Warriors' sake, that

means Palmer will be getting doused with water a few more times.

"That felt good," Blackwell said. "We haven't done that in a couple of games, so it felt good to get coach. ... It feels good, just getting a win and shutting the crowd down. Coming off of three (CHSL) losses, we're just bouncing back. Coming in here, turning the page and having the short-term memory loss."

"We're just going to keep going on a roll."

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

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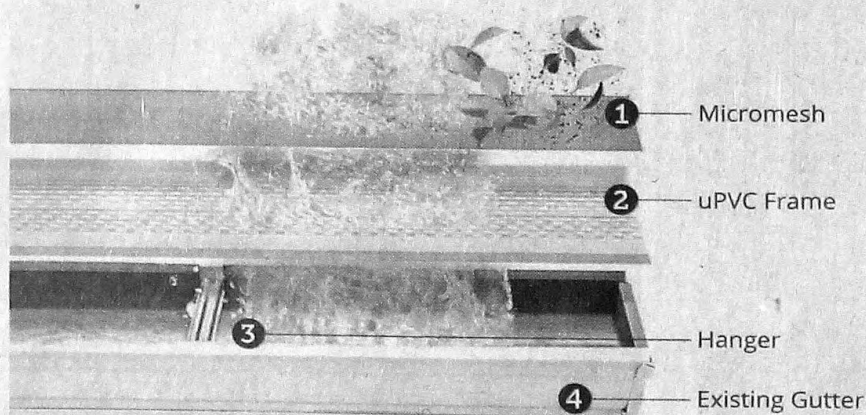
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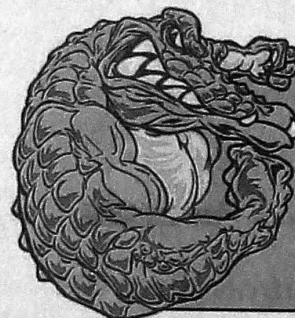
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Paweski's 4 goals help Hartland capture title

Senior newcomer, Eagles claim KLAA West with 7-1 win over Livonia Churchill

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HARTLAND — After three years of trying to persuade Jack Paweski to play hockey for Hartland High School, it looked like a lost cause for coach Rick Gadwa.

Paweski, who just completed his junior year at Hartland, left in June to play hockey in Connecticut.

The change of scenery wasn't going well, so Paweski returned home after two months and sent Gadwa a text inquiring about playing for the Eagles.

"He's been tooling around in Triple-A his whole life," Gadwa said. "He thought it was a good opportunity for him to come in and play a good role for us. He's obviously done that."

Paweski has been everything Gadwa hoped he could be, even before he scored four goals and one assist in a 7-1 victory over Livonia Churchill Monday at Hartland Sports Center.

With his fifth multi-goal game and first hat trick of the season, Paweski boosted his totals to 15 goals and 21 assists in 21 games. He's second on the team in goals and tied for first in scoring with Ashton Trombley.

"The great thing about Jack is he's a 200-foot player," Gadwa said. "He plays well in the defensive zone. He does his job all the way up and down the ice, and he's rewarded with goals. He's got junior hockey written all over him. We're going to help get him there, too."

Hartland's reputation for sending players to the junior and college ranks was a selling point as Paweski finally chose to play for the Eagles.

"Coach Gadwa talked to me a lot and told me what's good about it," Paweski said. "A bunch of other guys who played before said how good it is."

"It's been great, just all the guys, practicing every day, getting better, working

on your shot and skating, all that. I've been pretty much Triple-A my whole life, but it's the best decision I made to come out here and play."

Paweski's original reluctance to playing high school hockey as a freshman was due to his size. At 5-foot-2 in ninth grade, "I was the smallest kid in the grade," said Paweski, who is now 5-11. "Everyone's older, so you don't want to play then."

Hartland needed to win or tie Monday's game to earn a berth in the KLAA championship game against Livonia Stevenson Feb. 11 at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena.

Outstanding Churchill goaltender Ryan Price was the biggest roadblock to clinching the KLAA West for the Eagles, but they came out strong with three goals in the first 9 minutes, 55 seconds.

Sean Hastings opened the scoring 57 seconds into the game and Paweski's first two goals made it 3-0 after one period.

Paweski set up Hartland's fourth goal by winning a faceoff and sliding the puck in front of the net to Brendan Pietila for a shorthanded goal at 5:35 of the second. Pietila set up three of Paweski's goals.

Churchill's only goal, the team-leading 21st of the season by Dom Krupinski, cut Hartland's lead to 4-1 at 8:56 of the second.

Paweski got his hat trick and Trombley scored a highly skilled goal with a shot between his legs to extend Hartland's lead to 6-1 through two periods. Paweski's fourth goal with 4:43 left in the game was the only tally of the third period.

Hartland outshot Churchill, 45-18. After back-to-back losses left Hartland 2-2 in the KLAA West, the Eagles won their final six league games to edge Brighton (7-2-1) for first place.

"We like competing for things," Gadwa said. "It's one of our goals to compete for that league championship with hardware on the line. It models just what you would have in a playoff."

Before facing Stevenson, Hartland will take on Riverview Gabriel Richard at 6:40 p.m. Friday and Cleveland St. Ignatius at 7:40 p.m. Saturday in the MIHL Showcase in Trenton.

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com.



Hartland's Braden Pietila brings the puck up the ice while pursued by Livonia Churchill's Chase Adams during the Eagles' 7-1 victory on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY



Hartland's Jack Paweski drives to the net for one of his four goals in a 7-1 victory over Livonia Churchill on Monday. Paweski now has 15 goals and 21 assists in 21 games this season. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

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Why You Should Invest in Talent Acquisition ASAP

By ZipRecruiter.com

If you're a hiring manager, you know that recruiting top talent is crucial to the success (financial and otherwise) of your company. But why is it more important than ever right now? Because the pandemic really shifted the way organizations look at the talent they have, the talent they need, and what their talent needs/expects from them.

When companies evaluate the talent they have, they look at the strengths that their existing employees have and whether or not

those help the organization achieve optimum performance. Then, they decide what future skill gaps they'll need to fill, if they already have the talent to fill them, or if they need to hire new talent.

However, there's currently a labor shortage going on. In fact, 42 states have more available jobs than there are people looking for jobs. So if you need to hire new talent, you not only want your job openings to stand out; you also want them to attract the most qualified candidates by meeting or exceeding their needs and expectations. No easy task.

How to Find Top Talent

So how do you find the best, possible talent for your organization? You need a smart source to enhance your search. So how do you find the best, possible talent? You want to lead with your EVP (Employee Value Proposition) —

which is why an employee comes to your organization in the first place. Keep in mind that not every potential employee thinks the same things are valuable. A truly successful EVP is consistent, yet adaptable, to what matters most to the individual candidate.

How to Keep Your Talent Happy

Finding the right talent for your organization is just part of the equation, though. Post-pandemic, job seekers have very different expectations from employers. After working at home for over a year, they're looking for employment that offers better work/life balance. They're even willing to take a pay cut if it means more flexibility in work life and down time.

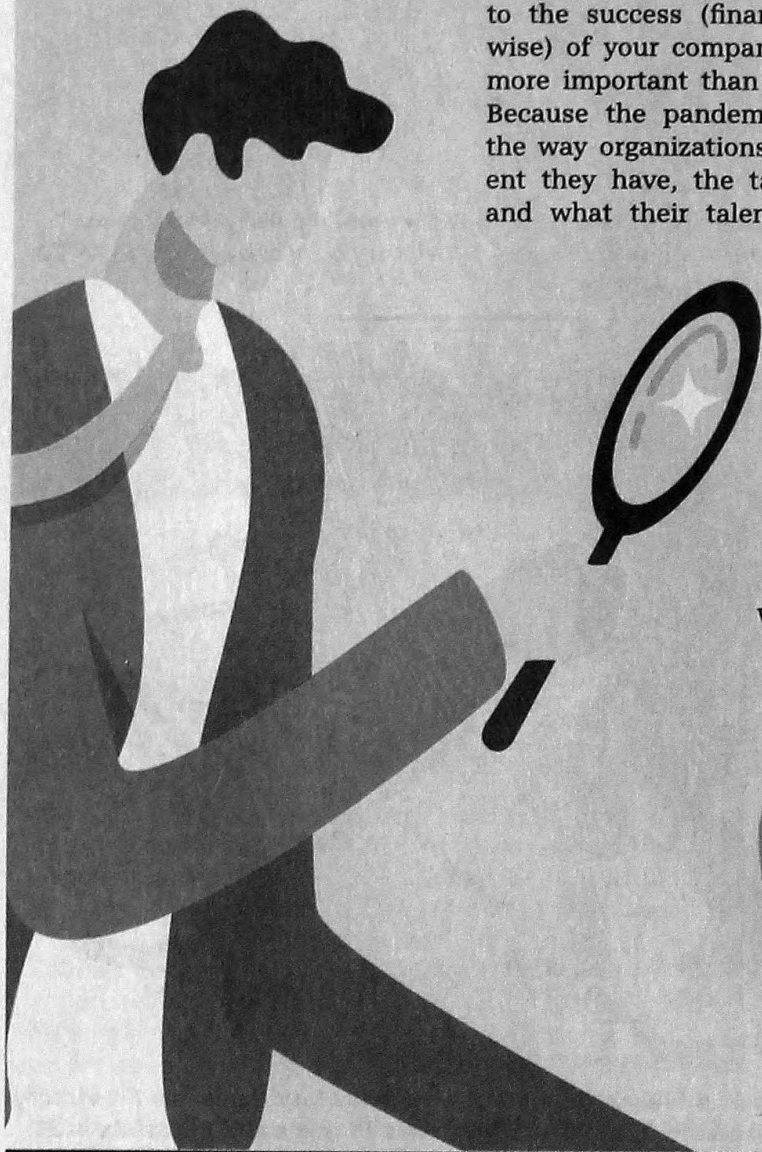
Job seekers also want a more uplifting company culture — i.e. employers who focus on their retention, care, and growth.

Additionally, diversity, equality, and inclusion are also key in retaining the new talent you hire.

Lastly, healthcare and benefits — including self-care benefits and childcare options — weigh heavily in importance for talent retention.

If you can fulfill all of these things, you'll experience smoother sailing in hiring — and you'll have a host of happy, highly-skilled employees for many years to come.

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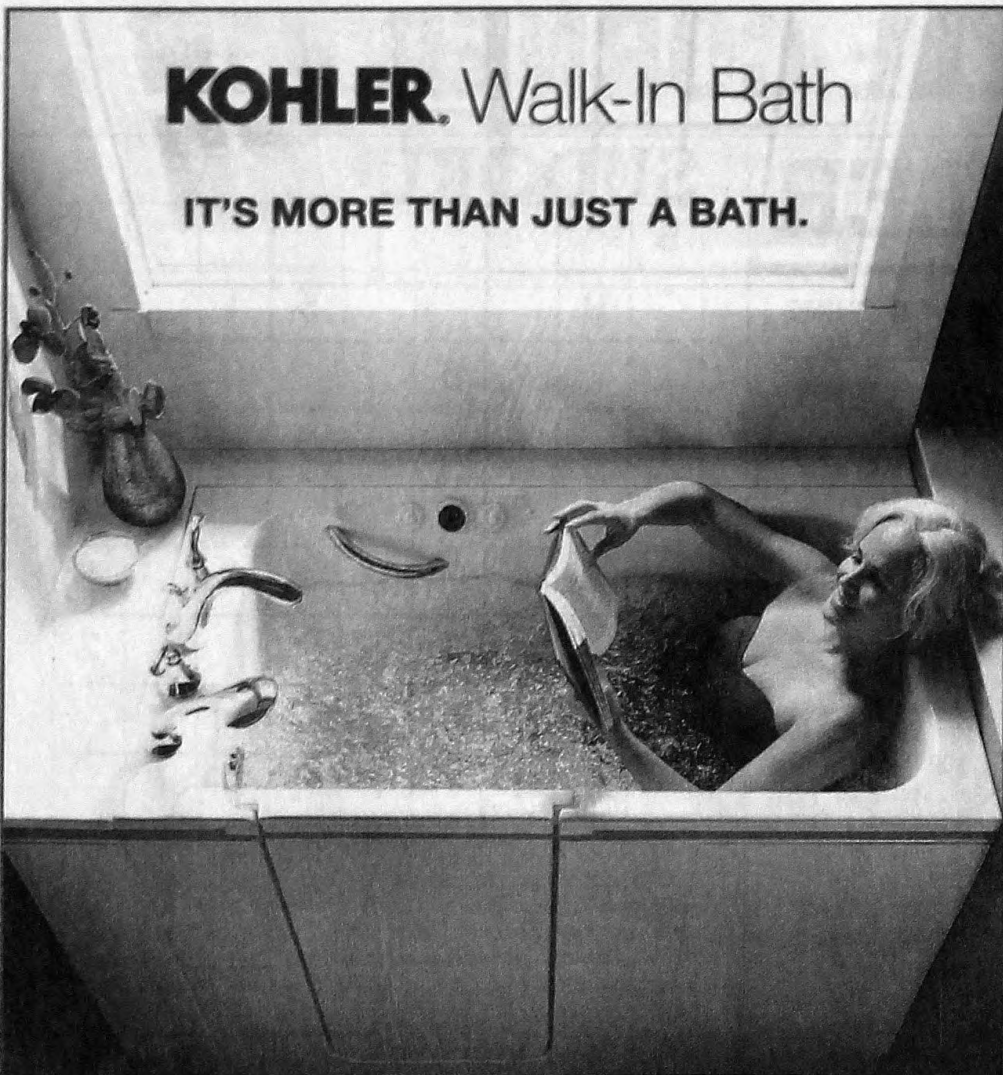
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