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CANTON

Cherry Hill Village may get specialty grocery

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Cherry Hill Village in Canton could see its first specialty grocery in the coming months.

Plans to construct a new market on the southwest corner of Denton and Cherry Hill have been submitted to Can-

ton Township. Dubbed Greenland Market and Saj Bakery, it would occupy a vacant property in the community and won't be like a chain supermarket.

"When we say a grocery store, no disrespect to Kroger, but this is not looking like Kroger. This is what it looks like," said Najim Saymuah, an architect with Dearborn-based CDPA Architects.

"What we try to create is a downtown, multi-small store environment, if you will."

Saymuah described the space as something closer to Westborn Market in downtown Plymouth.

The concept was discussed at the Feb. 7 planning commission meeting at Canton Township Hall. The idea re-

ceived praise from some commissioners, who called the development a welcome addition to the walkable, trendy part of the community.

"I think it fits into the vision of what Cherry Hill Village was always supposed to be," Commissioner Sommer

See GROCERY, Page 4A



Then-President George Bush and first lady Barbara Bush wave as the Bush re-election campaign train departs Plymouth for Wixom, Milford and Holly on its whistle-stop tour. At left is then-Michigan Gov. John Engler. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

FARMINGTON HILLS

Police chief wants review of hookah lounge rules

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After fielding calls about the recent Vibe Hookah Lounge shooting, Farmington Hills Police Chief Jeff King wants to pursue strengthening the city's ordinance for such venues.

An increased number serious incidents requiring police responses at smoking lounges resulted in some efforts last year to regulate the local businesses.

The smoking lounges are supposed to be closed to the public 1-8 a.m. and no one but current smoking lounge employees are to be on the premises during those hours. The two charged in the Jan. 29 shooting that apparently happened after 2 a.m., plus their victims, were all patrons, he said.

King said a shooting victim went to an area hospital for treatment, and

See REVIEW, Page 4A

Presidents who visited metro Detroit during their terms

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Bill Clinton interrupted Jerry Spisak's family reunion.

The current executive director of maintenance and operations for Wayne-Westland Community Schools remembers getting the call from his supervisor while he was in Tennessee visiting with family: he had to return to Michigan and help prepare for a visit from the president of the United States, who planned a 1996 campaign stop at John Glenn High School in Westland.

"I was down there for a family reunion. We were all down there," he said. "It was all hands on deck when they decided to come to John Glenn."

It was just one of many visits to the northwestern suburbs of Detroit by a sitting president.

See PRESIDENTS, Page 6A



In 1996, then-President Bill Clinton puts on a cap from John Glenn High School as then-Wayne-Westland Community Schools Superintendent Duane Moore, left, and then-John Glenn High School Principal Neil Thomas cheer.

DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

Rep. Jewell Jones pleads guilty to drunk driving, attempted escape

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan Rep. Jewell Jones, D-Inkster, pleaded guilty Wednesday in a drunken driving case that has involved a nearly year-long court battle.

"I resisted arrest on April 6, 2021. I drove a vehicle and possessed a firearm when my blood alcohol level was more than 0.08," Jones admitted in Livingston County Circuit Court. "I drove the vehicle recklessly on I-96."

Jones pleaded guilty to two counts of resisting and obstructing a police officer, operating while intoxicated, and possession of a weapon under the influence of alcohol.

He also pleaded guilty to added

See JONES, Page 4A

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Livonia company ordered to pay back wages

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Livonia company was ordered by the U.S. Department of Labor to pay more than \$61,000 in back wages after an investigation determined dozens of employees were not paid correctly.

According to a news release sent by the department, Vision Link International, LLC, was found to have improperly classified 60 employees as independent contractors, which violated the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The department said the company did not pay overtime at 1½ the employee's rate of pay to hourly workers who worked more than 40 hours per week. The department also found 1099 forms issued to the workers failed to withhold the required payroll and income taxes, as well as keep inaccurate time and payroll records.

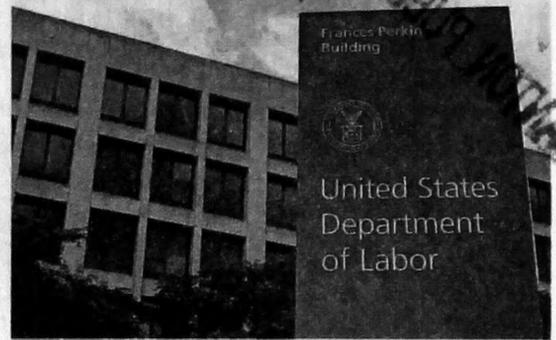
"When employers misclassify their employees as independent contractors, they deny them the wages

and benefits they are due such as a minimum wage, overtime pay, and protections under the Family and Medical Leave Act. Misclassification may also result in a higher tax burden on the employee and a reduced social security benefit," said Wage and Hour District Director Timolin Mitchell in a news release. "Regrettably, this violation has become all too common. The Wage and Hour Division offers online tools to help employers understand the law and encourages them to contact the division with questions."

The investigation resulted in the recovery of \$61,555 in overtime back wages for the employees who inspect and pack parts for the company's clients.

When reached by phone, an individual at the company told Hometown Life the issue had been corrected and was not an issue.

"We did it last year," said the individual, who declined to give a name. "Everything's fixed and everything is resolved."



According to a news release from the U.S. Department of Labor, Livonia-based Vision Link International, LLC, was found to have improperly classified 60 employees as independent contractors. HOUSE.GOV

Livonia police accuse Redford man of breaking into beauty salons

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Redford Township resident is accused of trying to burglarize seven beauty salons.

Livonia police said on Facebook he triggered three reports of breaking and entering incidents at three salons Jan. 24. Later that night and into the following morning, there were two more break-ins at salons and two attempted break-ins at salons.

Police caught their suspect after 1 a.m. Jan. 25 when an officer noticed a white Chevrolet Monte Carlo pull onto the roadway from a shopping complex of businesses including a salon. Officers conducted a traffic stop and arrested the front-seat passenger.

Police concluded the man was responsible for all seven beauty salon incidents. He apparently had used two separate vehicles to commit the crimes.

He was arraigned on 10 felony charges of larceny, possessing burglary tool and breaking and entering.

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



Co-owner LaShea Williams poses for a selfie in one of the many settings at Selfie Studio Michigan in Westland. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Grab the perfect selfie at this new studio in Westland

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A vacation to California led LaShea and LaMar Williams to opening one of Westland's newest attractions.

After stopping by a selfie museum while on vacation, the Detroit couple began thinking about bringing that concept back home. After several months of looking for a space and then renovating it, they opened the Selfie Studio at 34524 Warren in the Westland Crossing shopping center. They spent just a handful of months getting the space on the eastern side of the shopping center — a former computer repair shop — ready.

"We moved pretty quickly," she said. "I know someone who opened one in Southfield and they were doing pretty good."

The opening brings one of the newer entertainment concepts to Westland's Shop and Dine district. Visitors can sign up for a one-hour experience where they can bring their cellphone or camera and take photos in front of about 25 displays. The studio has sets with various backdrops, including ones that are space-themed, ice cream-themed and one with a graffiti backdrop. A handful of more interactive scenes are there as well, including a phone booth with a payphone and more.

The space will have some seasonal displays as well; it has two stations currently dedicated to Valentine's Day photos, which will most likely transform into Mardi Gras booths for the next few weeks. Those spaces will be able to accommodate other holiday

displays, including Halloween and Christmas.

Several similar selfie spots have popped up across metro Detroit in recent years, including one at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, as well as others in Ferndale and Southfield. They allow guests to create picture-perfect selfies with unique backgrounds.

Williams said they picked Westland due to their familiarity with the area, especially around the Westland Shopping Center. They saw there wasn't a similar business in that part of town and wanted to be the first.

"We wanted to be the only one," she said. "Hopefully we'll stay the only one."

In addition to the displays, guests can also utilize a 360-degree camera to create a video with some unique looks. Light rings and stands are also available to guests who need some extra lighting and a place to put their phone while snapping away.

Since opening in January, the couple has had customers come from across the area, with a wide demographic of guests. They said they hope to continue to get their name out there and bring people in looking for a unique experience.

"It's starting to pick up now. We're starting to get phone calls now," she said. "We have had a lot of friends who have come out and supported us and they've told people."

In addition individuals registering for a timeslot, the space can also be rented out for parties.

The Selfie Studio is open from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. More information, including how to sign up for a time slot, can be found online at theselfiestudiomichigan.com.

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist
Mobile: 248-396-3870
Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

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A regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. online via Zoom to consider the following:

- PUBLIC HEARING FOR:**
PB22-01: 306 S. Main, Special Land Use and Site Plan Review

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
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New senior living, memory care center in Livonia to open by March

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Provision Living in Livonia hopes to welcome its first residents by the end of the month. The new facility, looking to serve Livonia's large senior community, will offer senior living, assisted living and memory care.

"Knowing the culture Livonia has 'families first,' we kind of wanted to have that here," Susan Vincent, the center's executive director, said.

Provision has locations in four states, and hopes to hold a soft grand opening for the Livonia facility in late March. It's currently open for tours.

Staff hope the 54-unit facility, at 33579 Eight Mile Road, will offer an intimate, family-centered environment for residents. Livonia has 15 other long-term care facilities, but Provision expects its modern elements and focus on community living will set it apart.

The facility's amenities include a courtyard, community kitchen, gym, rehab center, salon and private dining rooms families can use. Residents can also have a smaller pet (under 50 pounds) that, when necessary, staff will help care for.

Vincent stressed she wants to create space for families to spend time with their loved ones and be involved in their care.

"We're trying to give families a place to gather together," said Kim Burton, Provision's sales director. "One family asked if they can use the kitchen and make mom's banana bread recipe, and I said absolutely. We want families to feel welcome."

Thermal technology creates 'smart rooms'

Each room at Provision comes equipped with bed and thermal sensors. The bed sensor allows staff to see how well a resident slept that night and if their body had any unnatural rhythms. Vincent said the bed sensors will help determine if a resident's care plan



A community kitchen at Provision Living Livonia for gathering, watching TV or cooking. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

should change or if a new medication is giving them side effects.

"Residents families' will call and say, 'How did mom sleep last night?' Now, we can really show them," she said.

The thermal readers in the rooms, which are not cameras, can track a resident's heat signature and assist staff in helping someone who's fallen or hiding.

Provision's apartments range from studio to two bedroom options and cost between \$4,000 and \$6,500 monthly. Living costs include housekeeping, food, activities, cable and transportation. Care costs between \$500 and \$2,000, but a resident just looking to live in a senior-friendly environment

doesn't need to pay for care and would be free to come and go as they please.

Memory care offers callbacks to residents' former jobs, interests

Vincent and Burton, who have both seen family members go through memory care, said they try to help memory care patients stay in touch with who they are. Each resident gets a "life station" based on their past.

For instance, someone who was a stay-at-home parent might have laundry to fold, or someone who worked in an office might have a desk with files on it. Vincent said one of her former pa-

tients had been a doctor, and she enjoyed performing "rounds" every morning by speaking to the other residents.

"In our memory care unit, we try to honor what they used to do," Vincent said. "If they were a gardener, we'll bring in dirt and plants so they can tend to plants while they're here. If they were a doctor or executive, we'll have files and things like that so they can continue to remember what it was like to work."

Memory care units are all studio, and there are several units that offer more space for couples. Care starts at \$6,000 monthly.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.



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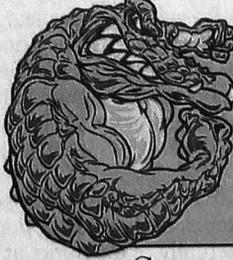
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Your US federal tax questions, answered



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Dear Rick:

Last year, my ex-wife passed. We had been divorced for about seven years, and because of our divorce settlement, I was the beneficiary of her IRA. Her estate didn't want to pay me, but I eventually won and received my check.

My tax situation is very simple; all I have is my W-2 and a 1099 from my bank. A friend of mine who does my taxes told me I had to pay taxes on the money I received from my late ex-wife's IRA. I was under the belief that what you receive in a divorce is tax free. My first question is who's right?

My second question is, since the COVID, I have been reading about how taxes are unconstitutional and if you put certain language on your tax return that they can't tax you; is that right? Lastly, if

I do have to pay taxes, is there anything I can do?

Joe

Dear Joe:

Let me first address the issue about taxes being unconstitutional. That is wrong. It is well settled law that our tax laws are constitutional. They may not be fair, but that's not the issue. There have been many people who have claimed that taxes were not constitutional and have been convicted of tax evasion and sent to prison.

Furthermore, there is nothing you can put on your tax return that will change that. These tax protestors can quote the Constitution all they want, but the bottom line is they are wrong. In addition, if you follow their advice, more likely than not, the IRS will catch you and as a result, not only will you have to pay the taxes, but you will also pay interest and penalties, and potentially they can bring criminal charges against you.

Therefore, my advice is to ignore these tax protestors, because if you fol-

low their advice, it could cost you in more ways than one.

With regard to paying taxes on divorce settlements, generally, that is true; however, it is not true when it comes to traditional IRAs. It doesn't matter if you inherit an IRA or receive it in a divorce settlement; the money is eventually going to be taxed to you.

Many people may think that the solution would be to roll the money into an inherited IRA and then take advantage of the 10-year rule. Under our current laws, if someone other than a spouse inherits an IRA, they can transfer that money into an inherited IRA. Once it is in an inherited IRA, you have 10 years to withdraw the money. You do not have to take distributions every year; rather, the law is that the IRA must be withdrawn in total, within the 10-year period.

However, by spreading the distribution over many years, it would have a significantly lower impact on your taxes than if you took the lump sum. However, unfortunately that option is not available in the case at hand.

In order to take advantage of an inherited IRA, the money must be transferred directly from one IRA account to the other. In other words, there is no 60-day rollover rule when it comes to non-spouse beneficiaries. Since you are not the spouse, and you received a check, that money will be taxed to you as ordinary income on your 2021 tax return.

This time of year it is not unusual for the tax protestors to come out of the woodwork. Ultimately, you and I are responsible for our own tax returns. Consequently, if you choose not to report income or take questionable deductions, you will be held responsible.

Therefore, to save you a fair amount of grief and money, use reputable people to assist with your tax return, and anyone who tells you that taxes are unconstitutional, walk away.

Good luck!

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

Jones

Continued from Page 1A

counts of reckless driving and attempted escape while awaiting trial for a misdemeanor.

The escape charge stemmed from a separate incident when, in September 2021, Jones was jailed after violating his bond conditions for a third time. While being processed into the jail, Livingston County Jail staff said they discovered a handcuff key taped to the bottom of this foot, which resulted in additional charges.

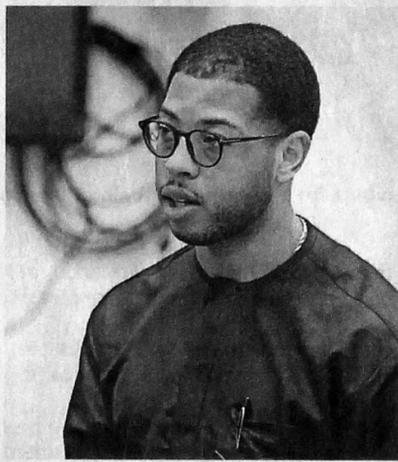
"A handcuff key was found on my person when I was processed and placed in Livingston County Jail," Jones admitted during the plea hearing.

In exchange for the plea, prosecutors agreed to dismiss two counts of resisting and obstructing a police officer, operating a motor vehicle with a high blood alcohol content, bringing a weapon into a jail, and escape waiting trial for a felony.

He must write apology letters to Michigan State Police troopers James Gilmer and Kenneth Harden, according to Livingston County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Christina Richards. Jones' attorney Byron Nolen had asked the court to allow access to personnel records for Gilmer and Harden earlier this month. Livingston County Circuit Court Judge Michael Hatty denied the request.

Prosecutors also agreed to recommend Holmes Youthful Trainee Act status for Jones on the two counts of resisting and obstructing a police officer, and possession of a weapon under the influence of alcohol because the initial incident took place before Jones turned 26.

Under HYTA, charged are removed



State Rep. Jewell Jones responds to charges read by Judge Michael Hatty during his plea hearing Feb. 16.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

from the court record after an individual successfully completes of the terms of sentencing

Charges filed under the motor vehicle code and those stemming from incidents after Jones turned 26 are not eligible.

Jones is scheduled to appear in front of Hatty for sentencing on March 17.

Jones will be subject to a minimum of two-year reporting probation, according to the plea agreement. He could still face up to two years in jail since there is no sentencing agreement related to jail time.

"There is a two-year minimum for probation, but that does not limit me on any potential jail sentence," Hatty said. "Any jail, if at all will be up to the court."

'We all make mistakes'

After the hearing, Jones said the de-

cision to avoid trial was motivated by a need to get back to work full time as a representative.

Jones is permitted to attend legislative hearings, but is subject to a curfew and location restrictions while on bond.

"I think we all make mistakes," he said. "I don't think it's so much about being innocent. I don't think it's so much about being guilty. Sometimes, you just have to accept the facts. I made the mistake."

"I made many mistakes in my life, maybe this is just one of the ways I am paying for it. I was willing to fight all the different lies at some point and time, but I do have to make peace with the mistakes that I did make."

After the hearing, Jones was confronted by a man who witnessed the April 6, 2021, incident, who asked what took Jones so long to enter a plea.

"For a long time I was so focused on trying to prove my innocence, trying to fight the system but at some point and time you just need to craft some winning strategies with different people and figure out we can all come together," Jones said.

The man told Jones he drove behind the representative for several miles on the freeway.

"You were out of control driving 75 miles an hour on the shoulder ... pedestrian walking with a gas can ... a parked car ... you would have taken them out sir," the man said as Jones walked away.

Apology letters

Jones posted copies of the required apology letters to his personal Instagram page with the caption, "I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better. Not only did I accept a plea... I wrote two sincere letters of apology. Nothing in life is final. #HOLLA"

In his letter to MSP Trooper Gilmer Jones apologized for his "inflammatory language" and actions. He said he would prefer work with Gilmer and other law enforcement officers to foster a safe environment rather than feud.

"I have forgiven you, and hopefully you can forgive me," Jones wrote.

"We 'Black' men have a hard enough time in our own struggle for justice, and already have enough enemies as it is, to make the drastic mistake of attacking each other and adding more weight to an already unbearable load," Jones wrote in his letter to MSP Trooper Harden, who is Black.

Jones said he had "no hard feelings," toward Harden and "although I believe things were mishandled that day on I-96, I played a role in the fiasco."

Jones was arrested after troopers were called to westbound Interstate-96 near Fowlerville Road on April 6, 2021, in response to reports of a vehicle that had been driving recklessly, according to police reports. There, police encountered Jones and a woman in a vehicle.

In dashcam video played in court in 2021, officers can be seen grappling with Jones during the traffic stop. Jones can be heard saying he wants to give police his ID, although he previously refused multiple times.

He also referred to one of the troopers as the N-word and used other expletives.

Police used a shock device twice, and pepper spray, before Jones complied with officers' request for his left arm so they could handcuff him. Jones was handcuffed and placed into a Livingston County Sheriff's Office vehicle.

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

Review

Continued from Page 1A

hospital staff alerted police. While police interviewed the victim, another appeared in the emergency room.

Police said a juvenile, 17, supplied a gun to Devonte Johnson, 28, of Detroit. Johnson allegedly then punched one of the victims, which caused the second victim to intervene to prevent further conflict.

Police say Johnson then shot one victim in the groin; the other, in the thigh.

Law enforcers arrested Johnson and the juvenile earlier this month. Johnson was arraigned on several felony assault and firearms charges. The Wayne County juvenile is dealing with counts of carrying a concealed weapon and accessory after the fact.

But that's not all. King said investigators gleaned lounge employees cleaned the lounge, closed the business and left with evidence they collected.

Owner Amar Sinawi, 49, of West Bloomfield, was arraigned on felony charges of tampering with evidence and lying to police. The other three - Hilal Haio, 50, of Walled Lake, Viktor Keqaj, 32, of Farmington Hills and Baher Hanna, 37, of Novi - also are contending with a felony tampering charge.

Hanna faces additional weapons charges - one for possessing a firearm and another for carrying a concealed weapon. Police have said more charges are possible. Hanna was arrested with about 64 pounds of marijuana in his vehicle.



Six people face charges in connection to a Jan. 29 shooting at the Vibe Hookah Lounge on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills. COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

Sinawi and Hanna's attorneys work for the Law Offices of Raymond Cassar.

"On behalf of Mr. Sinawi, there's much, much more to the story," Cassar said. "I think it was not made clear that he had nothing to do with the shooter, nothing at all. He actually attempted to break up a fight with the shooter and another patron to prevent people from getting injured. There's much more going on here."

He added that there are "really good, clear" videotapes that will help portray what was actually happening at the hookah lounge.

Hanna's attorney, Alexandra Giulia-

ni, said there's more to the incident than what police are sharing.

"The videotapes are going to show that both my client, the owner, and Miss Giuliani's client were attempting to get people out of that establishment, trying desperately to clear the establishment," Cassar said. "People were not willing to leave as quickly as they should have. That's going to explain why there were still some lingerers after the 2 a.m. (hour)."

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

Grocery

Continued from Page 1A

Foster said. "I think ... you will see a lot of people who are not driving to the grocery store but who are walking to the grocery store."

While the project was seen as a plus for that part of Canton - which has no grocery store nearby - commissioners expressed concern over traffic issues in that part of town, especially once the store is built.

"We already have a failing intersection. And whether the marketplace is going to cause it to be more failing, we're looking at something is already an issue," said Commissioner Nancy Eggenberger. "And I don't feel good about saying, 'Let's throw some more traffic here.'"

The planning commission recommended approval to the township's board of trustees, which will make the final determination.

While it wasn't included in the motion, the commission asked if the township's engineering department could reach out to Wayne County, who oversees roads in Canton, to help improve traffic in the area.

"We're actually going to work on that right away with our engineering staff," said Patrick Sloan, the township's community planner. "We'll start that dialogue immediately."

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

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Love the house. Know the neighborhood.

Presidents

Continued from Page 1A

With the region's major growth in the middle of the 20th century, several presidents visited communities in both Wayne and Oakland counties, mostly making stops during reelection campaigns and highlighting local industry. Looking back at the 46 men who have occupied the office of the presidency, more than half-a-dozen have traveled to Detroit's suburbs, all in the past 50 years.

Clinton's visit Sept. 17, 1996, marked the first time a sitting president had visited Westland, a fact the Democrat mentioned during his address to the crowd.

"I understand I am the first President to come to Westland," Clinton said. "I'll tell you something folks, they get a good look at you on the evening news tonight, I won't be the last President to come to Westland, I can promise you that."

Both Democrats and Republicans have visited the region over the decades, highlighting the political diversity in the surrounding communities.

That Clinton visit took plenty of work, preparing with the Secret Service beforehand to make sure the school was secure and presentable.

They even remodeled a bathroom for the occasion just in case the president had to take care of business.

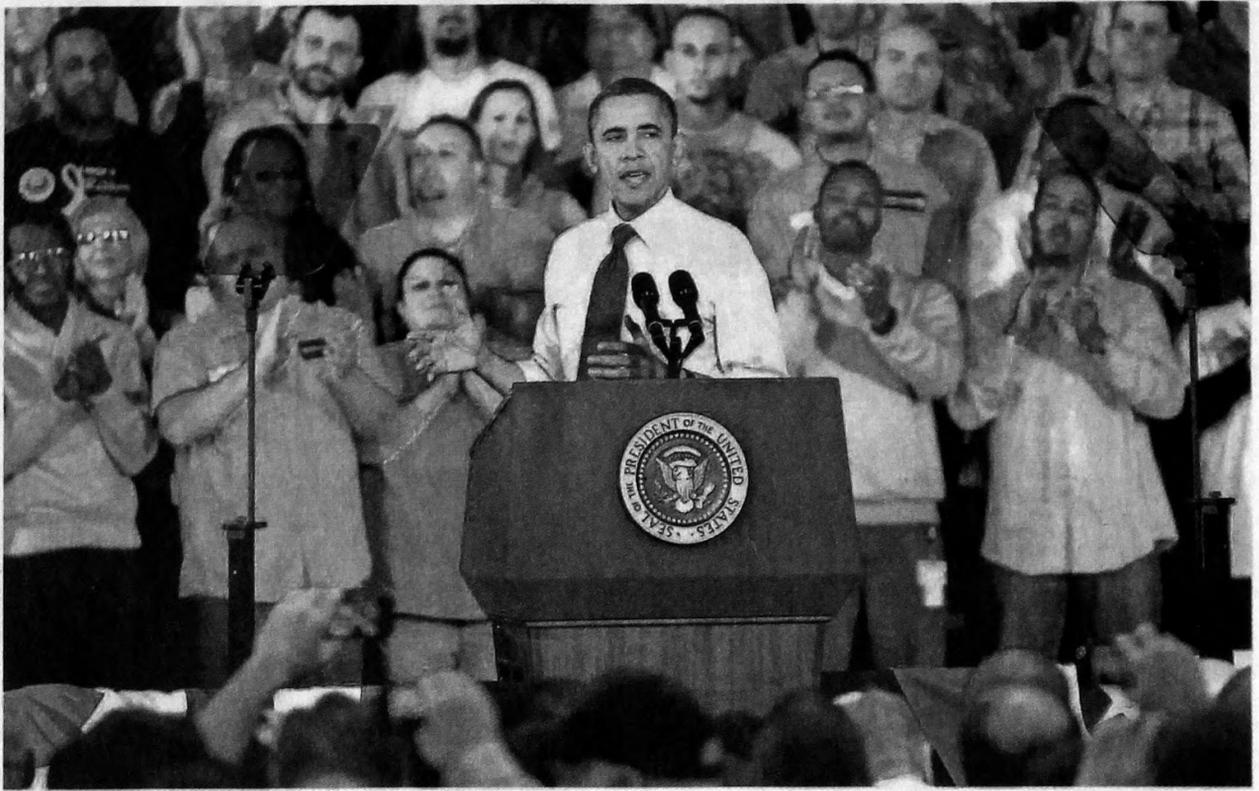
"It was the cleanest bathroom in the district," Spisak said.

Reagan in Redford 'a day to remember'

Clinton remains the only president to have visited Westland, but several other area communities have welcomed the commander-in-chief.

Redford Township welcomed its first president in 1984, thanks to a letter asking for a visit sent by St. Agatha High School junior Carol Tumidanski. That letter made it to the president from California and prompted the Republican to stop by the since-closed school on Beech Daly.

Roberta Clemak, then principal of St. Agatha Elementary School, remembers the day Reagan visited well. She said Reagan wanted to speak with students in the background wearing uniforms, which gave an opportunity for the younger students to be on stage.



Then-President Barack Obama praises the investment Detroit Diesel announced during a December 2012 visit in Redford. FILE

"At that time, the high school didn't have them. We had the grade school sit with him on bleachers," the retired Northville resident said. "We had the first and second graders in the hall facing Reagan when he came out of the gym. He shook hands with a few of them. It was a day to remember."

He spoke on several topics before taking questions from several students. Those included serious topics such as nuclear disarmament and medical care, as well as a discussion on the Detroit Tigers, who would win a World Series title that fall.

Less than 30 years later, another president came to Redford. Barack Obama addressed a crowd at Detroit Diesel in December 2012 after a company announcement saying it would invest \$120 million into the facility, creating 115 additional jobs.

"Since 1938, Detroit Diesel has been turning out some of the best engines in the world," he said during his speech. "Generations of Redford workers have walked through these doors. Not just to

punch a clock. Not just to pick up a paycheck, not just to build an engine, but to build a middle-class life for their families."

President Ford says 'people are excited'

Despite being a state since 1837, just one president hailed from the Great Lakes State. That was Gerald Ford, who became president upon the resignation of Richard Nixon. Ford stopped by several communities when campaigning in 1976, including stops at Wonderland Mall in Livonia and Shain Park in downtown Birmingham.

"You don't know how nice it is to come back home on a beautiful day in May and to see so many wonderful people who are here because they want to hear a story about what we have done and what we're trying to do and what we intend to do in the next four years," Ford is recorded as saying at Shain Park during a political rally. "I ask you on the basis of performance — the achievement

and the maintenance of peace; prosperity; a progress out of a recession toward a healthy and prosperous economy; and the restoration of trust in your Presidency — I ask for your help and assistance, performance versus promises."

Leslie Pielack, director of the Birmingham Museum, said Ford's visit was part of his plan to bring back the whistle-stop campaign tour conducted by presidents in previous decades.

"He revived the concept of the train campaign. He did that in southern Michigan," she said. "He was sort of doing a throwback to that."

Among metro Detroit's most affluent areas, several sitting presidents visited the Birmingham area in recent decades. Clinton visited both Bloomfield Township and Bingham Farms at the end of his presidency in 2000 for campaign visits.

In addition to Ford's visit to the former mall at Plymouth and Middlebelt roads, two other presidents stopped by

See **PRESIDENTS**, Page 7A

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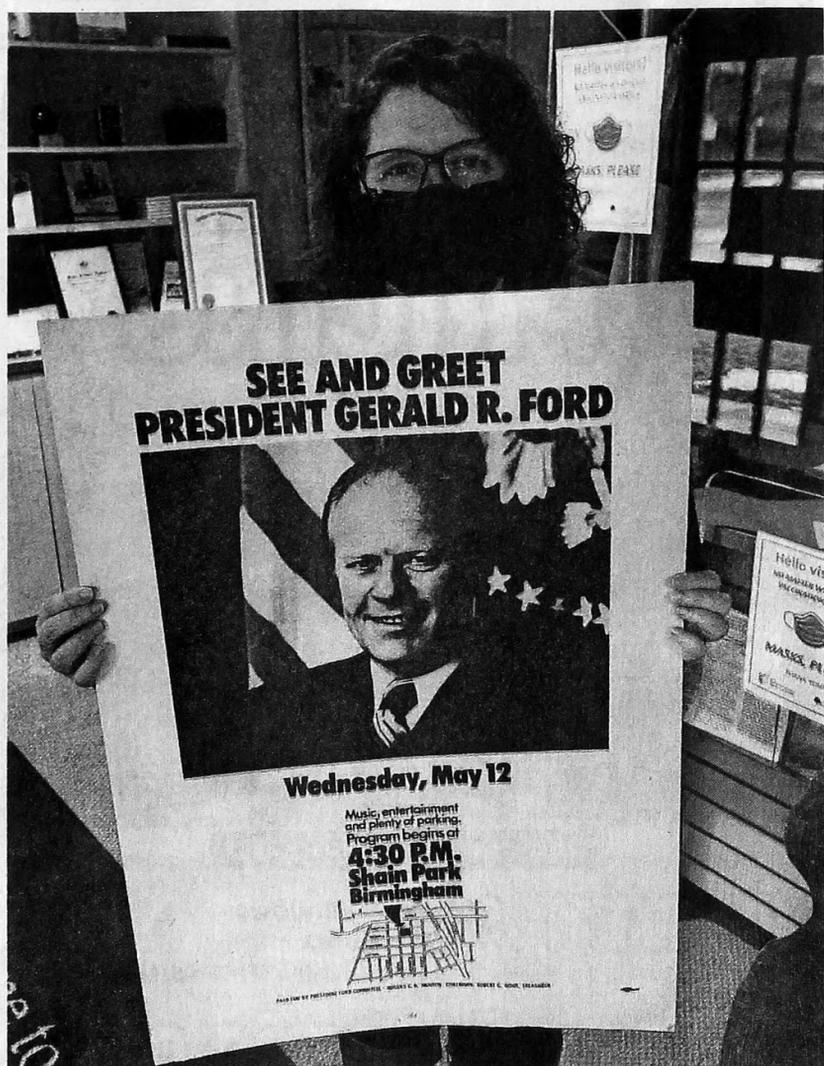


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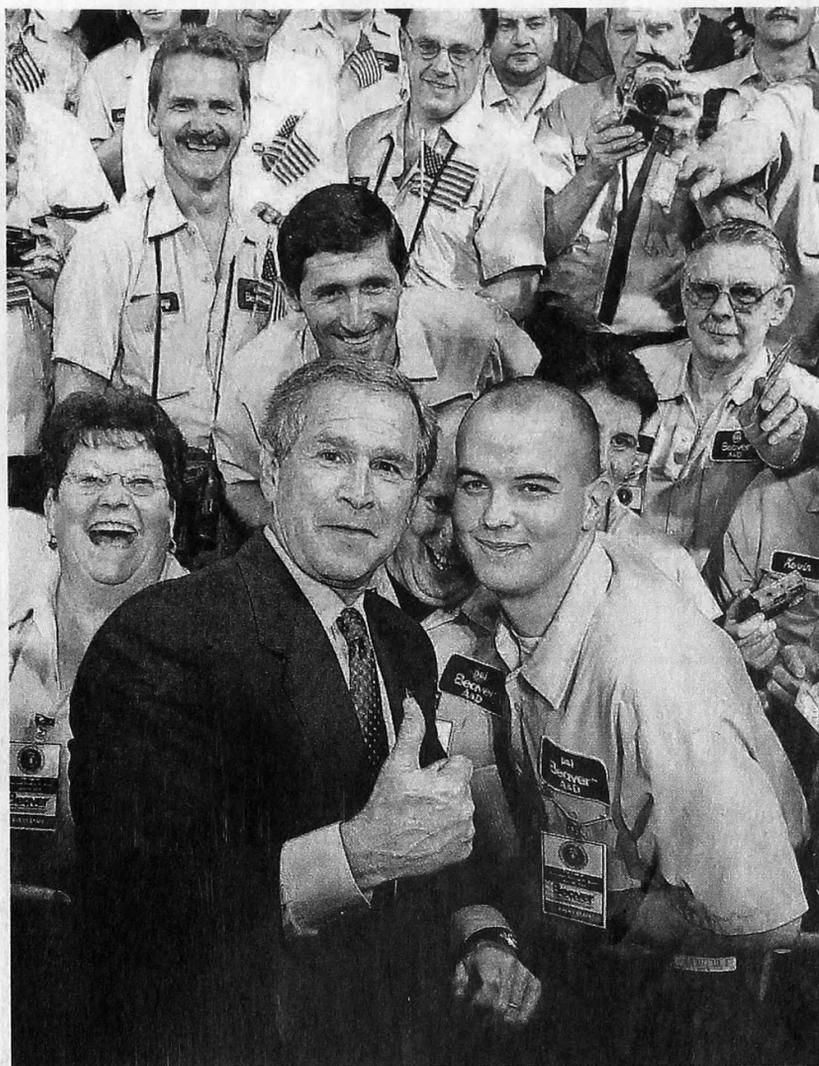
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Birmingham Historical Museum and Park museum specialist Caitlin Donnelly holds a poster for a rally for then-President Gerald Ford for his May 1976 visit to Shain Park. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Then-President George W. Bush with Beaver Aerospace and Defense worker Randy Herron, of Westland, in 2003. Bush spoke to over 1,000 workers and invited guests of Beaver Aerospace and Defense Inc. in Livonia. DFP FILE

Presidents

Continued from Page 6A

Livonia while in office since 2000: Clinton visited in fall 2000, and George W. Bush stopped by multiple times, including a visit to Beaver Aerospace and Defense in 2003 and a Republican Party dinner in 2008 at Laurel Manor.

Laura Toy, Livonia City Council vice president and a former legislator, met Bush when he came to Michigan a handful of times. She described the Texas Re-

publican as "a character."

"I think he's rather bright, and I think he quips a lot," she said. "I find him to be kind of funny."

She still holds a memento of Bush's 2003 visit to Beaver Aerospace: a small American flag Bush autographed at the event. She remembers the outcry afterwards, with national news stories being written about Bush writing on an American flag.

"George W. Bush came through and he signed those American flags. I said to the kids, 'Stick out your flags,'" she said. "He signed it."

His father, George H.W. Bush, took a train tour throughout the region during his reelection campaign. In addition to spending the night at a hotel in Livonia, the elder Bush embarked on a regional train tour that saw him speak in communities such as Wixom, Milford and Plymouth, where a plaque on the old train station commemorates his Sept. 26, 1992, visit.

"You know, Barbara and I are on a 233-mile train ride through the great heartland of America," Bush said in Plymouth. "We just came across the line into Michigan, and let me tell you, Bar-

bara and I think it is fantastic to be here in Plymouth and see this marvelous turnout."

The energy around a presidential visit is unlike any other, Toy said. It's something that changes the feelings around a building the day of the visit, especially when they come to smaller communities.

"It's just everybody piles in, it's crazy," Toy said. "People are excited. It's the president of the United States."

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

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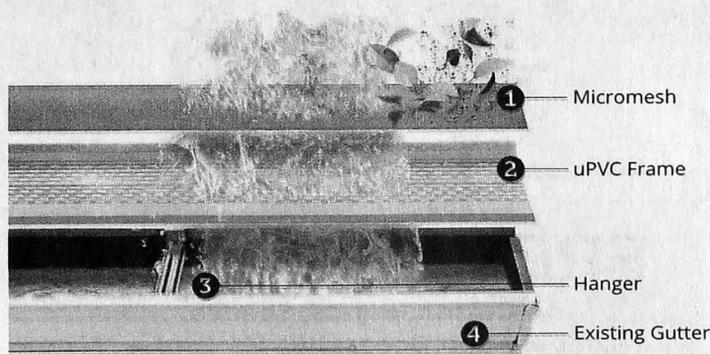
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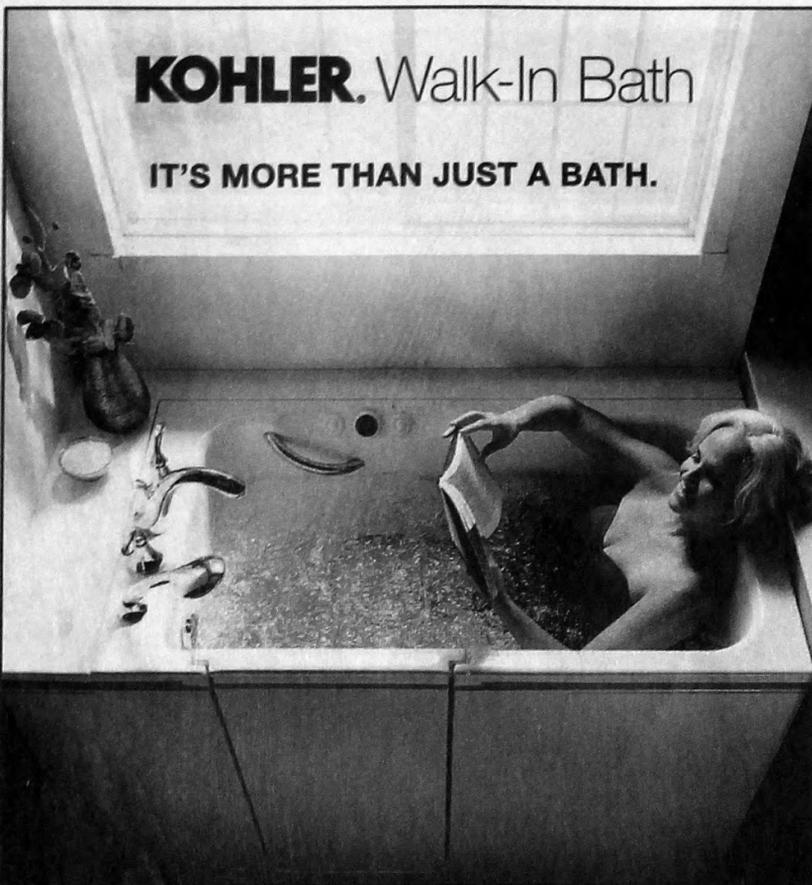
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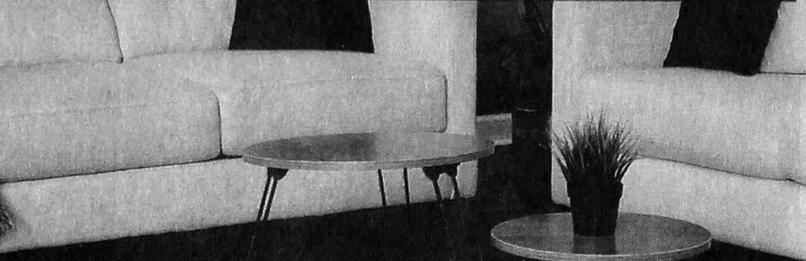


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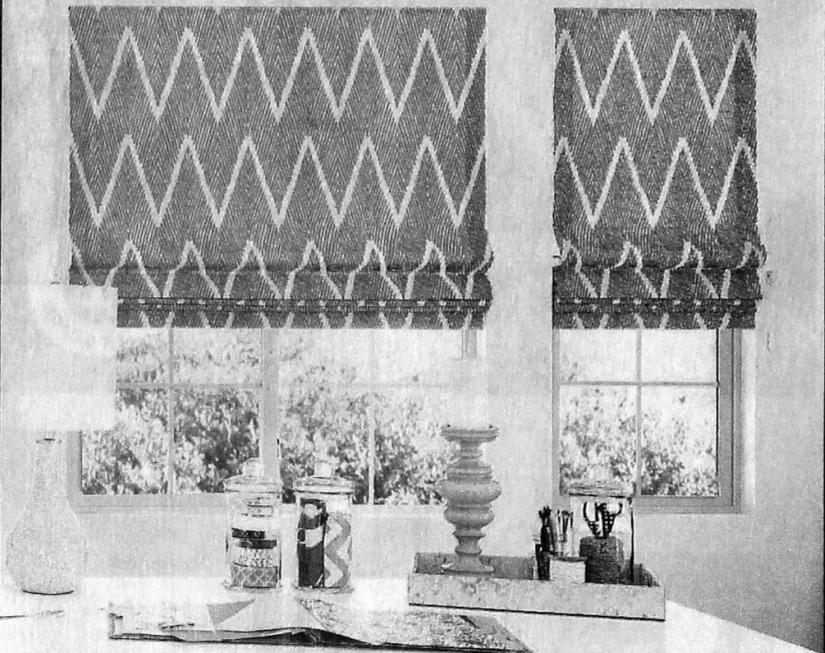
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SPORTS

Defending state champs battle in MIHL thriller

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Cranbrook hockey coach John LaFontaine could only smile as he stepped off the ice at Wallace Ice Arena.

The defending Division 3 champions just wrapped up about as bad of a month as you could endure.

The Cranes (12-9-1) lost eight of nine from Jan. 12 to Feb. 5.

And they're finally starting to get back on track, as Saturday's 4-2 victory over Brother Rice makes them winners in each of their last two games.

And with the playoffs only two weeks away, they're finally looking like a state finals contender again.

They scored twice in the second period to put away the game, which included Alex Scarsella pushing in the game-winner while Cranbrook was short-handed.

"That defeat at Warren DeLaSalle (on Jan. 12) started a pretty good losing streak for us," said LaFontaine, whose squad has only two games left before

hosting a regional semifinal game on Feb. 28. "The guys are starting to come together. It's been a tough stretch, and DeLaSalle is a hell of a team. It's funny, though. We had a chance to beat DeLaSalle late in the game, and we found a way to lose."

See BATTLE, Page 2B

Farmington senior signs with U-M

Peter Baracco still has unfinished business on the high school track

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As only a senior runner at Farmington, Peter Baracco has already achieved most of his goals, even though his career is just getting started.

There's just one thing he hasn't scratched off his list yet.

"I do want some of those records up on the record board," Baracco said. "I still haven't gotten to that yet. I was a second off the 2 mile one. I definitely want to get some up on there and maybe win a state championship in the process, but we'll see how it goes."

That's what was on Baracco's mind during Farmington's special signing ceremony in its gymnasium.

He was one of nine Falcons signing letters of intent to play sports in college.

Baracco is headed to Michigan to both run cross country and compete in track and field.

He chose the Wolverines over offers from Michigan State and Purdue.

Before joining his classmates at center court for the signing event, he gazed at the record board located on the south wall in the gym.

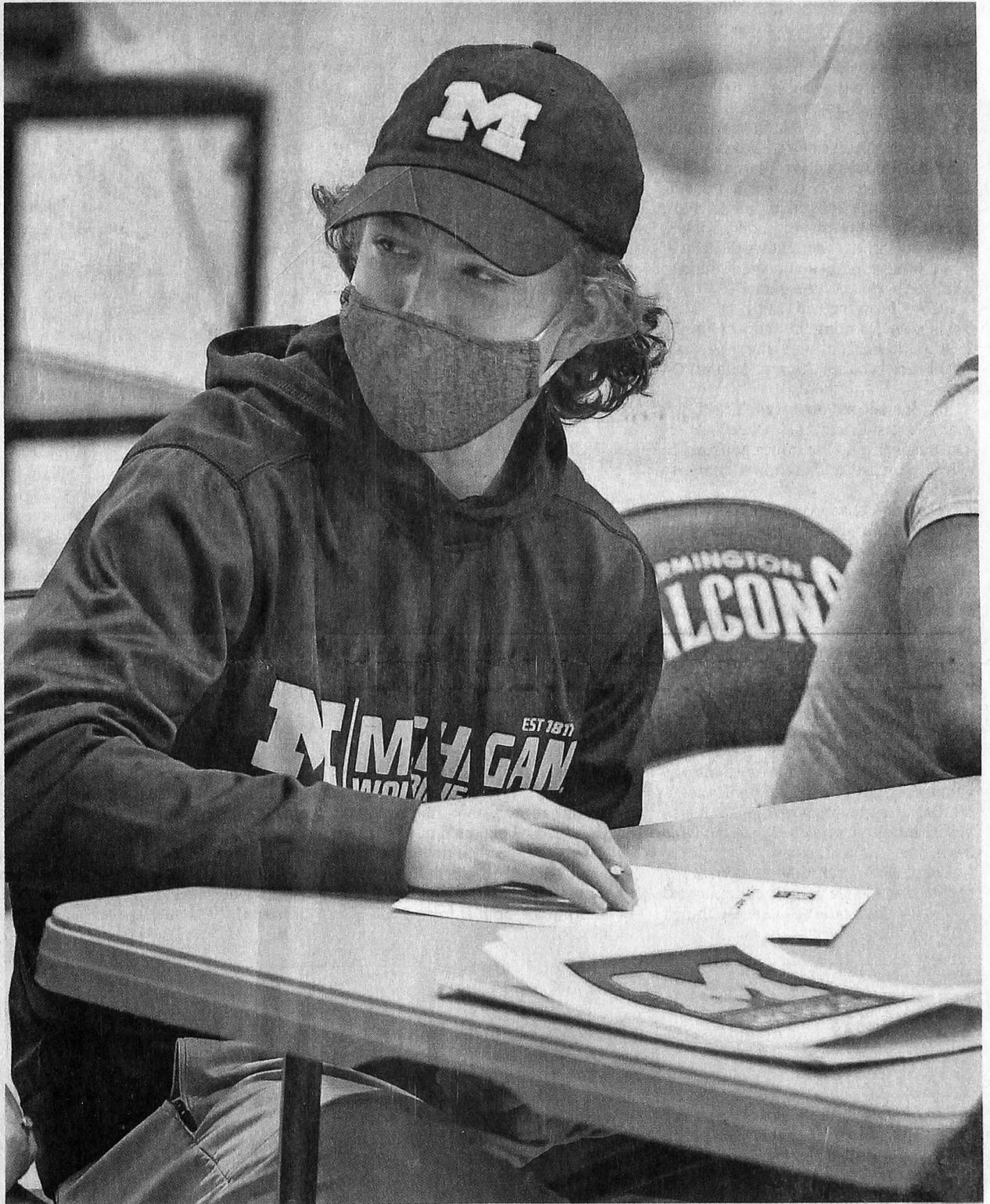
He knows he's got lots of work to do when his final track season starts next month.

And, technically, he should already be on that board. Usually, high schools include the cross country school record for the fastest time in the 5 kilometers, which Baracco holds with a time of 15 minutes, 21 seconds, on their record boards.

But not at Farmington High School. "I need to talk to somebody about getting that up there," he said.

To say Baracco is a natural at running is an understatement. He's always been the fastest kid at school.

During fun runs in elementary school, he remembers running the most laps. His teachers used to award a rubber band for every lap completed. His wrists were always loaded with those special bracelets. He said those races were the first times he realized running was his favorite sport.



Farmington High School senior Peter Baracco signs his letter of intent to attend the University of Michigan on Feb. 8.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See SIGNING, Page 3B

With star injured, Canton beats Hartland to clinch title

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON — Listed at 5-foot-10, Canton senior Lake McIntosh isn't an imposing figure when he steps onto a basketball court.

That is, until he starts shooting the ball.

McIntosh gave Hartland and skeptical college recruiters an eyeful, scoring 19 of his career-high 25 points in the first half of a 61-24 rout over the Eagles in a game between the top two teams in the KLAA West.

Canton clinched the division championship by winning its 12th straight game after an 0-4 start. The Chiefs are

12-0 in the KLAA West, while Hartland fell to 9-3 with its second consecutive loss.

During the pregame Senior Night ceremony, the public address announcer read information about McIntosh that indicates he is undecided on his college future, but that he plans to play basketball at the next level.

A player who is averaging 19 points in his last seven games on one of the hottest teams in the state would ordinarily have college programs beating down his door. Canton coach Jimmy Reddy knows why interest in McIntosh has been lukewarm.

See CANTON, Page 2B

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Battle

Continued from Page 1B

"We've been doing that lately. A lot of overtime games. A lot of shootouts. We've been finding ways to lose instead of finding ways to win. So the last two games have been good."

A 6-1 victory over Port Huron Northern ended their stay in purgatory, and the Feb. 12 victory vs. Rice was quite the confidence booster.

Cranbrook definitely found a way to win.

The Warriors, the defending D-2 state champions, who are currently ranked No. 4, couldn't keep pace with the Cranes' offense, which outshot Rice, 34-16.

Rice played well in spurts, especially with goalie Tommy O'Donnell (30 saves) bailing out his blue line often throughout the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League game.

But Cranbrook took advantage of enough of Rice's snafus to put a comeback out of reach for the Warriors.

Both Ishaan Patel and Max Bergen slapped in rebounds, as the Cranes benefited from crashing the net all night.

"That's playoff hockey," LaFontaine said. "If you don't get to the net, you're not going to have success."

"I know they don't have (Brother Rice forward Andrew Marone) and a couple of other guys, but it was good to get that one back because we lost in overtime to them during this streak (3-2 on Jan. 25). I felt like this was a playoff game for us in the respect that if there's a mistake made in your net, you've got to make sure that you're playing solid hockey, smart hockey. ... I thought we did a lot of good things tonight and played sound in all three periods of the game."

Peter Rosa scored both of Rice's goals, even knotting the score at 1 in the first period after sneaking one past Cranbrook goalie Gunnar Dudlar (14 saves).

But his second goal wasn't until 1:41 was left, and Cranbrook's Gabe Kuchersky pushed in an insurance goal on the power play just under a minute later to end things.

"Coming here and playing these guys (Cranbrook) in this building, it's always a physical battle," Rice coach Kenny Chaput said. "You've always got to be on your game. They played really well, really solid. We gave up too many opportunities, and they took advantage of them. We gave up too many shots, didn't get enough shots. Tommy played well and kept us around and kept us in the game, but we've got a lot to clean up. You can't give up that many shots in a game like this against a good team."

Rice (11-12-1) has just a matchup against Brighton left before it hosts Madison Heights Bishop Foley for its regional semifinal on Feb. 25 at Oak Park Ice Arena.

There isn't much time remaining for the Warriors to clean up their mistakes. "We've been talking the same things



Cranbrook's Ty Esterline looks for the puck against Brother Rice Feb. 12 at Wallace Ice Arena.

PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Brother Rice's Andrew Lindsay (left) stops Cranbrook's Ethan Hellman from getting the puck.

and same details pretty much all year," Chaput added. "We've gotten better at things, but at the same time, we're still too prone to making too many mistakes in a game. Good teams take advantage of those. We've got to eliminate them. Nobody plays mistake-free, but you've got to limit the opportunities you give

the other team. They took advantage of our mistakes today. Other than that, we played a good game. ... We've just got to be smarter."

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

Playoff schedule

Division 1

Plymouth vs. Farmington (pre-regional), 7:30 p.m., Feb. 22, Dearborn Ice Skating Center

Salem vs. TBD (semifinal), 5 p.m., Feb. 24, Dearborn Ice Skating Center

Detroit Catholic Central vs. Lapeer (semifinal), 4:30 p.m., Feb. 24, USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth

Northville vs. TBD (semifinal), 2 p.m., Feb. 26, Kensington Valley Ice House, Brighton

Division 2

South Lyon vs. Walled Lake Northern (pre-regional), 6:15 p.m., Feb. 22, Novi Ice Arena

Novi vs. Livonia Stevenson (semifinal), 6:15 p.m., Feb. 25, Novi Ice Arena

Canton vs. TBD (semifinal), 8:30 p.m., Feb. 25, Novi Ice Arena

Bloomfield Hills vs. Birmingham Groves (semifinal), 4:30 p.m., Feb. 25, Oak Park Ice Arena

Brother Rice vs. Madison Heights Bishop Foley (semifinal), 7 p.m., Feb. 25, Oak Park Ice Arena

Division 3

Detroit Country Day vs. Grosse Pointe South (pre-regional), 3 p.m., Feb. 21, Jack Adams Memorial Arena, Detroit

Livonia Franklin vs. Livonia Churchill (pre-regional), 5 p.m., Feb. 24, Wallace Ice Arena, Bloomfield Hills

Milford vs. TBD (semifinal), 6:30 p.m., Feb. 26, Arctic Coliseum, Chelsea

Cranbrook vs. TBD (semifinal), 7 p.m., Feb. 28, Wallace Ice Arena, Bloomfield Hills

Canton

Continued from Page 1B

"People don't love small guards," Reddy said. "I was a small guard. He's gonna play college somewhere. We're hoping we find a spot here soon. His IQ's high enough, his skill level's high enough and he's a bulldog defensively."

McIntosh describe his recruiting as "a slow process," but added, "I plan to further my education and career and play basketball. Ever since I was younger, my dad has told me, 'Don't play like the smallest kid on the floor.' I took that into consideration throughout my seasons. I just make everybody feel my presence."

The Chiefs may need to lean more heavily on McIntosh if an injury to Cole Vickers turns out to be serious. Vickers, who recently signed with Ferris State, injured his left knee while diving for a loose ball with 5:17 left in the first quarter. He didn't return to the game.

"He came down on his foot wrong," Reddy said. "It's his knee. We don't know anything else, besides that he's going to go get checked out by a doctor. We've been talking about that all year, next man up. It's been a staple of our program."

Shortly after Vickers left the game, McIntosh scored nine points in a span of a little more than three minutes to open up a 17-4 lead.

"When it first happened, I think we all dropped our jaws a little bit and got worried," McIntosh said of Vickers' injury. "Luckily, we stayed composed and got the win."

"I'm the point guard, so I've got to keep the team together. My teammates made it very easy for us to keep it roll-

ing."

While Vickers is the focal point for any opposing team, Hartland coach Kevin Blouin was aware that McIntosh needed special attention. McIntosh scored 16 points when Canton won 47-43 in overtime at Hartland on Jan. 18.

"He's a special player," Blouin said. "We game-planned for him. The game plan changed a little bit, obviously, when Cole went out, but he played a whale of a game. You've got to give him a lot of credit; he was on fire."

After falling behind 17-4, the Eagles were unable to make a dent in the lead because they didn't score more than four points in a row the entire night. Canton led 25-8 with 5:29 left in the second quarter and 43-16 late in the third quarter.

Ryan Bohlen had eight points and Carson Conrad seven to lead Hartland.

"Give a lot of credit to Canton," Blouin said. "They were very hot shooting the ball. They came out, Canton was prepared and ready to play. They took it to us from the beginning and they didn't stop, so I've got to give credit to Canton for being the team that was ready to play."

Tuesday's game was the first in which Hartland (12-4) has been badly outplayed. The Eagles' only three losses before Tuesday came in overtime.

"A lot of these guys have been in this program a long time," Blouin said. "We've got a lot of seniors on the team; I've known them a long time. The message is to play like we know how to play, just move on and get better at what we know we've got to work on. Just stick with it and keep bringing it every night, and they'll benefit from it."

Omar Suleiman hit three 3-pointers off the bench to finish with nine points for Canton.



Canton's Lake McIntosh scored 19 of his career-high 25 points in the first half of a 61-24 victory over Hartland on Tuesday. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Signing

Continued from Page 1B

His dad, Tony, a former college runner at the University of New Mexico, used to be a cross country coach at Oakland Community College. He'd take Peter with him to training sessions.

"I'd go to their practices as a toddler and run alongside some of their guys," Peter said. "I was fascinated by it and I loved it. But I didn't get an opportunity to start running until middle school, like in the seventh grade. I kind of had a knack for it. I kind of liked it and kept going with it."

Tony encouraged Peter to play basketball, baseball and soccer until he could join a running team in junior high. Peter found that his sprinter speed paid off, especially in soccer where he could outrun defenders to the ball. Plus, his stamina was usually better than everyone else's.

By the time middle school rolled around, Peter was ready to excel as a runner. And he was fortunate enough to have a college coach at home to train with him.

"That definitely helped," Peter agreed. "He brought a lot of knowledge to it. ... Once I did start getting into it, he knew what to do, what would help and what would hurt me. That really helped me. Growing up playing a lot of different sports brought a lot of athletic ability into it. I was always very good at running and always one of the faster kids on the team. In sports like soccer, I was able to last a long time on the field. I was always really competitive in every sport. That all just played into me doing well in cross country and track."

The recruiting trail started heating up for Peter as a junior. And there's no surprise why. He won almost every race he competed in.

He recorded 11 first-place finishes across six different events, excelling especially in the 800- and 1,600-meter runs. His all-state 2-mile relay team finished in 9:08 at the Division 1 state finals to become the runner-ups.

This past fall, he won seven of the 10 cross country meets he ran in. He broke the school record in the 5K with a second-place finish in the MSU Spartan Invitational on Sept. 17. He crossed the finish line of the D-1 regional in 16:08 to become an individual champion Oct. 30.



Athletes, coaches, friends and family gather Feb. 8 at Farmington High School for National Letter of Intent Signing Day. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

His time of 15:25 earned him fourth place at the state championship on Nov. 6 at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

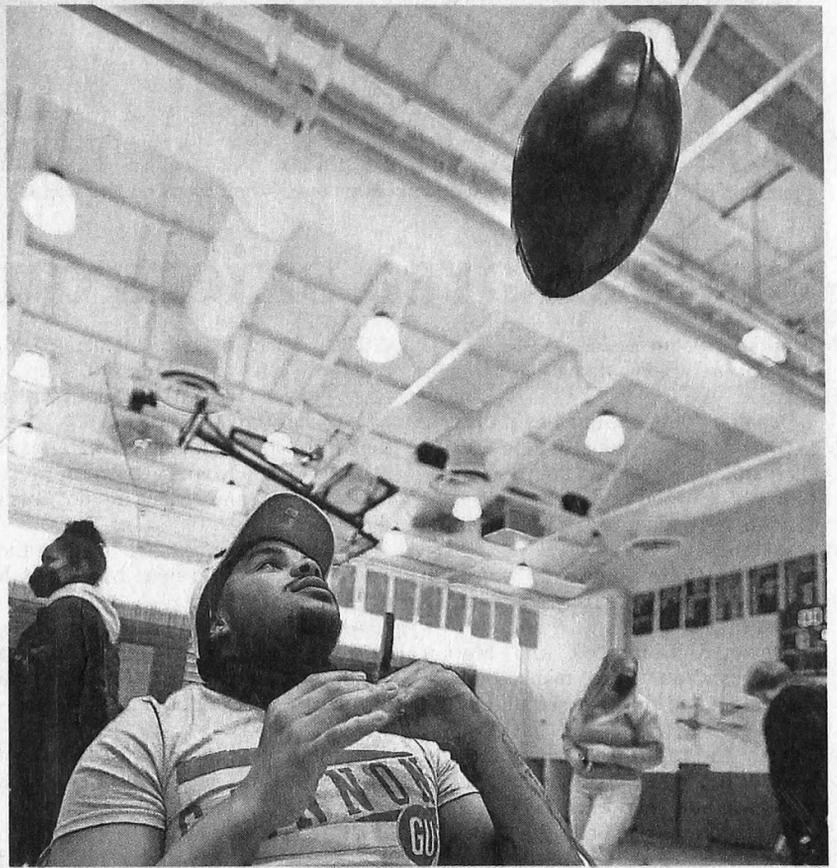
"The college coaches started reaching out to me at the end of junior year track season," Peter said. "I didn't care about the times or trying to get to college this past year. I just liked running."

"(When I made my college pick), it was between Michigan, Michigan State and Purdue. It kind of just came down to a gut feeling. I had always felt that Michigan was the right choice for a little bit of time. I was just waiting to see my options."

Peter will end his high school career as one of the fastest distance runners in the state. But where will he end up on Farmington's record board? We'll find out when runners across Michigan report to track practice on March 14.

Eight other Falcons signed letters of intent: baseball players Vince Hardy with Lansing Community College and Justin Baird with Lawrence Tech, Autumn Bartlett with Lakeland University (Plymouth, Wisconsin) basketball, Mary Blossom with Lakeland tennis, Madilyn Beckwith with Madonna University softball, Emily Crager with Adrian College lacrosse, Jacob Sanders with Gannon University (Erie, Pennsylvania) football and Jake Steslicki with Michigan State track and field.

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Farmington's Jacob Sanders tosses a football after signing a letter of intent to attend Gannon University.

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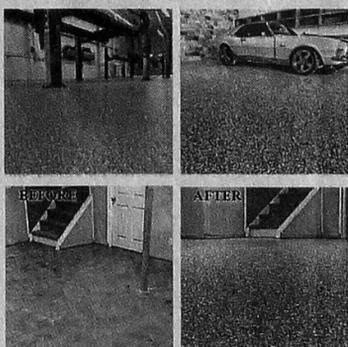
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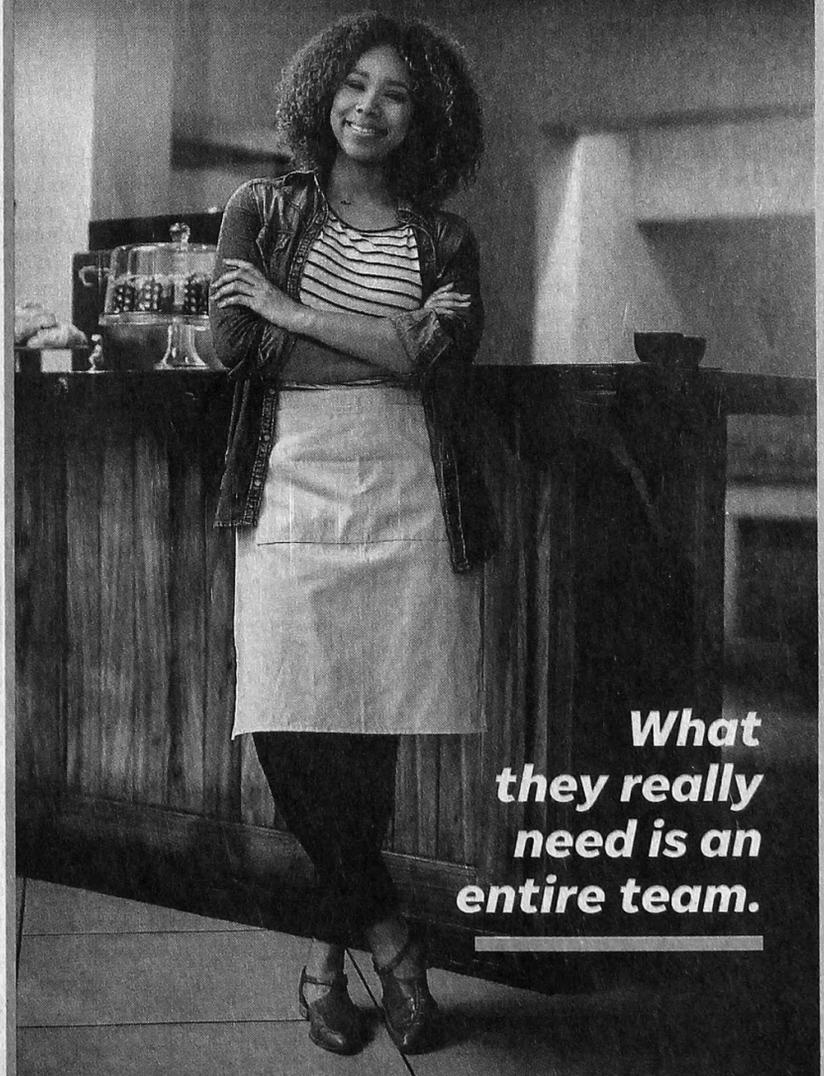
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Members of the Cranbrook-Kingswood ski team await their turns on the slopes of Pine Knob. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Sixteen area skiers qualify for D2 state finals

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A pair of top-three finishes at the Feb. 15 Division 2 ski regional at Pine Knob in Clarkston has qualified both the Cranbrook Kingswood and Bloomfield Hills Marian girls teams for the upcoming state finals.

Pontiac Notre Dame Prep won both the slalom and giant slalom team regional titles.

However, Cranbrook and Marian took second and third, respectively, in the slalom and third and second in the GS.

Only the top-three teams and four best individual skiers qualified for the state championship on Feb. 28 at Schuss Mountain in Bellaire.

Bianca Bologna led Cranbrook with the third-best time in the slalom as her two runs totaled 48.71 seconds, followed by Elli Moen in ninth (53.22), Ani Hefter in 12th (54.49), Lily Aikens in 18th

(56.80), Meagan Sayre in 21st (57.96) and Casey Stewart in 28th (60.60).

Bologna also paced the Cranes with a fifth-place effort in the GS (38.63). Moen took 10th (40.49), followed by Hefter in 11th (41.00) and Sienna Trivax in 40th (46.62). Sayre and Aikens did not finish the event.

Marian's Emma Borgula finished the slalom in 51.58, good enough for seventh place.

Agatha Valka took eighth (51.11), followed by Katelyn Triemstra in 13th (54.51), Susie Klein in 17th (56.79), Stella Lowman in 33rd (62.00) and Paige Rawlins in 34th (62.42)

Borgula had a fourth-place effort in the GS (46.50), followed by Valka in 13th (41.51) and Triemstra in 14th (41.60). Klein tied for 15th with Clare's Teagan Russell (41.69), while Rawlins placed 23rd (43.73) and Lowman tied for 30th with Detroit Country Day's Lilly Higgins.

Country Day had just one skier qual-



Marian's Paige Rawlins skis course during the regional meet Feb. 15.

Mara Pomerville edged her time of 56.08 by just 1.04 seconds.

Also competing was Bloomfield Hills Sacred Heart Academy's girls team, which co-ops with Orchard Lake St. Mary's boys. None of SHA's skiers punched their ticket to states.

Only two boys from the area qualified for the state finals.

Cranbrook's Dylan Kowal placed seventh in the slalom (47.09) and fifth in the GS (37.91) to qualify individually in both disciplines.

Brother Rice's Audie Poltorak picked up the final qualifier spot in the slalom with a 10th-place finish (48.28).

Notre Dame won both boys regional titles, while St. Mary's placed second in the slalom and third in the GS and Mt. Pleasant finished third in the slalom and second in the GS.

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

ify for states. Josie Pachla took 12th in the GS (41.48) to get one of the individual qualifier spots.

She narrowly missed qualifying in the slalom by just one place, as Clare's

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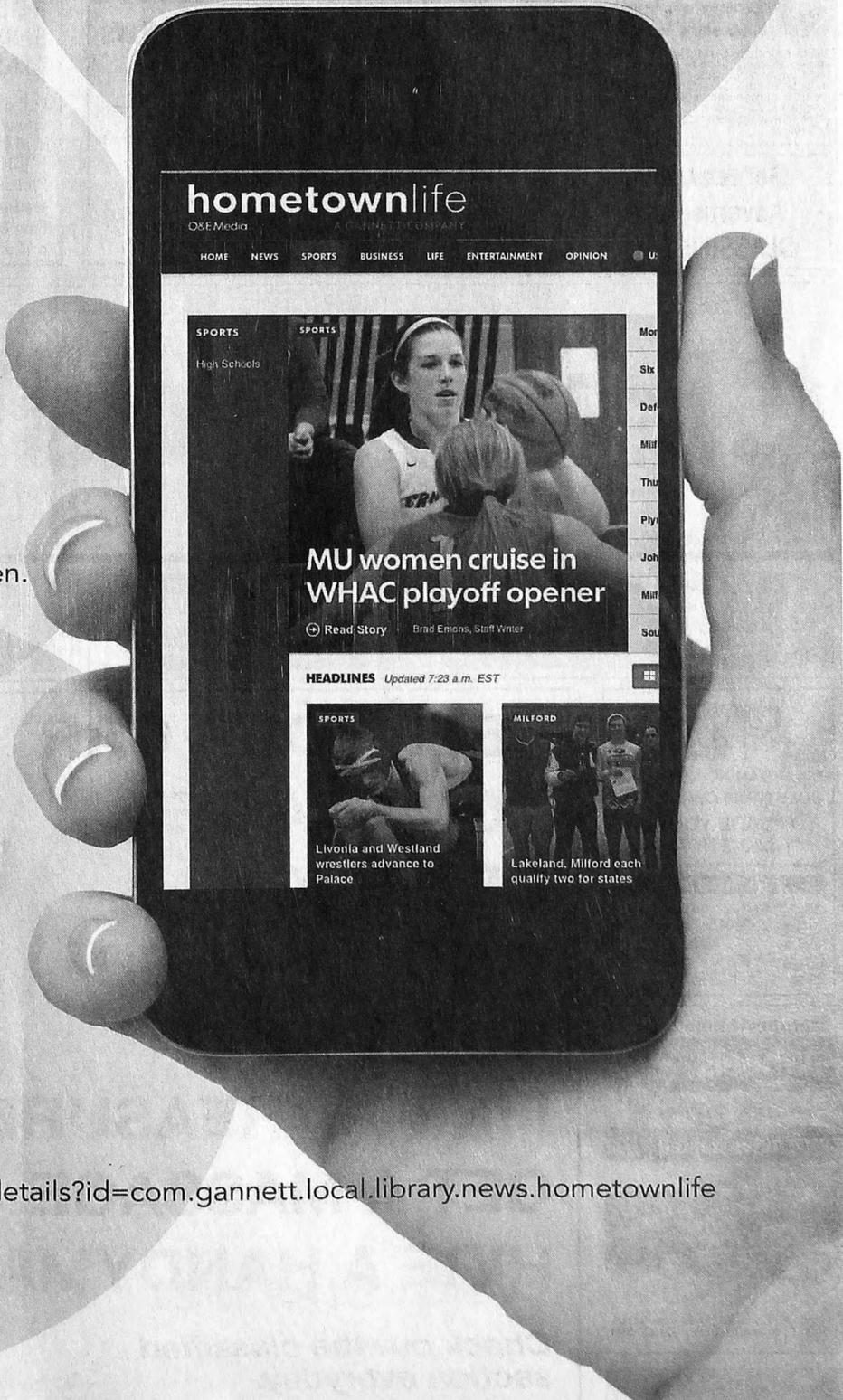
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Despite Disrupting Employment in Multiple Ways, Omicron Barely Dented the Jobs Recovery

By ZipRecruiter.com

Over the past 16 months, there has been a strong relationship between daily new Covid cases and employment. If that relationship had continued to hold true even as daily new Covid cases surged to 800,000 in mid-January, we would have seen 2.3 million Americans lose their jobs.

And yet, instead of that catastrophic outcome, the economy barely sneezed at Omicron. According to the establishment survey, businesses added 467,000 payrolls in January. The household survey paints a similar picture, with the employment level rising by nearly 1.2 million and labor force participation rising by nearly 1.4 million. The labor force participation rate increased significantly from 61.9% to 62.2%, with the largest increase among African Americans (from 60.8% to 62.0%).

Note that these outcomes were partly the result of both seasonal adjustment factors and annual benchmark revisions. The economy usually sheds upwards of 2.8 million jobs in January as the seasonal bump in retail and transportation employment subsides. But pre-Covid seasonal patterns no longer seem to hold. Retailers, and transportation and warehousing companies raised hiring earlier than usual in 2021 and held onto workers after the holidays.

Even if one looks at unadjusted figures from the household survey,

however, employment only fell by 114k—far less than the usual 1 million decline.

Furthermore, the number of people working part-time for economic reasons continued to fall, reaching levels not seen since 2001.

Those figures are particularly remarkable for a month in which 15 million people contracted coronavirus and substantial labor market disruption ensued. The jobs report details several ways in which Omicron affected employment, even as employment and participation rose:

- 3.6 million workers were absent from work due to illness—more than three times the usual January number. Those absences disrupted production and likely also caused income losses for workers without access to paid sick leave.
- The share of workers teleworking due to coronavirus also rose to 15.4% from 11.1% in December, after steadily declining for months as offices reopened. Temporary office closures caused some pain for the

downtown businesses that serve office workers.

- 6.0 million people reported that they had been unable to work because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic, up from 3.1 million in December. Only 23.7% of those workers received at least some pay.
- 1.8 million persons were prevented from looking for work due to the pandemic, up from 1.1 million in the prior month.

Perhaps most surprisingly, employment in leisure and hospitality rose, despite visible declines in restaurant dining and travel in high-frequency data from OpenTable and the Transportation Security Administration.

Private sector wage growth rose to 5.7%—the predictable outcome of the tightest labor market on record, where there are almost two job openings for every unemployed American and employees are quitting their jobs in record numbers. Wage growth was highest in leisure and hospitality (13%), followed by professional and business services (6.9%), and healthcare and educational services (6.8%).

Other eye-popping numbers in the report include the enormous upward revisions to prior estimates for 2021. Job gains for the entire year were revised upwards by 684k new jobs to 7.1 million.



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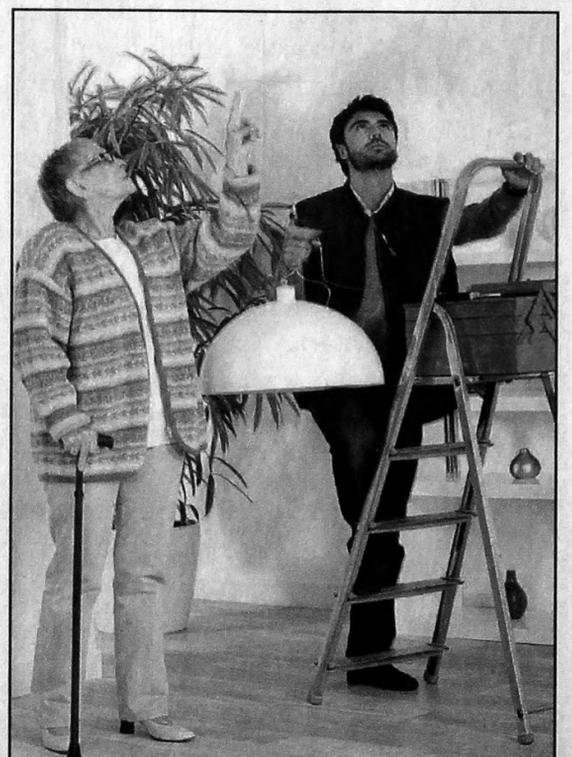
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