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Livonia clerk expects more poll challengers

Result of partisan recruiting efforts since 2020

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lois Keefer looks forward to Election Day. She's been working elections since she was 16 years old and has been a pre-

cinct chair in Livonia for more than 20 years.

"I love it," she said. "It's a wonderful time apart from your everyday life. I've made lifelong friends doing it."

In Livonia, interacting with poll

watchers and challengers has never been a big part of being an election worker. Clerk Susan Nash expects that to change this year following 2020's presidential election. Lawsuits across the country alleging voter fraud that year have been repeatedly dismissed.

"Before 2020, we didn't really have challengers," Nash said. "We'd occa-

sionally have someone call because they'd heard something. I might have gotten a phone call from the ACLU or some voters' rights agency.

"But we never really had challengers before 2020, and then all of a sudden we had them."

See **CHALLENGERS**, Page 5A



Co-owner Randy Collick with a box of chocolates made with hot pepper filling at Kemnitz Fine Candies in Plymouth.
DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Kemnitz Fine Candies reopens

New owners bring new ideas to longtime shop

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Randy and Lori Collick have the demeanors of two kids in a candy store. Which is perfect, because they now own a candy store.

The Hamburg residents recently bought and reopened Kemnitz Fine Candies in downtown Plymouth, bringing back a longtime name in the community after the business closed earlier this year. Reopening the shop has gotten the community excited, they said.

"Eighty percent of the people (that come in), the first thing they say is, 'Thank you,'" Randy Collick said.

The shop at 896 W. Ann Arbor Trail

reopened earlier this summer after previous owners Cindy and Everett Smith decided it was time to retire after running the longtime shop for decades.

How the couple came to own the shop stemmed all from a dream: Lori Collick said she dreamed she and her husband bought a candy company.

See **CANDIES**, Page 4A

Liquor license denied for former YMCA in Livonia

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A backlog of unpaid taxes has apparently derailed plans to bring alcohol to the former YMCA building in Livonia.

The Livonia Athletic District, the business that last year bought the building at 14255 Stark, recently approached the city's planning commission about obtaining a Class C liquor license for the building.

The original plan calls for the allowance of the sale of alcohol in several portions of the building. Such a license will help to attract other tenants the company hopes to bring to the building, including a golf simulator.

"The Dogleg (Simulator, a company seeking to locate in the space) and some of the lease spaces, they're reliant on that usage in coming in and signing their leases," said Jonathan Hartzell with Livonia Athletic District.

But before the commission considered the license at its July 19 meeting, issues over unpaid taxes gave commissioners pause before moving forward. A report given by Mark Toarmina, planning and economic development director, said the city's treasurer discovered the facility owed about \$58,000 in back taxes.

With those finances behind, commissioners weren't interested in moving forward with a liquor license.

"I'm not familiar with this setup," said Commissioner Carol Smiley. "As one commissioner, until that \$58,000 is paid, I don't think I'm interested in approving any kind of liquor sale."

The city's online property tax portal shows more than \$46,000 owed in back taxes as of July 26.

The Livonia Athletic District transformed the building into a center with tenant spaces and other athletic offerings.

See **LICENSE**, Page 4A

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Children play on an inflatable slide at Play Mania in Garden City. The inflatables at the center will be replaced in the coming months with a permanent play structure. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Play Mania opened in the building formerly occupied by Napa Auto Parts.

Family fun center opens in Garden City

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

How many tickets can you collect at Garden City's newest kid-friendly attraction? Gather enough and you could win a stuffed animal, a basketball or more.

The man behind Play Mania, Marquis Peoples, said the idea has been in his head ever since his son was little.

"My oldest son is 15. I probably had this idea for 13, 14 years — since he was just little — just because of him," he said.

Play Mania opened in the long-vacant building that formerly housed Napa Auto Parts at 5659 Middlebelt.

The inside has been completely transformed with fresh paint and major renovations inside to make it more kid-friendly.

First working in real estate with his wife owning a handful of salons in communities such as Wayne and Farmington Hills, he said he just simply was looking for a building to buy and sell. When he saw the space north of Ford Road, Peoples said it was a great space to try and launch that vision he had so long ago.

After more than a year, he finally opened Play Mania earlier this summer, offering video games, bumper cars and — temporarily — inflatable bounce houses and slides.

The space has all the additional trappings one would expect: a prize counter to redeem those tickets won, a café with traditional foods like pizza and a pair of rooms for birthday parties.

The event spaces have become incredibly popular, Peoples said, with people already calling about availability for the fall.

"We get calls every day about parties," he said. "We're talking people booking in September. I had a person come in yesterday, she wanted to book both rooms because she had like 50 people."

It's taken more than a year to complete the work for various reasons: permits, obtaining workers, dealing with supply chain issues.

The COVID-19 pandemic played a factor in many of the details. When Peoples found out he had secured the building, he himself was in the hospital with the coronavirus.

While Play Mania has opened its doors, there's still plenty more to be done, Peoples said. That includes the construction of a permanent play struc-



Play Mania owner Marquis Peoples shoots some hoops. Peoples said he originally conjured up the idea for the play center many years ago, with it becoming a reality earlier this summer.

ture to replace the inflatable ones. That work will take place in the coming months.

"We'll have trampolines, indoor playground, ball blaster, slides, one big nice unit," he said. "That's going to be permanent."

Business has been going well so far, Peoples said, with plenty of guests coming from the surrounding areas such as Garden City, Westland, Livonia, Canton Township and Dearborn Heights, to name a few. More information on the center can be found at playmaniacfun-center.com.

In addition to the guests, Peoples said he's had several other special visi-

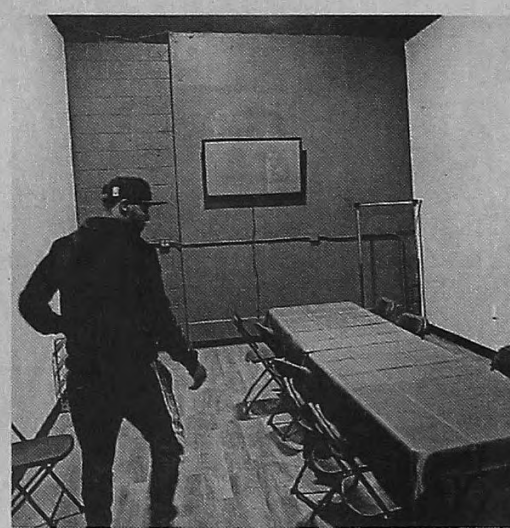
tors to Play Mania: his two younger children. His oldest, the one who inspired the center, has become an employee at the center, helping his father with running Play Mania.

Having the center is something the two of them reminisce about from time to time, Peoples said.

"We talk about it all the time," he said. "It's just something he inspired me and my wife to do when he was little."

My younger kids get to enjoy it while he's at work."

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



Peoples in one of two party rooms.

hometownlife.com

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After lengthy delay, plans return for extended-stay hotel in Livonia

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plans for another hotel along Interstate 96 in Livonia have begun moving forward several years after first public discussions of the project took place.

A rezoning request for the property at 31501 Schoolcraft continues to work its way through the city's government, first getting recommended for approval by the planning commission July 19.

Staybridge Suites, the proposed hotel, was approved for some tax credits back in 2019 by the city council at the site of the former Mountain Jack's restaurant and, most recently, the L'Esprit beauty academy.

"If the rezoning is approved, the petitioner intends to proceed through the site plan approval process to build a four story hotel," said Mark Taormi-

na, city planning and economic development director. "The hotel would have roughly 94 rooms, providing accommodations designed for extended stays."

Robert Nofar, one of the owners of the proposed hotel, also owns the Holiday Inn Express at Inkster and Schoolcraft. Nofar said they've seen more interest and demand for extended stays in the area.

"The demand is for the extended stay guest. There really isn't many good extended stay brands in the area, in that vicinity," Nofar said. "The franchise actually approached us and said they're getting a lot of hits for a Staybridge Suites in that area."

He said such extended stay hotels are desirable by those working in Detroit but don't want to stay at hotels directly in the city.

"They want to be close to work, but at

the same time they don't want to pay the high parking prices over there," he said. "So we can accommodate better for them as well."

A public hearing on the rezone of the land, which would change the zoning from C-3 Highway Services to C-4 High Rise Commercial, occurred July 19 but received no comment. The planning commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the rezoning at its meeting, which now sends the item to the city council.

If the city council approves the first reading of the rezoning, it will most likely hold off on doing a second reading to finalize it until that body receives a site plan recommendation. Those plans, which go into greater detail of what the building will look like and function as, are expected to be first reviewed by the planning commission at a later date.

Whelan among 18 in mural of Americans held abroad

Kristen Jordan Shamus Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The faces of 18 Americans held hostage or wrongfully detained abroad stretch across a brick wall on M Street in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

The mural, unveiled Tuesday, was commissioned by the Bring Our Families Home Campaign, and includes the face of Paul Whelan, the Michigan businessman who has been held in Russia since 2018 on false charges of espionage. Whelan lived in Novi and was the head of global security for Auburn Hills-based auto supplier BorgWarner when he was arrested in Moscow in December 2018. He was charged with espionage after Russian authorities said they caught him with a USB drive containing classified information.

He and his family insist he was set up and has been wrongly detained since. Whelan was convicted in a closed-door court hearing and sentenced to 16 years in a labor camp. He now is being held at IK-17 in the Republic of Mordovia.

The mural, created by artist Isaac Campbell using photographs and wheat paste, shows "the intense juxtaposition of time" for U.S. hostages and detainees.

"All of these images have come from family members," he said. "These are treasured artifacts. Many of these photographs are the last photographs that these families have had of their loved one before they were taken."

For those who were detained or taken hostage a decade ago, the digital images aren't as crisp. "You can see time in the resolution of the pictures," Campbell said. "As the artist, when I was receiving these pictures, it was the most intense feeling to look at those images and put them next to one another and see the story of these lives and these families over time."

At Tuesday's unveiling, spokesperson Jonathan Franks asked for a 60-second moment of silence to remember Whelan and the 17 others pictured on the wall.

"The path to this moment today has been a long and emotional one for our families," Franks said. "Hostage diplomacy is the practice of state-sponsored kidnapping for ransom. Every person whose name I just read was targeted or



Artist Isaac Campbell speaks to media before a mural honoring 18 wrongfully detained Americans in Washington, D.C., on July 20. One of those honored on the mural is Paul Whelan, shown on wall center image, who has been detained in Russia since 2018. Whelan is a former Marine who was convicted by Russian officials on espionage charges in 2020.

PHOTOS BY JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY

singled out for no other reason than their American citizenship. In at least two cases featured on today's mural, the detainees were targeted in part because they are veterans. The solution is to cause pain for the hostage takers and those whom they love.

"I am not suggesting violating anyone's human rights. I am suggesting that if you're benefiting from proximity to a rogue regime that takes Americans hostage, that you don't get to hide your wife and kids in the West anymore.

"No more fancy American or European boarding schools for your kids. No more shopping trips to Paris for family members. Ultimately, our campaign seeks to urge President (Joe) Biden to ... make use of all the tools in the toolbox to bring others home, including but not limited to prisoner trades. Doing so is not only the right thing to do, it's the right political decision."



Family members of Matthew Heath, a Marine veteran who has been detained in Venezuela since 2020, listen and talk on an unexpected phone call from Heath.

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Candies

Continued from Page 1A

"The next day, we saw this for sale," Lori Collick said.

After thinking it through, the Collicks crafted a plan to purchase the shop and eventually became the frontrunners to take over the shop. They put in several months of work to update the shop. They've redone plenty inside, including new paint, new floors and spruced up the look. They've kept the candy display case and cabinets, and still use the Kemnitz signature look on the candy boxes, albeit with a refreshed feel.

Inside those display cases, the candy is made from the same recipes customers have known for decades. The cherry cordials, caramels and more have returned, and the couple anticipates doing the traditional pieces around the holidays, including bunnies at Easter time.

"I want people to know we're not changing it," Lori Collick said. "It might look a little different, but it should taste the same. We've just brought it into the 21st century."

While the classics return, they hope to introduce a few new twists to the menu. One such idea? The Chocolate Pepper Challenge, a case of chocolates filled with hot pepper fillings made from jalapenos, habaneros and and ghost peppers. Increasing in degrees of heat, they think the box will make for a fun challenge for those with strong affections toward spicy foods.

"Hopefully it's just one of those things that just catches," Randy Collick said. "It's just fun. We want to have fun."

He said they've thought about creating a T-shirt to give to those daring souls who succeed in the challenge if they record their attempt.



New owners Randy and Lori Collick gave the interior of Kemnitz Fine Candies a new look, including a fresh coat of paint.

PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

They've also added other items to the display case, including caramels topped with pink Himalayan salt, as well as their South American clusters, made with Brazil nuts and coconut. Online ordering is also expected to make an appearance later this year when the weather begins to cool down.

The Collicks continue to use the Kemnitz production kitchen in Plymouth's Old Village but plan on relocating that to a bigger space in town. There, Lori Collick said, they hope to increase production and possibly offer candy-making classes to groups as well.

The shop is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday through Saturday. More information can be found on the shop's website, kemnitzfinecandies.com.

The Collicks hope the community can see the passion they have for the history of the shop, keeping many of the same traditions alive, including the longtime name. They both are excited at bringing the Kemnitz name back to life.

"It's a labor of love," Lori Collick said. "We're trying to stay as true to the recipes."

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



The popular cherry cordials have returned, using the same recipe.

License

Continued from Page 1A

The indoor tennis courts have been converted into a soccer field, and other improvements have been made throughout the building. The YMCA sold the building last summer after clos-

ing down in 2020 at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hartzell said there were some internal issues that delayed the payments and that they hoped to set up a payment plan with the city to catch up. He said business has slowly ramped up since they took over.

"The business is good, strong," he said. "We've got a lot of great movement

with third party leases coming through, a lot of clubs coming through."

The planning commission voted unanimously to recommend denial of the application. The Livonia Athletic District can choose to appeal the vote to the city council, which would make the final determination on the application.

Commissioner Sam Caramagno said the amount was substantial and wanted

to see that cleared up before even considering a liquor license.

"... These are pretty substantial bills for the city of Livonia," he said. "And you're a property owner, and you're coming to us asking for something else, and ... you want to move on without taking care of the prior arrangements and engagements you have. That's troubling to me."

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Challengers

Continued from Page 1A

Recruiting more poll challengers, watchers

Michigan Congressional District 12 Republicans webmaster Joseph Lenard said his party wants to see Republican poll watchers, workers and challengers at every precinct in the state during Tuesday's primary election.

A poll challenger is appointed and trained by the district's political party and carries a credential. A poll watcher is an uncredentialed individual observing the democratic process.

Challengers cannot campaign or interact with voters but can do things like view pollbooks, challenge a voter's eligibility and challenge whether election workers are complying with state law. Election workers in Livonia are trained on what poll challengers can and cannot do.

"They're supposedly being trained by their groups," Nash said. "Hopefully, they're being trained correctly."

Kate Shishkovski, president of the Livonia Democratic Club, has served as a challenger in the past for her party. She referred to the role as "voter protection" and feels she's been helpful.

Shishkovski has advocated for things like more pens and faster processing while serving as a challenger in Westland and Inkster.

"A lot of what voter protection does is iron out the kinks and make sure things are smooth so people have the opportunity to get in and cast a ballot," she said. "You go in, you observe and if there's a problem you



Livonia resident Lois Keefer, who serves as a precinct chair during elections.

SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

can help with, then you help. You figure it out and make it better."

While Democrats have had an organized challenging effort for years, Lenard said Republicans are seeing an uptick in interest. Nash said she expects both sides to have a greater presence in Livonia this year.

"It's not as many as we'd like, but there's certainly far more interest than there has been in the past," Lenard said.

The Michigan Congressional District 12 Democrats did not return multiple interview requests to discuss the upcoming election.

What more challengers means for voters

If done right, an increase in poll challengers and watchers won't interrupt the voting process.

"They can't interrupt, they can just watch and challenge," Nash said.

Lynn Swezene, who's been working elections in Livonia for 20 years, said she doesn't have concerns about the expected uptick in watching efforts. She's encountered plenty of poll watchers over the years and said she's never had an issue. Election Day is something she looks forward to, and that doesn't seem to have changed.

"We've had poll watchers before," Swezene said. "We always make them comfortable and make sure they're seeing what they came to see."

Keefer also said she's not worried, noting challengers she's encountered in the past haven't found issues. Lenard noted Republican challenging efforts have not identified Livonia as a concerning area.

"Usually, at this level, things are peaceful and they just want to know things are being followed properly," Keefer said. "There's no fraud intent. We just want our citizens of Livonia to be able to vote fairly. That's our goal."

Nash, however, has concerns. She thinks this year's primary and general elections will give her election workers an idea of what to expect during the large presidential elections.

"We're anticipating it, but we don't know what to expect," she said. "We really don't. We're kind of in the beginning of this, right?"

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

Obituaries

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Joyce Ann Bedenis

DEARBORN - Joyce Ann Bedenis, 88, of Dearborn, passed away peacefully at home on July 23, 2022 surrounded by neighbors, family, and friends. Joyce was the beloved wife of the late James (Jim).

Loving mother of Todd, Timothy (Kay), James (Linda) and Gregory (Anita). Cherished grandmother of Alex, Rachel, Christine, Katherine, Audrie and Logan. Dear great-grandmother of Eleanor, June, Faye, Johannes, and Iona.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make memorial contributions to Angela Hospice (734)464-7810 www.angelahospice.org/donate/ or Atone-ment Lutheran Church, Dearborn.



Debra Douglas

Debra Douglas (Wilson) died peacefully at home on July 22, 2022, after a fifteen year battle with cancer, one day shy of her 65th birthday.

Debra was born in Marysville, CA (1957). She moved with her husband, Gary Douglas, to Michigan in 1986 and returned to California to retire in 2017.

Debra worked in the banking industry for over thirty years. She loved her family and her 49'ers and her various pets over the years, most recently her big boy, Sami.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Nellie; her step-father, Amos; her father Raymond, her step-mother, Aline; and her two grandmothers, Ruby and Belvia.

She was survived by her husband of 35 years, Gary; her sisters, Ruby Weddle, Karen Dodge and Juanita Phillips; and her brother, Raymond Wilson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

If anyone would like to make a contribution in Debra's name, please consider The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. They have been helpful to her over the years and would be appreciated.

The memorial service will be held at Ullrey Memorial Chapel, Inc. located at 817 Almond Street, Yuba City, CA 95991 on Thursday, July 28th at 11:00am.

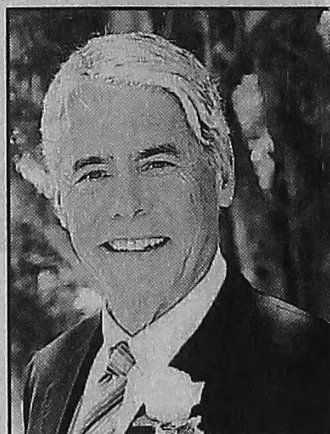


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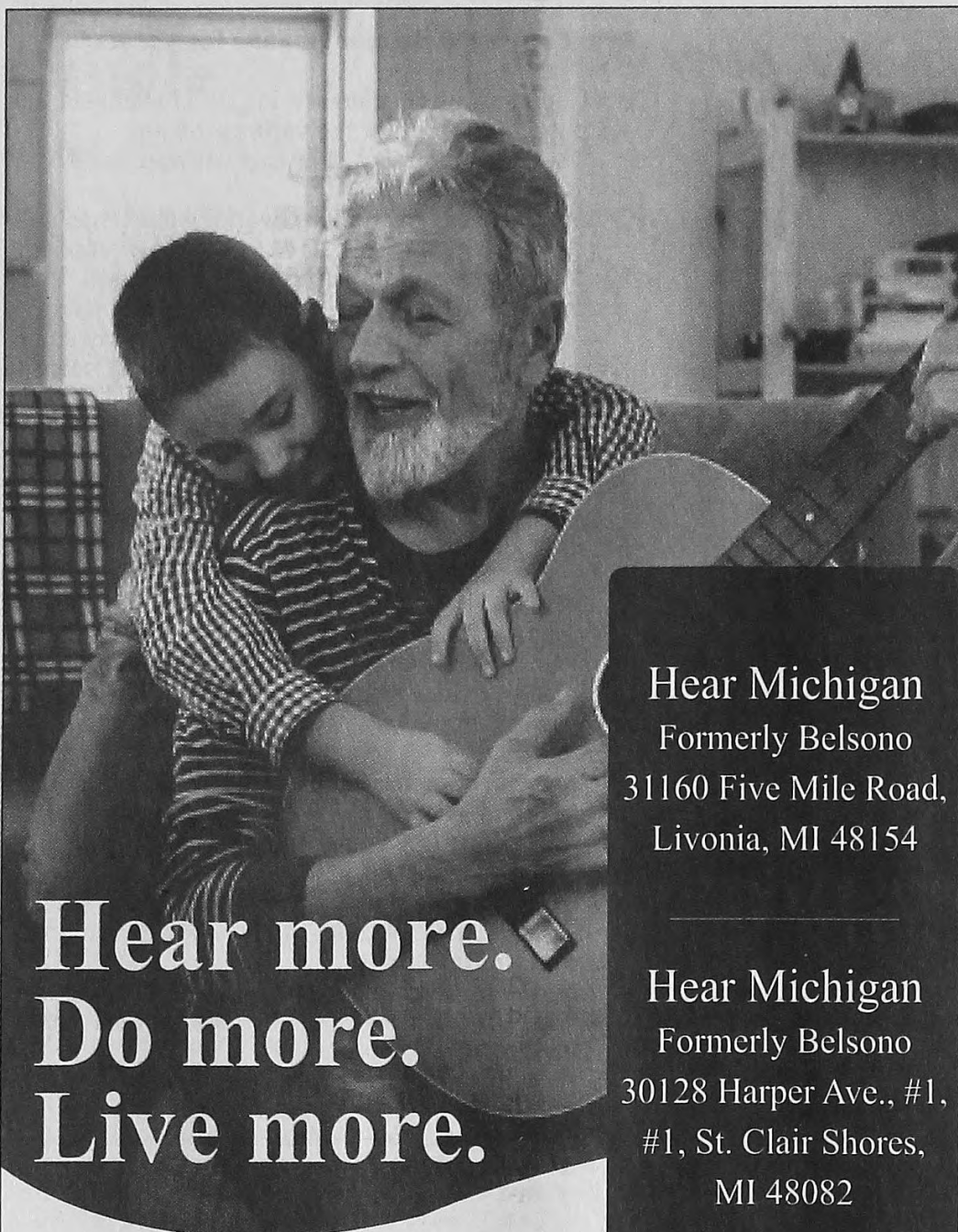


Jerrold Mark Jung

Jerrold Mark Jung, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, entrepreneur, philanthropist, conservationist, sportsman and dedicated friend, passed away July 14, 2022 having lived an extraordinary life. Born May 27, 1953 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Jerry's series of life achievements began at an early age growing up in Birmingham, Michigan. Jerry's energy, initiative and business savvy first became evident as a child when he founded a snow removal business—prompting a neighbor to declare that he wanted to purchase shares in "Jerry Jung, Inc." Upon graduation from Seaholm High School in 1971, he attended the University of Michigan, then went on to Tulane University, where he graduated in 1975 first in his class, summa cum laude with honors in Economics, followed by Harvard Business School. He was also the recipient of countless awards and honorary PhDs. Jerry's prolific business career spanned decades and industries. His expertise in airline operations led him to develop patented software that has since evolved into the world's premier passenger revenue optimization system. In 1982, he succeeded his father and grandfather at Michigan CAT as CEO, achieving unprecedented success. Later, he started Landfill Energy Systems providing solutions to convert landfill methane to electricity, delivering tremendous environmental benefits. He also founded Oak Adaptive with the mission of optimizing complex workflows within organizations. In business, Jerry always had a knack for combining vision and pragmatism. A force of nature



for nature, protector of the pollinators, and active environmentalist and conservationist; Jerry affected change with his passion, his ideas and his hard-earned resources. Among his numerous tireless efforts, Jerry worked with the Birmingham Public School Board, advocating for the preservation of a community nature center. He served on the Board of Trustees for the National Wildlife Federation, State of Michigan Transportation Commission, the Michigan Colleges Alliance and the Michigan League of Conservation Fund. Jerry held many strong beliefs about environmental policies, particularly with respect to ending the harmful effect of corn ethanol on acres of wild-life habitat (the website www.rethinkethanol.com covers his conclusions about this topic in detail). Distinguished, dynamic, calm, and always a caring friend, Jerry was an unparalleled listener with an arsenal of jokes for every occasion. His tremendous generosity was rivaled only by his desire to embrace those with diverse perspectives. Jerry's heart knew no limits, and he was bold and enterprising in all his pursuits. His family, friends, and associates will fondly remember his enduring passions for sailing, tennis, golf, skiing and gardening. Jerry's adoring family was his ultimate pride and joy. He will be eternally cherished by his devoted wife Emily, his children: Jacob Jung (Ai), Claire Trainor (Andy), Julie Rasmussen (Alec), and his grandchildren: Emma & Ruma Okada Jung, Thatcher & Teddy Trainor, Ace, Nell, and Kip Rasmussen; and his siblings. In lieu of flowers or donations, please honor Jerry's life by brightening the lives of others with a smile, kind words and a generous spirit—and by protecting our planet by planting trees or learning about and growing pollinator gardens. For details regarding funeral arrangements, please visit ajdesmond.com



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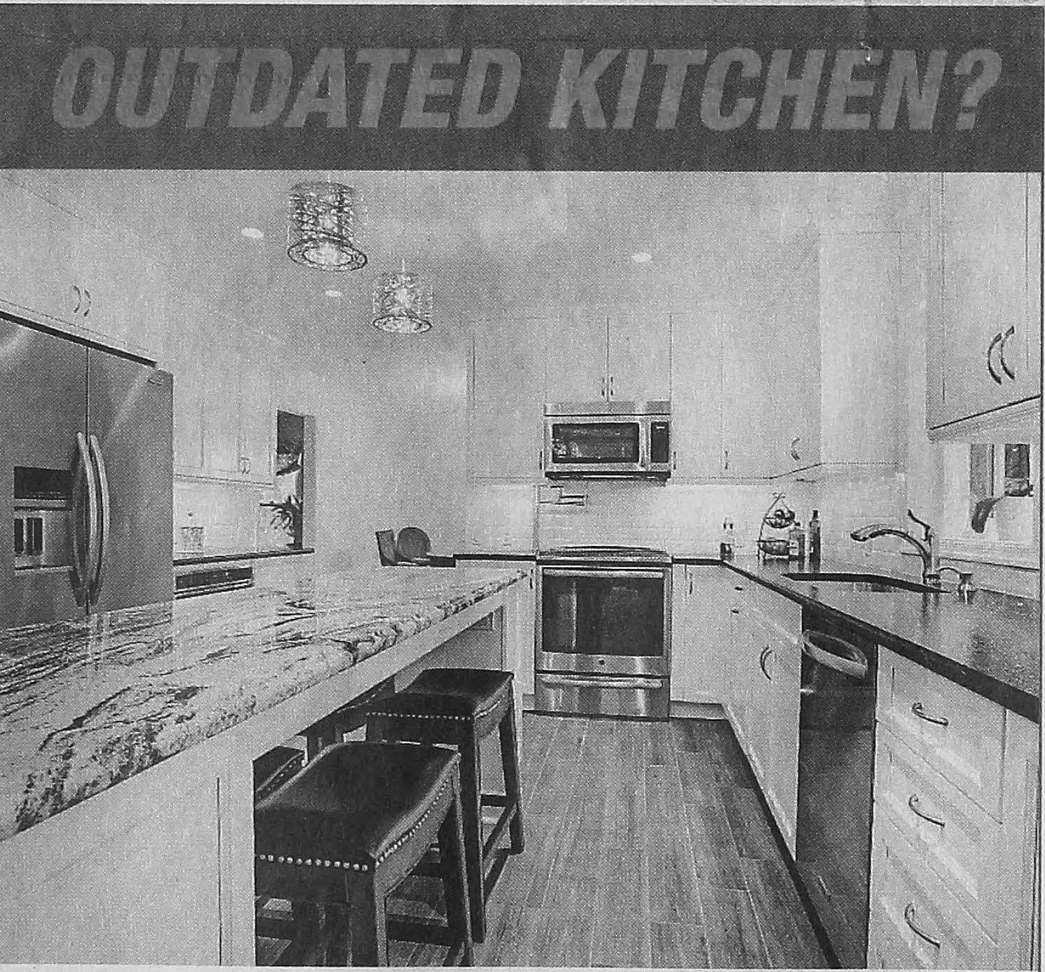
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SPORTS

BLOOMFIELD HILLS BOYS BASKETBALL

Former coach calls new hire a 'home run'

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

You don't have to worry about recently-hired Bloomfield Hills boys basketball coach Brian Canfield using the Black Hawks as a stepping-stone job to get to a bigger, better and more promi-

nent coaching position elsewhere.

"I wouldn't have applied for any other varsity job," Canfield told Hometown Life. "Bloomfield Hills was the only job that I wanted."

Canfield replaces Phil Kurajian, who retired following a five-year stint leading the program.

Kurajian's teams amassed a 47-62 record as well as back-to-back Oakland Activities Association-White championships in 2021 and 2022.

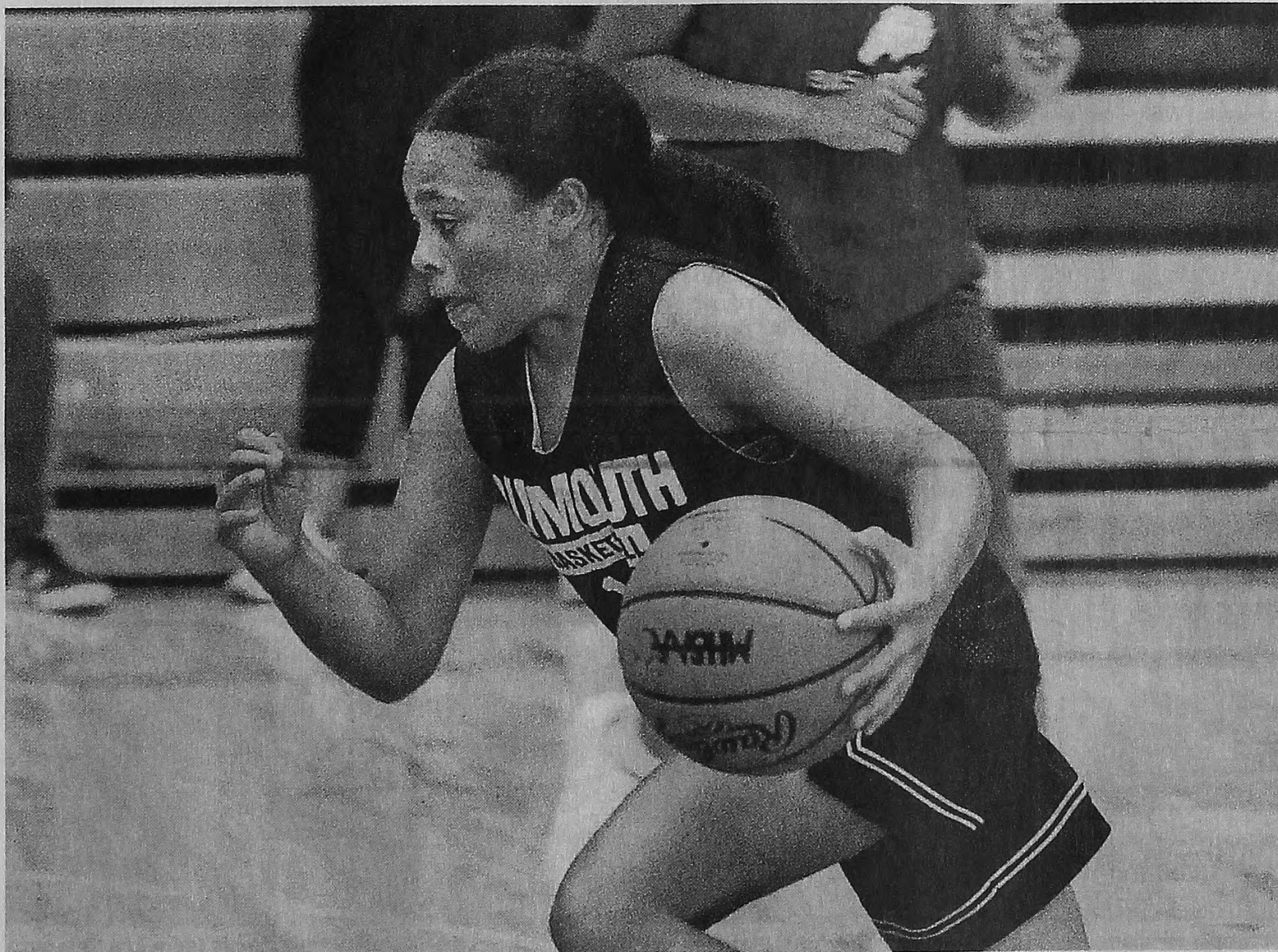
And Canfield was there for it all, both directly and indirectly.

Canfield's older sons, Tyler and Mason, both played for Kurajian, who ea-

gerly tried to recruit Canfield to be one of his assistants. Canfield refused to be on the bench while his sons were on the team. He chose to watch the program grow from afar while sitting in the bleachers.

See **NEW HIRE**, Page 2B

Wildcats back in the game



Plymouth's Averil Collins dribbles during the Summer League Shootout showcase July 14 against Bloomfield Hills Marian.
 PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth girls basketball already looks more competitive

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coach Ryan Ballard just wants the Plymouth girls basketball team to look competitive this winter.

Not in the sense of making a deep playoff run or hoisting a league championship. He just wants his team to be able to run with the league-champion caliber squads.

Last year was tough for them after going 6-15 overall and even enduring a 10-game losing streak from mid-January to late February.

Some of that had to do with Plymouth being in a rebuild. The other part was the Kensington Lakes Activities Association was just loaded a year ago.

Hartland lost to West Bloomfield in the state championship.

Wayne Memorial lost to Hartland in the state semifinal.

Brighton lost to Wayne in the regional championship.

Northville lost to Wayne in the regional opener.

And Wayne, Northville, Brighton and Hartland each won district championships.

When your division schedule includes playing against three teams that secured five different playoff trophies, that's going to be tough for a team such as Plymouth, which was building for the future.

See **WILDCATS**, Page 2B



Plymouth's Annie Flavin posts up.

Plymouth Christian girls basketball lineup looks promising

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball coach Rod Windle lifted the purple and gold Nike Eagles hat off his head and scratched a few tufts of hair.

He had to think about it for a second.

And then he smiled.

"Yeah, I've been fortunate that I haven't had to teach the point guard position the past four years," the 18th-year coach said following PCA's 65-42 win over Walled Lake Western during a Summer League Shootout matchup at Canton. "So it's been a lot different this summer."

Isn't that the truth?

Windle's squad is coming off a Division 4 state runner-up effort after it lost, 61-46, to Fowler in the state championship in March.

A contributor who pushed the Eagles to that trip to Michigan State University's Breslin Center was point guard Anna Fernandez, arguably one of the five or 10 best players in the state a year ago.

The Wheaton College (Illinois) signee was an elite scorer, totaling 458 points her senior year and finishing her career just shy of 1,500 points in all. Her ability to scoot to the rim, drain pull-up shots and create open opportunities for her teammates earned her Player of the Year honors from Hometown Life.

And now she's gone. Just like that. A four-year starter at the most important position on the floor is now off to the next level.

So, yeah, Windle is teaching the point guard position to a pair of players this off-season.

But it hasn't been as challenging as he expected.

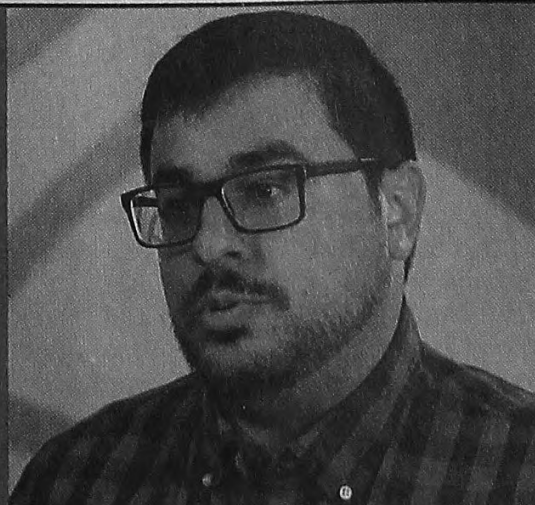
For one, the Eagles return three key seniors, all of whom made the All-Michigan Independent Athletic Conference team, and one of them, Morganne Houk, will be stepping into Fernandez's role as the starter.

See **LINEUP**, Page 3B

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Wildcats

Continued from Page 1B

"We want to be competitive in every game," Ballard said. "Last year we weren't competitive against the upper tier of the conference. We're still building, and it's another building year for us, but our kids embrace it."

"Our kids are fighters and are in the weight room four days a week. They're practicing with positive mindsets. They really want to be great and are really excited to see where we will be playing by the time March hits. ...

"Our goal is to get 1% better every day and everything else will take care of itself."

Here are three reasons why the Wildcats should look much improved this coming season:

McCarthy will be back in time

Even on a team that struggled at times, Meghan McCarthy was one of the best players in the KLAA last winter. And either her or 6-foot forward Elena DiMaria should be the Wildcats' top offensive player going forward.

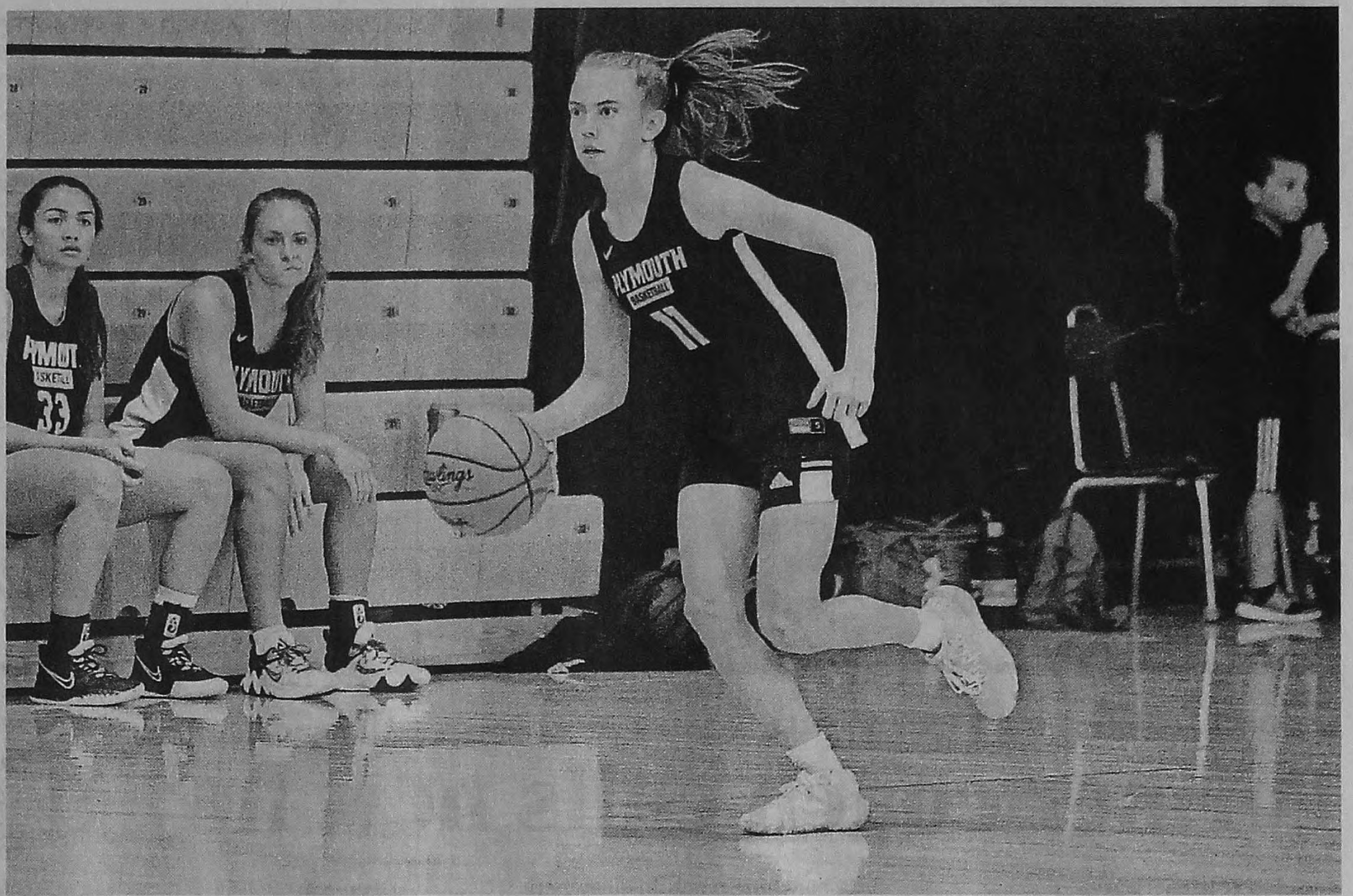
There's only one problem.

McCarthy, a 5-foot-11 power forward, is recovering from knee surgery right now.

She actually averaged 6.9 points, 6.1 rebounds and 1.6 assists while playing on both a partially torn ACL and meniscus a year ago.

"Meghan is our leader, and she'll continue to be that when she gets back from her ACL injury," Ballard said. "On the offensive end, we want to put the ball in the basket this season, and we need to work on finishing with contact, and that, as well as not turning over the ball, has been our big bugaboo. But getting Meghan back should help. And our big, Elena, has put in work over the spring and summer, and she can score in a variety of ways for us, including finishing at the rim. Fortunately, we've built some depth, for sure, this summer, and getting Meghan back will definitely help."

McCarthy was second on the team in scoring with 124 points and actually led the team in rebounds with 109. If she can do that while playing a step slower than the rest of the league, imagine how well she'll play fully healthy.



Plymouth's Kenz Dicken dribbles during the Summer League Shootout showcase July 14 against Bloomfield Hills Marian. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Point guard position has bright future at Plymouth

Whoever wins the starting point guard job will be a solid pick, but they'll also be incredibly young.

Right now, sophomore Averi Collins and freshman Kenz Dicken are bringing up the ball for the Wildcats.

Collins played in 17 games as a freshman. While she averaged about one point, one assist and one rebound per game, the experience she gained from being on the floor at such a young age was what benefited Plymouth the most.

"It's been a big summer for her," Ballard said. "We've really stressed on her to cut down on turnovers and pass the ball ahead to get us organized."

Dicken is a steady ballhandler but she is also consistent at making mid-range and outside shots. And that might be one of the best attributes she'll bring to the team.

But, believe it or not, Collins brings leadership and has proved to be one of Ballard's hardest workers. She might have the early edge in this competition.

"(Collins is) super coachable, and she's a competitive kid," Ballard added. "I'm harder on her than most kids. She has to accept that (type of coaching) at point guard because she's the extension of the coach on the floor. Sometimes that gets in her head a bit, but needs to accept that greatness."

From star player to coach in the making

There's no doubt about it: Shooting guard Morgan Miller was the Wildcats' MVP in 2021-22. But she graduated.

She signed with Michigan-Dearborn and has a four-year career at the NAIA level ahead of her.

So she is gone and won't be any help anymore, right?

Wrong.

The best programs get buy-in from athletes at all levels, from the youth programs to middle school teams and the freshmen and JV squads.

And Plymouth is now getting buy-in at the alumni level.

Miller's been coaching the JV alongside McCarthy during Summer League Shootout games. She even took the youngsters to a team camp this month at Northwood University, and the Wildcats won the whole thing.

"It's the best thing you could ask for as a coach," Ballard said. "She's going to go on and do great things, and we were glad Plymouth was a big part of her life. At team camp, watching her lead the JV, you could see the kids loved to be coached by her. ... she'd tell them what to do next time to get better, or she'd tell them to get organized. She'd give them tips on how to rebound better or fix their shooting."

New hire

Continued from Page 1B

However, this past winter, Canfield joined the squad as a volunteer assistant while his two boys played college basketball. Tyler, who graduated from Bloomfield Hills in 2018, plays at Indiana Tech, while Mason, who was a four-year player for Kurajian, plays at Concordia-Ann Arbor.

Canfield's youngest, Carter, is entering the eighth grade. He, too, will attend Bloomfield Hills for high school.

"I talked about helping him (Kurajian) out, but I wanted to do it after those two were done playing," said Canfield, who is the principal at Schroeder Elementary School with Troy School District. "As a volunteer assistant, I just wanted to be back on a varsity bench and help out the team. But when Phil resigned due to his job and having an increased workload, I immediately knew I wanted to have the opportunity to be a varsity coach again. I wouldn't have done it anywhere else except for Bloomfield Hills. That's where I wanted to coach."

Canfield has an extensive background in coaching basketball.

He was the former boys and girls varsity coach at Madison Heights Madison in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The Eagles won four Macomb Area Conference championships under his leadership. He was also named the league's Coach of the Year for his division four times. The worst season he had was a 15-win effort.

"We were always ranked in the top 10 in the state," Canfield added. "Our best record one year was 22-2, and we were ranked fourth in the state that year."

After leaving Madison, he coached for one year at Marygrove College.

He's been an AAU coach for various programs ever since, which includes coaching his sons. He's currently coaching the Michigan Majors, a team Carter plays on.

He'll continue to help the Majors while also leading the Black Hawks.

"Outside of Schroeder Elementary, basketball is my life," Canfield said. "I'd be coaching or involved with basketball no matter what. There are going to be long days, but I don't look at basketball as a job. It's just something I really like to do."

"I've been part of basketball my



Bloomfield Hills assistant Brian Canfield (far right) watches from the bench during a game last winter. Canfield will replace former head coach Phil Kurajian next season. COURTESY OF SUSAN ADAMS PHOTOGRAPHY

whole life, and now I wouldn't want to do it anywhere else except for Bloomfield Hills. That's the community I live in. My two older sons went there, and basketball really positively impacted their lives. I want to be able to do that for Bloomfield Hills kids just how it helped my kids when they went to Bloomfield Hills. This is a community and program I am invested in, and I just want to see the program do well and pick up where Phil left off."

The Black Hawks will remain in the OAA-White for this upcoming season, and they should be a contender for a three-peat. They return two of the best players in metro Detroit in shooting guard Noah Adamczyk and forward Derrick Lee Jr., who will both be seniors.

At 5-foot-11, Adamczyk averaged 22 points, four assists and four steals as a junior. He earned all-league first-team honors after proving to be one of the best pure scorers in Michigan.

Lee, who's 6-4, can do it both on the inside and the outside for the Black Hawks, who benefited from his nine points and four rebounds per game a year ago. The junior has a knack for making big plays in clutch moments, plus he's been known to throw down a dunk or two during big games.

The Black Hawks graduated center Carson Brodsky, forward Ben Canty and point guard Julian Manna, but they also bring back sixth-man CJ Jackson and guard Ahmad Taylor for their senior seasons.

Bloomfield Hills will be loaded with

talent again.

"We lost our bigs and we lost Ben, so we don't have the size we had last year, but we have a really good core coming back," Canfield said. "Not only that, but I think we have some kids who didn't get varsity minutes last year who will be able to step up and help fill roles."

As far as X's and O's, Canfield will be keeping a few things Kurajian installed, but he will also be pulling a few things from his past coaching stops.

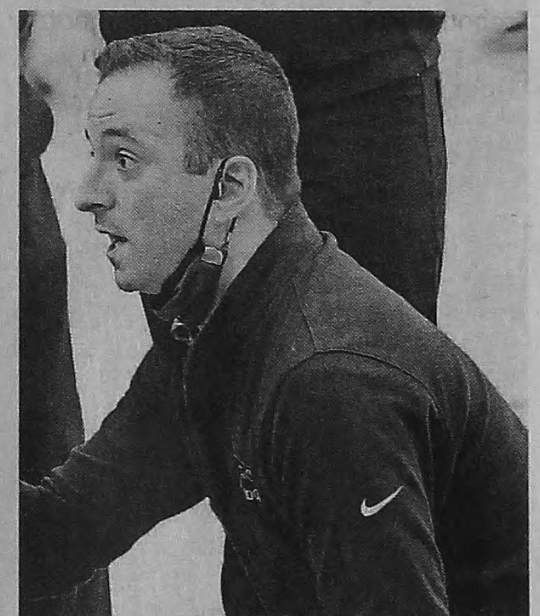
However, there is one thing he's promised to keep around following Kurajian's departure.

"The No. 1 thing from Phil we're keeping is the spirit of his character," Canfield said. "Teaching kids life lessons, holding them to being high character. Not just the basketball side but on the life side as well. The discipline piece of being a good person. Getting good grades in the classroom. Being part of the community. That's where I'm going to continue what Phil is doing. It's about the team approach."

Canfield wouldn't set any expectations for this year's squad, but he knows his squad will be good.

And Kurajian is excited to see what his old partner on the bench is capable of doing with the Black Hawks, too.

"This dude can coach. He can flat-out coach hoops, and they're all excited to have him," Kurajian said. "With his educational background, that helps him do a great job of teaching basketball, too. This past winter, it was fantastic having him. I loved having him on the staff, and



Kurajian talks to his team in a timeout break during a game in January. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

he was an integral part of our success. The guys loved playing for him.

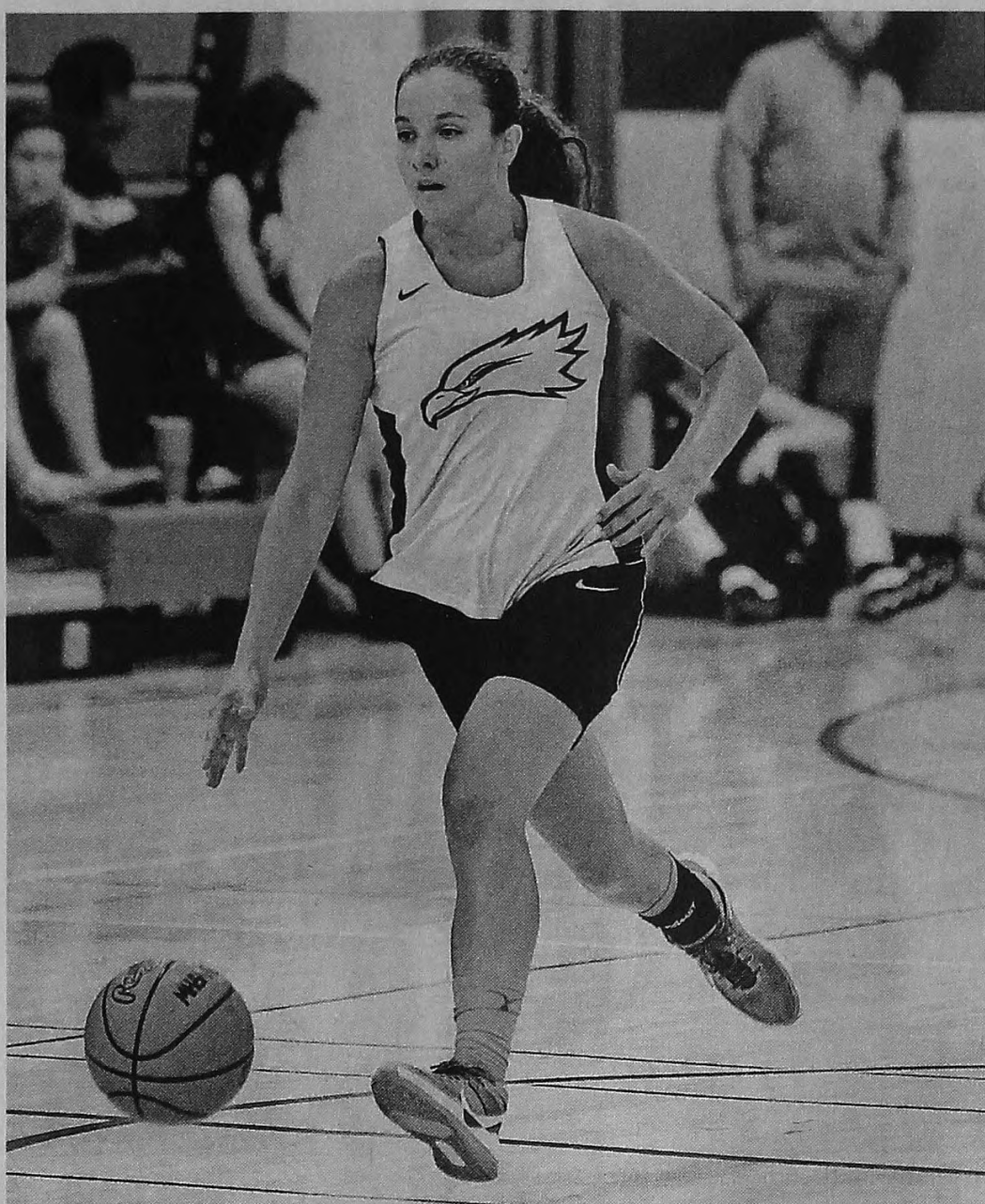
"The No. 1 thing (about being successful) at Bloomfield Hills is being able to have strong leadership, and leadership is about teaching life lessons. Brian can do that to a T with his character. He was absolutely a home-run hire for the opening, and Brian is going to do great things there. He's a high-character guy with a ton of experience, and he's exactly what the community needs."

Kurajian said having Canfield on his staff was great because Canfield offered mentorship during key moments throughout the season. Whether it was after a tough loss or an off-court issue, Canfield always had just the right thing to say to Kurajian.

Canfield also helped the team bulldoze through challenging parts of games.

"He was always there with the scouting report," Kurajian added. "I remember one specific moment when we faced a press. I just handed him a clipboard to draw up a press breaker. He got it ready for us, and we got through it. He was always there for moments like that, and he was a great mentor to me. He was always ready to add perspective or to pick me up when I needed it."

It's rare for a program to hire a coach who has both tremendous experience leading teams and is already heavily involved in the community. And Bloomfield Hills managed to find both in Canfield, who has no plans of stepping away from the Black Hawks any time soon.



Plymouth Christian's Morganne Houk dribbles during a Summer League Shootout showcase matchup against Walled Lake Western on July 13 at Canton.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Lineup

Continued from Page 1B

And, for two, Houk's backup already looks like she'll be one of the next great star basketball players for Windle. That would be Clara Groen, a freshman guard who already plays well above her age level. She doesn't have the moves that Fernandez had, but that's OK. She hasn't even played one varsity game yet.

So the future looks bright for the Eagles' backcourt, despite one of the best players in metro Detroit no longer leading the team.

"It's a little tough because I've never really been a point guard that much," said Houk, who totaled 375 points, 171 rebounds and 127 assists as a shooting guard a year ago. "But I learned a lot from Anna over the years. I'm trying to use what I learned from watching her and seeing how she did it. I'm working on being a little more shifty with the ball and finding the space to drive. I'm making the right reads with passes and starting the offense off.

"I'm a little bit nervous, but, yeah, we're getting there. It'll take a little bit of getting used to."

The great news for Houk is she won't be asked to do it alone.

As mentioned early, Windle returns his Big 3, so that means Madison Yeager and Hailey Maulbetsch are back as seniors as well.

Maulbetsch was actually away on a camping trip during scrimmages, but Yeager was there, and she and Houk looked like they were already in mid-season form. The way the two read each other on the court made for several quick baskets. Plus, the two spotted each other for open shots on the perimeter.

On one play, with 9 minutes left in the first half, Houk nabbed a steal, raced up the floor, drew a triple team from the Warriors' defense and then got off a tough pass to Yeager, who finished with a layup to put the Eagles ahead by nine points. Those kinds of plays don't happen without years of already-established chemistry. And they've got it working again as seniors.

"We all have to fill a lot of new roles this year, which we are getting used to," Yeager said. "The first few weeks of summer ball were rough, but we're finally getting into the hang of things. We're just making good passes and seeing each other on the court, which is good. Morganne is really good at seeing the



Plymouth Christian coach Rod Windle talks to his players.

whole court, so we're able to bounce off of each other and also the underclassmen have been playing a big part in filling their roles and rebounding. It's just been a really fun summer so far.

"We've got this."

The offense is going to look pretty close to what Windle installed for Fernandez a year ago. The only problem is Fernandez won't be there to take about 50% of the shot attempts.

That means Yeager and Maulbetsch, as well as some of the younger players, will be asked to produce more than they ever have in the past.

But that doesn't seem to be too much of an ask given how well Houk is playing at point guard right now.

"She has made good progress on the little things we're working on," Windle said. "She's denying screens. She's getting around corners, which means she's learning to get downhill. She's just going to make reads. She has to read the second level in terms of who's behind her. Tonight, on ball-side cuts, she did a good job of forcing a post player to switch onto her. She's recognizing how to force teams to switch or pay the price for not switching. She's doing the things she needs to do as a point guard.

"She has to be *THE* player for us when she's got the ball at the point, just like Clara, who is a freshman, has to be the player for us when she's at the point. Both kids run the court really well and are making progress. That's a great thing to see already, that progress."

Houk wasn't wearing her usual No. 2 uniform against Walled Lake Western.

She was actually sporting the No. 9, which makes sense. She's got to be the best quarterback on the court now. Much like recent Super Bowl winner Matthew Stafford, who also wears 9.

Of course, it was a given she wouldn't be wearing the No. 1 because nobody will be able to replace Fernandez. But Houk is going to try her best.



CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that:

The City of Plymouth, Michigan will receive sealed Bids for the **Central Parking Structure Restoration 2022** project in the Plymouth City Clerk's Office at Plymouth City Hall, 201 Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170, until Thursday, August 25, 2022, 10 a.m. local time.

Prospective Bidders are required to attend and participate in a pre-bid conference on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, 10 a.m. local time at the City of Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, 831 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170.

Please visit the City website for information to review/obtain a copy of the bid specifications: **Bid Opportunities - City of Plymouth, MI (plymouthmi.gov)**

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Maureen Brodie, CMC
City of Plymouth

Publish: July 31, 2022

LO-0008789443 3x3

PUBLIC NOTICE PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD

Regular Meeting

Including:
Approval of Millage Rates

&
Presentation of 2023 Operating Budget

August 16, 2022 @ 7:30 P.M.

THE BOARD MEETING IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT; THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND IN-PERSON OR ELECTRONICALLY

Persons interested in attending electronically may access the Conference Call by dialing: 1 651 372 8299

Or Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84949591404>
Meeting ID: 849 4959 1404, Passcode: 99536543

Please see agenda on website www.plymouthlibrary.org
The agenda will be posted by August 13, 2022

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its Regular Meeting including Approval of Millage Rates and Presentation of 2023 Operating Budget on August 16, 2022. The meeting will be offered in hybrid format.

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.

Publish: July 31, 2022

LO-0008789407 3x4

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH 2022 SIDEWALK GAPS

General Notice

The Charter Township of Plymouth (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

2022 SIDEWALK GAPS
PL22002

Plymouth Township, Michigan

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the **Plymouth Township Hall** located at **9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan, MI 48170** until **Tuesday, August 16th, 2022 at 10:30 am** local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:

Excavation, grading, sidewalk placement, storm sewer and permanent pavement marking and signing.

The approximate quantities of the major items of Work are:

Item	Unit	Quantity
Sidewalk Grading	Sta	26.3
Storm Sewer	Ft	716
Drainage Structures	Ea	10
Curb and Gutter	Ft	1080
Aggregate Base	Syd	3030
Concrete Sidewalk	Sft	14458

Bids are requested for the following Contract: **PL22002**

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:

MITN website at www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn

The Township is providing the Bidding Documents on the MITN website at www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn. Please see separate files uploaded which consist of the Project Manual and the Drawings.

Bidder's inquiries shall be directed to Phil Strunk, Spalding DeDecker, pstrunk@sda-eng.com at 248-844-5400.

Instructions to Bidders.

Bid Security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders must be submitted with each Bid.

Bids may not be withdrawn for a period of 120 days after the actual date of opening thereof. This time period may be extended by mutual agreement of the OWNER and any Bidder or Bidders.

The Township reserves the right to accept any or all alternative Bids and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informalities or both; to reject any or all Bids; and in general to make the award of the Contract in any manner deemed by the Township, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the Charter Township of Plymouth.

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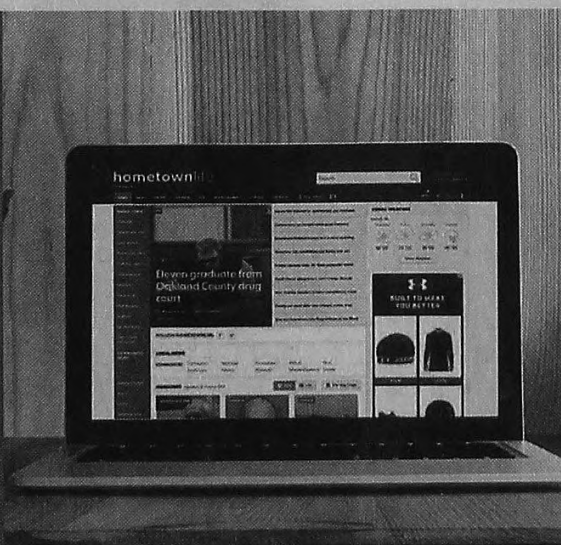
Owner: **The Charter Township of Plymouth**
By: **Jerry Vorva,**
Title: **Township Clerk**
Date: **July 28, 2022**

Publish: July 31, 2022

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Try these grilled chicken kebabs if short on time

Rita Nader Heikenfeld
Special to Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK - OHIO

Have you ever tweaked a recipe to suit the time and ingredients you have and wound up with something new, and possibly better? That's just what I did with my shish tawook chicken kebab recipe.

My original recipe marinates the chicken pieces in the refrigerator 3-6 hours before skewering with vegetables. That was not going to happen today. We were having friends for dinner and I had only a few hours to get everything done.

The marinade got changed up a bit and I doubled the amount.

I didn't have lemon zest the recipe called for, so lemon juice was subbed. That worked well.

After skewering the chicken and vegetables onto the skewers, I brushed a thick coating of marinade all over the chicken.

The secret to success is to make sure to cover chicken with marinade completely.

Wow. A whole lot less mess and time. After an hour and a half in the refrigerator, the skewers were ready to grill. When they were done, a generous brushing with a lemony herb mop added more layers of flavor.

So for those of you who may be pressed for time but still want a delicious grilled entrée, this recipe checks all the boxes.

No worries if some of the marinade gets on the vegetables. And don't be concerned if your chicken and veggies aren't cut up perfectly.

Quick marinated grilled chicken kebabs with vegetables and lemony herb mop

3 pounds or so boneless, skinless chicken thighs or breasts, cut into 1" or so pieces

8-10 skewers, 12" long



Kebabs are ready for the grill after brushing on marinade. RITA HEIKENFELD/FOR THE ENQUIRER

For the marinade:

Whisk together:

1 cup yogurt - I used whole milk Greek

½ cup virgin olive oil

5 cloves garlic, minced - about 2 tablespoons

3 tablespoons lemon juice

Handful each: minced fresh thyme, oregano and basil or 1 tablespoon + 1 teaspoon each dried

2¼ teaspoons salt

2 teaspoons black pepper

¼ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

Vegetables:

3-4 large colored bell peppers, cut into 1-inch or so pieces

2 large red onions, cut in half and then into ½ wedges

Lemony herb mop

Whisk together:

Palmful each: fresh basil and parsley, minced

Several leaves chives, minced (optional)

2 cloves garlic, minced - about 2 teaspoons

Lemon juice to taste - start with ½ cup

½ cup virgin olive oil

Skewering chicken and vegetables

Thread as follows, leaving a bit of space in between each piece of chicken so that you can get marinade brushed all over: 2 pieces pepper, few pieces onion, 3 pieces chicken, repeat.

Brush marinade thickly on all sides of chicken, and in between pieces. Some marinade may get on vegetables, and that's OK.

Place in single layer on cookie sheet, cover and marinate 1½ hours. (You can go up to a full 6 hours or so if you like).

Grill over high heat until chicken and vegetables are charred around edges and cooked, 4-5 minutes each side or so.

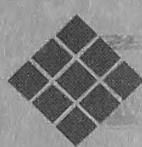
Brush with herb mop and serve.



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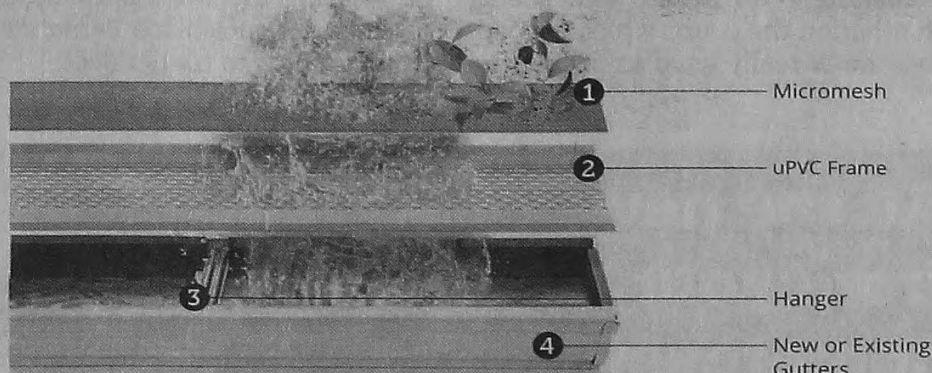
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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. australianwordgames.com.au

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------|--------|----------|
| Asked | Enjoy | Juba | Skip |
| Balboa | Entertain | Kolo | Slip |
| Basic | Fandango | Latin | Swing |
| Bolero | Fast | Lead | Teacher |
| Boogie | Flow | Limbo | Trot |
| Caper | Group | Merry | Tunes |
| Carrioca | Heat | Plano | Turn |
| Chasse | Hula | Polka | Two step |
| Cool | Instructions | Rave | Valse |
| Dress | Jazz | Reel | Veleta |
| Drinks | Jive | Rondo | Vibrant |
| Easy | Jota | Sedate | Watch |

TODAY'S ANSWER

Put on your red shoes

Let's dance

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

4x	1	1-	
		3	7+
1-	2÷		
	2-		

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KENKEN

- Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

4x	1	1-	
		3	7+
1-	2÷		
	2-		

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NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- H's horizontal
- Light up
- Inculpatory adage ender
- Literally, "the god"
- Concert-to-go
- Sit on it
- Allergic
- Store Santa offering
- Charging option
- Out of shape
- It all comes down to them
- Toni alternative
- Pre-grilling advice
- Pick up off the street
- Curler collection
- Término romántico
- Speakers set up on stages
- State bordering the most provinces
- Not keeping well
- Giant of the Industrial Revolution
- Beauty
- Paradoxical feedback
- With 59 Across, what's found within many a legend
- Talk nonsense
- What could be a bargain
- Particular
- Tahoe or Santa Fe
- Word from the French for "sorting"
- Basin descriptor

DOWN

- Veggie rarely seen singularly
- Black as night
- Final novel by the author of "the great GF"
- "Voyaging through strange ___ of thought": Wordsworth
- Walk-on part
- AAA recommendation

- Personal protectors
- Don't cut out
- Cup of tea
- ___ and Her Fellas (LP with Armstrong and the Ink Spots)
- American Oxonian, e.g.
- Newspaper puzzle challenge
- Big portion
- El Al logo depiction
- Further
- Rose ___
- Terms of service
- Eschewed modulation
- United states
- With 36 Down, show of gratitude

- Breakfast buffet offering
- Flavor enhancers
- Electronic stop
- See 29 Down
- ___ walking
- Trekker's British counterpart
- Subtle signals of a sort
- Supporting in the back
- Big dipper
- 1953 debut as Froffles
- Long stretch
- John or Joe
- Traditional Midshipman rival
- Tool with many teeth
- Watch term since the '70s
- Coming through

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2022 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 7/30/22

SUDOKU | CREATORS

Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: GOLD**

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

TODAY'S ANSWER

S	E	L	S	N	A	P	P	L	S	E	D	S	L	E
N	O	T	A	S	V	A	L	S	H	A	I	R	S	A
O	G	E	A	L	G	E	A	L	G	E	A	L	G	E
T	E	M	S	U	V	T	R	I	A	G	E			
M	A	P	D	R	O	O	L							
I	M	S	P	E	E	C	H	L	E	S				
L	O	S	I	N	G									
L	O	S	I	N	G									
G	R	A	T	O	R	S								
A	D	M	I	T	O	N	I	N	G					
B	E	N	T											
A	V	E	R	S	E									
L	I	V	E											
L	I	V	E											
C	R	O	S	S	B	A	R							

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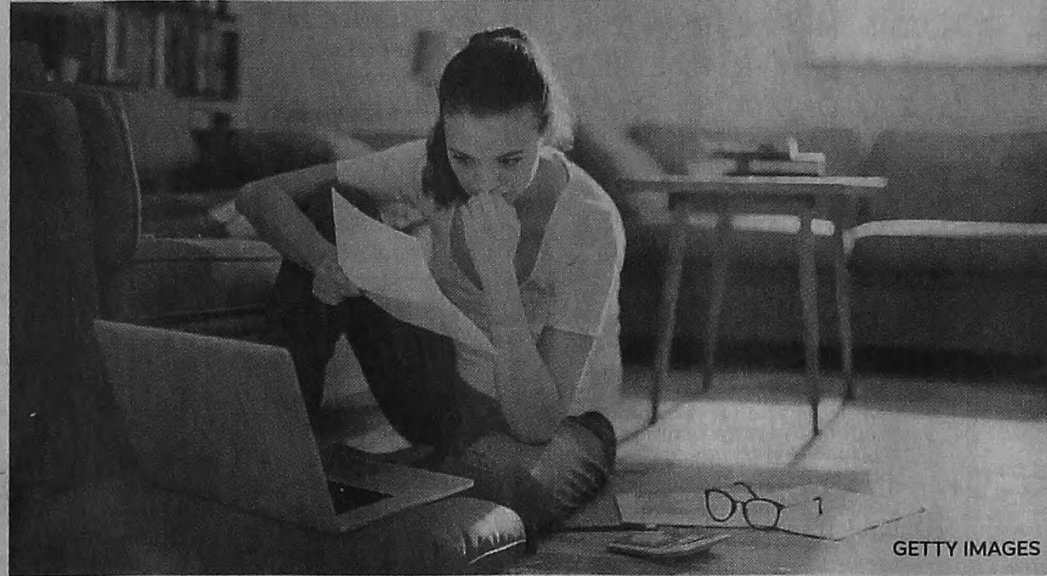
With prices going up 1.3% in June—two consecutive months of at least 1%—and 9.1% over the year, today's Consumer Price Index report suggests the worst is behind us. With inflation above expectations and the labor market proving resilient, the Fed is likely to proceed with a 75 basis-point rate hike later this month, further tightening financial conditions.

Even ahead of further tightening, there are signs that inflation is already being brought under control:

- Year-over-year core inflation slightly slowed down from 6.0% to 5.9%. Core inflation increased to 0.7% over the month, compared to 0.6% in the last 2 months. However, a slow down is ahead of us since international shipping costs have fallen for producers in recent months as global supply chain pressures have eased.

- Gas prices are down to \$4.63 as of today, from \$5.01 a month ago. Since energy contributed nearly half of the all items increase in June's high number, and is a common input in every single industry including food and transportation, the impact of high energy prices on consumers is not limited to its 8% weight in the consumer basket.

- 10 year TIPS (Treasury breakeven inflation rate) is on a downward trend since the most recent rate hike in June, currently at 2.32%. The current number suggests that the investors expect the inflation to be around 2.3% over the next 10 years, which is aligned with the Fed's target of 2 to 2.5%.



GETTY IMAGES

High prices are broad-based with food, gas, and housing costs being the largest contributors.

- Though the mortgage applications have gone down drastically, we are yet to see the impacts of high mortgage rates on housing prices. The overall shelter index increased 0.6% in June, and 5.6% over the last year, the largest 12-month increase since February 1991.

- After increasing 48.7% over the year in May, gas prices surged another 11.2% in June—a sharp acceleration from last month's 4.1%—, which brings year-over-year growth to 59.9%. However, since gas prices are down to \$4.63 as of today, from \$5.01 a month ago, we are likely to see the index moving into the right direction in next month's report. Energy single-handedly contributed to nearly half of today's number. So declining energy prices now could reverse inflation's trajectory in the next report.

- We had another month of food prices seeing double-digit hikes, increasing at a 10.4% rate, the first increase of 10 percent or more since the period ending February 1981. Prices for both food at home and food away from home picked up significantly, to 12.2% and 10.4% respectively.

- The index for dental services increased 1.9 percent in June, the largest monthly change ever recorded for that series, which dates to 1995.

As consumer preferences shift back from commodities to services, prices for services are being pushed higher.

- In June inflation in both durable goods and core services—services excluding energy—have accelerated, 0.7% each.

- Although normalizing consumption patterns are good news for the U.S. economy, which is predominantly a service economy, it also means that inflation is

likely to linger even as global supply chain issues resolve since both prices of goods, and services remain elevated.

High inflation is affecting the labor market.

Here are three ways that job seekers in the market right now are altering their job search plans to escape higher prices:

1. Job seekers are flocking towards remote roles to reduce their transportation costs. High gas prices and car prices have made commuting considerably more expensive, which has made many job seekers prioritize "where" over "what" in their next job. 37.5% of job seekers surveyed by ZipRecruiter in June said rising gasoline prices have made them more likely to look for remote work, whereas another 10.1% said inflation had made them more likely to seek a higher-paying job.

2. Older workers are unretiring, pushed by inflation. In June, 21.5% of job seekers who are currently looking for a job said they had retired at some point previously. Among those, 35.8% cited inflation as the number one reason that they have since unretired and are now seeking employment. Another 26.2% said that they are rejoining the workforce because they are running out of retirement savings.

3. Job seekers are rejecting offers that pay too little. In a market where employers are fiercely competing for candidates, 48.0% of job seekers in June said that they had already secured at least one job offer. Among those, almost half—49.7%—said they had rejected an offer, with 26.7% citing "not enough pay" as the reason for doing so.

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