

North Farmington boys hoops continues win streak

SPORTS, 1B





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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Protesters: Racial justice progress too slow

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Black, brown and white protesters alike crowded some of the nation's streets last summer because of the tragic deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, two African-Americans killed by police. "Black Lives Matter! Black Lives Matter!" they chanted, their cries echoing through Detroit and its suburbs.

Activists and their followers made their statements outside Livonia City Hall, Westland Police Department, and other municipal landmarks.

Then they took their voices inside, asking and praying for leaders to listen

to their grievances and do something about the inequalities that propelled them to risk their chosen futures in the first place.

The months passed and COVID-19 settled in. In communities most targeted by whispers of racism, protesters saw change that some would call nominal, others would call huge.

Hometown Life caught up with some of the demonstrators who, for the most part, predicted more outcry in 2021 because elected bodies are moving too slowly and inefficiently to produce real change in their communities.

See PROGRESS, Page 6A



Paul Shepich, superintendent of the Clarenceville Public Schools, stands outside his home in Livonia on Feb. 15.

Clarenceville superintendent battles cancer amid pandemic

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

March 13 began what would become the most stressful schooling season of Paul Shepich's 38-year career.

After the initial closing in the CO-VID-19 pandemic's beginning days, Clarenceville Public Schools, along with school districts across Michigan, grappled with how and when to return to inperson schooling. Shepich and other superintendents continue to face a dilemma of how to best educate students while also keeping students and staff as safe as possible.

Not to mention, reaction to the CO-VID-19 pandemic is something most everybody has an opinion on. Locally, students, parents and staff have not been shy in sharing those opinions with schools districts.

"It is tremendously, and I can't stress that enough, tremendously stressful," Shepich said. "There are no right answers. It depends on what side of the ledger people fall on, and you're always going to be wrong 50 percent of the time because of that."

All the while adding to that work-related stress, Shepich has been battling cancer.

In January 2019, he found out he has stage three nodular lymphocyte-

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"I think it's important for people to know that we don't know what's going on behind everyone else's closed doors in their lives. ... Everybody is doing the best they can, and we don't have to understand it all."

Paul Shepich Superintendent, Clarenceville Public Schools

Canton aims to conquer worst roads in township

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The recent revelation of which Canton Township roads would be the primary targets of 2021 improvement dollars was followed by an insightful discussion regarding ASR (alaki-silica reaction) — the "concrete cancer" that causes most tire-flattening potholes — and what to do about it.

During a study session focused on the township's 2021 Road Improvement Program, the board of trustees approved a plan to spend approximately \$6.9 million on the following projects:

 Rehabilitation and repair work on Canton Center Road from Cherry Hill to Ford Road (estimated cost: \$1.8 million)

• Repairs on Sheldon Road, from Cherry Hill to Ford Road (estimated cost: \$1.1 million)

See ROADS, Page 3A

Plans for Westland hookah lounge move forward

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The first business planned at the redeveloped shopping center at Ann Arbor Trail and Middlebelt took a step forward earlier this month.

forward earlier this month.

The Westland Planning Commission recommended approval Feb. 2 for a special land use for a hookah lounge planned in the former Burger King building at the shopping center on the southeast corner of the intersection. The lounge would be just one of two businesses in the building: a takeout restaurant would occupy part of the building in addition to the hookah lounge.

It's expected some customers at the smoking lounge could use the restaurant next door and carry in food from

See HOOKAH, Page 6A

Oakland County gives juvenile lifers another chance

Bill Laitner

Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Keeping a vow she made during her election campaign last year, Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald announced she has taken steps to give "juvenile lifers" a chance for parole.

McDonald said in a news release that she had filed "resentencing notices" with the Michigan Attorney General's Office and with Oakland County Circuit Court on behalf of 22 state prison inmates who'd committed crimes in Oakland County. A resentencing notice amounts to a detailed review of a case and a recommendation for a new sen-

tence with a possibility for parole.

Each of the 22 inmates had been convicted of homicide as a juvenile and sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole -- a sentence declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court in a sweeping 2012 decision called Miller v. Alabama.

In taking the action, McDonald withdrew her predecessor's motions to reimpose sentences of life without parole on 20 of those inmates. After McDonald and her staff reviewed all of the cases, she reduced that number to just two inmates for whom she is recommending keeping their sentences of life without parole, a spokesman said. The others now have a chance to be resentenced

with "time-bound" terms of years, the spokesman said. The announcement is not a policy change but, instead, the prosecutor's efforts "to follow the law," the spokesman said.

Despite the U.S. Supreme Court rulings, many prosecutors in Michigan dragged their feet on the high court's order to review the cases of those who were sentenced as youths to life without parole. Soon after a civil liberties lawyer in Ann Arbor together with the Michigan ACLU filed suit in federal court in Detroit on behalf of more than 200 Michigan "juvenile lifers."

That lawsuit led in 2019 to a decision called Hill v. Whitmer, a settlement that listed Gov. Gretchen Whitmer as the de-

fendant representing the state of Michigan. The settlement called for Michigan prosecutors, in effect, to stop sitting on their hands and act on the Supreme Court's order.

"The Hill settlement called for prosecutors to reconsider each of those sentences and commit to a timeline for resentencing eligible individuals," Mc-Donald said in the release.

"As prosecutor, my primary obligation is to keep Oakland County communities safe and to follow the law. In rendering these decisions, I am obeying the Constitution, and pursuing sentences that will keep our communities safe until these individuals are no longer a threat," she said.



Kirsten Cicchella, supervisor of Farmington Public School's new Early Childhood Center, leads a tour of the facility Feb. 8. The building can accommodate almost 500 students, but at this time only about 200 are attending classes.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Farmington district opens enrollment for new early childhood center

The Farmington Public Schools' Farmington Early Childhood Center (FECC) opened enrollment for all families for the 2021-22 school year.

The Farmington Early Childhood Center is a brand new facility designed for early learners. The new building is equipped with child-sized furniture, bathrooms and learning resources.

Thoughtful planning went into the creation of a large gross motor room, gymnasium and an outdoor play area with several sections for different learning and play activities, school officials said. Learning opportunities are even provided in the hallways where students can engage with letters, numbers, shapes, patterns, colors and more.

Farmington Public Schools has been providing early childhood programs for more than 50 years. These programs provide high quality, developmentally appropriate and nurturing educational experiences for young children. The district currently offers a variety of programming for children that are two-and-a-half to four years of age.

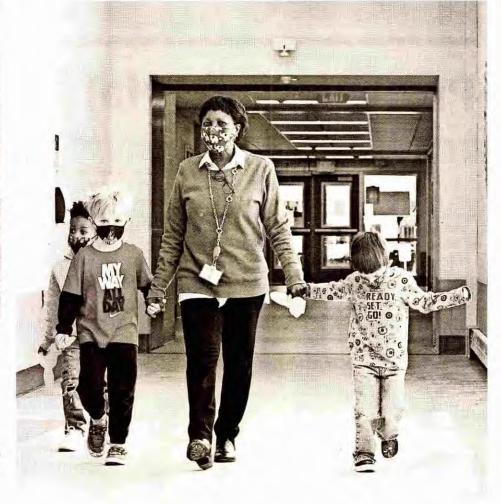
The Farmington Early Childhood Center is fully licensed by the State of Michigan and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. All early childhood teachers are highly qualified and receive ongoing professional development. The curriculum for all programs is researchbased and aligned with Farmington Public Schools' K-12 curriculum.

Families can register online at farmington.k12.mi.us/early-childhood.
Registration can also be done at any time throughout the year as space is available.

To enroll your child(ren), fill out the online enrollment forms and pay the \$125 enrollment fee. Once you have completed the forms, call FECC to make an appointment at 248-489-3808. Please bring all completed documentation. Children are placed into classes once this process is complete and all documentation is received at FECC.

There are no residency requirements for tuition-based programs. Free programs are available through Head Start or GSRP (Great Start Readiness Program) for qualifying families. These programs are available for three- and four-year-old children. Various criteria must be met for each grant program. If you are interested in learning more about Head Start or GSRP visit farmington.k12.mi.us/domain/1175.

"We hope that you start young and finish strong with Farmington Public Schools' Early Childhood Programs," said Program Director Kirsten Cicchella.



Educator Subrenia Walker leads some of her charges in the complex Feb. 8.



said Program Director Kirsten Cicchella. The center features a circular Gross Motor Room so kids can exercise and play.

hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

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Follow us on Faceboook: @OEHometown

Subscription Rates: Newsstand price: \$1.50

\$104 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery: Customer Service: 866-887-2737 Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon Afterhours, leave voicemail

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Livonia native wins big on 'The Price is Right'

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Growing up, Sheila Rupp spent a lot of time watching "The Price is Right." So for her, competing on the show was a childhood dream recognized.

"It's always been one of my favorite shows," Rupp said. "I was an afternoon kindergartener, and I would watch the show with my mom every day when I had lunch. So, I've been a fan for decades."

Rupp, who grew up in Livonia, auditioned for the show after seeing a casting call on Facebook. She ended up on an episode that aired Tuesday. The show features a variety of games in which contestants guess the price of everyday items.

While competing on the 49-yearold game show, which airs on CBS, Rupp ended up winning \$10,000 and a new Mazda3. She surprised herself by taking the risks she did, but figured she might as well make the most of the



Livonia native
Sheila Rupp
smiles as she
watches
herself win on
"The Price is
Right." Rupp
won \$10,000
and a Mazda3.
COURTESY OF
SHEILA RUPP

opportunity.

"I thought, 'Well, I'm here and I have nothing to lose,' " she said.

Rupp said it was incredible to see the studio in-person. Though her hour spent there passed by quickly, she said it was a positive experience.

"It's kind of one of those childhood things," she said. "Everybody kind of

knows the iconic show, so it's really surreal. I couldn't believe it was there."

Rupp currently lives in Los Angeles, where her husband is stationed as he serves in the United States Air Force.

"Livonia will always be home, that's where we go to visit our families," she said. "But we go where the Air Force takes us."

Roads

Continued from Page 1A

Repairs on Haggerty Road, from Michigan Avenue to Van Born (estimated cost: \$1.25 million)

- Annual deposit to Michigan Department of Transportation for Ford Road Boulevard Project (\$1 million)
- A local match program involving 13 subdivisions (\$500,000)

Funding for the projects was generated by the township's successful 2018 roads millage campaign, which will allow Canton to spend an average of \$5.6 million annually until 2039 on road repairs and improvements, and the creation of a boulevard separating east-and west-bound traffic on Ford Road from Lotz to Sheldon roads.

An interactive map showing the township's road projects can be found on its website.

The estimated cost of 2021 road-improvement projects exceeds the average annual expenditure budget because 2020 projects came in under budget due in part to the coronavirus pandemic.

"The nice thing about the millage stretching over 20 years is that it gives us flexibility each year on how much we use, depending on what projects are deemed necessary," Director of Municipal Services Jade Smith explained.

Canton Center woes

A hot topic during the study session was why heavily-traveled Canton Center Road, both south and north of Warren Road, is scarred with axle-jarring potholes just two years after the Wayne County Roads Division spent \$2.1 million to "fix" the stretch of roadway.

Township Clerk Michael Siegrist suggested it may be cost-effective to move forward with a total reconstruct of the affected area.

"One thing I do not like doing is putting good money after bad money, and Canton Center looks like it's already rife for additional repairs," Siegrist said. "We might be better off if the concrete is pulled out and replaced with new concrete instead of putting \$1 million to \$2 million into it every other year.

"I know it's partly a funding issue. My dream is to get some state legislators and federal legislators together to create both a state and federal funding mecha-



Plenty of these sharp-edged potholes await drivers along Canton Center Road near Warren. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

nism that could help resolve ASR issues, with my focus being in Canton."

The culprit behind much of Canton's ongoing struggles with keeping roadways smooth is ASR, a common chemical reaction in concrete that can lead to serious cracking that results in critical structural problems, Engineering Services Manager Bill Serchak explained.

Serchak revealed that an alternative to complete roadway replacement is a less-expensive practice called "asphalt capping", which recently was completed successfully in the Fairways West subdivision near the intersection of Cherry Hill and Beck roads.

"Capping may seem like a band-aid approach, but if we can extend a road's life 15 to 20 years, it would be a cheaper proposition than a huge reconstruction project," Serchak said.

Subdivision advocate

Canton's Sunflower subdivision, one of the largest subdivisions in Michigan, has stretches of roadway that resident and roads watchdog Robert Parker describes as battlefield-esque.

A retired automotive engineer, Park-

er has made it his mission to work with the township and Wayne County to get the roughest patches of his neighborhood's roads upgraded.

One two-street area near the west boundary of Sunflower — particularly along Swanmere Road and Lambeth Way — is so chewed up, it's devolved into an auto mechanic shop owner's dream, he said.

"Sections of those roads have been like driving over a battlefield for over five years," said Parker. "The township representatives I've talked to have been very considerate in listening to my concerns, as has our Wayne County Commissioner Melissa Daub, but it's in the county's hands."

The tire-swallowing potholes that have been regular residents of Sunflower for at least five years, Parker, said, are patched over periodically with cold patch, a temporary fix that lasts, at most, a couple of weeks, Parker said.

"What they need is a hot-patch treatment that is more expensive and can last, from what I understand, three to five years, but the county is restricted to simply 'maintaining' the subdivision roads and not repairing them, so it argues that it is limited in what it can do. It's a frustrating situation, to say the least."

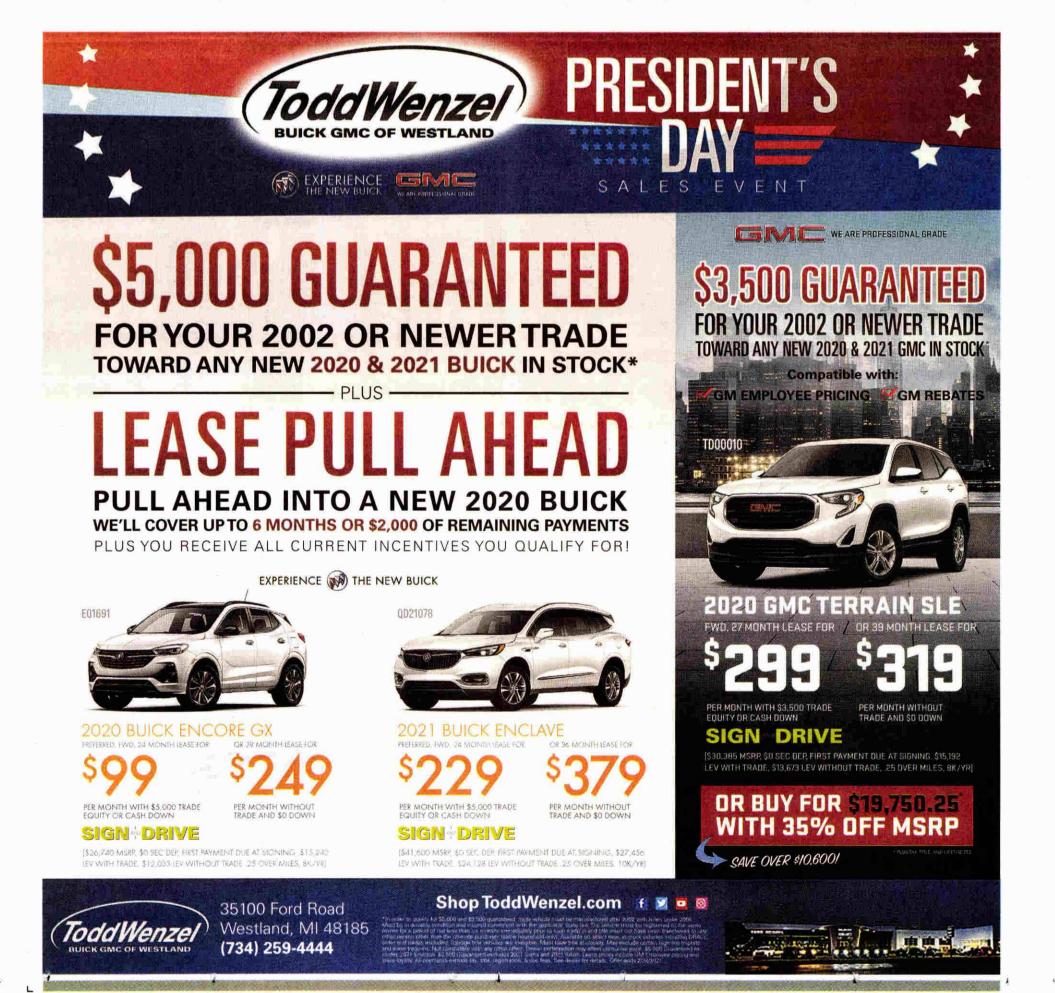
While Parker admits he is far from a roads-surfacing expert, his observations show that roads in Sunflower south of Warren Road — the newer section of the 40-year-old development — are in rougher shape than those north of Warren.

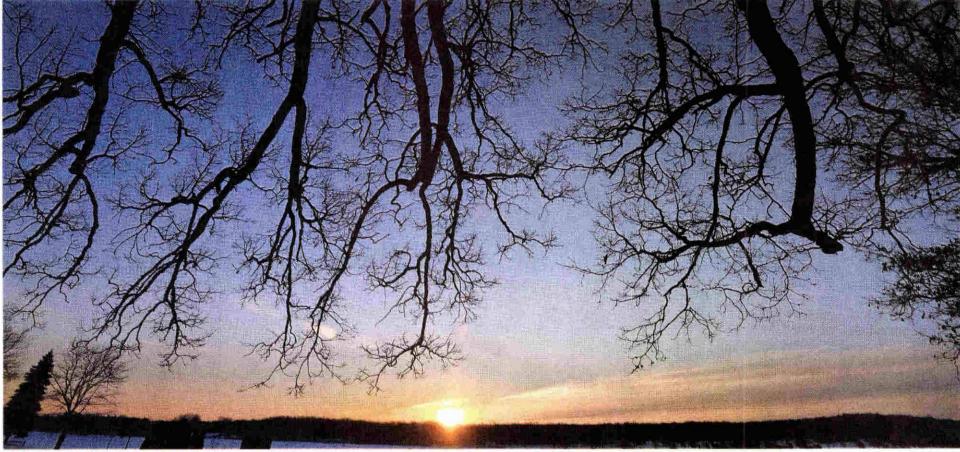
And there's a reason, he theorizes.

"In the late-'80s before the newer portions of Sunflower were built, the Environmental Protection Agency ruled that a material called fly ash had to be removed from road surfaces because of its high-acidity rate, for one thing," Parker said. "My theory is the roads are in such rough shape in south Sunflower because they were made with asphalt that doesn't contain fly ash, so it's more susceptible to cracking and breaking down."

Parker has developed a strong rapport with township engineers and hopes to someday coordinate a plan that will work toward developing a longer-term fix for his sub's beat-down roads.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com.





The rising sun peeks over the horizon about 7:30 a.m. Feb. 11 at Kensington Metropark in Milford. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Winter's chill at Kensington Metropark



John Heider Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Arriving before sunrise Feb. 11 at Kensington Metropark, the first thing I noticed was how still it is.

Nothing seemed to be moving. and with temperatures below 10 degrees and only a slight breeze, the entirety of the park — four-legged creatures, birds, trees, and lakes — seemed frozen in an understandably rigid pose.

The 4,400-acre park lies off Interstate 96 between Milford and Kensington roads. Its main feature is Kent Lake, part of an impoundment of the Huron River system, which meanders through the park's center and occupies much of its total area.

While the park is populated in spring,

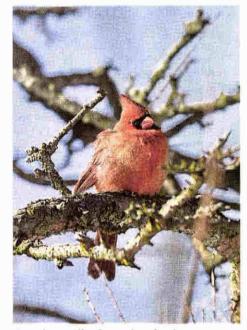
summer and fall with hikers, bikers, boaters, fishers, bird watchers and swimmers, in winter it's not exactly bustling. In the nearly four hours I spent there driving and hiking about, I saw less than a dozen people.

The park's non-human inhabitants, while not everywhere or obvious to the eyes, are part of the landscape once you let things settle in. Moments into the park, I noticed a whitetail deer in the forest near the road. And then another one and then – well, I guess half a dozen of them were hanging out until they noticed me noticing them.

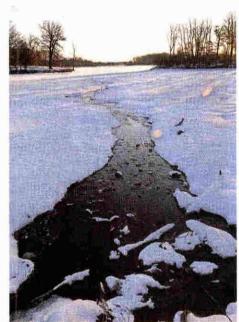
With a wiggle of their tails, they bolted across Huron River Parkway to the deeper forest for forage or a snooze, or both

After my deer encounter, I drove to the west side of Kent Lake to its Maple Beach area to see what I could record on

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A male cardinal perches in the branches of a tamarack tree near the park's nature center.



A small spring seeping from Wildwing Lake is the only unfrozen water on Kent Lake near the nature center.



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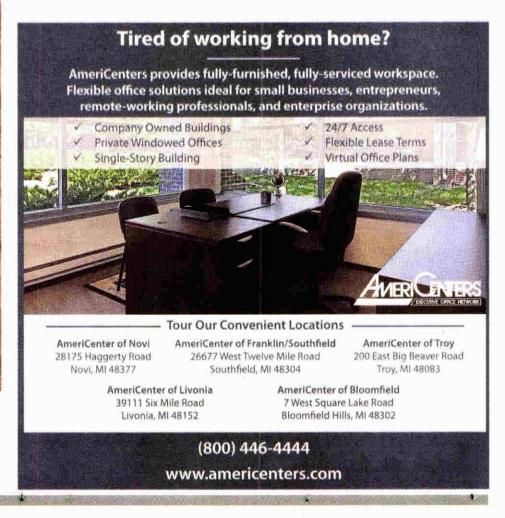
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A grove of oak trees is warmed by the rising sun at Kensington Metropark.



Teen incompetent to stand murder trial – for now

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Found incompetent to stand trial, Southgate teen Gerelle Rhan is not entirely clear of felony second-degree murder and reckless driving charges.

A Westland District Court judge has merely declared him incompetent ... for now, according to court officials.

The 19-year-old will face the charges once again if the court finds proof he's mentally able to understand court proceedings and their consequences

"It doesn't mean the case is done," Maria Miller, spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, said.

She confirmed that Rhan is currently being evaluated and monitored to determine if he could become competent in the future.

Wayne County prosecutors accused Rhan of driving a vehicle that ran a red light before crashing into a vehicle and killing Chris Ward, 48, of Dearborn on May 20.

Cancer

Continued from Page 1A

predominant Hodgkin lymphoma. It's rare, especially for someone his age.

But, like any good educator, Shepich says it's not about him. So he persists

Undergoing chemo

Shepich suspected something was wrong in December 2018, but wasn't diagnosed until about a month later. Because his particular brand of cancer doesn't spread quickly, he didn't have to start chemotherapy treatments until December 2020.

"It stays in your lymph nodes and it spreads through those," Shepich explained. "Mine was in my chest, my neck, my underarms, my back and I had a little bit in the abdomen as well."

So far, Shepich has undergone three chemo treatments. He'll do at least three more, which should wrap up in March.

His doctors won't know exactly how well the treatments are working until then.

Chemo is administered in 21-day cycles. For Shepich, days six through 14

of that cycle are difficult. He gets fatigue, headaches and symptoms akin to

"I mean these drugs, they call them poison," he said. "When they come in to give you the injections and they're in these gowns — they don't want that stuff touching them at all if there was an accident because it really is poisonous. So, you know you're getting something put in you that's not normal. It does attack the cancer, but it attacks pretty much everything else too."

Still, he won't complain.

"I'm probably one of the lucky ones, honestly," Shepich said. "It hasn't been as bad as it could be at this stage I don't think."

Getting the job done

Shepich said he feels blessed the Clarenceville Board of Education has allowed him to work exclusively from home for the time being. His doctors say it's the safest way for him to keep serving the district for now, but being at home has its challenges.

"Being away from the kids is probably the hardest thing for me," he admitted. "I'm a people person, I love being around the kids and the teachers. Not being able to do that has taken a toll on me. But, I'm learning to put myself first."

The superintendent does enjoy spending time with his wife and adult son, who recently moved home to care for him. He said they and his central office staff are an incredible support system

"When you have a smaller district, it's a little different in some capacity because we really get to know these families at a different level," he said. "When these difficult times hit, that's when the people in these kinds of districts step up."

Shepich has mostly kept his cancer battle on the down low. He's confident he'll come out the other side of this OK and doesn't want people feeling sorry for him.

But as a superintendent during this most unorthodox school year, he thinks his story at this moment can remind people they never know what someone is dealing with behind the scenes.

"I think it's important for people to know that we don't know what's going on behind everyone else's closed doors in their lives," he said. "I think we always need to remember that. Everybody is doing the best they can, and we don't have to understand it all."

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



A whitetail deer bounds through the forest of Kensington Metropark in Milford just before sunrise Feb. 11. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Chill

Continued from Page 4A

my Nikon camera. And even though it was now past 7:30 a.m. and the sun was coming up, the only thing moving was nearby I-96's steady stream of commuters. The forest was still, the lake was frozen and I could see nobody else within a mile. A few moments of a winter's quiet solitude is OK in my books.

The rest of my morning was spent making photographs with my Nikon d750. Not too many – just 570 digital files over the next few hours. If there was one overarching theme to the photos, it was that shadows were part of everything I framed.

This time of year, with the light coming in cold and harsh, there were shadows on the snow where rabbits and deer had run about; shadows ridging the bark

of oak trees slowly warmed by the sun; and shadows cast on the cardinals perched on a barren tamarack tree, cast by nearby branches.

On my way out of the park I stopped near Kensington's Nature Center on its west side, a popular stop for bird watchers. Nearby trails and a boardwalks lead to the popular heron rookery – its feathered friends won't visit until April or so. I hit the trails with my telephoto lens looking for smaller winged friends.

I soon found dozens of birds flitting about the forest and frozen swamp area: cardinals, northern juncos, chickadees, bluejays, downy woodpeckers and field sparrows. Jumping from branch to branch, hopping about the snow-covered trails and flying overhead, the tiny creatures proved that the park remains decidedly alive, even in the midst of winter.

John Heider is the staff photographer for Hometown Life.

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Bringing communities together

Hilary Smith Ramirez already was bothered by the number of times her African-American husband gets pulled over when she came across some post-Floyd Facebook vitriol.

She and two other women with Livonia ties splintered off into their own separate chat, agreeing they had to do something.

"We were planning one protest, and it just cascaded," said Smith Ramirez, a founding member of Livonia Citizens Caring About Black Lives. "Now, here we are today still fighting with city council, fighting with the police department, trying to get the bare minimum of respect and acknowledgment.

"It's tough. It takes a lot of time and is extremely frustrating. We've had to beg and plead and cajole to get things done."

In the past year, she has met amazing people who obviously consider themselves allies. Smith Ramirez also has been disheartened by the number of hateful people she's come across.

Still pursuing, among other things, a citizens oversight commission for the police department, she's optimistic that the revival of police pensions could lead to more police job applications and a more diverse, qualified police force.

She'd like folks to remember that Livonia Citizens Caring About Black Lives is intended as a community-building group.

"We're not here to cause problems," she said. "We want to help solve problems and hopefully bring Livonia citizens together in doing so."

She's promising more activities focused on unity.

"Livonia is becoming more diverse, and I want to make sure that those kids and any kids that my husband and I adopt will feel safe and feel included in the Livonia community," Smith Ramirez said. "I work with everyone under the sun. I just want to try to help especially the kids get a much better feel for what the world is actually like."

Protesting

Westland's Edward Pruett remains dissatisfied with progress made since the initial protests.

He was the vanguard who went from protesting with others to initiating a non-profit movement, "A Better Westland," aimed at creating a better city for

His elected leaders took some action, declaring racism a public health crisis and creating a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission.

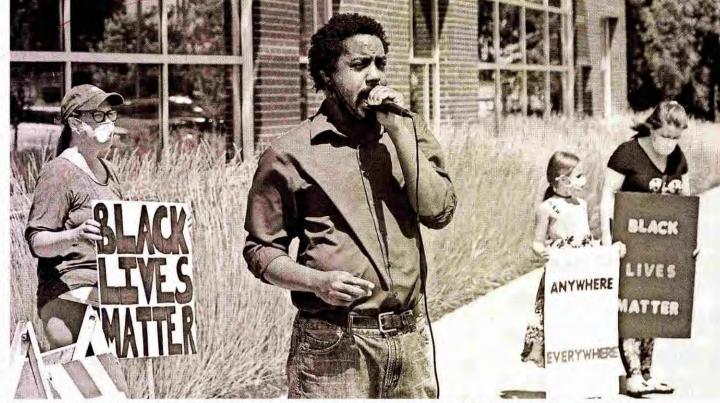
The city's police department also went online with a new dashboard intended to be transparent about citation and arrest data in the city.

Still, Pruett has not forgotten the early 2020 arrest of an autistic man from Detroit. The department fired Officer Kristopher Landis because of his use of force with a collapsible baton.

"A lot of it is just superficial," Pruett said of the changes that are happening.

A pastor by trade and calling, Pruett said the much-touted Listening Tour series seems to have fallen short of what organizers intended. The tour of community leaders listening to their constituents about police conduct went online because of COVID-19.

"If we were to ask ourselves, 'Have

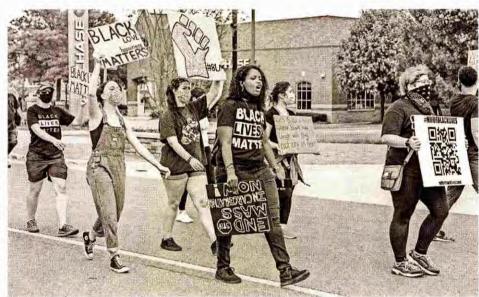


Edward Pruett, center, is joined by Ashley Stevens, left, and other supporters in front of Westland City Hall in June.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Livonia resident Hilary Smith Ramirez took an active role in the summer's Black Lives Matter protests.



Alexandria Hughes, center, took a stance against racial injustice in the summer.

we truly made progress?' We have not," Pruett said. "We haven't gone far enough. There's a lot of placating going on.

"I'm happy to see people standing up for their rights. That's what we've needed for so long."

He expects more protests "if necessary."

Change is never easy

Alexandria Hughes, a political activist for years, was moved by the diverse crowds waving signs and raising their voices against racial injustices over the

The Redford Township woman wondered if the protesters were finally coming together for the right cause and, if so, what their collective energy could achieve.

Hughes kept her attention on a few metro Detroit communities including Livonia, where she claims her family has been racially profiled.

Hughes attended Livonia City Council meetings and said some progress happened during tough conversations that held parties accountable.

In the next year, she would like to see the city council address racial profiling. She hopes for legislation similar to the Community Safety Act in Providence,

Rhode Island.

That legislation prohibits discriminatory profiling, establishes how police officers should document and collect data from traffic and pedestrian stops; mandates greater transparency and accountability in police-community interactions; and establishes new protections for juveniles, immigrants, and transgender individuals.

Hughes spoke to Hometown Life the day after President Donald Trump's supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol, killing a handful and injuring dozens.

"That was disgusting and it was hard to watch," Hughes said. "It infuriated me. It just feels wrong to see all those people storm the Capitol. We would have been shot and killed. I would have been dead."

"It's more reason to keep protesting, to keep having these meetings with city council members."

After President Trump

James Spalding has lived in many southeastern Michigan communities including Farmington Hills.

Now a Dearborn Heights resident, he laughed when asked if he considered the accusations about President Donald Trump being racist accurate.

"Oh, yeah," he said, releasing a hearty

laugh. "That's an understatement."

He considers himself a "white ally" to the Black Lives Matter movement. He never could physically stand acts of injustice and racism, and he chose to say enough is enough by demonstrating with others after Floyd's May 25 death.

While recovering from a protest-related elbow injury, he continued to support President Joe Biden's election. And now that Trump is gone, he wants to work toward keeping Biden on what he considers the right course.

He stays invested in what's happening in Detroit, the metropolis that unerringly affects the suburbs.

"The fight's going on, and I think that the level of organization and connection between activists there has been really good," Spalding said. "I think that that's going to continue to grow. Pressure is going to continue to mount and we're going to see real change in Detroit in the next year or two."

He expects more protests with smaller crowds unless there's another catalyzing tragedy like Floyd's.

"I do believe that we will see more protests," Spalding said. "I think you'll see better organization and hopefully better mutual aid organization to communities along side of it."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

Hookah

Continued from Page 1A

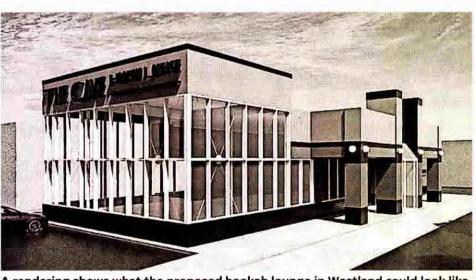
there, as the lounge cannot operate as a restaurant on its own due to Michigan's indoor smoking ban that took effect more than a decade ago.

"There will also be a takeout restaurant located within the building but partitioned and split off from the smoking lounge," Mohamed Ayoub, the city's planning director, said. "This is to comply with state indoor smoking laws."

The lounge, which would operate from noon to 2 a.m. every day, would only allow hookah products and not serve any alcohol, said business owner Salim Saddagh.

Saddagh, who's also owned Blue Moon Hookah Lounge in Dearborn Heights, said he was excited to open the lounge in Westland. He said the target demographic would be older people looking for a way to spend a night out and not for younger crowds looking for more than just hookah.

"It's for elderly people and the nights they want to go out and chill. No drinking, no alcohol," he said. "Hopefully we're going to work together and succeed."



A rendering shows what the proposed hookah lounge in Westland could look like. It would be located in the building that formerly held a Burger King.

COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND

With the unanimous recommended approval from the planning commission, the project now heads to the city council for its review and determination

The redevelopment of the Arbor Town Square shopping center took a big step in January when plans to split the shopping center up into separate parcels was also reviewed by the planning commission. The center, completely vacant for many years, would be divvied up into several separate parcels. Plans for locating businesses include the hookah lounge and restaurant, as well as a woodworking business and shop selling furniture. More details on those plans are expected to be revealed some time in the future.

Commissioner David Rappaport

brought up the current COVID-19 pandemic and its possible effect on the business. Given that a hookah lounge will see guest exhale particles back into the air, he wondered if there were any special precautions needed to taken into account given how the coronavirus is known to spread.

"There are certainly COVID concerns when it comes to eateries," he said. "My concern is more generally about a smoking lounge where there are actual particulates being put in there air where potentially COVID 19 could hitch a ride."

Saddagh said he planned on following all state guidelines when it came to COVID-19 compliance.

"I don't think our atmosphere is going to be worse than a club or a bar or a regular restaurants," he said. "Whatever the state goes with, whatever the experts go with, I'll go with."

Current orders from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services do not permit smoking indoors at the present time, though that could change by the time the hookah lounge opens, which currently does not have an estimated opening date.

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

Obituaries

Marian Sayward West

ANN ARBOR - Marian Sayward West, age 94 of Ann Arbor, passed away on February 8, 2021.

She was born in Grosse Pointe, Michigan on February 10, 1926 to her parents, Richard Arthur and Isabell (née Guthrie) Sayward. Marian is the beloved and devoted wife of the late Frank West



who passed away in 1986 and, loving mother of three children – John West, Richard West and Anne West

Marian received her Bachelor's Degree with a major in French and minor in Spanish and Portuguese with honors from the University of Michigan. In 1972, she returned to school and earned a Master's Degree in Library Science.

Friends may visit at the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 701 Church Street, Plymouth on Saturday, February 13, 2021 beginning at 2:30 P.M. until the time of the Funeral Service beginning at 3:00 P.M.

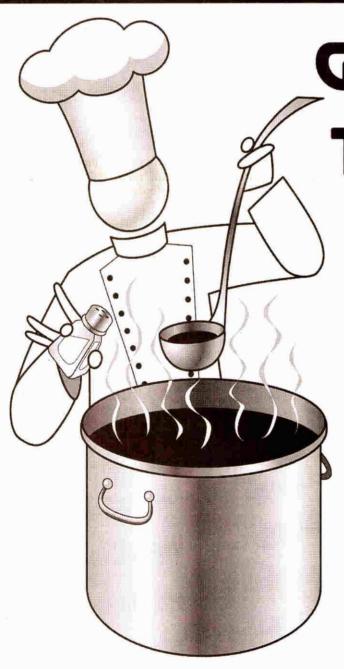
Marian will be laid to rest at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery in Flat Rock, Michigan.

Those who wish to honor the memory of Marian Sayward West are invited to consider a contribution to the School of Information at the University of Michigan, 105 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109 and Alpha Xi Delta Foundation, 8702 Founders Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268.

Contribution envelopes will be available at the Church.







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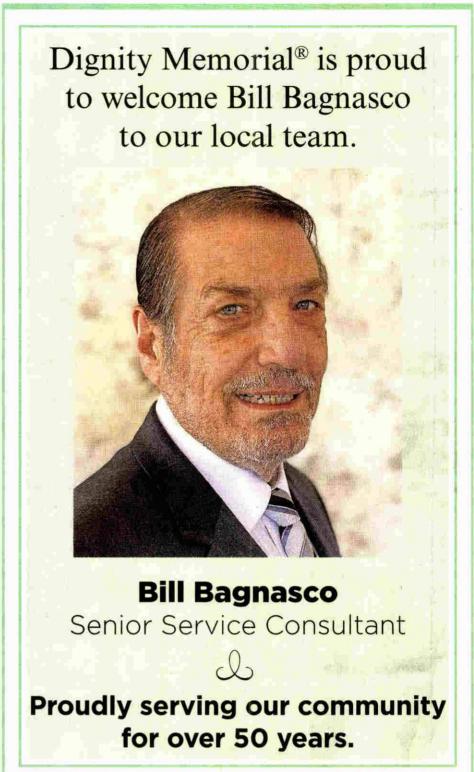




*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates as of 1/19/21. Rates are variable and subject to change after account opening. Lowest rate featured based on credit score of 760. Cash advance fee: 3% of cash advance. International transaction fee: 1% of transaction. Late payment fee up to \$25. Subject to credit approval and income qualification. Other rates and terms available, contact us for more information. \$5 membership required if not a member.

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SPORTS



North Farmington's Basheer Jihad snags a rebound during the game against Farmington on Tuesday in Farmington. North Farmington won, 71-54. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

North Farmington beats crosstown rival Farmington

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

North Farmington boys basketball head coach Todd Negoshian knows his team is still adjusting to what the 2021 season has to offer.

Tuesday the Raiders faced OAA Red and crosstown rival Farmington in an empty gym — with Farmington Public Schools not allowing spectators in the stands for any of its winter sporting events — masked up.

"We're still trying to get used to it, we're still trying to get everything figured out," Negoshian said. "We didn't play well, I don't think, but we still scored 70-some points."

North Farmington (3-0) continued its win streak to open the season, beating rival Farmington (2-2) on the road, 71-

North Farmington currently holds a four-game win streak against the Fal-

cons, last losing to Farmington Dec. 22,

Through its three-game win streak to start the year, Negoshian knows the success comes from his seniors, those guys who have been with the program for four years and know what to expect out of Raider basketball.

"To have those guys, it's irreplace-

Against rival Farmington, Basheer Jihad, Justin Ross and Deon Hayes, North Farmington's three seniors, made that clear, combining for 59 of the Raiders' 71 points.

In the first quarter, Hayes took control, using his speed to record steals and rebounds, leading to scores in transition, putting up six of the team's 19 first-quarter points.

But heading into the second half with a 33-27 lead, Jihad and Ross took

See RIVALS, Page 2B



Farmington's Robert Davis Jr. launches a shot.

HOCKEY PREVIEW

Meet the teams of KLAA East

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan high school hockey season has started.

After an extended pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, teams are back on the ice, preparing for a run at a state title.

This season, the postseason regional round is scheduled for March 15-20, the state quarterfinals are March 23-24, the state semifinals are March 25-26 and the state finals are scheduled for March 27.

Here's a look at how teams in the KLAA East look like in 2021.

Livonia Stevenson

Head coach: David Mitchell — 13th season

2019-20 record: 25-3-1, first in KLAA East; Lost to Trenton, 5-1, in the Division 2 state quarterfinal

Key returners: Senior defender Nick Justice, senior forward Brenden Heard, senior goalkeeper Brenden Stroble

Season outlook: Livonia Stevenson's goal each season is to win its last game. The Spartans failed to do that during the 2019-20 season, falling to Trenton in the state quarterfinal, 5-1.

But head coach David Mitchell said it has been a long six months since then. And while the Trenton loss remains at the back of the team's mind as motivation, the team has to start from the beginning.

"You have to hit the reset button. You have to go back to fundamentals. You have to go back to your values and your core beliefs," Mitchell said. "And I think we have done that."

In the 2021 season, Stevenson will be senior-heavy, returning 13 juniors from last year's KLAA East first-place finisher, including defender and leading scorer Nick Justice and starting goalkeeper Brenden Stroble.

While having so many returners is a "luxury" for Mitchell, his goal is to look internally, not only at how good this team is, but how good they could be with one more year of development.

"We're going to have to make sure we build and evolve and not continue to do some of the things that we did that put us in some precarious situations last year," Mitchell said. "We're going to have to make sure we play a mature brand of hockey and we play like a mature team."

Salem

Head coach: Ryan Ossenmacher —

2019-20 record: 18-11, second in

See HOCKEY, Page 2B

Wolfkostin, Chen team up for national championship

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Katarina Wolfkostin and Jeffrey Chen traveled dramatically different paths to the ice.

For Wolfkostin, an Ann Arbor native, it started with a spontaneous family trip to the ice rink to escape a broken air conditioner when she was 5. She quickly

realized the enjoyment of gliding across the ice, feeling free and light.

For Chen, it was in his family's DNA. Taking the ice for the first time at age 2, he developed as his sister Karen Chen blossomed into a national champion and an Olympian. When Jeffrey quit for a short time, his sister was the one who brought him back. He hasn't looked back since.

While their paths were seemingly incompatible, Wolfkostin and Chen soon found they would be the perfect match, joining together as ice skating partners. And after months of training at Novi Ice Arena with coach Igor Shpilband, the two won the U.S. Figure Skating National Championship in the junior ice dancing competition.

But this was a championship that

was nearly squashed due to a freak injury.

One week before leaving for Las Vegas for the competition, Chen fell, twisted his knee. He immediately saw a doctor who told him he had a partially torn ACL and that he should take four-six weeks off.

See SKATERS, Page 2B



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Skaters

Continued from Page 1B

A second opinion cleared Chen to compete after another doctor told him everything felt strong. But it created a sense of doubt heading into the pair's biggest competition.

"I was definitely extremely nervous. At least there wasn't too much pressure on me because, granted, I had this injury, I had all this time off and I wasn't feeling 100%," Chen said. "Despite that, being able to perform the way we did... it was just a phenomenal experience to be there in the moment."

The competition schedule through 2020 heading into 2021 brought its own challenges.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, ice rinks closed down. Wolfkostin said the pair had to find other ways to train off ice: working though choreography, walking through things that would be able to translate into on-ice prep when they eventually could find an open rink.

Along with the physical aspect of the sport of ice skating, Wolfkostin said it

gave them both an opportunity to focus on the dual relationship between the physical nature of the sport and the performance.

"There's this fine line between getting our bodies in shape and to have that stamina to be able to compete and the athletic part," Wolfkostin said. "And then there's also the performance part: the presenting, the acting, the types of dance incorporated, the story we present while we perform."

Leading up to the national championship, Wolfkostin and Chen continued to work, participating in online competitions.

While it was different than in years past, the two were always on the same page in terms of goals, something Chen said made them compatible when they first met in 2019.

"We both had really set goals and were driven enough to be always on the ice and working hard effectively," Chen said, explaining this foundation would build the partnership in the right direction.

After only one real season together — with the approach of wanting to experience as much as they could together to know what to expect at the big competi-

tions came — Chen and Wolfkostin showed up when it counted.

They combined the best rhythm dance score and the best free dance score for the junior ice dance national championship by 4.31 points.

Now, Chen and Wolfkostin start back at the beginning.

They are currently in the process of picking music for their next routine, developing their skills further without any real certainty when the next competition will be.

But the pair share the ultimate goal of one day competing at the Olympics, putting together a successful career as senior professional ice dancers.

Chen and Wolfkostin want to do what they love for however long they can. And to the pari, that starts with each other.

"To be able to get along and commu-

nicate effectively with each other.
That's super important in any type of relationship," Wolfkostin said. "I think we got along well together."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-

6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to danci Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



Katarina Wolfkostin and Jeffrey Chen finished first at the U.S. Figure Skating National Championship in the junior ice dancing division.

COURTESY OF MELANIE HEANEY

Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

KLAA East; Lost to Detroit Catholic Central, 6-1, in the Division 1 state quarterfinal

Key returners: Senior forward Devan Grayshaw, junior goalkeeper Andre Genereaux

Season outlook: A season ago, Salem did something it does not usually do: start hot.

The Rocks won eight of its first 10 games, including road wins against Brighton and Howell and a home win against Novi. Head coach Ryan Ossenmacher bluntly said he did not know if that helped or hurt his team, describing it as a bit surprising.

"One of the quotes I use quite a bit is, 'Success leaves clues,'" Ossenmacher said. "When you are successful, you look back and find out what worked and then repeat it. And then when you fall on tough times, you go back on those clues"

In the 2021 season, Salem will have a much younger team, bringing back six seniors, but carrying nine juniors and seven sophomores. But the Rocks bring back senior forward Devin Grayshaw, the only returning Division 1 All-State team member from last season, who scored 20 goals his junior year.

The now-senior hopes to lead his group to the same success as last year, relying on that same structure and hard work as his previous three seasons.

"Just the success I've had, I feel I'd like to help the younger group that's coming in with us to work hard, hopefully can get where I'm at and have a good high school career like I did," Grayshaw said.

Canton

Head coach: Justin Maedel — second season

2019-20 record: 14-12, third in KLAA East; Lost to Stevenson, 9-2, in the Division 2 regional semifinal

Key returners: senior goalkeeper Ashton Queen, senior forward Lenny Kubitski, senior forward Declan O'Hare

Season outlook: In Justin Maedel's first season as the head coach, Canton shocked some teams in the KLAA. The Chiefs finished third in the KLAA East, outscoring teams, 95-76, in the regular season, including a 14-goal advantage in the third period of games.

Heading into Maedel's second season, he will have a familiar group, brining back 10 seniors and six juniors, along with a freshman and a sophomore to the team in 2021.

"We are going to have a group that works hard and competes each and ev-



Stevenson's Nick Justice, center, looks to grab the puck in the Spartan zone. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ery night like last year," Maedel said. "We have strong ambitions for this year."

Senior forward Declan O'Hare, who was second on the team with 14 goals as a junior, said each season he has been on the team, he has seen teammates step up.

"Especially this year, just from last year to this year, we have a lot more kids who are eager to get out and give it their all every shift they got because we had a lot of games that we let slip last year," O'Hare said. "This year, I don't think anyone is going to let each other get pushed around and we are all in it for the wins."

Plymouth

Head coach: Darrin Silvester — first year

2019-20 record: 10-15-1, fourth in KLAA East; Lost to Livonia Stevenson, 6-3, in the Division 2 regional first round

Key returners: Senior defender David Brace, senior goalkeeper Aidan Villalobos

Season outlook: Plymouth head coach Darrin Silvester knows his team well, despite coming in as a first-year head coach. He's been with Plymouth's prep team for the last eight years, developing players to make an impact with the Wildcats.

So heading into his first season as the varsity head coach, senior captain David Brace said there has not been much of a transition, saying he's done a great job of understanding the roster and pushing them to the next level.

"He knows us," Brace said. "He knows how we play and I think him pulling it all together, I think he does a great job with it."

Silvester said the team will return many players in 2021 that will have increased ice time, along with bringing up six players from the prep team to contribute. The first-year head coach said, no matter the place on the roster, he expects each member of the team to contribute in a major way.

"Our goal is to surprise people," Silvester said. "Our's is to make sure every kid in our program understands the big expectation or the belief that everyone will contribute and they will be given an opportunity to contribute. There's not going to be a kid sitting there on the fourth line not being able to have an opportunity to play."

Livonia Churchill

Head coach: Jason Reynolds — ninth

2019-20 record: 13-12-2, fifth in KLAA East; Lost to Chelsea, 1-0, in the Division 3 regional final

Key returners: Junior forward Dominic Krupinski, junior forward Nick Liebau, senior goalkeeper Bryant Riley

Season outlook: After the 2019-20 season, Livonia Churchill has some unfinished business left to do.

With eight seniors and seven juniors on the upcoming roster, the Chargers want to build off its late-season success from last year, even using the leadership from a senior class that finished as a Division 3 state runner-up in 2017-2018.

"They have an idea of what that commitment and what that journey looks like," head coach Jason Reynolds said. "We're excited to see their influence on our program as the season goes on."

However, one of Churchill's main scoring threats is junior Dominic Krupinski, who led the team with 13 goals and II assists last season. Reynolds said he is a quiet leader, but very explosive on the ice.

Heading into the 2020-21 season, Reynolds said he loves the character in his locker room, and that he has high expectations if Churchill hits its stride at the right time.

"Ithink what we learned last year is if we can endure — no different to years prior to that — if we can endure the bumps and the bruises and the hard lessons that come with a KLAA schedule... If we can endure that journey and we can get healthy by the end of the run, really focus on every lesson that can be learned along the way, the sky is the limit," Reynolds said.

Livonia Franklin

Head coach: Jim Neve — second season

2019-20 record: 10-17, sixth in KLAA East; Lost to Livonia Churchill, 2-0, in the Division 3 regional semifinal

Key returners: Senior forward/defenseman Josh Boze, junior defenseman Luke St. Ledger, senior forward/ defenseman Kyle Fugedi, junior goalkeeper Brenden Pederson, junior forward Dustin Fretter

Season outlook: On paper, Livonia Franklin did not start its season well in 2019-20. The Patriots lost 14 of its first 15 games, primarily against KLAA opponents.

But late in the season, the team got hot. Franklin won nine of its last 12 games, earning its first playoff win in the last nine years, showing something head coach Jim Neve had seen in spurts all season.

"We competed every game," Neve said. "I think we shocked a few teams when they saw us because we were taking leads into the third period. We had a chance to beat some teams. Penalty taken here or there probably hurt us a little bit, but then we got on a roll.

"We're the little team that's trying to fight through this. We love it. It made us stronger."

With eight seniors coming back, defense will be a primary focus for the Patriots, with key players like senior forward/defenseman Josh Boze, junior defenseman Luke St. Ledger and senior forward/defenseman Kyle Fugedi, along with junior goalkeeper Brenden Peder-

One focus will be on discipline late in games. The Patriots allowed 41 third-period goals while scoring only 18, something Neve equates to late game penalties.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Rivals

Continued from Page 1B

control. Using their size and athleticism, the pair combined for 20 of the team's 22 points.

Ross headlined a 13-2 run in the third quarter for the Raiders, scoring 10-straight points — including two 3s — to give the Raiders a 20-point lead. The senior forward finished with 17 points.

Jihad, who led the team with 23 points, including eight-of-nine makes from the free-throw line, said his and Ross' ability is not limited to just the paint area.

"I can go inside and out. All the post players can," Jihad said. "We don't really have a dominant post player. We can all go in and out; hit the 3, midrange, whatever. We can do everything."

While Davis and sophomore point guard Prince Jackson tried to, seemingly single-handedly, bring the Falcons back within reach, scoring 11 of the team's 15 fourth-quarter points, North Farmington kept the team out of reach, hitting all eight free-throw attempts in the final eight minutes.

Hayes, who finished with 19 points and Jihad iced the game with two emphatic dunks, each bookending a final 3point make by Davis.

Over the course of the first four

games, Farmington head coach Terrance Porter is still trying to find his rhythm with his team. Without Tariq Hmes and Jaden Akins, who both transferred from the program after the 2019-20 season, Porter has a roster filled with six sophomores, four of which don't have much varsity experience.

Davis and Jackson have been his two leaders he said, combining for 37 of the team's 54 points Tuesday night, but needs more depth.

"We can't just rely on those two to carry the load," Porter said. "We need at least two more, hopefully three more guys to step in and fill in their role. And it's not all about scoring. It's about defending and rebounding, doing all the

intangibles and little things. That's what we're not getting right now."

Jihad knows what North Farmington has is rare: a roster filled with depth and balance, filled with players that can do a little bit of everything. He knows they can score the basketball and have the potential on defense.

He thinks the Raiders can go far his senior season.

"Down the line, we have people who can play. We have people who didn't play today that would play on every other varsity team in the state. We have depth and we are getting better at practice," Jihad said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com.

Meet the teams of the KLAA West

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan high school hockey season has started.

After an extended pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, teams are back on the ice, preparing for a run at a state title.

This season, the postseason regional round is scheduled for March 15-20, the state quarterfinals are March 23-24, the state semifinals are March 25-26 and the state finals are scheduled for March

Here's a look at how teams in the KLAA West look like in 2021.

Brighton

Head coach: Kurt Kivisto — first year 2019-20 record: 16-9-2, first in KLAA West; Lost to Howell, 4-2, in the Division 1 regional final

Key returners: Senior forward Lars Erkkila, senior forward Nate Przysiecki, senior goalkeeper Chris Wozniak

Season outlook: Kurt Kivisto has big shoes to fill.

The first-year head coach takes the reins from Paul Moggach, who helped Brighton to five state titles in 25 years as the program's head coach.

"(I'm) continuing to build on the culture that Paul built," Kivisto said. "He was there for about 30 or 40 years, so a lot of stuff stays the same, just trying to put our own little spin on it to continue to improve things."

Kivisto will have a roster filled with returning players — II seniors and four juniors — including senior forward Lars Erkkila, who scored six goals and IO assists a season ago, and senior goalkeeper Chris Wozniak, who Kivisto says has the opportunity to be one of the top goalkeepers in the state.

Hartland

Head coach: Rick Gadwa — 10th season

2019-20 record: 19-6-2, second in KLAA West; Scheduled to play Trenton in Division 2 state semifinal before season was canceled Key returners: Senior forward Gabe Pietila, senior forward Adam Pietila, senior goalkeeper Ryan Piros, senior forward Andrew Larson

Season outlook: Ending the 2019-20 season in the Division 2 state semifinal against Trenton, Hartland did not get a chance to finish what it had started.

Heading into the winter, head coach Rick Gadwa will have a younger group, bringing in five juniors and seven sophomores with eight seniors, he said, the Eagles will "live and die by." But the expectations remain high.

"Expectations are always high for our squad and we expect to have the same expectations this year, and that is to compete every day and learn how to retain and get better as a hockey family daily," Gadwa said.

Hartland returns its leading scorer from last season in senior forward Adam Pietila who recorded a team-high 24 goals and 17 assists, along with starting goalkeeper Ryan Piros.

Howell

Head coach: Rocky Johnson — second year

2019-20 record: 19-10, third in KLAA West; Scheduled to play Saginaw Heritage in Division 1 state semifinal before season was canceled

Key returners: Senior defenseman Steven Miller, goaltender Billy Bekkala, junior forward Everett Pietila

Season outlook: Rocky Johnson's first season as the Howell head coach was a memorable one.

The Highlanders recorded its first regional title in the past 10 seasons, advancing all the way to the Division 1 state semifinal game before the season was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

And while Johnson is optimistic this season, he holds a realistic approach to his second year with the program.

"We had a few elite players last year. Let's just call it what it is: two first-team All Staters, a Dream Team member. That's kind of hard to come back and play with the same expectation," Johnson said. "I feel like there is a lot of energy and a lot of excitement in the community and I think there are a lot of high expectations."

Howell returns second-team All State member Everett Pietila, who was second on the team with 28 assists, and defenseman Steven Miller, who scored 19 goals last season.

Northville

Head coach: Gordie Brown — third

2019-20 record: 8-19-1, fourth in KLAA West; Lost to Salem, 2-0, in Division 1 regional final

Key returners: Junior forward Zach Holstad, Senior defenseman Chris Bogenhagen, senior forward Henry Chen, junior goalkeeper Dylan Eliason

Season outlook: Despite coming out of the 2019-20 season with a losing record, Northville seemed to be in every game in played last season.

Of the Mustangs' 19 losses a season ago, 17 of them were within three goals, while 10 were two-goal deficits, while scoring only 1.4 goals in those games.

Late in the season, Northville showed what it could do. In the first two games of the playoffs, the Mustangs outscored opponents, 19-0, coming up short in the regional final against Salem, 2-0.

"We're coming off a tough year for us," head coach Gordie Brown said. "We had the 11th toughest schedule in the state last year, and that's a combination of playing in the KLAA to begin with, and trying to come up with tougher games throughout the regular season to be prepared for playoffs."

Coming into the 2020-21 season, Brown says Northville's defense, which allowed 2.8 goals per game, will remain stout, headlined by the return of junior goalkeeper Dylan Eliason, who recorded a .922 save percentage in the regular season, along with senior Chris Bogenhagen.

"We spend a lot of times making sure our goalies are taken care of, both my blocking shots or keeping good angles," Brown said. "The goalies do their job. I'm a believer that the goalies are there to stop the first one, the players are there to clean up the mess.

"We've been very fortunate over the past eight years with the goaltending we have had and the commitment they take year round to improve their game, which gives us an opportunity to be in every game."

On the scoring front, the Mustangs', who scored 2.4 goals per game, will have junior Zach Holstad, who scored seven goals a year ago, back, along with senior Henry Chen, who missed much of his junior season with a broken collarbone.

Novi

Head coach: Mark Vellucci — ninth season

2019-20 record: 13-11-3, fifth in KLAA West; Lost to Livonia Stevenson, 2-1 in triple overtime, in the Division 2 regional final

Key returners: Senior forward Isaac Gibbs, senior defender Max Rallis, junior goalkeeper Austin Muirhead

Season outlook: Novi head coach Mark Vellucci likes to front-load his schedule, allowing his team to play many of its league games early to see what his team's got.

In the 2019-20 season, the Wildcats struggled early, losing four of its first six games, and not earning a win against a KLAA West opponent until Jan. 27. But after ending the season 10-2-1, Vellucci sees the possibility of something different at the start of the 2020-21 season.

"One of my coaches said to me, 'Why do you schedule like that?' I said, 'Well, it's being battle-ready," Vellucci said.

"I want to win all eight games. I want to win every game this year, I want to compete in every game. I changed one of our core values from hard work to compete this year. I have been using it for many years and Coach Krieger, before me, used it. It's about competing, and the guys realize they need to compete. We're not as talented as maybe some of the other teams in the league, but we are going to compete, we are going to work."

This upcoming season, Vellucci will utilize a senior-heavy roster, with 12 returners including senior forward and leading scorer Isaac Gibbs and senior defender Max Rallis.

MSU commit Akins thriving on his own

Nate Atkins

Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

By now, those who know of Jaden Akins can rattle off the highlights, the slick drives, the smooth 3-pointers, the dunks in transition and the staredowns that follow. But his high school coach is imploring you to watch a little earlier, to see how it all begins.

At Sunrise Academy in Wichita, Kansas, much like it will be at Michigan State, many plays start that way. Luke Barnwell wants you to watch Akins' allout effort and the way he can guard any one of four positions – he's still working on centers – and turn a desperation pass into a transition storm the other way.

That's the energy he's brought so far to his new team, which is his third in a calendar year before he heads off to a fourth at Michigan State next fall. These are strange times for high school basketball players, particularly those chasing next-level goals. And Akins' midseason move from Ypsilanti Prep to Sunrise has required the fit to feel like a glove almost immediately.

"He plays really hard," Barnwell said.
"Usually, it takes us through August,
September and October to really demand that out of our guys. It's an adjustment for everybody. I was a little unsure
of what it was going to be like. Is it going
to be a whirlwind for him? Is it going to
be a whole new culture for him?

"But man, he plays hard every time he's on the court. That's why it's sometimes hard to take him off."

Effort and tenacity are sometimes the talking points of basketball players lacking athleticism. It's been an experience to see them manifest in a 6-foot-3-inch, four-star point guard who ranks in the top 100 recruits in the country, according to 247Sports.com.

Akins is playing fast and free now that he's at Sunrise. The road has not been the one he initially set out to take.

After playing his first three high school seasons at Farmington, Akins committed to Michigan State last summer, when so much of life was shut down due to the coronavirus. Before he got there, he planned to spend a season



Jaden Akins played three years at Farmington High School before moving on to Ypsilanti Prep and then Sunrise Academy. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

at Ypsilanti Prep, a new travel team that features the nation's No.1 recruit, Emoni Bates, with Bates' father as the coach.

Though just a junior, Bates is also committed to Michigan State, and so the pairing made sense from a basketball preparation standpoint. But the two only made it a handful of games before Akins decided that it was time to move

"I got to know him. He's a really talented player," Akins said of Bates. "He'll be great wherever he goes. It was just a mutual agreement to try to come to Sunrise."

Questions are abound over whether Bates will end up at Michigan State and when, given that he currently has another year left in high school – unless he reclassifies and joins Akins' 2021 class. And there also is the lingering possibility that Bates skips college altogether if the NBA changes its rules, as some are speculating, and allows players fresh out of high school to enter the draft by 2022.

That's no longer Akins' worry,

though. He called his decision to leave Ypsilanti Prep "personal."

But he's found a home at Sunrise, where he's able to do all the things he envisions for himself. He's played point guard, primarily, but has also played off the ball at times around Sunrise's other talented ballhandlers, and he's scoring in double figures in either role.

He sees it as good preparation for what is to come at MSU.

"I feel like it's the way they play, trying to get out in transition and also playing tough defense," Akins said of the Spartans. "I feel like that kind of fits my game at the next level, and I feel like I can help them be successful next year.

"I see myself as a point guard, but I feel like I can do whatever the coach needs me to do. But I see myself as a point guard."

Michigan State certainly could use one right now. It's been a constant work in progress since Cassius Winston departed last spring. Rocket Watts started out at the spot despite little preseason work at it, and the Spartans have shuf-

fled him around with Foster Loyer and AJ Hoggard to try to patch together the most critical position.

If Akins is able to grab the reins, he'll have talented players to feed the ball to, whether that includes Bates or not. Michigan State's 2021 recruiting class includes five-star shooting guard Max Christie and four-star small forward Pierre Brooks.

Barnwell has been in touch with Michigan State's coaches, as his program has sent players there over the years, including Malik Hall and Tum Tum Nairn. Hall was one of the voices who helped lead Akins to Sunrise.

Barnwell has only had a few weeks to get to call plays for Akins but likes what he sees so far.

"I think the thing that separates him from a lot of other people is his burst is special," Barnwell said. "He's got a great first step along with the ability to make shots, so I think that plays well into how he can attack offensively."

And it's the plays before that first step that make it all happen.

Publish: February 21, 2021

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Orenza & Ferri



NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD MARCH 2021 BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the 2021 March Board of Review for the Charter Township of Redford will meet at the Redford Township Hall, 15145 Beech Daly Road Redford, Michigan 48239 in the Board Room for the purpose of reviewing the 2021 Assessment Roll. Appeals will be heard **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. You must call the Assessor's Office at (313) 387-2730 to schedule your appeal.

 THE BOARD WILL MEET ON THE DATES AND TIMES INDICATED BELOW:

 Tuesday
 March
 2, 2021
 Organization Meeting
 11:00 A.M

 Thursday
 March
 4, 2021
 9:00 A.M.
 to
 4:00 P.M.

 Friday
 March
 5, 2021
 9:00 A.M.
 to
 4:00 P.M.

 Monday
 March
 8, 2021
 3:00 P.M.
 to
 9:00 P.M.

The Board of Review provides an opportunity for a taxpayer to protest the valuation placed on the assessment roll for the year 2021. Nonresident appeals by mail will be accepted through March 5, 2021.

ATTENTION POVERTY APPEALS: PLEASE CONTACT THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE FOR POVERTY APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AT (313) 387-2730.

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, MMC, CLERK

Publish: February 14, 21, & 28, 2021

LO-0000358349 3x3

CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

* Due to COVID-19, Public Hearings will not be held in the City Hall Auditorium Connect on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/182188326 Or Phone at: 312-626-6799

Or Phone at: 312-626-6799 Webinar ID: 182 188 326

To participate, use the 'Raise Hand' button on Zoom or press *9 on your phone to be called on.

Petition 2021-02-02 submitted by SPP Investors II, L.L.C. requesting approval of all plans required by Sections 11.03(n)(3), 18.47 and 18.58 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance No. 543, as amended, in connection with a proposal to re-develop the site, including demolishing the existing restaurant (Romano's Macaroni Grill), constructing a full-service restaurant with drive-thru facilities (Shake Shack), and constructing a bank with drive-thru facilities, at 39300 Seven Mile Road, located on the northeast corner of Seven Mile and Haggerty Roads in the Southwest 14 of Section 6

Petition 2021-02-03 submitted by Infinity Homes and Company requesting special waiver use approval pursuant to Sections 20.01 and 20.02A of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to develop a Planned Residential Development under the Single-Family Clustering option (Emerson Oaks), consisting of thirty-five (35) site condominium lots, on the property at 28400 West Chicago Avenue (former Wilson Elementary School site) located on the north side of West Chicago Avenue between Harrison and Middlebelt Roads in the Northwest ¼ of Section 36.

The above-mentioned petitions will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the scheduled public hearing and may be examined upon request by emailing **Planning@ci.livonia.mi.us** or by calling (734) 466-2290 during normal working hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

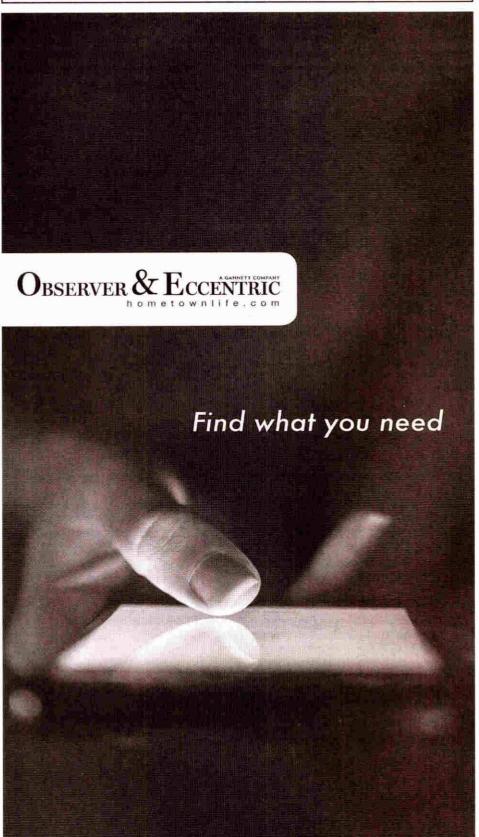
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

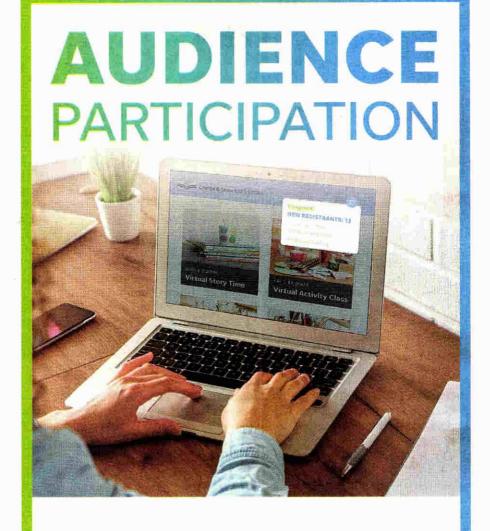
Ian Wilshaw, Chairman

Publish: February 21, 2021

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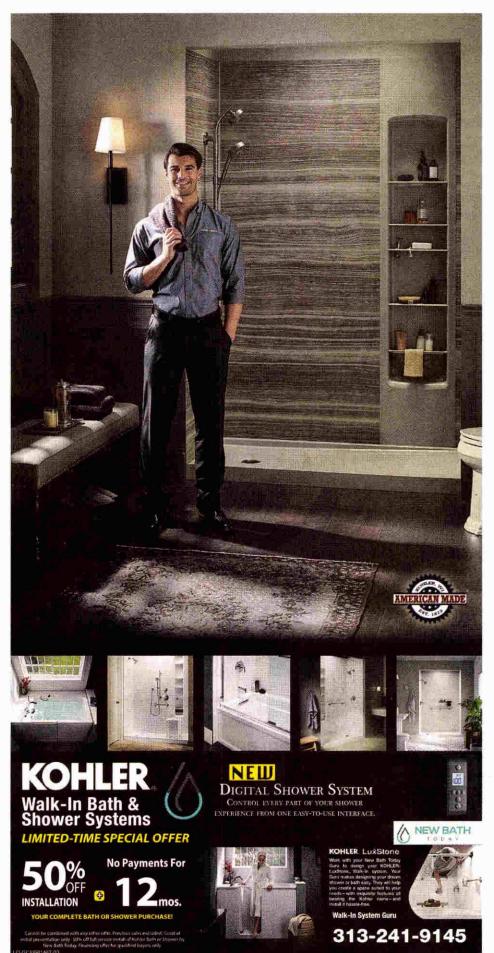


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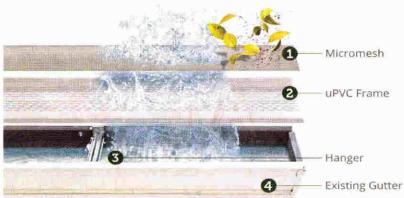
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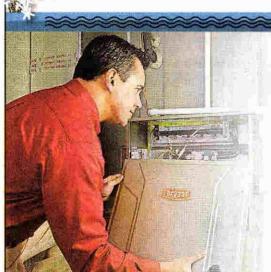
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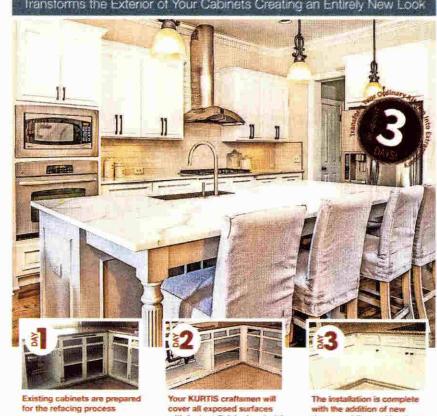
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Jessica L. Mendes ZipRecruiter.com

s a high school student, you constantly hear about the importance of education. There are countless resources available to help you succeed in school.

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Whether you need money to pay for your car insurance, gas money or just entertainment, there are great jobs out there for high school students even if you have no real work experience. If you are responsible, wellmannered and motivated, you can find a job that pays well and is flexible enough to work around your school schedule.

Here are a few of the best jobs for high school students with no experience:

Barista

These makers of fancy coffee drinks are in high demand. Customers often leave tips. As a bonus, certain highprofile chains offer tuition assistance for college.

Catering staff

Most catering events take place in the evenings or on weekends. Think parties, weddings and other celebrations. Catering staff do several tasks, from setting up to waiting tables.

Customer service representative

In person, over the phone or through online chat, customer service reps provide assistance and support - answering questions about products and services, processing orders and returns, and

responding to complaints.

Food delivery driver

You need a driver's license and a clean driving record to be a delivery driver. On top of an hourly wage, pizza delivery drivers usually earn tips.

Front desk receptionist

If you can answer phone calls and greet people with a smile, front desk receptionist could be the job for you. Many businesses need someone at the front to answer

questions and direct guests to the right place - hotels, spas, gyms and yoga studios, to name a few.

Lifeguard

The ability to swim is a must for any lifeguard job. You get to hang out by the pool, making sure people stay safe while having fun or working out. Many gyms and community centers hire lifeguards; some require CPR certification.

FREEPIK/PEXELS IMAGES

Tutor

Are you good at a certain subject? Someone else is struggling with it. Turn your talent into a job as a tutor and help others reach their potential.

Valet parking attendant

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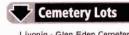
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Seine

(security

quard)

models

75 Ending for

78 Blueprints

lime

72 Rent- -

vortex

65 Lifesaving

69 "Lady for a

Day" director

63 - gin fizz

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS 1 "When your age ..." 5 Having two systems 12 One of the "Little Women" 16 Angry crowd 19 "99 Red Balloons' band 20 Really foolish 21 First digits dialed, often 23 * President of Nicaragua 25 Added yeast to, as bread 26 San -**Buenos Aires** 27 Oklahoma tribe 28 * Rock vielding element #28 29 Riddle-me-30 1/36 vard 33 Jai 35 Head, to Fifi 36 * Historical French area 40 Way of being torn, thrilled or loved 44 Put aside for future use 45 Handed out 47 Prefix with soul

Super Crossword 48 With 8-Down, 96 Funny feline DOWN 1859 George photo meme 99 * Musical Eliot novel 51 Cal. neighbor group playing 52 * Crankindustrial drums turned instrument

patients

61 Bond film

welcome

66 CPR giver

67 Mil. officer

Broadway

theater is

named for

76 Plane fliers

79 Apple tablet

download

82 A fifth of fifty

reactor part

citrus fruit

88 "I solved it!"

90 Nile vipers

91 China's

104

125

109 110 111

121

124

83 Nuclear

84 * Popular

77 Viewpoint

68 * An off-

her

mat

104 Egg cell 55 Prioritizes, as 106 Genesis twin 107 Diana of 58 Hosp. area "Dance Hall" 60 TV antennas 108 Ball or bass ender actress d'Abo 109 * Mafia boss

62 Place for a 113 Newsman Koppel 115 2017 biopic about an Olympic figure skater 117 Per-night cost to stay at a 105-

Down 71 Linden of TV 118 "Mr. Mom" 74 Ice-T's music plot premise (and what the answers to the starred clues have) 121 Like notyet-sampled food

122 Two-function 123 Fodder tower 124 Day, in Spain 125 Squirmy fish 126 Lee who advised Reagan and Bush

42 River duck 1 Gandhi of 43 Many heirs 46 Sprang India 48 24-hr.

2 Ferret's kin 3 Lennox and Potts 4 Uttered

5 "Nonsense!" 6 Kin of "equi-" 7 Old space station 8 Hip about 9 Related to

food intake 10 African land 11 Meadowland 12 Island east of Java 13 Build 14 Stovetop

whistler 15 Can't say no 16 Part of MSG 17 Polish river 18 See 48-Across 22 Big name

author Jong 28 San Fran **NFLer** 31 Tribal groups 32 Gordie of hockey 34 Verdi's title

24 "Fanny"

slave 37 Makeup brand 38 Pasta dish

39 Head of corn harvest

83 Actress Edie 85 Colorado

FUNCTION

NHLers, to fans 86 Eminent 50 Business of 87 Coll. seniors' tests

52 Chemistry lab 89 Challenging 93 "Never on 53 Ominous last Sunday" rule 94 Person who

> 95 Opposite of east, in Madrid 97 Key next to a period

is prospering

98 Disinclined 100 Dine away from home 101 Throat part 102 "Casino -(Bond film)

103 Not digital

70 It flows in la 105 Roadside lodging 109 "Darn it!" 110 Rice-A- -111 Greek vowel 73 Classic Ford 112 Crimson and

114 Boxer Oscar - Hoya 116 Roughly 79 Part of IHOP: 118 Std. for a nutritionist

108

123

127

cherry

Lao--Abbr. 80 Part of 92 Fully enjoy 119 Deep 93 1966-2013 UTEP groove 41 Collects, as a 81 Claim the 120 Suffix with bookstore 127 Couturier chain Cassini truth of Siam 10 14 17 20 21 25 23 26 28 29 30 32 36 38 40 42 44 45 49 51 52 54 55 58 56 61 64 66 62 65 68 69 72 82 80 81 83 88 89 84 85 86 87 90 95 99 101 102 103

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

113

122

126

107

119 120

115

106

112

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

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

LET'S DANCE HEACPNLCCOUNTRY RDHRELLHTWLHBM AAAOTBAOA UBRGBTSDBGP LGWMEKHWQKOB IIOULCRONNO SRHIARAIANA MFCUXS OLD F JPN BKQ E 0 H Z R S U OXMDSS TR FOA ZEVIJCSOLMOGOP NE FLAMENCOMEHKJLEER

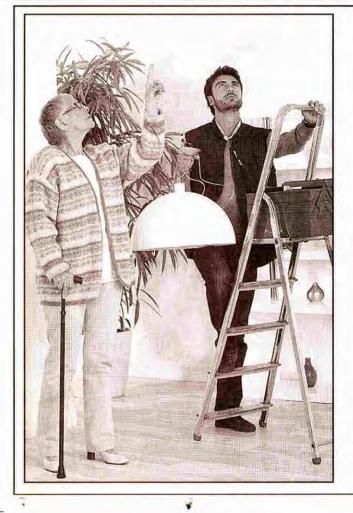
BALLET BALLROOM BARN BELLY BOLERO BOP **BOSSA NOVA** BREAK CALYPSO CANCAN CHARLESTON CLOG CONGA COUNTRY DISCO **FANDANGO FLAMENCO** FOLK FOXTROT HIGHLAND HOEDOWN HORNPIPE JIVE LAMBADA LINE MAMBO MINUET MORRIS POGO POLKA QUICKSTEP REEL RUMBA SALSA SAMBA SHUFFLE SNOWBALL SQUARE SWORD TANGO TAP TWIST WALTZ

ANSWER KEY JONAG ETTI 9 4 3 8 7 2 5 5 6 8 2 1 9 1 3 8 9 7 3 2 9 5 6 8 9 9 4 2 6 4 9 1 7 6

285 831 4

8 9 6 4 9 8 1

2 7 6 8 1 4 3



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On behalf of the staff at Antonio's and Roman Village we wanted to say a special "Thank you!" to all of those who supported us on Staff Appreciation Day.

Although it has been a crazy difficult year, the Rugiero Family has kept its staff employed and earning a living throughout the pandemic. Our great staff has chosen to work and provide an essential service to the community and we applaud them for their professionalism and dedication. For that reason, we decided to donate half of the proceeds from the day of sales that was distributed amongst the staff from our event on February 2nd. The Rugiero Family and staff are truly grateful for the generosity of the community as well, and we look forward to continuing to serve our guests in a clean and safe environment.



MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Apply in person or email your resume to antonioshr@yahoo.com

This is a great opportunity for all ages! If you are hard-working, dependable and love people you will love woring for Antonio's!

Come in to any one of our five locations and apply today!

*We are following CDC guidelines, masks have been pulled down to show their beautiful smiles!



37646 W. 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (Corner of Halsted)
248.994.4000



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26356 Ford Rd.
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Shopping Center
313.278.6000



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Dearborn
(Between Miller and Lonyo)
313.842.2100



No Banquets
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www.antoniosrestaurants.com