## Protesters: Racial justice progress too slow

USA TODAY NETWORK -MICHIGAN

Black, brown and white protesters alike crowded some of the nation's streets last summer because of the trag ic deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, two African-Americans killed by police.
ter!" 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
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. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Clarenceville superintendent battles cancer amid pandemic

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 inperintendents continue to face a dilem ma 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 ev-
dents, 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 stressfu, 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."
ale stress, Shding to that work-related stress, Shepich has been battling
In January 2019, he found out he has stage three nodular lymphocyte-

See CANCER, Page 5A

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, he board of mately $\$ 6.9$ million on the following mately

- 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.
The Westland Planning Commis a special land 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
lounge.
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 PressUSA TODAY NETWORK

Keeping a vow she made during he election campaign last year, Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald an nounced she has taken steps to give "juvenile lifers" a chance for parole.
McDonald said in a news release that with the Miled resentencing notices 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-
ence with a possibility for parole. Each of the 22 inmates had been contenced to life inde as a juvenile and senity 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 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 tha listed Gov. Gretchen Whitmer as the de-
representing the state of Mich gan. The settlement called for Michigan prosecutors, in effect, to stop sitting on
their hands and act on the Supreme heir hands a
"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 obliganities 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 faciiity Feb. 8 . The building can accommod 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 furnitu
Thoughtful planning went into the
Thoug of a large gross motor the gymnasium and an outdoor play area with several sections for different learning and play activities, school officials said. Learning opportunities are eve 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 appepines for young children The dis trict currently offers a variety of proramming 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 Nation al Association for the Education of Young Children. All early childhood eachers 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 far-mington.k12.mi.us/early-childhood. Registration can also be done at any time throughout the year as space is a

To enroll your child(ren), fill out the $\$ 125$ enrollment foe. 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 Pro-
gram) for qualifying families. These gram) for qualifying families. These
programs are available for three- and frour-year-old children Various criteria four-year-old children. Various criteria must be met for each grant program. If 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


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Livonia native wins big on 'The Price is Right'
Sheiby Tankersiey Hometown
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 had lunch So I've been a fon for dec had les."
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 she might as well make the most of the


Sheila Rupp Sheila Rupp
smiles as she watches herself win on "The Price is Right." Rupp won $\$ 10,000$ and a Mazda3 COURTESY OF Rupp said it was said. Rupp said it was incredible to see the studio in-person. Though her hour spent there passed by quickly, she said was a positive experience ings," she said "Everybody
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 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 De partment 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 almillion annually until 2039 on road remiirs and improvements, and the cre pairs and improvements, and the creand 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-im provement 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 us flexibility each year on that much we use, depending on what projects are 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 lion to "fix" the stretch of roadway Township stretch of roadway. gested 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 dreamistoget some state legislators and federal legislators together to create


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 ngoing struggles with keeping roadways smooth is ASR, a common chem serious cracking that results in critica structural problems, Engineering Se ices Manager Bill Serchak explained. Serchak revealed that an alternativ to complete roadway replacement is less-expensive practice called "asphal successfully in the Fairways west sub division near the intersection of Cherry Hill and Beck roads.
"Capping may seem like a band-aid
proach, but if we can extend a road' life 15 to 20 years, it would be a cheape proposition than a huge reconstruction project," Serchak said.

## Subdivision advocate

Canton's Sunflower subdivision, on of the largest subdivisions in Michigan has stretches of roadway that resident scribes as battlefield-esque.
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 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 simply 'maintaining' the subdivision roads and not reparing them, so it ar
gues 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 roads-surfacing expert, his observations show that roads in Sunflowe south of Warren Road - the newer sec tion 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 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 asphal that doesn't contain fly ash, so it's more susceptible to cracking and breaking down.
Parker has developed a strong rap port with township engineers and hope to someday coordinate a plan that wil work toward developing a longer-ter Contact reporter Ed Wrig eawright@hometowife.com.

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## Winter's chill at Kensington Metropark


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 here driving and hiong about, I saw ess than a dozen people
The park's non-human inhabitants, while not everywhere or obvious to the 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 Beach area to see what I could record on See CHILL, Page 5A
Arriving before sunrise Feb. 11 at Ken sington Metropark, the first thing I noticed was how still it is. 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 Inter state 96 between Milford and Kensington roads. Its main feature is Kent Lake, Rarter of an impoundment which meanders through the park's center and occupies much of the park's cen
its total area.
While the park is populated in spring,

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 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.


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

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## Teen incompetent to stand murder trial - for now

Susan Vela Hometowniffe.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN
Found incompetent to stand trial Southgate teen Gerelle Rhan is not en tirely clear of felony second-degree murder and reckless driving charges. merely declared him incompetent merely declared hom incompeter The 19 -year-old will face th charges once again if the court finds proof he's mentally able to understand court proceedings and their conse quences.
"It doesn't mean the case is done, Maria Miller, spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office said.
She confirmed that Rhan is current ly being evaluated and monitored to tent in the future.
tent in the future.
Wayne County
Whan of driving a vrosecutors accused light before crashing into a vehicle and killing Chris Ward, 48, of Dearborn on May 20.

## Cancer

Continued from Page 1A
minant Hodgkin lymphoma. It rare, especially for someone his age. But, like any good educator, Shep ich says it's not about him. So he per s.

## Undergoing chemo

Shepich suspected something was wrong in December 2018, but wasn't diagnosed until about a month later Because his particular brand of cance doesn't spread quickly, he didn't have to start chemotherapy treatments un til December 2020.
It stays in your lymph nodes and it spreads through those," Shepich ex plained. "Mine was in my chest, my neck, my underarms, my back and had a little bit in the abdomen as well. So far, Shepich has undergone thre hemo treatments. He'll do at leas

March.
His doctors won't know exactly how well the treatments are working unt then.
f that cycle are difficult. He gets fa igue headaches and symptoms akin to acid reflux.
"I mean these drugs, they call them poison," he said. "When they come in to give you the injections and they're in hese gowns - they don't want that stuff touching them at allf 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.
"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 ome has its challenges.
Being away from the kids is proba bly the hardest thing for me," he admit ted. "Im 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 of tem.
"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 and doesn't want people feeling sorry and do fut.
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 "I ing with behind the scenes.

1 think it's important for people to know that we don't know what's going on behind everyone else's closed doors intheir lives, he said. "think we always doing the best they can, and we don' 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 1-96's steady stream of commut rs. 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 Niko d750. Not too many - just 570 digital was ove the marching theme to the os, it was that shadows were part of erything 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 ta nearby branches
men way out of the park I stopped west side, a popular stop for bird watchers. Nearby trails and a boardwalks lead to the popular heron rookery - its feath ered friends won't visit until April or so.I hit the trails with my telephoto lens looking for smaller winged friends.

1 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 ered 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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## Progress

Continued from Page 1A
Bringing communities together
Hilary Smith Ramirez already was bothered by the number of times her Af-rican-American husband gets pulled 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 citizens oversight commission for the
police department, she's optimistic that 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 Li vonia 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.'
cused on unity more activities fo cused on unity

Livonia is becoming more diverse, and I want to make sure that those kids 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 land," aimed at creating a better city for everyone.
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 inand arrest data in the city
and arrest data in the city.
early 2020 arrest of an autistic the 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 cond
line 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.
OHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM


Livonia resident Hilary Smith Ramirez Black Lives Matter protests.
we truly made progress?' We have not, Pruett said. "We haven't gone far enough. There's a lot of placating going
"I'm happy to see people standing for their rights. That's what we've need

## ed for so long."

He expects more protests "if neces-

## Change is never easy

Alexandria Hughes, a political activist for years, was moved by the diverse crowds waving signs and raising thei voices against racial injustices over the summer.
The Redford Township woman wondered if the protesters were finally comso, 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 hat held parties accountable.
In the next year, she would like to see She hopes for legislation similar to the Community Safety Act in Providence


Alexandria Hugh
SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Rhode Island.
That legislation prohibits discriminatory profiling, establishes how police data from traffic and pedestrian collect 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 peope been shot and killed I would have 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 Trump being racist accurate.
rump 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 in-
justice 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'r going to see real change in Detroit in the next year or two."
He expects more protests with small er 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 com nunities along side of it.
Contact repoifer susan Vela at sve-

## Hookah

Continued from Page 1A
there, as the lounge cannot operate as a restaurant on its own due to Michigan's indoor smoking ban 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 owne Salim Saddagh.

Saddagh, who's also owned Blue Moon Hookah Lounge in Dearborn
Heights, said he was excited to open the Heights, said he was excited to open the
lounge in Westland. He said the target 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 drink ing, no alcohol," he said. "Hopefully we're going to work together and sucwe're
ceed."


With the unanimous recommended approval from the planning commission, the project now heads to the city tion.
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 parels was also reviewed by the planning
commission. The center, completely vacant for many years, would be divvied up into several separate parcels. Plans kah 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 pan demic and its possible effect on th 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 is known to spread.
here are certainly COVID concerns when it comes to eateries," he said. "My concern is moregenerarly abouta smok-
ing lounge where there are actual paring lounge where there are actual par
ticulates 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, what
Current orders from
Current orders from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Ser-
vices 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 awa 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 We
 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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## SPORTS



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

## North Farmington beats crosstown rival Farmington

Colin Gay Hometownlifecom
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN
North Farmington boys basketball head coach Todd Negoshian knows his team is still adjusting to what the 2021 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 fig-
ured 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, 7154.

North Farmington currently holds a four-game win streak against the Fal-
cons, last losing to Farmington Dec. 22 2016.

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 irreplaceable," he said.
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 firstquarter points.
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 2526 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
ard 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. it has been a long six Mitchell said then And while the Trenton loss remains at the back of the team's mind ma 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 inisher, including defender and leadgoalkeeper Brenden Stroble.
goakeeper Brenden Stroble.
While having so many returners is "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 14th season
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.
$\qquad$ Faking 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 al Championship in the Skating Nation ing competition.
But this was a championship that
was ju . One week before leaving for Las Veed his knee. He immediately faw twisttor 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 ense of doubt heading into the pair iggest competition
1 was definitely extremely nervous At least there wasn't too much pressur ry, I had all this time off and I wasn 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. Wolfkos in said the pair had to find other ways to phy 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 preseng, the acting, the ty sent while we perform.

## Leading up to

onship, Wolfkostin and Chational champito 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 baid, explaing the in the right dire build tion.
After only one real season together with the approach of wanting to experiknow 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
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, dereal certainty when the next competi tion will be.

But the
day pair share the ultimate goal of one day competing at the Olympics senior professional ice dancers.

Chen and Wolfkostin want to do what they love for however long the can. And to the pari, that starts with each other.
"To be able to get along and communicate effectively with each other That's super important in any type of
relationship," Wolfkostin said. "I think relationship, Woll together" e 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 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.

## Hockey

Continued from Page 1B
KLAA East; Lost to Detroit Catholic Central, $6-1$, in the Division1 state quar Central,
Key returners: Senior forward Devan Grayshaw, junior goalkeeper Andre Genereaux
Season outlook: A season ago, Sado: 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 hat helped orprising as a bit surprising.
One of the quotes I use quite a bit is, 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 the only returning Division 1 All-State the only returning Dision All-stat team member from last seaso
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 Id ike to help the younger group that's coming in with us to work hard, hope fully can get where I'm at and have ood high school career like I did, Grayshaw said.

## Canton

Head coach: Justin Maedel - sec nd season
2019-20 record: 14-12, third in KLAA ast; Lost to Stevenson, 9-2, in the Division 2 regional semifinal
Key returners: senior goalkeeper Ashton Queen, senior forward Lenn Kubitski, senior forward Declan O'Hare Season outlook: In Justin Maedel 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 the thind pione
Heading into Maedel's
Heading have familia second sea ing 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-

## Rivals

control. Using their size and athletiism, the pair combined for 20 of the eam's 22 points.
Ross headlined a $13-2$ run in the third quarter for the Raiders, scoring $10-$ traight points - including two $3 \mathrm{~s}-$ give the Raiders a 20 -point lead. The
Ji forward finished with 17 points.
Jihad, who led the team with 23 points, including eight-of-nine make Ross' ability is not limited to just the paint area.


Stevenson's Nick Justice, center, looks to grab the puck in the Spartan zone. ЈонN TownLIFE.COM
"Wy night like last year," Maedel said. "We have strong ambitions for this
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 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

Plymouth
Head coach: Darrin Silvester - first year
2019-20 record: 10-15-1, fourth in 6-3, in the Division 2 regional first round 6-3, in the Division 2 regional first round vid 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 Da-
vid 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
nows how we play and Ithink 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 in creased ice time, along with bringing up six players from the prep team to conribute. The first-year head coach said no matter the place on the roster, he ex pects each member of the team to con
"Our goal is to surp
Our goal is to surprise people," Silkid in our progra suderstands the bi 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 sason

19-20 record: 13-12-2, fifth in KLAA East; Lost to Chelsea, 1-0, in the gional final
Key returners: Junior forward Do minic Krupinski, junior forward Nick Liebau, senior goalkeeper Bryant Riley Season outlook: After the 2019-20 season, Livonia Churchill has some un finished business left to do.
With eight seniors and seven juniors on the upcoming roster, the Charger want to build off its late-season success from last year, even using the leadership from a senior class that finished as a D "They have anner-up in 2017-2018. mitment 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 Kru pinski, who led the team with 13 goals
and 11 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 hisloctations if Churchill hits its stride at the right time.
"I think 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 lim-
it," Reynolds said.

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/ keeper $\operatorname{Br}$ Kyle Fugedi, junior goalward Dusenden Peders, junior forward Dustin Fretter
Season outlook: On paper, Livonia 2019-20 The Patriots lost14 fits first 15 games, primarily against KLAA pponents. But
But late in the season, the team got gat. Franklin won nine of its last 12 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 en 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 Pederson.
One
One focus will be on discipline late in games. The Patriots allowed 41 third-
period goals while scoring only 18 , period goals while scoring only 18, penalties. penalties
Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.
"I can go inside and out. All the post players can," Jihad said. "We don't really go in and out; hit the 3 midrange, what ever. We can do everything" While Davis and sopho guard Prince Jackson tried to se point ly 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 make by Davis 3
Over the course
Over the course of the first four
games, Farmington head coach Te rance Porter is still trying to find hi Hmes and Jaden Akins, who both Tran ferred 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 it's not all about scoring it's about fending and rebounding, doing all
intangibles and little things. That's what we' re not getting right now. 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

## HOCKEY PREVIEW

## Meet the teams of the KLAA West

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
The Michigan high school hockey season has started.
After an extended pause due to the the ice preparing for a run at back on tle.
This season, the postseason regional round is scheduled for March 15-20, the state quarterfinals are March 23-24, the 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 recer 16-9 - first year 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 lot of stuff stays the same, just trying to lot of stuff stays the same, just trying to to improve things."
Kivisto will have a roster filled with returning players -11 seniors and four juniors - including senior forward Lars Erkkila, who scored six goals and 10 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 munity and I think there are a lot of high Pietila, senior forward Adam Pietila enior goakkeeper Ryan Pros, senio orward Andrew Larson
Season outlook: Ending the 2019-20 season in the Division 2 state semifina against Trenton, Hartland did not get Heading into the winter, head coach
Rick Gadwa will have a younger group, bringing in five juniors and seven soph omores with eight seniors, he said, the Eagles will "live and die by." But the ex pectations 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 re tain and get better as a hockey family daily," Gadwa said.
Hartland returns its leading scorer from last season in senior forward 24 goals and 17 assists, along with start ing goalkeeper Ryan Piros.

## Howell

Head coach: Rocky Johnson - sec ond year
2019-20 record: 19-10, third in KLAA West; Scheduled to play Saginaw Heritage in Division 1 state semifinal befor Key returners:
ey riller, Senior defensema 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, ad vancing all the way to the Division state semifinal game before the season was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

And while Johnson is optimistic this his son, he holds a realistic approach his second year with the program. 'We hast call it what it is two fist yea All Staters, a Dream Team meteam 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 com-
expectations."
Howell retu
State men returns second-team All tate 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 fina
Key returners: Junior forward Zach Holstad, Senior defenseman Chris Bogenhagen, senior forward Henry Chen, junior goalkeeper Dylan Eliason Season outlook: Despite coming out ord, Northville seemed to losing record, Northville seemed to
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 1th 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," 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 tak 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 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

019-20 record: 13-11-3, fifth in KLAA West; Lost to Livonia Stevenson 2-1 in triple overtime, in the Division 2 region al 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 pla many of its league games early to see what his team's got.
In the 2019-20 season, the Wildcat struggled early, losing four of its first si games, and not earning a win against KLAA West opponent until Jan. 27. But after ending the season 10-2-1, Vellucc sees the possibility of something differ "One of my coaches said to me 'Why you schedule like that?' I said, 'Well, do you schedule like that? I said, 'Well,
it's being battle-ready," Vellucci said it s being battle-ready," Vellucci said.
"I want to win all eight games. I wan to win every game this year, I want to compete in every game. I changed on of our core values from hard work to compete this year. I have been using it for many years and Coach Krieger, be fore me, used it. It's about competing and the guys realize they need to com pete. We're not as talented as maybe some of the other teams in the league but we are going to compete, we are go ing to work."
This upcoming season, Vellucci will utilize a senior-heavy roster, with 12 re leading scorer Isaac Gibbs and senio defender Max Rallis.

## MSU commit Akins thriving on his own

## Nate Atkins

Lansing State Journal

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 out effort and the way he can guard any
one of four positions - he's still working 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' midSunrise 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 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 experiinch, 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 got there, he planned to spend a season got there, he planned to spend a season

at Ypsilanti Prep, a new travel team that features the nation's No. 1 recruit, Emon 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 basketbal preparation standpoint. But the two only made it a handful of games before Akins decided that it was time to move on. ${ }^{\text {I }}$
"I got to know him. He's a really tal ented player," Akins said of Bates. "He'll be great wherever he goes. It was just a
mutual agreement to try to come to Sun rise."

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 possibil ity 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 psilanti 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 the ball at times but has also played off talented bulles around Sunrise's other in double figures in either roes scoring He sees it as good preparation for hat is to come at MSU
"I feel like it's the way they play, trying 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 ye "I see myself as a point guard, but 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 depat at the spot despite little prese 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 clas includes five-star shooting guard Max Christie and four-star small forwar Pierre Brooks

Barnwell has been in touch with Michigan State's coaches, as his pro gram has sent players there over the
years, including Malik Hall and Tum 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 grea first step along with the ability to make shots, so I think that plays well into how he can attack offensively.
that firs step that make it all happen


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MARTER 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 Redforr will meet at the Redford Township Hall, 15145 Beech Daly Road Redford, Michiga 48239 in the Board Room for the purpose of reviewing the 2021 Assessment Roil. 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)
FOR POVERTY APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AT (313) 387-2730.
GARTH J. CHRISTIE, MMC, CLERK

## CITY OF LIVONIA <br> LOMMISSION 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
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 $/ / 182188326$

Or Phone at: 312 -626-6799
Webinar ID: 182188326
To participate, use the 'Raise Hand' button on Zoom or press *9 on your phone to be called on Petition 2021-02-02-02 submitted by SPP Investors II, L.L.C. requesting approval of all plans required by Sections $11.03(\mathrm{n})(3), 18.47$ and 18.58 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance the existing restaurant (Romano's Macaroni Grill), constructing a full-service restaurant with trive-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 $1 / 4$ of Section 6 . Southwest $1 / 4$ of Section 6
Petition 2021-02-02-03 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 north side of West Chicago Avenue between Harrison and Middlebelt Roads in the Northwest $1 / 4$ 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 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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Great first jobs for high school students

Jessica L. Mendes

As a high school student, you constantly
hear about th importance of education. There are countles resources available to help you succeed in school. When it comes to finding a great job? Far fewer resources. Whether you need money to pay for your car insur 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 be
jobs for high school students with no experience:

## Barista

These makers of fancy offee drinks are in rs demand. Custom ers often leave tips. As profile chains offer tuition assistance for college.

## Catering staff

Most catering events take place in the evenings or on weekends. Think par ties, weddings and other do severalal tasks, from setting up to waiting tables.

## Customer servic

 representativeIn person, over the phone or through online chat, customer service reps provide assistance
and support - answering questions about products questions about products 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 job for you Many busijesses need someone at the front to answer

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## SUONDAYY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER



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

## SUDOKU

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Heres How It Works：
Sudoku puzzese are formatted as a $9 \times 9$ grid，broken into nine $3 \times 3$ boxes．To
solve a sudoku the solve a sudokou，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 puzzze！ solve the puzzle！
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PVLLS B H J A R A I A N A S O T
EFTTTEUNIMMFCUXSARO

|  | $A$ | $H$ | $O$ | $L$ | $D$ | $F$ | $J$ | $P$ | $N$ | $B$ | $K$ | $Q$ | $S$ | $L$ |
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| SALSA | $\checkmark$ | 1 | 9 | 2 | $\varepsilon$ | $L$ | 6 | 9 | 8 |
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| SHUFFLE | $\varepsilon$ | て | 6 | 8 | 9 | 9 | $L$ | $\dagger$ | 1 |
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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.

## GOME IOW THE EAMIU|



## MANEGEWENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

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|  | $A \text { arturios }$ |  | Roman Village | $A$ (nemios |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
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[^0]:    We have safe in-office appointments as well as telehealth appointment options!

[^1]:    
    

