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# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Tailwaggers seeks help to stay open

### Fraudulent donations left nonprofit destitute

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's been a rough few months for the staff and volunteers at Tailwaggers 1990. And after some fraudulent donations, the nonprofit's leadership says it's at risk of closing its doors for good.

Laura Zain, president of the Livonia-based organization, said they need some sponsorships and donations to keep the center at 28422 Five Mile open after costs continue to increase.

"This is not a little annual appeal. This is a major decision: do we stay open or do we close?" she said. "That's what

we're looking at."

The public appeal comes after many credit card donations recently acquired through Tailwaggers' website were found to be fraudulent.

A new credit card system resulted in donations coming from across the country, Zain said, which were then used to help pay for things such as vaccinations and treatment for clients' animals.

Several weeks later, after much of the funds donated were spent, Zain began receiving calls from the cardholders, saying they had been charged without their permission.

After investigating, many of the donations received online were done fraudulently and Tailwaggers was required to return the money.

See **TAILWAGGERS**, Page 3A

## Bigalora Cucina opens in former Box Bar location

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Following a 16-month hibernation, one of downtown Plymouth's most iconic (and spacious) buildings is vibrant again — and the catalysts are a 900-degree brick oven and a menu lined with clean, made-from-scratch items.

Emphasizing their brand's pledge to serve nothing but preservative-free food, partners Luciano Del Signore, Mike Collins, and Michael Chetcuti celebrated the arrival of their fifth metro-Detroit Bigalora Cucina eatery Jan. 28 when they swung open the doors to the structure that formerly housed the Box Bar for 75 years.

The trio of born-and-raised suburban Detroiters feels strongly that the potential for their newest Bigalora is as high as the two-story, exposed-beam ceilings in their restaurant at 777 Ann Arbor Trail.

"We all grew up in metro Detroit, so we're familiar with all of the really strong, older communities that are centered around a strong downtown," said Collins, who, like Chetcuti, is a native of Southfield. "We've always felt that none of these downtowns are stronger than Plymouth."

"We've had our eye on this area for a long time. The problem is, this site hasn't been available for almost 80 years."

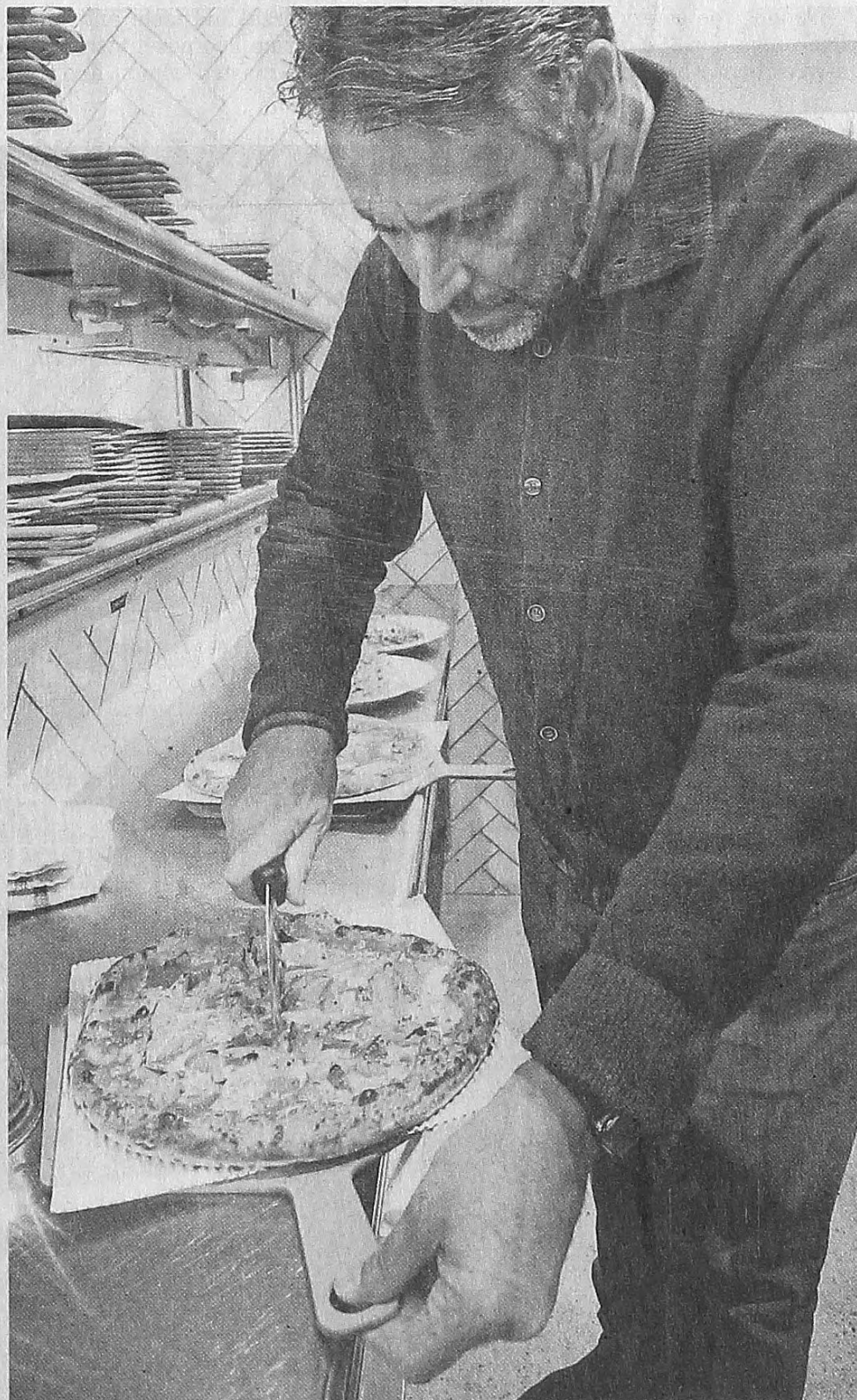
Bigalora's owners negotiated the purchase of the 10,000-square-foot structure in December 2017.

In addition to the 120-seat restaurant, they will open an Arbor Brewing Company site in the space still available at the location.

"Right from the start, we wanted to make sure we did this right, so we didn't rush into the renovation," Collins said. "I'm not sure we wanted it to take quite as long as it did, but large projects like this generally take longer than you initially expect them to."

Judging by the brisk business the Plymouth Bigalora has experienced during its two-week infancy, the opening has been worth the wait for diners looking for a unique eating experience.

"We've been packed every day so far — and that's been with little or no marketing," said co-owner and chef Luciano Del Signore, a native of Livonia and graduate of Churchill High School. "Our opening was the worst-kept secret in



Bigalora co-owner and chef Luciano Del Signore slices up a pizza fresh from the downtown Plymouth eatery's oven Feb. 1. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**"People tell us they've been looking for something fresh, new and interesting. Our food is clean and made from scratch, which appeals to people."**

Luciano Del Signore Co-owner and chef of Bigalora Cucina

## Wayne woman files lawsuit after CO poisoning

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A lawsuit was filed Feb. 7 against the managers of an apartment complex where carbon monoxide poisoning killed a couple Feb. 1.

The deadly gas was measured in exceedingly high levels in 27 units across multiple buildings at the 267-unit complex on Feb. 1 after a 65-year-old woman was found deceased and her 65-year-old husband semi-conscious, prompting evacuations.

The husband died later.

Priscilla Johnson, a resident in one of the affected units, seeks damages in excess of \$25,000 from Hickory Hollow Cooperative and Huntington Management LLC, as well as a jury trial, claiming multiple failures in the maintenance and inspection of boilers and chimneys at the complex resulted in irreversible injuries including brain damage.

The suit alleges the defendants did not provide adequate ventilation nor maintain the piping in safe condition, allowing leaks to develop, and the conditions of which were or should have been known to the defendants.

"She is at serious risk of permanent brain damage, like anyone else who suffers from carbon monoxide poisoning," said Gordon Johnson, an attorney for the Brain Injury Law Group, representing Jordan. "It's important to get started (on the lawsuit), because the facts are falling down around us. They are out there taking chimneys down and it's important to document what happened before the evidence is gone."

Calls to Hickory Hollow co-op were not returned.

Fire Chief Michael Stradtner previously said the level of carbon monoxide in the unit where the deceased woman was found was over 300 parts per million. Sustained levels of carbon monoxide at more than 70 parts per million result in symptoms including headache, fatigue and nausea. At concentrations sustained above 150 to 200 ppm, disorientation, unconsciousness, and death can occur.

Emergency personnel evacuated units with the high levels, which Stradtner believes were attributed to condensation build-up on chimney

See **LAWSUIT**, Page 3A



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Donors can call 800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment or call Diane at 313-549-7052.

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- Sunday, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.: Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
- Monday, 1-6:45 p.m.: Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon Road, Plymouth
- Tuesday, 2-7:45 p.m.: Sports Club of Novi, 42500 Nick Lindstrom Drive, Novi
- Feb. 21, 1-6:45 p.m.: Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Plymouth
- Feb. 25, 1:30-7:15 p.m.: VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill St., Plymouth
- Feb. 25, 2:30-8:15 p.m.: Old Orchard Elementary School, 41900 Quince Drive, Novi
- Feb. 28, 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.: Canton Municipal Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton

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**Phil Allmen, Consumer Experience Director**  
Mobile: 248-396-3870  
Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com  
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## Bigalora

Continued from Page 1A

town. Hats off to our staff for getting everything ready like they did.

"The feedback we've received so far has been great. People tell us they've been looking for something fresh, new and interesting. Our food is clean and made from scratch, which appeals to people."

Preparing world-class food is in Del Signore's DNA. His parents — mid-20th-century immigrants from Abruzzo, Italy — owned and operated longtime Livonia eatery Italian Cucina Fonte d'Amore where, as a teenager, he developed a passion for cooking.

Del Signore's first restaurant venture unfolded in 2002 with the opening of Bacco Ristorante in Southfield.

The first Bigalora Wood Fired Cucina debuted in Southfield in 2010.

What can first-time diners to Bigalora expect from their experience?

"Other than great food, we pay pretty close attention to top-notch hospitality and offering a wide range of beverage offerings, especially beer," Del Signore said. "Anyone who comes to Bigalora needs to find a way to get one of our fabulous oven-cooked pizzas on their table. The dough is prepared Neapolitan style — we use just three ingredients: flour, water and a little salt — and cooked in a 900-degree oven for 90 seconds.

"Once you try it, you'll be hooked."

Collins said the atmosphere in each of the Bigalora locations reflects the culture in each community.

"The ambiance of each restaurant is different," he explained. "Royal Oak is different than Southfield, and the ambiance of our Plymouth site will be developed by the people who frequent our restaurant.

"It's cool to see how each restaurant takes on the character of the communities they're in."

The Plymouth Bigalora offers eat-in and take-out, with a delivery option being prepped for the near future.

The brand also has a food truck that can be reserved for parties, festivals and any kind of celebration imaginable.

Among the eatery's specials are a five-pizzas-for-\$50 offer, seven-days-a-week happy hour from 2-6 p.m. and



At left, Bigalora co-owners Luciano Del Signore, left, and Mike Collins display some of their downtown Plymouth restaurant's fare. At right, one of the new location's features is its high ceilings. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A sun-dried tomato pizza enters the 900-degree oven at Bigalora. Most pizzas are ready to serve after a 90-second trip on the oven's rotating ceramic base.

a Tuesday wine special.

Bigalora's menu includes small plates that range in price from \$6 (wood-roasted sweet potato) to \$12 (wood-roasted wings); long lists of red and white pizzas and pasta; and four entrees: branzino livornese, tuscan steak frites, wood-roasted salmon, and chick-

en parmigiana.

There is also a hearty variety of salads, soups and desserts.

The brand's motto reflects its dedication to serving fresh food: "We feed you like we feed our family."

Contact Ed Wright at [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.

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The Marquis Theatre in Northville will host a special concert event at 8 p.m. Friday. COURTESY OF THE MARQUIS THEATRE

# Share the love this weekend at these events

David Veselenak [Hometownlife.com](#)  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Not planning on taking that special someone out for Valentine's Day today? No worries, there's still plenty of time to share the love this weekend.

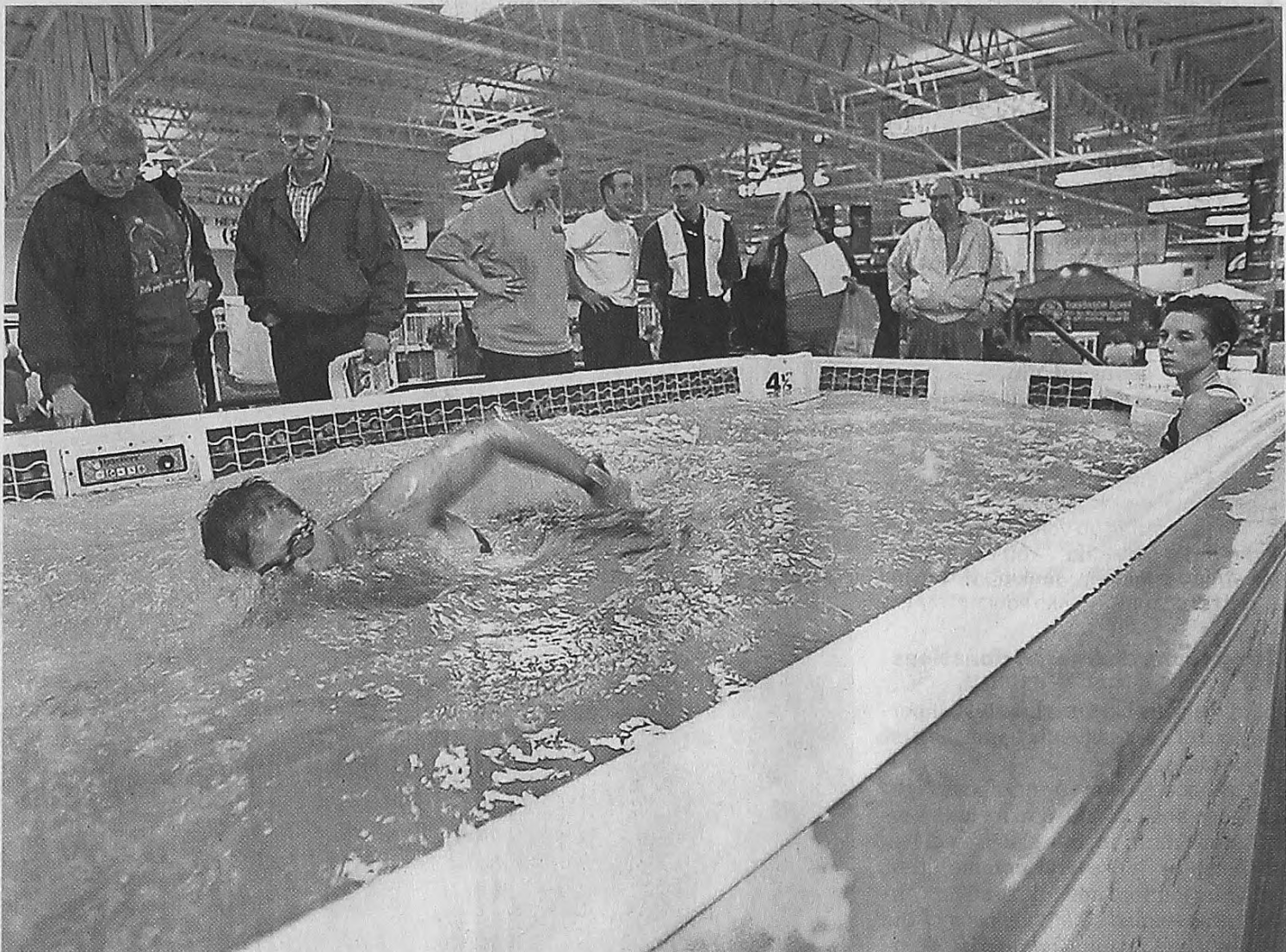
If you didn't celebrate last weekend, be sure to head out this weekend for some fun.

Here are three things happening across the Hometown Life communities worth checking out.

## Pool and spa show in Novi

Think of warmer weather. Now that you're doing that, head to Novi this weekend and get ready for summer fun at the Backyard, Pool and Spa Show.

Returning to the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River this weekend, head up to get the skinny on



The Novi Backyard, Pool and Spa Show returns to the Suburban Collection Showplace this weekend. COURTESY OF THE NOVI BACKYARD, POOL & SPA SHOW

all things outdoor entertaining.

Meet with builders who can help you create your dream backyard which could include in-ground and above ground pools, swim spas, hot tubs, saunas, patios, gazebos, outdoor pizza ovens, grills and more.

The show runs 3-9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6 to 14 and free for children age 5 and younger.

More information can be found at the show's website at [novipoolshow.com](#).

## Valentine's concert in Northville

Has your sweetie ever wanted to be serenaded by Elvis or Frank Sinatra? They can Friday night if they use their imagination a little.

The Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main in Northville, will host a special concert event entitled "Valentine's Tribute to Love Songs" at 8 p.m. Friday night.

The show, which runs one night only, will feature performers Matt King as Elvis and Gary Sacco as Sinatra, performing some of their greatest hits.

Tickets for the show are \$25 and can be purchased by calling 248-349-8110 or at the theater's box office at 135 E. Main in Northville.

More information can be found at the theater's website at [northvillemarquistheatre.com](#).

## Extinction exhibit at Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills

If your idea of a fun date is learning about mass extinctions, then Cranbrook

has just what you're looking for this weekend.

The science center at Cranbrook, 39221 Woodward Ave., has opened a new exhibit dealing with such traumatic world events in their special exhibit space.

Entitled "Doom of the Dinosaurs: Are We Next?," the exhibit looks at signs of a potential future mass extinction through climate change or the effects an asteroid would have on the planet today.

The exhibit runs through Sept. 1. More information, including ticket information, can be found at Cranbrook's website.

Contact David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](#) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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Westland police are seeking this man in a credit fraud case from last fall.

COURTESY OF THE WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Westland police seek credit fraud suspect

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Police in Westland are asking for assistance from the public in identifying a suspect in a credit fraud last year.

Footage released by police show the suspect entering the Speedway gas station at 5795 S. Merriman, just north of Van Born, and commit credit fraud.

Footage shows the suspect going to and using an ATM.

The incident took place Oct. 24, though police held off releasing footage

and images until they went through all other leads.

Police say the suspect appears to be a male with a heavier build, dark hair with a short beard and mustache with glasses. He was wearing a gray and black hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and white tennis shoes.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Westland police at 734-467-3250.

Contact David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



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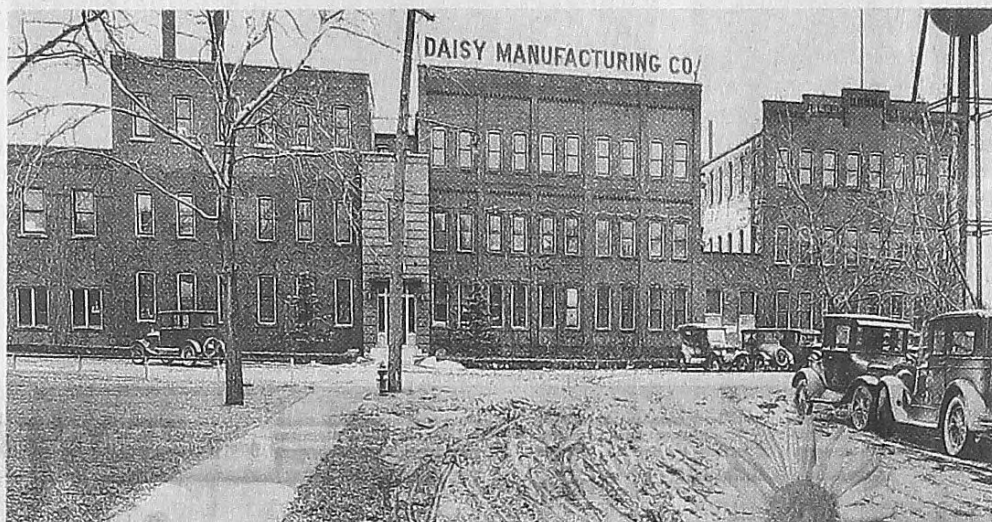
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The Daisy Manufacturing Company began in 1882 as the Plymouth Iron Windmill Company. As most legendary companies do, it started with a great idea, but not the idea that would eventually bring fame to Plymouth. Local inventor, Clarence J. Hamilton, had patented his designs for a self-controlled, all metal windmill. His innovative design drew the interest of several Plymouth residents who purchased stock in the new company, making it the first ever stock-held company in Plymouth.

To house the operations, a two-story brick building, approximately 30 feet by 80 feet, was constructed that year on this site, with the 30 foot main facade facing Union Street. In 1888, officials of the windmill company included local hardware merchant Michael Conner, president; H.W. Baker, manager; L.C. Hough, treasurer; and R.L. Root, (Hamilton's original backer), as secretary.



A sign displays the history of the Daisy Manufacturing Co. in Plymouth, which made air rifles that are still manufactured today. PAMELA A. ZINKOSKY

## Historic places that got their start in metro Detroit

Pamela A. Zinkosky  
Special to Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Metro Detroit is famous for more than automobiles. Let's take a look back on some local communities' history and learn about some products and companies that originated here.

### Garden City Kmart

In 1962, on Ford Road and Middlebelt, Garden City became home to the world's first Kmart. The company originated with Sebastian Spering Kresge's Detroit-based "five and dime" Kresge stores in 1899. The original Kmart store operated until 2017.

### Garden City Little Caesars

Long before there was Little Caesars Arena, Garden City hosted the first Little Caesars pizza shop. Mike and Marian Ilitch opened it in 1959, later franchising and expanding the business. The original store closed in late 2018.

### The Novi Special race car

Novi Road travelers may notice a sign on an old water tower proclaiming Novi as the "Birthplace of Novi Special," along with a picture of the race car. The tower marks the former location of Lewis Welch's Novi Equipment Co., which

funded the creation of California-based Bud Winfield's Indianapolis 500 race car in 1941.

The Novi Special race car never won any races, but gained fame in the Indy 500 for its original design, giving its namesake city recognition as well.

### Plymouth Daisy Air Rifle

Manufacturing in Plymouth led to the creation of the Daisy Air Rifle, or BB gun, made and sold by the Daisy Manufacturing Co., which grew out of entrepreneur Clarence Hamilton's Plymouth Iron Windmill Co., founded in 1882. Hamilton improved upon wooden air rifle designs of the time, creating a metal version in 1888. The Windmill Co.'s general manager is said to have exclaimed, "Boy, that's a daisy!" upon firing the rifle, hence the company's name change in 1895 and the name of the current company, Daisy Outdoor Products, which still manufactures BB guns out of its Rogers, Arkansas, headquarters.

### Northville Globe Furniture Co.

Originally founded as the Michigan School Furniture Co. in Northville in 1873, the Globe Furniture Co. was at one time the largest manufacturer of school furniture in the world. The company suffered a setback after a fire in 1899. The business eventually rebuilt and operated until 1931, when it closed.



# Emails show how fake university lured students

Niraj Warikoo Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

In the summer of 2017, a foreign student in Michigan received an email from an official at the University of Farmington.

"It was a pleasure speaking with you," Ali Milani wrote to the student from India. "Thank you for your recent interest in The University of Farmington, a nationally accredited business and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) institution. Here at the University of Farmington we have created an innovative learning environment that combines traditional instruction with fulltime professional experiences. We offer flexible class schedules and a focus on students who do not want to interrupt their careers."

At the bottom of the email, it described the university as: "A nationally accredited institution authorized to enroll international students by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security."

The email and others like it were obtained by the Free Press, revealing how the university portrayed itself to potential foreign students.

The email exchanges with Ali Milani — who is described in a LinkedIn profile as the president of the University of Farmington — show how the school in Farmington Hills may have lured students to enroll in a fake university set up by The Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

A federal indictment unsealed Jan. 30 revealed that



The building that was used as the fake University of Farmington campus by the federal government.

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## Emails

Continued from Page 6A

the university was produced by federal agents with an investigative division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which is part of DHS.

Federal agents posed as university officials such as "Ali Milani" to trick the students, say attorneys.

Federal prosecutors allege that more than 600 students enrolled at the university knew it was improper, but the emails and attorneys tell a different story.

In addition to the emails, federal undercover agents took other steps to manipulate the foreign students, according to public records and attorneys:

■ Undercover investigators with the Department of Homeland Security registered the University of Farmington with the state of Michigan as a university using a fake name.

■ At the request of DHS, a national accreditation agency listed the University of Farmington as being accredited in order to help deceive prospective students.

■ The university was also placed by federal investigators on the website of ICE as an university approved by them under a government program for foreign students known as SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Program).

"It seems quite clear the scheme was set up by the government not to go after legitimate offenders, but to create fear in our immigration system," said Amer Zahr, an adjunct professor of law at the University of Detroit-Mercy and a spokesman for one of the 146 students who were detained by ICE. "They're going after students who are trying to better their lives, because America has the best education. This is who they're choosing to go after? It's really disturbing."

Out of the more than 600 students who were enrolled, 146 have been arrested and detained by ICE on civil immigration charges. All are from India except for Najlaa Karim Musarsa, 29, of Dearborn Heights, who is Palestinian. She was released last week and went

## Accreditation

We are accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges ([www.acsc.org](http://www.acsc.org)) and licensed by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs as a private postsecondary college. UF is authorized by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program to admit foreign students.

**The University of Farmington website's section on accreditation said the university was accredited by a national commission, licensed by the state of Michigan, and authorized by the SEVP program under ICE to admit foreign students. Tuition costs were also shown on the website. The fake university was set up by the Department of Homeland Security.**

COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

back to the West Bank.

In addition, prosecutors have charged eight people for being recruiters of the students, most of whom studied in engineering and technology fields. Five of them were arraigned in U.S. district court in Detroit last week and pled not guilty.

"It really shows a contempt for immigrants," Zahr said of the detaining of Musarsa and other students.

"She's not a danger to society. She's not trying to defraud. To treat her and others as hardcore criminals" is concerning, Zahr said. "They want to create fear, so non-white people, brown people, don't think of coming to America anymore."

### Concern about the detainees

There are reports in Indian-American and Indian media outlets saying some of the students were being held in poor conditions and not getting vegetarian food in accordance with their religious and cultural beliefs.

There are also reports in Indian media outlets that some Indian students were already deported, and now are stuck in India with debt. Some come from poor farming backgrounds and had to take out loans to support their

## Estimated Costs

### Undergraduate

Tuition: \$2000 a quarter.

Fees: Approx. \$500.

Total: \$8,500 a year.

### Graduate

Tuition: \$2500 a quarter.

Fees: Approx. \$1000.

Total: \$11,000 a year.

had previously received master's degrees from a different university, like the student Milani had written.

The name of the student in the email is not being identified at the request of an attorney.

They were generally admitted to the U.S. on non-immigrant F-1 student visas and were allowed to work while enrolled at a university on programs known as OPT (Optional Practical Training) or CPT (Curricular Practical Training), said attorneys in contact with the students. Some were trying to get H1-B visas to stay longer in America, but there is a cap on those, and so they sought other ways to remain working in the U.S.

After their master's degree programs ended, the students would be ineligible to remain working in the U.S. and so some sought to get a second master's degree at the University of Farmington. In other cases, their previous universities had problems with accreditation, which made them ineligible to work, and so they tried to transfer, said Atlanta-based immigration attorney Ravi Mannam.

### Emails from the university to student

In the June 2017 email, Milani wrote to the Indian student: "In many instances, your prior Masters Degree's (MA) credits, combined with CPT, can be applied to a second MA in lieu of a traditional course load."

Milani wrote to the student about its tuition and accreditation: "The University of Farmington operates on a quarterly academic calendar, each term is generally ten weeks, excluding exams, and the admissions process is on a rolling basis. Terms start every three months, beginning in September, December, March, and June. Sessions begin every month. Graduate programs tuition is \$2500 per quarter. Depending on fees, average cost is \$1,000 per month."

"We are accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges ([www.acsc.org](http://www.acsc.org)) and licensed by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs as a private postsecondary college."

See EMAILS, Page 8A

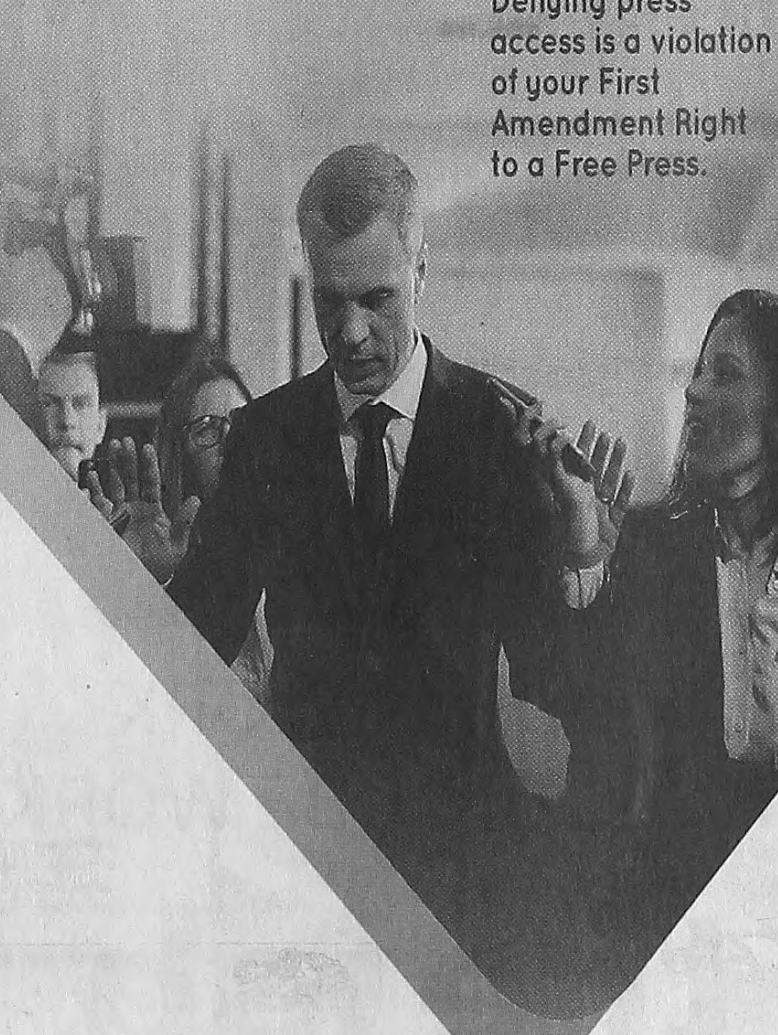
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# Charter students win website design contest

Students from Canton's Achieve Charter Academy and Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy took home first place in the Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation's 13th annual website design competition, the longest-running website design competition for girls in the state.

Sanjana Madapa, an eighth-grader at Plymouth Scholars, and Shruti Balla, a seventh-grader at Achieve Charter, were awarded first place in the competition's Middle School category.

They were selected from more than 160 female students who entered the competition after participating in free coding and design training courses from October to December 2018. These courses taught the students to build websites focusing on this year's competition theme: "My week without digital technology."

"We are all so proud of Shruti and this incredible accomplishment in winning the Middle School division of the web-

site design competition," said Jennifer Conley, principal at Achieve. "Her website design is creative and thoughtful, as we consider life without digital technology."




Seventy teams of middle and high school girls from across the state submitted websites, leading to finals day in January, which allowed 40 teams to compete and demonstrate their websites to a panel of subject-matter judges.

Experts from a variety of MCWT's partner companies examined the entries and selected the finalists.

"I am so proud of Sanjana and her partner from our sister NHA-school, Achieve, on this amazing accomplishment," said Walter Reese, principal at Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy. "It is important that young girls know early that participating in STEM-centered events like this not only unlocks their creativity and potential, but it sets them on the path to science, technology, and engineering careers later on in life."



Sanjana Madapa, an eighth-grader at Plymouth Scholars, and Shruti Balla, a seventh-grader at Achieve Charter, were awarded first place in a statewide website design competition. SUBMITTED



THIS SERVER HAS BEEN TAKEN OFFLINE

The University of Farmington has been closed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Affected student should contact their local Homeland Security Investigations office. <https://www.ice.gov/contact/hsi>

The Department of Homeland Security has taken offline the website of the University of Farmington, which it had created for a sting operation. The website was taken down Jan. 31 after a federal indictment was unsealed Jan. 30. The website now contains a logo for the investigative unit of ICE and reads: "The University of Farmington has been closed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY



The University of Farmington office in Farmington Hills in 2017. MATT FRIEDMAN/TANNER FRIEDMAN STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Welcome to University of Farmington

A page of the University of Farmington website. DETROIT FREE PRESS SCREENSHOT

## Emails

Continued from Page 7A

The executive director of the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC), Michale McComis, told the Free Press that his group worked with federal agents on the sting operation.

"Upon request by the US Department of Homeland Security ACCSC assisted in the operation by listing the school as being accredited by ACCSC," McComis said.

The same group had accredited a fake University of Northern New Jersey at the request of DHS. In that case, though, ICE didn't make mass arrests of students like they have of the Farmington students.

Records filed with the state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) show that the University of Farmington was incorporated in January 2016. Prosecutors have said their undercover operation started in 2015.

Ali Milani is listed in the state records as the university's resident agent. A spokesman for LARA, Jason Moon, refused to comment on the fake university and whether the state had cooperated with federal investigators on their sting investigation.

Many of the students were trying to work while enrolled in a university, which is an accepted practice approved by the U.S. government.

In the June 2017 email to the student, Milani sent the student a 2-page application form that asks applicants to send a \$100 application fee.

"If you are interested in having your tomorrow start today, please complete the attached application and submit a copy of your passport and current visa," Milani wrote.

His email ended with: "Good luck in all your endeavors."

The student filled out the application and emailed Milani back in a couple of hours.

The next day, June 29, Milani said the student was admitted, writing that he was attaching the "admission letter along with the international student checklist and SEVIS transfer form."

SEVIS is the Student and Exchange Visitor Program run by ICE, which oversees the program for students on F-1 visas, like the ones at the University of Farmington.

The next week, the student asked to defer his admission until December. In October, the student then asked Milani to transfer his SEVIS "today" because his OPT expires.

"I have been trying to reach out to you

since morning, but couldn't get hold of it. Please let me know ASAP, its URGENT," the student wrote.

After enrolling at the university, some of the students discovered there were no classes, said attorneys.

But the university kept on telling the students that classes would soon be held.

**Students 'taken advantage of'**

"I was told by the students that the university reassured them that classes would be held and everything would be fine and that they are following the immigration laws," said Prashanthi Reddy, an attorney in New York City. "The students paid them the tuition fees and were trapped once they realized that classes were not being held, as some didn't have the money to transfer and pay tuition at another university."

Reddy said "some did transfer out, some said they called and emailed the university and asked for SEVIS to be transferred but did not get a response, some others said they were reassured by the fact that the university was accredited and listed on the ICE website."

Adding to the confusion was a website that led viewers to think it was a legitimate place, with photos of students in classrooms and claims that students could work while enrolled.

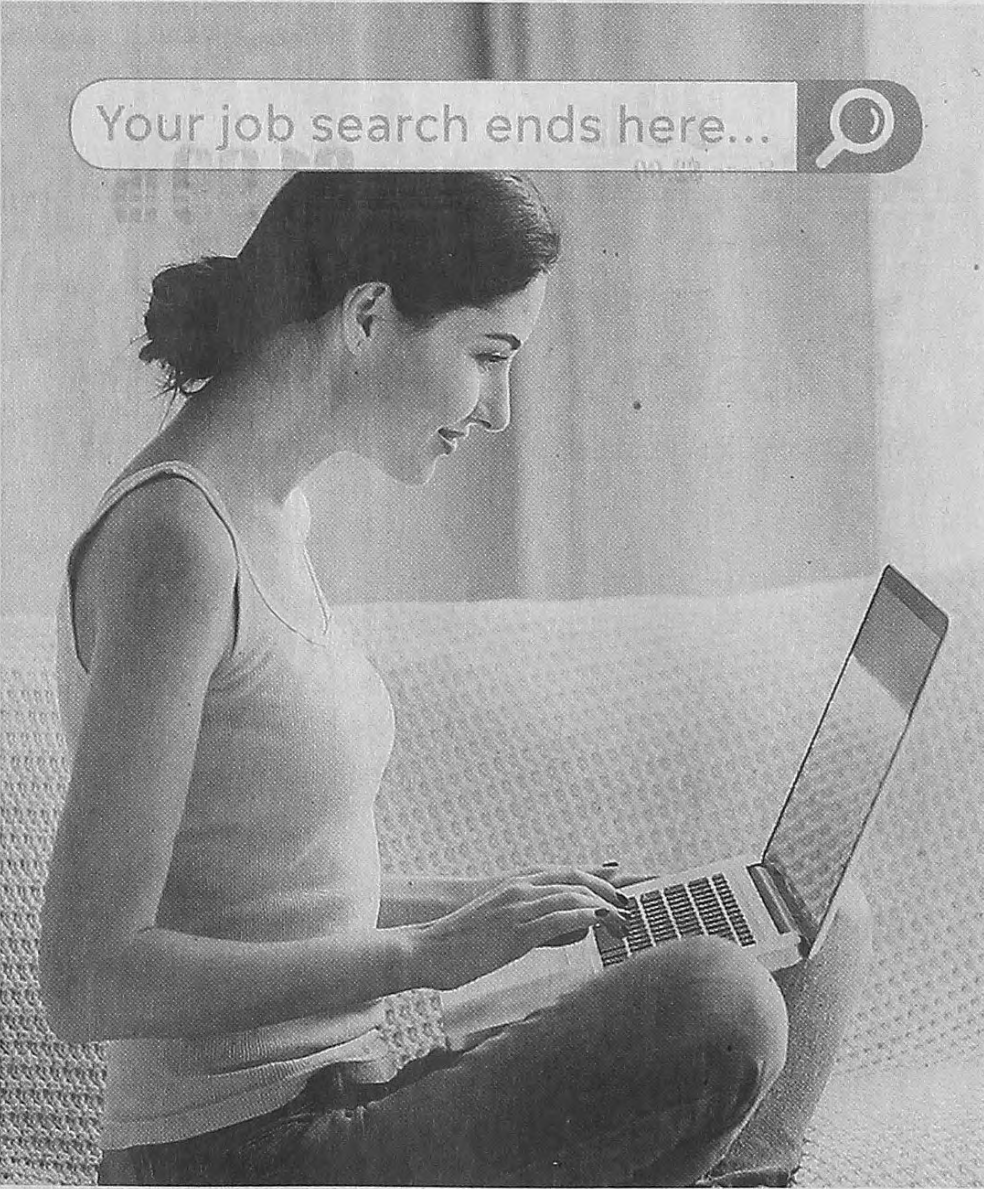
"The University of Farmington is a nationally accredited business and STEM institution located in Metro Detroit," read the university website created by DHS that was taken down the day after the indictments were unsealed. "Our innovative curriculum combines traditional instruction and distance learning with full-time professional experiences. We offer flexible class schedules and a focus on students who do not want to interrupt their careers."

The university even had a fake backstory, saying that it "traces its lineage back to the early 1950s, when returning soldiers from the Second World War were seeking a quality and marketable education. At the time, Detroit was the center of innovation and manufacturing. ... Please explore our academic offerings to see if University of Farmington is the right place to achieve your success."

"It was a very well-put-together website," said Russell Abrutyn, an immigration attorney in Berkeley who is contact with some of the students. "It looked like a real school."

"I think a lot of these students ... were essentially taken advantage of or taken in by what appeared to be a legitimate school."

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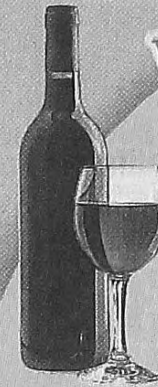
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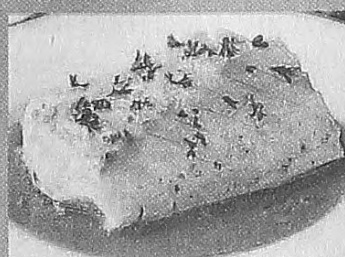


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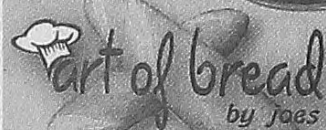
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South Lyon East's Adam Trent, left, attempts to block a shot by South Lyon's Connor Fracassi. South Lyon won 54-44.  
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Fracassi brothers lead South Lyon to win at East

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

South Lyon's Fracassi family may owe the South Lyon East athletic department a new basketball net in the aftermath of Friday afternoon's South Lyon boys hoops rivalry game featuring the visiting Lions and host Cougars. That's because South Lyon High School's Fracassi brothers — freshman Quinn and junior Connor — did some serious nylon-fraying during the Lions' closer-than-the-score-would-indicate 54-44 victory. Three weeks after the Cougars trimmed the host Lions in a nail-biter, the Fracassi siblings combined for 25 points (Quinn netted 13, Connor 12) to lead South Lyon to victory.

Ten of Quinn's 13 came in the final five minutes while Connor's production was more evenly distributed: five in the first quarter, two in the second and five in the fourth. Most importantly, the DNA-amic duo combined to go 6-for-6 from the free throw line during the final two game-deciding minutes. Here are five takeaways from Friday's entertaining match-up:

**Turn up the defrost**

Maybe it was the funky 5:30 p.m. starting time, the wind chill or just good, old-fashioned perimeter "D". For whatever reason, both teams

See **BROTHERS**, Page 2B



South Lyon's Owen Deline pressures South Lyon East's Sean Clary.

# Hartland's Bommarito makes wrestling history

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN


HARTLAND — Hartland freshman Eliana Bommarito never intended to follow in the history-making footsteps of her cousin, Jeremy Bommarito. But when a friend suggested that she give wrestling a try two years ago, the wheels were in motion for Eliana to blaze some trails of her own in the sport. No matter where her career takes her or who comes along in the future, Bommarito will go down as the first Livingston County wrestler to win a high school girls state championship. The event, conducted by the Michigan Wrestling Association, was held for the first time Sunday at Adrian College.

Bommarito was one of 15 champions, winning the 235-pound weight class. She wrestles at 215 for Hartland. "It's exciting, because it's the first," Bommarito said. "It went a lot better than I thought it would. I was really nervous about a lot of the people, because I didn't know how they wrestled." There was no need to be nervous. Bommarito dominated her weight class, winning all three matches in nearly half a period. She pinned Faith Keller of Whittemore-Prescott in 1 minute, 6 seconds in the quarterfinals, Sarah Marvin of Byron in 1:00 in the semifinals and Aaliyah Luera of Carrollton in 1:08 in the championship match.

"It wasn't exactly the most challenging, because I wrestle a lot of guys," Bommarito said. "It's states, so it's bigger than a regular meet." Hartland had two other girls compete, Alexis Caudill and Izabella Martinsen. Caudill placed fourth at 145. Fowlerville's Hannah Arledge Teran was fifth at 105. "It was pretty awesome," said Caudill, who went 1-2 in the tournament. "It was my first win of the season." It was Martinsen who talked Bommarito into coming out for wrestling in middle school.

"I already thought of doing it before that," she said. "She kind of encouraged me." Jeremy Bommarito became Hartland's first two-time state champion when he won Division 1 titles at 145 in 2007 and 2008. He was a junior college and NCAA Division II All-American in college. "I've watched a few of his matches," Eliana said. "I was too young when he was actually doing it." Bommarito has an advantage in that she gets to train and compete every day with one of the top wrestling programs in Michigan. She has a 6-6 record in varsity matches and has earned the respect of her teammates. "I practiced with her back when I was in eighth grade," said sophomore Paul Corder, who received honorable mention at 189 in the latest Division 1 rankings. "It was her first year wrestling. I've definitely seen a big change in her wrestling since then. It's really awesome to see."

See **WRESTLING**, Page 2B




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MSU BASKETBALL

Magic: Spartans must ‘support each other’

Leader of 1979  
championship team  
gives powerful message

Chris Solari Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

EAST LANSING – It was a celebration day Saturday at Michigan State, with the Spartans honoring the 1979 national championship team as part of the basketball program’s annual reunion week-end.

And Magic Johnson delivered a positive message to MSU fans and his fellow alums around the world.

At the end of a halftime program celebrating his team’s title, the Basketball Hall of Famer from Lansing took the microphone from fellow co-captain Gregory Kelser to address the Breslin Center crowd on the past two years of controversies surrounding his alma mater.

He delivered a powerful message after earlier voicing his support for coach Tom Izzo and his program.

“I just want to say one more thing,” Johnson told the crowd. “The Green and White, we’ve been through some tough times recently, but we’ve hung together. When you come to this university, we support each other. And we will continue to do that, even with me all the way in Los Angeles. So let’s continue to pray for each other, support each other and always remember we belong to the greatest university in the world, Michigan State University.”

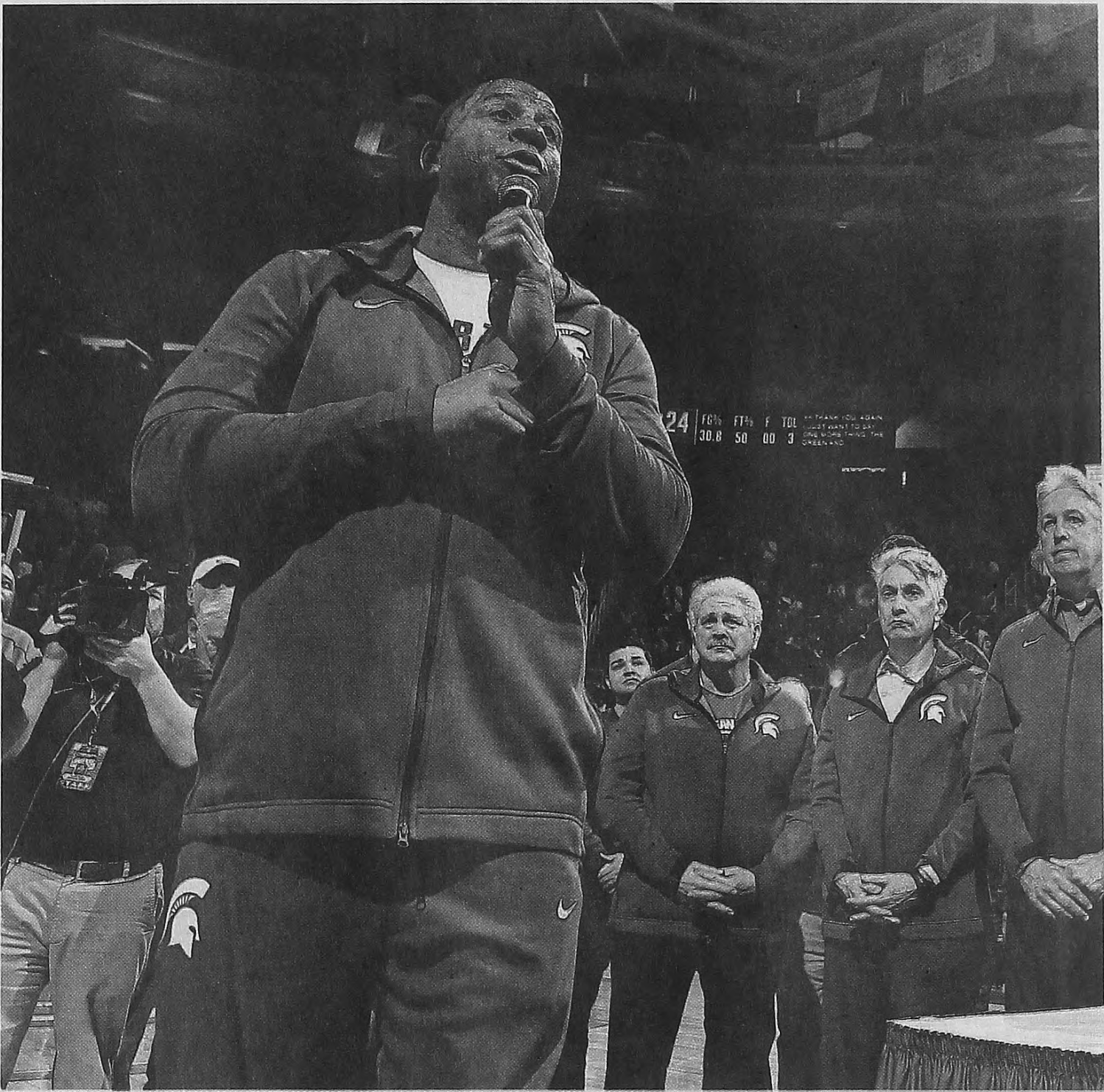
Izzo’s team defeated Minnesota, 79-55, and the 24th-year Hall of Fame coach envisioned his former boss, Jud Heathcote, in heaven having a beer with his predecessor, Gus Ganakas, and reveling in the irony of the final total.

“He’s so selfish,” Izzo joked of Heathcote, “that he wouldn’t let us score 81, so he let us score 79 so we’d remember the ‘79 team.”

Kelser, the color analyst for the Detroit Pistons’ TV broadcasts, played for both Ganakas and Heathcote.

He called them two of the four most important people in his life, along with his father and grandfather. And Kelser added that their connection with Izzo has helped build a family bond at MSU.

“These are the men who had the greatest impact on me over my lifetime,” Kelser said. “I was very fortunate to play for Gus Ganakas. I was extremely fortunate



Magic Johnson speaks to the crowd at halftime during the game between Michigan State and Minnesota on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

to play for Jud Heathcote. And I feel like I played for Tom Izzo. I think it’s special that this university has only had three coaches since 1969 – that’s 50 years. Not too many schools can boast that type of continuity.”

Heathcote, who coached MSU from 1976 until he retired in 1995 and passed the program over to Izzo, died in 2017. Ganakas, who was MSU’s coach from

1969-76 and served as a Spartan radio analyst for 31 years, passed away Jan 11.

“We got one of the best coaches in college basketball,” Johnson said before the game, “so I’m not really worried about the Spartans. ... (Heathcote) drove me to be what I am. I just love him. I love what he stood for, what he was about. That’s why the program is where it is today, because Jud started it and

then handed the baton to Coach Izzo.”

The reunion, Johnson said, came together with a phone call from Izzo.

“We want to thank Tom, because this would not have happened without his leadership,” Johnson said. “Tom has been amazing for our program, and he’s the one that said, ‘Hey, we want to do this.’ And when he called, I said, ‘I’m in,’ and everybody’s back.”

Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

Her improvement has been noticeable even in the three months she’s been on the high school team.

“I drill with her, not very often, but when I do I’ve noticed from the beginning of the season until now she’s improved a ton, even with just hand-fighting and being aggressive,” said senior Jon Hartman, Hartland’s top 215-pounder.

“Wrestling me, Paul and Cam (Shirley), anyone else she wrestles, we give her a hard practice every day. Just because she’s a girl doesn’t mean anything different.”

Hartland coach Todd Cheney has had several girls come through his program, including his own daughter. He said “it’s been a long time coming” for Michigan to have a high school girls tournament.

“Hopefully it gets sponsored by the MHSAA in the future,” he said. “It was a

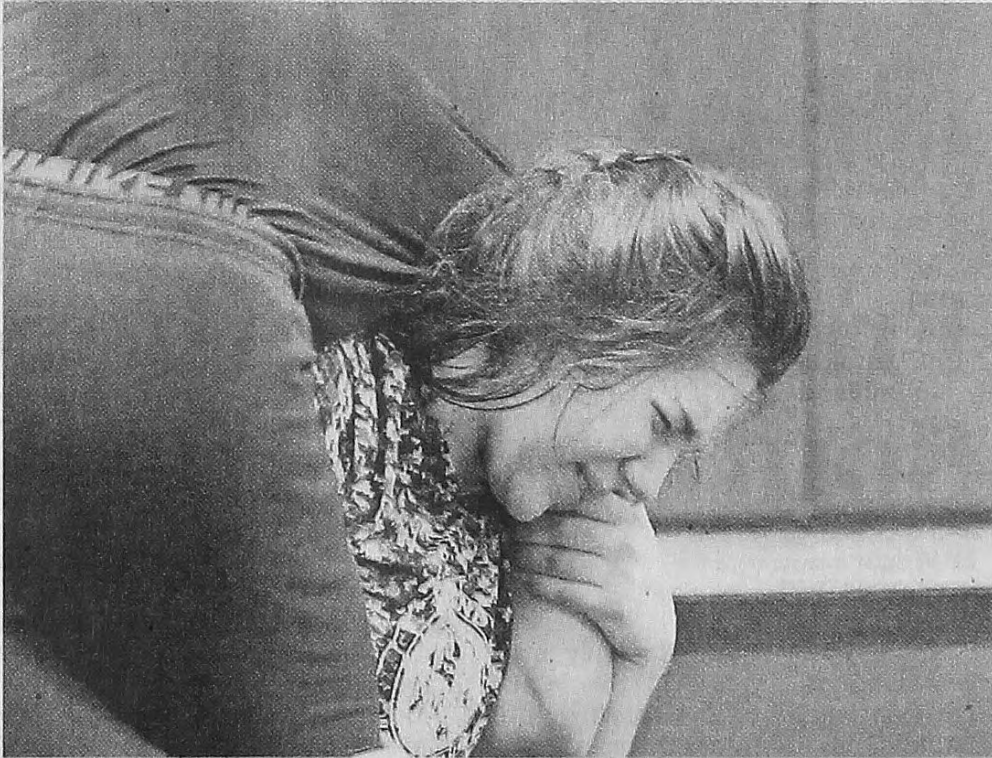
really cool experience for the girls and packed — no room in that place. They might have to look at going to a different venue, it was so big.”

There were 154 wrestlers representing 106 schools at the tournament.

The concept of sponsoring girls wrestling hasn’t come up at MHSAA meetings, but it could happen down the road, spokesman Geoff Kimmerly said.

He said there probably isn’t enough interest to have team tournaments for girls, but that an individual tournament for girls competing on boys teams is a possibility.

“At this point, we’re definitely involved in providing some support,” Kimmerly said. “We’re excited to see where it’s going. We are open to the possibility. Does this become some sort of individual tournament as part of an MHSAA finals? We’re so far from figuring out what it looks like, but we are certainly involved in the conversation about figuring out what they could look like and when.”



Eliana Bommarito of Hartland won the 235-pound weight class in the first Michigan high school girls wrestling tournament. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Brothers

Continued from Page 1B

started the contest cold as ice. The score was knotted at 2-2 (no, this is not a typo) four minutes in before South Lyon’s Lucas Doty and East’s Drake Willonborg exchanged long triples to get the offenses flowing.

The Lions secured a 12-10 lead after the first quarter despite hitting just four of 11 shots.

Grade-A atmosphere

Although the game tipped off during the heart of Friday’s heading-for-home rush hour, there was an energizing vibe flowing throughout East’s first-class gymnasium.

Both schools were represented by enthusiastic, well-behaved student cheer-

ing sections that consumed close to 90 percent of the seating behind both baskets. The south bleachers were jammed with fans. The intensity wasn’t quite “The Jungle”-esque, but it was pretty impressive for a basketball game.

On second thought

The Lions dominated the second stanza, outscoring their hosts 13-3, while holding the Cougars scoreless for the first five minutes and 17 seconds of the quarter.

The lost art of charge-drawing made a spectacular comeback within a 30-second stretch just before the half when on back-to-back possessions East’s Adam Trent stood his defensive ground to draw an offensive foul while Quinn Fracassi followed suit at the other end of the court.

The Lions’ unsung hero of the second quarter was junior Joseph Carano, who

missed his only shot, but ripped down four rebounds.

The ‘Comeback Kids’

East was a beast in the third quarter, outscoring the Lions 16-7 to cut its deficit to 32-29.

Lighting the fuse were senior Chris Kaminski, who was fouled while finishing a putback, sophomore Bryce Bird, who drained a well-defended jumper and Trent, who knocked down a high-arching trey from the top of the key.

The Cougars closed the quarter in style when Willenborg connected on a three-point shot from the deep corner. The shot set the tone for an electric final eight minutes.

Making swishes come true

East’s first lead of the game came with 5:08 to play when Trent nailed a

three-point shot to put his team ahead, 38-36.

Unfortunately for the hosts, their advantage was short-lived.

The Lions countered on a right-wing triple by Quinn Fracassi and a corner three by Connor Fracassi to make it 42-38.

South Lyon’s Matthew Sherry tacked on two free throws to extend the separation to 44-38 before East’s Zander Desentz cut the deficit to 44-41 with a behind-the-arc jumper.

The Lions avoided any late-game drama by going 10-for-10 from the free-throw line to seal the deal.

Doty finished with eight points and seven rebounds before fouling with 2:08 left.

Desentz led East with 12 points while Kaminski tallied a game-high 10 rebounds.

Contact Ed Wright at [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.



## PREP ATHLETICS



Detroit Catholic Central's 25 scholar-athletes pose with their families Feb. 7 during the school's Signing Day ceremony. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Catholic Central athletes sign letters of intent

Twenty-five Detroit Catholic Central students announced their plans to continue with athletics at the college level last week during a special event at the school honoring those signing a letter of intent.

The students include:

**Kellen Adler** (Bowling Green State University – Football), **Brendan Hill** (Lake Superior State University – Hockey), **Ryan Marra** (Brown University – Baseball), **David DeBacker** (The University of Notre Dame – Diving), **Samih Beydoun** (The University of Michigan – Football), **Keven Davenport** (The University of Nebraska – Wrestling), **Cameron Amine** (The University of Michigan – Wrestling), **Luke Doyle** (The United States Military Academy at West Point – Soccer), **Mike Harding** (Hillsdale College – Football), **Joey Kamish** (Loyola University Maryland – Lacrosse), **Bennett Loniewski** (Loyola University Maryland – Swim & Dive), **Kyle Love** (The University of Massachusetts Lowell – Lacrosse), **Andrew NicholSEN** (Michigan State University – Soccer), **Michael Palushaj** (University of Detroit Mercy – Soccer), **Kaleb Wiesner** (Lawrence Technological University – Golf), **Johnny Shea** (Hope College – Lacrosse), **Jake Petro** (University of Detroit Mercy – Lacrosse), **Owen Finerty** (The University of Michigan – Soccer), **Joe Hardenbergh** (Hillsdale College – Baseball), **Ryan Birney** (University of Detroit Mercy – Lacrosse), **Nick Matuszak** (University of Massachusetts Boston – Lacrosse), **Trevor Benoit** (Adrian College – Golf), **Connor Beals** (Hartford Community College – Lacrosse), **Justin Petouhoff** (University of Detroit Mercy – Lacrosse), and **Parker Bohland** (Albion College – Football).



Andrew NicholSEN, second from left, who will attend MSU on an athletics scholarship, stands with his mom Gerilyn, sister Taylor, and father Hans at ceremony. Director of admissions Jake Marmul, right, snaps a photo on his cell phone.

## HOCKEY

## South Lyon to honor senior players

The South Lyon Unified Varsity Hockey Team will honor its senior players at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Kensington Valley Ice House.

The team has an 8-1 record in the Lakes Valley Conference, under Coach Bill McCreary, and will host Belleville on Saturday night.

The senior players being honored at this event are: (front row) forward and assistant captain Aaron Caicco, defenseman Jack Marchand, defenseman and assistant captain Connor Hudgens, forward and assistant captain Garrett Rutt, (back row) defense Lauryn Rygiel, forward/defense Gavin Pierz, defensemen and captain Jace Gerlach, and forward and captain Brian Ploheski.

South Lyon Unified aims to win the conference for a second year and has had a strong season overall with a 13-5 record.



South Lyon Unified will honor its seniors this Saturday. COURTESY OF SOUTH LYON HOCKEY



# Tips and tricks to help you get the refund you deserve



**On Travel**  
Christopher Elliott  
USA TODAY

Travel companies love to keep your money, even when they're not supposed to. If you don't believe me, ask Melina Jose, who was supposed to fly from Paris to Orlando, Florida, recently.

Her itinerary, booked through Expedia, included several airlines. But on her return flight, one of the legs, on Flybe from Paris to Manchester, England, mysteriously vanished. She and her husband, Jerard, had to pay \$437 for new tickets.

Although she sent Expedia all of her receipts, the online travel agency refused to refund the unused leg or the new ticket she had to buy. And the airlines deferred to Expedia.

"They were giving us the runaround," says Jose, a medical technologist from DeLand, Florida.

Stories like hers repeat themselves every hour of every day. Airlines and other travel companies make it so easy for money to flow their way. But when it comes to refunds, they quote rules and policies designed to make it difficult, if not impossible, to get a refund. Experts say you can overcome those hurdles by using the right payment method, creating a paper trail, and knowing how to appeal your case.

Jose waited three months before contacting me. I got in touch with Expedia, and it finally refunded her \$437.

That's one way to do it.

### How you pay matters

If you think you might want a refund on a travel product at some point – and let's face it, who doesn't? – then how you pay matters. Settling with a debit card, a check or even a wire transfer means the money is gone. But use a credit card, and you have the full force of federal law (the Fair Credit Billing Act) and your credit card's resolution department in your corner. That way, when a company drags its feet on a refund, you can file a chargeback.

"It's always best to book any tour, hotel or activity for your trip with a major credit card," explains Claire Soares, founder of the travel company Up in the



If you think you might want a refund on a travel product at some point, pay with a credit card. GETTY IMAGES

Air Life. "Your card has consumer protection programs built in so you can challenge a charge if the vendor does not fulfill what was promised. With the backing of a major credit card you can even dispute part or a percentage of the services provided."

Experts say you shouldn't use a credit card dispute unless you have no other choice, which is to say the travel company won't refund your purchase even though it's agreed to do so. Give the system a chance to work before filing a chargeback.

### Be informed and blaze paper trail

"Be informed," says Michael Foguth, founder of Foguth Financial Group in Brighton, Michigan. Foguth says details matter. "And pay attention."

Attention to what, though? What kind of "money" the travel company wants to send you, for starters. For example, airlines love to send you vouchers, but that funny money expires after a year. If you pay by credit card, you should receive a refund to that credit card. Don't accept vouchers or points.

Also, keep every email and receipt. Experts say the "paper trail" will get you a refund faster. I can't guarantee this – I've advocated many cases where a company promised a refund in writing – but it can help.

Finally, make sure you're dealing with the right company. Jose had approached her online agency and every airline in her itinerary. But in the end, Expedia was responsible for her refund; as her travel agent, it needed to work with those airlines to determine

the right refund.

### Appeal your case

Miguel Suro, a Florida attorney who writes a personal finance blog called Rich Miser, says if "no" is the answer, you need to appeal to someone who can turn it into a "yes."

"For airlines, if you get nowhere with the airline itself and have a valid claim, file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Transportation," he says.

"Airlines hate it when you get a third party involved, and may respond favorably. I had to do this for a foreign airline that owed me a partial refund for a flight originating in the U.S., and they wound up giving me a full refund, voluntarily."

You don't always have to appeal to the government. For example, you can shoot an email to an executive of a hotel chain when one of the properties refuses to offer a refund you deserve. (I publish a full list of customer service executive contacts on my nonprofit consumer advocacy site, [elliott.org](http://elliott.org).) Often, a brief, polite written appeal to someone higher up can do wonders.

If you want to make sure you get your travel refund every time, remember to use a credit card, keep every email and be ready to appeal your case. And if that doesn't work – well, you can always contact me.

### Using the three 'P's' for a refund

One of the techniques I've developed is called the three "P's." It works great on refunds.

**Patience.** Give the company at least a week to respond to your refund request and two credit card billing cycles to pay you.

**Persistence.** Don't let months pass by without letting the company know that your money is still missing. If necessary, set a calendar reminder so that you don't forget.

**Politeness.** Angry demands for a refund and threats to take a company to court almost always backfire. The company may refer your case to its legal department, where it could linger for weeks or months. Be nice!

*Christopher Elliott is a consumer advocate. Contact him at [chris@elliott.org](mailto:chris@elliott.org) or visit [elliott.org](http://elliott.org).*

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH  
2019 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2019 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 5th Organizational meeting 12:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 6th First meeting 3-9 pm
- Thursday, March 7th Second meeting, 9-4 pm
- Monday, March 18th Final meeting 9-12 pm

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointments only. **COMPLETED 2019 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY**, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 18, 2019 by 12:00 pm.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 18th, 2019 by 12:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 453-1234, ext 252.

Maureen Brodie  
City Clerk

Published: February 14, 17, & 21, 2019

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**RFP-USF FORM 470/FY2019**– The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will accept bids for services and equipment for FY2019 of the Universal Services Fund (USF) E-rate Program. Specifications are available at [PCCSK12.com](http://PCCSK12.com), under departments and business office. You may also obtain a copy of the RFP at the E.J. McClendon Center, 454 S. Harvey St., Plymouth, MI 48170. All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Mark Salzer at [techrfp@pccsk12.com](mailto:techrfp@pccsk12.com). RFP's will be received in the Technology Department until 2 PM on February 28, 2019. Bids shall be labeled: Bid document enclosed- "Universal Services Fund (USF) E-rate". The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education reserves the right to reject or decline all bids.

Board of Education  
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools  
Anupam Chugh Sidhu

**Statement of Assurance of Compliance with Federal Law**

*It is the policy of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, height, weight, disability, religion or marital status in any of its programs, activities or employment.*

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# Shh! These top beaches used to be a secret

**Melanie Reffes**  
Special to USA TODAY

If you thought all beaches were created equal, think again. Sure, some travelers prefer the party scene but for the bona fide beach aficionado, it's that quieter nook that is worth seeking out. What the smaller out-of-the-way beaches lack in amenities, they more than make up with countless miles of buttery sand, seclusion and serenity. Plant your sun lounger by the water's edge and check out our list of the top secret beaches in the Caribbean, and try not to let the cat out of the bag.

## Jamaica

Away from the busy beaches on the resort-lined northwest coast, Doctor's Cave on the Hip Strip in the heart of Montego Bay is the beach less-traveled. Dating to 1906 when Dr. Alexander James McCatty opened one of Jamaica's first bathing clubs, the water was reputed to have healing powers. Today, the bath-warm water with year-round temperatures between 78 and 84 degrees Fahrenheit is still the perfect prescription for relaxation. The beach, part of the Montego Bay Marine Park, allows visitors easy access to a boatload of water sports while a spirited underwater awaits the snorkelers in the crowd.

## St. Maarten

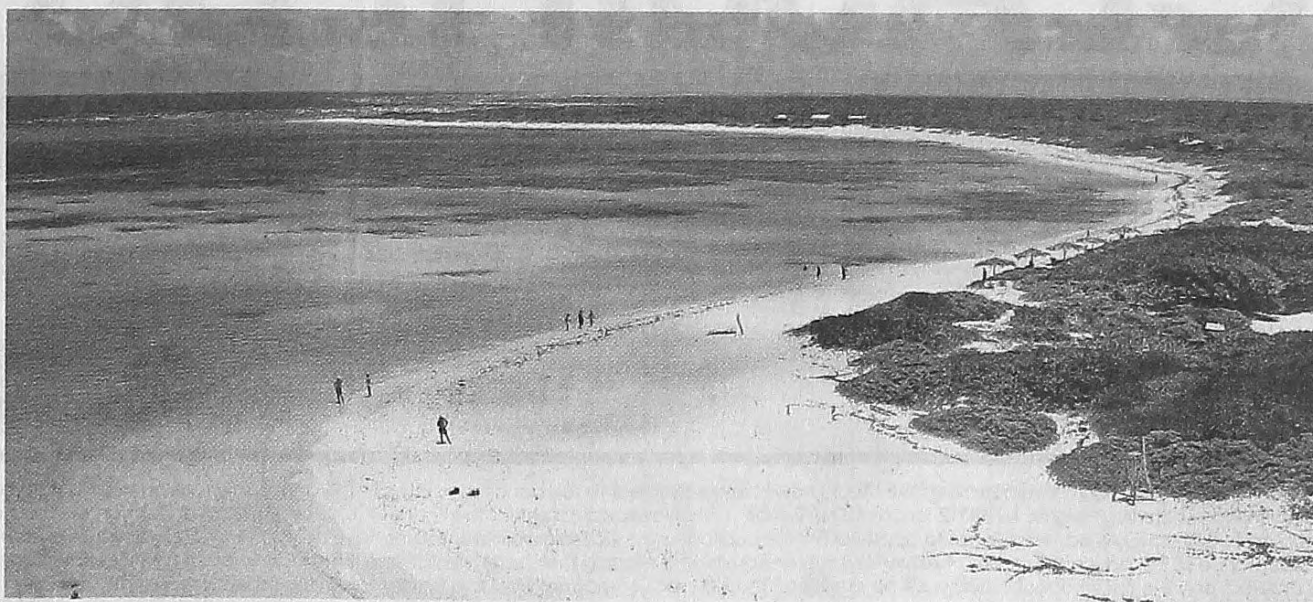
On the Dutch side of the dual-nation island, Mullet Bay is a word-of-mouth beach. A pretty palette of teal blue and talc white, the long sandy ribbon on the southwest coast is dotted with palms and sea grape trees. The no-frills beach is easy to find off Rhine Road near the island's only golf course. The weekend vibe is lively with locals playing volleyball on the sand, party catamarans skirting the shoreline, and fishermen on the jetty 50 yards from shore.

## Anguilla

It may be hard to find, but Little Bay Beach is a sandy secret worth discovering. The unspoiled spit is bookended by cliffs. Keep your eyes open and your camera charged as graceful pelicans fly from the beach to the sea and back.

## Curacao

A bonus for beach-hoppers, Playa Kenepa on the west side of the island is really two beaches rolled into one. The bigger beach, known as Grote Knip, is carpeted in white sand while the more intimate Klein Knip is favored for snorkeling. These bucket-list beaches are never crowded, apart from locals. Halfway between the two beaches is an under-the-radar cliff-



Lo'Blolly Bay beach. BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS TOURIST BOARD

side lookout point.

## British Virgin Islands

Lo'Blolly Bay is a blinding white beach guarded by Horseshoe Reef that, at 18 miles long, is the Eastern Caribbean's third-largest continuous coral reef. A bonanza for bone fishermen and nirvana for scuba divers, the east end of the beach is home to springs bubbling from coral beds and piles of conch shells that once were pirates' treasures.

## Turks and Caicos Islands

Long Bay Beach is a world away and a short drive from the more popular Grace Bay Beach. A good bet for families, the water is so clear and shallow, you can easily walk (or ride a horse) hundreds of feet beyond the shoreline. The beach is big with kiteboarders and stand-up paddleboarders and worth a return visit at night when the moonscape reflected on the still water is mystical.

## St. Lucia

Despite its name, Pigeon Island is connected to the mainland and there's nary a pigeon in sight. A placid alternative to Reduit Beach across the bay, the beach is popular with carb-cravers who rave about the rotis and Piton beer at Jambe de Bois, a rustic waterfront cafe.

## Cayman Islands

It's no surprise that the best-kept beach secret is on

Little Cayman. Point of Sand is the prettiest sandy perch this side of a postcard. The beach is prime for snorkeling and swimming.

## Antigua

Rendezvous Bay Beach is one of 365 beaches on the island, within the national park. The 30-minute trek along a footpath from Fig Tree Hill, English Harbour or Carlisle Bay, or a boat ride from English Harbour, is well worth the effort.

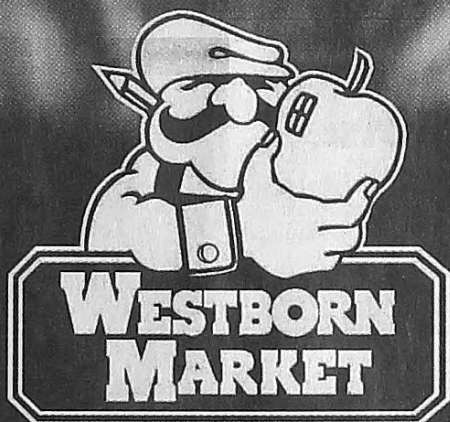
## Aruba

Baby Beach near San Nicolas is a delightful half-moon in a lagoon. Uncrowded above the waves, down under bustles with a kaleidoscope of barracuda, parrot fish and squid that hang out towards the inlet. On a clear day, Venezuela can be spotted in the distance.



**Nicholas Pallas or Gerri Witowski**  
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 07 PONTIAC 1G2Z58N37185328  
 04 CHEVY 1GND52F34M64338  
 05 CHEVY 2G1WF52E359293459  
 02 FORD 1FTZR45E42T A39569  
 04 CADILLAC 1G6DM57180416013  
 02 DODGE 4B3AG42G54E150857  
 00 PONTIAC 1G2WP52K4YF309761  
 03 CHEVY 1GNDT13532375165  
 13 Hyundai KNHDA4E3D1U846290  
 03 Mitsubishi 4A3AC44G03E127670  
 06 CHEVY 2G1WC581969292959  
 02 NISSAN 1N4AL11D62C280131  
 01 PONTIAC 1G2NE52T11M643662  
 05 PONTIAC 1G2ZG528X54178358  
 05 FORD 1FTPX14525FA58346  
 07 Chrysler 2C3CK33G37H804222  
 04 HONDA 1HGCM56344A176843  
 02 FORD 1FAHP56543G144639  
 12 TOYOTA 4T1BF1FK4CU528879  
 06 CHEVY 1G1T51806F225503  
 13 FORD 1FADP3N20DL137717  
 09 HYUNDAI 5NPEU46F79H471043  
 09 BUICK 1G4HD57M79U103883  
 03 ACURA 19UUA5893A005372  
 00 BUICK 1G4HR54K9YU296427  
 99 NISSAN 1N4DL0D3XC249837  
 05 FORD 3FAFP37N3SR120929  
 84 CHEVY 1G1AY078E5143093

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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### ACROSS

- 1 Kuwaiti rulers  
6 Pin to hang a chapeau on  
12 Clothes  
16 "This is so frustrating!"  
19 Maui porch  
20 Single-celled creature  
21 Old term for margarine  
22 Sooner than, in sonnets  
23 Incriminated dancer  
27 Petri dish gel  
28 A handsome Greek god put half-and-half in his coffee?  
30 Scholars' milieu  
34 See 56-Across  
35 Mini-plateau  
36 Cornhusk-wrapped treats found in an underground vault?  
43 Pizazz  
44 Psychic glow

- 45 Volt-per-ampere unit  
46 Stephen of film  
49 Temporarily smiling broadly?  
56 With 34-Across, "Green Eggs and Ham" character  
59 Sweetheart  
60 Oklahoma city  
61 Shoe retailer  
62 Former flying inits.  
63 Gas suffix  
64 Tuscany city  
66 Negative particle  
67 Iowa's tree  
68 Tony-winning musical performed in France's capital?  
73 Graynor of "The Sitter"  
74 Nabisco treats  
76 Valleys  
77 Wish to undo  
78 Pince-  
79 6/6/44  
80 Colonel North, briefly  
82 Broadway star Rivera  
84 Spokane-to-Boise dir.

- 85 Actor Ralph having reached a saloon's counter?  
89 "— hawl!"  
90 Suffix with brilliant  
91 Rod go-with  
92 Memo starter  
96 Group journey that has made everyone really hungry?  
104 Memo starter  
106 British rocker Brian  
107 Cold carnival treats  
108 Group of truck drivers who were once in the same college fraternity?  
115 "After that ..."  
116 Belgium's capital  
117 Doubled radius of a toy on a string?  
122 Go astray  
123 Intro studio course  
124 By wagering  
125 Plant used to make tequila  
126 Hankering  
127 Pony pattern

- 128 SEALS' mil. branch  
129 Renowned  
**DOWN**  
1 Pixieish one  
2 Damage a bit  
3 — funk (sad)  
4 Ninth Muslim month  
5 Gangster Bugsy  
6 Singer Emmylou  
7 "Yo te —"  
8 Roman wrap  
9 Small chip  
10 Spanish river  
11 Illuminated like old streets  
12 "Beat it, kid!"  
13 Actor Guinness  
14 Back area  
15 Foreshadow  
16 Some math specialists  
17 French city  
18 Ibsen's "— Gabler"  
24 Matriarch  
26 Pitch a tent  
29 "— di-dah!"  
30 Feasted  
31 Nev. neighbor  
32 Docs' org.  
33 — worse than death  
37 Rhine feeder

- 38 Nev. neighbor  
39 Yoga pad  
40 Corn bases  
41 Cronus' wife  
42 Singer Sumac  
47 Audience extras  
48 Really suffer  
49 Licked parts of envelopes  
50 Actress Chaplin  
51 KOA patron  
52 Newsy bits  
53 Tax-free bond, in brief  
54 Israeli airline  
55 Adult males  
56 Supported  
57 Oscar winner, e.g.  
58 Not go right or straight while driving  
64 Paper unit  
65 Actor Ziering  
66 Lend — (listen)  
69 Inuit-language word for "house"  
70 Small error  
71 Chi-Town daily paper  
72 Let — sigh  
75 Popeye's gal  
80 Old Dodge  
81 Corrosive cleansers

- 82 Rice — (cereal)  
83 Assists  
86 Archer's skill  
87 Pt. of NATO  
88 Ball balancer  
92 In a single try  
93 Wicked act  
94 Wingtip tip  
95 Walk- (small roles)  
97 Santa — (hot winds)  
98 Entraps  
99 Walk- (no-appointment customers)  
100 "I meant someone else"  
101 Real thing  
102 Qatari port  
103 "The — Cometh"  
104 Monks' home  
105 — Haute, Indiana  
109 Despot of old  
110 Architect Saarinen  
111 Utah ski site  
112 Ages on end  
113 Meg of film  
114 Japanese noodle  
118 Actor Patel  
119 Tit for —  
120 Night before  
121 Ruby, e.g.

## SUDOKU

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

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!

## HIT THE SLOPES WORD SEARCH

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

### WORDS

AERIALS  
ALPINE  
ARTIFICIAL  
BASEPLATE  
BINDINGS  
BLACK  
BLUE  
CABLE CAR  
CHAIR  
CREVASSE  
CROSS-COUNTRY  
DOWNHILL  
DRAG  
EDGE  
FREESTYLE  
GOGGLES  
GRAB  
HARD PACK  
ICE  
LIFT  
MOGULS  
PASS  
PISTE  
POLES  
POWDER  
RED  
SKI  
SLALOM  
SLOPE  
SLUSH  
SNOW  
SNOWBOARD  
TRAVERSE  
UPHILL  
WAX  
WHITEOUT

### ANSWER KEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19					20						21				22		
23					24						25				26		
			27				28				29						
30	31	32					33			34					35		
36							37	38	39			40	41	42			
43							44					45			46	47	48
				49	50	51					52	53	54		55		
56	57	58		59							60				61		
62				63				64	65					66			
67				68			69	70				71	72		73		
74			75				76					77			78		
79				80	81						82	83			84		
85				86						87	88						
89				90						91					92	93	94
		96	97				98	99	100				101	102	103		
104	105						106					107					
108				109	110	111				112	113	114		115			
116										117				118		119	120
122				123						124					125		
126				127						128					129		

#1,921

Average time of solution: 66 minutes

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or [smcclellan@michigan.com](mailto:smcclellan@michigan.com). Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at [QuillDriverBooks.com](http://QuillDriverBooks.com)

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2005 Chrysler 2C3JA53G75H124247

2012 Chevy 1G1PF55C7C7216143

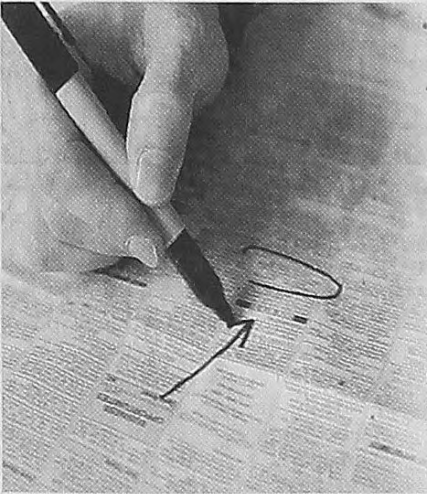
Bidding Starts At Towing & Storage Charges

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**Mayflower Towing**  
1179 Starkweather St  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-459-0053  
**Public Auction**  
February 21, 2019 at 10 AM

1FAFP53U83G213104	2003	Ford	Taurus
3FAHP0JA2AR109623	2010	Ford	Fusion
2MEFM75W13X605301	2003	Mercury	Grand Marquis
1P4GP44GXWB746117	1998	Plymouth	Voyager
1C3EJ56H3XN687201	1999	Chrysler	Cirrus
1LNHM81W3YY813561	2000	Lincoln	Town Car
1HGCD5634RA195133	1994	Honda	Accord
SAJDA14C32LF41364	2002	Jaguar	Xj8

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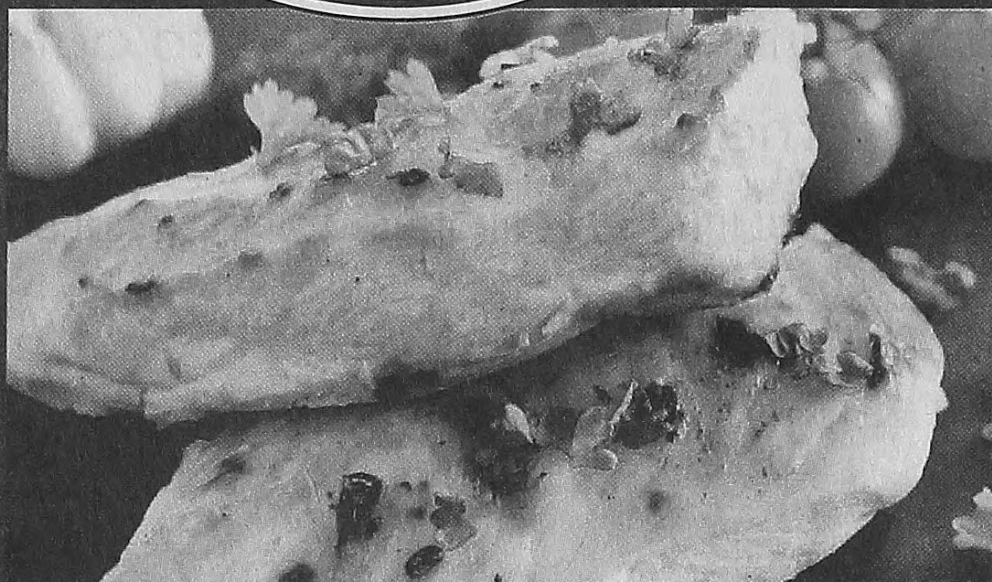
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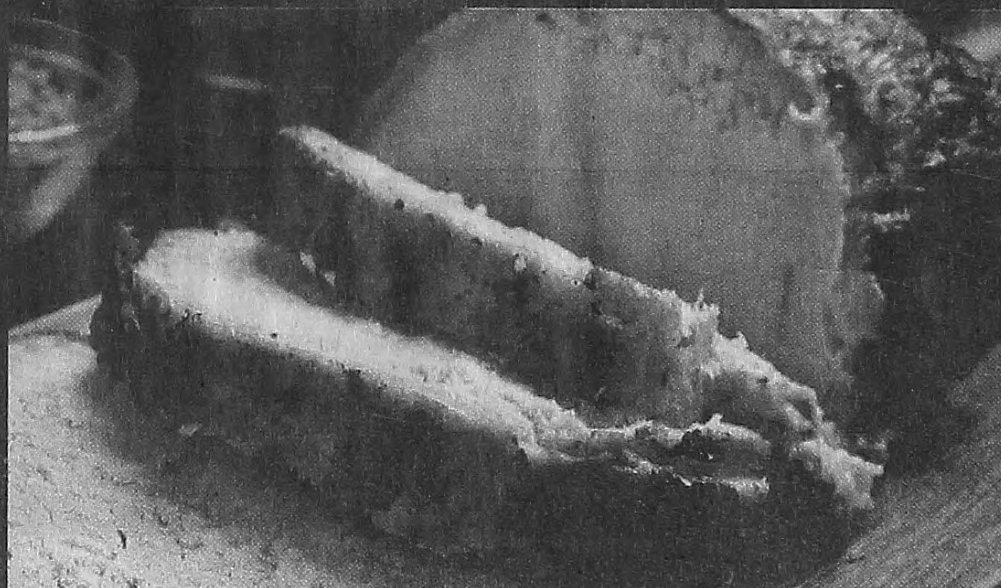


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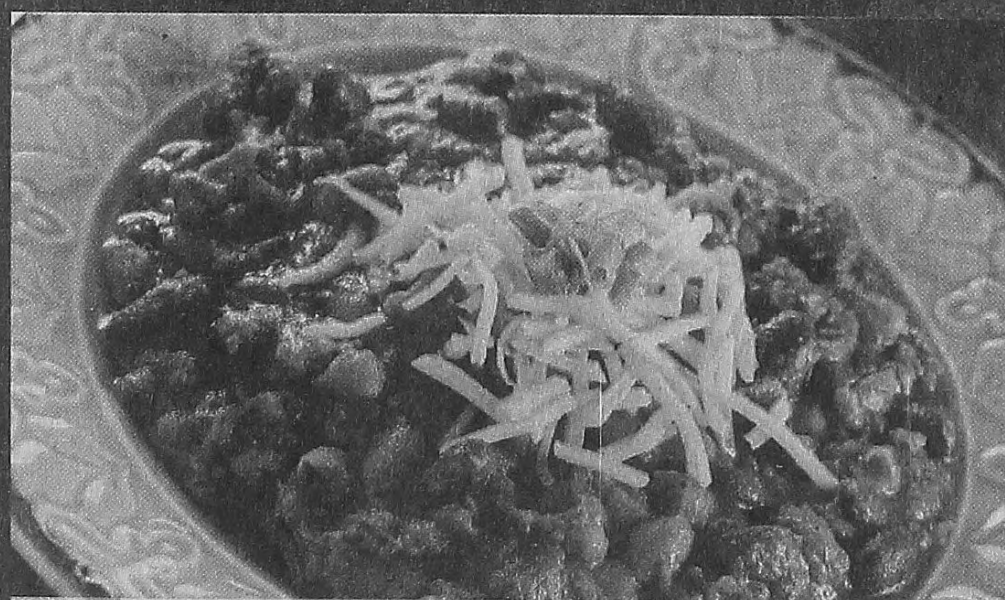
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