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Hines Drive bridges reopen after repairs

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Four bridges on Hines Drive in Plymouth have been closed for more than a year. Two of them reopened June 10 and the other two are expected to reopen near the end of July.

One of the open bridges is near east

Interstate 275 and the other is between Haggerty Road and Woods Drive. The remaining bridges area between Woods Drive and Riverside Drive and between Northville Road and N. Mill Street.

All four structures received reinforcing steel beams and columns. The repairs are expected to keep the bridges standing for another few decades.

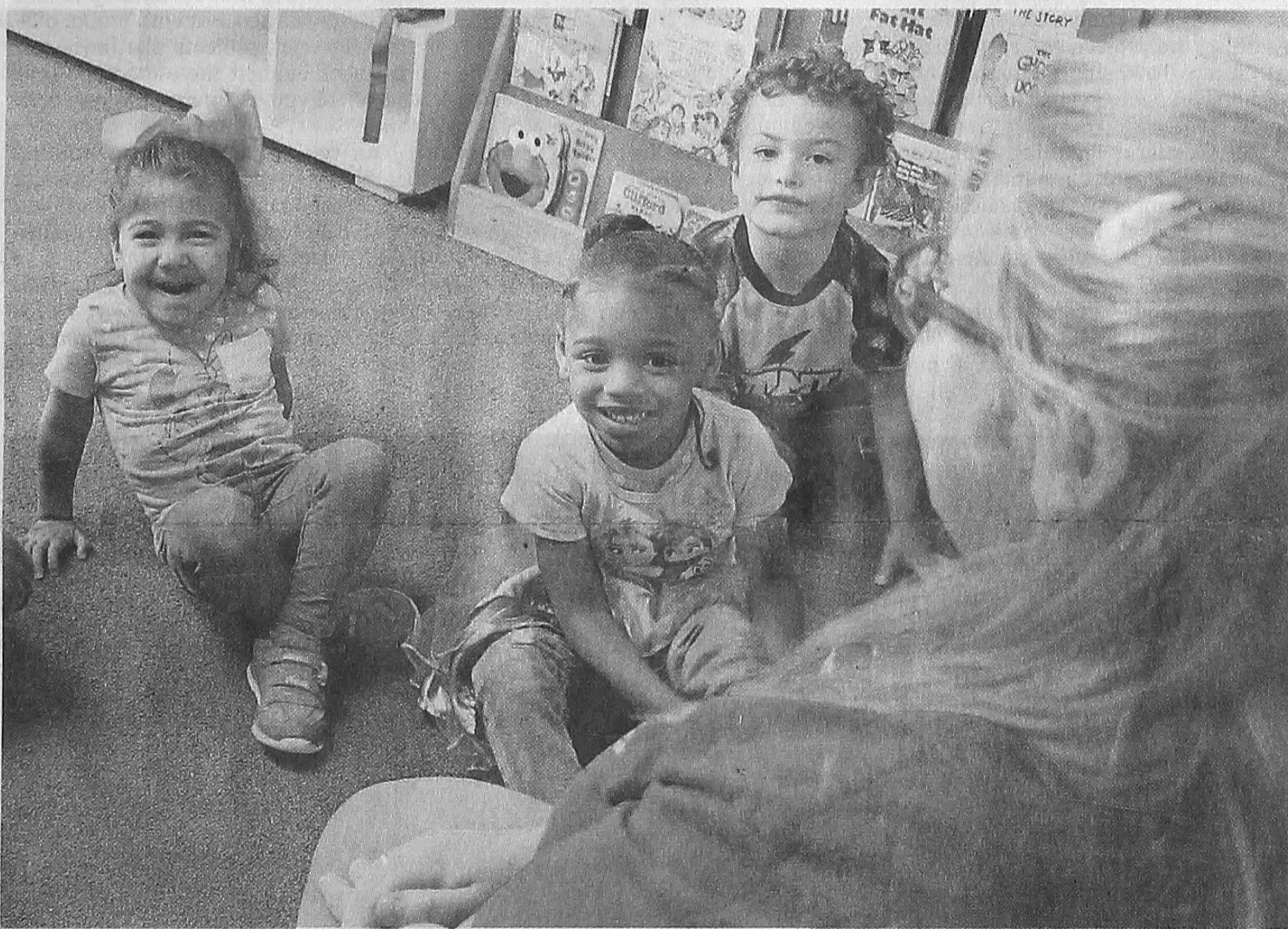
"I'd hope to get at least 20 to 30 more years out of what we've done," said Michael VanAntwerp, the director of engineering for Wayne County. "But we will continually monitor these bridges."

Though the bridges were closed for over a year, VanAntwerp said the construction only took about two months.

Before construction can begin the

county had to conduct an investigative analysis, procure a design engineer, design process, bid for construction company, contract and then ultimately wait until the Michigan snow melted as well as work around inclement weather.

See BRIDGES, Page 2A



Children laugh while they learn at TLC Preschool on its last day June 14. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

TLC Preschool closes due to church merger

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After 42 years of lessons learned, memories made and laughs had, TLC Preschool in Livonia closed its doors for good on June 14.

Ingrid Crepeau, TLC's longtime director, has been with the preschool almost since the beginning. She's seen the children of children come through her doors and will miss seeing the smiling faces of the young students every day.

"That's what I'm going to miss that every morning, I'm able to come in and see these children's smiling faces and say 'good morning,' she said. "Through the day, it's just hugs and feeling the love. It's really, really hard to not have that."

TLC Preschool was known by its employees, parents, and students as an

See PRESCHOOL, Page 7A



Ingrid Crepeau, TLC's longtime director, said she will miss seeing the children's smiling faces every day. "It's really, really hard not to have that," she said.

Woman's letter in a bottle found after 45 years

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One summer afternoon in 1974, back when one of kids' best friends was their imagination, 11-year-old Tina Green hand-wrote a letter with a blue marker on lined notebook paper.

She placed the rolled up letter in an empty vodka bottle, sealed the lid with crayon wax then tossed it into Lake Michigan near a point where the largest Great Lake meets Grand Traverse Bay.

"I was 11, so I was hoping a mermaid or a pirate would find it, or maybe that it would float around the world," remembered Green, a Canton resident whose married name is Allera. "We didn't have cell phones or video games back then, so we had to get creative."

In 2015, Green received an unusual correspondence on Facebook messenger from a Traverse City man who claimed he had found a letter in a bottle that was signed by Tina Green.

"I didn't have the greatest phone (in 2015), so I couldn't figure out how to view the photo (Eric Amon) had attached to his message," Allera explained.

To make a 45-year-old story short, Allera purchased an upgraded phone earlier this year, revisited the four-year-old Facebook message and set her eyes on an image of the letter she had placed in the water when she was 11.

"Eric's message asked, 'Is this your letter?'" Allera said.

In an amazing story worthy of Disney treatment, Amon had found the bottle containing the letter under three feet of sand as a backhoe cleared out sand for the foundation of a house about a mile from where Green had launched her vessel.

"It's kind of remarkable because if the backhoe would have dug into the sand one inch one way it would have cracked the bottle and if it would have been one inch the other way, the bottle probably never would have been found," said Allera.

Once Amon and his construction colleagues were able to pry the bottle's lid off with a screwdriver, they spotted the words "READ THIS!" in large writing on the backside of the letter.

"At first I was hoping it was a treasure map or something," Amon joked

See LETTER, Page 8A



Bridges

Continued from Page 1A

In finishing the repairs on the remaining structures, VanAntwerp said rain has been a big delaying factor.

"We've been getting so much rain and it just delays and delays us," he said. "So work can't happen depending on the work that's being done. You can't work in the rain, and this week alone has been crazy."

The construction funds for all four bridges rounded out to \$652,000, some of which was able to come from the sale of Pheonix Mill in the spring. VanAntwerp said he thinks the repairs will make it easier for people to enjoy the beauty of Hines Drive.

"It's really providing access for the public to get to their recreation that Hines Drive and the Wayne County parks provide (like) soccer fields, picnic areas, group meetings, just outdoor activities," he said.

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Emagine plans 94-foot screen near Westland-Canton border

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Emagine Theatres are coming to Westland later this year.

Sort of.

The Michigan-based movie theater chain is going through approval processes to bring the largest screen in the Midwest to western Wayne County.

Similar to the screen opened in 2017 at the Emagine Theatre in Novi, this screen, once constructed, would be 94 feet in width with 4K laser-projected images and paired with a Dolby Atmos immersive sound system.

Total area for the new screen would be about 14,000 square feet, and would also include a 24-seat screening room and party space.

The expansion would take place at the movie theater in Canton at 39535 Ford Road, though the proposed expansion would cross the township boundary and enter into nearby Westland, where a parking lot currently sits.

That expansion into the city is something Westland Mayor William Wild is pleased to see.

"I think it's exciting because it's going to generate a lot of attention," he said. "We enjoy working with other communities on projects and this certainly is going to be unique."

The plans continue to work their way through local governmental channels for approval.

The Westland City Council was expected to hold a study session June 17 regarding the project, the same night the Canton Township Planning Commission is expected to discuss the project as well.

The Westland Planning Commission voted 5-2 to recommend approval at its June 4 meeting, Wild said.

The proposal now goes to the city council for its review and final approval.

"While some competitors are closing and others struggle to play catch-up, Emagine remains firmly



Emagine Entertainment offers private screening rooms at its theaters in Birmingham, Royal Oak, and Frankfort. Plans for adding such a room to the Canton location are in motion, as well. SUBMITTED

committed to providing its guests with the finest moviegoing experience possible," said Paul Glanz, chairman of Emagine Entertainment, in a statement. "We are resolved to continually enhance the quality of the theatrical experience."

"Nothing beats watching a blockbuster film on a 94-foot screen from the comfort of a heated reclining chair."

Wild said the screen is expected to be bigger than an NBA basketball court once completed.

Once completed, the theater complex will be more than 90,000 square feet in area and contain 20 screens.

The theater complex is expected to open this December.

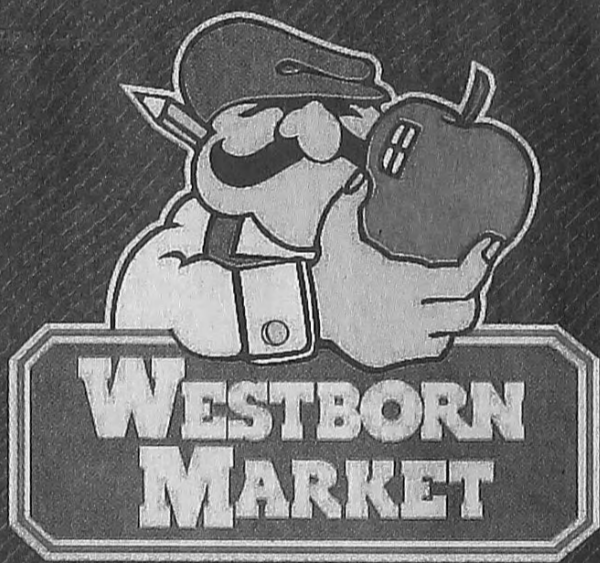
The first movie expected to air on the new Super Emax screen? "Star Wars Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker," which hits theaters Dec. 20.

Emagine operates movie theaters across the Midwest, including several locally in Canton, Novi, Hartland as well as the Palladium in downtown Birmingham and the Riviera in Farmington Hills.

Wild said the project is one that's moved quickly through the city's channels: it was first brought up to him about a month ago. But with proper diligence, he said, projects like these can push back against the stereotype that wheels of government always turn slowly.

"Our two communities are working together pretty quickly on this," he said. "If you're business-friendly and you work with them, you can actually move these projects pretty quickly."

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



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The mechanical insulators of Local 25 have been on strike since midnight June 1 during contract negotiations. The key piece for negotiations is the workers' pensions. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mechanical insulators strike amid contract negotiations

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Today marks two weeks since the members of Local 25, a union of mechanical insulators, have been on strike amidst contract negotiations. They've been picketing at locations throughout southeast Michigan since the strike began.

Today, about a dozen members took their protest to the American Mechanical Insulation location on W. 10 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. The men picketing said they hope the strike can end soon, but have no idea when negotiations will come to a close.

The Master Insulators Association of Southeastern Michigan, also known as Master Mechanical Insulation Inc., with which the union is negotiating, declined comment on the strike.

The key piece for the union's negotiations is the workers' pensions.

"The biggest thing right now is that we have a multi-employer pension that is 71 percent funded," said Mark McGlone, Local 25's business manager. "Now, ideally it's 100 percent, and we have a funding improvement plan through the government that we're on that will get us to 100 percent. They want us to go to what they refer to as a cash balance plan."

The workers are also pushing for small raises. McGlone said the people of Local 25 work hard, putting in about 375,000 hours annually, and, in his opinion, deserve to do their jobs under a fair contract.

"There's a lot of construction work in this area and there's a lot more to come," he said. "We have 200 members, but they all have families and we're trying to maintain the things we have. We're not asking for the world, we just asking for a few dollars."

Contact Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter at [@shelby_tankk](https://twitter.com/shelby_tankk).

Farmington Hills man's lottery win sets record

Tanya Wildt Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Farmington Hills man's wife didn't believe him when he told her they were \$3 million richer.

David Smith, 59, recently purchased a Mega Millions ticket that matched Tuesday's drawing - 20-34-39-43-57, according to the Michigan Lottery. His matching numbers won him \$1 million, but thanks to the Megaplier, his prize tripled to \$3 million.

He purchased his ticket at MichiganLottery.com. "I was checking my tickets online Wednesday morning, and out of the corner of my eye I saw the \$3 million winner," Smith told the Michigan Lottery. "I called my wife right away and it took me 10 minutes to convince her we'd won \$3 million."

Smith will use the money to complete home improvements, go on vacation with his family and save the rest for retirement.

Smith's \$3 million prize is the "largest ever won with a ticket bought at MichiganLottery.com," according to the Michigan Lottery.

Two players had previously won \$1 million each.

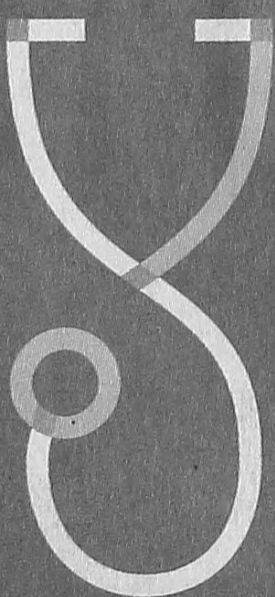


Kris Smith, left, and David Smith smile after claiming a \$3 million Mega Millions prize. COURTESY OF THE MICHIGAN LOTTERY

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Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

My grandson just graduated from Morehouse College. As you may have heard, during the graduation ceremony, the speaker announced that he was going to pay off all the student loans for the graduating class. Obviously, this was a great surprise and it was a wonderful gesture.

The question I have deals with any tax consequences that my grandson would have because his loan is being paid off. I am concerned, because my grandson was contacted by a company who told him that unless he did certain things, the money would be taxable to him. The company said that it would cost him \$2,500 for their assistance. The company sent him an article about people who had received a free car on Oprah's show, and they had to pay taxes on the gift.

My question to you is whether the

money taxable and if it is, is there anything my grandson can do?

Thank you.

Molly

Dear Molly:

First, congratulations on your grandson's graduation. It is always a great accomplishment when someone graduates college, and you are right to be very proud of him.

With regard to the communication he received from the company willing to assist him for a fee, in my opinion, it is a scam and he ought to ignore it. The situation with the people receiving cars from Oprah is a totally different situation. When Oprah gave everyone a car, the reality of the situation was it wasn't Oprah gifting a car to her audience members, rather it was a promotion by General Motors.

Since this was a promotion from a corporation and not a gift, the IRS was correct to tax individuals who received the car. Receiving a promotion is no different than winning a lottery or winning on a game show. The gentleman who recently won over two million dollars on Jeopardy is going to be taxed on that

money. The situation with the student loan payoff is different.

I believe the money provided to pay off the student loans will not be taxable to the students because it is a gift. Under our tax laws, it is not the person who receives the gift who is taxed on the money; rather, it is the person who gives the gift. Therefore, as far as I'm concerned, for those students who are going to have their loans paid off, they will have no tax consequences.

There is a provision in our tax law that says if your debt is forgiven or discharged for less than what the outstanding balance is, the amount of the canceled debt is treated as ordinary income and is taxable. However, I do not believe this applies in this situation because the debt is not being forgiven or being discharged for less than what is owed. The debt is being paid off in full, and thus it is clear that it is a gift. Because it is a gift, the students will not be taxed.

Of course, whenever it comes to tax law there is a caveat, and there's one in this situation. According to a statement I read from Morehouse College, the ex-

act specifics of how the gift will be handled are still being worked out. Therefore, something could potentially change. However, I do not believe that the impact to the students will change. Whether the generous donor is going to be able to deduct anything on his tax returns is a different story. Typically, if someone makes a gift to an individual, as in the case at hand, there are no tax benefits to the donor.

At this point in time, my advice to your grandson is to do nothing and wait to hear from Morehouse College on how the transaction is going to be structured. If, for some unlikely reason the way the transaction is structured would require it be taxed to the graduates, whatever they would owe in taxes would be considerably less than their outstanding student debt.

Therefore, no matter what happens, it was a wonderful gesture and a great graduation present.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. Email him at Rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Man caught stealing batteries

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Convicted felon Dennis Nelson, 54, is back in court, this time for allegedly stealing batteries from equipment near Newburgh Road and Schoolcraft in Livonia.

He is charged with four felony counts of larceny from a motor vehicle, a felony count of larceny between \$1,000 and \$20,000 and two misdemeanor counts of larceny between \$200 and \$1,000.

According to a Livonia police report, officers were dispatched to the area the night of June 5, where they saw Nelson committing "multiple larcenies" of batteries.

Police boxed him in as he approached a vehicle parked outside City Electric Supply. Nelson apparently dropped a spool of orange wire and a gray plastic



Nelson

grocery bag containing empty aluminum cans with battery terminal wires.

A representative from a neighboring business reported several stolen batteries.

Nelson was taken into custody and arraigned on larceny charges. He was jailed with Wayne County. His bond was set at \$500,000 for three of the larceny counts, according to the county's website.

He is scheduled to appear in Livonia's 16th District Court on Thursday for a probable cause conference.

He already has been convicted of receiving and concealing stolen property, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections' online records.

Social media group helps Livonia PD catch suspect

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Redford Township man, 20, was arrested for allegedly breaking into several cars earlier this month in northeast Livonia.

According to a Livonia police report, several officers arrived in the 20000 block of Rensellor Street around 3 a.m. June 12 because a man was trying to break into a car.

He was wearing dark clothing and carrying a black backpack with a red stripe.

Soon, a nearby resident reported seeing the same man yanking on car doors.

Officers found him walking with a

flashlight and backpack on Antago Street.

They took the Redford Township man into custody.

A member of Livonia's RING Neighborhood Watch had posted a video of the man trying to break into a car.

"This is a great example of how the police-community partnership between alert citizens and our RING Neighbors can help solve crime," police said in a Facebook post. "Remember to lock your doors! - Vehicles, houses and garage doors!"

Call 9-1-1 immediately if you observe a crime in progress. Residents can text "Livoniapd" to 555888 from their smartphone to download the Neighbors app for free on iOS and Android phones.

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Former Westland, Canton priest to appear in court

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Patrick Casey, a former priest in Canton and Westland, was expected to return to court today because of apparent sexual conduct during another man's confession.

A preliminary examination was scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. in 18th District Court.

Casey, 55, faces a felony charge of third-degree criminal sexual conduct. According to an affidavit, he engaged in sexual acts, including oral sex, with a man in his 20s whom he was counseling during confession at the church.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel named Casey as one of five former priests charged with 21 counts of criminal sexual conduct in May. He faces 15 years in prison if convicted.

According to an affidavit, Casey became an ordained priest in 1997. He served as pastor of the St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic parish in Canton before moving to St. Theodore of Canterbury in Westland in August 2012.

A 24-year-old man had reached out to Casey while he was at St. Thomas' for spiritual guidance. Casey invited him to a meeting, where the other man told him he was gay.

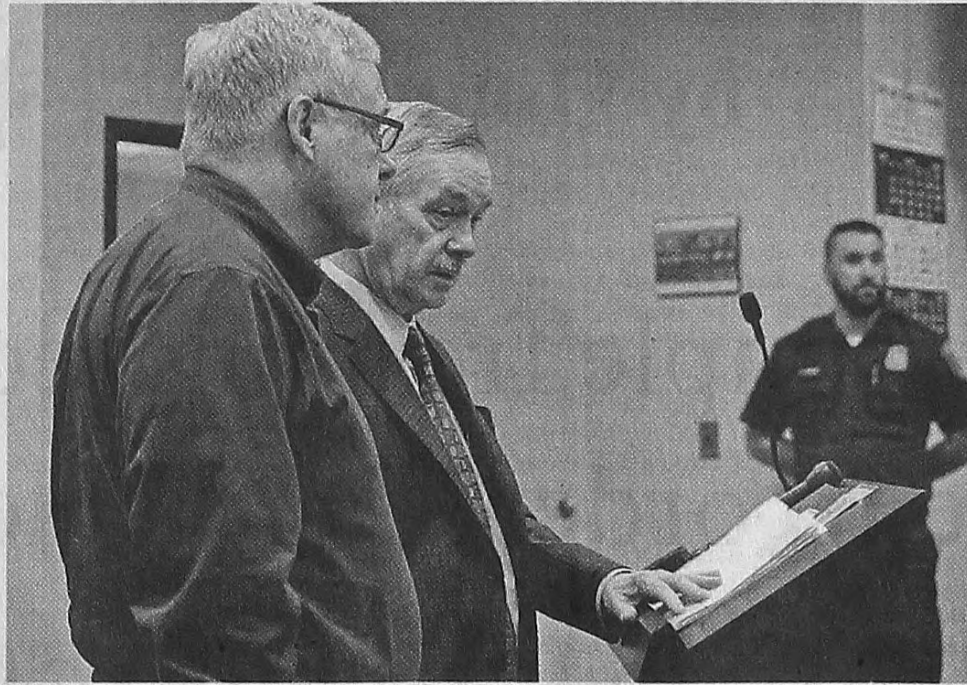
They continued to meet and communicate during the following months for discussions "on a wide range of moral, theological and spiritual topics regarding the teachings of the Catholic Church."

The 24-year-old man was enrolled at St. Thomas a'Becket's "Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults." He sought confession at the Canton church but a pastor said no because the man had not completed this religious instruction.

The man emailed Casey, explaining that he was in great emotional turmoil.

Casey agreed to meet a few days later, on Jan. 17, 2013, at his St. Theodore office. During that meeting, the 24-year-old asked if he could give confession.

"John Doe proceeded to tell Casey that he wanted to kill himself and that a



Former Westland priest Patrick Casey, at left, recently appeared in 18th District Court with his attorney because of a felony criminal sexual conduct charge.

SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

voice was telling him that it would be better if he was dead," the affidavit reads. He also confessed to trying to commit suicide several weeks earlier.

Casey apparently steered the conversation toward sex, "telling him that he could not have a gay relationship and go to heaven."

Casey said that he was also gay and shared a suicidal story of his own. During the man's confession, Casey approached the man, told him to stand up, and began massaging his genitalia and performing oral sex on the 24-year-old.

The man later told Catholic Church officials about the incident. The Archdiocese of Detroit began a formal investigation, which included an interview with Casey. Casey admitted that the sexual acts occurred.

Officials recommended that Casey be dismissed from the clerical state.

On Aug. 1, 2018, the Archdiocese agreed with the recommendation.

They found that Casey "took advan-

tage of someone who was vulnerable," explaining that "[a] confessor, who should be a father, teacher and doctor ... cannot become a wolf who pulls sheep down and scatters them. Reverend Casey's actions were predatory; he became a wolf."

Casey already has been arraigned in court and has declined to comment.

St. Theodore of Canterbury merged with St. Damian and Divine Savior churches, also in Westland, in 2016 to form the St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy Catholic Church, 8200 N. Wayne Road.

Bishop Gerard Battersby visited the church soon after Nessel made her announcement.

"We would like to thank Bishop Gerard Battersby for coming to speak at all of our Masses this weekend," a Facebook post reads. "Our parishioners are thankful for the prayers and support that were offered to help them begin to heal and move past these difficulties."

All American Cruise returns Saturday to Wayne Road

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Cars, trucks and motorcycles reminiscent of yesteryear will head down Wayne Road on Saturday for Westland's annual All American Cruise. This year's event, heading along Wayne Road between Joy Road and Glennwood, has plenty of reasons to bring a car or just spectate.

Cars and culture

Like any proper Michigan car cruise, the All American shows off historic cars alongside flashy custom models. The day is meant to feel straight out of the 1950s.

When the cars aren't cruising, check out the engines and insides of those parked all along Wayne Road. This year's event is also expected to host a number of cars themed around films.

Stuff for kids

Bounce houses, candy, goody bags and family-friendly activities will be all down the cruise route for kids. Timothy Lutheran Church, Grange 389, Big Boy, Moody Teez and others will offer games, bounce houses and craft shows throughout the day.

A drive-in movie

Westland Bowl and the Westland Library are teaming up to host a free concert and drive-in movie. Starting at 7 p.m., All Directions Band will play, followed by a free showing of the 1984 classic "Ghostbusters."

Shopping specials

If cars aren't your thing, there will be meal specials and discounts from places like Big Boy, My Lady's Florist and Dunkin' Donuts. Deals will be both for cruisers and attendees.



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Preschool

Continued from Page 1A

"old-fashioned" school. Crepeau and her staff made lunch for their kids every day and taught them about the world around them. Between lessons with storybooks and crafts, the kids sometimes got to sit down in front of a TV while a VHS tape played or enjoy vintage toys that had been at TLC for decades.

Crepeau said her and her staff have never taken their responsibilities lightly.

"My job has never really been one thing," she said. "You know, it is about being a mentor for the teachers, helping the program, the children and all of the parents, sometimes being the cook and dishwasher, certainly being a diaper changer and things like that. It's never really been about this space, but every space in here that needs attention. It's just been a lifetime, really."

Throughout the preschool's last week, many of those children came back to say goodbye to the place where their education started.

"Just these last few days I've had a lot of those children coming back and I've

had many of their children come through this school," Crepeau said. "You know, some of the children I once had sitting on my lap are now in their 40s, so it's pretty amazing."

One of the things that has made the closing so hard is that, in Crepeau's opinion, it didn't need to happen.

The building space TLC uses is attached to First Baptist Church of Livonia. That church is merging with another church due to low enrollment numbers and is, consequently, moving out of its current building. For one reason or another, TLC is not moving with the church and was asked to not stay in the building its in now.

"We were told we must vacate by June 30, and that is for reasons I will never understand," Crepeau said. Church officials could not be reached for comment.

Because of the closure, 60 families need to find a new preschool and 11 people need to find a new job. At 62, Crepeau has spent nearly two-thirds of her life at TLC and is sad to see it go. But she believes that the situation is "meant to be" and is happy with the work she's done.

"It's a sad end that nobody really feels good about, but we're trying to

really embrace the children and embrace this last week by making it an extraordinary week," she said. "We've done good, and sometimes things happen for a reason and I always feel like God has a hand in it and we're all going to do well."

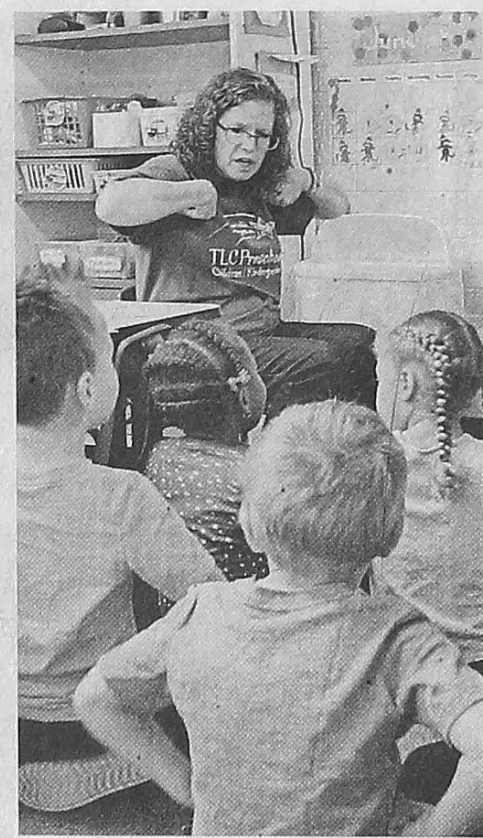
Despite the struggles and emotions that come with saying goodbye to a longtime workplace, Crepeau said a silver lining of the week was seeing the ripple effect that TLC had over the years.

"I even believe that it's been 42 years, that's what's really odd to me. ... This week, what has stood out more is that, perhaps I didn't realize as the days go by mopping a floor or shoveling snow, that we've made a mark," she said. "This week we've had so many people coming back to visit that are going into high school now."

And she'll still get to impact the lives of little ones. She's looking forward to watching over her first grandchild and watching the joy of childhood firsthand.

"They are a constant joy," Crepeau said. "They don't know the world other than pure innocence."

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



Students at TLC Preschool in Livonia learn the months of the year and the days of the week with Miss Paulette. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Obituaries

Winifred Christmas

VERO BEACH, FL - Winifred Christmas passed away peacefully at home on June 12th in Vero Beach, FL where she lived with her daughter and son in law. She was born Dec 7th 1927. She is preceded in death by her baby son, Harry Christmas, her beloved husband, William Christmas, a brother, Wilfred Varley and a sister, Helen Hawkins. Winifred had two children, a son, James Christmas (wife Cheryl) of Milford, Michigan and a daughter, Peggy Christmas-Connelly (husband Tom) of Vero Beach, Florida. Winifred had 5 grandchildren, Captain Patrick Connelly, Colette Christmas-Daramola, Brandon Christmas, Kathleen Connelly-Gallo and Brianne Christmas-Olson. Winifred had 13 great grandchildren. Winifred and Bill raised their family in Farmington, Michigan and attended Clarenceville United Methodist Church. Both had a strong faith in Christ. She was raised very British, she enjoyed cooking and baking for family and friends. She was a beautiful person inside and out, she will be greatly missed by all. Viewing will be held at Thayer-Rock Funeral home in Farmington, Michigan on June 18th from 2:00-8:00 PM. Church Services will be held at Clarenceville United Methodist Church in Livonia, Michigan on June 19th viewing at 10:00, Service at 11:00AM



Jennifer Marie Fleming

- - Jennifer Marie Fleming, age 34, born July 15, 1984 went to her heavenly home on June 14, 2019. Daughter of Larry (Judy) Fleming, and Sue Fleming. Mother of Kimberly, Alexis, Nevaeh, and Damian. Sister of Mike Fleming, Gabe Fleming, and Brandon Testorelli. She will also be missed by many friends and family that loved her. Viewing Thursday, June 20 from 10am-2pm with a service to follow at Belleville Church of God, 45170 Hull Rd, Belleville, MI 48111.

Hany J Will Funeral Homes

Genevieve Marjorie Strand

PLYMOUTH - Genevieve Marjorie Strand, age 99, a long-time resident of Plymouth, MI and most recently, Grand Haven, passed away in the loving care of her family on Thursday, May 16, 2019. She was born in Detroit, MI on May 24, 1920. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Murray. They shared 71 years of happy and close marriage. Genevieve graduated from Chadsey High School in Detroit, and was an avid bird-watcher who loved spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was a very social person who made many lasting friendships, which was one of her most memorable qualities. Genevieve enjoyed world-wide travels and spending time at the family cabin on the Au Sable River. Genevieve will be lovingly remembered and missed by her daughter, Cindy (Doug) Shankwiler of Georgia; sons, Bill (Mary) Strand of Hesperia, MI and Dave (Lauren) Strand of Pentwater, MI; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and sister, Lorraine (Richard) Demsky of Livonia, MI. She was preceded in death by her two sisters, Leona (Elmer) Brewer and Eunice (Bernie) Nerzwicki. Private Services will be held at a later date. Memorial Contributions may be made to Michigan Audubon. Please visit www.klaassenfuneralhome.com to sign Genevieve's online guestbook.



Theresa Mary Vella

LIVONIA - Theresa Mary Vella born September 28, 1932 passed away June 10, 2019 at the age of 86. Proud daughter of the late John and Antonia Hili. Cherished wife of the late John Vella. Loving mother of John (Cynthia) Vella, Jeanine (Brian) Partie, Kenneth (Mary) Vella, Cindi Dzwonkowski. Thomas (Jill) Vella, Rob (Janice) Vella, Maria (late Jeffrey) Boduch and Gary (Kathleen) Vella. Dear grandmother of 23 and great grandmother 13.

A Visitation will be held at Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia on Thursday June 13th from 2-8 PM, rosary at 7 PM. Funeral mass Friday June 14th at 9:30 AM at St. Aidan's Church in Livonia, in state at 9:00 AM.

Hany J Will Funeral Homes

Karon Joyce Filiatraut

LIVONIA - age 77, June 14, 2019. Beloved wife of the late John E. Loving mother of Renee (John Williams), John (Janice), Christopher (Rebecca) and the late Denise. Cherished grandmother of Max, Paige, John, Madeline, Alexandra, Mark, Dylan, and Chloe. Sister of Robert (Joan) Pierson, David (Faye) Pierson, Kathy (Ron) Tupa, Paul (Darlene) Pierson, Merrie Kelly, Deborah Pierson, Barbara (Tim) Dunn and Machille Goss. Visitation Thursday 4-8pm with a 6pm Rosary Service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home. In state Friday 10:30 AM until the 11:00 AM Funeral Service at St. Sabina Catholic Church, 25605 Ann Arbor Trail (between Inkster & Telegraph). Memorials suggested to Marywood Nursing Care Center. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



James Robert "Jim" Jones

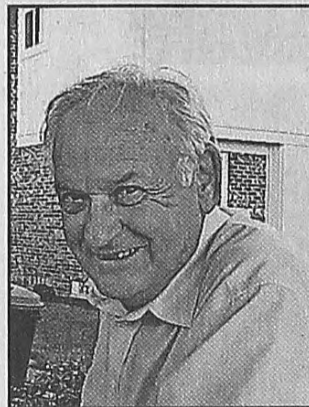
WAYNE - James Robert Jones army veteran, born 1946 Wayne, MI s/o Robert Charles/Bernice Zimmerman Jones died May 31.

Owner of the 1st Century 21 in MI. Then commercial office Lynx C.I.R., Inc until his death.

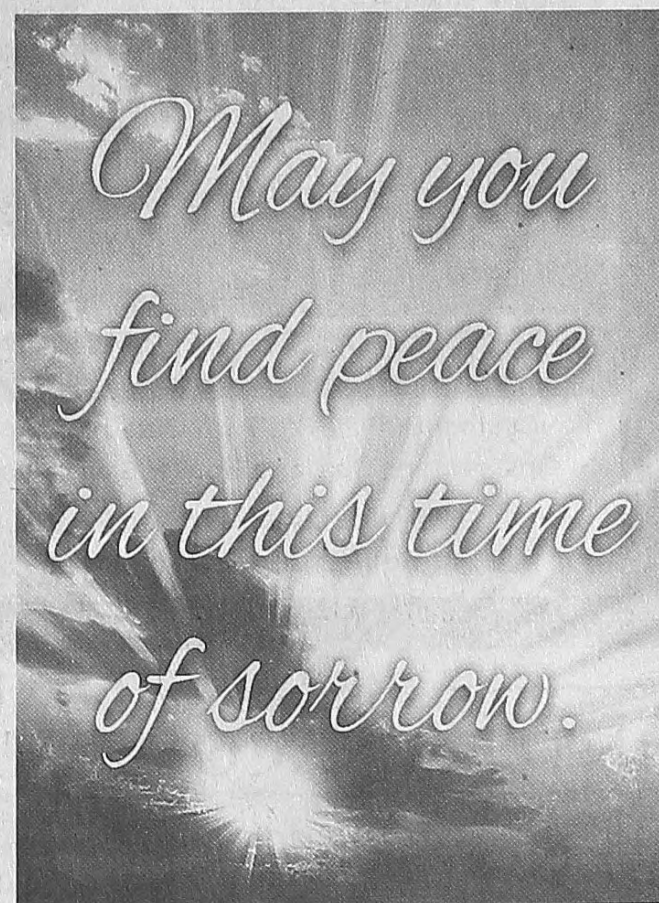
Jim didn't find riches through real estate sales, but he was rich in friends and was treasured by the family he loved. Was fun, playful, caring, generous, attentive, unconditionally loving, had endless good advice and left a lifetime of great memories. He enjoyed playing cards with his friends, watching Michigan football, NASCAR and traveling.

James was 1st married to Jean Mobley 1-child Stephen Robert (Briana) Jones. 2-grandchildren, Lauren & Brayden. 2nd to Carol Baker 2-children by marriage Shelia (Bryan Drewry) grandchildren Cassidy, Christopher & Joseph; & James Baker (Tomi) Ella, Avery & Colton. 2-siblings Judy aka Sarah Faulds & Cheryl Jones (Mark Summers) & 3-children. +Cousins who loved him.

Memorial June 22 11a-2p, Coliseum Racket Club, 34250 Ford Road, Westland, MI, corner of N Wildwood. All friends & family are invited to attend.



May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.





Eric Amon presented Tina Allera with the 45-year-old letter she placed in a bottle in 1974. "He is the nicest guy," Allera said of her new-found friend. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Letter

Continued from Page 1A

on a recent podcast during which he presented Green with the artifact. "We were all kind of stunned to find something like that."

Amon went to great lengths to find Allera, who had moved more than 20 years ago from the Westland address listed on the letter to Canton.

Initially, Amon appeared on radio station WTCM with host Jack O'Malley in an effort to try and find her.

His effort to connect with Allera via Facebook ultimately took four years, but it was successful.

"He is the nicest guy," Allera said of her new-found friend. "I doubt a lot of people would have followed through and did what he did to find me. I'm so happy that he did."

Amon and Allera were united for the first time in person on Sunday, June 9, during a segment of the "South of the

Straits" podcast based in Traverse City.

"I didn't want to cry (during the podcast), but I knew it was going to be emotional," Allera said. "I was staying at a small cabin my grandparents owned when I wrote the letter. They're no longer alive and the cabin has been bulldozed and replaced with a much bigger home."

"I used the word whomever in the letter, so I know my grandma was looking over my shoulder, helping me write the letter."

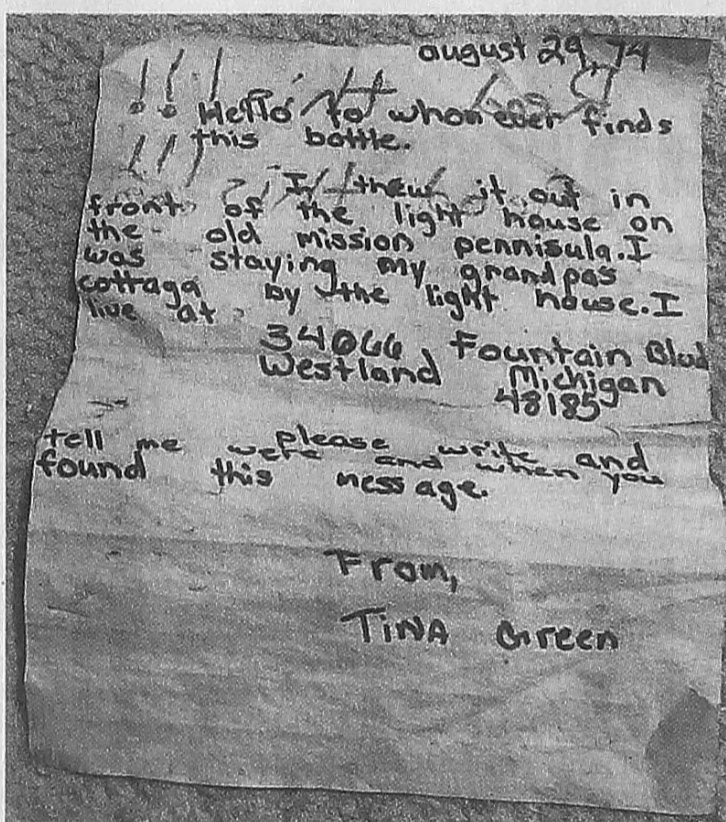
"Seeing that letter really took me back to the mid-'70s. I didn't cry, but it was emotional all the same."

Allera plans to have the letter framed along with a black-and-white photo of her grandparents' cabin and hung in a prominent place in her Canton home.

Allera's brother also placed a letter in a bottle into Lake Michigan at the same she did in 1974.

So if you live near Traverse City, be on the lookout.

Contact Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.



The letter Tina Green put in a bottle and tossed in the Grand Traverse Bay in 1974, found by Eric Amon. Amon went to great lengths to find Allera, who had moved more than 20 years ago from Westland to Canton. Initially, Amon appeared on radio station WTCM with host Jack O'Malley in an effort to try and find her. His effort to connect with Allera via Facebook ultimately took four years, but it was successful.

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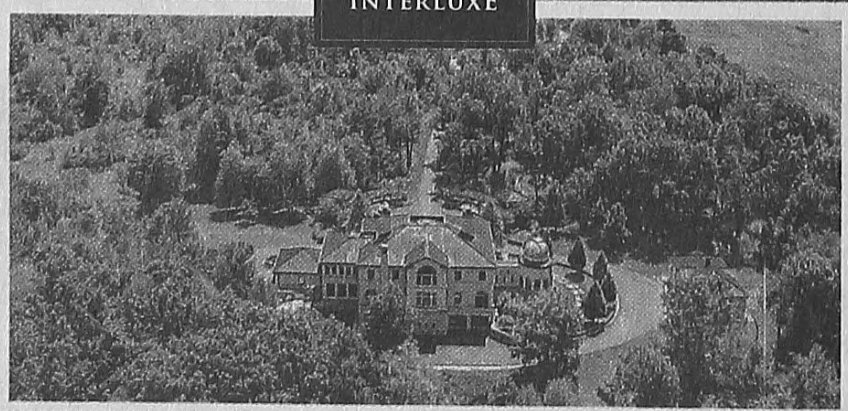
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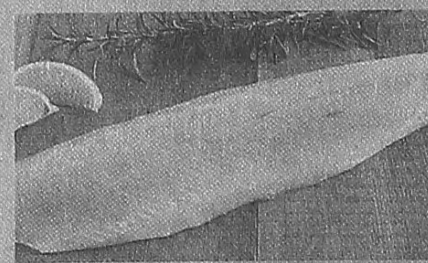
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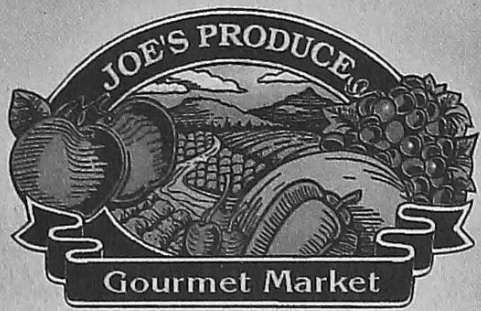
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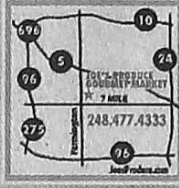
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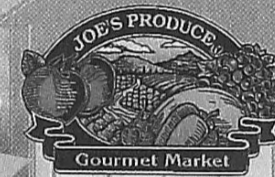
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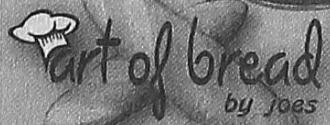
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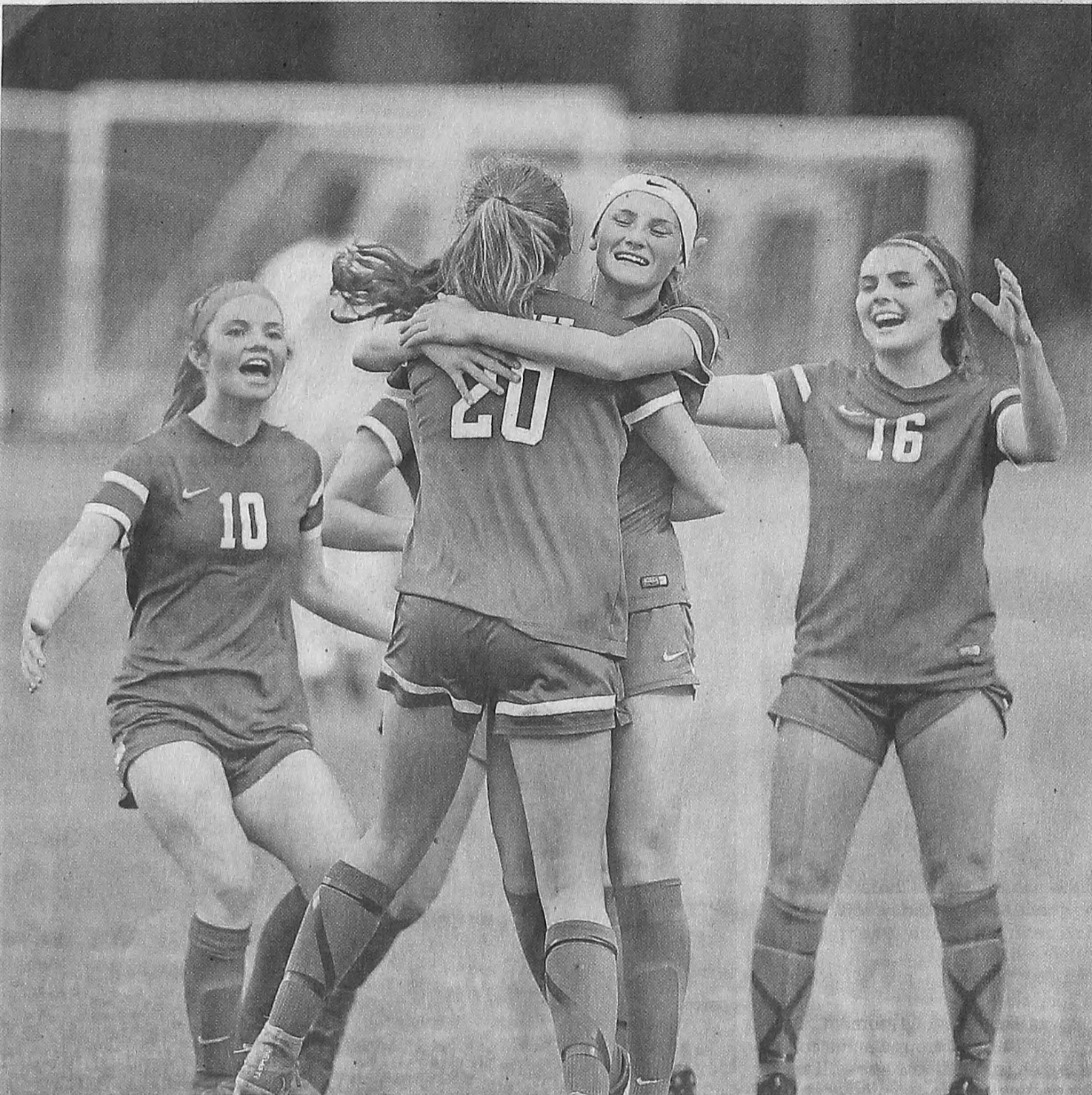


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GIRLS SOCCER



Novi senior Julia Stadtherr hugs junior Avery Fenchel, center facing camera, after Stadtherr scored to give Novi a 3-0 lead in the Division 1 state championship game against Plymouth. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Novi beats Plymouth to win state championship

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Throughout the season, whenever Novi needed a big goal, it counted on junior Avery Fenchel.

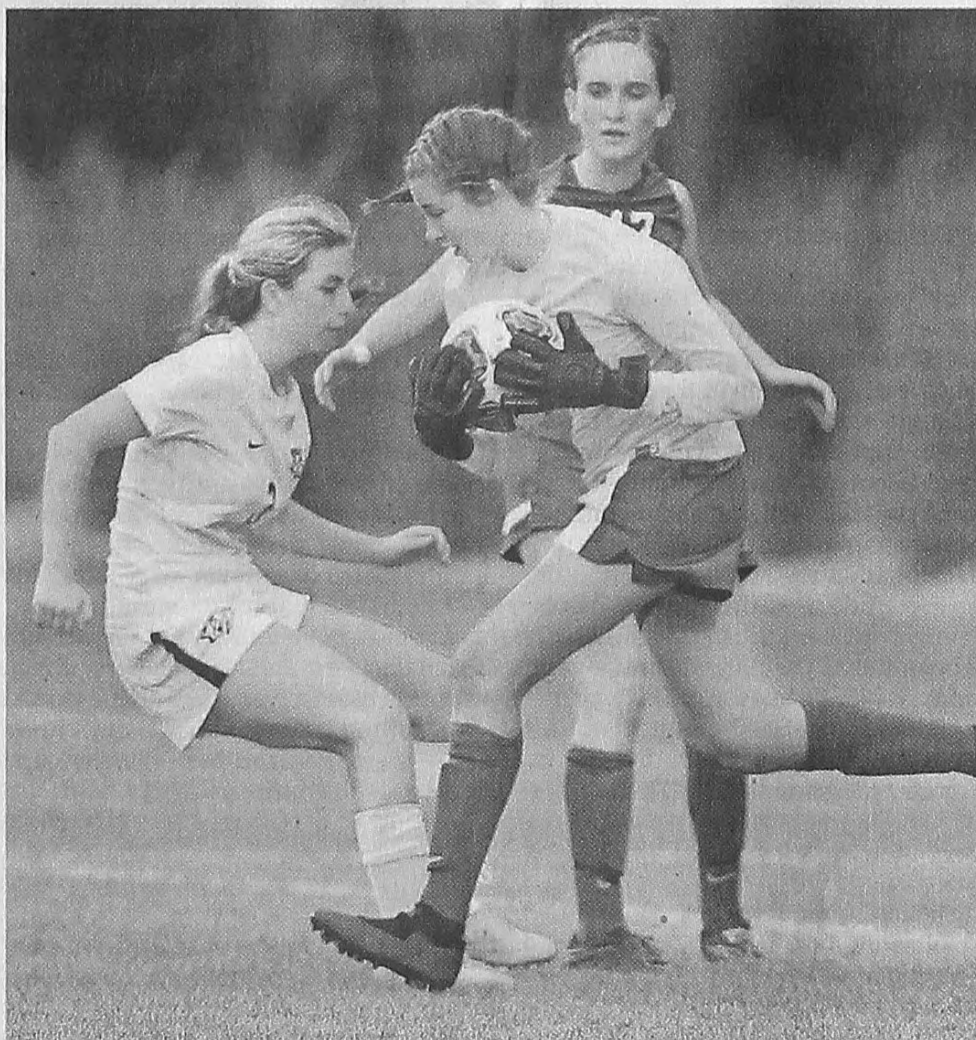
Saturday afternoon's state title game was no different. Fenchel scored the game-winning goal to help Novi beat Plymouth 5-0 at Michigan State University's DeMartin Stadium.

It's Novi's second consecutive state championship, which the Wildcats won in dominating fashion.

With the win, Novi also finishes the season undefeated, compiling a record of 28-0-1. 23 of those 29 games ended in shutouts.

"I couldn't think of a better way to end the season," senior Jessie Bandyk said. "We had a phenomenal season, probably the best Novi has ever seen. We were able to end on such a great note and I couldn't be more thankful for that. We have such a great team."

Fenchel got it all started almost exactly midway through the first half. She received a perfect pass in the box from junior defender Sarah Katinas who dribbled far up the field. She then sent it past Plymouth's first half goalie Rebecca Przybylo to make it 1-0. It was her 27th



Novi goalie Sammy Maday, right, scoops up the ball as it gets near her net.

See CHAMPIONSHIP, Page 2B

BASEBALL

Locals to play in all-star matchup

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Nearly a dozen area high school baseball players will have the opportunity to play at Comerica Park in the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association (MHSBCA) East-West All-Star Baseball Classic.

Two players from the Hometown Life coverage area will play on the West squad, while nine will play on the East team — which will be coached by Livonia Franklin's Matt Fournier and John Glenn coach Lawrence Scheffer.

It's a great chance for Michigan's top high school baseball players to face off against the state's best competition on a big stage in Detroit.

The players on the West team are:

- Trent Farquhar, Lakeland
- Nate Logan, South Lyon

The players on the East team are:

- Nate Blain, Canton
- Bobby Cavin, Livonia Stevenson
- Aaron Dolney, Detroit Country Day

Day

- Alex Finney, Cranbrook
- Tito Flores, Brother Rice
- Cal Fournier, Livonia Franklin
- Nasir Frederick, Wayne Memorial
- Carlton Harper, Salem
- Chad Stevens, John Glenn

The game will be played at 7 p.m. June 20 at Comerica Park in downtown Detroit. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased at the gate.

Kensington Junior Golf Tour kicks off Monday

M.B. Dillon

Calling all junior golfers ages 6 to 18: The Kensington Junior Golf Tour summer tournaments are coming to Oakland, Wayne, Livingston and Washtenaw counties.

"Kensington is the most affordable junior golf tour in southeast Michigan. And it's the only junior tour that caters to all age groups and skill levels," said Farmington's John Dillon, assistant tournament director. "We expanded it further by opening a new age bracket for 6- to 9-year-olds last year. The 6- to 9-year-olds play with an adult or parent caddy, starting each hole at the 150-yard marker."

It costs \$60 to join the KJGT.

Members are eligible to enter any events they'd like, playing as many or as few as they want to. Fees average \$20-\$25 for 9-hole events, and \$30-\$35 for 18-hole competition. Golfers may register at www.kensington-juniorgolf.com.

"The 9-hole developmental division

See GOLF, Page 2B

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Championship

Continued from Page 1B

goal of the year, a team high.

"That goal is what we needed," Bandyk said. "She's always able to put it in the back of the net whenever she has an opportunity. She's a phenomenal player, she can read the balls that get through, Sarah slipped through a phenomenal ball to her that she was able to finish."

With a little under three minutes left in the first half, Fenchel again was involved in the scoring. She passed the ball to senior Lexi Whalen who took a long shot from outside the box. It was a rocket and ricocheted off the goalie's hands and into the back of the net, giving Novi a 2-0 lead. It was a remarkable shot from Whalen, who ends the season with 10 goals.

Novi collected eight first half shots compared to the Plymouth's zero. That was it for first half scoring, but the Wildcats were far from done.

"I think I have the two best players in the state on my team in Avery Fenchel and Jessie Bandyk," Novi coach Todd Pheiffer said. "When there's voting for Miss Soccer, those two better be up there because they are phenomenal players. ... If those girls aren't up for Miss Soccer than it'll be a travesty because they are a phenomenal duo."

Novi had two great scoring chances earlier in the half, but was unable to score. Fenchel fired a shot off the crossbar and Whalen hit one off the post just minutes later. Undeterred, Novi continued to pile up the scoring opportunities.

With 27:56 to go in the game, senior Julia Stadtherr scored on a wild play in front of the net. She was assisted by junior Michelle Jecmen. Two minutes later, Novi struck again, this time it was Bandyk who found the back of the goal after an assist by Stadtherr.

Novi built up a 4-0 lead before Plymouth recorded its first official shot on goal, which came from Lily Tiplady with 22:30 left to play in the second half.

That wasn't all for scoring, however, as Bandyk took a pass from Stadtherr and sent in a high arching shot over the head of Plymouth's second half goalie, Ashley Bowles to make it 5-0. It was another incredible shot by Novi, which came from well outside the box. Bowles needed to be a foot taller to have a chance.

"I definitely did not expect (to win 5-0), the last two times we played them, they were tight games," Bandyk said. "They were battles to the finish, and this one, we just gave it our all and finished our shots. When we were able to keep putting them away, it kind of buried them."

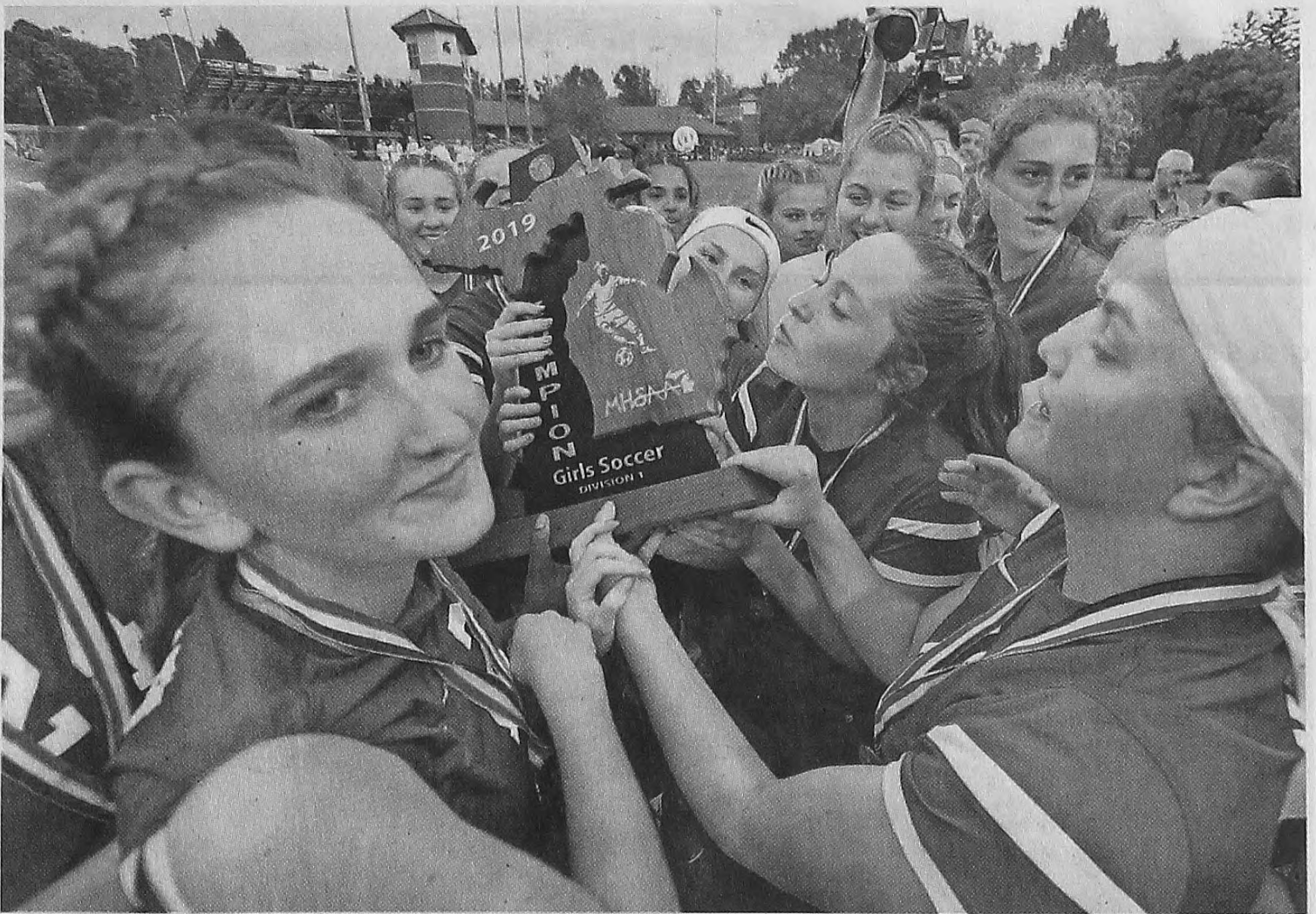
It's Novi's seventh state championship since 2005 and Pheiffer's second with the team. Novi is expected to finish the year as the No. 1 ranked team in the entire country according to Top Drawer Soccer and be named national champions.

"I think it's a culture that's created here," Pheiffer said. "When you come here, you want to be a part of the culture and continue on what's been started by the previous teams behind you. ... I'm so proud. Back-to-back champions, I would hope that TopDrawSoccer.com keeps us as the national champion. How many teams can say they are national champions, that is the pinnacle. These seniors going out on top, I'm glad I got to go along for the ride."

Enjoying the moment

With about three minutes remaining, Pheiffer made the surprising decision to put his daughter Abbey into the game at goalie. She had been the team's starting goalkeeper through 19 games (only allowed three goals and had 16 shutouts) but was sidelined after she tore her ACL against Hartland.

Teammates were visibly shocked —



Novi teammates hold the state trophy and celebrate their win over Plymouth. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Novi goalie Sammy Maday, left, hugs fellow netminder Abbey Pheiffer.

in a good way.

"It was like a fairytale moment," Bandyk said. "I turned around and a corner kick is going on and I saw Abbey. It was a crazy feeling. It's my senior year and this phenomenal goalie we had at the beginning of the year is back in. It was a touching moment for us."

Pheiffer was a vital part of the team and her dad knew that if they were fortunate enough to get a big lead, he would put her in at the end of the game.

"She has been so pivotal this year in those first 19 games, we got the national ranking when she was in goal," Pheiffer said. "She has been the biggest cheerleader, the biggest coach on the sideline, she's out there every day working with our goalkeeper coach and our goalies to help bring them up. You never know when you might get this opportunity again. ... I told her just go in the goal and enjoy this moment because you deserve it."

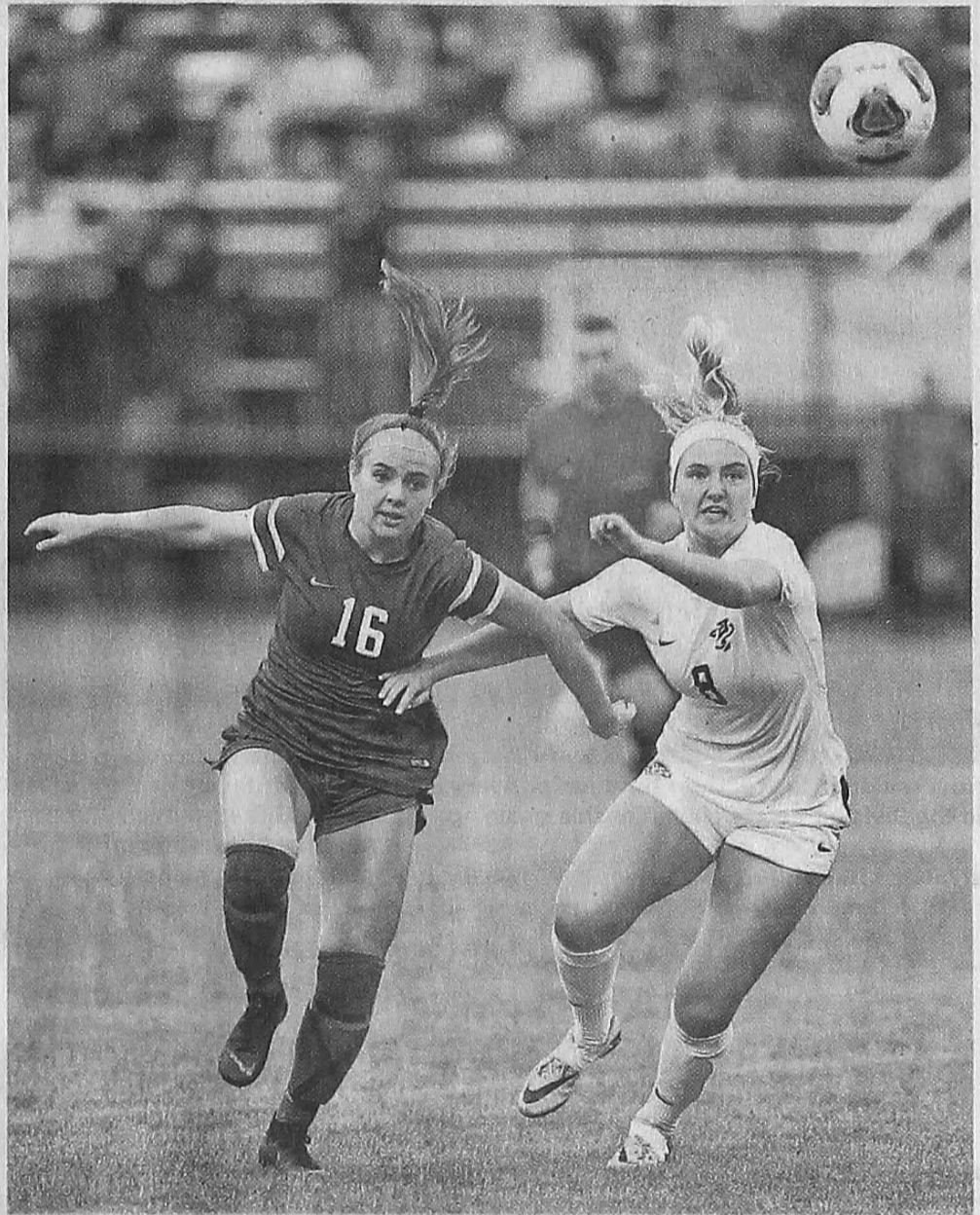
Third time not the charm

Novi was well aware of the old saying that it's hard to beat a team three times, but that's what it did against Plymouth.

Facing a KLAA team in the state final for the second year in a row, this team a division opponent (that even shares the same mascot: Wildcats), Pheiffer knew it would be a challenging game, but had confidence in his girls.

Novi had already beaten Brighton and Hartland three times and Livonia Stevenson twice. For Plymouth, which has been hot in the playoffs and a very strong regular season, this game seemed up for grabs.

"We play in the toughest division in the state," Pheiffer said. "This is the



Novi's Jessie Bandyk, left, and Plymouth's Audrey Kananen tear after the ball June 15 at MSU. Novi won the match and their second straight title, 5-0.

third team we've had to beat for the third time this year and that is incredibly hard.

"All the girls kept hearing was that Plymouth wanted to beat us, third time's the charm, they want to beat us etc., and our girls used that as motivation."

While the offensive was impressive, he was effusive in his praise towards his defenders, which helped freshman goalie Sammy Maday secure the shut-out and have been stellar all season.

"I cannot tell you how proud of my back four I am," Pheiffer said. "The back four defenders and goalkeepers, they just pride themselves every single game with limiting the other team's shots and giving up no goals. ... We only gave up eight goals the entire year."

Senior Lauren Calhoun, who is a four-year starter, is the leader of the defense and has anchored the unit throughout the season. She shared a long hug with Pheiffer after the game while the team received their medals.

"This is a big win," Calhoun said. "We lost to Plymouth in the regional finals when I was a sophomore, so just to be able to beat them now in states is incredible. The fact that Abbey even got to go in goal for a little bit is great and other players who might not have had enough time on the field got to come out tonight. I know I made my school proud and all the parents out here and of course, coach."

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Golf

Continued from Page 1B

we added last year was met with resounding appreciation," said KJGT founder Nathan Oake, Hartland High School boys' varsity golf coach and a 20-year PGA professional. "This group will tee off at 150 yards on par 4s, 200 yards on par 5s, and usually play the shortest tee on par 3s. We will use the 'double par' rule, and we certainly encourage parents to caddie/coach their kids while they play. The emphasis is on learning the game and the flow of playing a round of golf.

"We also offer these playing opportunities for junior golfers: 18 holes for 15- to 18-year-old boys; 18 holes for 12- to 14-

year-old boys; 18 holes for 12- to 18-year-old girls; and 9 holes for 7- to 11-year-old girls and boys," Oake said.

"The Kensington Junior Golf Tour started with a 12-event summer golf schedule in Livingston County in 2006. Three years later, we added 10 events in Washtenaw County and have since added events in Oakland and Wayne counties," Oake said. "Our mission is to provide a local, affordable, organized and fun competitive junior golf schedule for young players to develop their golf abilities and fall in love with the game."

"Local high school golf coaches have heaped praise on our organization as a great way to help students learn the competitive side of golf prior to entering high school and trying out for the golf team. Many courses on our schedule are host sites of high school matches and

tournaments," added Oake.

Kensington also is making it possible for junior golfers to play courses at a greatly discounted rate, and to receive instruction.

"Youth on Course' is an initiative in conjunction with the Golf Association of Michigan to help remove the financial barrier for kids to play golf," Oake said. "Our organization purchases a YOC membership for each player, and they also receive a free GAM membership. More than 60 Michigan golf courses allow YOC card-holders to play golf for \$5 during certain windows at the courses. It's a wonderful initiative to help grow the game."

Golf lessons are available through the Golf Leadership Academy. "The Golf Leadership Academy is a wonderful group of golf coaches who completely

support our mission," said Oake. "They offer outside teaching/coaching at Walnut Creek in Lyon Township and Western Golf and Country Club in Redford Township, in addition to indoor, year-round instruction at their facility in Farmington Hills. We fully endorse their work on character education as well as golf instruction, and they do the same for our program."

KJGT events are set for June 21 at Lyon Oaks GC; June 24 at Coyote GC in South Lyon; June 25 at Eagle Crest GC in Ypsilanti; June 26 at Hartland Glen GC in Hartland; June 27 at Hilltop GC in Plymouth; and June 28 at Kensington GC in Brighton.

For details and information on July competition and championship play in August, visit Kensington's website or Facebook page.

Novi grad cycles across North America

Susan Bromley hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lauren Harrington and Daniel Thakur are giving new meaning to winging it.

The couple are in the midst of bicycling 4,400 miles across the country, in unpredictable weather, on unknown roads, often without a plan for knowing where they will stay the night after cycling up to 60 miles during the day.

"Pedaling is far from the biggest challenge," Thakur, a Pittsburgh native, said during a recent stop in Novi, where Harrington's family lives. "It's finding a place to sleep as we go."

The pair took off May 3 from Bar Harbor, Maine, and covered about 1,300 miles before arriving in Michigan three and a half weeks later for a weeklong break to see Harrington's sister graduate from Novi High School. Harrington is a 2013 graduate of Novi High.

It was a change from what came before - stays with kind strangers who host bicyclists through the "Warm Showers" app, less conventional accommodations at fire stations and churches, and even some public parks, where Harrington and Thakur camp out in a tent.

They carry the small tent in saddle bags on their bikes, along with their clothes, food, sleeping bags, a camping stove, and fuel.

In total, they each carry about 75 pounds of gear on their bikes, which have armored tires to reduce the number of flats along the way.

In planning their trip, they used a northern route mapped by the Adventure Cycling Association, with less-traveled roads and wider shoulders. Safety is utmost in their minds as they venture off the beaten path.

This is their second cross-country cycling tour together, and Thakur's third. In 2016, Thakur cycled 4,200 miles with detours from Yorktown, Virginia, to San Francisco. Shortly after, he met Harrington at Penn State, and she wanted in on the action. In fall 2017, they cycled 3,400 miles from St. Augustine, Florida, to Los Angeles.

On the first day of that trip, they planned their next one.

"The completionist in me, wanted to round it out with the north," Thakur said. "There is no triple crown of cycle touring, unlike hikes. This is the closest we could come."

Physical challenge, with a few twists

How do you train for biking thousands of miles over the course of just a couple months, on average seven hours a day, seven days a week?

You don't really, say Harrington and Thakur, but they have a few things going for them.

Thakur has never owned a vehicle, and bicycling has always been his chosen mode of transportation.

Harrington was a long distance runner and rower in college and likes cardio activities.

Some medical challenges - Thakur has a pacemaker for a congenital heart defect and Harrington has had eight knee surgeries - haven't slowed them down.

Harrington said the best training has come from their pauses between their travels to earn money for their next tour.

"We work out like anyone else, but waitressing in downtown Seattle is like running a marathon," she joked.

Budget travel plan

Harrington and Thakur have been waiting tables for the past nine months, first at a restaurant in northern Michigan, then at a pizzeria in Washington state for five months, living cheaply and saving every dollar with their eyes on the cross-country tour.

They budgeted \$4,500 each, most to be spent on food, for the trip they anticipate will end in mid-August in Anacortes, Washington. They are trying to stick to \$25 per day per person and have overbudgeted, allotting for emergencies like a broken or stolen bike, a hotel room stay or an urgent care visit.

Although they were already in Washington, and a west to east route would have given them the benefit of prevailing winds at their backs, they would have encountered snow in the mountain passes. So they flew east, arriving in Maine to make their way back by bike, seeing the country in a way most never will.

"It's the old American dream to travel west, and we get to relive that," Thakur said. "I wanted something different for a reward, to start with the familiar and go to the unknown and be surprised by the grand scale."



Novi native Lauren Harrington, left, and her boyfriend Daniel Thakur are biking from Maine to the west coast this summer. They stopped in Novi on May 28.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Follow their journey

Lauren Harrington and Daniel Thakur are documenting their journey at CycleforChange2019.blogspot.com.

They have dedicated their cross-country ride to Youth Care, an organization that helps homeless youth. To make a contribution, visit crowdrise.com/CycleForChange2019.

They have had some magnificent views thus far: the White Mountains in New Hampshire and Niagara Falls. They appreciate the smaller things, too.

"As thrilling as it is to come down a mountain, it's good to slow down, listen to birds, look at the trees, and notice the babbling brook," Thakur said.

Harrington enjoyed sleeping on the beach at Lake Erie two nights in a row and said they have learned to find and appreciate beauty in every location.

They are looking forward to seeing grizzly bear when they stop for a week in Glacier National Park in Montana, but they have already encountered a wide range of animals, including coyotes, beavers, foxes, turtles and snakes.

The wildlife has been welcomed, except perhaps for the roadkill, and they even take notice of carp in drainage ditches. Domesticated animals have presented more of a concern as dogs often chase them, forcing them to stop and talk the dogs down before walking their bicycles away.

The biggest worry of a life on the road is not the animals on four legs, but those with four wheels. Due to the vulnerability of sharing roads with motorists, Harrington and Thakur have mostly avoided traveling through major cities. They take as many bike trails as possible and never trust Google maps, which can put them on dirt roads, ones that turn to sand, or roads without a shoulder.

Thakur noted their two main strategies for safety are to ride predictably and to ride visibly. On his bike, he has a foam pool noodle, which extends about a foot out to the side to encourage drivers to give space when passing. They also wear bright orange construction worker-style vests.

Bare necessities of life

On the average day, Harrington and Thakur are awake with the sun, making coffee and Quaker quick oats on their campstove.

Typically, they have one warm meal per day at a restaurant and otherwise stick to the food they carry in their bags, like lentils, noodles, peanut butter and other cheap snacks.

Harrington's mom will also be shipping them a box of food out west to replenish their supply.

Harrington is a vegan, but said the diet restrictions haven't posed too much of a problem.

She does delight in visiting Taco Bell for cheap vegan carbs, while Thakur's favorite food stop is Tim Horton's, where he can find "glorious packages of sugar."

After biking the first 20 miles or so

each day, they have to stop and have something to eat, typically a Snickers for Thakur and Oreos for Harrington, otherwise they "get snippy." They then travel another 15-20 miles until lunch. They average about 10 miles per hour, depending on hills and wind, and usually travel 55 to 60 miles in a day, though they've gone up to 85 miles when they know they have a host for the night, which usually means a shower and comfortable place to sleep.

The opportunity for a shower can never be passed up.

When it's hot, Thakur said, he takes a "hobo shower" in every gas station, at least washing his face, or he starts feeling "like the front end of a truck."

They usually can use a campground shower in an emergency and never want to get a hotel just for the opportunity to have a shower.

Harrington recalled that on their southern road trip, they had an extraordinarily stinky time.

"There was a point in Texas where Dan was like, 'You smell pretty bad,' she recalled. "And I was like, 'I know.'"

The couple had been holding out for awhile, planning to stay in a hostel, but they then learned their accommodation had been booked by people who were in town for a marathon. They were saved that time by a Warm Showers host who happened to be a librarian.

In praise of libraries and philosophy

Libraries in general have been a saving grace on all their journeys, with Thakur calling them "the only consistent resource you find in every community across America."

"Libraries are a consistent source of power, internet, air conditioning and bathrooms," he said.

They charge their phones there, although when riding, they use a three-paneled solar charger to keep connected with modern amenities.

Although they may be miles from civilization at times, they have some conveniences such as a Go Pro and Bluetooth; on which Thakur listens to Podcasts and audio books.

"Lauren is great, but this keeps me sane," he said. "I've covered almost all of 20th century western philosophy, which is great food for thought."

He is currently listening to "The Wisdom of Insecurity," the title of which he says summarizes well their current circumstances.

There may be a lot of pedaling on the road and a lot of time for thinking, but there isn't much time for planning ahead on where they will sleep.

When they stop cycling for the day, they often hang out in a library or in a park if the weather is fair. They often set up camp in a park "under the cover of darkness," Harrington said, adding that camping is not really explicitly forbidden, and most often if it's a rural area, "no one really cares."

She added, however, that sometimes they have to ask total strangers for assistance.

"You have to get really comfortable

being uncomfortable," Harrington said. "You'll be like, 'I know this is awkward and you have no idea who I am,' but they love to be part of your journey."

Faith in humanity, belief in each other

Their "funny-looking bikes" draw a lot of attention, but they have also drawn moments of serendipity, Thakur said.

They've received offers of a place to stay from total strangers, and just recently they met a man in a hardware store in Yale, Michigan, while they were getting screws for one of the bikes, who let them stay in a unique accommodation.

"He was a 'Lord of the Rings' fan and his father built a shire on his property," Thakur said. "I was nerding out and we got to sleep next to a fireplace in a hobbit hole."

They were also grateful for the Canadian woman who hosted them and offered to sign up for a special on-demand subscription service just so her guests could see the final episode of "Game of Thrones."

The show, their cat and their own showers and laundry, are what they have missed most, but what they have found in people they meet is priceless.

While they have run into some less than kind people on the road, including one who flicked a lit cigarette at Harrington, and truck drivers who have blown their horns, they say 99% of people have been friendly.

"I've learned to trust people and gained faith in humanity," Thakur said. "That's only something you can appreciate when you make yourself vulnerable. It changes your worldview to think everybody's out there to help you."

The cycling and life partners are most dependent on each other. Harrington acknowledged she was neeider on the first tour and reluctant to let the more experienced Thakur out of her line of vision. She is more confident now. They keep each other within eyesight, but also keep their own cadence.

Their relationship of now more than two and a half years was one of trial by fire in that first cross country trip, Thakur recalled.

"We saw each other hungry and tired, and we're with each other 24 hours a day, three months in a row," he said. "There couldn't have been a way to develop more confidence in a relationship. It's easier to see someone when they've taken a shower and gotten ready for a date. It's not as easy when you're setting up tent in the rain and haven't eaten for six hours."

Living in the moment

Still, here they are doing it again. The pair left Novi on June 3 and resumed cycling from Bay City on their way to Ludington. From there, they traveled up the coast of Lake Michigan before crossing the Mackinac Bridge into the U.P. and westward, crossing Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana, dipping into Canada just south of Banff, and then through Idaho and on into Washington, where they plan to end in Anacortes in mid- to late August.

The adventure has given them an opportunity to reach some far-flung places and see the country in a unique way.

Harrington said their travels have given them the chance to really appreciate everything America has to offer, including lush green forests, dry deserts and freshwater lakes.

When the bike tour ends, they will drive back to Michigan and put down roots in Ypsilanti, where Harrington will attend Eastern Michigan University in pursuit of an education degree. Thakur will be working, and his goal is to join her at EMU to study behavior science and get his bachelor's degree.

While they may stay for a couple years, they hope to bike in Asia upon the completion of school.

"Being comfortable scares me more than being homeless," Thakur said. "I worry that staying in one place for a long time, I will become complacent, and that is scarier than no home, no food, no water."

Harrington noted that they have no regrets over life on the road and the excitement of the unknown. For right now, they are living in the moment, just where they want to be.

"When I wake up, I am doing exactly what I want to do that day," Thakur said.

Harrington agreed.

"I am able-bodied and I can, even though it hurts a lot," she said. "If you wait til you have time or money, you don't know what will happen. You have to do it while you're able."

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

GIRLS SOCCER

Plymouth needed to rally past Troy to earn finals berth

Ed Wright HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Members of Plymouth's girls soccer team took coach Jeff Neschich's pre-overtime message to heart during the June 12 Division 1 semifinal clash with Troy.

"Jeff told us if we're not ready to work, get on the bus right now," recounted Wildcat senior captain Kennedy White.

So Saturday morning the Wildcats got on a bus bound for East Lansing, the site of the Division 1 girls soccer championship game, thanks to equal parts hard work and heart.

Trailing 2-0 with under 13 minutes remaining at Troy Athens High School, Plymouth roared back to deadlock the game at 2-2 before ultimately winning a shootout, 4-1, to claim a 3-2 triumph.

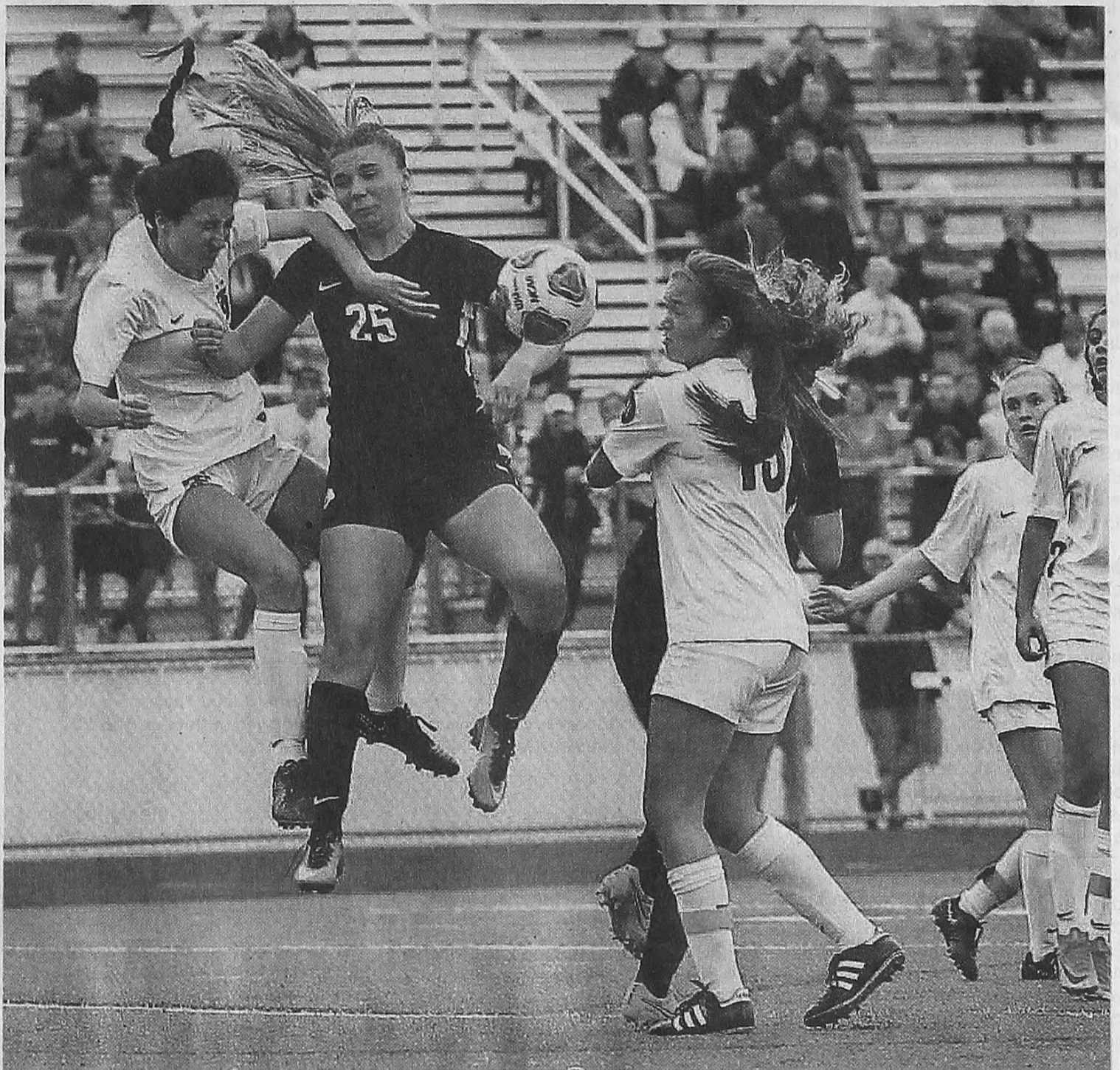
"My heart is so happy," said White, whose penalty-kick goal with 7 minutes and 15 seconds left in regulation forced a pair of 10-minute overtimes and the one-sided shoot-out. "This team is so amazing. It never gives up."

"At one point tonight, it looked like we were kind of out of it," said Neschich. "But as we've done several times this season, we started bouncing back, we changed formations a little and we got on a roll. The way we were playing the last 10 minutes, I honestly thought we were going to get 'em in regulation."

Neschich said he felt confident heading into the shootout.

"We have a keeper who's really good at stopping PKs and we don't miss PKs," he said, smiling.

One of the Wildcats' many heroes was junior goal-keeper Ashley Bowles, who watched the first half from the sidelines before getting the call at half-time to replace Rebecca Przybylo, who was moved to the attack for the second half and the overtimes, before going



Players battle for a 50-50 ball during the first overtime June 12 during the Division 1 Plymouth-Troy state semifinal game. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See PLYMOUTH, Page 5B

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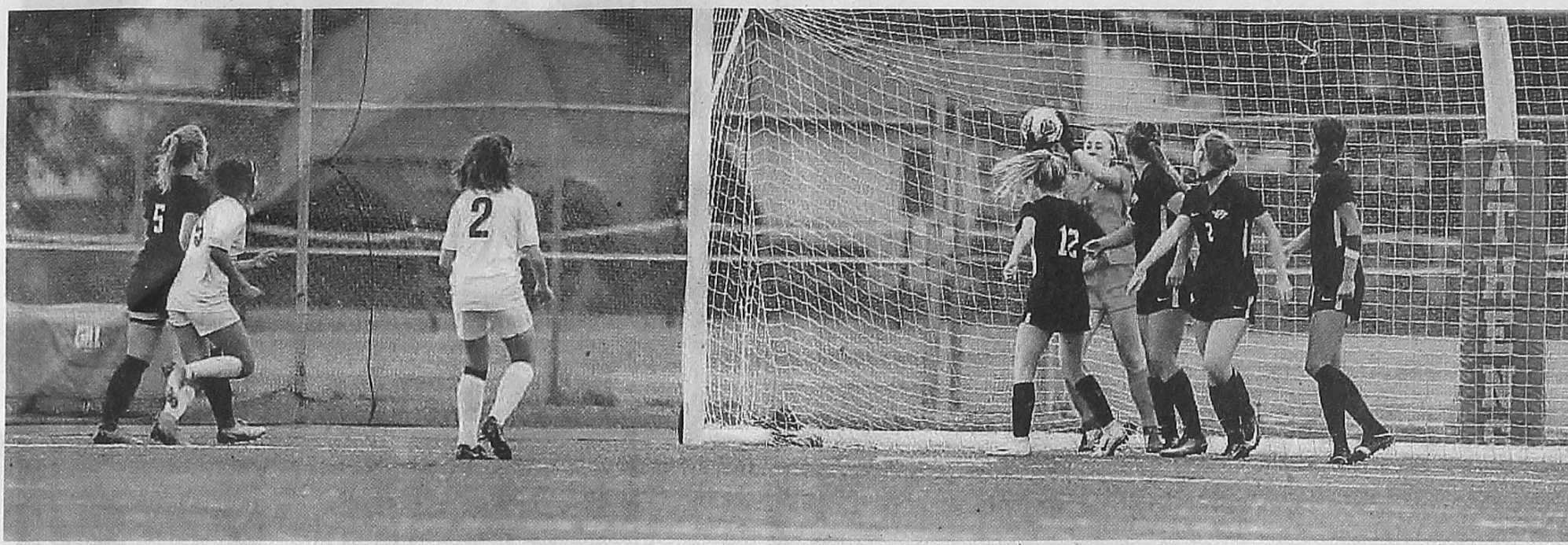
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USA TODAY



Plymouth junior keeper Ashley Bowles, at right in pink, made several point-blank saves during the second half and both overtimes June 12 during the Division 1 state semifinal game against Troy. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth

Continued from Page 4B

back between the pipes for the shootout.

It would take more than the fingers on one hand to count the point-blank Troy scoring opportunities Bowles erased with quick reflexes and strong hands.

"I had no idea I'd be going in until Jeff told during halftime," Bowles said. "Becca is so versatile. When she's in goal, she makes amazing saves and when she's on the field, she makes a huge impact."

Does Bowles' heart rate accelerate once she gets the words she's going in?

"A little bit, but at the same time I trust my team and I know we're a comeback team that really works hard," she said.

"Some of my saves are luck, a lot are due to a lot of practice. But it's not just me making the saves. My defense works so hard. Half the time, they're what save me."

Wednesday semifinal was scoreless until the 16th minute when Troy's Tahra Brodbine one-timed a cross from Olivia Rush into the net to give the Colts a 1-0 lead.

Plymouth's Audrey Kananen created some anxiety for the Troy faithful four minutes later when she juked a pair of Colt defenders 40 yards out, pushed the ball up the left sideline and laced a cross in front of the net, but no Wildcats could connect on the other end.

Thirty minutes in, White rocked a shot that Troy keeper Kendal Zeiter stopped but couldn't corral. Zeiter eventually won a race with Plymouth's Eve Davis to the ball, which rolled dangerously close to the goal

line.

With Przybylo joining White at the top of the Wildcats' attack at the outset of the second half, Plymouth's offense started clicking.

The Wildcats repeatedly pounded the Colts' defense with well-organized surges, but they couldn't quite finish the deal — a predicament that turned daunting when Troy sophomore Charlotte Sobotka settled a clearing kick from Bowles, who had ventured far from the goal line, and lofted a carefully-placed dagger into the net, doubling her team's advantage to 2-0.

Little did they know it, but Colts had just opened the door to the comfort zone for the Wildcats, who two weeks earlier rebounded from a two-goal deficit against Canton to win their district tournament.

"I'm not exactly sure why we seem to play better when we're losing by two goals," said Plymouth start defender River Smyth. "We like drama, I guess."

Plymouth's rally got kick-started with 12:46 left when Sophie Zelek nudged in a rebound shot following a textbook corner kick from Emma Lennig, cutting the Wildcats' deficit to 2-1.

The Wildcats appeared to tie the match at 2-2 at the 7:47 mark, when an unidentified Plymouth player poked home a rebound goal that had struck the cross bar and dropped down.

However, the officials ruled that the ball had kissed off the soccer cross-bar and the football cross-bar that was situated just a few feet higher than its soccer counterpart, negating the goal.

"That pumped us up more than deflated us," White said about the ruling. "Even the Troy girls saw that it only hit the soccer cross bar because they were made and walking toward midfield."

Thirty-two seconds after the negated goal, the Wildcats scored one that couldn't be disputed: an untouchable penalty kick off the foot of White. Morgan Buroker set up the PK by getting fouled in the penalty area.

Following two back-and-forth, scoreless 10-minute overtimes, the teams settled in for a championship berth-deciding shootout.

Zelek and Sobotka both netted their respective teams' initial PK.

Brianna McNab then gave the 'Cats a lead they would never relinquish when she popped in a right-sided shot while the Colts' goalie leaned left.

Troy's next two PKs hit the right post and missed the frame entirely, while Lennig and Smyth nailed their opportunities to set off a joyful celebration among the girls wearing Plymouth black.

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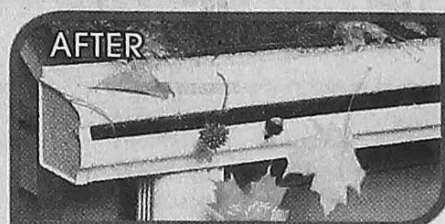
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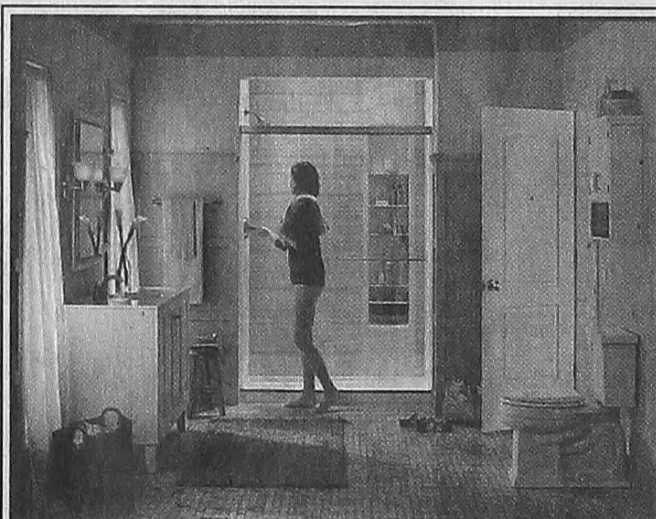
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The KOHLER® Walk-In Bath allows you to bathe in a comfortably seated position while enjoying the therapeutic benefits of hydrotherapy whirlpool jets. It also allows you to recline as you bathe. However, those who feel comfortable standing for a longer period of time may find that the KOHLER® LuxStone™ Shower, which provides a more traditional shower experience, better meets their needs.

Contact your Kohler specialist at New Bath Today to discuss your bathing needs and options, and to help make a decision today.



KOHLER LuxStone Shower Systems

Start your day with a shower you love
A new shower you'll love in as little as a day or two



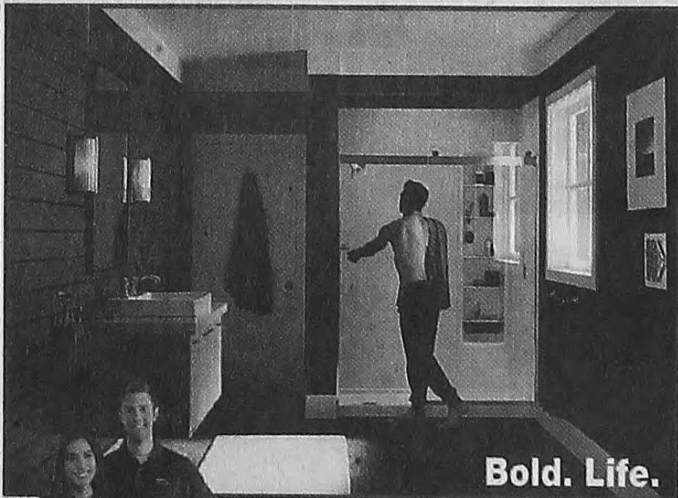
Bold. Style.

- Durable Materials for Long-Lasting Beauty
- Low-Maintenance Shower Walls
- Quality You Expect From Kohler
- Accessories to Personalize Your Shower



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Bold. Life.

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SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES AVAILABLE

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Walk-In Shower Systems
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INSTALLATION
PLUS!
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*Cannot be combined with any other offer. Previous sales excluded. Good at initial presentation only. Financing available for qualified buyers only.

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Jobs
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Home for Sale - In State
 LIVONIA - 3Bd/1.5Ba. Family Room with Natural Frpl. Large Deck with Gas Grill. 2 Car Detached Garage & Shed in Rear. Finished Basement with Wine Seller. A/C. \$214,900.
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FROM "NO FOOD ALLOWED." TO "HOW OLD ARE THESE FRIES?"
 The Home of Packaging and Home Cinema
 at the World's Greatest Toy Store
 in the heart of Novi, Michigan

Garage-Tag Sale
 CANTON: Woodbridge Estates: Rummage/Garage Sale. On Geddes bwn Beck & Denton. Garage Sale on June 27th, 28th & 29th. Rummage Sale on 28th & 29th at Clubhouse 9am-5pm

Engineering & IT
Commodity Manager (Bearings) wanted to define and implement the global supply base strategy for the bearings commodity in North America that is needed to promote lean manufacturing initiatives. Send resume to Jennifer Davis, Human Resources Manager, Magna Services of America, Inc., 1870 Technology Drive, Troy, MI 48063.

Professional
Program Manager wanted oversee and manage driveline systems programs with regard to quality, delivery, cost feasibility and customer satisfaction. Send resume to Jennifer Davis, Human Resources Manager, Magna Services of America, Inc., 1870 Technology Drive, Troy, MI 48063.

Estate Sale June 20-21
 37952 N. Laurel Park Dr., Livonia, Greenfield Villas 6 Mile and Newburg. Household items, tools, golf clubs, computer accessories, furniture and much more.

Systems Engineer for an independent company in Plymouth, MI engaged in the development of powertrain systems with internal combustion engines as well as instrumentation and test systems. Position requires a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechatronic Engineering or related field and 2 years' experience using MATLAB and Simulink to perform real-time embedded development and testing of automatic transmission controls software for automotive companies including performing control algorithm and software tool development for transmission control functions: conducting software unit and Software-in-the-Loop (SIL) testing; and creating and maintaining MATLAB scripts. The position is located in Plymouth, MI with 50% travel to client sites throughout the U.S. Position may require the individual to work at various unanticipated client locations throughout the U.S. Send resume to AVL Powertrain Engineering, Inc., Attn: Megan Kosch, 47603 Halyard Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170-2438. Please indicate SEPEI in subject line.

Farmington Hills - Woodland Pines
 Condos Garage Sales - Orchard Lake Rd S. of 11 mile Fri & Sat 6/21-6/22: 9am-4pm

GARAGE SALE
 LIVONIA - 17387 FRANCAVILLA: Fri 21st & Sat 22nd 8am - 4pm. Girls/women's clothes. Bed rm set. Dining table/chairs, Exec Desk, Jewelry Chest, Jewelry, Records, Pewter Golf Chess Set and more.

Mayflower Townhomes Coop Yard
 Sale! 400 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170
 Saturday June 22, 2019 10am-5pm

Northville-8084 Beacon Ln., 6/22 & 6/23, 10am-6pm. H/h items, furn., clothing, EVERYTHING MUST GO!

GARAGE SALE
 Plymouth, Garage Sale, 13143 Latheron Ct, Michigan, 48170 Thur: 8-4, Fri: 9-4, Sat: 9-12. Huge Sale Multi Family! Electronics, Small Appliances, Golf, Home Decor, BOOKS, Clothing, Linens Etc...

Southfield- Burgh Pointe Assoc Annual
 Sale. N. of Ten Mile, E. of Berg & S. of Civic Center. 6/21 to 6/23, 10a-2

Assorted Items
 all kinds of things...

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 Memory Garden 39: Lots 3 & 4. \$1000 Each. For more information Call: 918-991-0625. Ask for Mark!

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General Merchandise
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Novena
 Prayer to the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, you who makes me see everything and who showed me the way to reach my ideal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and you who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for your love towards me and my loved ones. Say for 3 consecutive days without mentioning your petition and your prayer will be answered. Promise to publish this prayer. Also wish to thank Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and St. Jude. Thank you St. Jude for all favors received. J.M.

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*Based on GM Jan-Dec 2018 New & CTA Vehicles sold. Price excludes Tax, title, license and dealer fees. Certified Pre Owned: 5362, 9F016A, 5351, 5350 and 5318. Non CPD: 9E080A, 5359, 5318A

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EQUIPMENT: Equipment shown may require additional fees. Touchscreen pictured requires additional charge of \$299. Vanishing sensors cost an additional \$159 each. **GIFT CARD:** \$100 Visa Gift Card fulfilled by Protect Your Home through third-party provider, Mpell, upon installation of a security system and execution of monitoring contract. \$4.95 shipping and handling fee, gift cards can take up to 8 weeks to arrive after following the Mpell redemption process. **BASIC SYSTEM:** \$99 installation, 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,007.64). 24-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,007.64) for California. Offer applies to homeowners only. Basic system requires landline phone. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Cannot be combined with any other offer. The \$27.99 Offer does not include Quality Service Plan (QSP), ADT's Extended Limited Warranty, **ADT Pulse:** ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Pulse"), which help you manage your home environment and family lifestyle, require the purchase and/or activation of an ADT alarm system with monitored burglary service and a compatible computer, cell phone or PDA with Internet and email access. These ADT Pulse services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Pulse equipment. All ADT Pulse services are not available with the various levels of ADT Pulse. All ADT Pulse services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the ADT Pulse features you desire. **ADT PULSE + VIDEO:** ADT Pulse + Video installation is an additional \$299. 36-month monitoring contract required from ADT Pulse + Video: \$58.99 per month, (\$2,123.64), including Quality Service Plan (QSP). Doorbell camera may not be available in all areas. **GENERAL:** For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, satisfactory credit history is required and termination fee applies. Certain packages require approved landline phone. Local permit fees may be required. Certain restrictions may apply. Additional monitoring fees required for some services. For example, Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert monitoring requires purchase and/or activation of an ADT security system with monitored Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert devices and are an additional charge. Additional equipment may be purchased for an additional charge. Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. Prices subject to change. Prices may vary by market. Some insurance companies offer discounts on Homeowner's Insurance. Please consult your insurance company. Photos are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect the exact product/service actually provided. **Licenses:** AL-19-001104, AR-CMPY-0001725, AZ-RG-C217517, CA-AC06320, CT-ELC-0193944, LS-DC-ENS902653, DC-602516000016, DE-07-212, FL-EC13003427, EC13003401, GA-LVA205395, IA-AS-0206, ID-ELE-SJ-39131, IL-127.001042, IN-City of Indianapolis: LAC-000156, KY-City of Louisville: 483, LA-F1914, LA-F1915, LA-F1082, MA-1355C, MD-107-1626, ME-LM50017382, MI-3601205773, MN-TS01807, MO-City of St. Louis: CC#354, St. Louis County: 95091, MS-15007958, MT-PSP-ELS-LIC-247, NC-25310-SP-FA/LV, NC-1622-CSA, NE-14451, NJ Burglar Alarm Lic. #: NJ-34BF00021800, NM-353366, NV-0068518, City of Las Vegas: 3000008296, NY-Licensed by the N.Y.S. Department of State UID#12000317691, NYS #1200286451, OH-53891446, City of Cincinnati: AC86, OK-AC1048, OR-170997, Pennsylvania Home Improvement Contractor Registration Number: PA022999, RI-3582, RI-7508, SC-BAC5630, SD-1025-7001-ET, TN-1520, TX-B13734, ACR-3492, UT-6422596-6501, VA-115120, VT-ES-2382(7C), WA-602588694/ECP/PROTEYH934RS, WI-City of Milwaukee: PAS-0002790, WV-WV042433, WY-LV-G-21499 3750 Priority Way South Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46240 ©2019 DEFENDERS, Inc. dba Protect Your Home



July 4th Window and Patio Door Sales Event

Hurry - limited time offer!

- Renewal by Andersen is the full-service replacement window division of Andersen, the most trusted family of window and door brands in America*
- Our window helps make homes more comfortable because its strong seals help prevent drafts and leaks, and our Fibrex® composite window material is 2X stronger than vinyl
- To lock in this July 4th Sales Event, call on or before Saturday, July 6th, and schedule your free Window and Patio Door Diagnosis



July 4th Sales Event ENDS Saturday, July 6th

Buy 1 window or patio door, get 1 window or patio door **40% OFF**¹

WITH

NO NO NO FOR 2 YEARS¹
MONEY DOWN MONTHLY INTEREST PAYMENTS

When you set your appointment by July 6th and purchase by July 13th. Minimum purchase of four. Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 24 months.

Call to schedule your appointment. Limited appointments are available.



734-224-5100

DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 7/13/2019. You must set your appointment by 7/6/2019 and purchase by 7/13/2019. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or patio door, get one (1) window or patio door 40% off, and 24 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 6/9/2019 and 7/13/2019. 40% off windows and patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or patio door in the project. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. *Renewal by Andersen and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2019 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2019 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *2018 U.S. Homeowner Brand Study of Andersen and Renewal by Andersen brands vs. competitive brands.



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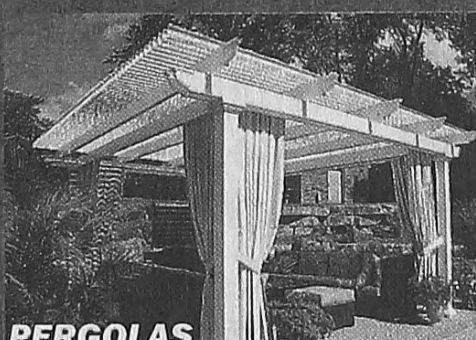
Up to **\$2500 off**
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12 Months - Same As Cash/No Interest*

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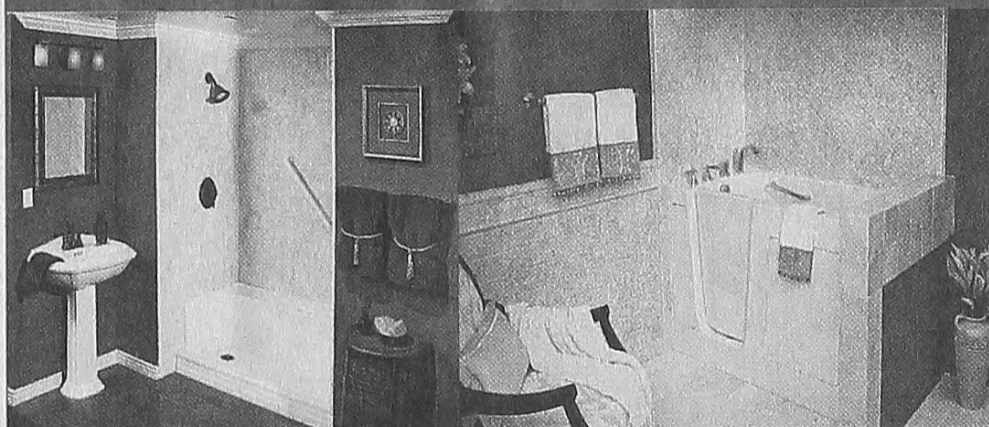
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*Promotion may not be combined with any other offers. Minimum purchase required. Not valid on prior sales. Some restrictions may apply ask for details. Financing promotion is based on approved credit.

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- Save thousands of dollars over traditional remodeling
- Specializing in Walk-in tubs and Tub-to-Shower Conversions
- Most jobs can be completed in just one day
- 76 color & wall patterns
- Exclusive lifetime factory warranty



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\$1001 OFF

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RE-BATH Special

\$751 OFF

ANY STYLE & COLOR
TUB & SHOWER REMODEL OR TUB-TO-SHOWER CONVERSION SYSTEMS

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SAVE \$501

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IN TROY, MICHIGAN



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ONE DAY ONLY

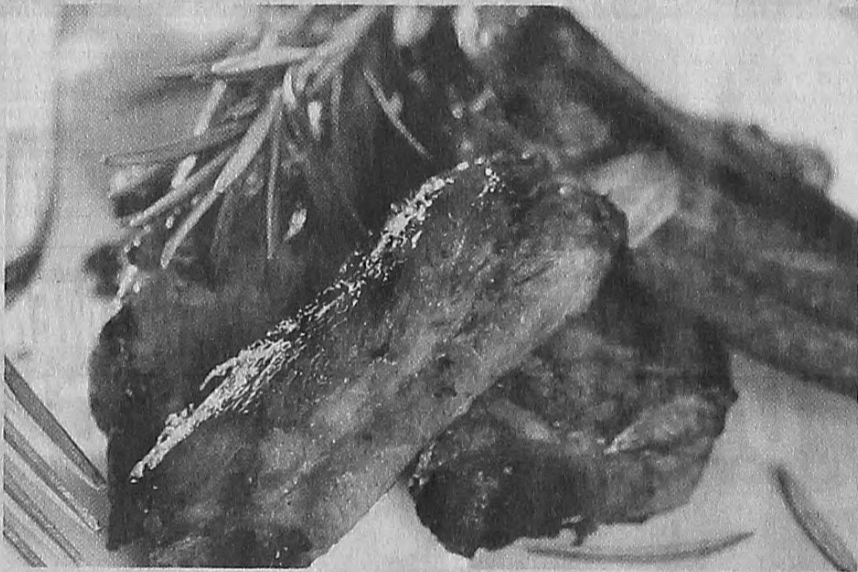
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\$4.99 LB. (LIMIT 2)



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