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THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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A view from the recently installed patio. COURTESY OF EDDIE ZAJDEL

BATTER’S UP IN THE BACKYARD

Plymouth man builds backyard whiffle ball field

Ed Wright
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Never a big fan of video games, the 22-year-old film-maker prefers to spend his time working on projects people can see and appreciate

It’s OK to drool, whiffle ball fans, once you get your first look at Eddie Zajdel’s backyard masterpiece.

Never a big fan of video games, the 22-year-old film-maker prefers to spend his time working on projects people can see and appreciate; kind of like the off-the-charts cool whiffle ball field he has meticulously created in his family’s Plymouth backyard.

Decked out with Major League Baseball-quality sod that was shipped in from St. Anne, Illinois (it came from the same company that supplies Comerica Park with its sod), towering LED flood

lights for night games and reachable outfield fence distances for those home run-or-bust players (55 feet down the left-field line, 65 feet down the right), Zajdel’s dream-come-to-life is mind-blowing, whether you’re a baseball fan or not.

“It all started in 2010 with the mound,” Zajdel said. “I had recently attended a Tigers game for the first time and noticed how perfect the Comerica Park field was. On the way home from the game, I thought to myself, ‘I can

See BACKYARD, Page 6A

Businesses can expand outside as they reopen

Farmington Hills enacts temporary licenses

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Sun’s out, shops out.

More restaurants and businesses in Farmington Hills will move some of their services outside. At its Monday meeting, city council unanimously enacted a citywide temporary outdoor sales event license authorization, allowing for more outdoor dining and retail during the coronavirus pandemic.

The licenses will be open to some retail establishments, barbers, salons, bars and eateries to move part of their business outside either on or adjacent to their property. The licenses will not be open to massage, tanning, waxing, tattoo or piercing services.

“This is going to be great for our businesses,” Mayor Vicki Barnett said.

The city set June 12 as a deadline to provide a set of standards to review license applications. Council expects the standards to include adherence to local COVID-19 guidelines, keep room for parking, socially distant seating and temporary structures like tents to protect customers from the elements.

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

The city set June 12 as a deadline to provide a set of standards to review license applications.

Livonia native Braithwaite named Navy secretary

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Livonian is now at the helm of the U.S. Navy.

Kenneth Braithwaite was sworn in as the Navy’s 77th secretary May 29. He replaced Richard Spencer, who was asked to resign following the controversy surrounding Navy SEAL Edward Gallagher.

After high school, Braithwaite attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and graduated in 1984. He’s also an alumnus of Bentley High School and attended St. Andrew’s

Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard St., growing up. His parents, the late Kenneth and Sylvia Braithwaite, lived in Livonia.

Before being tapped by President Donald Trump for secretary, Braithwaite was part of Trump’s transition team in 2016 and served as the U.S. Ambassador to Norway following the president’s nomination in 2018.

The secretary’s Navy career started in 1986 as a naval aviator, where he flew in missions to spot Soviet submarines. Braithwaite served in active duty on and off throughout the years, but continually served in the Navy Reserve until retir-

ing as a decorated rear admiral in 2011.

Before rising to the position of secretary, Braithwaite’s final Navy assignment was as the vice chief of information. At that time, he was also the head of the Navy Reserve Public Affairs program.

The secretary’s decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat “V”, Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Ac-

tion Ribbon and other campaign and service medals.

When he wasn’t actively serving, the secretary’s career has included work with Ascension Health, which operates Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi; the Delaware Valley Healthcare Council, a lobbying group; and the late Sen. Arlen Specter, a then-Republican from Pennsylvania.

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

hometownlife.com

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Livonia man pleads guilty to murder solicitation

Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Livonia man faces life in prison after pleading guilty to charges that he violated two significant women in his life by invading one's home and then asking someone to kill the other's husband.

Scott Fraser Porter, 49, pleaded guilty late last month to second-degree home invasion and solicitation of murder.

A Third Circuit judge has dismissed two counts alleging that he used computers to commit his crimes.

Investigators have said he broke into his ex-wife's home on Canterbury Street late in 2018 and stole jewelry.



Porter

In 2019, investigators said Porter asked a male acquaintance to kill his girlfriend's husband.

Porter once worked at Loc Performance Inc. on Haggerty Road in Plymouth where he apparently started to make his approaches with the chosen hitman.

Wayne County prosecutor Ashley Ciaffone shared this sample text message from Porter's phone in court: "I want it done without the family around, but at this point I really don't care."

Sentencing is scheduled for June 18.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela

Wayne County prosecutor Ashley Ciaffone shared this sample text message from Porter's phone in court: "I want it done without the family around, but at this point I really don't care."

Detroit Archdiocese creates 'families of parishes'

Niraj Warikoo

Detroit Free Press

USA TODAY NETWORK

Facing a shortage of priests and decreased revenue, the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit announced this week an ambitious new reorganization plan that will create what it calls "families of parishes," grouping three to six churches together that will share priests and resources.

The plan — to be carried out over two years — is different from previous restructurings that often included mergers, closing of parishes and clustering, where one priest would oversee more than one parish. However, there still might be closings of parishes in the future.

"Clusters are too hard on priests and we do not intend to use them any longer," said Archdiocese of Detroit spokeswoman Holly Fournier. "Where clusters currently exist, the plan is to welcome them into new 'families' where their pastors can begin sharing in ministry with the rest of the clergy assigned to the 'family.'"

Some families — which will consist of three to six parishes — "may decide to retain their separate identities and worship spaces," the Archdiocese of Detroit explained on its website in describing the plan. "Others, after a careful and honest review of existing resources, may opt to close worship spaces or merge with partnering parishes."

The Archdiocese of Detroit currently serves about 1.3 million Catholics in southeastern Michigan, with 218 parishes, down from 267 parishes in 2012. It currently has 240 priests assigned to parishes, plus an additional two who came out of retirement to help temporarily, Fournier said.

The new plan comes during a pandemic that has disrupted church life and Mass attendance, making it more diffi-

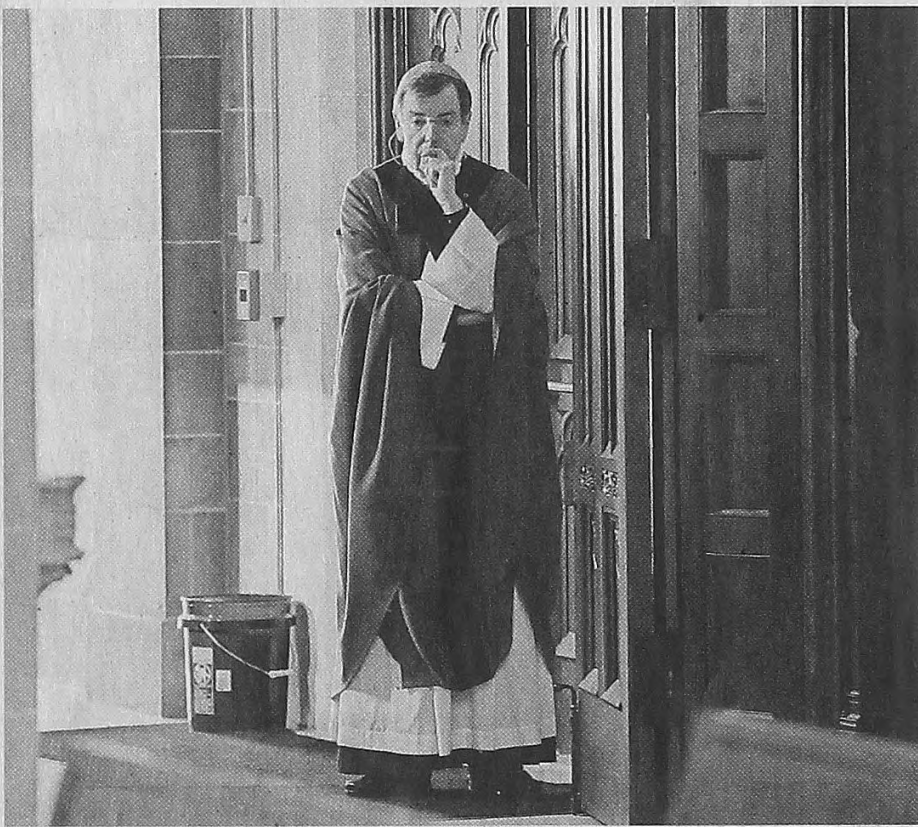
cult for churches to collect money and also to retain older priests concerned about being exposed to the novel coronavirus. The Archdiocese reopened its churches last month, but with several restrictions on attendance to adhere to social-distancing guidelines.

"An added benefit of this model involves our priests who, due to age and/or other health factors, now find themselves at-risk for greater complications from coronavirus exposure," Fournier said. "As members of 'Families of Parishes,' these priests will be able to continue in ministry in ways that protect their health while still making valuable contributions to the parishes. They will no longer shoulder the burden of choosing between retirement or handling all aspects of running their parish communities."

In an open letter sent May 31, the Archbishop of Detroit Allen Vigneron said: "The current health and economic crises have disrupted our lives and the life of the Church. This new reality has exacerbated some of the challenges we were already facing. Even before the pandemic, we knew that the way we function in our parishes needed to change. In addition to the shortage of priests available to serve in our parishes and the shortage of vocations for future ordinations, the parish structures we inherited served our mission well in the past, but they needed to be renewed and aligned for (our) mission."

The restructuring will take place in six-month phases. In the initial phases, there will be training and dialogue for priests and laity.

"It will be up to each 'Parish Family' to work together, with assistance from the Archdiocese, to make decisions in the best interest of the parishes in the 'Family,'" said the Archdiocese in a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). "This process will be rooted in prayer, will be respectful of building and maintaining



Archbishop Allen Vigneron and the Archdiocese reopened churches last month with restrictions. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DFP FILE

relationships, and will be marked by quick and honest responses to questions and concerns that are raised."

Unlike the current cluster, Families of Parishes are "groups of parishes, generally three to six, sharing resources to advance the mission, including having multiple priests and deacons," explained the Archdiocese on its website. "With a number of priests sharing the work of caring for a Family of Parishes, each priest will be able to leverage his charisms and strengths in the work that he does and will find himself supported by his brother priests, a talented and trained lay staff and, in many cases, one

or more deacons."

In addition to being taxing for priests, another problem with the current clustering system is it "ultimately leaves parishioners feeling as if they do not have the support that they want and need from clergy," Fournier said.

Vigneron said "my hope is to announce the groups of parishes that will form each family, with the first of them expected to begin to function as a family in July of 2021."

For more information on the Families of Parishes plan, visit aod.org/families-of-parishes.

Detroit Zoo reopened Monday, but just for its members only

Frank Witsil

Detroit Free Press

USA TODAY NETWORK

The Detroit Zoo reopened Monday, having been closed for about three months amid the pandemic, but — at least for the first few weeks — you must have a membership and a reservation.

There are other changes: The zoo will no longer offer paper maps, you need to wear a face covering and follow a route, and you must keep 6 feet from other guests. Reservations open Friday and, the zoo said, all public events are canceled or postponed through at least mid-July, and there will be no summer Safari Camps this year.

"Our goal is to provide a great zoo ex-

perience in an outdoor environment that is as safe as possible for all," the Detroit Zoological Society posted on its website this week. "We all have a part to play; a shared responsibility is necessary in order to maintain the health and safety of our guests, staff and animals."

Closed since March as a result of the pandemic, the Detroit Zoological Society is opening but only to 1,000 guests per day, 500 at one time. As a result, members must schedule time slots through the zoo website.

For the first few weeks, the zoo said, members can make reservations only for the people listed on their membership. When safe, the zoo said, it will increase the number of tickets to 2,000 a

day, and reopen to non-members.

Members who schedule a visit will receive an email with your digital ticket, safety details and a digital map.

Safety guidelines will be posted throughout the zoo. All visitors age 2 and older — unless otherwise prevented by a medical condition — must wear a

face mask or shield for the safety of all visitors, staff and animals.

A few pets worldwide, including cats and dogs, have been infected with coronavirus, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said.

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP WATER QUALITY REPORT

Plymouth Township's Annual Water Quality Report is now available. The report describes the source and quality of your drinking water.

The annual report has been required by law since the U.S. Congress passed the 1996 Safe Drinking Act Amendments.

Most of the Detroit metro area, including Plymouth Township, receives its drinking water from the Detroit River. The Great Lakes Water Authority operates the water treatment facilities and pumping stations that supply water to the Township, which operates the pipeline infrastructure and acts as the retailer to area businesses and residents.

The report is available at

<http://www.plymouthtp.org/Notices/PublicNotices/2019WaterQualityReport.pdf>

To receive a paper copy in the mail, please contact us at (734) 354-3270 x 3. You may also pick-up a paper copy at the Clerk's Office or Division of Public Services at Township Hall, 9955 N Haggerty, Plymouth, MI 48170

Publish: June 7 & 11, 202

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PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPT.

734 354-3232

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on June 26, 2020 at 10:00 am, Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170, a public auction of the following:

| | | |
|------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2007 | Saturn Vue | 5GZCZ534X7S834269 |
| 2007 | Chevy Malibu | 1G1ZT58N77F119479 |
| 2007 | Ford Freestar | 2FMZA516X7BA17414 |
| 2000 | Jeep Cherokee | 1J4FF48S8YL109218 |
| 1997 | Ford Taurus | 1FALP52U5VA203110 |
| 2014 | Lincoln MKS | 1LNHL9EK9EG608201 |
| 2007 | Mercury Mountaineer | 4M2EU48E17UJ06374 |

Dated: June 1, 2020

Plymouth Township PO Box 15996

Plymouth Township Police Department

Publish: June 11, 2020

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Can working from home lead to tax deductions?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick

I have a couple questions I hope you can help me with. Since the coronavirus shut everything down, I have been working out of my house. In fact, my boss told me I'll be at home at least through the summer.

My husband is self-employed and we have a room in our house that is dedicated just for his business. At tax time, we can deduct a variety of expenses related to my husband's home office. My first question to you is what expenses will I be able to deduct, and what sort of receipts should I be saving?

My next question relates to my mortgage. We still have a 6½ percent mortgage that we should have refinanced a few years ago. Last year, we did not deduct the interest because we did not have enough of other deductions. My husband thinks that since we have the money in the bank, we should pay the mortgage off; that is only debt, and he would love to be debt free. My husband and I plan to work for at least another 15 years, and we have a substantial amount of money saved for our retirement. If we don't pay off the house, we'll probably just leave the money in the savings ac-

count.

Thank you, Diana

Dear Diana:

Unfortunately, as an employee you are not eligible to deduct home/office expenses. Your husband, on the other hand, is not an employee but rather, self-employed and the rules regarding deductibility of home offices for a self-employed individual are totally different.

For a self-employed person, if they use part of their home exclusively and regularly for business purposes, and it is either the main location of the business, the place where they meet clients or customers, or it's a separate structure, they can deduct some home office expenses. Once again, you being a W-2 employee are basically precluded from a home office deduction.

With regards to the home, I don't have a problem with you using your excess cash to pay off the mortgage. After all, the money in the bank is probably getting about one percent in interest and that money is taxable. In comparison, you are paying 6½ percent on your mortgage. It is a slam dunk to pay off your mortgage.

Of course, it is important to make sure that after you pay-off your mortgage you still have enough in the bank for an emergency fund of money (typically 3-6 months of living expenses).

Now that you've paid off your mortgage, let's ad-

dress your extra savings. I think you should consider investing in Roth IRA. This would give you the opportunity to invest tax free and not be subject to the minimum required distribution rules at age 72. Investing money in a Roth IRA, if you're eligible, is a much better alternative than accumulating money in the bank. If nothing more, a Roth IRA grows tax free while your money in the bank is taxable.

One last note and that is many people think that with interest rates so low paying off their house is not necessarily a good investment. I disagree. Particularly, since the majority of people can no longer deduct their mortgage interest, paying off your mortgage does make sense financially, especially, for a conservative investor who is otherwise leaving their money in the bank.

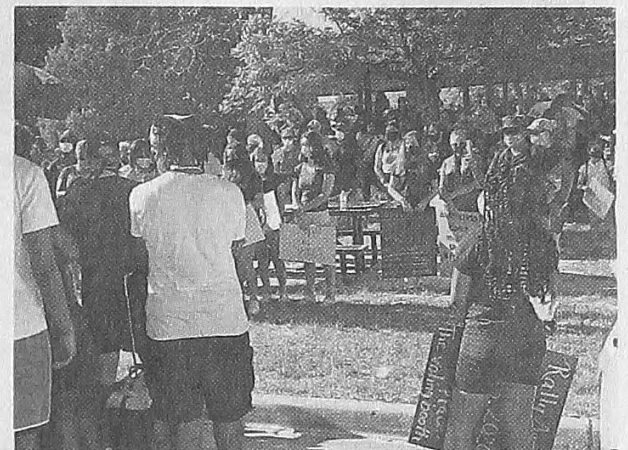
Paying off your mortgage is a much better alternative than leaving the money in the bank at very low interest rates, not to mention in the case at hand, as the husband wants to be debt free. Also, let's not forget that it is a good feeling to have your house paid in full, and isn't that what money is supposed to bring you?

Good luck.

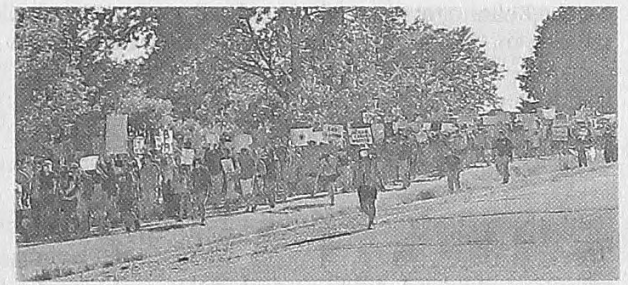
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com



Marchers kneel in a silent protest for George Floyd.



People packed Heritage Park in Canton Township Monday to take part in a rally against social injustice.



Several hundred marchers met at Heritage Park before moving east toward Canton Center.

PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Canton rally against injustice: peaceful but powerful

Ed Wright

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One afternoon not long ago, as Brea Crawford drove her recently-purchased car near Belleville, she was pulled over by a white police officer.

"The first thing the cop asked me is, 'Where'd you get your car?'" said Crawford, who is black. "He said, 'Are you supposed to have this car?' I told him I worked for the car. My dad was sitting in the passenger seat. We had our seat belts on, I wasn't speeding. He let me go without a ticket, but that had an impact on me.

"I think some people feel like these smaller commu-

nities away from Detroit are free of racism, but little do they know there's a lot happening."

While unsettling, the incident was just one of many reasons Crawford attended Monday night's peaceful protest that started at Canton Township's Heritage Park.

Organized by Lauren Williams, a 2018 graduate of Salem High School and current nursing student, the rally to make a statement against racial injustice attracted several hundred marchers from a variety of racial and cultural backgrounds.

"I decided to come out tonight because I want to be a part of change," Crawford said. "My mom, dad and grandma marched during the Detroit riots, so this is an experience I can share with my children some day."

Monday's event was peaceful but powerful — just

what Williams wanted.

As the massive crowd marched east down Heritage Way before turning south on Canton Center Road, it chanted tributes to George Floyd, who was killed in May by a Minneapolis police officer, and Breonna Taylor, who was fatally shot by a police officer in her own home in Louisville, Kentucky.

The event was held in conjunction with the Canton Township Public Safety Department, which said it attended to provide security and support.

Most of the marchers wore masks in a nod to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and many carried creative signs. One read: "I don't have a chip on my shoulder, I have a knee on my neck!"

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

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

THESE VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION. THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17TH AT 10:00 AM AT 6345 HIX, WESTLAND, MI 48185. THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AS IS. STARTING BID IS FOR TOWING AND STORAGE.

VEHICLE ARE SOLD AS IS AND MAY BE REMOVED FROM AUCTION PRIOR TO BIDDING. ALL BIDS START AT AMOUNT SHOWN FOR TOWING AND STORAGE FEES.

| YEAR | MAKE | MODEL | COLOR | VIN | AMOUNT |
|------|-----------|----------------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 2004 | HONDA | PILOT | SILVER | 2HKYF18444H605677 | \$2,405.00 |
| 2007 | SAAB | 93 | TAN | YS3FD49Y971126403 | \$2,065.00 |
| 2000 | HONDA | ODYSSEY | TAN | 2HKRL1853YH604029 | \$1,935.00 |
| 2009 | CHEVROLET | HHR | GRAY | 3GNCA13B59S635824 | \$1,845.00 |
| 1998 | FORD | CROWN VICTORIA | BLUE | 2FAFP74W0WX117980 | \$1,795.00 |
| 2014 | NISSAN | SENTRA | SILVER | 3N1AB7AP1EY254299 | \$1,795.00 |
| 1997 | MERCURY | SABLE | GRAY | 1MELM53S3VG654452 | \$1,715.00 |
| 2005 | HONDA | ELEMENT | ORANGE | 5J6YH27305L015203 | \$1,845.00 |
| 1998 | HONDA | ACCORD | PURPLE | 1HGCG1655WA025465 | \$1,700.00 |
| 1998 | GMC | SONOMA | BURGUNDY | 1GTC819X8W8511107 | \$1,675.00 |
| 2004 | HONDA | ODYSSEY | SILVER | 5FNRL18684B146490 | \$1,675.00 |
| 1992 | HONDA | ACCORD | WHITE | 1HGCB7659NA001671 | \$1,725.00 |
| 2001 | LINCOLN | LS | BLACK | 1LNHM86S31Y660661 | \$1,565.00 |
| 2004 | JEEP | GRAND CHEROKEE | BLACK | 1J4GW48S24C259792 | \$1,570.00 |
| 2005 | CHEVROLET | COBALT | BLACK | 1G1AK52F757530390 | \$1,575.00 |
| 2009 | FORD | FOCUS | BLUE | 1FAHP35N19W257902 | \$1,555.00 |
| 2003 | MERCURY | GRAND MARQUIS | SILVER | 2MEFM75W03X677137 | \$1,475.00 |
| 2015 | NISSAN | VERSA | BLACK | 3N1CN7AP2FL818069 | \$1,610.50 |
| 1996 | MERCURY | SABLE | GREEN | 1MELM53SXTG649276 | \$1,375.00 |
| 2001 | TOYOTA | SIENNA | RED | 4T3ZF13C71U322889 | \$1,235.00 |
| 2002 | PONTIAC | MONTANA | SILVER | 1GMDU03E82D273336 | \$1,025.00 |

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The ceiling of the dairy features a Guernsey cow-like pattern. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Guernsey Farms Dairy shows off new renovation

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Janis Priebe drove a long way just to get some Guernsey ice cream. The Bellaire resident who used to live in Novi made the drive from near Traverse City to celebrate her friend Linda Bendt Denlinger’s birthday. They made a stop Thursday at the recently-remod-

eled Guernsey Farms Dairy facility, which opened the day before, to enjoy some ice cream outside on the patio. “That tells you how good it is, that I drove four hours,” she said. “I’ll be stopping every time I’m here.” The facility, located at 21300 Novi Road in Novi, reopened June 3 after several months of renovations. The facility’s restaurant space — which closed down in January — has been revamped

and now features a bar with several taps for beer, as well as new seating. Joe Kinville, one of the owners and the grandson of John McGuire, who established Guernsey Farms Dairy, said they cannot wait to invite the community into the renovated space. “We’re super excited,” he said. “It was a long time coming.” The 28,000-square-foot space is a complete remodel of its prior restaurant and scoop shop. The dine-in restaurant occupies the south portion of the building, while customers just looking for a cone of Moose Tracks or Mackinac Island Fudge can head to the northern part of the building and order a scoop. There, it can be enjoyed at some bar seating, reminiscent of what used to be in that space back in the 1970s before it was removed during the last remodel.

The space was originally scheduled to open earlier this spring, though slow-downs due to the coronavirus pandemic delayed work on the project for several weeks, Kinville said. The renovations marked the 80th anniversary of Guernsey Farms Dairy, which began in 1940 in Northville before moving to Novi in the 1960s. While Kinville said they had hoped for a big celebration to mark the occasion, the coronavirus pandemic has put a hold on that. “That’s what being an 80-year-old business is: you have to adapt,” he said.

Dining room opening in a few weeks

The project was originally reviewed by Novi city officials last year, which allowed the restaurant approval to obtain its liquor license. While dining rooms across the state prepared to reopen after nearly three months of closure because of the coronavirus, Kinville said it’s still going to be a few weeks before table service is provided. He said the restaurant area will

most likely be available for people looking to sit inside and eat some ice cream. The restaurant is currently offering carry-out with a smaller menu. When the restaurant does reopen, patrons will see a different menu than before. Kinville said they’ve trimmed the menu in half and will feature some new items, such as a rib-eye steak. One small tweak will be made to the restaurant’s popular broasted chicken as well: Kinville said Guernsey buttermilk will be added to better connect it with the products made by the company.

“The only thing we changed is we added some of our buttermilk to the brine so now this chicken — this is a top-seller in this restaurant — has a tie to the dairy that’s right on the other side of the wall 10 feet away,” he said. “Nobody will be disappointed, I promise you that.”

For drinks, a list of signature cocktails, wines and even “boozy milkshakes” are coming to the menu. Four taps for beer will flow and will rotate regularly. Coming to the space also is a chocolate pecan stout brewed by Bellaire-based Short’s Brewing Company. The beer, Kinville said, uses some Guernsey Farms Dairy topping line mix. The shop is currently open 11 a.m. 9 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Kinville said the hope is to expand them to Tuesday through Sunday in the future.

Both Priebe and Denlinger enjoyed a small cup of ice cream, Priebe cookies and cream and Denlinger butter pecan. While Priebe won’t be around as often, Denlinger, a Northville resident, said she can’t wait to come back now that the shop has reopened. “I was thrilled,” she said. “I’ll be stopping in a lot.”

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



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Guernsey Farm Dairy’s restaurant features all new seating.

June 11, 2020

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

homes

Save During the Toll Brothers National Sales Event “Love Everything About Home”

Exceptional Incentives and Financing Options Available for a Limited Time

Toll Brothers, the nation's leading builder of luxury homes, is set to kick off its National Sales Event “Love Everything About Home” on Saturday, June 13. The event will run through Sunday, July 12 in participating communities throughout the country.

“More than ever before, we're seeing people across the country with an even greater appreciation for having a home they love,” said Wendy Marlett, Toll Brothers Chief Marketing Officer. “They want a home that checks all the boxes for everything from outdoor living to homework and working from home to family time and exercise. Toll Brothers offers an array of homes to meet all these needs and more with homes available for quick move-in and homes waiting to be built with a buyer's preferences in mind—plus limited-time incentives during this event.”

Toll Brothers builds homes in some of the most sought-after locations in the country and offers a wide selection of floor plans and hundreds of design options so interested buyers can find a new home that's truly personalized to their life and style. During the National Sales Event, buyers can explore a variety of home types—including move-in ready homes, homes nearing completion, and homes ready to be built—and take advantage of limited-time savings to make their dream home a reality at the best possible value.

Limited-time incentives vary among communities and will comprise a package of savings created specifically for this event, so buyers should contact their community of interest and speak with a sales consultant to learn

more. To take advantage of these attractive packages, interested buyers must make a deposit between June 13 and July 12, 2020. For home buyers who would like to learn more about financing their purchase at today's low rates, representatives from TBI Mortgage Company, will be available to offer free mortgage guidance. TBI Mortgage has an excellent selection of mortgage programs with interest rates—including both fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgages—that are near an all-time low.

New in West Bloomfield

Toll Brothers newest community Reserve at West Bloomfield is now open and selling fast. This must-see community features spacious Ranch-style homes with an easy, low-maintenance lifestyle and resort-style amenities. All in a convenient location just steps to the West Bloomfield Trail and the beauty of the West Bloomfield Nature Preserve. Tour our gorgeous Berks Ranch Model Home today. Priced from the mid-\$400,000s. Call (248) 654-8555 or visit ReserveatWestBloomfield.com for more information.

Resort-class Amenities in Canton

Westridge Estates is the only new community in Canton offering resort-style amenities, including a clubhouse with fitness room, gathering room, kitchenette, locker rooms, pools, sand volleyball court, children's play park and walking paths. Westridge Estates is located just south of Ford Road, west of Ridge Road, and home prices start in the low \$500,000s. For more information, visit WestridgeofCanton.com or



Learn about limited-time savings during this event that you can use to personalize your dream home.

call (734) 844-0279.

Selling Fast in Canton

Hamlet Pointe and Hamlet Meadows are located within the existing community of The Hamlet offering an exceptional location close to Plymouth-Canton schools, the Ford Road Shopping District, expressways, parks and the quaint Cherry Hill Village.

At Hamlet Meadows, pricing starts in the upper \$300,000s. Two-story home designs range from 2,411 sq. ft. to more than 2,842 sq. ft. Brand new, open-concept designs are now available. Hamlet Pointe features large home sites and side-entry garages. Homes are priced from the upper \$400,000s. Three stunning model homes are now available to tour and quick move

in homes are available. For details, visit The-Hamlet.com or call (734) 398-5939.

Luxurious Living in Northville

Final opportunities are now available at two amazing single-family communities in Northville. Toll Brothers at Montcaret is located on the south side of Seven Mile Road, 1¼ miles west of Beck Road just minutes from the historic downtown. Toll Brothers at Dunhill Park is on the corner of Beck Road and 8 Mile Road across from Maybury State Park. Both prestigious communities offer a range of home designs with an exceptional list of features on grand oversized home sites. Prices start from the upper \$700,000s. Call (248) 924-2601 or visit TollBrothersAtMontcaret.com or LiveAtDunhillPark.com

for details.

Popular Villas in Ann Arbor

North Oaks of Ann Arbor is the region's premier resort-class community situated in a stunning 109-acre setting. Two collections of homes are available. Townhomes from the upper \$300,000s and Villas from the low \$500,000s.

The Villas range from 2,041 to 2,631+ square feet and offer first- or second-floor master suites, island kitchens, open layouts, loft space, and more. The Townhomes just released new exterior styles and range from 1,861 to 1,890+ sq. ft. and include a 2-car garage, finished lower level, and the option to add a rooftop deck.

A clubhouse with a fitness center, yoga room, billiards,

great room with fireplace, verandas overlooking the lap and wading pools, locker rooms and a play park is now open. North Oaks is located minutes from the University of Michigan's north campus, the VA Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, and downtown Ann Arbor. Children attend acclaimed Ann Arbor Schools with the elementary and middle schools just 3 minutes away. For details, call (734) 224-6686 or visit North-Oaks.com.

Single-Family Homes from upper \$300,000s in Ann Arbor

Trailwoods of Ann Arbor, a new community of single-family homes tucked into a gorgeous setting with Ann Arbor schools and low Scio Twp taxes is now available. Two collections of homes offer all new open-concept designs with an impressive list of included features. The Village Collection is priced from the upper \$300,000s and The Parkside Collection is priced from the upper \$400,000s. Two gorgeous models are available to tour and quick move-in homes are available. For more information, visit TrailwoodsOfAnnArbor.com or call (734) 995-5503.

Toll Brothers, an award-winning FORTUNE 500 company founded in 1967, embraces an unwavering commitment to quality and customer service. Toll Brothers is currently operating in 24 states nationwide and is a publicly owned company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: TOL). For Community Information, visit TollSalesEvent.com/DetNews.

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Westridge Estates of Canton Recently Refreshed Interior of our Amazing Duke Model Home Tour Today!

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Toll Brothers at the Hamlet Community Clubhouse, Sport Courts, and Playground

Single-family homes in the Plymouth-Canton School District with walking trails to Independence Park

Hamlet Meadows

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Open Every Day 11 am–6 pm. Brokers welcome. Homes available nationwide. *Offer, if any, is valid for new buyers who deposit on a new home at a participating community in Michigan between 6/13/20 and 7/12/20, sign an agreement of sale by 7/26/20, and close on the home. Not valid on existing deposits or homes under contract. Offers, incentives, and seller contributions, if any, vary by community and are subject to certain terms, conditions, and restrictions, including but not limited to the availability of home sites. Offers may not be valid on quick delivery homes where selections have already been made. Toll Brothers reserves the right to change or withdraw any offer at any time. Not valid with any other offer. See sales representative for details. Prices subject to change without notice. Photos are images only and should not be relied upon to confirm applicable features. This is not an offering where prohibited by law.



Backyard

Continued from Page 1A

make a field like that come to life in our backyard.'

"The next thing you know — without knowing if my parents would agree to it — I dumped a pile of dirt in the middle of our backyard and started forming the mound. It turns out my parents weren't upset, but I don't think they realized what was to follow."

Slowly but steadily, in Zajdel's terms, the field began to take shape, one roll of sod at a time. Framed by perfectly straight chalk foul lines, the field features a dirt path from the pitcher's mound to home plate and pillow-soft bases.

Zajdel shared that whenever someone sees it for the first time, their eyes widen and their stream of questions begin.

"It's usually the same questions: How long did it take? How did I do this? Can we play?" Zajdel said. "When I put the lights up a few weeks ago, one of our neighbors (behind a wall of trees along the first-base side) stood on his deck with his arms crossed, kind of shaking his head and saying, 'You've got to be kidding me'."

"Our backyard sits back in a wooded area, so it's pretty private. I don't know if this would have been possible in many other backyards in Plymouth."

Extensive project

Although the field's dimensions are relatively hitter-friendly, Zajdel said the ease of hitting a home run is deceptive.

"When people see it for the first time, they see the 55 feet and 65 feet distances of the fence and think hitting a home run is pretty simple," he said. "However, the mound is only 35 feet from home plate and the Wiffle balls have holes in them, so it looks easier to hit one out than it actually is."

Due to the property's remoteness, Zajdel doesn't think his project needs any officials permits from Plymouth Township, "but I'll seek them if they're required."

Zajdel has developed a connection with Detroit Tigers head groundskeeper Heather Nabozny, who helped arrange for the sod to be delivered to Zajdel's doorstep.



Eddie Zajdel admires his backyard field. The COVID-19 crisis has given Zajdel more time to work on the field's final detailing since his filmmaking career has been put on hold by the nationwide lockdowns. PHOTOS COURTESY OF EDDIE ZAJDEL

"Last summer, the sod company loaded a semi-truck with extra sod for my yard when they were getting ready to deliver sod to Comerica," he said. "How-

ever, there was a concert that week at Comerica, so they needed more sod than they originally thought they'd need. So the delivery to my house had to

Zajdel is in the initial stages of orchestrating a home run derby-themed fundraiser for local charities.

be put back to this spring, which was fine."

Zajdel said donations have helped him keep the cost of the project at around \$10,000.

"It could have been a lot higher if people hadn't been as generous," he said.

Once social-distancing restrictions are loosened, Zajdel said games in his backyard will resume with games of 3-on-3 unfolding.

The COVID-19 crisis has given Zajdel more time to work on the field's final detailing since his filmmaking career has been put on hold by the nationwide lockdowns.

Additional amenities adjacent to the field include a recently-installed patio and "sports bar."

Charity event planned

Zajdel is in the initial stages of orchestrating a home run derby-themed fundraiser for local charities.

Coated with extreme social-distancing measures and still in the planning phases, the fundraiser would include well-known Detroit-area personalities donating \$50 to compete in a home run derby. The winner of the competition would choose a charity to donate half of the donations to, while Zajdel would get to choose a charity of his choice to donate the other half of the donations.

The participants, whose visits to Zajdel's backyard would be separated in 10-minute increments to ensure limited, if any, contact between competitors, would bring their own pitcher and receive three minutes to take their cuts.

In the meantime, Zajdel will continue to groom his backyard gem until the governor's orders allow the shout of "Play Ball!"

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

Let's keep local business strong, together.

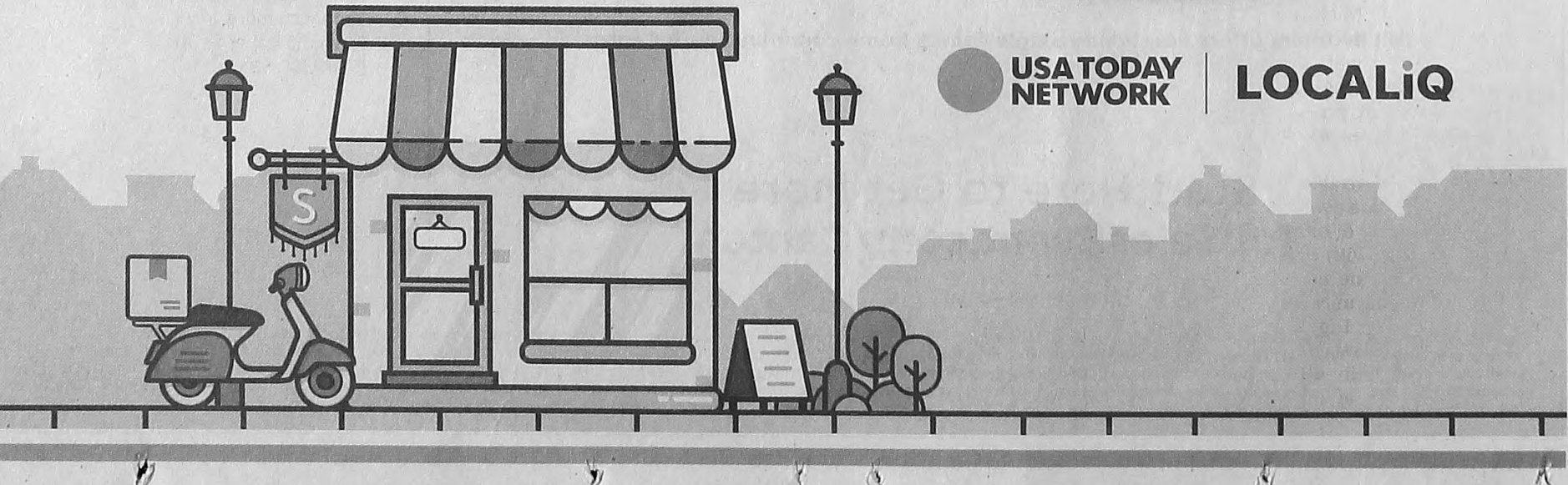
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Farmers market's mission remains to inspire, engage, assist



Walt Gajewski
Guest columnist

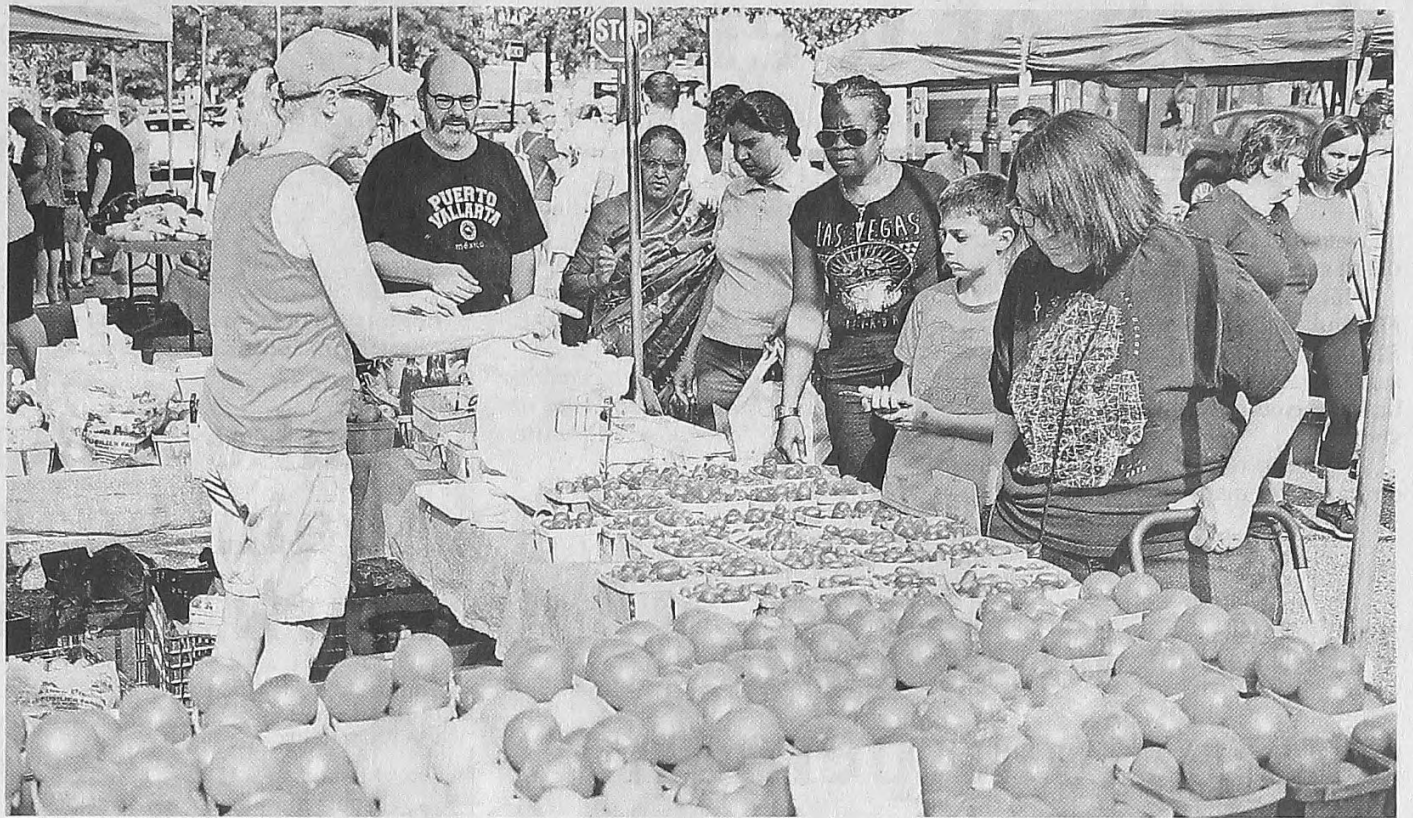
The farmers market has a mission statement that goes back a good many years. To be honest, in some ways it's like the picture you hang over the mantle that you dust off every so often. It looks good where it's at, so let it be. Not today, though; not in these times as national protests swell across our nation.

The rules of the market say that we are a public space and not a public forum. Fair enough. We are not a stump for calling out, calling down or casting away. The mission here is to provide, inspire, embrace, engage and reach out. These are action words. Each one has its own expression. To reach out at the market means to embrace diversity and inclusion through an open exchange of community information that serves to showcase healthful, helpful resources, food assistance programs and educational demonstrations for good living. And all that then promotes fitness, nutrition and well-being at home, in the community, or out in the garden.

We are not an institution – but we do work hand in hand with schools, libraries, hospitals, community groups and civic organizations, helping them to help others. Human decency is as essential to life as food itself. These are the common denominators behind Saturday life in a Michigan small town. So breathe and be welcome by feeling welcome, because all are welcome.

Your market this week

It's the berries! Strawberries, that is. Keep your fingers crossed that our premier fruit farmer, Roger Miller of R & B Miller Farms, trucks to market with



Shoppers eye the tomatoes at an August 2018 market day. COURTESY OF FARMINGTON FARMERS MARKET

fresh-picked Michigan farm strawberries this Saturday. Roger comes to town from out Coloma way in Berrien County on the west side of the state. If you didn't know, Berrien County is nationally known as the heart of Michigan's fruit belt, with all that good soil and an even climate.

In other produce news, if strawberries are coming in, it's generally a sign the asparagus season in Michigan is winding down. That's what I love about most about this market: It's always changing, and every week brings something different!

Speaking of something different, let's

plan on the market getting a little bigger this week as we welcome 30 vendors along with the return of such favorites as Xiong's Asian Produce and – yes! – Petey's Donuts!

As restrictions relating to the corona virus continue to ease, we are pleased to announce that art and craft vendors may now return to market. Let's welcome Garden Flowers with garden accents and glass works. Other finds this week include Wildflower Soaps, Babcia's Boy, the Spice Grrrl, Droscha Sugarbush Maple Syrup, Mustards and Marinades, Uncle Calvin's Sweet Potato Pies, the People's Pierogi Collective, the

French Lady and many more.

To accommodate "a few more" vendors, we have decided to open the park area of the market. The greater Farmington community has set a fine example for supporting the market while being mindful of social distancing. "We're all in this together" is our way forward. Breathe, be welcome and, until next time and as always, here's saying, "See you at the market!"

Walt Gajewski is the Farmington Farmers Market manager. The market runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays in downtown Farmington.

Rep. Stevens' boyfriend proposes on romantic boat ride

Todd Spangler
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's not all bad news.

On Sunday, U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, D-Rochester Hills, posted photos on social media of her and her boyfriend on Orchard Lake shortly after he proposed marriage to her the previous evening.

Stevens, 36, said yes.

In the photos, the first-term congresswoman and former chief of staff to President Barack Obama's auto task force is seen with a beaming smile and a stunning sunset in the background.

The ring, by the way, doesn't look bad either – though she didn't immediately offer up any details about it.

"As the sun slipped beneath the horizon on Orchard Lake, Rob proposed and I said yes! Here is to love in all times," Stevens wrote on Twitter, where she posted the pictures.

The marriage will be the congresswoman's first.

Stevens' fiancé is 35-year-old Rob Gulley, a software architect at Rightpoint, a firm in Royal Oak. According to her office, they first met at Seaholm

High School in Birmingham when they were both students there but they only started dating more recently, having had their first date at the Wintergarden Tavern in Livonia.

Gulley, by the way, has two dogs and he and Stevens spend a lot of time frequenting parks and other outdoor sites and campgrounds in and around Michigan.

There was no immediate word, however, on a wedding date, or what dating was like, given social distancing requirements and masks in recent months – though the couple looks none the worse for the experience in the photos.

Stevens flipped a traditionally Republican-held district covering parts of western Wayne and southeastern Oakland counties two years ago after former U.S. Rep. Dave Trott, R-Birmingham, declined to run for a third two-year term. She is running for re-election this year.

Contact Todd Spangler: tspangler@freepress.com. Follow him on Twitter @tsspangler. Read more on Michigan politics and sign up for our elections newsletter.

Buy Michigan Now canceled due to coronavirus

Due to safety concerns associated with COVID-19, Buy Michigan Now has canceled what was to be its 12th Buy Michigan Now Festival in downtown Northville, July 31 to Aug. 2.

The annual event promotes Michigan-based businesses and Michigan-made products.

"As much as we care about the Michigan economy, we care even more about the health and safety of our friends and neighbors, so it is with deep sadness that we announce the cancellation of the 2020 Buy Michigan Now Festival in Northville," said Lisa Diggs, founder of the Buy Michigan Now campaign. "We remain more determined than ever to remind people of the importance of

banding together to buy local during this economic turmoil. Together we can revitalize Michigan's economy one product, one purchase, one person at a time."

In lieu of the festival, Buy Michigan Now will offer virtual programming on its Facebook page in celebration of Buy Michigan Week.

The Buy Michigan Now campaign is made possible through corporate sponsorship and membership fees from participating businesses. To learn more about these partnership opportunities, or to join the campaign, Michigan-based organizations may visit www.buymichigannow.com or email in fo@buymichigannow.com.

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Westland police investigating death of teen

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Westland police are investigating the death of a 17-year-old Novi resident. Officers responded to the corner of Missaukee Court and Grand Traverse Street around 8:55 p.m. Sunday. Police said they found the victim, a black male, had received injuries inflicted by gunshot. According to a release, the responding officers made attempts to revive

the teenager before he succumbed to his injuries. The teen was not identified as of Monday morning. Police do not think the man died by suicide. Westland police, Michigan State Police and the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office are actively investigating the incident. Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.

Police look into suspicious person report about man

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills police are looking for answers in a suspicious person report. The suspect is described as "a white male in his 50s, wearing glasses, balding with gray hair, has a gray goatee and mustache." He reportedly drove a dark, possibly black, Chevy Impala and spoke in "broken English." The caller told police the suspect approached a child near 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 5, near Rensselaer and Emmett streets, which are in a subdivision off Inkster Road near 8 Mile. He then reportedly approached a child and asked if he or she wanted a ride.

Farmington Hills police are conducting more patrols in the area the incident occurred. The child walked away and notified adults, who contacted authorities. As officers wait for more information, Farmington Hills police are conducting more patrols in the area the incident occurred. Anyone with information, photo or video regarding the incident is encouraged to contact the Farmington Hills Police Department at 248-871-2610. Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.



Boaters participate in the Make America Great Again parade May 24 in Charleston, South Carolina. SEAN RAYFORD/GETTY IMAGES

‘Make America Great Again’ boat parade will mark Trump’s birthday

Emma Dale
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A boat parade in celebration of President Donald Trump’s 74th birthday will be taking place Saturday from northern Macomb County to Detroit. Hosted by the Michigan Conservative Coalition and Michigan Trump Republicans 2020, the parade will begin at 1 p.m. at MacRay Harbor marina located at 30675 N. River Road in Harrison Township and end at 4 p.m. near the Ambassador Bridge. Michigan Conservative Coalition spokesman Matt Seely said between the few Facebook event pages, organizers are expecting about 1,000 people to participate. “Truthfully, with everything we’ve been through (with) the COVID-19 crisis, I think that people are really just excited that Michigan is opening back up on Monday and that it’s summer in Michigan,” Seely said. “The Great Lakes are beautiful and everyone wants to get on their boat. “We’re all appreciative that this

thing didn’t get out of hand and that the president and the pandemic task force were able to slow the curve across the country and that we’re past this.” About three seaplanes, one helicopter and several drones are anticipated to join the parade, Seely said. There will also be a parade on land of cars going down Jefferson Avenue and ending at the Ambassador Bridge, he added. The parade on land will begin when the boats depart. People interested in participating are asked to RSVP on the event’s Facebook page at facebook.com/events/709754122905904/. Trump-themed boat parades have recently become a common occurrence. In Florida, “flotillas” have taken place, where boats decorated with Trump 2020 verbiage get together and sail through local harbors. Similar events have also taken place in Arizona, South Carolina and southern California. Organizers ask that all boats participating decorate with American or Trump flags, or any patriotic items.



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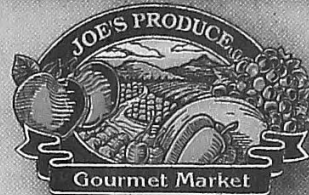
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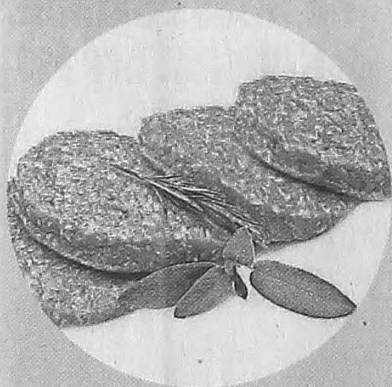
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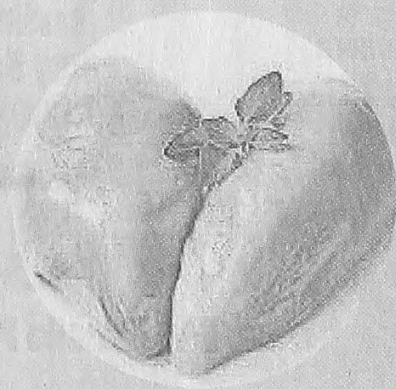
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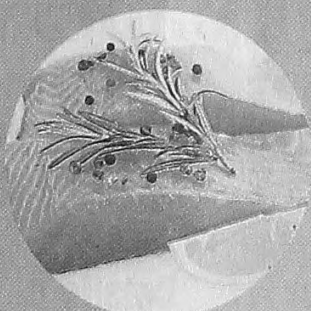


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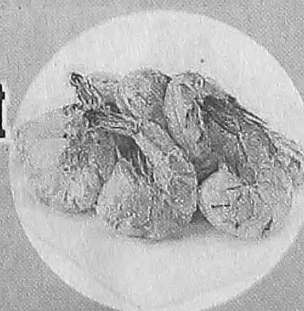
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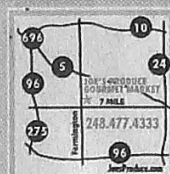


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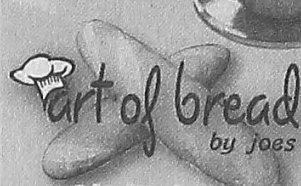
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SPORTS

Stevenson's Griffith goes south to play soccer in college

Defender joining club teammate at Alabama State

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Stevenson senior Zelia Griffith is headed south for the next step in her soccer career.

The defender, who will play left outside back in college, signed with Alabama State University earlier this year, joining Michigan Hawks teammate Lexi Delong.

"I chose Alabama State because I have always been in love with the southern hospitality and the atmosphere of the south," Griffith said. "I specifically picked Alabama State because the coach felt right. Once I stepped on campus I

loved the big campus feel.

She added that she's excited to experience playing in another part of the country.

"I am used to the cold climate of Michigan and I feel like playing in the hot southern climate would be a fun challenge," Griffith said. "Being able to play year round outdoors is such an exciting thought."

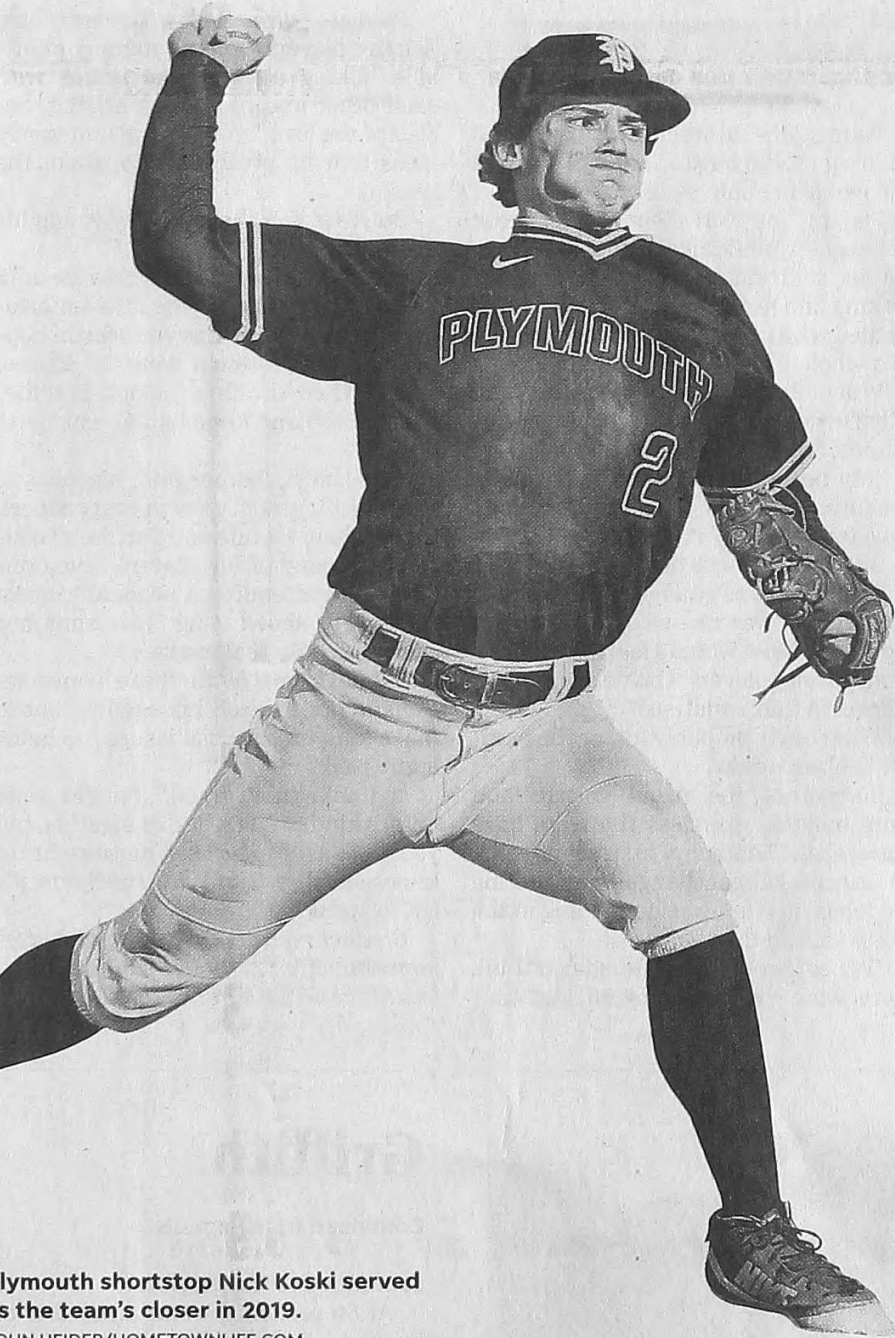
Griffith was originally committed to another school, but decommitted in December. She then went to work on finding the right school and was put in touch with coaches at Alabama State.

From there, things took off and she

See GRIFFITH, Page 2B



Stevenson's Zelia Griffith will be continuing her academic and athletic careers at Alabama State University. PHOTO COURTESY OF ZELIA GRIFFITH



Plymouth shortstop Nick Koski served as the team's closer in 2019.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

FOR LOVE OF THE UNIVERSITY

Plymouth's Koski passes on baseball offers to attend Michigan, plans to try to walk on

Andrew Vaillencourt Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth High School senior Nick Koski had a choice this spring: attend a smaller school on a baseball scholarship or attend the University of Michigan without the promise of a roster spot.

● The Wildcats' shortstop and closer, who hit third in the team's lineup last season and batted .320, received an offer to play baseball at Heidelberg University in Ohio and interest from a variety of other schools, including Wayne State.

● Heidelberg made it to the Division III College World Series last season and is a powerhouse at the D-III level. However, for Koski the academic opportunities at Michigan proved to be more important and he decided to commit to becoming a Wolverine.

● He said it was a tough decision, but that he always felt like he knew what he would do.

● "Honestly I think I always had that feeling," Koski said. "There was never a certain time where it just clicked. Michigan is obviously a great school and I could've played for some scholarships, but there's always been something in me that

See KOSKI, Page 4B

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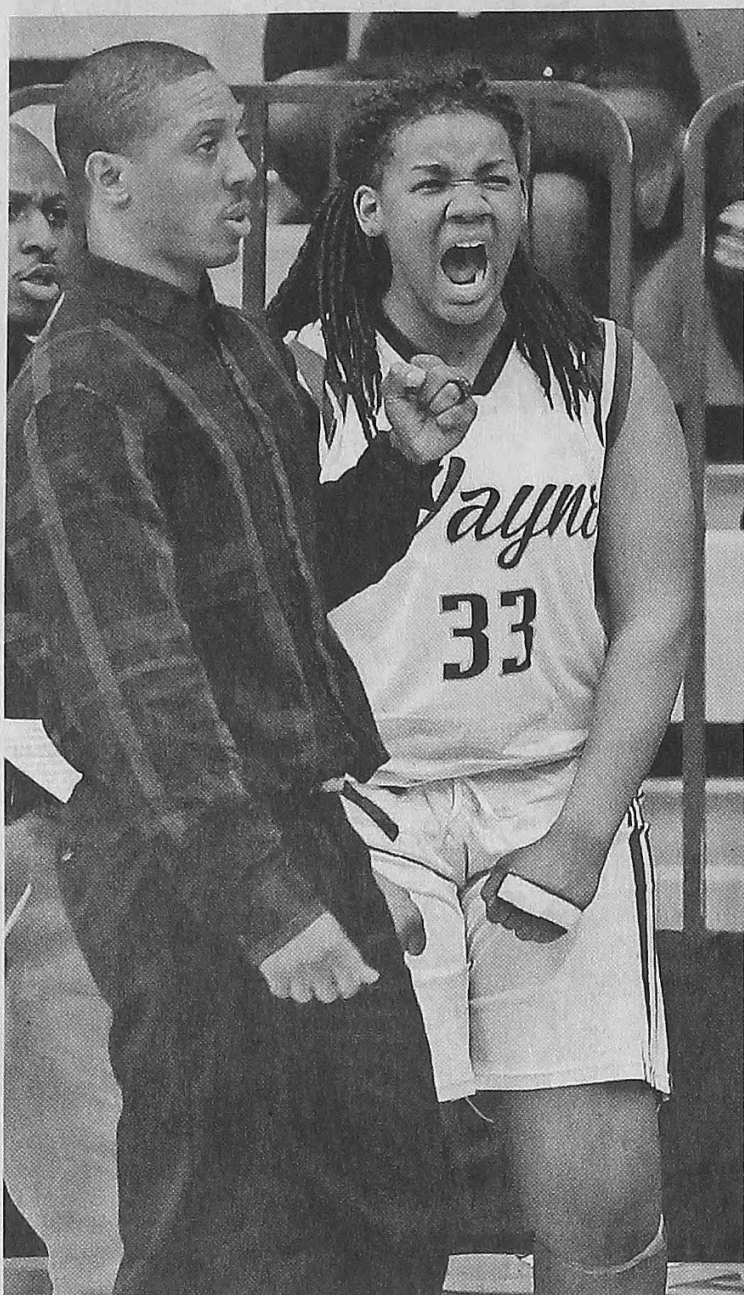
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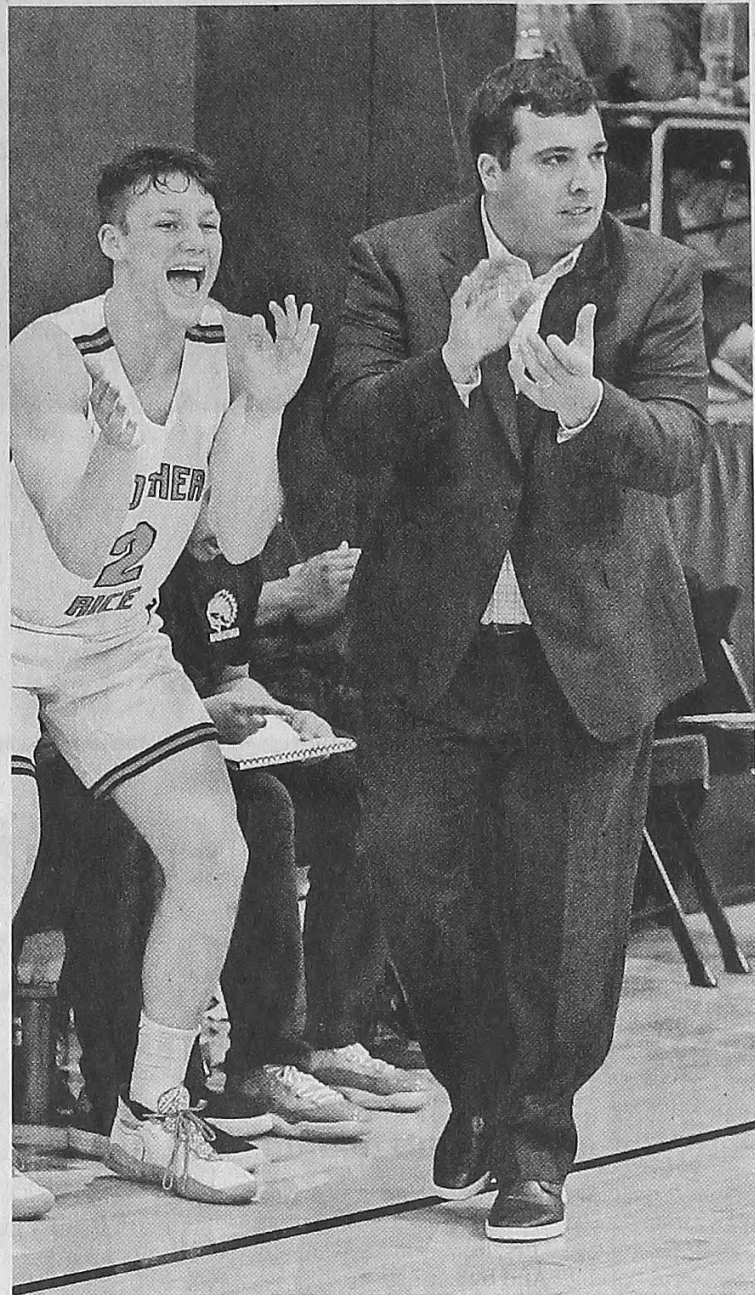
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"The responsibility is far more heavy than my own integrity. Of course I'm hurt. Of course I'm mad, but, again, I got somebody that's looking at me and trying to gauge how mad they should be."

Jarvis Mitchell, left, Wayne Memorial girls basketball head coach

"How would I feel if that was one of my players dying? How would I feel if it was one of my former players who was one of the officers in that situation? That really probably hit me the hardest."

Rick Palmer, right, Brother Rice basketball head coach



JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Coaches tackle issues of violence, racism talking real-world issues

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The reason Jarvis Mitchell describes himself as personable, a father-type figure to the girls basketball players he coaches at Wayne Memorial, is because he did not have that growing up.

In high school, Mitchell said he never played for a coach who was socially connected, conscious or competent. To him, there was no relatable bridge between what was going on in the world and the basketball court he was playing on.

So when Mitchell first stepped onto the basketball court as a coach, his priority was to give the girls he was coaching what he never had.

"I coach because I played basketball, so it's something I feel comfortable with as far as merging life skills with it," Mitchell said. "But honestly, though, the main mission in life is to make sure that these kids are educated as far as getting to the next level or whatever level they aspire to have."

In the response of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, along with the ensuing protests - both peaceful and violent - against police brutality and racism around the country, coaches like Mitchell and Brother Rice basketball head coach Rick Palmer have found a teaching opportunity with their players, using the social issues going on outside their respective basketball gyms to mold them, more importantly, as people.

Being an example

Last week, one of the parents of a

Wayne Memorial girls basketball player texted Mitchell at 11:30 p.m.

This player was distraught: Her brother was out protesting, and she wanted to go with him. Mitchell said he convinced the player into staying home, explaining to her how important it was for her not to be out there.

"It's a plague," Mitchell said. "It's a real plague that these kids are going through that they have to try and travel through the entirety of their life feeling a certain way, but not knowing how to express that and not being able to gauge when the time (is) to fight and not to."

After the death of Floyd and with the demonstrations he has seen, Mitchell said it is easy for him to project the same level of rage and anger many across the country are feeling; he's feeling it, too.

However, the difference for him is his actions are impressionable on the athletes he coaches. He's someone that is helping mold them as a coach and a mentor. With that, he says, comes a level of responsibility.

"The responsibility is far more heavy than my own integrity," Mitchell said. "Of course I'm hurt. Of course I'm mad, but, again, I got somebody that's looking at me and trying to gauge how mad they should be."

As the head coach of a girls basketball team, race is not the only issue Mitchell helps his players tackle. It's everything, from interaction with boys in high school, to developing skills to help them become women.

But in terms of race, the issues Mitchell faces on a daily basis and the example that he sets as a head coach for a predominantly black girls basketball team,

the basketball court is a good place to continue the conversation.

"Now is the chance for us coaches and administrators and whoever may be in charge, for us to say, 'Look, this is a more prevalent time for us to come together as opposed to picking a side,'" Mitchell said.

Emphasis on open communication

Palmer, the Brother Rice basketball head coach, did have an example to base his own leadership style.

Playing for Kurt Keener at Detroit Country Day and Mike Turner at Albion, Palmer said the cultures they initiated making him feel comfortable was one he wanted with his players and the program as a whole.

When Palmer saw the news about Floyd's death, he first thought of his friends, those he consider to be brothers.

"My heart kind of goes out to them because they deal with things I don't have to deal with," Palmer said.

But then his focus turned on the team.

Two questions emerged: "How would I feel if that was one of my players dying?" and "How would I feel if it was one of my former players who was one of the officers in that situation?"

"That really probably hit me the hardest," Palmer said.

Instead of the usual culture and team-building exercises the team have done each Thursday in their weekly Zoom calls, Palmer changed it up, setting the focus on what was happening in the world around them.

"We got on the call Thursday, I think there were eight players on and four

were black and four weren't; and we got a diverse staff," Palmer said. "Not every team can sit down and have those conversations with a lot of kids from a lot of different viewpoints and a lot of difference in opinion in good, healthy dialogue."

Palmer promoted conversations, helping players become more comfortable talking about social issues with each other and promoting another aspect of the love, brotherhood and family ideas that he preaches throughout the season.

But with this, he saw how young his team truly was.

"One of the things I didn't realize until I talked with them is when the unfortunate incident with Trayvon Martin happened, our freshmen were 6," Palmer said. "When the first 'I Can't Breathe,' that LeBron and Kobe (wore) - my guys were 7."

As a coach, Palmer said, his job is to push his players to grow in every aspect, to help them mature and find their voice. He said many of his players have done that, from attending a peaceful protest in Troy to showcasing their emotions and ideas on social media.

Palmer's goal with these conversations is not to push his agenda, but to make sure these social issues are being addressed.

"I don't know it all," Palmer said. "We're kind of going at this together, but you don't have to have all the answers or know exactly what to say. Just know it's OK to speak up."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @ColinGay17.

Former award-winning Stevenson swim coach Lois McDonald dies

Lois McDonald, who served as a physical education teacher and swim coach at Livonia Stevenson High School from 1966-88, died April 17.

McDonald was instrumental in making sure girls had the same opportunities in sports as boys, serving as a chairperson on the Girls and Women's Sports Committee to help enact Title IX in 1972.

McDonald was awarded Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1975 and is one of two women to earn the association's lifetime achievement honor: the Matt Mann award.

During her years as a head coach, she coached 29 All-Americans and multiple state title winners, breaking multiple state records. Four of McDonald's teams were state runners-up.

McDonald also coached with the Livonia Spartan Aquatic Club from 1973-90, generating many state qualifiers, Junior Olympic and national age group qualifiers.

McDonald was preceded in death by her husband, John "Jack" McDonald. She is survived by their four children: Jill, Kim, Leslie and Kay.

Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.



Lois McDonald, a former Livonia Stevenson swim coach, died April 17.

COURTESY OF PATRICIA POIRIER

Griffith

Continued from Page 1B

committed to the program.

At Stevenson she was a member of the KLAA East Division champions last season and part of a strong defense that allowed only four goals against.

"My strengths as a player would be connecting passes through the backline," Griffith said. "It's important to possess the ball because if your team has the ball the other team can't score. One of the things I am known for is the flip throw in on the sideline, my Stevenson coach Ken Shingledecker enjoyed when I used it at our home field to spice things up on the field."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at availlien@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt. Send story ideas to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

NCAA shows it's out for blood



Dan Wolken
Columnist
USA TODAY

At long last, nearly three years after the FBI started poking around in the underground business that fuels college basketball, we're starting to see some accountability from the NCAA.

And if the early returns are any indication, the NCAA is done messing around.

The penalties levied against Oklahoma State on Friday were fairly severe: A postseason ban for 2020-21, three years of probation, loss of a scholarship for three years and other various recruiting restrictions.

Given the details of the case, which involved former assistant Lamont Evans taking between \$18,150 and \$22,000 in bribes to steer athletes toward financial advisers, a postseason ban was surprising.

But the more interesting discussion is what that punishment portends for others who are waiting for their number to be called in the NCAA's infractions process. We're talking about schools like Southern Cal and Auburn, where the situation with former assistant Chuck Person looks similar, and obviously schools like Louisville, LSU, Arizona and Kansas where the underlying infractions are likely far more expansive than what Oklahoma State is dealing with.

Oklahoma State, of course, is going to both appeal the sanctions and play the public outrage card. The school issued a statement saying they're "stunned by the severity of the penalties" and calling the ruling "an arbitrary decision ... applied to the institution for the egregious actions committed by a former coach that did not result in any benefit for the University."

And maybe that's true, to a certain extent. Evans, the former assistant, is long gone from the program. He wasn't buying players, he was wheeling and dealing to profit for himself. And by getting hit with a postseason ban now, Oklahoma State's one season with incoming recruit Cade Cunningham, who has a chance to be the No. 1 overall NBA draft pick in 2021, is likely ruined. You can understand how the school and its fans might view that penalty as very unfair.

But if you care at all about the best interests of college basketball, you can't have it both ways this time. Either you want the NCAA to make a legitimate attempt to clean up the sport, which may include some really tough penalties, or what's the point of even trying?

The NCAA has no choice here.

While the FBI investigation was largely a waste of government money and resources – after all the bluster, only a couple of shoe company executives and anonymous assistant coaches got popped – it exposed college basketball as a laughably corrupt enterprise in



Oklahoma State could lose recruit Cade Cunningham – center, seen in April 2019 – because of its postseason ban and other penalties levied Friday by the NCAA. CATALINA FRAGOSO/USA TODAY SPORTS

which Hall of Fame coaches like Bill Self have to rely on relationships with bag men and agent wannabes to help get them players.

College basketball is exactly as slimy as lots of us thought it was, and the only way to even start fixing it is by making some of the penalties so severe that coaches reassess the risk-reward equation that has long suggested that cheating pays.

Until now, the NCAA has been perceived as too weak and ineffective to really police any of this stuff, but nobody really counted on the FBI being able to tap phones and use undercover agents to lure basketball coaches and shoe company executives into a scheme.

While the FBI's return on investment may have been small, their work gave the NCAA a road map to wield as a hammer. And hammer they will.

Oklahoma State was only accused of one Level 1 violation, yet that didn't save their 2020-21 season Friday. Kansas, by contrast, has been accused of three Level 1 violations in men's basketball and a head coach responsibility charge against Self.

LSU's inevitable Notice of Allegations, which could

include some incriminating wiretaps of head coach Will Wade, hasn't arrived. Auburn has refused to say one way or the other whether theirs is in hand. Arizona is still bracing for impact.

Based on the precedent set Friday, they should all be very concerned.

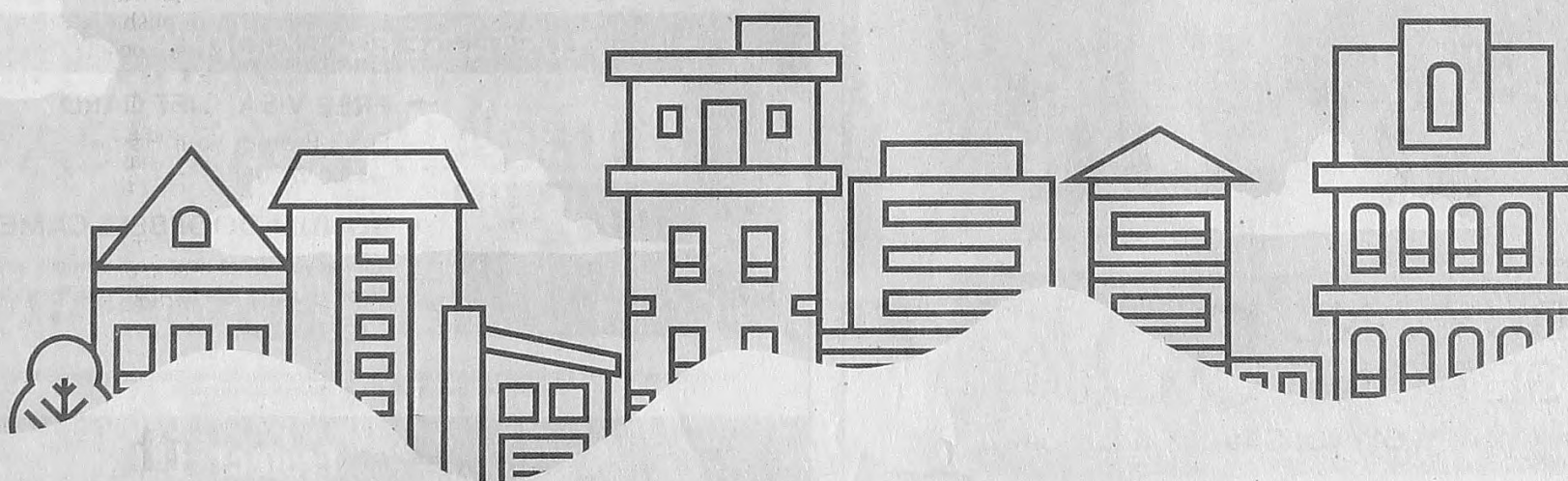
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LOCALiQ

Canton gives update on leisure services

Andrew Vaillencourt

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton Township has released an update on its leisure services operations in light of Michigan's stay at home order being lifted.

The Canton Board of Trustees has administratively determined the following programs, events and facility closures will remain in effect:

- All parks and trails remain open. Playgrounds, including splash playgrounds, are closed until further notice. Canton urges all park users to follow proper CDC protocol and recommended

social distancing guidelines.

- The Canton Sports Center will remain closed through at least Aug. 1, including adult softball leagues, all tournaments, and Canton Township facilitated programs at this location.

- The Summit on the Park, including Canton Club 55+, will remain closed to members and the general public through at least Oct. 1. All current and active memberships will be automatically extended. Those wishing to be refunded may contact the Summit at 734-394-5460 or by emailing leisure@canton-mi.org.

- All Recreation programs, classes, and events, with the exception of the

Canton Farmers Market, are canceled through the summer. This includes all summer camps, programs, community events, and concerts.

- The Canton Farmers Market will resume in mid-July with new COVID-19 safety protocols and restrictions in place.

- The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will remain closed to the public for ticketed events for the foreseeable future. All purchased tickets will automatically be refunded.

- The B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen Center, as well as affiliated programs and services, remains closed and will resume following the Plymouth-Canton

Community Schools in-person classroom schedule.

- Pheasant Run and Fellows Creek Golf Clubs are open with restrictions in place based on current executive orders.

Please note: Individuals registered for a class, program or camp that has been canceled or suspended will automatically be refunded. For more information, visit www.cantonfun.org or www.canton-mi.org/COVID19.

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at avaiillenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt. Send story ideas to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Koski

Continued from Page 1B

wanted to go to Michigan."

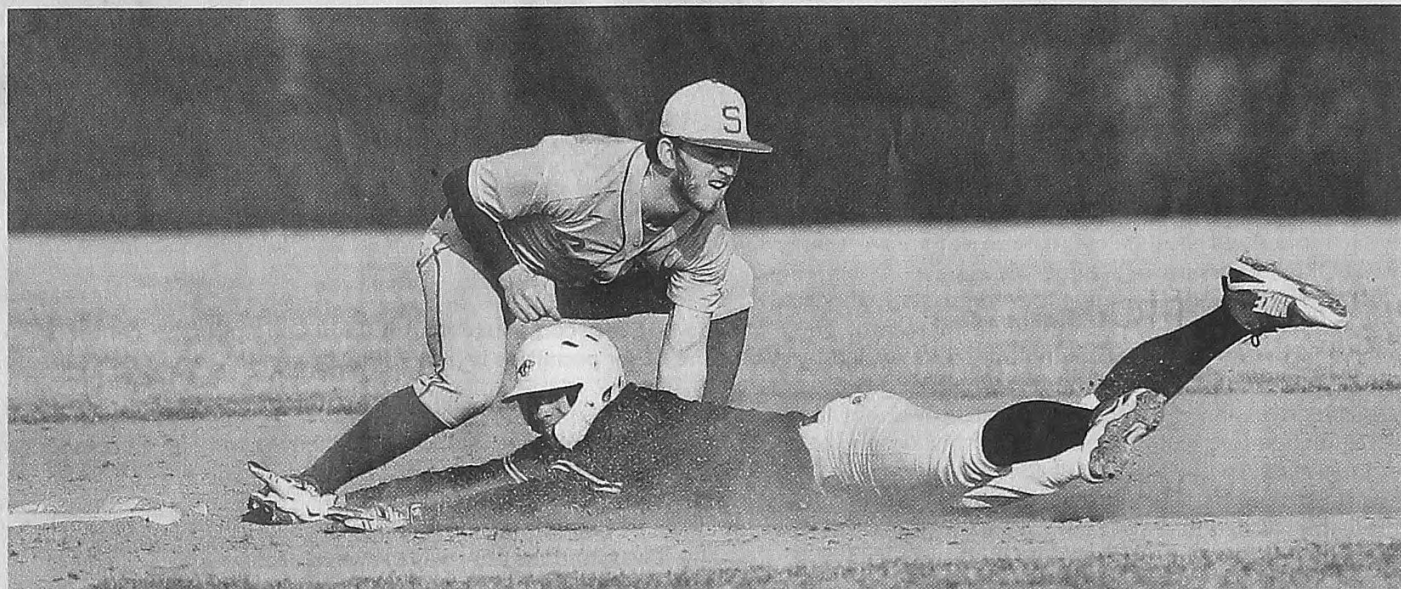
He plans to go into medicine and feels graduating from Michigan will help put him on the right track to a long, successful career.

Koski won't be giving up his dream on playing college baseball though. He plans to walk on to the Wolverines this fall and become a member of the team that reached the Division I College World Series last year.

Making the team won't be easy. Baseball teams don't typically accept many walk-ons, and take significantly fewer than a sport like football. Despite the odds, Koski knows he'll be able to play baseball at some level, even if it's club or intramural.

"Not playing baseball at Michigan, the idea is a little tough because I'm not ready to give it up, but there's always been something inside me that wanted to go to U-M," Koski said. "You hear stories about people walking on all the time. I think those people believe in themselves more than anyone."

At Michigan he plans to switch from shortstop to either third base or second base. He feels it will be a better fit for him and the team. His primary strength will be his offense. He hits for both power and average, something every team al-



Nick Koski, tagged out while attempting to steal second base during a game last year, plans to go into medicine and feels graduating from Michigan will help put him on the right track to a long, successful career. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ways needs.

He also set the Plymouth record for saves in a season last year, but doesn't anticipate pitching in college.

Koski said he's emailed with coaches about walk-on tryouts, which are normally held in the fall. COVID-19 could force there to be some changes, which is why he is continuing to have his at-bats filmed to send to coaches. He will play summer league baseball as well, giving him one more chance to hit full stride

before arriving in Ann Arbor.

Koski is one of eight seniors on the Plymouth baseball team that didn't get to play their final high school season. Those seniors are: Colton Knowles, Jeremy Fuchs (playing college baseball at Eastern Michigan), Jack Kujawski, Jamari Baker, Owen Oszust, Ethan Bentley and Kevin O'Farrell.

"Baseball has always been a very mental sport so over the years it has kind of trained me to have a better mindset

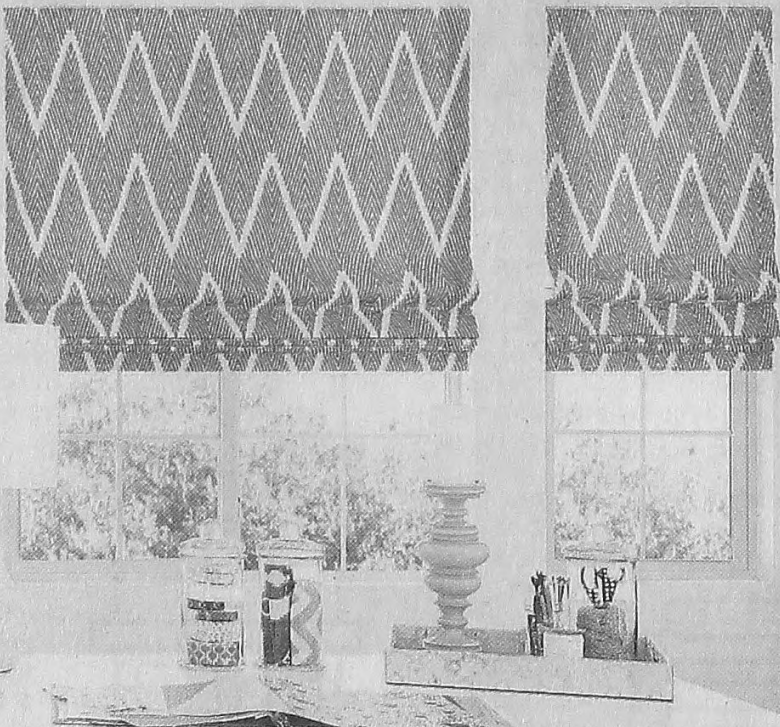
about things and to stay mentally strong," Koski said. "Obviously with the high school season not happening that was really hard because it was my last run at playing for Plymouth. I'm never going to get to put the Plymouth jersey on again which is hard to fathom."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at avaiillenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt. Send story ideas to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



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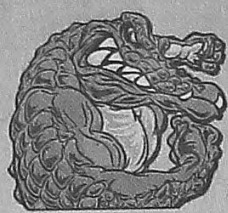
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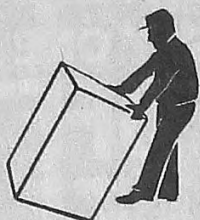
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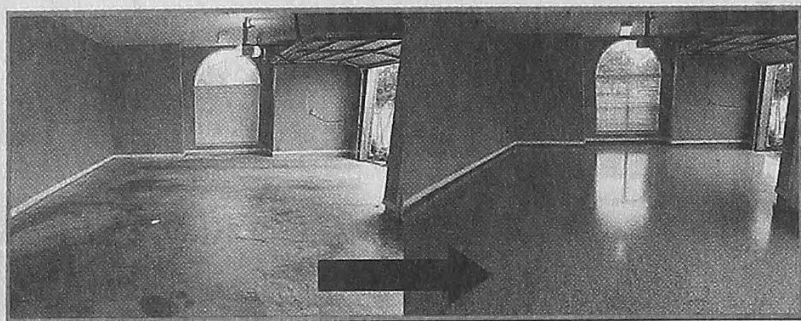


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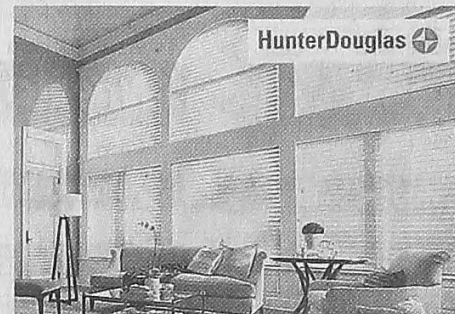
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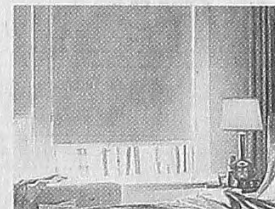
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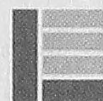
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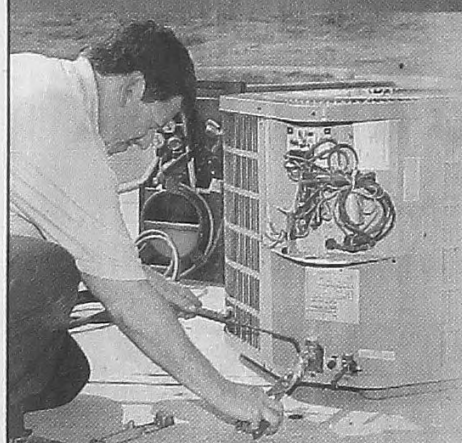
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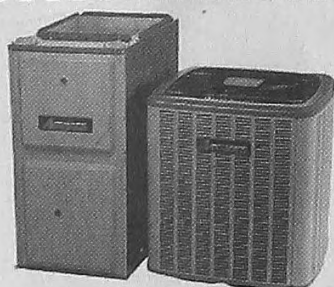
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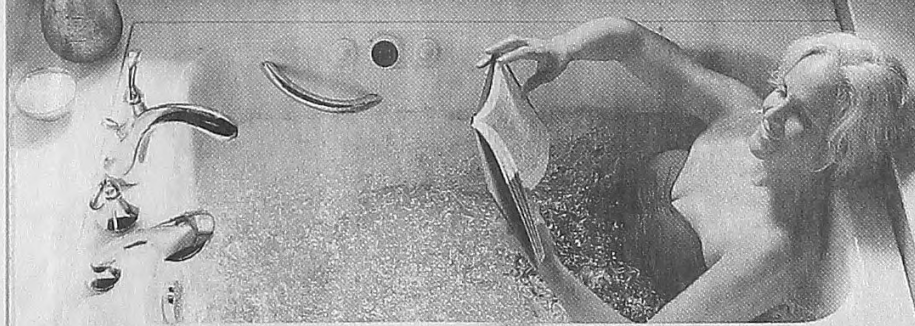
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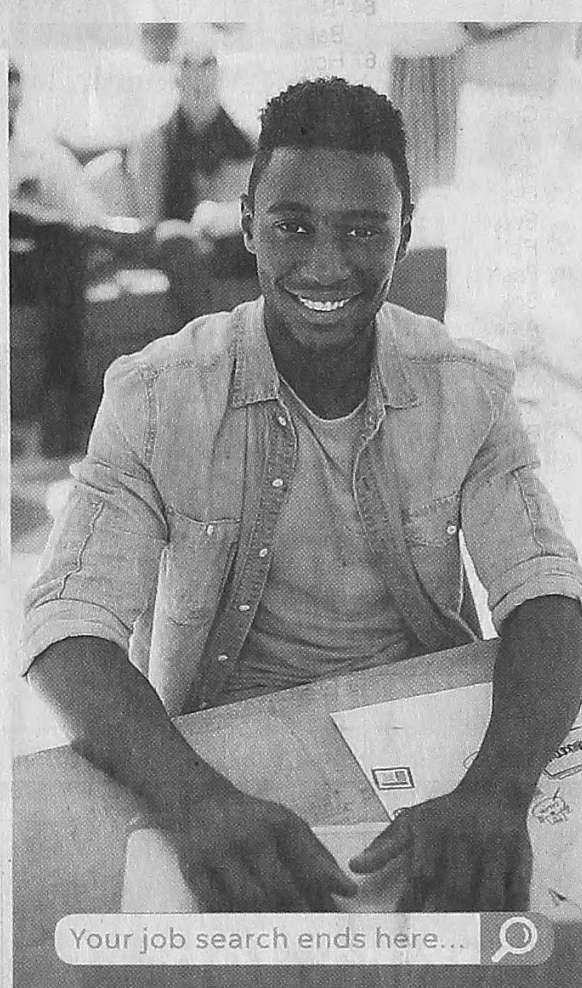
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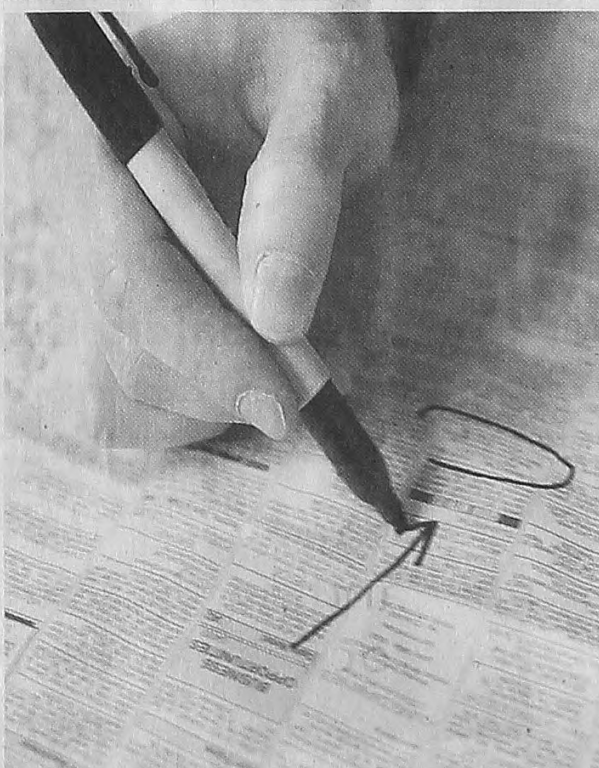
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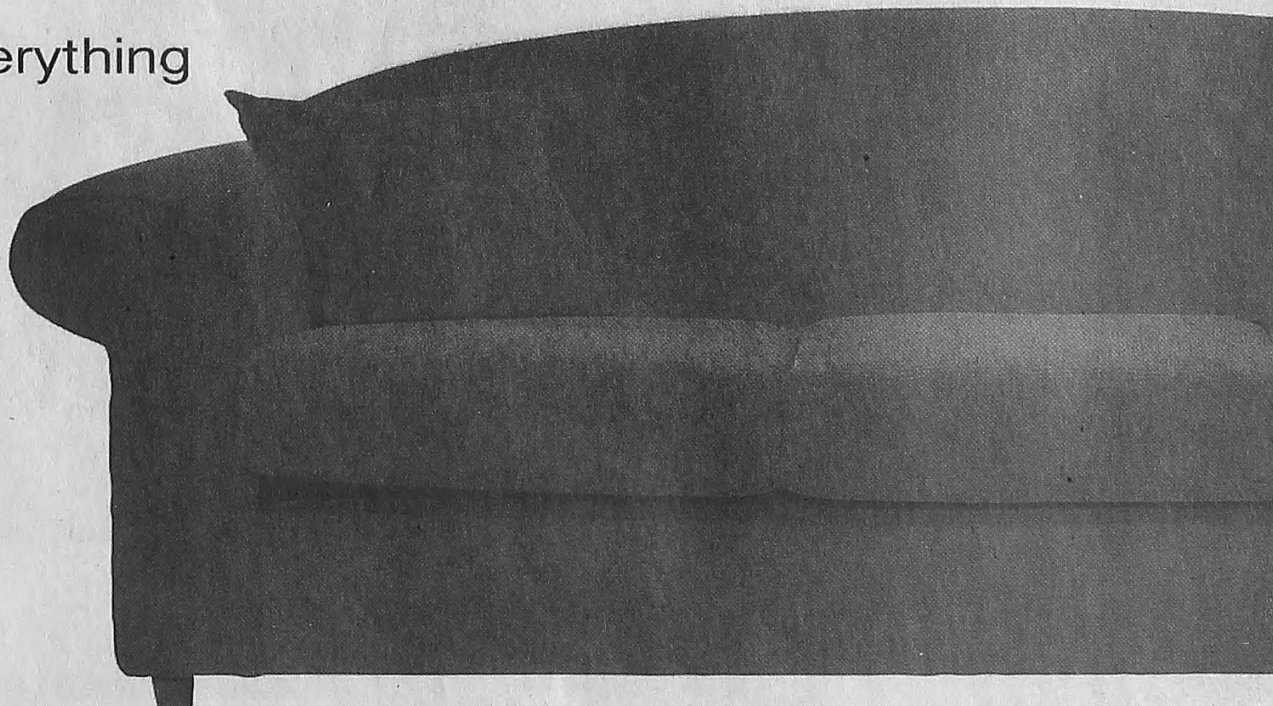
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