

Farmington Chamber backs out of festival

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

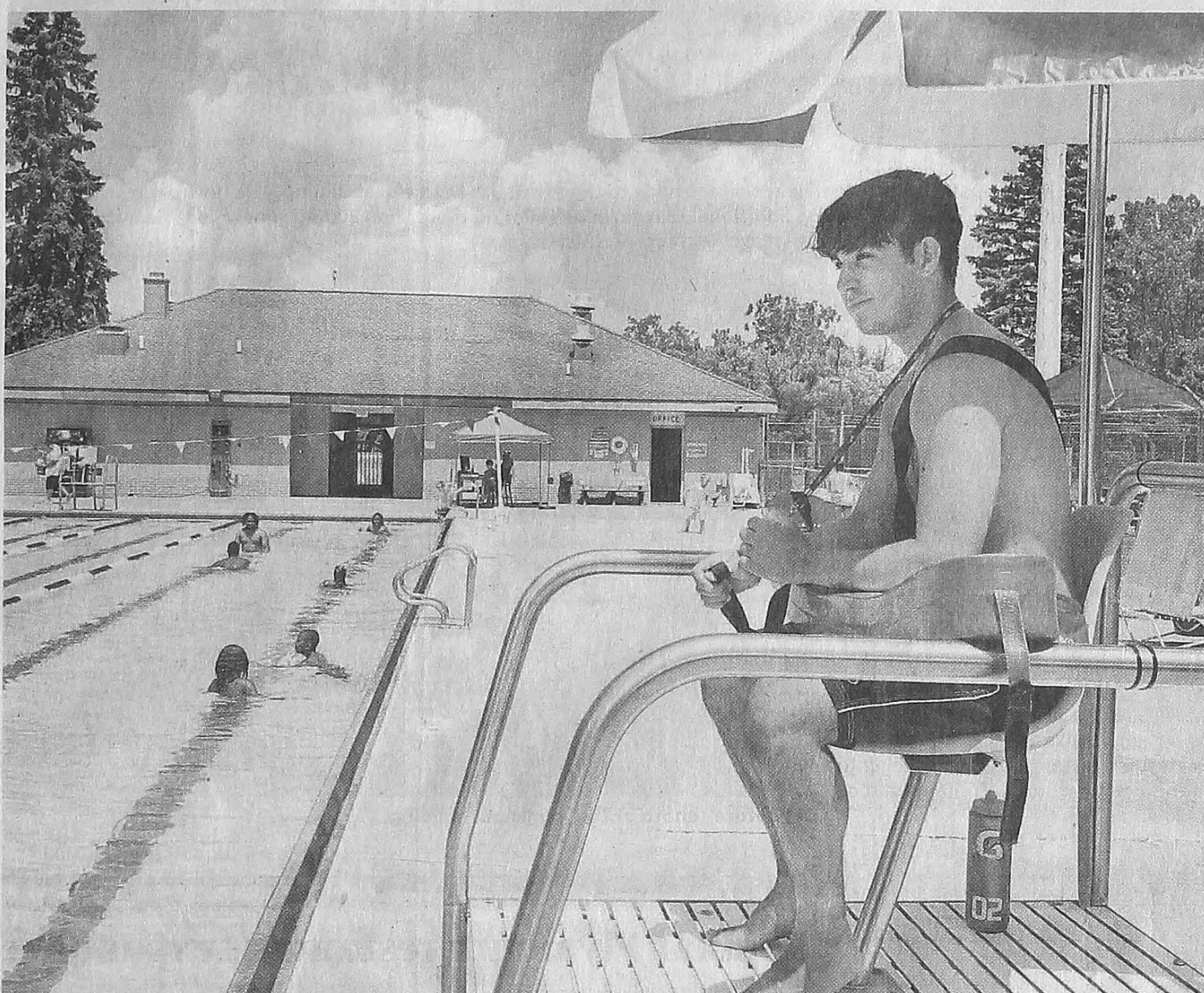
During typical times, the beloved Greater Farmington Founders Festival would have celebrated all things Farmington and Farmington Hills this month.

When the community tradition looks to return next summer, it will likely be a bit different. The Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce recently announced it would no longer host the festival, a joint celebration of Farmington and Farmington Hills that is usually held in Farmington.

"This mission here for the Chamber is to benefit our business community and we really took a step back in regard to the festival and evaluated if this is the best thing that aligns with our mission," said Connor Osborn, the Chamber's director. "We determined that it really wasn't."

Osborn said the decision was in the works before the coronavirus pandemic and enables the Chamber to focus more of its resources on the businesses in Farmington Hills and Farmington. For the last three years, the Chamber has

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 6A



Lifeguard Jacob Saucedo watches over swimmers at Livonia's Botsford pool July 8. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Livonia's 3 pool parks will get some TLC next summer

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When the dog days of summer arrive, three of Livonia's most popular destinations are its public pools and their adjoining parks.

In preparation for another busy summer, the city is poised to make various improvements to Clements Circle, Shelden and Botsford parks next spring.

Botsford and Clements Circle

Pending a final approval expected at the Livonia City Council meeting scheduled for July 20, the parks department will move forward with \$190,000 in improvements to the Botsford and Clements Circle pool parks.

Funds from Wayne County will cover \$154,329 of the work, while the city will pick up \$35,671.

See **POOLS**, Page 6A



Livonia's Shelden Pool should have its marcite resurfaced later this year.

Drive-thru graduation ceremony set for PCCS

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hopes for an in-person, socially-distanced graduation ceremony for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools students have been dashed as the school district informed families via email July 13 that a drive-thru graduation ceremony will be July 25.

In May, the school district distributed a three-scenario plan to parents of seniors, with the most ambitious being in-person, socially-distanced ceremonies at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's athletics stadium.

The drive-thru plan was necessitated by the latest executive order and social-distancing guidelines delivered by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

"We were hopeful our region would have progressed into Phase 5 or 6 by the time late July arrived, which would allow for the hosting of a more traditional ceremony," PCCS Superintendent Monica Merritt wrote in the email. "Unfortunately, at this time we are not at a place to have this type of event."

The decision doesn't sit well with a number of parents of PCEP students, including Dan Kubacki, whose son, Zack, is a 2020 senior.

"Disappointed doesn't even begin to describe my feelings on this," Kubacki said. "If crowd size is the real issue here, the PCEP administration could have tried harder by breaking up the three graduating classes into smaller groups, similar to what other districts have done."

"Having a graduation in a parking lot is demeaning to the students who have worked their tails off."

On July 25, students will drive through the parking lots of their respective school to receive their diplomas. Each student will be allowed to get out of their car and walk across the recognition area, receive their diploma, and have their photograph taken by a professional photographer in front of a school designed backdrop.

"The circumstances surrounding the pandemic are evolving rapidly and frequent changes to the executive orders continue to be shared with us by the state," Merritt said. "Our size as a district, and limitations on gatherings, have led to the decision to hold this drive-thru ceremony."

"... We are so proud of our graduates, and we look forward to making this event memorable and enjoyable for you and your family."

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Environment-friendly group secures \$400K grant

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth-based Friends of the Rouge has been bolstered by a substantial grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy's Nonpoint Source Program.

EGLE announced it would award Friends of the Rouge with a \$400,000 grant so that the environment-enhancing nonprofit can develop approximately 31,500 square feet of rain gardens near its office at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex.

The project will be included in a planned parking lot renovation at PARC, FOTR said.

"The primary goal of the rain garden project is to create a beautiful, high-performance storm water management system at the FOTR office," FOTR said in a statement. "The gardens will control and filter significant volumes of storm water to make considerable progress towards resolving issues with sedimentation and flow instability in Tonquish Creek, a tributary to the Rouge River that has been highly impaired by storm water impacts.

"The rain gardens will absorb as much as 240,000 gallons of stormwater each rainfall and create habitats for pollinators like butterflies and bees."

The gardens will also serve as an educational tool and demonstrate best practices that residents across southeast Michigan can use at home and in community landscapes to help solve problems with flooding and water pollution, the statement added.

"PARC's decision to include rain gardens as part of the parking lot renovation shows the organization's commitment to protecting the watershed," said Matthew Bertrand, FOTR restoration manager. "The gardens will serve as a welcome area for visitors, make the parking lot and building a more attractive, inviting space for our community to enjoy and provide shade during the heat of the summer."

FOTR will take a lead role in maintaining the rain gardens and actively promote the features and benefits to PARC's more than 150,000 annual visitors.

Rain gardens are designed to soak up



Friends of the Rouge added a rain garden near the entrance to the Plymouth municipal building. The group recently secured a grant that will allow it to develop additional rain gardens covering more than 30,000 square feet near its office at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MATTHEW BERTRAND

and clean polluted stormwater, Bertrand explained.

"Like a large shallow saucer, rain gardens commonly hold about six inches of water, and are designed to drain within 48 hours," he said.

"The Rouge River watershed contains some of the most urbanized communities in southeast Michigan and the river experiences high flow variability and poor water quality due to the high amount of impervious surfaces," said Jack Cotrone, an environmental quality analyst with EGLE. "Not only will this project help manage storm water in a key area of the watershed, but we hope its location ... will make it an excellent site for demonstrating the feasibility of integrating green infrastructure into routine construction and maintenance projects."



A "before" photo of the municipal building.

Popular Plymouth restaurant expanding

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One of Plymouth's hottest restaurants is about to grow.

Barrio Cocina y Tequileria, 555 Forest, plans to expand into a vacant storefront next door to its eatery, adding more than 1,000 square feet to the Mexican restaurant. The expansion will allow for a few more seats and better use of floor space.

"On the old side, we had tables in the middle of the floor. We had issues bringing our food out to the guests," said Dean Rovinelli, an owner of the restaurant. "What we're doing is we've rerouted everything. The middle of the floor, there's not going to be any tables there."

The city's planning commission reviewed plans to expand the restaurant during its July 8 virtual meeting, during which the board recommended approval of the proposed work through a special land use after a public hearing that saw no members of the public speak.

The restaurant opened in 2015 and has seen plenty of attention since. It



Barrio Cocina Y Tequileria in Plymouth is currently closed, but is looking to expand into a larger setting. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

features an array of Mexican street food such as tacos, enchiladas and burritos and has a full bar serving a variety of cocktails.

The restaurant is currently closed due to some interior construction work, but its owners hope to begin offering carryout and patio seating by the end of the month or early next month, according to the restaurant's website.

The hope is for construction to end and the restaurant's dining room to reopen in September.

Before granting approval, there was some concern from planning commissioners over the parking arrangement in the private parking lot for Barrio diners. The parking lot behind the restaurant off Main Street provides parking for 35 spaces, one more than needed. But Commission Vice Chair Jennifer Kehoe said it appeared some of the spaces did not appear to be designated spaces.

"Five of the cars are parked in unmarked, really somewhat inaccessible spots that if cars are parked there, the entrances and exits can't adequately be used," she said. "So it looks to me like there's only 29 spots usable spots there."

Rovinelli said the lot does utilize some overflow areas that are not marked, but the way traffic flows in and out of the parking lot is maintained, it allows for such spots to be used without disrupting other vehicles. One gate is left open in the alley, he said.

"By doing that, that opened up several parking spots," he said. "That really increased the lot by about six spots."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.

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A rendering from the Canton planning commission packet shows what the commercial area of the development along Michigan Avenue could look like. Despite the business names on the rendering, Township Planner Jeff Goulet said at the July 13 planning commission meeting no businesses have been identified for the space.

IMAGES COURTESY OF CANTON TOWNSHIP

New apartments, businesses planned in Canton

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

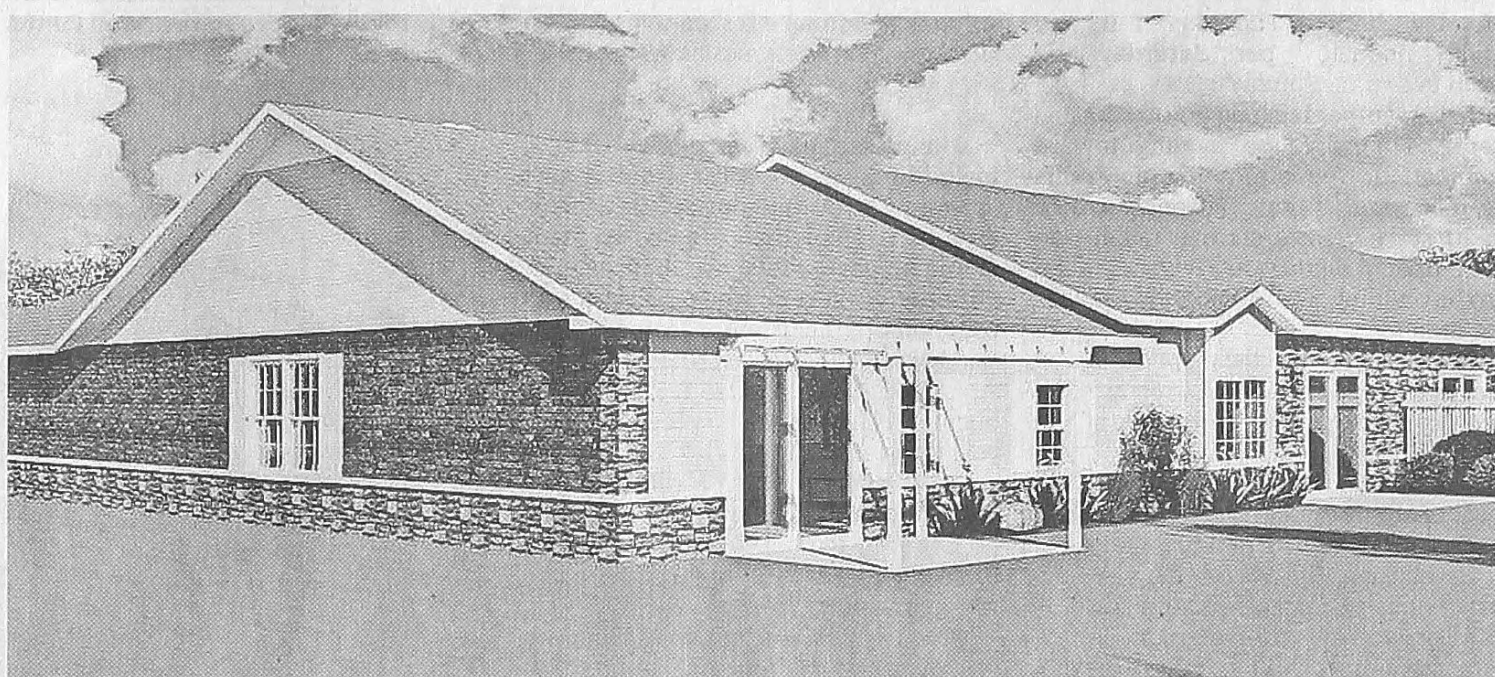
A new mix of residential and commercial development could come to Michigan Avenue in Canton Township.

Redwood Apartment Neighborhoods has proposed constructing several hundred apartment units across two phases, as well as a commercial development, along Michigan Avenue between Lilley and Sheldon. The issue came before the township planning commission for a preliminary design review and public hearing July 13 during its regular meeting, which was held at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The commission reviewed a conditional rezoning request for the property almost a year ago to rezone the land from commercial use to combined residential and commercial use. Additional plans were then required for the land before it could move forward.

"Part of that conditional rezoning called for them to come back and do a planned development for all of the details relative to all of the specific proposal," said Jeff Goulet, township planner.

The plans call for the construction of dwelling units in two phases: the first phase would be the building of apartments and a stormwater retention pond west of Morton Taylor Road. The second phase would then see apartments built east of Morton Taylor Road and the paving of the road leading to the trailhead nearby. The commercial area would be constructed after the residential units are built.



A rendering of what some of the proposed apartment buildings could look like.

Goulet said there's no word on what businesses would occupy that space.

"They don't know exactly until they market and sell these pieces how that will lay out, but it basically is approximately 77,900 square feet of commercial when it's all developed," he said. "That would be the maximum allowed."

While the plans were approved by the planning commission and will head to the township board of trustees for its review, the commission did want to see some changes to the residential units before they return for a final review.

Some commissioners wanted to see a

few more design elements to the residential units, saying they did not look unique enough for such a community, as well as variances to the elevations of the units.

"It becomes pretty monotonous. It just needs more," said Commissioner Chairman Greg Greene. "I think that's what we're getting at. It needs to be a little bit more special."

Some issues the commission had were with garage doors and window treatments looking fairly uniform.

Kellie McIvor with Redwood Apartment Neighborhoods said they could re-

examine some of the elements to meet the requests from the planning commission before the plans return.

"In some different regions - we're in a couple different states - we've been asked to go toward the trim boards because they're a little bit more modern-looking," she said. "But if what I'm hearing from you is you want shutters because that's more fitting ... we can certainly look for some more opportunities to put more shutters in."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.

Schoolcraft moves manufacturing programs off campus

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Schoolcraft College is moving its manufacturing programs closer to the industries where students hope to get jobs.

When the fall semester starts, manufacturing classes will be conducted at 13001 Merriman Road in Livonia, about 10 minutes from the main campus. The new 48,000-square-foot building will house programs including biomedical engineering, computer aided design, welding, robotics and more.

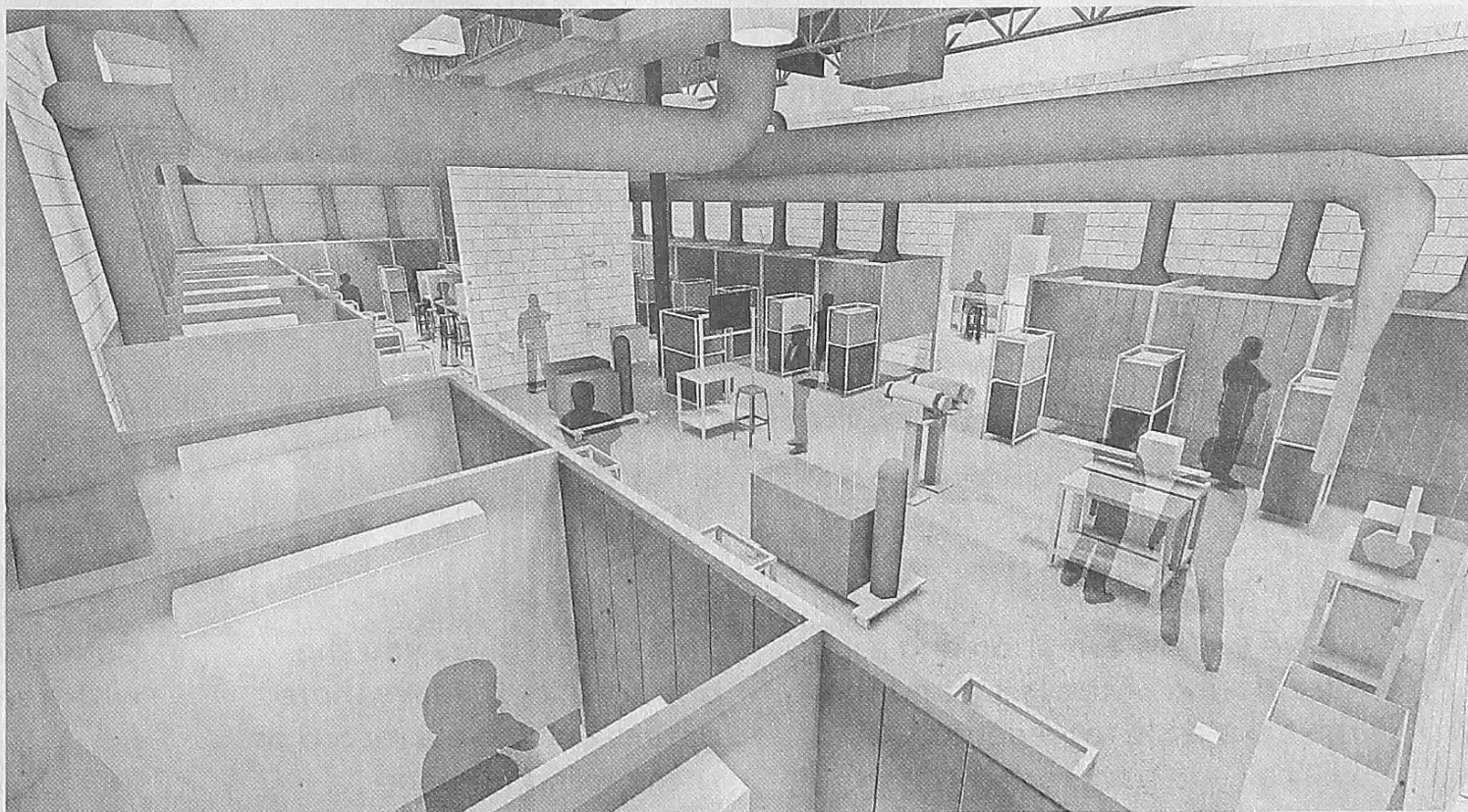
"We purchased this building on Merriman so we could have room to expand the footprint for all of our manufacturing and engineering program areas," said Amy Jones, the college's associate dean of occupational programs. "It's very nice because it more than doubles that of the current space we have."

The space currently dedicated to manufacturing programs on Schoolcraft's main campus will be repurposed to accommodate health sciences programs.

"Part of what is appealing about that location is it's really right kind of in the middle of the industrial area of Livonia," Jones said. "We work with companies in the industrial area all the time, so this puts us right there."

The building will be Schoolcraft's third off-campus facility. The college also has a police and fire facility in Livonia, at 31623 Industrial, and its Radcliff Center, at 1751 Radcliff, in Garden City, that functions as a secondary campus.

The facility will include a 3D printing room, three computer labs and a robot-



A rendering of what a welding lab in Schoolcraft College's new off-campus manufacturing facility will look like.

COURTESY OF AMY JONES

ics lab, among other assets. Jones expects the building will expand the college's ability to accommodate apprenticeships, dual enrollment and workforce development courses.

"This new space greatly increases our hands-on space for welding, manufacturing, plastics technology and material science," Jones said. "Most of the (programs) will get greatly increased the lab space."

The new facility will also allow easier access to partnerships with surrounding businesses. Jones said she is excited to be closer to businesses the school already partners with, like NYX Inc. and AlphaUSA.

Though construction is still ongoing, Schoolcraft officials expect the building to be ready for students when the fall semester starts.

"We're starting classes there in the

fall, whatever classes we are having on ground," Jones said. "We are actually starting to move some of our programs (now). It's a very active construction site right now, but they are inside putting paint on the walls, putting down floors and it is all really starting to come together."

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Texas Roadhouse opening next month in Novi

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi's newest commercial development is poised to begin opening next month after weather delays and the coronavirus pandemic putting a damper on construction.

The first business in the new Adell Center entertainment complex near Novi Road and Interstate 96 to announce an opening date is Texas Roadhouse.

Brian O'Hara, a managing partner for the restaurant at 26730 Adell Center Dr., said the restaurant plans to open for dine-in and curbside pickup Aug. 10.

"We're excited to be the first to open," O'Hara said. "We have the best location, in the center of it."

The restaurant is currently hiring to fill more than 200 part-time and full-time positions.

Those interested in applying can do so by visiting apply.texasroadhouse.com.

Texas Roadhouse operates several restaurants in southeast Michigan, including in Westland, Ann Arbor, Madison Heights and Taylor.

O'Hara said the Novi restaurant will have identical menus to other Texas Roadhouse restaurants and will feel the same inside. The chain is known for steaks, ribs and southern fare.

The restaurant will be open 3-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 3-11 p.m. Friday; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Several other businesses in the Adell Center appear to be moving toward completion. One is Carvana, an online used car retailer that has constructed a multi-story vehicle storage facility on the property. Signage has been installed on the building, which looks close to being finished.

Kevin Adell, who developed the former Novi Expo Center site, said he's expecting that business to be one of the first to open there.

Carvana declined to share any information about a proposed opening date when contacted by Hometown Life.

In addition, the Planet Fitness construction is moving along, Adell said.

Also planned for the site is an iFLY indoor skydiving center and two hotels: a Marriott and a Hilton.



A Texas Roadhouse restaurant location is nearly ready to open at the Adell Center entertainment complex in Novi.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The project has seen several delays, including one last year from a wet spring in 2019 that pushed back construction. Then the coronavirus pandemic hit earlier this year, halting construction for several weeks. O'Hara said they had originally hoped to open Texas Roadhouse in February, then in April.

Adell said he's excited to finally have businesses open in the center after years of work.

"It's very exciting. I hope people come. You build something and you hope people come and support it," he said. "It's like first night jitters like you're in a play."

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



Developer Kevin Adell said work at the planned Planet Fitness is moving along.

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Eighteen former Art Van stores about to be reborn

JC Reindl Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Eighteen former Art Van Furniture locations across Michigan will soon reopen under new ownership, a new name and a refreshed approach to selling furniture online and in stores.

Loves Furniture plans to begin opening the locations by late summer, and could ultimately hire about 1,000 store associates, many of them likely former Art Van employees, Loves Furniture CEO Matt Damiani, 39, said in an interview last week.

Customers will find a large selection of furniture in the stores, including beds and mattresses, and a range of price points “that appeal to every budget,” he said. They also will see a website designed to make “pre-shopping” easier, and to set up appointments with in-store staff.

“We’re investing millions in revamping those store locations,” Damiani said. “When customers walk into the store, they are going to know it’s a different experience — that it’s a Loves Furniture store.”

The awkward timing of Loves’ debut — in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic — could even be a good thing.

Business consultant Alex Calderone of Birmingham-based Calderone Advisory Group noted how people have spent a lot of time at home since the pandemic hit.

“My gut tells me that initially, the Loves Furniture stores will perform extremely well out of the gate,” Calderone said. “I tell you that because there are a lot of cooped up consumers who are spending a lot of time in their houses these days, and they are eager to refurbish their homes — be it for home offices or just furniture that needs to be refreshed.”

Loves Furniture was born from a May deal in U.S. Bankruptcy Court that followed the surprise bankruptcy liquidation and abrupt closure in March of Art Van Furniture, the Warren-based company that was once the Midwest’s top furniture and mattress retailer.

A Texas-based private equity firm called US Assets Inc. initially purchased 17 former Art Van leased store locations in Michigan, plus 10 other Art Van and Levin and Wolf locations in five other states. That \$6.9 million deal recently grew to include an 18th Michigan store — the former Art Van flagship in Canton.

The Texas firm then created the Loves Furniture company and brand to operate the stores.

“We are on the verge of being able to announce a handful of others, both across the state of Michigan and some of the rest of the Midwest,” Damiani said of the new company’s store count. “So we are actively growing that footprint.”

Loves has yet to announce opening dates, although the Michigan stores will



Loves Furniture Chief Merchant Officer Jennifer Sinha, left, meets with Loves Furniture CEO Matthew Damiani at the company's future Royal Oak store. MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS

likely open in quick succession rather than all at once, he said.

The Loves name

The Loves Furniture name derives from that of Jeff Love, founder and CEO of US Assets.

It is the first furniture business in US Asset’s portfolio. Some of the others include the Penguin Point chicken and burger chain in Indiana, an Arizona dog grooming and boarding business, a chain of urgent care centers and a dirt biking and off-roading park in Texas.

The firm has no relation to the quirky chain of Love’s gas stations.

Damiani, who grew up in Troy and received his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University, previously worked at Art Van for about two years as an e-commerce executive, and before that as a supply chain director for Staples.

“This is a really meaningful thing to bring a new brand to the market here,” he said.

New merchandise

Loves Furniture will launch with a new inventory of furniture.

Some of the future Loves stores took part in the recent Art Van Furniture last-chance liquidation sale, which had been delayed by the pandemic. That “total inventory blowout” was put on by American Signature, the parent company of Value City Furniture and American Sig-

nature Furniture.

Damiani said the Loves Furniture shopping experience will be different from that of other furniture retailers, and the website will take orders and also guide people to visit a store and speak with the in-store staff before purchasing.

“We’re trying to offer a more customer-centric experience,” he said. “What we’ve tried to do is remove everything that consumers hated about old traditional furniture shopping, like high-pressure sales or unclear pricing.”

He declined to give Loves’ anticipated breakdown of Internet sales to in-store sales, but said the industry in general is seeing growth in online sales even as most sales still happen in stores.

“But 85% of customers, as just a rough benchmark, are going online and browsing before they come into the store anyway,” Damiani said. “So for us, it’s less important where your transaction happens and more about this interconnected journey.”

Loves Furniture has started hiring sales associates and expects to bring on about 1,000. Job positions are posted on the company’s website.

“We have a good mix of former Art Van associates, new associates and diversity from the area and across different industries,” he said. “They’re going to help bring the brand to life.”

Art Van Furniture was known for decades for its community philanthropy and sponsored Detroit’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. The company’s founder,

the late Art Van Elslander, saved the parade from being canceled 30 years ago by writing a \$200,000 check.

Some of that philanthropy stopped after the Van Elslander family sold the business in March 2017 to the Boston-based private-equity firm Thomas H. Lee Partners in a \$612.5 million deal, although the furniture company continued to sponsor the annual parade.

Damiani said Loves Furniture also intends to support local organizations, although it is not yet ready to announce specific initiatives or whether it will have a role in the parade.

“Our goal is to be around for a long time, and we believe that there is a responsibility to give back to your community,” he said.

Loves Furniture stores will open in the following cities:

- Ann Arbor
- Battle Creek
- Bay City
- Burton
- Canton
- Howell
- Livonia
- Muskegon
- Petoskey
- Port Huron
- Portage
- Royal Oak
- Saginaw
- Shelby Township
- Taylor
- Warren (8 Mile)
- Waterford Township
- Westland

Festival

Continued from Page 1A

organized the festival, operating it at a deficit and creating funding issues.

However, local officials have few worries about the festival’s fate. The event has changed hands in the past and officials said they expect another group will take it up.

“I will state with all certainty that the Founders Festival will not die on my watch,” said Farmington Mayor Sara Bowman. “I mean, it is a 56-year tradition. I am 46, and have never missed a Founders Festival. So I fully appreciate the depth of the importance of this event.”

Bowman said it is unlikely either city or Farmington’s Downtown Development Authority will take control of the event. The most common idea being

passed around is the formation of a non-profit group of residents and business owners that would take the reins.

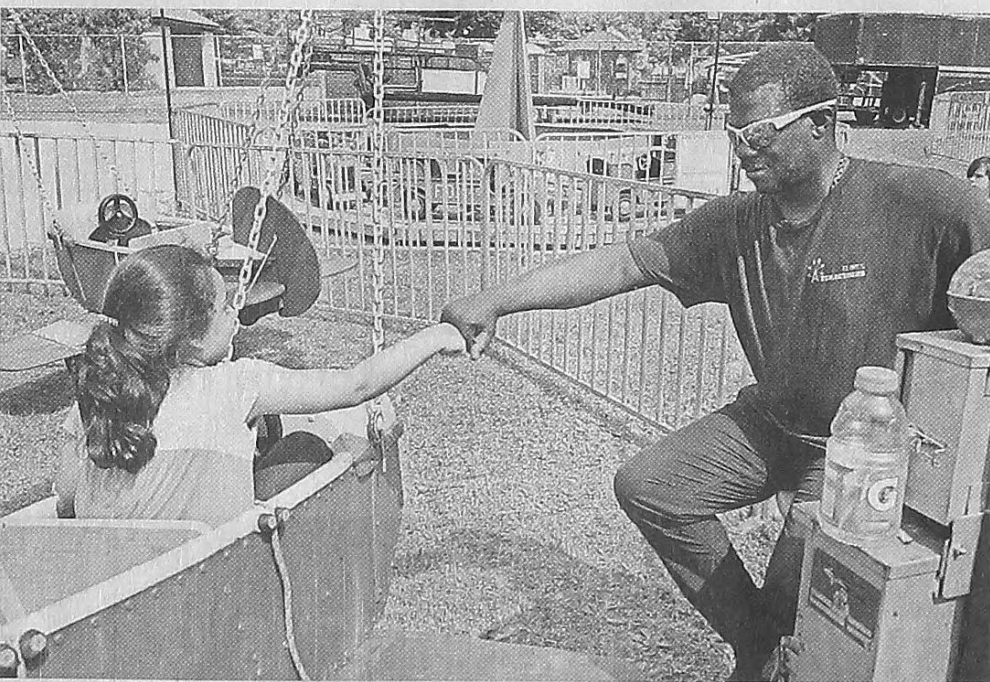
“It certainly seems like there’s people out there who would not want to see it go away,” Farmington City Manager David Murphy said. “It will always be here in some form. It may not be what it had been in the past, maybe it will start a little smaller, who knows?”

Though the festival will likely look different when it returns, Murphy said he hopes and expects the communities will keep it alive.

“I look forward to seeing what it morphs into and how that will come about,” he said.

Farmington officials are expected to discuss the festival’s future Monday during their city council meeting.

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



Ed Harvey offers an encouraging fist-bump to carnival rider Maryia Hasan during the 2019 Farmington Founders Festival in Shiawassee Park. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Pools

Continued from Page 1A

The work at Botsford, 19444 Lathers, will stick strictly to the pool. Ted Davis, Livonia’s parks superintendent, said the pool will get a complete replacement of its marcite, which should make visiting the pool a more comfortable experience.

“These are routine,” Davis said. “I mean, we do marcite repairs pretty much every year except at Clements Circle because it’s so new. A complete marcite job should be done every 10 to 15 years, so this is pretty routine maintenance.”

Botsford got some major improvements in 2018 with the addition of a rock wall and water play features. Davis said the pool’s marcite was not in need of serious repairs at that time.

Clements Circle’s pool, 9999 Harrison, is still relatively new, having been built in 2016. But the park is home to one of the city’s oldest pavilions, which will be replaced.

“We’re going to take that out and completely replace the cement pad and the pavilion structure,” Davis said. “That’s probably one of our oldest pavilions that we have left out in the parks. It still has the old shingle roof.”

Davis said the work at both parks will

precede the summer season and should not affect the pools’ openings. Clements Circle usually opens the first weekend in June, while Botsford and Shelden typically open in mid-June.

“I think we’re going to continue to stagger openings as we would on a normal summer,” Davis said. “I mean we’re still in the middle of a pandemic, so who knows? But assuming we have some normalcy: yes. We should be able to open those at normal times.”

Officials were supportive of the improvements.

“For anybody that’s been to Botsford pool, this is a great upgrade,” said Councilman Brandon McCullough. “And for whoever is familiar with Clements Cir-

cle, I am familiar with that park, this is a great amenity to pair with the incredible play structure there.”

Shelden

Shelden pool, 33123 Van Court, is in need of a new surface. Davis said he plans to repair the pool next summer. It will not open to swimmers this year.

“We’re going to know that once we drain next year and take a look at what needs to be done. ... We think that’s going to be a marcite replacement job,” he said. “That’s what we think right now.”

Because the pool hasn’t been formally inspected, the city has no estimate for how much Shelden’s repairs will cost.

Obituaries

Helen Ann Ermete (nee Macdonald)

Born December 25, 1926 to Helen Ann and Lenard James Macdonald in Aberdeen, Scotland. Helen was the oldest of four children (Lenard, Ronald & Flora). She is preceded in death by her loving husband, Sait D. Ermete, her parents, and siblings. Helen lived in Aberdeen until her family moved to London, England where they resided near an airbase during WWII. Helen's father served as a Royal Air Force pilot and her mother, a firefighter during the war.

After the war, Helen and her family moved to Canada. Helen is loved dearly by her daughter Sheila (Tom) Carey and son Teoman (Rose) Ermete who cared for her deeply. Helen was close to her grandchildren Kendall (Michael) Gulbernat, Kelly (Erik) Eller, Karen Carey, and Kathy (Dave) Zelenock, Marie (David) Creech, Jacob (Jasmine) Ermete, and Joseph Ermete. She adored and was loved immensely by her seven great-grandchildren: Colin, Carter, Paige, Rachel, Brett, Eve and Makayla.

Helen loved to volunteer and over her life gave her time and talents to many organizations including Wayne County Medical Society, Dearborn Heights Garden Club, Interim House and more.

Helen spent the last number of years at Marycrest Heights in Livonia where she enjoyed life with friends and regular visits from her family.

Helen loved to tell stories even until her last days which her family will cherish. She also loved flowers which she said were one of God's greatest gifts to us. Helen loved to write notes to family, friends and the local paper when opinions were needed. Some of her favorite things included painting and sitting by the water side. It always reminded her of her younger years.

A celebration of her life will be held at Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia on July 20 from 2-8pm.

She leaves us rich in love and memories.

Harry J Will Funeral Homes



William (Bill, Billy) Sarna

On Wednesday, June 3, 2020, William (Bill, Billy) Sarna, loving husband and father of one, Anthony James Sarna, passed away at the age of 69 at his home in Forks WA. He was survived by his wife Suzy (Hughes Mackinnon) Sarna, who has since passed away on Saturday, June 6, 2020.

Bill was born on September 5, 1950, along with his twin brother James, in Detroit, MI to Adolph and Cecilia (Dziurgot) Sarna - Bill was one of eight children. Bill and the love of his life,

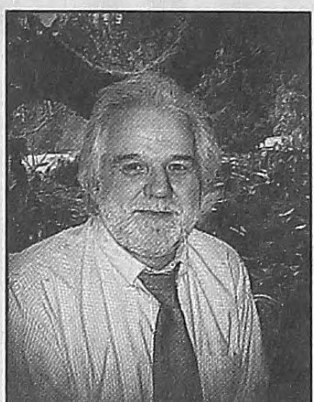
Suzy (Hughes Mackinnon) Sarna were married on November 5, 1989 in Ashland, OR and subsequently lived in Anacortes, WA and then finally in Forks.

Billy loved music, and anyone who knew him had most likely been influenced by his musical taste to one degree or another. He also had a love of art of all kinds, and created his own art pieces using paint, pencil, charcoal, chalk or whatever was at hand, including inspiration he found in nature. If you had ever received mail from Billy it probably contained a small sketch with a personal note. He had a sense of humor and enjoyed bantering and wordplay. Bill also had a tender side, especially for the women in his life, and most especially for his wife Suzy.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, Adolph and his brothers Arnold and James. He is survived by his son Anthony James and five grandchildren; Jaime, Nikolay, Carlee, Jackson and Nicholas. Bill's remaining family are his mother Cecilia (Dziurgot) Sarna, five sisters, Judy Sarna, Mary Ann Convertino, Debra Braden, Christina Michalski and his brother Thomas Sarna. Bill also had four nephews, Christopher Sarna, Joe Michalski, Vincent Convertino and Dallas Braden, and two nieces, Angelyn Convertino and Ana Sarna. Bill came from a large extended family and leaves behind one uncle plus countless cousins.

A funeral mass will be held July 27, 2020 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in South Lyon MI, and burial of Bill's remains immediately following at St. Hedwig Catholic Cemetery in Dearborn Heights, MI.

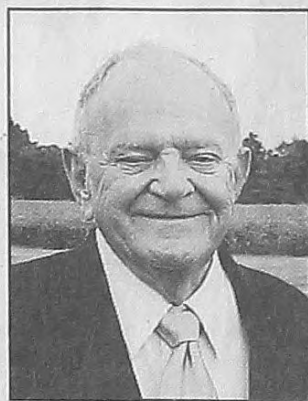
In lieu of flowers, Memorial donations are welcome at Wounded Warriors.



Richard Dick J. Heidrich

- - Richard "Dick" J. Heidrich, age 89, of Birmingham, Michigan, passed away peacefully on July 8, 2020. Beloved husband of Christina (née Orr) for 68 years. Loving father of Rick (Sharon), Rob (Janet) and Pat (Karen). Cherished grandfather of Shannon (Eric) Phillips, Rob (Courtney) Heidrich, Erica (Keith) Hansen, Jessica Heidrich and Katie and Ben Heidrich. Proud great-grandfather of Joslyn, Carter, Madeline and Declan. Dear brother of Joy Ainsley and step-brother of the late Harold and the late Lawrence Heidrich. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Born on April 28, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan, Dick was a first generation American. He met the love of his life, Christina, at just 14 years old in their home town of Grosse Pointe. They were married in 1952. Dick was a U.S. Navy Veteran. An esteemed tool & die maker and business owner, Dick established Richard Tool & Die Corporation in 1966. Dick was known for his charming personality, quick wit, infectious smile, and his kind and compassionate spirit. Dick will be remembered most for his devotion to his family. He and Christina raised three sons together, and Dick's passion for his family only grew as he gained six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A service was held privately. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to The Salvation Army (www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/) are appreciated. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248) 549-0500.

View obituary and sign tribute wall at AJDesmond.com



May peace be with you
in this time of sorrow.



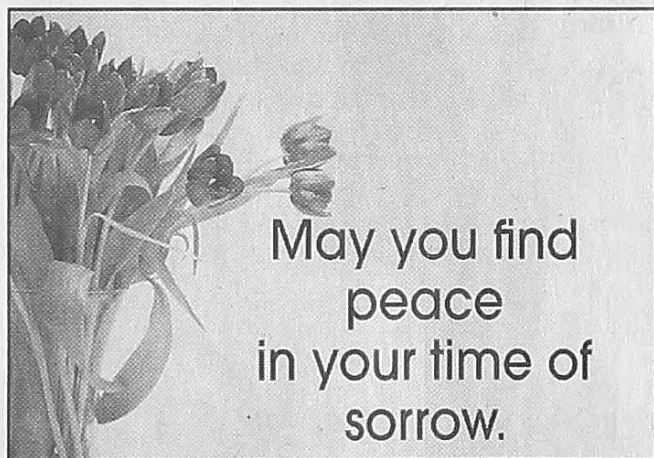
Judith A. Mines

CANTON - Judith A. Mines, age 71 of Canton, passed away July 11, 2020. She was the beloved wife of Richard for 39 years. Dear sister of Orville Bushman, Janice Parrett and the late Kathleen Hamilton. Visitation Thursday, July 16th, 9 am until time of funeral service, 10:30 am at McCabe Funeral Home, 851 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton. www.mccabefuneral-home.com



Nancy Middleton Simanek

NOVI - Age 87, passed away July 4, 2020. Visit heeneysundquist.com for complete information.



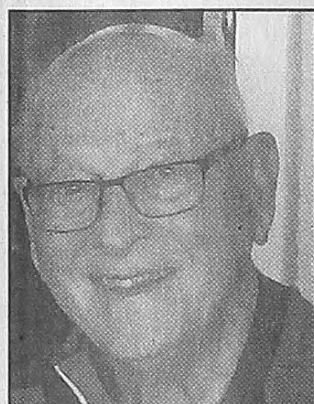
Thomas H. Dooley

PLYMOUTH - Dooley, Thomas H. of Plymouth, Michigan, age 89, passed away peacefully at his home with family at his side on July 10, 2020. Tom was born on January 29, 1931 to Edward and Elfrieda Dooley in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he lived until his family relocated to the Detroit area. He attended University of Detroit Jesuit High School and, during his sophomore year, met the love of his life and best friend forever, Patricia McCoy. They were married in 1952, the summer before his senior year at the University of Michigan. He continued his education, earning his Master of Business Administration from U of M in 1954.

Tom was a member of ROTC throughout college and after graduating, served in the armed forces for two years. Upon completion of his service, Tom began work with the public accounting firm of Touche Ross & Co., earning his CPA. He continued his career as Controller of American National Bank in Kalamazoo, Michigan and then returned to the Detroit area as Senior Vice President and Controller at Manufacturer's National Bank (currently Comerica Inc.). In 1982, Tom relocated to Los Angeles, California to serve as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at California Federal Savings and Loan. As CFO, he presided over the largest IPO within the financial industry at that time. Tom and Pat enjoyed many new adventures on the west coast. In 1988, Tom accepted the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Oakwood Health System in Dearborn bringing Tom and Pat back home to Michigan. In addition to his responsibilities as CFO he established Oakwoods' first senior living community, Oakwood Commons. Tom retired from Oakwood in 1997. Tom and Pat enjoyed their retirement years immensely, with winters in Florida and summers in Michigan, playing golf and spending time with friends and family.

One of Tom's favorite past times was golf, a lifelong interest which he enthusiastically shared with his sons. He was pleased to claim two hole-in-ones in his lifetime and 10 championship wins at Orchard Lake and Meadowbrook Country Club tournaments. More important to Tom was the time he was able to spend with his children and grandchildren on family vacations and numerous holiday gathering at everyone's home. He was very proud of all his children and grandchildren.

Tom's Catholic faith served as the foundation for the way he lived his life. Tom's dedication to work and a successful and rewarding career was only



surpassed by his love and dedication to his wife and six children (and later daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and great grandchild). With thoughtful and patient guidance, Tom and Pat instilled strong moral values by example and through communication during lively family dinners, weekly mass and devotion, and annual joy-filled vacations. They exemplified the significance of taking responsibility, working hard, caring for others, but also the importance of having a positive attitude and enjoying life.

Tom's love will continue to live on in those he leaves behind while they look forward to the day when they will be reunited. Tom is survived by six children Roger (Kathy) Dooley, Dennis (Carol) Dooley, Alyce (Bruce) Cummings, Kathleen Hadley, Jennifer (Joe) Cruitt and Tom (Chu Yun) Dooley; fourteen grandchildren: Brittany, John and Eric Dooley, Ryan and Chris Dooley, Kyle Cummings and Chelsea (Kevin) Keeton and great grandson Palmer Keeton, Sean (Marie), Beth, Christina and Colleen Hadley and Patrick (Molly), William and Tim Cruitt. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Tom was preceded in death by his loving wife of 62 years, Patricia Dooley, his parents Edward and Elfrieda Dooley and three brothers, Roger Dooley, Edward (Martha) Dooley, and John (Kay) Dooley.

Visitation will be held on Friday, July 17, 2020 from 4:00PM until 7:30PM at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth, Michigan with a Rosary at 7:30PM. The Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, July 18, at 10:00AM with visitation 9-10AM prior to mass at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 North Haggerty Rd., Plymouth. Interment will follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery for immediate family members. Memorial contributions can be made to Susan G. Komen at ww5.komen.org. Share your memories at www.schrader-howell.com.

While in attendance at the Visitation and Funeral Mass, in observance of State of Michigan guidance and for the well-being of all guests and family members, we ask all guests to wear masks at all times and socially distance at 6 feet unless you live in the same household.

If you have recently traveled from a Covid-19 hot spot, had any Covid-19 symptoms or been exposed to someone who is Covid-19 positive, rather than attending the Visitation or Funeral, please take advantage of viewing the Funeral or Rosary from the live stream of the events made available on the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home website. Please click on the Tribute Wall tab above Friday night at 7:55PM for the Rosary and Saturday morning at 9:55AM to begin viewing the Funeral Mass. You may also enter condolences or fond memories, pictures or videos on Tom's tribute wall which the family will enjoy seeing as they reflect on a life well lived.

Inaction is not an option.

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SPORTS



Customers check out some rides at Motor City Bicycle in Canton on July 9. Besides what it has on display, the shop doesn't have many bikes to sell as they've flown off the shelves during the pandemic. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Looking to buy a new bike soon? Good luck!

Ed Wright

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

America's thirst for biking during the coronavirus pandemic has left area bike shops' inventory bone dry.

Customers who order a bike this week will wait at least until September and possibly as long as December to receive their products, Canton Township's Motor City Bicycle employee Jimmy Raggett said.

"We used to have our display bikes hanging on that wall, door to door," Raggett said, pointing to a 30-yard wall that is now bare of accessories. "We can't build bikes fast enough now, that's how great

the demand is."

Biking's COVID-fueled resurgence can be attributed to a number of factors, local bike shop em-

"The highest demand is for entry-level mountain bikes that cost anywhere from \$500 to \$1,100. We're seeing a good percentage of people who are getting into biking for the first time, which is nice to see."

Lance Anway
Northville Town & Country Bikes & Boards

employees theorize.

"The No. 1 factor is that people are stuck at home, they can't go to gyms, movie theaters, places of

entertainment, so going for a bike ride is a pretty easy thing to do and it's healthy," said Northville Town & Country Bikes & Boards employee Lance Anway.

"We've seen surges similar to this, but not as extreme, in the past. During the economic downturn in 2008, people were riding bikes to work to save money, which created an increase in sales."

Raggett mentioned an economic reason for the uptick in bike sales.

"We saw the surge start back when people first started getting their stimulus checks and unemployment checks," he said. "It will

See **BIKING SURGE**, Page 3B

Trails to ride in Southeast Michigan

Andrew Vaillencourt

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With sports and many other group activities shut down for the summer because of the coronavirus pandemic, people are searching for ways to both keep busy and stay active without heading to a gym.

A perfect solution is bike riding.

Southeast Michigan features a great number of bike riding trails, especially places suited for mountain biking.

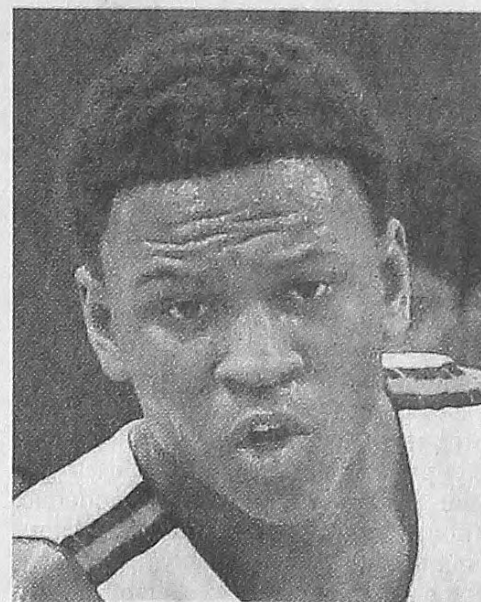
Luckily for area residents, these trails are easy to get to and are affordable.

"Milford is probably the southeast Michigan mecca for mountain biking trails," Motor City Mountain Biking Association

See **BIKE TRAILS**, Page 3B



Northville's Maybury State Park has mountain biking trails that are accessible from both its Eight Mile Road and Beck Road entrances. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Brother Rice rising sophomore Curtis Williams received a scholarship offer from Maryland earlier this month. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTO

D-1 college basketball dream begins for Williams

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Curtis Williams grew up watching college basketball.

He remembers watching Jayson Tatum at Duke and Kemba Walker at UConn. He marveled at the hard work and dedication on display each time they stepped onto the court.

He saw what it took to get to where they wanted to go.

After one season at Brother Rice, Williams is already on the path to major college basketball with his first Division I offer from Maryland coming July 2.

Earning his first offer from Long Island University much earlier (March 9), Williams, an upcoming sophomore, said he also has had conversations with Louisville.

Williams said he has been familiar with what the Terrapins have accomplished recently in the Big Ten and has been very impressed.

"They were like a very together team," Williams said. "They were very on each other and the coaching staff was great. It was not just like the head coach was calling all the shots. He let the assistant coaches, and it was just a great program."

But for Williams, the sky seems to be the limit.

He is listed as the 17th-best player in the country in the 2023 class by ESPN and is the only player from the state of Michigan on the list.

"For me, when I see it, I was very happy, but at the same time, I knew I had a target on my back," Williams said. "So day by day, I still play like I'm the underdog, and play like I still have something to prove."

For Williams, Brother Rice is the perfect place to continue to play like he has something to prove.

Coming off a third-place finish in the Catholic High School League Central, Brother Rice's young core of three upcoming sophomores will all return in Williams, Xavier Thomas and Henry Garrity. But the Warriors will also gain another from the 2023 class in Jonathan Blackwell, who spent his freshman season at Novi Christian Academy.

Heading into his sophomore season, Williams said his goal is to prove that this group is not young anymore.

"We just want to prove to people that it's not since we have a lot of good players on the team, we are not able to share the

See **CURTIS WILLIAMS**, Page 3B

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Donors saved Bowling Green baseball



Dan Wolken
Columnist
USA TODAY

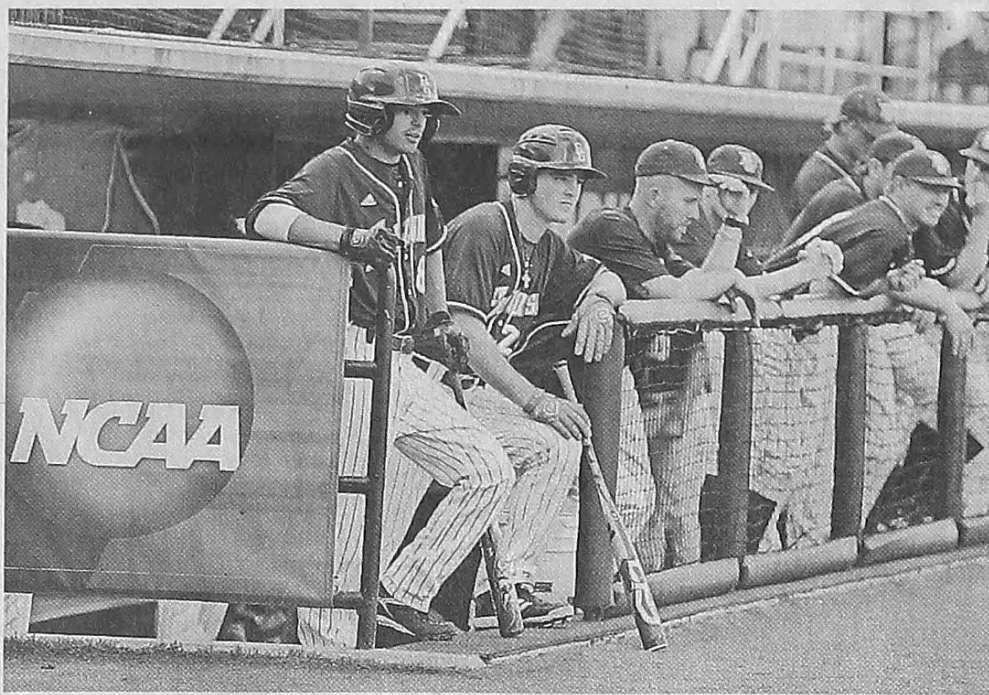
When Dave Litzenberg woke up on June 1, he knew there were about two days left to save the Bowling Green baseball program. It wasn't his job alone, of course. But the former player and 1981 graduate of the school, who had admittedly grown disconnected from the program over the years, had found himself in the middle of a fairly remarkable movement that was either going to succeed or fail on the thinnest of margins.

Two weeks earlier, Bowling Green had announced that it was discontinuing its baseball program as part of a \$2 million budget cut for athletics, a scenario that has played out at several colleges this year amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Though Bowling Green had some history behind it, most notably producing standout pitchers Orel Hershiser and Roger McDowell, it wasn't a huge surprise to anyone paying attention that the program might be on the chopping block.

"It's probably like the old analogy of the frog in the pot of boiling water as it gets a little warmer and warmer the frog thinks, 'What's the big deal?' but eventually it's cooked and you didn't see it coming," said Litzenberg, a financial advisor in the Toledo area. "Were there signs the baseball program funding was not real healthy? Absolutely."

Shortly after the May 15 decision to cut the program, there was no mistaking the urgency from a large swath of Bowling Green baseball alumni to try to get the school to change its mind. A small group text of players from the late 1970s grew into an e-mail campaign, which after just a week resulted in about \$120,000 in pledges. But that was only enough to show the school they were serious about raising money privately to save the program. They were still a long way from pulling together enough money to actually fund baseball.

"On May 31st, it came back to us from (school president) Rodney Rogers that if we could get a three-year commitment at \$500,000 a year that the university would reinstate the program," Litz-



Members of the Bowling Green baseball team look on during the 2013 NCAA Regionals. JAMIE RHODES/USA TODAY SPORTS

berg said. "On Tuesday morning (June 2), it was pretty much last call: We're either solving this by noon eastern or we're not and between restructuring and new money, we probably put about one third of the \$1.5 million together in four hours."

Thanks to roughly 250 private donors, Bowling Green baseball beat the odds. The school announced later in the day on June 2 that it had reversed course and would continue to play, which began a process that would include a coaching change - 31-year old assistant Kyle Hallock was elevated to the top spot, replacing longtime coach Danny Schmitz - and bringing players back who had entered the transfer portal.

Amid a sea of bad news around college athletics, the resurrection of Bowling Green baseball stands as an example of what it takes to get a budget-strapped school to change its mind on eliminating a sport.

It could even be a model other athletic directors study and follow if they have to cut sports. The risk, or course, is if there is not enough interest or action from alumni or boosters to raise the money to save a sport.

Bowling Green was fortunate. In fairly quick fashion, a network of well-heeled

alumni led by Litzenberg and insurance company CEO Dana Dowers were able to pull together a significant amount of money, make a commitment to the school and save an institution that they considered a major part of their post-college success.

"It's the oldest sport at Bowling Green State University," said Andy Tracy, a former Major League infielder who is now the manager for the Triple-A Columbus Clippers. "There's massive amounts of tradition across the board and there's a lot of really good alumni that have influence in communities and businesses across America. I think the pitch (to fellow alumni) was how important the program was, how important Danny Schmitz was, how your time at BGSU shaped you. We just wanted to come together and get the program where it needs to be."

Remarkably, most of the donors had not been particularly involved in the program recently. Litzenberg, who ended up organizing the various GoFundMe type campaigns into one effort, said he had taken his son to one game in the past handful of years but was not a regular on campus.

And it's not like Bowling Green base-

ball didn't have needs. Athletics director Bob Moosbrugger, who is also a former baseball player at the school, said there had been efforts in the past to fund upgrades for the program through private donations, none of which went very far. That's why he was surprised as anyone when, faced with an existential threat, former players suddenly mobilized.

"I'm looking at myself in the mirror, too, saying us as alumni haven't been as supportive of our program as we should have been," Moosbrugger said. "Everyone has their priorities in life and people are busy and may not remembering to do it, and also, have we done the best job asking for it?"

"But people I think had some frank conversations like, listen, that's in the past and this is about our program and this is a different ask than what the ask was before. And not only do we want this program to survive, we want it to thrive."

That's why it was important for the school, if it was going to even consider reversing its decision, to have a multi-year financial commitment from its donors. Because without some assurance that players wouldn't have to go through this again, the initial push was only going to stave off the inevitable for a little while.

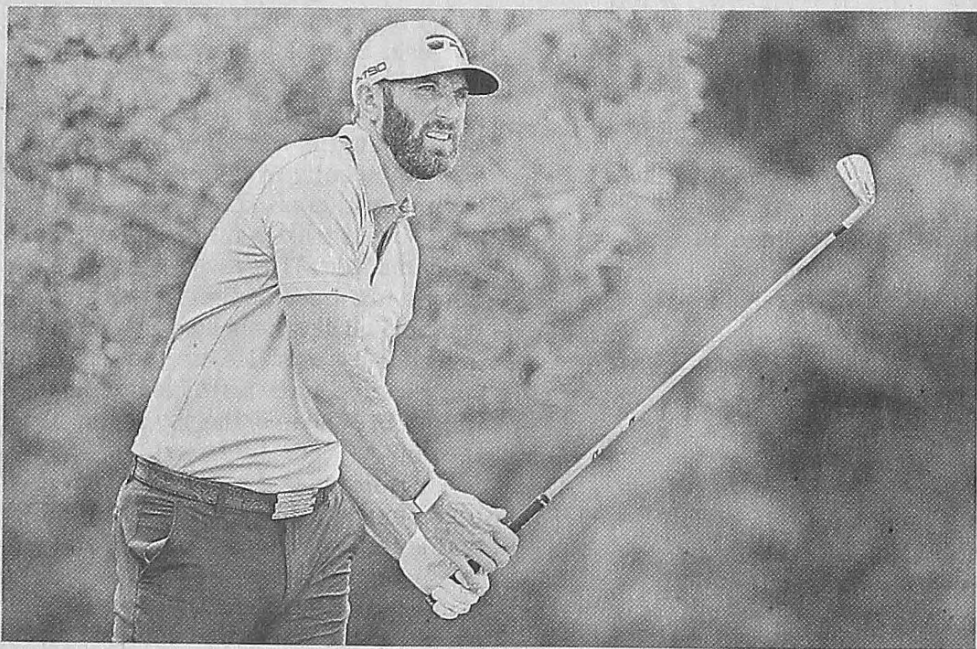
Litzenberg's group, which has rebranded its efforts as "Extra Innings," is now focused on building out its fundraising capability into the future since it's quite possible that the financial conditions that put Bowling Green in a tough spot to begin with will still exist after the initial three-year commitment runs out.

"Our expectation is that this is an ongoing process," Litzenberg said.

But is that sustainable?

Ultimately, baseball has been a money-loser for Bowling Green, and eliminating it was a fairly efficient way to chop \$500,000 a year off a shrinking budget.

"We hold a little bit of the ability to fix the problem," Moosbrugger said. "We've got to continue to tell our story, and the story we often tell and to the alumni I'm talking to is not many of these folks made it in professional baseball. They made their money in business, and they'll all say it's because of the life lessons I learned on the field and the education I got at Bowling Green that put me in the position I'm in today."



Dustin Johnson hits from the fifth tee during the final round of the Travelers Championship on June 28. BILL STREICHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Johnson won't bulk up to chase distance

Steve DiMeglio
USA TODAY

DUBLIN, Ohio - Don't expect Dustin Johnson to go all Bryson DeChambeau and start eating 5,000 calories a day, adding 40 pounds of mass and increasing his ball speed into the 200 mph neighborhood. Johnson's doing just fine being Dustin Johnson.

"I feel like my game and where it's at and how far I hit it is far enough," Johnson said Tuesday at Muirfield Village Golf Club ahead of Thursday's start of the Memorial. "Right now, I feel like if I'm playing my game, he can hit it as far as he wants to, and I don't think he's going to beat me."

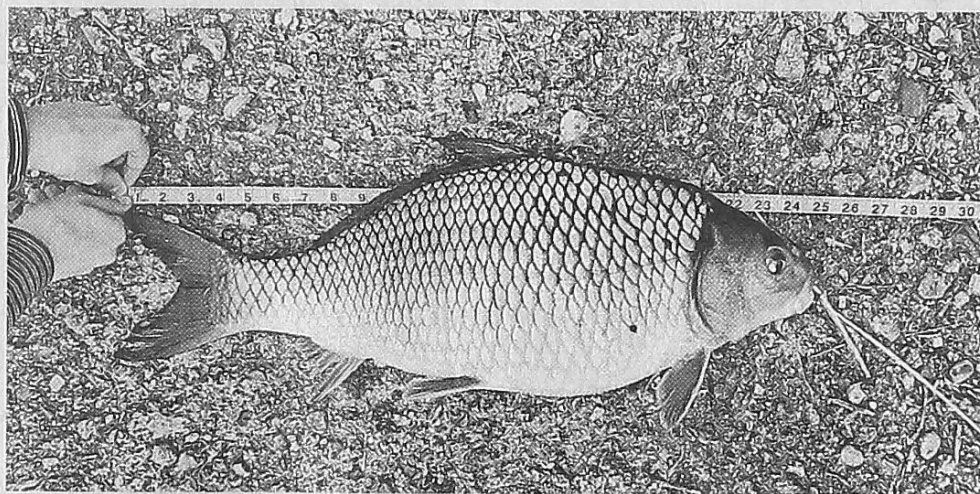
DeChambeau didn't beat Johnson two weeks ago in the Travelers Championship. Johnson shot rounds of 69-64-61-67 to finish at 19-under 261 and one shot clear of Kevin Streelman. DeChambeau, who has become the rage of outrageous distance since the PGA Tour's return following a 13-week, COVID-induced break, finished four back in a tie for sixth. The victory was Johnson's 21st of his PGA Tour career. DeChambeau won a week later in the Rocket Mortgage

Classic and now the two are in the field at the Memorial, which has attracted nine of the top 10 players in the world - Johnson is No. 4 in the world and DeChambeau is No. 7 - and 18 of the top 20.

Johnson, who is one of the longest hitters in the game, said he has no intentions of experimenting with his body and equipment as DeChambeau has. He joked that if he swung as hard as DeChambeau does, he'd hurt something.

"And I wouldn't find half of (my drives)," Johnson said with a laugh. "When I'm on the range sometimes I'll start hitting them hard just for fun, and I generally hit them pretty straight. But it's different when you're on a wide driving range than when you're on the golf course and you've got to hit it into a pretty narrow fairway."

Johnson took a few days off after winning the Travelers, went fishing and hung out with his family. He started practicing hard a little over a week ago and is anxious to get to the tee for the first round. He loves the course Jack Nicklaus built, loves the way the Golden Bear hosts a tournament. He has three top-10s in 11 starts here, two of those coming in his last three starts.



This 9-pound, 15-ounce quillback carpsucker was caught in the Muskegon River in Mecosta County on April 28. MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PHOTOS

2 Mich. fishermen catch state record-breaking fish

Meredith Spelbring
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

For many Michigan residents, the outdoors became the perfect place to social-distance - some even broke a few records.

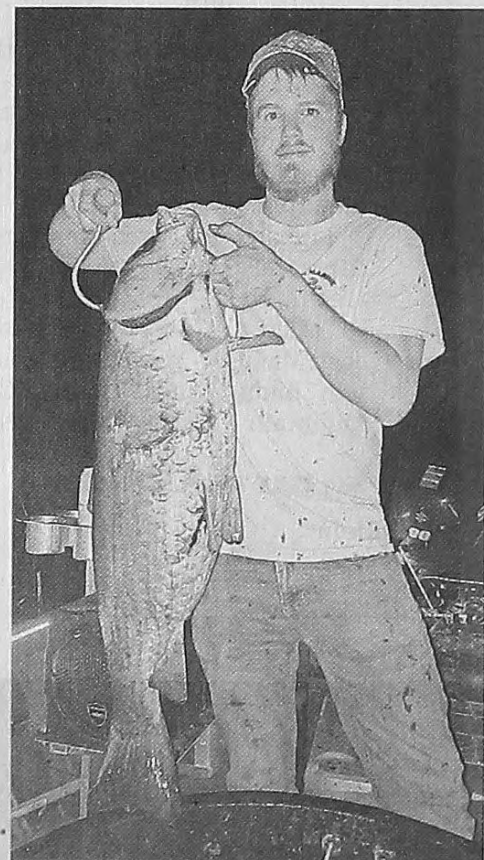
Two Michigan fishermen caught state record-breaking fish. Owen Seay of Big Rapids caught a 9-pound, 15-ounce quillback carpsucker in the Muskegon River in Mecosta County on April 28, according to a release from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The previous record was an 8.52-pound fish caught in the Hardy Dam Pond in Newaygo County in 2015, according to the DNR.

A 33-pound bigmouth buffalo measuring more than 3 feet long was caught by Garrett Rice of Athens on Lake Erie May 25. The previous record for the fish was a 32-pound bigmouth buffalo caught on the Shiawassee River in Saginaw County last year.

Both record-breaking fish were verified by the DNR, according to the release. To qualify as a record-breaking fish, it must exceed the prior state-record weight and be verified by the department. Records are only recognized by weight, not length.

The full list of record-breaking fish can be found at Michigan.gov/StateRecordFish.

Meredith Spelbring is a news intern



A 33-pound bigmouth buffalo measuring more than 3 feet long was caught by Garrett Rice of Athens on Lake Erie on May 25.

with the Detroit Free Press. Reach her at mspelbring@freepress.com or on Twitter @mere0415.

How MSU freshmen can fit Tucker's plan

Nate Atkins

Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan State is pushing through summer workouts in this strange offseason of college football. One week after the Big Ten Conference announced it was eliminating nonconference games to safeguard against the spread of the coronavirus, the hope is to still try to play football in 2020.

Regardless of what happens, college football rosters always offer opportunities to look into the future. This year's class of incoming freshmen is more challenging viewing than normal given Mark Dantonio's late retirement, Mel Tucker's hire and the fact that summer practices have been delayed.

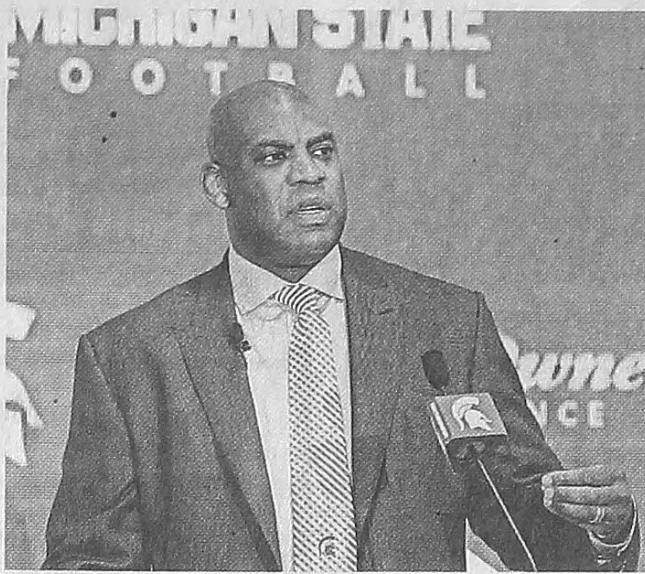
Here are some thoughts on the top five players in Michigan State's 2020 recruiting class, according to their ratings on 247Sports.com:

• **Ricky White, WR, Marietta, Georgia:** Tucker didn't recruit White, but he does hail from a state Tucker will try to build a pipeline through. Checking in at a listed 6 feet 1 inch and 165 pounds, White brings Tucker's height preference to a position that will need remodeling as the Spartans try to move to a more modern style of play. The three-star recruit uses his long stride and acceleration in a number of ways, from long kickoff returns to double moves for deep passes to reverses.

White seems to have a natural feel for the return role, which he might have to wait on behind Jalen Nailor or Julian Barnett. He needs to add strength, but perhaps by 2021, he can add to those two to give the Spartans a faster receiving corps than they have enjoyed in recent years.

• **Darius Snow, S, Carrollton, Texas:** Michigan State's top incoming freshman on defense is a legacy recruit. Snow is the son of former Michigan State basketball player Eric Snow and the nephew of linebacker Percy Snow, and he brings all the fire and confidence of a player given lofty expectations. Listed at 6-0 and 215 pounds, there's debate over where Snow will play in college. Although he's listed on 247Sports.com as an outside linebacker, he's been adamant that he'll remain a safety.

On film, it's not hard to spot his football background



Mel Tucker took over for Mark Dantonio as Michigan State's football coach in February, after a majority of the 2020 signing class had already locked in to play.

MATTHEW DAE SMITH/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

in the way Snow plays. The three-star recruit reads quarterbacks' eyes quicker than most and gets out of his breaks to meet a receiver as fast as he can. That's a useful trait, as his speed doesn't look exceptional and might be why he's considered a potential fit at outside linebacker.

Snow's size and physicality should allow him to play on special teams immediately, but he'll need to be as exceptional mentally at the next level to stick at safety and excel. It'll be interesting to see what a former Big Ten safety like Tucker does with Snow over time.

• **Dallas Fincher, OG, Grand Rapids:** One of only three in-state kids in this recruiting class, Fincher joined a string of somewhat undersized offensive line recruits for the program, and it would be smart of Tucker and offensive coordinator Jay Johnson to move away from the power schemes that overwhelmed the previous ones. If they do that, you can see how Fincher could be an asset, likely as a center. The three-star recruit is listed at 6-4 and 274, so he has a great frame to add

some weight and fit different schemes, though it will take him some time.

His highlight film is limited but shows a player with a solid base and the desire to churn his feet to keep moving opponents up the field. He can play a little lower, like all high schoolers, and it's hard to see it all translating until he adds weight. New strength coach Jason Novak has his work cut out for him.

• **Terry Lockett, WR, Minneapolis:** At 6-0 and 165 pounds, Lockett is almost the exact same size as Michigan State's top receiver in this class, White. Lockett's highlight film is from his sophomore and junior seasons, so it's hard to know where he's come since then, but it shows speed off the line and the ability to high-point a ball with that solid height. His routes were understandably a little raw as a junior, so his best plays came when he could outjump others. A three-star recruit, Lockett also brings return experience, with speed that can be too much at the high school level.

Like White, Lockett is likely to have an opportunity for special teams snaps early but will need to develop his routes under new receivers coach Courtney Hawkins. It helps to have two receivers of similar size and pedigree in the same class so they can compete and make each other better as they work up the depth chart and onto the field.

• **Jordon Simmons, RB, Powder Springs, Georgia:** Simmons was one of the prospects in this class Tucker was able to recruit, as he had waited to sign after Dantonio's abrupt retirement in February. But Simmons, a product of one of Tucker's key states, ultimately continued his pledge to join the Spartans.

Listed at 6-0 and 192 pounds, Simmons is understandably more of an athlete than a running back at this stage. The three-star recruit can take a toss play into space and leave everyone in the dust for 85 yards at the high school level, and that speed will be his calling card at the next level, too. He just has to round it out with more size and some cleaner footwork.

Simmons provides some potential if Michigan State can develop the run blocking to give his speed a chance to go the distance. He'll develop behind Elijah Collins as the coaches go to work on that, and he boasts a similar skill set to eventually take over that lead rushing role.

Contact Nate Atkins at natkins@lsj.com.

Bike trails

Continued from Page 1B

member and trail coordinator Bill Hermann said. "There's more trails out here than anywhere else in lower Michigan."

Hermann builds mountain biking trails in his spare time and is an avid biker. He also organizes the Milford Biking Festival, which typically draws in around 400 people a year to ride on the 100 miles of bike trail in the area, both paved and unpaved.

"Go to a local bike shop, pick up a good bike, spend a little more money than you think you're going to spend to get a halfway decent bike and go try it," Hermann said. "Make sure you have a helmet, gloves and go from there. Always wear a helmet when you ride a bike."

The oldest and one of the best trails around is at the Highland Recreation Area, which is purpose built. Its

trails total 16 miles.

Hermann added that there are Facebook groups cyclists can join if they want to find other bikers such as the Great Lakes Spokejunkies, which is the group he is a part of. You can also find more information on local trails and clubs at <https://www.mmba.org>. From there, you can discover several different clubs around the state, including the Motor City Mountain Biking Association.

"It's a sport you can do with a group or by yourself," Hermann said. "Once you buy your bike and your helmet, you don't really need anything else, it doesn't really cost you anything to do it. It's not like golf where you have to pay a green fee every time. All you have is your park pass sticker and that's it. I've met some really nice people all over the world riding bicycles."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at avai@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter at [@AndrewVcourt](https://twitter.com/AndrewVcourt). Send story ideas to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

Local mountain biking trails

Brighton Recreation Area

Bishop Road, Howell, MI 48843; length: 14 miles

Hickory Glen Park, Commerce Township

600 Glendary Road, Commerce Township, MI 48390; length: 6.5 miles

Highland Recreation Area

2601 E. Livingston Road, Highland Township, MI 48356; length: 16 miles

Hines Park

40134 Edward N. Hines Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170; length: 3.1 miles

Island Lake Recreation Area

State Park Road, Brighton, MI 48116; length: 15 miles

Kensington Metropark

4570 Huron River Parkway, Milford, MI 48380; length: 9.5 miles (paved)

Kensington to Proud Lake Connector

2027 S. Milford Road, Milford Township, MI 48381; length: 2 miles

Lakeshore Park

601 S. Lake Drive, Novi, MI 48377; length: 10 miles

Maybury State Park

20145 Beck Road, Northville, MI 48167; length: 7 miles

Milford Trail

200-226 Peters Road, Milford, MI 48381; length: 5.5 miles

Pontiac Lake

7800 Gale Road, Waterford, MI 48327; length: 11 miles

Proud Lake Recreation Area

3500 Wixom Road, Commerce Township, MI 48382; length: 10 miles

Rouge Park

West Outer Drive at Tireman, Detroit, MI 48239; length: 3 miles

Seven Mile Park

Wayne Avenue, Northville, MI 48167; length: 3 miles

Settlers Park

2655 Clark Road, Hartland, MI 48353; length: 5 miles

More mountain biking sites around the state can be found at <https://fxaffinity.com/trail-guide>.

Biking surge

Continued from Page 1B

be interesting to see if sales drop a lot once everything is back to normal."

Motor City Bicycle has experienced a dramatic rise in bike repairs since it reopened in late April following a one-month shutdown.

"We're finding that, along with buying new bikes, people are dusting off the ones they've had in their garage for the past 10 to 15 years and bringing them in to have us check them out," said Raggett. "We're so backed up with repairs, we can't even guarantee they'll be returned until September, at the earliest."

Raggett said the "overwhelming" number of repairs brought into the store has forced Motor City to stop taking repairs, at least until things slow down.

Anway said his store's waiting list for new bicycles is 16 pages long.

"It started growing the day we reopened in early June," he said. "The highest demand is for entry-level mountain bikes that cost anywhere from \$500 to \$1,100. We're seeing a good percentage of people who are getting into biking for the first time, which is nice to see."

Both shops have been assembling bikes for customers inside their respective facilities in an attempt to keep up with demand.

"It can take anywhere from a half hour to two hours to build, depending on the model," said Motor City's Ryan McKinnie. "We probably average about eight to 10 a day, depending upon how busy the store is."

Bicycle sales nationwide were up 121% in during March alone, according to npd.com.

On the morning Motor City reopened, customers were "wrapped around the building waiting to get in," said Raggett. "I've been in this industry 20 years and



Motor City Bicycle employee Brad Waddell works on a bike on July 7. The shop has been busy selling and fixing bikes during the pandemic as cycling has gained in popularity. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

I've never seen anything close to this."

The historical spike in biking interest is a good thing for the industry, right?

"Yes, definitely, especially if we can get more availability of product so we can maintain this momentum," Raggett said. "At this point, we're like a flooding boat, trying to pump water out fast enough to stay afloat."

"It's positive because people who are getting somewhat serious about biking now will more than liking continue to ride even once the pandemic subsides," Anway said. "It's healthy, relaxing, just about everyone can do it. It's great exercise, which a lot of people are looking for now."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1133.

Curtis Williams

Continued from Page 1B

ball," Williams said. "We want to prove that we have really improved our leadership skills."

With what he described as four or five future college basketball players currently on the Warriors' roster, Williams said each practice gives him a look at what the

future could look like.

Williams said that he posts up against Thomas each and every practice, describing him as a future top collegiate prospect.

While Williams' goals to walk in the footsteps of Walker and Tatum have not changed, he feels that competition, especially on his own roster, will help him become more prepared for the next level.

But with that, comes an expectation, and a warning of sorts, to what Brother Rice's opponents will see next

season.

"Some schools, they have just one dominant guy. You know colleges have multiple dominant guys that have to get the turn and show," Williams said. "For us, there are multiple dominant guys, so you are either going to have to hit some shots or wait your turn."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at [@ColinGay17](https://twitter.com/ColinGay17). Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.



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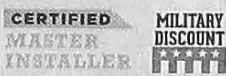
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Tips for how to solve your biggest resume problems

Eric Titner
 thejobnetwork.com

Do you think that creating your resume is a "one and done" process? If so, then think again. The truth is you should think of your resume as a constantly evolving document – one that changes over time as your background, experience, and skill set expand. It should also be continually tailored and honed to meet the needs of your target company and/or industry, which may change over time.

But there's another reason why you should never close the door on resume updating, one that might be keeping you from achieving your goal of landing your next great job – your current resume might have some serious problems that you're either unaware of or have simply ignored. And in today's ultra-competitive job market, resume problems – even the small ones – may mean the difference between getting hired and losing out to another candidate who made a more polished first impression.

Get focused and organized

Just as an unkempt appearance can make a bad first impression, an unfocused resume can really reflect poorly on you. Hiring managers and HR personnel are busy people who don't have the time (or the desire) to untangle or decipher a murky, disjointed resume. So, getting things organized and focused before you even think about where you'd like to send your resume should be a top priority.

Your best bet is a streamlined approach – create clearly delineated sections for your objective, experience, education, and key skills, and make sure they're targeted to the standards of the



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industry you hope to join. Better still, laser focus your resume to attract positive attention from the specific company that you're eager to get hired by and repeat the process every time you decide to send out your resume.

Also, before you decide to send out your resume, take a step back from your document and review it again to make sure it tells a cohesive and chronological narrative about who you are as a professional and what potential value you offer a prospective employer. If you can get a trusted colleague, mentor, friend, or family member to review your resume, even better – a fresh set of eyes and a second opinion is always a good idea.

Bottom line: on the job hunt trail, a well-tailored resume is like a well-tailored outfit, and it's your best chance of making a positive and lasting impression on the folks who matter – those who make the hiring decisions.

Put your best self forward

You might be shocked to learn that many people leave out some big and impressive feathers from their resume caps and fail to highlight all their skills, talents, and accomplishments – things that can really make a candidate stand out from the candidate crowd. Have you earned any company or industry

awards? Did you develop a major revenue-generating product or idea for a previous employer? Did you come up with or implement a significant cost-savings plan or process at a previous job? Do you excel in any particular talent or skill that's desired in your industry? Ask yourself these sorts of questions when constructing your resume, and make sure that your resume highlights your very best self – the version of you that has the best chance of getting hired.

Always edit

This may sound obvious but ask any hiring manager worth their paycheck and you'll undoubtedly hear some real resume horror stories that could have easily been avoided had their creators just took a little extra time to review and edit their work. Isn't the prospect of landing a great new job worth the additional effort? Sweep your resume for errors, inconsistencies, typos, and anything else that might give readers some pause or make them scratch their heads. Trust us, it's worth your time – nothing sets off alarm bells for hiring managers and HR personnel in quite the same way as a resume riddled with mistakes.

If you're on the job hunt and want to ensure that you're giving yourself a real shot at landing a new position, use the strategies and advice presented here to ensure that your resume problems are solved before sending it out. Take the time to make sure you're putting forth the best document possible – one that will get you hired.

Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education- and career-related topics. He currently lives in New York City.

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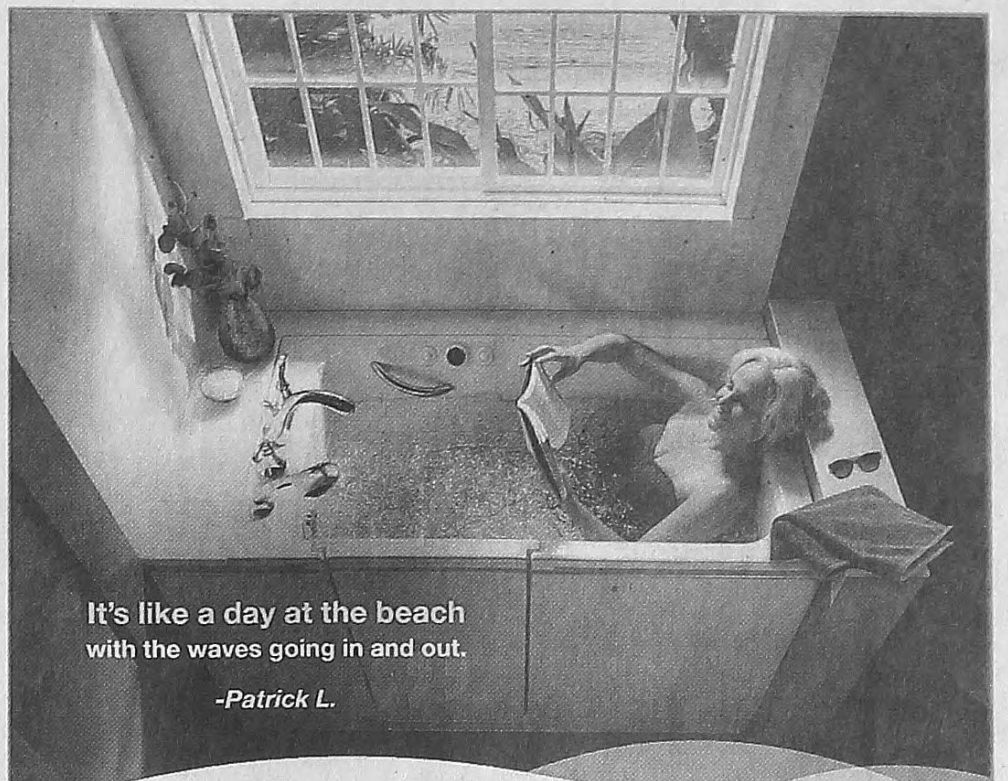


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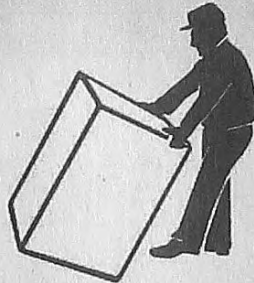
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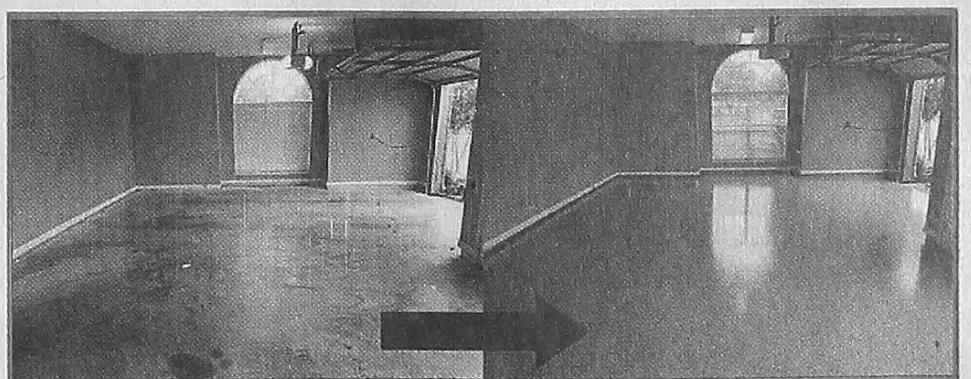
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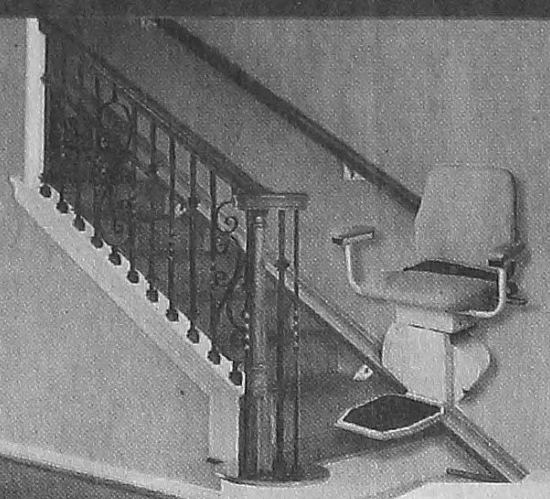
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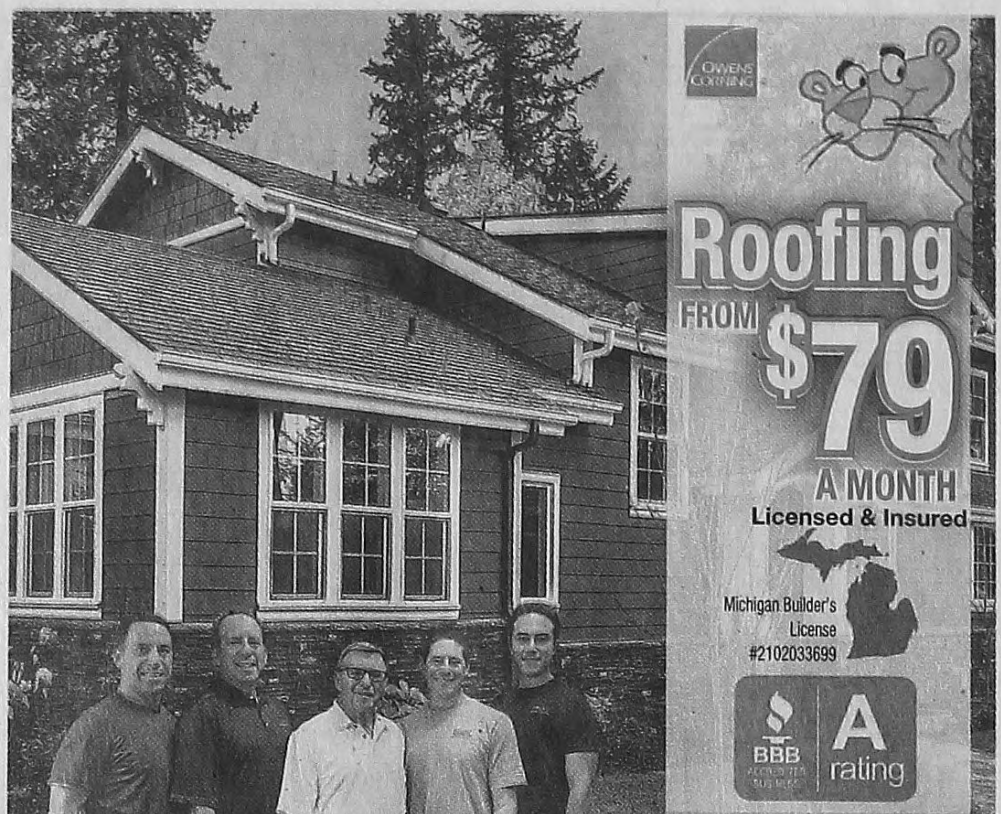
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*Offer valid on residential base installation of 3 Day Blinds brand products only, excluding shutters and special orders. Minimum purchase of \$750 required, excluding sales tax, shipping and handling. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Offer Code CEPC. Expires 12/31/20. 3 Day Blinds LLC has the following licenses: AZ ROC 321056, CA #1005986, CT HIC 0644950, NJ #13VH09390200, OR #209181, PA #PA107655, WA #3DAYBDB842KS, Nassau County, NY Home Improvement License H01073101, Rockland County, NY #H-12401-34-00-00, VA #2705172678 (Licensed through Great Windows Services, LLC). © 2020 3 Day Blinds LLC.

Disclaimer: *New orders only. With minimum purchase made at initial appointment and approved credit. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Atlas Home Improvement is neither a broker nor a lender. Financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Atlas Home Improvement, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender, all subject to credit requirements and satisfactory completion of finance documents. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only. 17.99-26.99% if not paid within 12 months. **on 100' or more, 5" k gutters with 2" x 3" downspouts.