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THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



LaKeisha Dulin hangs out with her dog Mister Skittles outside her Canton home April 21. Dulin received a new heart in 2020 and is still dealing with some health complications. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Organ donation process challenging in pandemic

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LaKeisha Dulin was dying from a heart broken in more ways than one, but now has a second chance at life and love.

The kidneys of Thelma Desjarlais were failing, but her sister-in-law had one to spare, with a few stipulations.

These are two of the thousands of successful organ transplants celebrated by Gift of Life Michigan, which marks its 50th anniversary this year amid a pandemic and challenges that continue to inhibit its mission of saving lives.

"Last year we had 372 organ donors, which resulted in 1,048 transplants," CEO Dorrie Dils said. "In spite of the

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Candy Desjarlais, foreground, donated a kidney to her sister-in-law Thelma Desjarlais. COURTESY OF CANDY DESJARLAIS

Major road projects in Canton will last months

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

"Roll out the (construction) barrels" will be the theme song for a heavily-traveled stretch of Canton Township's Canton Center Road for the next couple of months.

Prep work started the week of April 19 for what is expected to be a two-month road construction project on Canton Center from Cherry Hill to Ford roads.

The initial phase of the project will shut down the three middle lanes of the roadway, leaving one lane each for south- and north-bound traffic. The lane closures will shift to the outside lanes once the three interior lanes are completed, explained Canton Township engineer Charles Larocque.

"It's mainly concrete patching," Larocque said. "The bad concrete will be cut out and replaced."

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Westland library plans for August tax request

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Voters in Westland will have a multiple decisions to make during Aug. 3 elections.

Aside from narrowing the mayoral and city council fields during the primary, they'll also vote on a millage request from the Westland Public Library.

The 10-year, .85 millage rate will raise about \$1.4 million in its first year if it's approved. Residents currently pay a .975 millage that will expire this year, meaning whether or not this summer's tax request is approved, taxpayers will see some decrease on their taxes.

See REQUEST, Page 2A

Protesters rally against 'killology' police trainer's visit

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A police trainer will have to find enough common ground with metro Detroit critics before he's allowed to keep any local speaking engagement.

Oak Pointe Church in Novi canceled "killology" expert Dave Grossman's May 26-27 appearance at the church after a

robust phone, email and social media campaign.

"Our mission of 'making disciples to know Jesus and make Him known' is not in line with one of the speakers in question," the church said in an April 26 statement. "Even though this was not a church event, we are responsible for what we host in our building and therefore endorse."

Metro Detroiters who voiced their concerns regarding Grossman, who is also an author, were relieved.

"(With) what our country is going through right now, does he really need to have seminars on how to kill without remorse, without conscience?" argued Vicki Ashby, a Northville Township resident. "This is not what we need right now."

Facebook groups including Livonia Citizens Caring About Black Lives and Crime Watch Livonia kept the debate - and protests - intense for a good 24 hours.

Some members took their protests to Oak Pointe Church, upset that a church would host a speaker they say is helping

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Consider this before taking lump sum instead of pension



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

I am 64 and divorced, and I am going to retire over the next couple of months. My condo is paid off and between checking and savings accounts, I have about \$50,000. The only investment I have is an IRA worth about \$25,000.

After reading a your column and attending one of your seminars, I am delaying my Social Security until I'm 67. My income from retirement will come from my ex-husband's pension. When I turn 65, I will began receiving the pen-

sion. I will receive \$3,000 a month for the rest of my life. Currently, it only costs me about \$2,300 a month to cover all my expenses.

I have received a cash offer to buy out my pension. I've had the offer reviewed by two experts and they both have said that the offer is at the low end of fair. Assuming the numbers are fair, what other issues should I consider in keeping the pension or taking a lump sum?

I have no children; thus, I'm not worried about an inheritance.

Thank you, Julie

Dear Julie:

First, I think it was smart to get two expert opinions on whether the buyout number was fair. In many situations, too many people are lured by the large dollar amount and never determine if

the amount was fair or not.

In deciding whether to accept the lump-sum payment, you also have to take into consideration the type of person you are. If you're the type of person who has money and spends it, you may not be the right candidate to accept the buyout. In all too many situations, people who accept the buyout forget that this money must last the rest of their life.

I also think it's important to consider the type of investor you are. If you are the type of investor who is familiar with risk and how markets work, a fair lump-sum offer may work for you. On the other hand, if you're the nervous type of investor, or an investor who only wants to invest in CDs and U.S. treasuries, the pension is probably the way to go.

In reviewing your situation, my advice would be to take the pension, not the lump sum. Taking the pension will give you peace of mind knowing that your monthly living expenses are covered. Having that peace of mind and not worrying that you will run out of money is invaluable.

Remember, if you receive an offer to take a lump sum versus a pension, looking at the numbers to see if they're fair is important. However, probably more important is to honestly look at yourself and the type of investor you are.

Good luck.

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

Request

Continued from Page 1A

Funds raised from the millage would go toward day-to-day operations.

"This one is strictly for operating funds," Library Director Jennifer Roth explained. "This is the general maintenance on the building, the staff, the books, the programs, the services. This is to keep the doors open."

The library also receives a .922 millage rate from city taxes. In the next fiscal year, the library is operating under a \$3.6 million budget.

Once the library is able to fully reopen post-pandemic, Roth said staffing will be a big focus.

"We've had a decrease in staff in the last year and a half, and we just haven't rehired to our full staff," she said. "Once things start opening, I am looking to get back to full staff. We're short about seven positions."

As the new director hired in March, Roth said having support from staff has been meaningful to her. She wants to make sure the empty full- and part-time positions are filled.

"I've been here for four years, and it's really nice to have the support of the staff," she said. "We're all on the same page and we all have the same goals."

Roth said virtual programming and downloadable content may become a bigger part of the library's offerings in the future, but she's also looking forward to opening the facility back up to its full extent for the community.

"We really pride ourselves on being the community hub and a place where people can gather," she said. "What is that going to look like when the pandemic is over? I'm really looking forward to when we can have our full slate of programs and our full hours."

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

CORRECTION

An article in the April 22 edition under the headline "Some annual events returning this spring" should have said permits for Plymouth's Art in The Park, scheduled for July 9-11, were approved.

To report corrections or clarifications, email accuracy@hometownlife.com.

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Rally

Continued from Page 1A

officers use lethal force.

Church officials began talking to the organizer, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, and, soon, the event was canceled.

"If it's a concern to them, it's a concern to us," said Robert Stevenson, MACP's executive director and Livonia's former police chief. "We don't want to put the church in a bad position. I don't want anybody in a bad position. We'd prefer to see if there's common ground there."

He said he had never heard such criticism raised against Grossman. He and other association officials had invited Grossman to speak to police officers because of the post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide rates that can accompany police work. About 100 had signed up to attend.

Sitting on the board of the police chiefs association, Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid received messages of protest and was somewhat surprised by the outcry.

"I've heard over the years good reviews," said Caid, who never heard the term "killology" until recently. "He is highly respected in the field and has been for a number of years."

Caid's understanding was that Grossman's training was supposed to be about the physiological and emotional outcome of using and dealing with lethal force.

"They're in a position that is highly stressful (and) highly traumatic," Caid said of police officers. "Their recovery is certainly critical to the service of the community."

Grossman touts himself as "a former West Point psychology professor, professor of military science, and an Army Ranger." He has authored the books "On Killing," "On Combat," and "Stop Teaching Our Kids to Kill." He also has talked about the psychology of killing on podcasts.

He avowed that critics are focusing on a few shreds from his teachings instead of bigger messages like the importance of breathing exercises, staying calm, and mindfulness to reduce violence.

"Killology is not about teaching people to kill," Grossman said during a phone interview. "It's not even on the menu. It's about understanding the factors enabling restraint killings in society and how people respond to life and death events."

MACP officials are willing to schedule another speaking engagement if critics can be appeased. Yet Grossman said that he's more interested in peo-



Army Veteran Dave Grossman, director of the Illinois-based Killology Research Group, leads a 2018 training seminar. Grossman was scheduled to speak in Novi, but after critics protested, the presentation was canceled. USA TODAY NETWORK FILE



John Hillers, left, and Anna Cragel attend a Black Lives Matter rally Aug. 17 in front of Livonia City Hall. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Hillers was expecting to protest outside Oak Pointe if Grossman was allowed to make an appearance. He also was going to continue a social media campaign.

"I don't believe agents of the state should have the willingness to kill its citizens," Hillers said. "I understand accepting diverse opinions but not all opinions are valid. Saying that you should enjoy killing is not a valid opinion that we should tolerate."

In its statement, Oak Pointe officials focused on this statement from Grossman during an online seminar: "Any natural or learned resistance to killing, any sense of the sanctity of human life, any human emotions, any remorse or compassion at the moment of truth can all be overcome and overwhelmed with training."

"Because of this statement and other elements of Lt. Col. Grossman's teachings, we cannot welcome him as a speaker at Oak Pointe Church," church officials said. "We appreciate everyone who has expressed concerns about the content of this event, so that we could investigate it further and make a decision that better reflects the values of Oak Pointe Church."

The 50200 W. Ten Mile Road church has been known to host municipal events and trainings in the past.

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

Projects

Continued from Page 1A

The cost of the Canton Center project will be paid for with funds generated from the township's successful road construction millage in 2018.

"The intent of the Canton Road Improvement Program is to provide flexibility year-to-year to match revenues from the millage to the prioritize projects," the township's road construction website states.

"We prioritize which roads receive work based on a number of factors, including their condition and PASER ratings," Larocque said. "Roads that will serve as detours once the Ford Road boulevard project starts also receive priority status."

Traffic will be maintained in both directions on Canton Center during construction, Larocque said.

A Wayne County-orchestrated con-



Canton Center Road between Ford and Cherry Hill is slated for a resurfacing project. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

struction project on Cherry Hill road from Lilley to Haggerty roads commenced April 15. The two-phase project

will consist of widening and resurfacing the primary east-west artery in Canton.

During phase one of the work cycle, eastbound Cherry Hill will be closed. Traffic will be detoured northbound on Lilley Road to eastbound Ford Road to southbound Lotz Road, ending the detour back at Cherry Hill. Westbound Cherry Hill traffic will be maintained while the eastbound side is under construction.

During phase two, westbound Cherry Hill will be closed. Traffic will be detoured northbound on to Lotz Road to westbound Ford Road to southbound Lilley Road, ending the detour back at Cherry Hill. Eastbound Cherry Hill traffic will be maintained throughout the westbound side's construction cycle.

Construction is anticipated to be completed by late July.

Drivers are urged to use caution when driving through work zones.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at earight@hometownlife.com or 517-375-3113.

Process

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pandemic, we had our third record-breaking year in a row. We are very happy with that.”

The number could have been even higher, Dils added, if not for the pandemic, which hindered life-saving transplants for a variety of reasons, including hospitals filled with COVID-19 patients stopping surgeries; many would-be organ donors dying at home from heart attacks or strokes; and the coronavirus infection itself tainting organs.

Vaccinations and increased medical knowledge about the virus is helping conquer pandemic issues, but even after 50 years of education about organ donation and its power to save and change lives, Gift of Life continues to battle misconceptions and fight for more individuals to sign up for the donor registry and talk to their families about their wish to help others.

In Michigan, there are more than 2,500 individuals on the transplant list and nationwide, 108,000 people are waiting for a transplant. Twenty people die every day waiting for a life-saving transplant in the U.S., and someone is added to the national list, on average, about every 10 minutes.

After heartbreak, a new lease on life

LaKeisha Dulin, 42, of Canton was added to the long list of those waiting for a transplant four years ago. Born with an enlarged heart and missing valve with a condition known as tricuspid atresia, she had two surgeries before the age of 8.

Her heart's function steadily declined and she suffered a crippling blow to it in May 2018 when her husband, Robert Dulin, was killed in a car crash. Their son, Shane, who was in the front seat with his father, was not physically harmed.

LaKeisha Dulin wondered after losing her husband of 14 years if she might be among the people she had heard of who died of a broken heart. She was crushed in an unbearable sadness, but also had two young children depending on her: Shane, whom she and her husband had adopted at birth, and her

niece, Saniya Hughes, whom they had been in the process of adopting.

Just a month before her husband's death, LaKeisha Dulin stopped working in business development for Comcast on her doctor's orders as her health deteriorated. There were hundreds of people on the transplant list in front of her, particularly people of color like herself.

“The transplant list is highly populated with people of color,” Dils said. “It really has to do with genetic diseases, high blood pressure, kidney disease, hereditary diseases more common in that population.”

Ethnicity and skin color are not part of the matching process for organ and tissue transplants, Dils said. Instead, matching relies heavily on blood type, as well as the antigens unique to individuals and which trigger immune response.

The advancement of immunosuppressants, drugs given to prevent rejection of donated organs, have increased the ability to match individuals.

Still, Dulin waited for a heart to be found, while she grew increasingly tired, unable to walk up stairs without being winded or walk a block without having to sit. Even getting dressed became a hurdle, and she was constantly short of breath, with ever-present chest pain.

On May 18 last year, her son's 13th birthday, Dulin walked into the hospital for a stress test and was told she couldn't leave. She was admitted and pushed to the top of the transplant list. On the morning of June 5, as she was about to eat breakfast in her hospital room, doctors walked in and stopped her.

They found a heart.

A life-giving kidney, with a few caveats

Thelma Desjarlais didn't have a hard time at all finding a kidney to replace her failing ones; her sister-in-law Candy Desjarlais spontaneously offered up one of hers.

Candy, now 50 and a Milford resident, remembers that day and moment vividly. She had just sat with Thelma, who was visiting from Alaska, through a 5-hour U-M dialysis treatment, something her sister-in-law needed to have every other day.

“It was awful to see the different age ranges, and patients were throwing up

or sleeping,” Candy recalls. “Thelma was in her 30s, and I said, ‘You can't live like this forever.’ Our husbands (brothers, Tom and Doug) came to pick us up, and as we were walking out of the facility, it came out of my mouth before I even thought it. Definitely a higher power was working there — I said, ‘You can have my kidney.’”

Thelma was stunned and, at first, reluctant.

A native of the Philippines, she had learned her kidneys were failing only after marrying Douglas Desjarlais and moving to the United States in the early '90s.

“It's really common in the Philippines to get kidney disease,” Thelma, now 51, said. “Nobody treats strep or urinary tract infections, you just get over it.”

She managed for many years without having to go on dialysis and had been on it for about one year when Candy offered a way out, but it took Thelma another year to come around and accept the gift from her sister-in-law.

Candy had with three stipulations: Thelma would need to occasionally listen to the music of Rick Springfield, enjoy a glass of red wine once in a while, and climb a mountain with her sister-in-law.

One of the caveats went into effect the day of surgery when Virginia Mason Hospital staff blasted “Jessie's Girl” at full volume as the women were wheeled into the operating room in Seattle.

Candy was celebrating going into surgery, but roles were reversed coming out.

“It's a lot harder on the donor than on the recipient who has been sick for a long time,” Candy said.

Unexpected issues after transplant

It would take Candy about two months to recover, but she is quick to say she would do it again.

Thelma, meanwhile, had some unexpected issues to contend with following her transplant, as did LaKeisha.

Both women who received new organs suffered some depression.

Thelma said she had weight gain from the immunosuppressants and also a deep fear of her body rejecting her new kidney. To get her life back, she said, she focused on working and vocational training and started her own healthcare business, coordinating care for people

who are ill.

Two years ago to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the kidney transplant, Thelma made good on her final promise to Candy, and the pair climbed Flattop Mountain in Alaska, pausing midway while Thelma summoned her courage, aided by the strangers who were also climbing and heard their story.

When they reached the top of the mountain about four hours after they'd begun, a group of people cheered their arrival as Thelma shed a few tears.

A promise made, a promise kept, a life renewed.

“I really think organ donation is the ultimate love you can give to people, to give their life back,” said Thelma, who hopes to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro with Candy for their 15th transplant anniversary in three years. “You give a second chance to people when you donate an organ to them. For me, donors are the ultimate hero.”

LaKeisha Dulin left CS Mott Children's Hospital last August, two months after her surgery, knowing her heart donor had been someone very young.

“No one talks about the emotions you get from a transplant,” she said. “You get depressed, survivor remorse... I felt grateful, but sad for the family. It's very conflicting. I had to work through that and understand that they picked the gift of life and wanted to help somebody.”

Dulin has suffered some other health setbacks in recent months, but said her new heart is the “best thing on her body” and she is reclaiming her future. She has found love again, reconnecting with her high school sweetheart Michael Ford and is looking forward to seeing her children grow up and even got a new puppy, Skittles.

She also started writing a very special letter to a family she might never meet, but who in the midst of a terrible grief, gave a beautiful, selfless gift.

In that letter, she will express her gratitude, and tell them how they changed the life of a woman who was in heart failure and a widow, and the lives of her children who didn't have to suffer losing another parent.

“I hope everyone considers being an organ donor, because you don't realize how much you can change a person's life and their family's life as well,” she said.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

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New COVID-19 cases plummet in Michigan

Mike Stucka
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan reported far fewer coronavirus cases in the week ending Sunday, adding 38,100 new cases. That's down 28.5% from the previous week's tally of 53,296 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked first among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week coronavirus cases in the United States decreased 13.8% from the week before, with 407,147 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 9.36% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, 11 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Michigan added backlogged deaths throughout April, making week-to-week comparisons inaccurate.

Across Michigan, cases fell in 77 counties, with the best declines in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Wayne County reported 7,032 cases and 107 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 10,048 cases and 77 deaths. Throughout the pandemic the county has reported 150,249 cases and 4,540 deaths.

Oakland County reported 4,385 cases and 41 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 6,654 cases and 33 deaths. Throughout the pandemic the county has reported 108,109 cases and 2,170 deaths.

Michigan ranked 26th among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 41.2% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 42.2%, a USA TODAY analysis of CDC data shows. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which are the most used in the United States, require two doses administered a few weeks apart.

In the week ending Sunday, Michigan reported administering another 611,384 vaccine doses, including 254,580 first doses. In the previous week, the state administered 662,384 vaccine doses, including 368,778 first doses. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 6,769,798 total doses.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in Huron, Muskegon and Newaygo counties. Adding the most new cases overall were Wayne County, with 7,032 cases; Macomb County, with 4,424 cases; and Oakland County, with 4,385. Weekly case counts rose in six counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Muskegon, St. Joseph and Schoolcraft counties.

In Michigan, 475 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 371 people were reported dead.

A total of 911,800 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 18,409 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 32,077,178 people have tested positive and 572,200 people have died.

Note: In the Johns Hopkins University coronavirus data, cases and deaths for the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Federal Correctional Institution separately from Michigan counties.

Canton Liberty Fest canceled

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to dump figurative buckets of cold water on summer events — the latest being Canton Township's Liberty Fest.

"Due to the latest guidelines from State of Michigan public health officials and in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Canton Township is officially canceling its 2021 Liberty Fest ... due to the coronavirus pandemic," the township announced in a release.

The event was scheduled for June 19-21.

"This final decision had to be made due to the continuously evolving health and safety concerns in our community," stated Greg Hohenberger, Canton Leisure Services

director.

Established in 1991, Canton Liberty Fest typically welcomes thousands of individuals each summer, who participate in Canton's largest community celebration over this three-day festival. Popular activities include carnival rides and midway games, two stages jam-packed with live entertainment, car and truck shows, marketplaces, food courts and a fireworks display.

To help fill the void left by Liberty Fest, Canton Township staff is planning two free summer concert series that will enable the community to safely enjoy music at the Heritage Park Amphitheater, behind the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

Residents will have an opportunity to enjoy live music when the Thursday Night LIVE! Concert Series kicks off June 17. It is scheduled to continue 6:30-8:30 p.m. every Thursday through Aug. 19.

Lunch-hour entertainment will be available when the township's "Tuesdays Are Terrific" program kicks off July 13. This youth variety series continues July 20 and 27 and Aug. 3 and 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with concerts geared toward preschool- and elementary-age audiences. Performer lineup details can be found at www.cantonfun.org.

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

Meet the candidates for Plymouth City Commission

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nick Moroz was among four people who filed the necessary paperwork to run for one of four opening seats on the Plymouth City Commission that will be on the ballot for the Nov. 2 general election.

Barring the emergence of write-in candidates, Moroz will retain his seat on the commission and be joined by fellow candidates Alana Maguire, Jennifer Kehoe and Linda Filipczak.

The three candidates who secure the most votes on Nov. 2 will earn four-year terms while the fourth-place vote-getter will secure a two-year term.

Three current Plymouth City Commissioner members — Mayor Oliver Wolcott and commissioners Ed Krol and Marques Thomey — did not file for re-election ahead of the April 20 filing deadline.

Moroz, who has served as Plymouth's mayor pro-tem since November 2019 following three years as a commissioner, is the assistant director of entrepreneurial practice at the Center for Entrepreneurship in the University of Michigan's College of Engineering.

He is also the co-owner of the Detroit Bat Company, which manufactures vintage wooden baseball bats.

"In 2017 I decided to run for city commission to give back to the Plymouth community," Moroz said. "I thought I could leverage my skills as a small-business owner and experience in entrepreneurship to help make smart decisions for the city."

"The last four years have been as eventful as possible for public servants, especially the last 13 months since the pandemic started. I think we've discovered how important it is for



Filipczak Kehoe Maguire Moroz

The three candidates who secure the most votes for Plymouth City Commission on Nov. 2 will earn four-year terms; the fourth-place vote-getter will serve a two-year term.

every level of government — local, state and government — to make wise decisions. I am incredibly proud of how our team of commissioners has helped Plymouth remain safe and keep business flowing as much as could be expected."

As a seven-year member of the Plymouth Planning Commission, candidate Jennifer Kehoe is no stranger to making city-impacting decisions. The owner of two degrees from the University of Michigan, including a master's in public health, Kehoe said she believes her experience in analyzing data can help Plymouth continue to move forward in a positive direction.

"I've learned that everyone can make a difference, especially in a community of this size," said Kehoe, whose husband Patrick is the treasurer of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education. "One of the things about being a member of the planning commission is that you ultimately can see the fruits of your labor. Serving as a member of the Plymouth City Commission, I will be able to experience this on a larger scale."

"I'm all for growth in Plymouth, as long as it's smart growth."

Maguire has been the finance and business support supervisor for an international renewable engineering and environmental sustainability consulting firm for the

past six years. She manages the administrative, financial, and human resources matters for the firm's offices in Plymouth, Washington, D.C. and Mexico City.

Maguire, who is married to Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, is also the president of Fair Michigan, a non-profit corporation seeking to end discrimination against persons based on sex, sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity.

"As a lifelong resident of Plymouth, I was excited at the opportunity to serve my community and work alongside a dedicated group of professionals both in the elected city government and in the administration," Maguire said. "My goals are to improve our infrastructure and to make Plymouth a more pedestrian-friendly and sustainable city, with a government that is responsive to the needs of its residents."

Filipczak is a Plymouth Historic District commissioner. The 27-year Plymouth resident also works at Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

"I adore our community," she said. "I decided to run for Plymouth City Commission because I want to do what I can to support the city of Plymouth as well as our residents."

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



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Save During the Toll Brothers National Sales Event "Discover the Difference"

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 "Discover the Difference" on Saturday, May 1. The event will run through Sunday, May 16 in participating communities throughout the country.

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 May 1, 2021 and May 16, 2021.

LO-GM00020493-01

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.

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).

The Toll Brothers' National Sales Event "Discover the Difference" is offered at the following Metro-Detroit communities:

Ranch-style Homes in West Bloomfield

Reserve at West Bloomfield is a must-see community featuring spacious Ranch-style homes with an easy, low-maintenance lifestyle and resort-style amenities conveniently located only steps to the West Bloomfield Trail and the beauty of the West Bloomfield Nature Preserve. Tour our gorgeous Berks ranch model home and our new Waltham two-story

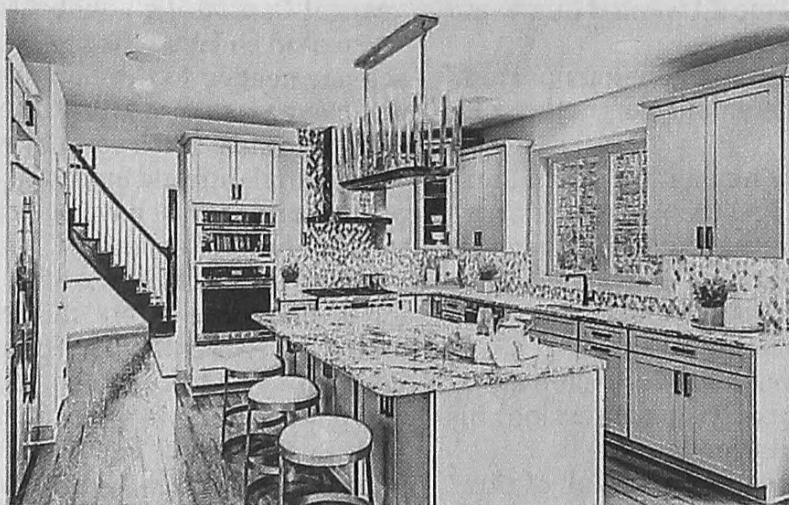
model home today. Priced from the low \$500,000s. Call (248) 654-8555 or visit ReserveatWestBloomfield.com for more information.

New in South Lyon

Toll Brothers newest community Lyon Preserve is now open and offering the same ranch-style homes and luxury, low maintenance living. Lyon Preserve is nestled in a private wooded enclave in Lyon Township just minutes from historic downtown South Lyon and every convenience priced from the upper \$400,000s. Call (248) 983-3880 or visit LyonPreserve.com to learn more.

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 upper \$600,000s. For more information, visit WestridgeofCanton.com or call (734) 844-0279.



Visit any of our Michigan communities to learn about limited-time savings offered during the company's National Sales Event.

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 low \$500,000s and two-story home designs range from 2,411 sq. ft. to more than 2,842 sq. ft. with an incredible list of included features. Hamlet Pointe offers large home sites and side-entry garages. Homes are priced from the mid-\$600,000s. Three stunning model homes are now available to tour and one is available for sale. For details, visit The-Hamlet.com or call (734) 398-5939.

Resort-living 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 mid-\$400,000s and Villas from the mid-\$500,000s.

The Villas range from 2,041 to 2,631+ square feet and offer first- or second-floor primary bedroom suites, island kitchens, open layouts, loft space, and more. The Townhomes range from 1,861 to 1,890+ sq. ft. and include a 2-car garage, a lower level with the option to finish and options to add a loft or 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 NorthOaks.com.

Final Opportunities for Single-Family Homes from mid-\$500,000s 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 offering the final opportunities from Toll Brothers including our stunning Crestwood Farmhouse Model Home for sale. For more information, visit TrailwoodsOfAnnArbor.com or call (734) 995-5503.

To learn more about Toll Brothers and the National Sales Event, please call 866-267-0537 or visit TollBrothers.com/MI.

This is not an offering where prohibited by law.

Toll Brothers NATIONAL sales event

May 1-16, 2021



WINONA | HAMLET MEADOWS | CANTON, MI

WESTRIDGE ESTATES OF CANTON

Selling Fast!
The Ultimate in Luxury Living in Canton

Expansive home sites with clubhouse, fitness, pools, and play park in the Plymouth-Canton School District. From the upper \$600s. 734-844-0279

TOLL BROTHERS AT THE HAMLET

Amazing Winona Berkshire Model Home Available For Sale

Community Clubhouse, Sport Courts, and Playground. Single-family homes in the Plymouth-Canton School District with walking trails to Independence Park

Hamlet Meadows

Final Opportunities Now Available
Executive homes with open layouts and an outstanding list of included features at a great value. From the low \$500s. 734-398-5939

Hamlet Pointe

Limited Private View Home Sites Available

Estate homes on larger home sites with side-entry garages, two-story family rooms, luxurious primary bedroom suites, and much more. From the mid-\$600s. 734-398-5939

Discover the Difference | Mortgage Rates Near an All-Time Low

Toll Brothers offers new luxury home communities in Canton

TollSalesEvent.com/Canton

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 5/1/21 and 5/16/21, sign an agreement of sale 5/31/21, 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.



High-achieving Canton student mourned by many

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Whether it was retrieving his younger sister's bicycle from a garage attic, helping cook pancakes for a senior citizens breakfast or making freshly-squeezed lemonade at a fundraiser for underprivileged kids, 17-year-old Canton High School senior Preston Bell never hesitated when asked to lend a hand.

"A few weeks ago, a friend asked me if I could hang out, but my bike was still packed away in the garage attic," recounted Montgomery Bell, Preston's sibling and a freshman at Canton High School. "When I went downstairs to ask Preston if he'd help, he was on the phone, but he said right away, 'All right!' Once he got the bike down he even asked me if I wanted him to put air in the tires."

"Preston was the kindest, most generous person," added his mom, Jessica. "He would do anything for anyone."

Hailed by those who knew him as thoughtful, brilliant, handsome and driven, Preston Bell took his own life April 21, minutes after returning home from his morning block of classes at Canton High School.

Preston's death came two months after Salem High School junior Grant Waitz took his own life.

Although Preston was being treated occasionally by a therapist for bouts of intermittent depression, his death shocked his family and friends.

"What is the most heartbreaking about all of this," Jessica Bell explained, "is there are so many people who would have dropped whatever they were doing to help him get through this. But he never asked."

"Everyone we talked to at his visitation (April 23) and the funeral (April 24) is blown away by this. No one saw it coming."

Preston's parents said his classmates observed nothing unusual about his behavior the morning he died.

They also accessed his phone on Saturday in hopes of gaining even a small bit of understanding, and there was nothing out of the ordinary: nothing that would suggest he was planning on taking his own life, noted Jessica.

When Preston's dad, Jeff Bell, spoke with Preston's therapist a couple hours after his death, the therapist, who has been working with kids for 22 years, was crying.

"He said there were no obvious signs and this was the first patient he's lost," Jeff Bell said.

Multi-talented young man

Preston Bell was a lover of learning, reading, challenging athletic activities and making others feel important, his parents reiterated during an interview in the family's home April 25.

His class load at Canton included a series of advanced-placement

courses as well as taking part in the school's STEM academy — a program in which he excelled.

"When Preston was in eighth grade at East Middle School, he told me he wanted to start taking Chinese courses," Jessica recalled. "They didn't have Mandarin courses at East, so he had to get up extra early to take the bus to the high school. He also studied Chinese his first three years at Canton High School."

Preston believed that by coupling knowledge of the science needed to develop clean energy, clean water, and clean air solutions with the ability to speak the primary language of the country where the great majority of human rights and environmental abuses are taking place, he might just have been able to make things better, his obituary explained.

Away from school, Preston excelled at gymnastics for several years before shifting gears and competing for the Ann Arbor Skyline High School rowing team for two years. Preston also enjoyed working on computers and participating in online gaming with his friends.

In September he secured a 12-hours-a-week job at Main Street Pizza in Plymouth.

"He was so proud of that job," his dad said. "On the days he worked, he'd wear his Main Street Pizza shirt to school. The owners loved him and the feeling was mutual."

Some social media posts in the days following Preston's death suggested his death was connected to Plymouth-Canton Schools' lack of face-to-face learning for close to a year.

Preston's mother was deeply saddened that people who have never met her son were making such claims to help elevate their own views.

Jessica Bell also noted that Plymouth-Canton Schools, including individual administrators, teachers and counselors, have all been very supportive since Preston's death.

"Canton High School's principal (Shareda Lewis) has called us every morning (beginning April 22) to check on us and she also attended Preston's funeral service," Jessica Bell said. "She let us know that they brought counselors into the school. We appreciate their support."

While the Bells said their son had some disappointments related to virtual learning, like the inability to realize the culmination of several years' work via the STEM academy's Capstone Project because it requires team lab work, they in no way blame this tragedy on the lack of face-to-face instruction.

"Preston was also really looking forward to taking



Preston Bell. SUBMITTED

his sister to each of her classes on the first day of her freshman year," Jessica Bell said. "He told us he would more than likely rack up some detentions because he would probably be late to his classes while escorting his sister to hers."

"I mean, every kid looks forward to their senior year of high school. It's your year to be the big man on campus, it's the year to have fun. I know he missed that part of it. This past year has been especially tough on seniors."

She then reiterated that rather than using her son's passing as a tool to further personal and/or political agendas, the people speculating could "put that energy to better use by proposing solutions and supporting each other and the children in our community rather than continuing to place blame and hurl insults, because one never knows what tomorrow will bring."

No warning

The day before he died, Preston filed the paperwork and paid the deposit that would lead to him attending the University of Michigan-Dearborn in the fall to study computer science.

"Again, signs that he was looking forward to his future, not planning to end his life," Jeff Bell said.

The love Preston's friends and acquaintances shared for him was evident right up until his final minutes. Just after noon on April 21, he posted a warning on Snapchat that he was going to end his life. Within minutes of the post, several of his friends called 9-1-1 and rushed to his Plymouth Township home in droves.

"There were so many vehicles at our home, the police had to close our street," Jeff Bell said. "When Jessica and I arrived, we were hoping he had just hurt himself, maybe in a cry for help. But the paramedics told us he was gone."

Jessica Bell shared some heartfelt advice for the group of her son's friends who attended Preston's visitation and funeral.

"When Preston was young, he was really cuddly," she said. "But, as he got older, in his teens, he wouldn't let me hug him as much, even though there were times he looked stressed out and like he needed a hug ... but he'd gently push me away. I told his friends, 'When your mom wants to give you a hug, let her.'"

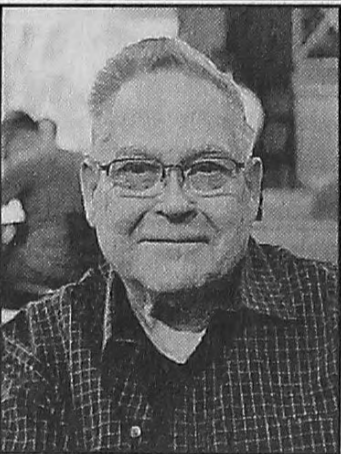
Preston's legacy will be embedded in the Plymouth and Canton communities for years to come. Allen Elementary School staff in Plymouth offered to put a collection of books based on things Preston liked in the children's section of the library to honor him.

A former elementary school classmate of Preston's is designing a sweatshirt that will be adorned with the doodles that Preston drew on a sheet of paper over a period of two years, in addition to planning a lantern vigil to honor his memory.

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

Obituaries

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php



Harold Dale Hawley

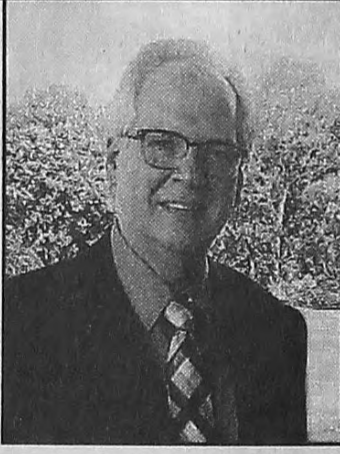
LIVONIA - Harold Dale Hawley, age 81, passed away on Friday, April 23, 2021.

Beloved husband of 40 years to the late Carol. Loving father of Sandra Bond, Debra (Brian) Seipel, Barbara (Ronald) Bebout and Janice (Christopher) Vowell. Cherished grandfather of 10 & great grandfather of 11. Dear cousin of Robert and Linda. He also leaves behind his loyal furry companion, Rocky.

Visitation Thursday, April 29, 2021 from 10am until the Funeral Service at 1pm at Harry J Will Funeral Home, Livonia.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions appreciated to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 17180 Farmington Rd, Livonia.

Harry J Will Funeral Homes



Kent Mark Helmer

LIVONIA - April 21st, 2021. Beloved husband of Susan for 33 years. Loving father of Sheri and Cassandra. Brother of Jay Helmer and Dean (Audrey) Helmer. Son-in-law of Delphine. Brother-in-law of Steven (Jennie) Kujawa, Thomas (Sandra) Kujawa, and Michael Kujawa. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Kent was known as a dedicated and kindhearted husband and father with a great sense of humor. He was an Eagle Scout, a Peace Corps volunteer, and a champion of the environment through his job at the Environmental Protection Agency for 28 years. He loved a good book and cooking for his family. He is cherished and he will be missed. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Vincent dePaul. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

Jack M. Lewis

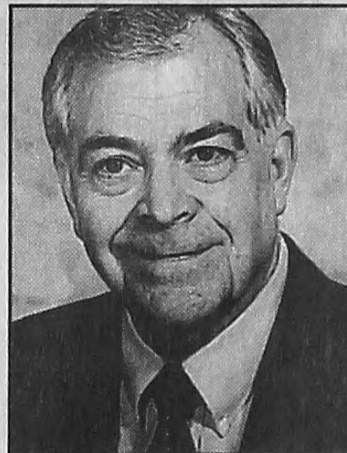
ADRIAN - Jack M. Lewis, 89 of Adrian passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family April 10, 2021.

Jack is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mildred; son Doug (Alexis) Lewis, daughters; Cindy Lewis, Karen (Craig) Catallo, his grandchildren; Tara Lewis, Derek Lewis, Jenna Lewis, David Crete and Brandon Crete. His sister Louanne Campbell and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Jack graduated from Vassar High School, went into the Navy then went on to Graduate from Central Michigan University where he met and married Millie. They moved to Detroit, eventually settling in Plymouth where Jack owned and operated the Marathon Gas station for several years. He then went on to be the Director of Red Bell Preschool for 25 years, Jack touched many lives and saw several generations attend the school.

Spending time with family, friends and fishing were some of Jack's favorite pastimes, especially at his cottage in Jerome Michigan on Lake Le Anne. After retirement, he and Millie settled in Adrian, making lifelong friends and kept close to all his family in Michigan.

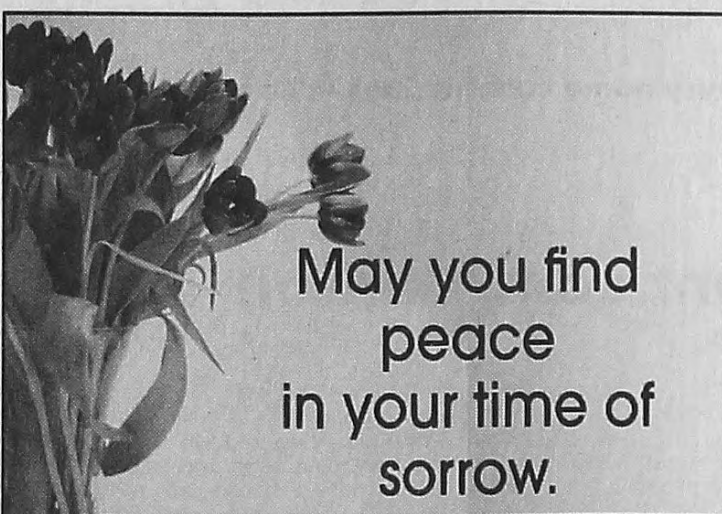
Jack was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend to everyone.



Ruth I. Skodack

WESTLAND - Passed away on April 22, 2021, at the age of 97. She was the beloved wife of the late Rudolph, and the loving mother of Susan (William) Knowlton and Steve (Crystal Chirslip) Skodack. She was the cherished grandmother of Jennifer, Matthew, Bethany and Chris. Ruth was the treasured great grandmother of C.J., Brandon, Hailey, Aries, Meghan, Phoenix, Darius, Raiden and Elijah. There will be a memorial gathering at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 8809 Wayne Rd. (at Joy Rd.) on Friday, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Ruth's memorial service will be on Saturday at 11 a.m. from the funeral home. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com

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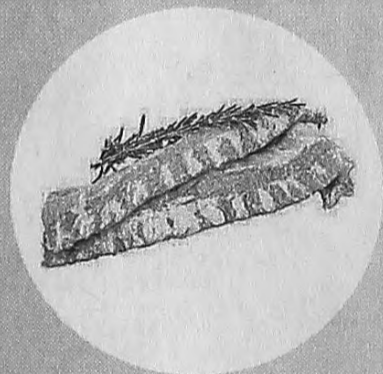
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Premium Fresh All Natural Baby Back Ribs
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Save 50¢

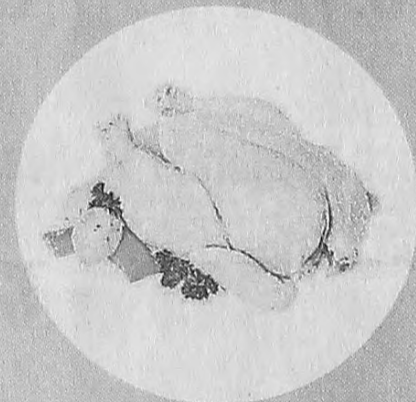
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Save 40¢



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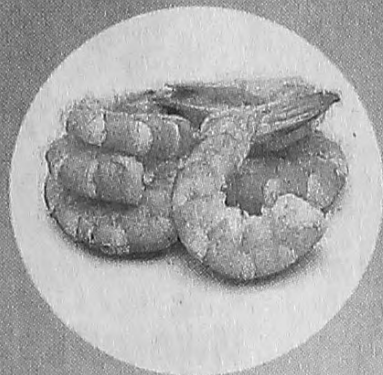
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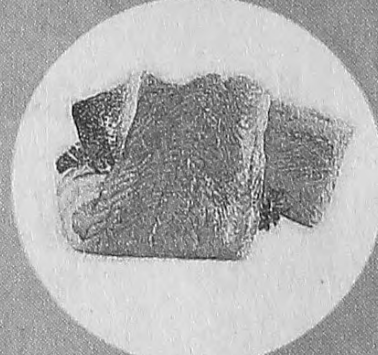


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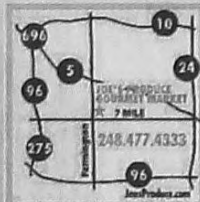


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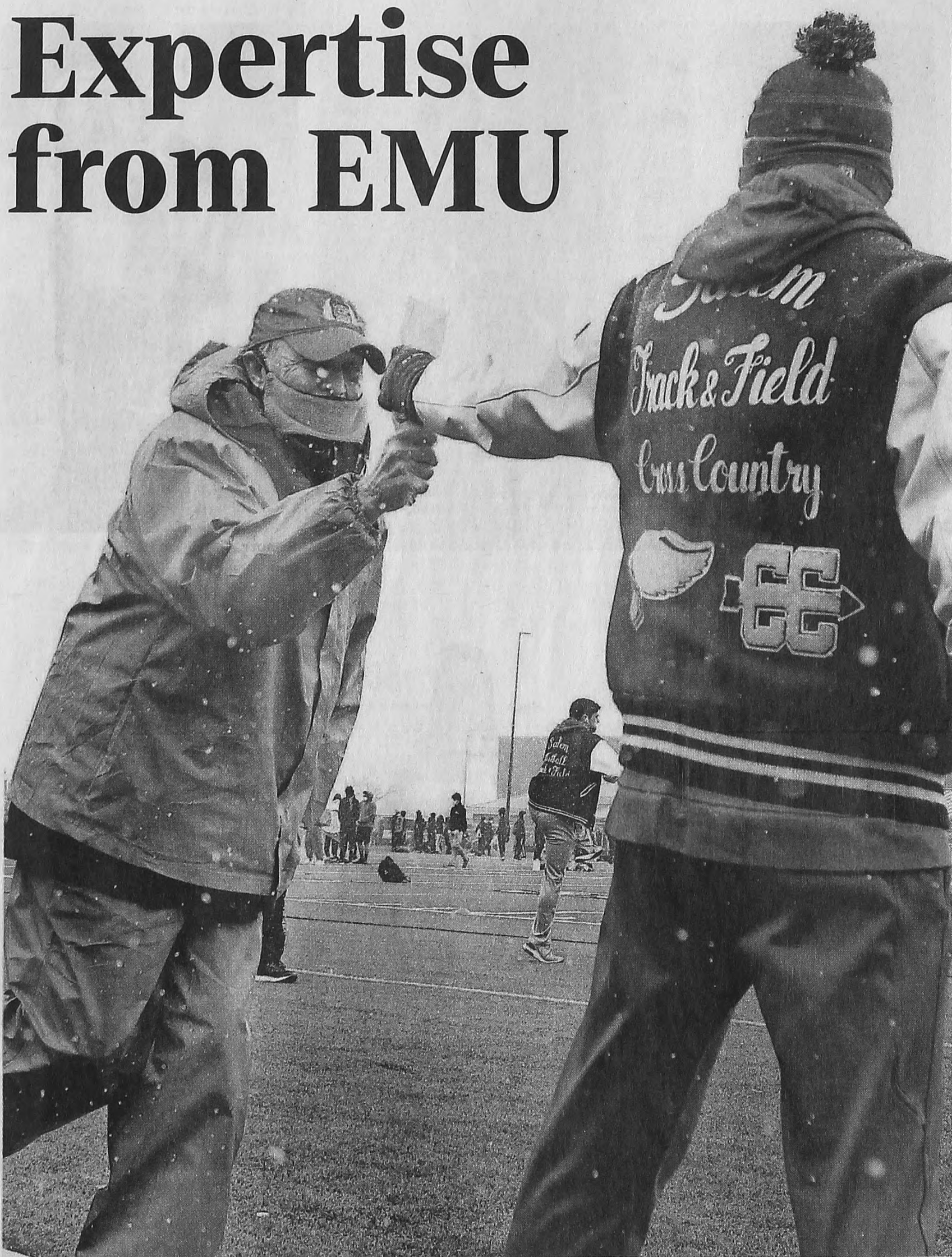


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Check out Joe's specials on back page.

SPORTS

Expertise from EMU



Salem track coach John Goodridge teaches relay runner Kyle Quint a baton hand-off technique before a meet April 20.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Goodridge brings decorated coaching career to Salem

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Salem boys track coach John Goodridge gathered his team in the middle of the Northville athletic field after its dual meet. The players huddled close, trying to stay warm in the middle of a 30-degree, snowy, late April evening. Goodridge told the team what it had

already known: that it came into the meet 20-point underdogs against the Mustangs — the reigning KLAA West champions. But while he didn't know the official score, Goodridge — standing strong in front, clad in a blue Salem baseball cap and layers upon layers of jackets — told his runners they had done enough. They won.

The players remaining shot up, the cold quickly melting away with each fist pump and high five. Goodridge celebrated, too, something he was already used to in his past life. Goodridge is the most decorated cross country coach in Eastern Michigan University and Mid-American

See GOODRIDGE, Page 2B

Second-half surge over Northville helps Salem soccer stay undefeated

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

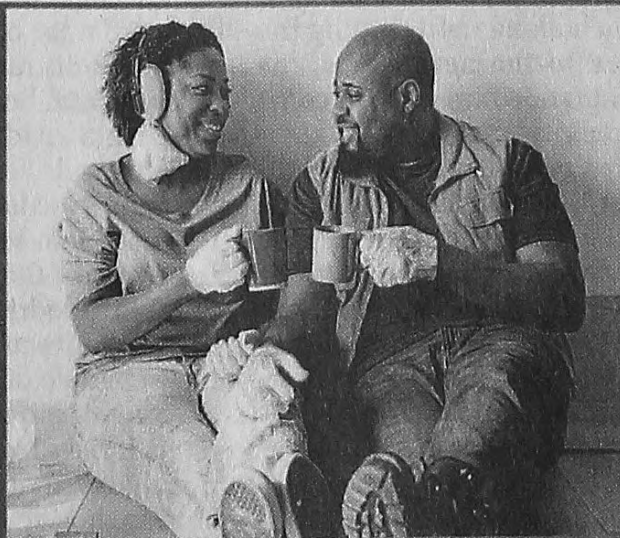
Salem girls soccer had a tale of two halves April 22 against Northville. The Rocks started out strong in the first 10 minutes and then began to taper off, coming back to life late in the first 40 minutes, but failing to earn a score. But after momentum turned toward Salem and a few halftime adjustments were made, the Rocks (4-0-1) took full control, scoring three second-half goals to beat Northville (4-4), 3-0, at home. "I think we did a much better job in the second half kind of creating a bit more pressure and then, defensively, not allowing them to get out of their half so easily," Salem head coach Kyle Karns said. "Once we did that, it was just being able to keep the ball in their half and our offense started 45 yards from goal as opposed to 80." Kennedy Hyde knew what that offense wanted to look like. Racing down the field, the Salem senior defender set up the team's final two goals of the game: a cross to set up sophomore mid Elyse Wiacek and a corner kick turned header by senior defender Leah Courtney. To Karns, this is what Courtney does: create dangerous opportunities for the Salem offense. Salem senior mid Grace Musai opened the scoring six minutes into the period, hitting the ball across her body to the top left corner of the goal, passing by the Northville's diving goalkeeper Samantha Pendelton for the score.

Northville head coach Eric Brucker said Pendelton has been the team's most valuable player through the team's eight games, saying that she has single-handedly kept the Mustangs afloat at times. Despite earning wins against Plymouth, Canton and Novi — ending the Wildcats' win streak that dated back to the 2018 season — Brucker said the Mustangs are not close. "Even though we have four wins, we haven't really played 80 full minutes yet. This is just another example. I think we played, against an undefeated team, a solid 40 minutes," Brucker said. "We came out a little flat at the start of the second half and that's all it takes." "Now we're playing from behind." See SALEM, Page 2B

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Clutch pitching carries Hartland in sweep of Brighton

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A typical sophomore might have succumbed to the pressure of pitching through some sketchy moments in his first big varsity baseball game.

But Hartland's Gannon Grundman isn't an average 10th-grader trying to find his way playing with the big boys.

He's already been through a season of competing in pressure situations at the varsity level as a member of Hartland's basketball team. Grundman was a key contributor off the bench for a team that was in the hunt for the KLAA West championship and played in the district final.

So, in some ways, he is more battle-tested than most of the juniors and seniors who were in their first rivalry game

as varsity players Friday against Brighton, having missed all of last season because spring sports were shut down.

Grundman allowed two hits and struck out seven in five innings while going 3-for-3 at the plate in a 6-3 victory over Brighton in the first game of a doubleheader.

The Eagles completed the sweep with a 4-1 victory.

During basketball season, Grundman averaged 5.5 points and shot 40% from 3-point range as one of the Eagles' first players off the bench. It was great preparation for an even bigger role on the baseball team.

Grundman is one of seven sophomores on a team that is ranked ninth in Division 1 and off to a 6-0-1 start.

"We have a couple sophomores who are just a little different as far as how

they approach the game, how they slow down the moment, how they react after handling failure, which is pretty rare at this age," Hartland coach Brad Guenther said.

Jake Wohlfer pitched two shutout innings of relief, striking out five. Wohlfer then provided three innings of no-hit shutout relief in the nightcap, striking out five.

The second game was tied 1-1 in the top of the sixth inning when Hartland junior Kasy Shaddock lined a 3-2 pitch for a single to right with one out and the bases loaded. Two runs scored on the hit, which would have been at least a three-run double had the runners not held up.

A run-scoring fielder's choice off the bat of Job Gallaher completed the three-run inning. Wohlfer issued a one-out

walk in the bottom of the sixth before fanning the last two batters. The game was called at that point because of darkness.

Jack Storey doubled in Brighton's only run in the fourth to tie the game. Brighton's Andrew Renner struck out eight batters in four innings, allowing one run, in the nightcap.

The Bulldogs (4-5) had only five hits in 13 innings Friday.

"They threw strikes," Brighton coach Charlie Christner said. "They commanded the strike zone. I thought our guys had some pretty good swings at some pitches. ... They made pitches when they needed to and made some plays behind them. Their third baseman (Bruce Jellison) made a couple big plays in the first game that were really difference makers for them."

Salem

Continued from Page 1B

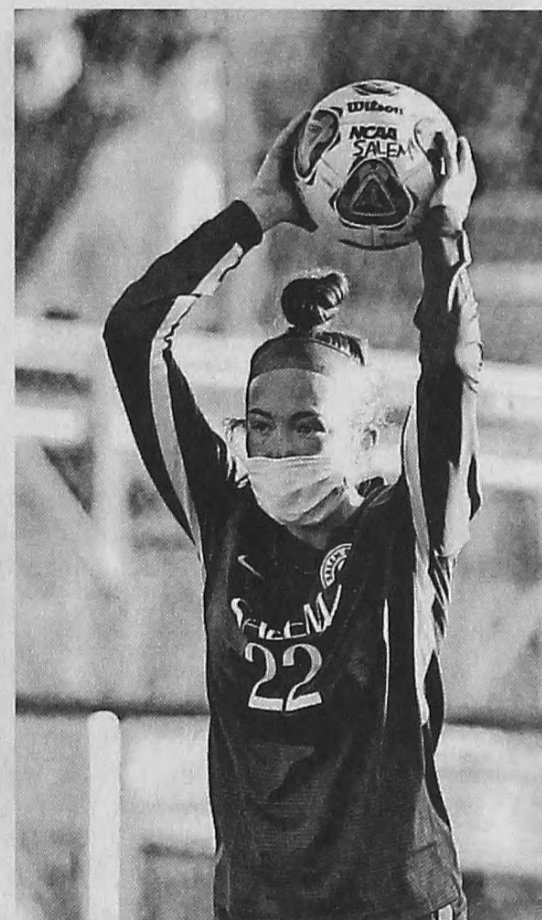
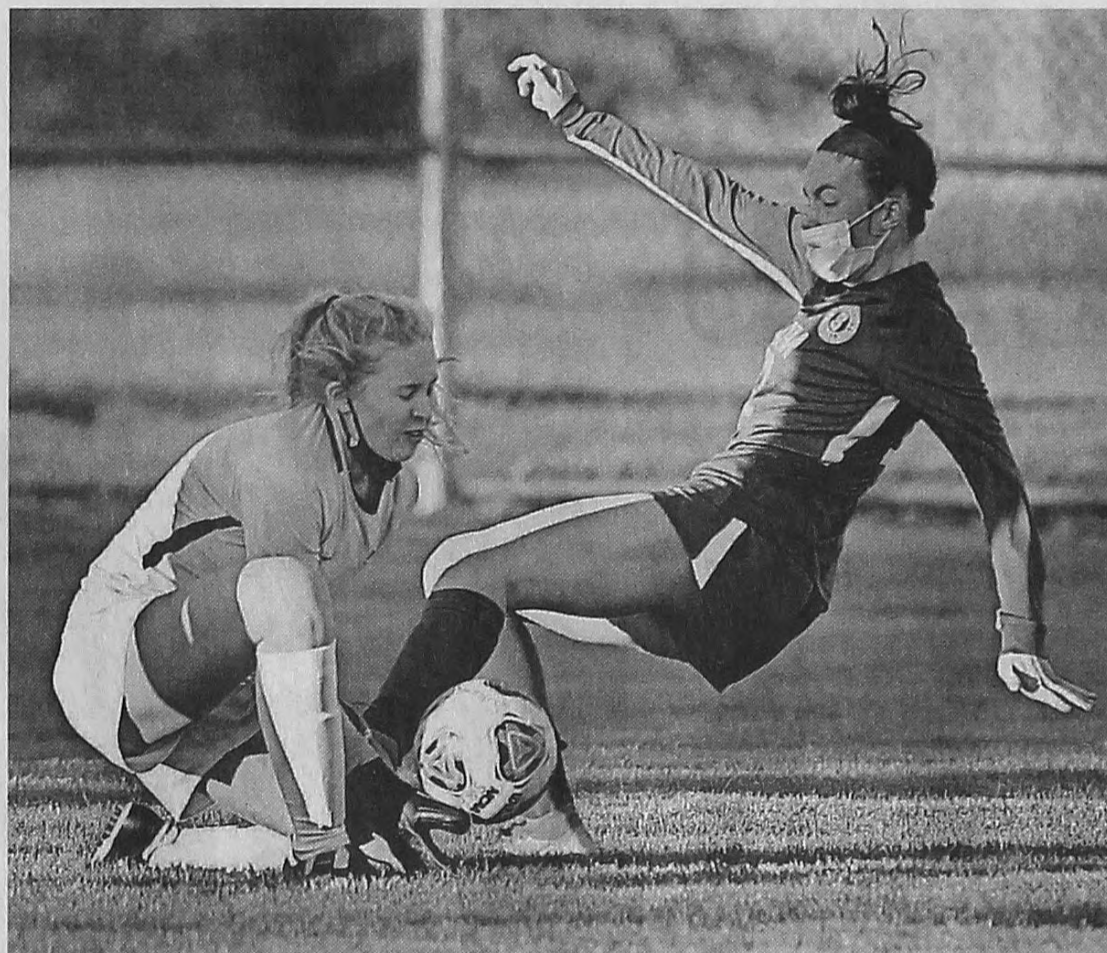
We're not ready to compete with some of these teams."

For Karns, it's the opposite. After the game, he told his players he now knows what to expect moving forward. After the second half Salem played, this team will be hard to beat. Now, Karns said to his team, he knows what they are capable of.

"I think it's coming together," Karns said. "I think we are starting to find that groove."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

At right, Northville's Samantha Pendleton makes a tough save against Salem on April 22. Salem won, 3-0, to stay undefeated. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Salem's Abby Siddall.

Goodridge

Continued from Page 1B

Conference history, winning 21 MAC conference titles and 21 Coach of the Year awards between cross country, indoor and outdoor track in 19 seasons.

After his retirement after the 2019-20 season, after 35 seasons split between the Eagles, Wake Forest and Michigan State, Goodridge soon saw an opportunity to return to coaching if he wanted to.

He already knew the impact of the high school track coach. He had been one before: previously coaching at Ann Arbor Huron and Ann Arbor Greenhills.

"I don't think any coach touches kids the way the high school coaches do," he said. "It's entry level. You set the tone. It's a challenging, difficult sport. It's all on you as an individual."

"To have that opportunity to help kids learn to handle that and understand it, to sort of embrace it for what it's worth — and it's hard, it's hard — that really kind of sparked that I was thinking seriously about it."

Goodridge still had to decide if it was something he still wanted to do.

And at the age of 72, the sport of running showed Goodridge it was not done with him yet.

Becoming a fan again

Right after Goodridge announced his college retirement, Pinckney boys track coach Matt Gerardi gave him a call, asking if the former college coach wanted to come to a practice.

Goodridge's initial answer was no. He was not ready. But since Gerardi was a friend, Goodridge changed his mind. He went into the meet with a different lens.

"It's not that I hadn't been at high school meets, but not as much as my earlier years as a college coach. But I was there with a different perspective," Goodridge said. "I was there as a spectator, not on a recruiting effort, looking at some kid. I was just a pure spectator going there as a fan of the sport."

Goodridge returned to the place where he first fell in love with running.

He grew up in Long Island, right outside of New York City. Goodridge remembers watching a childhood friend — one of the better 800-meter runners in the state — run around the block, recalling his beautiful form as he graced past his front door.

He remembers attending indoor track events at Madison Square Garden: a packed house, the spectators seemingly on top of all the athletes racing



John Goodridge won 21 MAC titles, including 13 cross country conference championships, during his 19 years at EMU. COURTESY OF GREG STEINER

around a small indoor track.

Goodridge never described himself as a talented athlete but one who enjoyed the process, enjoyed the atmosphere of the sport of running.

As the former college coach started watching local cross country meets, he noticed those runners that reminded him of himself growing up.

"I was immediately more drawn to the interactions that I saw with parents and coaches of the stragglers that were coming in," Goodridge said. "I could relate to those boys because when I was a high school runner, I was closer to the back than I was to the winners."

For Goodridge, working with those proven seniors, those that have found success and are off to collegiate programs, was something he could do in his sleep.

It was the challenge of teaching the game he loved to the newcomers, the freshman, that made him want to come back to the track.

"I've always tried to challenge athletes, whether that was early in my career as a high school coach or returning to it or as a college coach," Goodridge said. "It is trying to build confidence in athletes that they can get to... that personal improvement."

The development process

Throughout his sophomore and ju-

nior years at Salem, Gavin Ray was trying to get a scholarship to run at Eastern Michigan. He consistently emailed to Goodridge and his coaching staff, trying to get noticed.

During the pandemic, Ray shifted his focus elsewhere and found his home at Madonna. But when former Salem head coach Steve Aspinall told the senior he was stepping down, the coach could not wait to tell his runner about who was going to step in his place.

"If you told me I wouldn't get to have Coach Aspinall, I mean, Coach Goodridge would be near the top of the list if not at the top of the list," Ray said. "It's unbelievable how awesome it is."

As a senior that will soon be a college freshman runner, Ray is spoiled.

Goodridge and he have very similar approaches to training, the Salem senior said: a lot of hills and hard repeats with a lot of track work.

Ray said both click well together, building a solid foundation for the collegiate level.

Talha Syed is in the same boat as Ray.

The Salem senior is already committed to run at Columbia University in the fall, but Goodridge helped him step up his workouts to prepare for the strenuous schedule of a Division 1 program.

"A lot of guys have to make that step up to do very high-volume workouts like managing that intensity," Syed said, cutting time after only two base training

workouts with Goodridge.

"I think right now I have a coach with super good experience and tons of knowledge when it comes to workouts. It's been super good to train at that level, but with someone who knows how to spread it out so I'm not overdoing it."

While helping the older runners prepare for the next level, Goodridge has also used his platform to mentor younger runners who want to get where Ray and Syed are, helping the underclassmen understand the recruiting process and becoming a sounding board for any questions that they may have.

For Goodridge, it's these interactions that show why he's back; why he's standing out in the cold, relaying the message of the team's second dual-meet win of the 2021 season.

He's with Salem for the same reason he was at Eastern Michigan: to help runners achieve what they want to achieve, whether it's at a local, state, national or world level.

He just wants them to take the next step. Returning to the high school realm, his love of the sport is just being shown to a different audience.

"It's a giving experience and that's powerful," Goodridge said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Five NFL draft fits for Lions at No. 7

Dave Birkett Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Brad Holmes has “a good cluster” of players he would feel comfortable drafting at No. 7, but mathematically speaking, it’s anyone’s guess how many prospects that cluster entails.

Trevor Lawrence, clearly, is the top player in this draft. Presumably, Holmes would feel good about taking Florida’s Kyle Pitts, LSU’s Ja’Marr Chase and BYU’s Zach Wilson, too. None of those four seems likely to be on the board at No. 7, but it is safe to say Holmes still has at least three other players he is eyeballing with his pick.

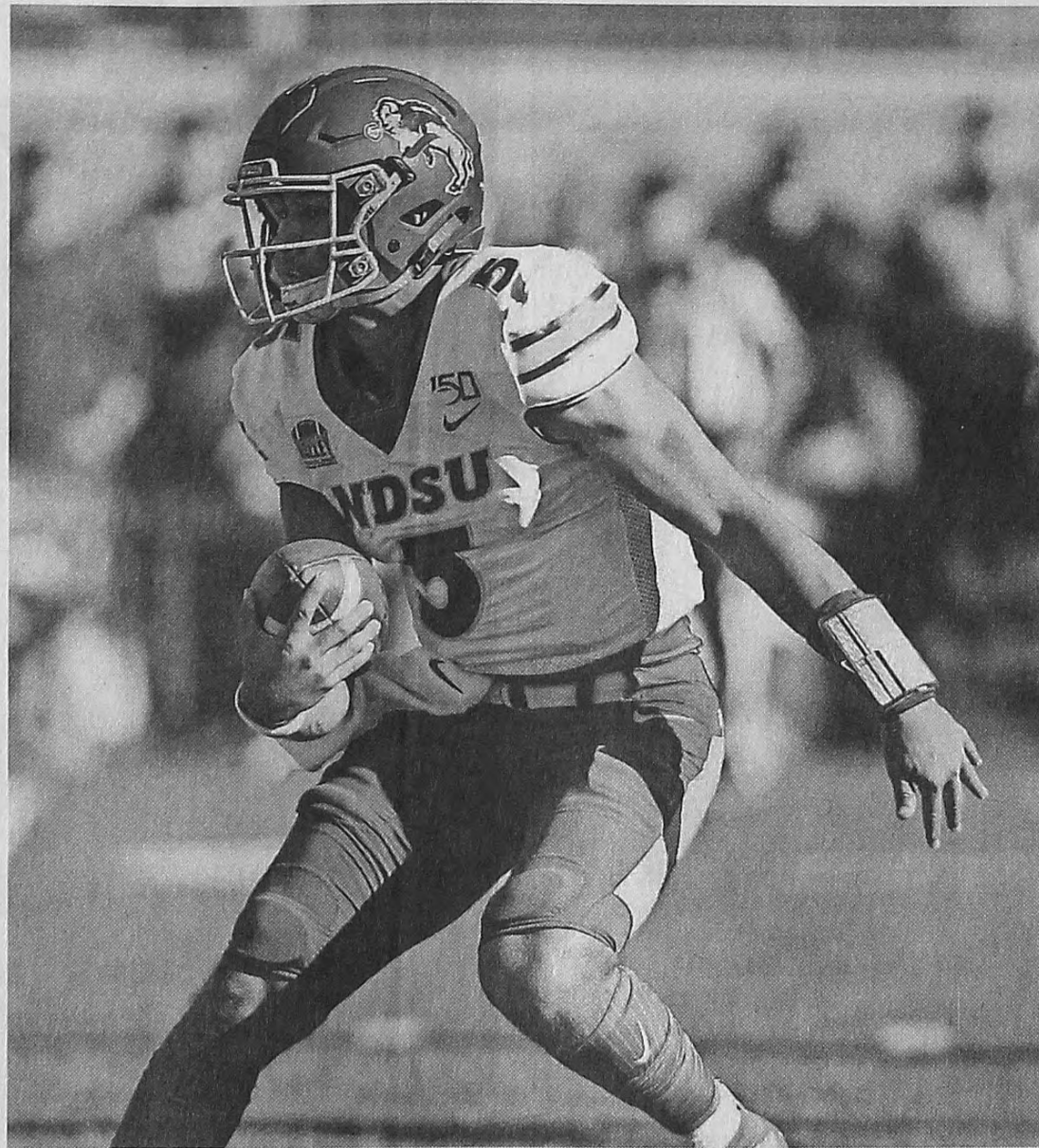
In trying to identify draft fits for the Lions this year — guys who play hard, have high motors and love football, according to Holmes’ definition — and whose talent would make them worthy of the No. 7 pick, I settled on these five possibilities (beyond the four who likely will be gone, and knowing full well others could be in the mix in a trade down).

Penei Sewell

Position: OT
College: Oregon
Vitals: 6 feet 5, 331 pounds
Scouting report: Sewell has been ticketed as the top offensive tackle in the 2021 draft since he started seven games at left tackle as a true freshman. He is a phenomenal athlete for his size and has the ceiling of a perennial All-Pro. The Outland Trophy winner as a sophomore, Sewell opted out of last season and has had to answer questions about his consistency and maturity. It’s important to note, however, that he played most of his first two college seasons as a teenager and would join a veteran offensive line in Detroit where he would start his NFL career as a cog in the machine at right tackle and not the modern day version of Anthony Munoz.

Rashawn Slater

Position: OT
College: Northwestern
Vitals: 6-4, 304 pounds
Scouting report: Sewell’s potential is undeniable, but some scouts favor



NDSU quarterback Trey Lance runs the ball during a game against SDSU in 2019.
ABIGAIL DOLLINS/SIOUX FALLS ARGUS LEADER

Slater and his higher floor as the best lineman in the draft. Slater was a three-year starter at Northwestern before opting out of the 2020 season. He played right tackle his first two years, then switched to left tackle and did not allow a sack as a junior. Slater gets high marks for his makeup — his father, Reggie, played seven seasons in the NBA — and durability, though there are questions about his eventual position because of his size and 33-inch arms, which are on the short side for NFL left tackles. A five-position player up front, Slater would start at right tackle or guard in Detroit.

DeVonta Smith

Position: WR
College: Alabama
Vitals: 6-0, 166 pounds
Scouting report: It’s a coin flip who the No. 2 receiver in the draft is behind Chase, and I gave Smith the slightest of nods here over his Alabama teammate Jaylen Waddle. Both players seem to check the “love for football box,” and both bring dynamic return ability to the table beyond their prowess at receiver. Smith’s small frame could be an issue, but he’s taller than the jet-quick Waddle and he will enter the NFL as a polished route runner who understands the nu-

ances of getting open. Smith caught 117 passes for 1,856 yards and 23 touchdowns to win the Heisman Trophy last season and excelled at every receiver spot on the field.

Trey Lance

Position: QB
College: North Dakota State
Vitals: 6-4, 224 pounds
Scouting report: The Lions don’t seem to be in the Round 1 quarterback mix, but Holmes did his diligence on all of the top signal callers and attended pro days for Lance and Ohio State’s Justin Fields in person. Lance may be too boom-or-bust of a prospect for Holmes, but he is the type of athlete head coach Dan Campbell said he wants at the quarterback position and he gets high marks for his character and work habits. A one-year starter who played at the FCS level, Lance is incredibly raw and has struggled with accuracy at times, though he threw just one interception in his career. He needs a good year of seasoning, but has star potential if he’s brought along in the right system by the right teachers.

Patrick Surtain II

Position: CB
College: Alabama
Vitals: 6-2, 208 pounds
Scouting report: This is not a draft teaming with impact defensive players, but Surtain and Penn State linebacker Micah Parsons are potential top-10 picks who should be of interest to the Lions. Parsons would fill a bigger positional need as multi-purpose linebacker, but Surtain is a match to the type of player Holmes described in his pre-draft news conference and he plays a premium position. The son of former NFL cornerback Patrick Surtain Sr., the younger Surtain has the length, physicality and cover skills to make an immediate impact in the NFL. He was the best player on Alabama’s defense last year, though penalties were an issue in 2019. One question: Would the Lions take a first-round cornerback after investing such a high draft choice in Jeff Okudah last year?

Five Michigan players who will entice teams

Orion Sang Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan had 10 players taken in the 2020 NFL draft — one short of tying a program record.

The Wolverines likely won’t have as many players selected in this week’s draft.

But there are still several players with a very good chance of hearing their name called at some point between Thursday and Saturday — and Michigan also seems well-positioned to have a first-round draft pick for the third consecutive year.

Here’s a look at the Wolverines who are most likely to be selected — starting with one player everyone believes will be a Day 1 pick:

EDGE Kwity Paye

Bio: 6 feet 2½, 261 pounds, 4.52-second 40-yard dash (hand-timed), 36 reps of 225 pounds on the bench press (all from Michigan’s pro day).

2020 stats: 16 tackles, four tackles for loss, two sacks in four games.

Draft projection: Early-to-mid first round.

The breakdown: Paye has consistently been projected as one of the first pass-rushers off the board, despite an injury and COVID-shortened senior season. Paye finished his Michigan career with 11½ sacks in four seasons (he had a career-high 6½ sacks in 2019, his first full season as a starter), but scouts seem to believe Paye’s physical traits and athleticism outweigh the lack of production. In Paye’s favor: He was always a stout run defender, and despite a lack of sacks, markedly improved as a pass rusher in 2020 — when healthy. Whenever he is picked, Paye will be Michigan’s 10th defensive lineman/pass rusher drafted under coach Jim Harbaugh.

OL Jalen Mayfield

Bio: 6-5, 326, 5.31-second 40-yard dash, 80-inch wingspan, 32½-inch arm length, 7.86-second 3-cone drill.

2020 stats: Started in two games at right tackle; missed the rest due to injury. Started all 13 games at right tackle



Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields is tackled by Michigan Wolverines linebacker Cameron McGrone (44) and defensive lineman Kwity Paye (19) in 2019.
RICK OSENTOSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS

in 2019.

Draft projection: Late first round to second round.

The breakdown: Mayfield could be one of the more intriguing offensive line prospects in this year’s draft. In three seasons at Michigan, he played in 18 games (15 starts), which makes him relatively inexperienced for his position group. Still, he is well-liked by draft prognosticators because of his strong performance at the end of the 2019 season, when he was a redshirt freshman. Mayfield didn’t do much to boost his draft stock in 2020; he started two games but was injured against Michigan State and did not play the rest of the season. Mayfield seems to have the ability to stick at tackle at the next level, but could move inside, depending on the

needs of the team that drafts him.

WR Nico Collins

Bio: 6-4, 215, 4.43-second 40-yard dash, 6.71-second 3-cone drill, 14 reps of 225 pounds on the bench press.

2020 stats: Did not play; 37 catches for 729 yards and seven touchdowns in 2019.

Draft projection: Day 3 pick.

The breakdown: Collins didn’t produce much at Michigan (at least compared to other touted receivers across the country), but his size and speed should get him drafted. He is somewhat similar to former Notre Dame receiver Chase Claypool: A large target who can get open downfield (Claypool also ran well leading up to the draft) and use his

size to win contested balls. Looking for a Michigan-themed comparison, think Devin Funchess. This is a passing league, which means Collins will have a chance to be productive, even though it is unlikely teams will rely upon him as a No. 1 or No. 2 receiver.

CB Ambry Thomas

Bio: 5-11, 191, 4.37 second 40-yard dash, 15 reps of 225 pounds on the bench press.

2020 stats: Did not play; 38 tackles, three tackles for loss, three interceptions, three pass breakups in 2019.

Draft projection: Day 3 pick.

The breakdown: Michigan’s secondary *really* could have used Thomas (who opted out) in 2020. Despite a preseason bout with colitis that put him in the hospital and forced him to regain weight quickly, Thomas excelled in 2019. Always regarded as one of the fastest players on the roster — he returned kicks as an underclassman — he showed he could hang in man coverage in his only season as a full-time starter. He doesn’t seem likely to be drafted in the first two rounds. Still, Thomas could easily outplay his draft position, should he be taken on Day 3. He has solid size, good speed, can cover and has ball skills. Even if he doesn’t find the field immediately on defense, he could provide value on special teams.

LB Cameron McGrone

Bio: 6-0, 234, 20 reps of 225 pounds on the bench press.

2020 stats: 26 tackles, two tackles for loss, ½ sack in five games.

Draft projection: Day 3 pick.

The breakdown: McGrone was the heir apparent to former middle linebacker Devin Bush Jr. McGrone took over at middle linebacker early in 2019 and played well, finishing with 65 tackles, nine tackles-for-loss and 2½ sacks. He displayed impressive athleticism — particularly speed and acceleration — and seemed poised for a big 2020 season. But nothing went as planned for McGrone or for the rest of Michigan’s defense. Then, at Rutgers, he tore an ACL. Modern medicine means McGrone should recover, but he did not get a chance to display his speed at Michigan’s pro day.

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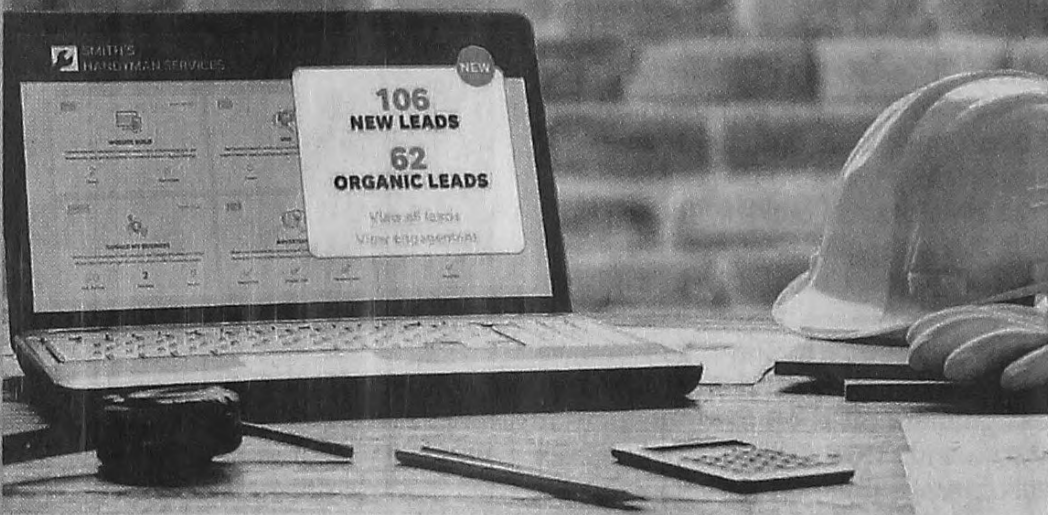
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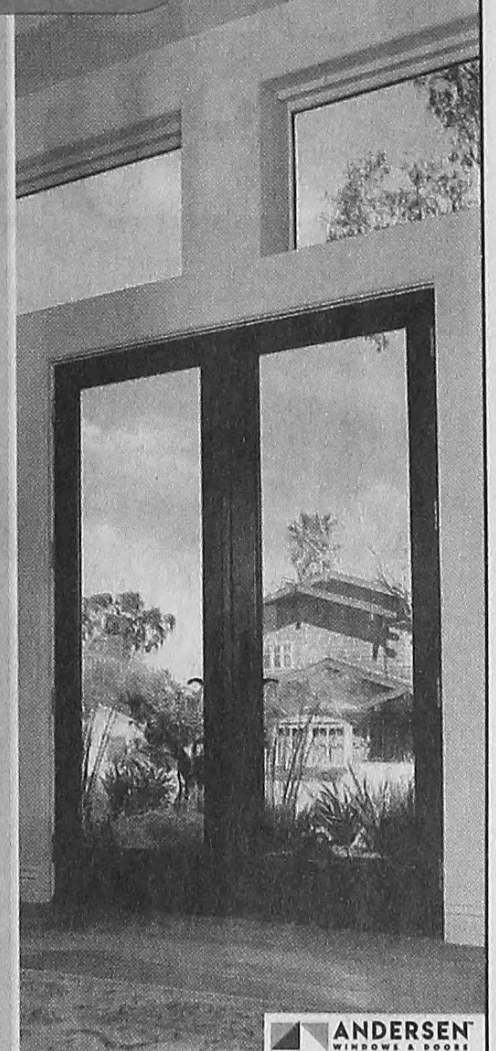
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We support & honor most Medicare and discount plans including BCBS/TruHearing, Silverscript and more. We offer award winning service, technology, and a **FREE LIFETIME BELCARE TREATMENT PLAN CALL US DIRECTLY TO MAXIMIZE YOUR MEDICARE BENEFIT!**

NOW EVERYONE CAN AFFORD OUR HIGHEST TECHNOLOGY-
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REWARD!

We will match 50% of your **\$1,400** stimulus check on any **Platinum Hearing System**

Award Winning Lifetime Treatment Plans Included!

Not to be combined with other offers or coupons. Prior purchases excluded. Expires 4/30/2021

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Systems starting at

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Award Winning Lifetime Treatment Plans Included!

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Low financing available - Call today for more details!

Following CDC guidelines with 1 on 1 appointments and curbside services available!

*Benefits of hearing instruments vary by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing screening and proper fit. See stores for details. Beltone 2020™



“

Always work hard and you can achieve anything you want. I'm proof of that!

”

Crystal Lance,
District Manager,
The Arizona Republic

Crystal is one of Gannett's emerging leaders and we invite you to become another! Gannett has over 250 locations nationwide with a variety of production and distribution roles that accommodate many of the transferable skill sets that you may already have.

Our most precious resource is our diverse workforce – people of all backgrounds, cultures and skills. That's why we've partnered with the Urban League and NAACP to help us identify strong candidates who are looking to grow into a leadership role within Gannett.

“Starting as a newspaper carrier and working my way up, I have had a few great managers who have inspired me along the way, pushing me to be better everyday. Their leadership, guidance and encouragement towards me are what led me to take the position I'm in now.”

Full-time and part-time positions are available.

Contact **Sydney Vernon, Sr. Manager/Talent Acquisition** @ 914-694-5335 or e-mail: svernon@gannett.com

For more, visit **Gannett.com**

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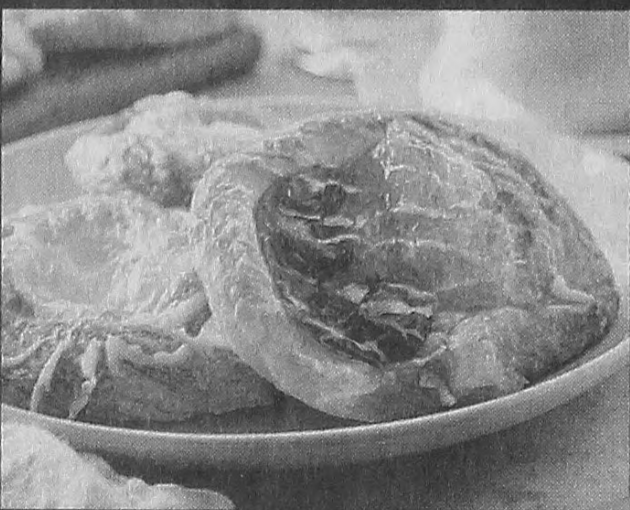
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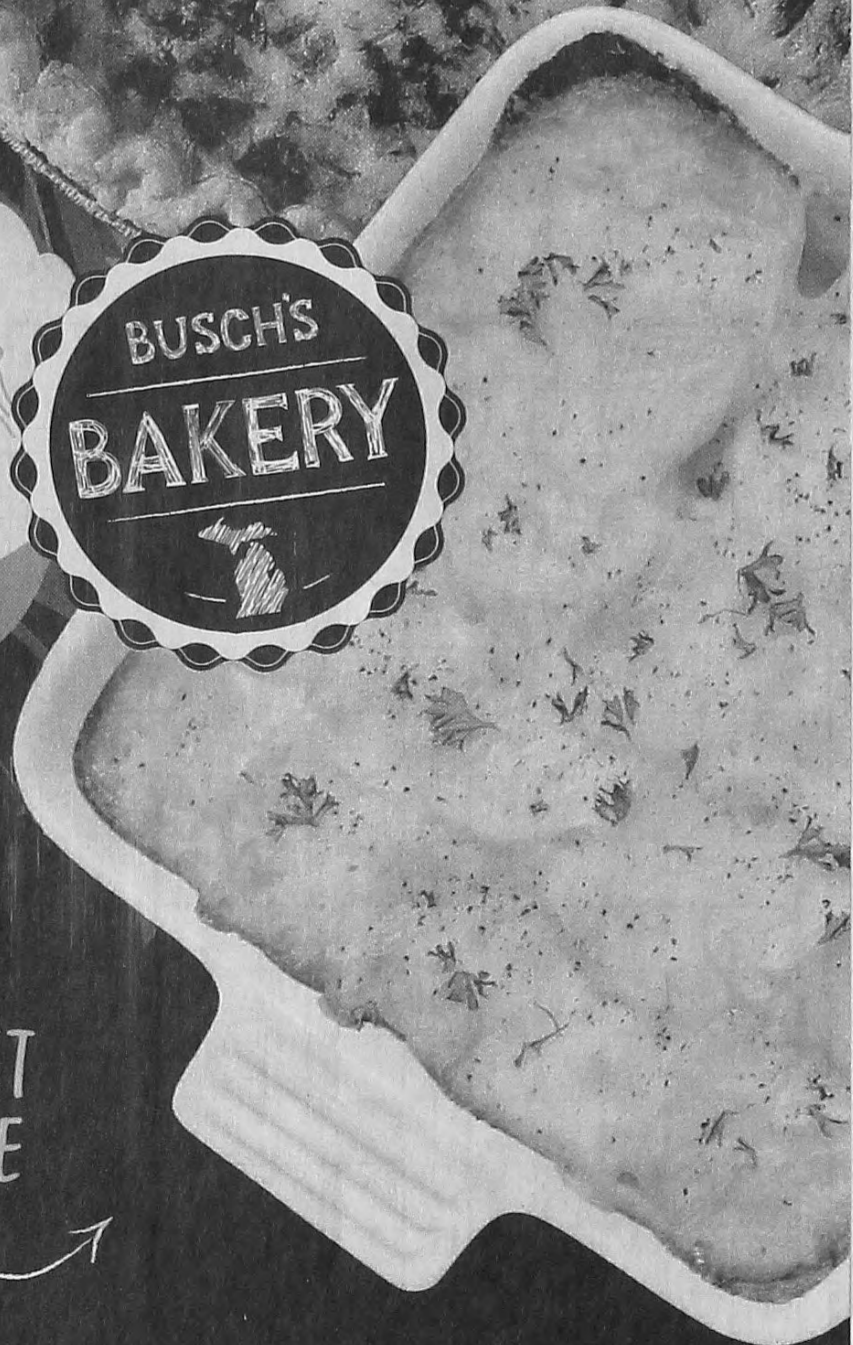
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