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PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

Tree ordinance update enrages some residents

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A preliminary proposal to add more teeth to a 74-year-old Plymouth Township tree ordinance upset a few residents so much that one threatened to bring a chainsaw to a trustees meeting. Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise emphasized the process of re-

vamping the township's current tree ordinance, which is based on Public Act 359 of 1947, should begin with borrowing the City of Plymouth's tree laws and tailoring them based on guidance offered by the board of trustees and residents.

"I'm putting (the Plymouth tree ordinance) out there as a starting-off point to show what is probably one of the

most restrictive — depending on your point of view — and detailed ordinances from a comparable community, but one that has also gone through a very thorough vetting process," Heise said. "As much as I respect (township attorney) Kevin Bennett, I'd prefer not to have to pay him to start from scratch and draft a whole new ordinance.

"It is not my intention to use Ply-

mouth's tree ordinance, word for word, as the township's ordinance. It's a starting point."

Heise said eventually approving an updated tree ordinance would be an essential step toward the township securing a "Tree City USA" designation, which Plymouth currently owns.

See **ORDINANCE**, Page 4A

From mortgage business to scooping up dog poop



Johny Kashat, left, and Steve Shamou arrive at a Livonia home on May 20 to clear its backyard of dog droppings.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Cousins launch Pet Butler franchise in western Wayne County

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The booming real estate market drove Johny Kashat to picking up dog poop.

Kashat, a Royal Oak resident who usually works in the mortgage industry, decided to go in on launching a Pet Butler franchise with his cousin, Allen Park resident Steve Shamou. They launched the poop-scooping business earlier this year with Kashat assuming he'd do it as a side gig.

Then the real estate market went bonkers with offers on homes skyrocketing and fierce competition. That rise in the business had Kashat looking at investing in his side gig. It's a move, he said, that's worked out well so far.

"I was going to continue to do loans to make income until this business takes off," Kashat said. "I figured I could take a couple days a week and take care of this. It's become a full-time job."

Today, Kashat spends several days a week heading across western Wayne County cleaning up customers' yards

through the Pet Butler franchise he and his cousin launched. It's certainly a big change, but it's one Kashat welcomed.

Instead of dress clothes, Kashat and his crews head out to work in shorts and a vest, driving to homes in Livonia, Redford Township, Northville, Westland, Canton Township and elsewhere to provide their services to pet owners wanting to keep their yards clean of dog waste.

See **POOP**, Page 3A

Westland council recognizes June as Pride Month

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's an LGBT Pride flag waving outside Westland City Hall. Some community members aren't happy about that.

Earlier this month, city council approved a resolution recognizing June as LGBT Pride Month, an item that was part of its consent agenda. Consent agendas are usually reserved for uncontroversial or routine items.

But, controversy there was.

Several community members and visitors spoke at a June 7 meeting saying they disagree with the celebration of Pride Month and would rather the city didn't recognize it.

"You're going to have that group that are just absolutely against it, and you're going to have people who support it," said Council President Pro Tem Mike Londeau, who proposed the

See **PRIDE**, Page 4A

Farmington Hills pastor to run for governor

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ralph Rebandt felt a pull to become a pastor when he was a teen. Now, he feels a similar pull to run for governor of Michigan.

Rebandt, the retiring pastor of Oakland Hills Community Church in Farmington Hills, is one of six Republicans who have declared as a candidate for the gubernatorial race, which will take place next year. Though the field is already crowded, Rebandt said he thinks his campaign can go the distance.

"As I have been watching the events of the last several years, things have

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Behind the scenes at the 'Jiffy' Mix plant in Chelsea

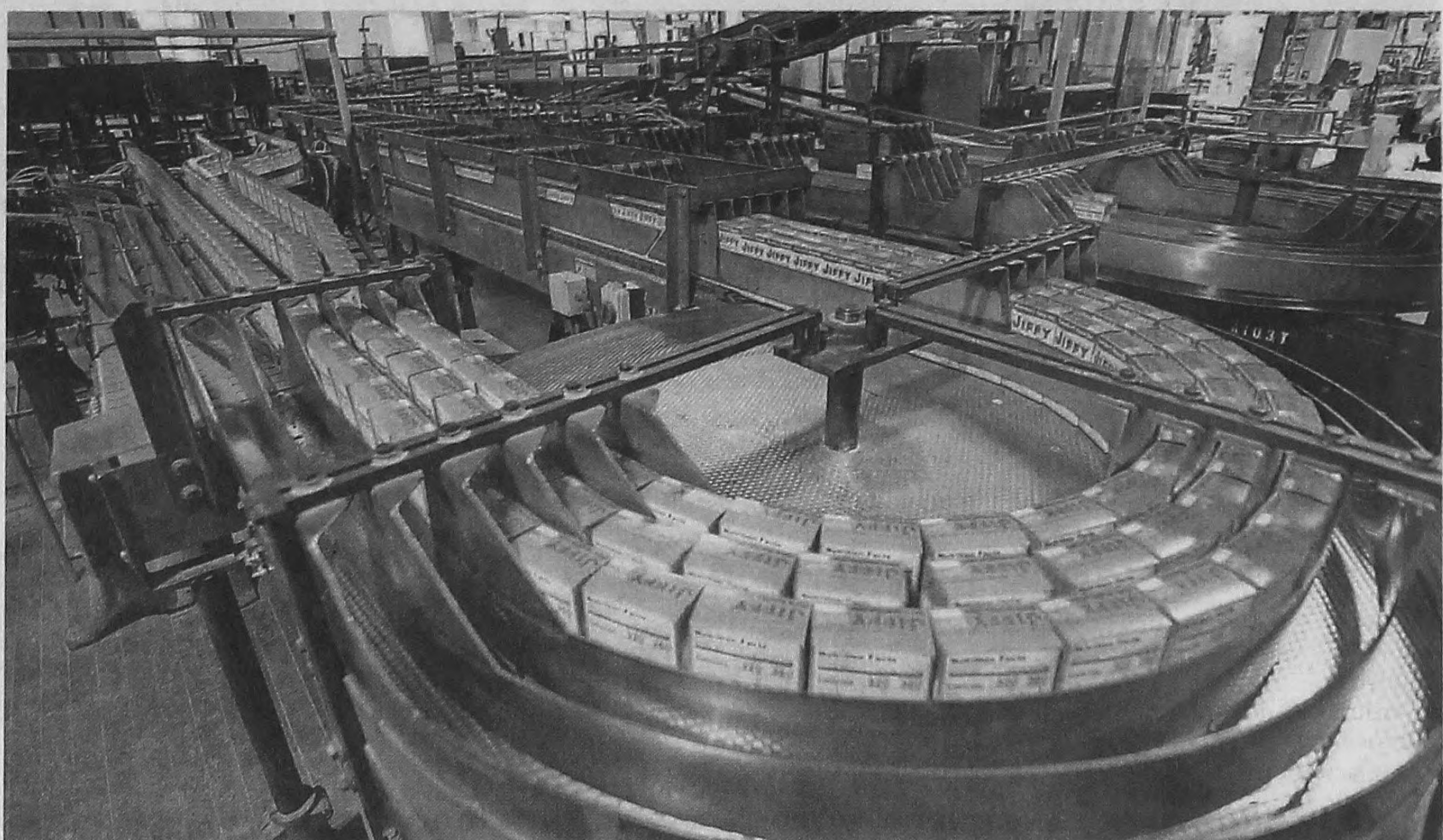
From Staff Reports Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The iconic grain elevators of the "Jiffy" Mix plant have welcomed people to Chelsea for decades, an integral piece of the fabric of the small Michigan town.

The Chelsea Milling Co. building dates back to the 1870s when it was the Chelsea Roller Mill.

The company embraces its history while also relying on manufacturing innovations to produce 1.6 million boxes of "Jiffy" mixes a day for retail sales. It also offers its mixes in commercial packaging. The "Jiffy" Mix plant has been closed to public tours since the pandemic began.

Here's a behind-the-scenes look at the milling company that just keeps humming.



Hundreds of boxes of "Jiffy" Corn Muffin Mix shuttle through a complex conveyor system at the Chelsea Milling Co. PHOTOS BY GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY



Penny Gifford counts 25- and 50-pound bags that will contain "Jiffy" Mix products for the food service industry. Gifford counts an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 bags per day.



Howard "Howdy" Holmes, president and CEO of the Chelsea Milling Co., points out a beam in the "Jiffy" Mixes plant in Chelsea dating back to the 1800s.



Corny, the "Jiffy" Corn Muffin mascot, welcomes visitors outside the entrance.

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M Street Baking Co. opens at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

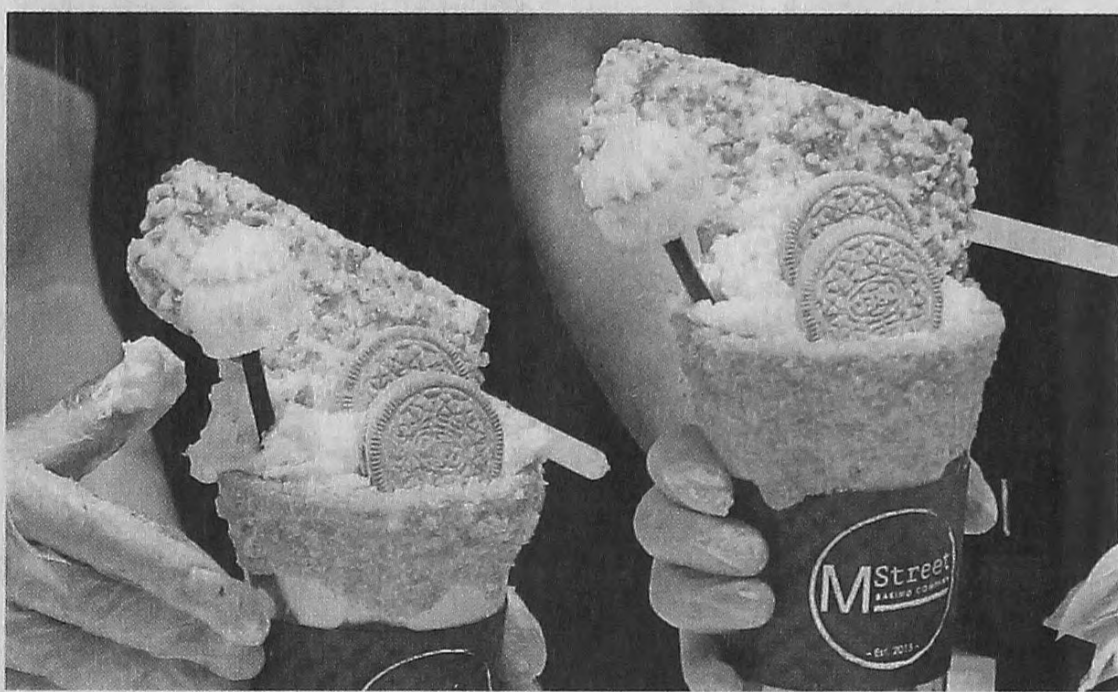
No more needing to drive to Howell for that Instagramable milkshake.

Twelve Oaks Mall's newest shop conjures enough childhood magic to make everyone a little kid again with its whimsical creations. Shakes by M Street Baking Co. opened its doors June 14 in the Novi mall.

Emily Mazaris, one of the owners, said M Street had been approached by mall representatives about bringing its product to the destination shopping center at 12 Mile and Novi roads.

"We kept saying no, we weren't ready," she said. "And then they got us on the right day when we were here a few months ago ... and he saw us and said, 'Let me show you a space.'"

It's a homecoming of sorts for the Mazaris family: originally from Livonia, they moved to Howell several years ago. Mazaris said she enjoyed shopping at Twelve Oaks.



Strawberry shortcake ice cream shakes from the M Street Baking Co., which recently opened at Twelve Oaks Mall. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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The shop is the first spin-off for the bakery, which opened its brick-and-mortar location in 2018 in Howell. Launching the milkshakes after opening, they've quickly become a hit across the state. Guests drive from as far away as Mount Pleasant to get their hands on the over-the-top treats, Mazaris said. Five flavors are served on a regular basis, including Birthday Party, Cookies N' Cream, Cosmic Brownie, Strawberry Shortcake and Cookie Dough.

"The Birthday Party is always the most popular," Mazaris said. "We always have the Birthday Party. It's just a hit. Kids love it, adults love it."

The shakes are the stars at the new space, but they also sell some of the treats they're known for in Howell: cupcakes, chocolate-covered Oreos and lemonades, which sparkle when shaken. Those looking for M Street's savory items will have to drive westbound along Interstate 96 to get them, as the Twelve Oaks shop focuses on sweeter goods.

The shop is open with the mall, which currently has hours of 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. More information can be found at mstreetbaking.com.

The expansion into Twelve Oaks was just the next step for the family bakery. There are plenty of things they'd like to accomplish, Mazaris said.

"I knew that we wanted to open more



Employee Laine Johnson finishes making a shake for a customer June 14.

locations. We have so many ideas, so we weren't sure what was going to come next," she said. "It's just the right place at the right time."

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

Farmington Hills police partner with anti-narcotics group to help drug abusers

Courtesy of Farmington Hills Police Department

Farmington Hills Police Chief Jeff King announced a joint partnership between the Farmington Hills Police Department and Families Against Narcotics with the creation of a FAN COMEBACK Quick Response Team.

This new initiative is a compassionate way to assist individuals struggling with addiction as a result of either a substance use disorder or opioid use disorder.

The Quick Response Team is a three-member unit consisting of a police officer, certified peer recovery coach, and certified family recovery coach.

Within 72 hours of a non-fatal drug overdose, this team visits the home where a first responder previously assisted with the life-threatening event.

The team's objective is to make contact with the individual who overdosed, as well as the family.

The team will offer compassion, support, information, and assistance in obtaining recovery services, in addition to connecting the individual and family with community resources.

This model has had significant success in other locations such as Huntington, West Virginia, where overdose am-

bulance runs were reduced by 40 percent in one year.

Since its inception in February 2020 as a pilot program with the Sterling Heights Police Department, the FAN COMEBACK Quick Response Team initiative has expanded quickly and will now be operating out of 17 law enforcement agencies across the state, including police departments in Sterling Heights, Allen Park, Berkley, Ferndale, Gaylord, Grayling, Madison Heights, Midland, Oak Park, Roseville, Saginaw, Taylor, Troy, Waterford, and now Farmington Hills, as well as the sheriff's offices in Crawford and Otsego counties.

Families Against Narcotics and its collaborating agencies are out to prove that when it comes to the disease of addiction, compassion truly is greater than stigma.

Members of the Farmington Hills Police Department who comprise the city's Quick Response Team include detectives Joe Mertes, Bob Gerak, Matt Smith, Travis Malott and Detective Sgt. Chad Double.

King is excited about the launch of the COMEBACK initiative in his city.

"The Farmington Hills Police Department is honored to build upon the excellent relationship we have with Families

"We are proud to partner with Families Against Narcotics to bring this great program to the citizens of Farmington Hills."

Jeff King Farmington Hills Police Chief

Against Narcotics and our Hope Not Handcuffs program," King stated. "The Quick Response Team is the next evolution of Families Against Narcotics and the Farmington Hills Police Department's commitment to saving lives and combating substance use disorder in our community.

"We are proud to partner with Families Against Narcotics to bring this great program to the citizens of Farmington Hills."

Funding for the Farmington Hills Quick Response Team was provided by Impact100 Oakland County, an organization that brings women together to engage in impactful, large-scale giving to support nonprofits serving Oakland County.

Since March, Quick Response Team programs supported by Impact100 Oakland County have made 56 home visits and offered resources and support to 40 families.

Robyn Roberts, an Impact100 Oakland County board member and the organization's director of external communications, has high praise for Families Against Narcotics and the COMEBACK initiative. In 2020, Families Against Narcotics was chosen as one of three grant recipients, Roberts noted.

"Impact100 OC is amazed by the success of the QRT program, and we are absolutely thrilled about the Farmington Hills launch."

Impact100 OC member Aly Mandeville agrees, "As an Impact100 Oakland County member, it's so humbling to see our grant dollars going back to the community through programs like the COMEBACK Quick Response Team with Families Against Narcotics."

Families Against Narcotics is a Macomb County-based nonprofit working to educate communities statewide about addiction, dispel the stigma associated with the disease, and compassionately support and assist those affected by it.

The organization's initiatives include Hope Not Handcuffs and the COMEBACK Quick Response Team post-overdose wellness check program.

Learn more at familiesagainstanarcotics.org.

Poop

Continued from Page 1A

They scoop several dozen yards a day, visiting a yard for about 10 minutes apiece. They walk the perimeter of the yard, looking for any droppings and sweeping them up.

Most customers sign up with the service for weekly visits, a step the two say is critical to keeping a lawn healthy.

Kashat said they've seen business grow much faster than they expected in the last four months.

"Our goal was to get a second truck for the year, and we're at five trucks now," Kashat said. "There's a lot of re-

sidual income once we get all the trucks and accounts going."

Launching the poop-scoop business isn't the first venture for the two cousins. They said they also ran Jumbo Video in Westland years ago, as well as another small business selling items on eBay.

Despite the shift in the type of work, operating a Pet Butler franchise is a natural step for the two.

Shamou owns two Premier Pet Supply shops in Livonia and in Canton — so adding another business related to pets was a no-brainer, Kashat said. Having those connections, he said, helped them receive the franchise from the Illinois-based company.

"They don't want anybody just start-

ing a franchise," Kashat said. "They want somebody heavy in the pet industry already."

Those connections with the pet store have also helped with staffing the new business, Shamou said. When people seek out work at Premier Pet Supply, he said he can't always find a job for them, but sometimes can offer an opportunity with the new business.

"I have a pretty big pool of applicants at Premier, so I use some of them," Shamou said. "Some of the college kids are asking to come back to work for summer since school is finishing up and I said, 'I don't necessarily have hours at Premier but I have some hours at Pet Butler,' and they're all pretty game for it."

"There's quite a few people who are

willing to do it."

Especially as the weather warms, Kashat said he loves heading out during the day to clients' homes. It's a freeing experience and allows him to stay physical and work around the "goodest" of boys.

"You get to be outside all day. You're not cooped up inside," Kashat said. "You don't have anybody over your shoulders the entire time you're at work."

"I get to deal with really nice people all the time, the dogs are friendly."

More information on the business can be found online at petbutler.com.

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

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OAKLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN Together

Pride

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motion. "... We listened to everybody, we never disrupted them or cut them off."

Some felt the item's placement on the consent agenda, which typically gets approved without discussion, was the wrong choice.

"It's important for them to hear there are residents in their community who do not agree with this," said Emily Bauman, a resident and former candidate for the state legislature. "That's where my struggle is. I don't know that alternate views were heard."

Londeau, citing diversity and inclusion efforts the city has made in recent years including the creation of a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) commission, said he proposed the item because he feels it's a way to support every resident.

"The I in DEI stands for inclusion," he said. "We want to be a welcoming community."

Some residents said their concern stemmed from Christian beliefs. Bauman agrees, but stressed she doesn't agree with degrading speech toward people who identify as LGBT.

"Yes it's a sin, but at the same time it's not any different than any sin that I do," she said. "Sin is even for me, because that's what my Biblical worldview says. All sins are equal."

Londeau encouraged community members to accept people regardless of



Westland City Council approved a resolution June 7 recognizing June as Pride Month. Council President Pro Tem Mike Londeau, who put the item on the agenda, stands in front of city hall near the Pride flag. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

differences.

"I represent all the citizens of Westland," he said. "I would invite anybody

to be more welcoming to people who are LGBT+. They're part of the community."

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Ordinance

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"We're already complying with all of the regulations of the 'Tree City USA' format as determined by the National Arbor Day Association," Heise said. "We're already planting trees, spending money on new trees and spending time and money on maintaining trees in our domain. The designation would be a nice way to show current and future residents that we care about trees."

A handful of residents expressed concerns that the City of Plymouth's ordinance, which requires residents to se-

cure permits to alter and cut down trees on their own property, is too restrictive.

"I'm opposed to the proposed tree ordinance that violates property owners' constitutional rights," Duane Zantop said. "I cannot believe the board would even consider this outrageous intrusion in our lives."

Rick Ward, a 24-year resident of Plymouth Township, added that while he agrees with sections of the Plymouth ordinance related to businesses clear-cutting property, he doesn't believe the township is staffed to handle "the bureaucratic monstrosity that comes with this ... site visits, plan approvals."

Heise said the township's current tree ordinance is too vague, especially

when it comes to helping township planners make related decisions.

"Basically, the ordinance we have now says be nice to trees, make sure you plant them properly, and it lists five or six trees we're not supposed to plant," Heise said. "... It has a lot of holes in it, which makes it a challenge for (township planner) Laura Haw to enforce when businesses come before her."

Heise said he is especially concerned about homeowners and businesses clear-cutting trees on newly-purchased property with no requirements to replace the lost greenery.

"Let me make this clear: I would never vote for this ordinance in its current form," Heise said. "It's a starting point."

Heise's explanations failed to appease several residents who spoke during the citizens comments of the May 25 meeting.

Those residents argued that it's not fair to compare Plymouth with Plymouth Township when it comes to tree ordinances related to private property because the township generally has larger residential lots than the city.

Heise concluded the study session by assuring residents that much more discussion and research would unfold before a new township tree ordinance is voted on.

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



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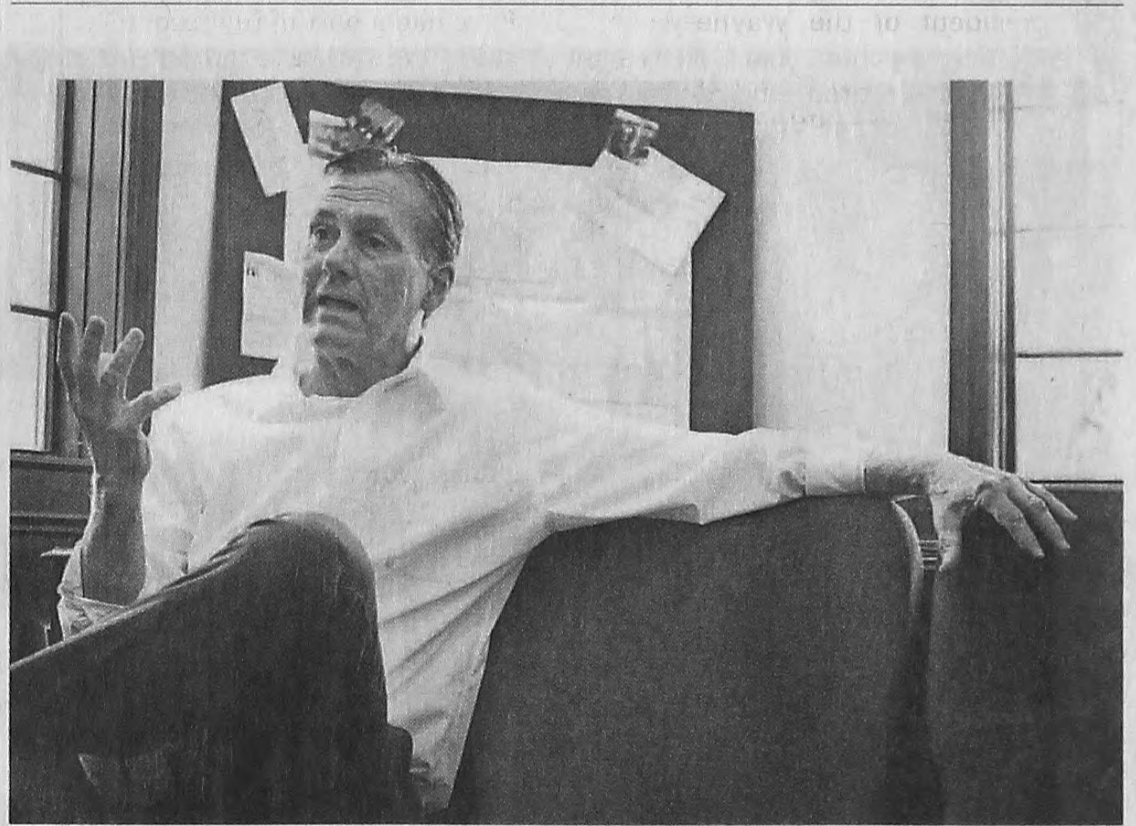
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Ralph Rebandt, the pastor of Oakland Hills Community Church, talks about his Republican run for governor of Michigan. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Pastor

Continued from Page 1A

just continued to erode our constitutional rights," he said. "Michigan isn't the Michigan I grew up in. Our vision is to make Michigan a lighthouse for the nation."

Rebandt is set to appear alongside fellow candidates Austin Chenge, Ryan Kelley, Bob Scott and Evan Space at a forum hosted by the Livonia Republican Club on June 24. Candidates Tudor Dixon and Garrett Soldano have declined or not responded to invitations.

The winner of the August 2022 primary will face the Democrats' choice that fall. Currently, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is the only Democrat in the running.

"I think it's important we give all the candidates a voice, regardless of how well-funded their campaign is or whether they're going to be able to make it past the signature hurdle to get on the ballot," said Dillon Breen, president of the Livonia Republican Club. "It's important we hear all the voices that are running and we come out of this with party unity."

Rebandt's campaign goals center on election integrity, having an effective budget, enacting education reforms and protecting the first two amendments of

the U.S. Constitution, which include the freedoms of speech, religion, the press, peaceful assembly, petitioning the government and bearing firearms.

Locally, the pastor has been involved with Farmington Hills S.A.F.E. (Suicide Awareness for Everyone), and is chaplain for the Farmington Hills Police Department. He's also chaplain for the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Southeastern Michigan Chiefs of Police and the Beverly Hills Police Department. Nationally, he serves on the board of governors for the Council for National Policy.

Because of his background in ministry, Rebandt said thinks he can work with both sides of the aisle.

"You have to get everyone at the table," he said. "It's not, 'We won the election so the rest of you have four years off because we're running our agenda.' It's important to listen - people have to be able to share their minds and hearts."

Learn more about Rebandt and other candidates at the Livonia Republican Club's forum June 24 at the Livonia Elks Lodge #2246, 31117 Plymouth Road. People are encouraged to register online at eventbrite, though admission is free. The event will be moderated by Pat Williams, former Canton Township supervisor.

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

Meet the candidates for Westland City Council

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A whopping 12 Westland residents are running for four available seats on city council in the 2021 election.

Voters will pare the group down to eight in the Aug. 3 primary. The top eight vote-getters will move on to November's general election.

Once a new board is seated, members choose a council president and president pro tem from among themselves. Annually, the president makes \$18,247, the president pro tem makes \$17,802 and the other members are paid \$17,368.

Angela Anderson also filed to run, but said she is not actively campaigning because she plans to move away.

Hometown Life sent candidates questionnaires seeking information on the candidates' backgrounds and platforms. Each question was given a word limit, and answers exceeding that limit were cut short.

Here's what to know about each candidate:

Sarah Austin

Austin, 41, is a senior human resources Specialist at LafargeHolcim. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Eastern Michigan University.

"Through my experience as an HR professional and many years of Jaycee leadership I can ensure every resident feels their voice is heard and ensure equity and compliance with the governing of the city," she said.

Austin has been involved with the Westland Area Jaycees for 14 years and has served as its president as well as serving as president for the Michigan Jaycees. She's also involved with Order of the Eastern Star, the VFW and has been a precinct chair in Westland.

"I am passionate about my community, a desire to ensure everyone is heard, a business professional background and a desire to make a difference," she said.

David Cox

Cox, 63, is a former councilman and is president of the Wayne-Westland school board. He is semi-retired and does some consulting work for GSA Property Tax Consultants.

"(Let's) forge a partnership between Wayne Westland schools and the City of Westland that would share resources throughout the summer and bring new recreational opportunities, team sports programs and vocational program offerings back to Westland," he said.

Cox is also on the Westland TIFA board and the Westland Economic Development Corporation board.

"I hope people share my belief that,

one, we must do more for our kids recreationally and, two, I can help get that done," he said.

Michael Delph

Delph, 59, works for the City of Farmington Hills.

"I love Westland, the city I live in and call home," he said. "I want to use my knowledge and experience to help Westland be a safer and more prosperous place for all of us to live in."

Delph says his experience working with a municipality sets him apart.

"I am not doing this for a living," he said. "I have over 25 years working with municipalities. I will work hard for the Westland residents."

Debra Fowlkes

Fowlkes, 64, is an insurance contract administrator. She has a bachelor's in English and a master's in health services administration.

"I am running for council to help guide the city in growth while maintaining the quality of living that we now enjoy, affordable housing, good schools, shopping, restaurants and recreational opportunities," she said.

Fowlkes is also a former trustee on Wayne-Westland's school board.

"I have the education, the work experience, leadership skills, community service along with common sense that would make the right council person for Westland," she said.

James Godbout

Godbout, 66, has been on council for more than 20 years and is vice president of Midwest Recycling. He has a bachelor's of science in business administration from Lawrence Technological University.

"Since serving on city council, the city has progressed tremendously and I'm proud to have had a part in that progression," he said. "We still have more to accomplish and that's why I am running for re-election."

Godbout is also involved with the Michigan Municipal League, Nankin Transit Commission, Westland Lions Club, Community Foundation of Westland board and has been a precinct delegate.

"Since serving on council I have demonstrated the ability to understand the complex issues, offer innovative solutions, work with my colleagues, the mayors and administrations," he said.

Jon Haddad

Haddad, 26, is a political organizer.



He has a bachelor's degree in political science and history from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"I am running because I know what it is like to rely on public resources and services," he said. "I want to ensure our parks, libraries and public resources are maintained and accessible to all residents."

Haddad thinks his experience in politics makes him uniquely qualified.

"I have worked in multiple city government offices, including comptrollers and clerks," he said. "My experiences with municipal finance and government give me a key advantage."

Candi Halton

Halton, 37, owns a small business. She also has a degree from Washtenaw Community College.

"I'm running for office because Westland needs to be more progressive in community development and we need leaders who are not afraid to stand up for all citizens of Westland," she said.

Halton said, if elected, she'll be a community advocate.

"I ask for your vote to make sure that Westland citizens continue to have a strong voice at the table," she said.

Jim Hart

Hart, 44, is the current city council president. He is also a real estate consultant and engineer for Verizon as well as president of RSM Technical Solutions.

"As the current council president, we have been able to get a lot accomplished despite COVID, but we still have a lot more to do," he said. "The American recovery dollars will need to be smartly applied..."

Hart has a bachelor's in business management from the University of Phoenix and master's in information systems from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"Experience and education really matter," he said. "Councilmembers need to think fiscally and responsibly and also know how to build consensus. Combative people rarely accomplish anything."

Peter Herzberg

Herzberg, 30, is a current councilman and works in finance.

"I am running for re-election to continue the work that I began in 2016 such as improving services, cleaning up blight and taking initiatives to draw people and businesses to Westland," he said.

Herzberg has a bachelor's degree in finance from Wayne State University.

"I've knocked on thousands of doors over the years and spoken to hundreds of business owners," he said. "Input from residents helps guide my decision making."

Antoinette Martin

Martin, 64, is retired. She has a bachelor's of business administration in finance from Eastern Michigan University.

"Through the work I have done for the past 20 years in service of Westland, I am prepared to help get Westland back on track after COVID and be a part of the solution," she said.

Martin is also involved with Westland Rotary Club and was formerly involved with Westland Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Westland Library Board.

"My experience sets me apart," she said. "As a former business owner, personal financial advisor and volunteer, I have a unique understanding of the city's needs."

Josh Powell

Powell, 35, works in information technology as a technical analyst. He has an associate's in criminal justice and a bachelor's in information technology.

"I want to make Westland a better place to live for myself and everyone else, the current city government seems to run the city for their own enrichment," he said.

Powell said, if elected, he'll be an independent vote on council trying to make the city better.

"I am not running for personal enrichment," he said. "I am running to make the city a better place for my family and every family by extension."

Melissa Sampey

Sampey, 39, is a partner and vice president of marketing and sales for TruChampions and a healthcare communications consultant. She has a bachelor's of science from Eastern Michigan University.

"As an energetic leader, passionate problem-solver, and innovative thinker, I am running to share my strength and advocacy with the City of Westland," she said. "I am committed to excellence and transformation for our residents and city."

In the community, Sampey has done volunteer work for the Stephen Tulloch Foundation, Forgotten Harvest, Angels of Hope, Toys for Tots, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Detroit and Autism Speaks.

"Westland needs another strong female voice on council who will work hard and fight for what is right for our residents," she said.



Things to consider when moving to live near family after retirement



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

In January my company offered a buyout package which I accepted. My wife also retired recently with a pension. We have more than enough to cover all our needs. My wife and I are both 62; however, based upon some of your previous columns, I am going to take my Social Security at full retirement age and my wife plans to delay until age 70.

We have one child, a daughter who has two children. We are thinking of moving to Texas to be closer to them. Before we commit to moving, we want to make sure that we've considered all the pros and cons. I am curious as to your thoughts.

Thank you, Darryl

Dear Darryl:

Congratulations on your retirement, and on achieving the American Dream. From what you have said, you and your wife can retire without having to worry about your finances.

I've worked with many clients who have moved to be closer to their children. In most cases, things work out fine. The grandparents get to spend more time with their kids and watch

their grandchildren grow up.

However, I have seen two situations where things didn't go according to plan. The first is where the kids decide they are going to relocate, usually for a new job opportunity. When this happens, the grandparents are in the position of either having to move again or stay in an area where they have no family, friends or support network. Another scenario is that the kids think since the grandparents are in town and are retired, they are permanent babysitters for the grandchildren.

My recommendation is that before you make the move, discuss these issues with your daughter. We all know that things can change.

I also believe it is important for you to look at your finance. The cost of living is different throughout the country. I would make sure that from a financial standpoint the move is not going to cause you any difficulty.

In addition to thinking about the financial implications, if you relocate and become a legal resident of Texas, it is important to have your estate documents reviewed by a local attorney.

Take the time to consider all the issues. Also remember, with technology and air transportation, you don't have to move to stay close with someone.

Good luck!

Email Rick your questions at rick@bloomadvisors.com.

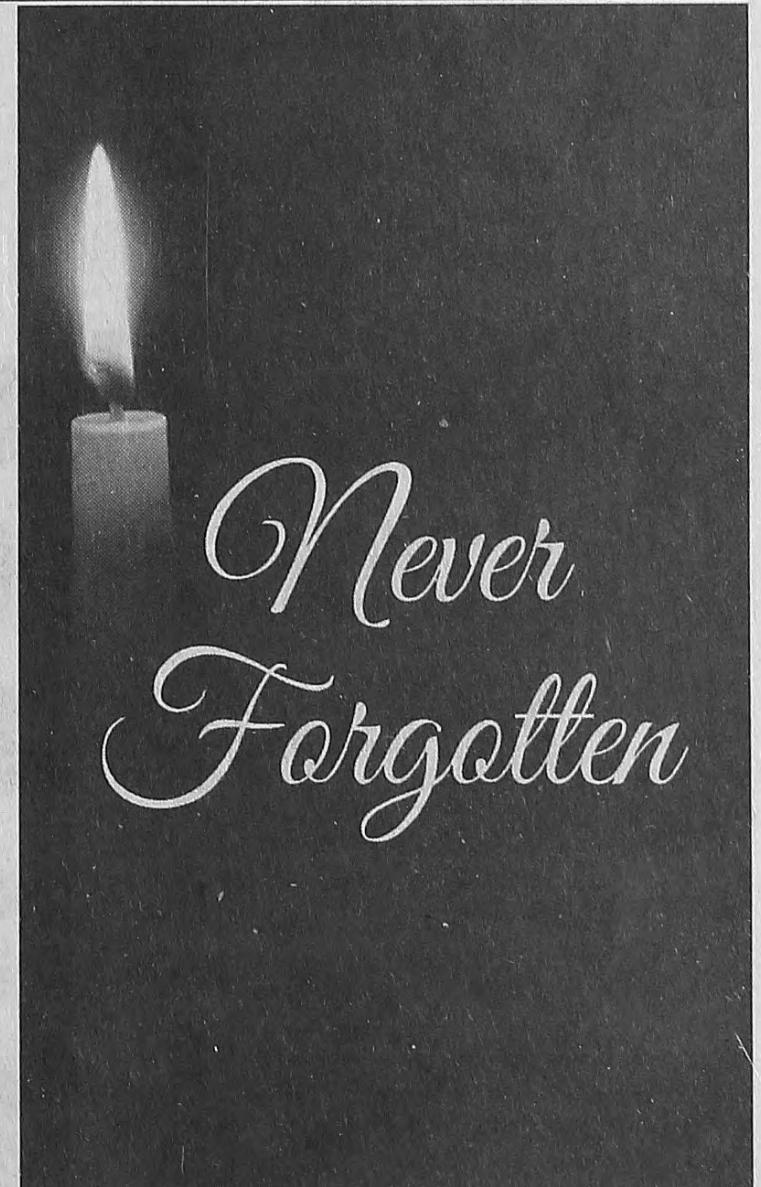
Obituaries

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David D. Phipps

ANN ARBOR - David D. Phipps, age 83, of Ann Arbor, MI passed away on June 16, 2021. Beloved husband of Karen for almost 57 wonderful years. Loving father of Holly (Richard) and Jennifer (Robert). Cherished grandfather of Tyler, Trey, Tanner, Sophia and Callie. Dearest brother of the late Walter. Services held June 22, 2021 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Livonia & interred at Glen Eden, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions appreciated to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Livonia or Huron Valley Lutheran High School, Westland.

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Wixom terrier vies for title of 'America's Top Dog'

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wixom has a terrier in the fight for title of America's Top Dog.

Frank, a 4-year-old patterdale terrier, may be considered an underdog in the season-opening episode of the dog competition show, "America's Top Dog," premiering at 8 p.m., June 29, on A&E.

Standing just 14 inches at the shoulder and weighing in at 17 pounds, Frank is certainly undersized compared to heavyweights like German shepherds, Belgian malinois, rottweilers and other breeds commonly seen in competition.

"A patterdale is not a typical dog to compete in these," Alexa White, Frank's owner and handler, said. "He is so small compared to others. ... He went up against a bigger dog and I can't put any spoilers out there, but size doesn't matter much.

"It's about heart and soul. Frank has so much heart and soul."

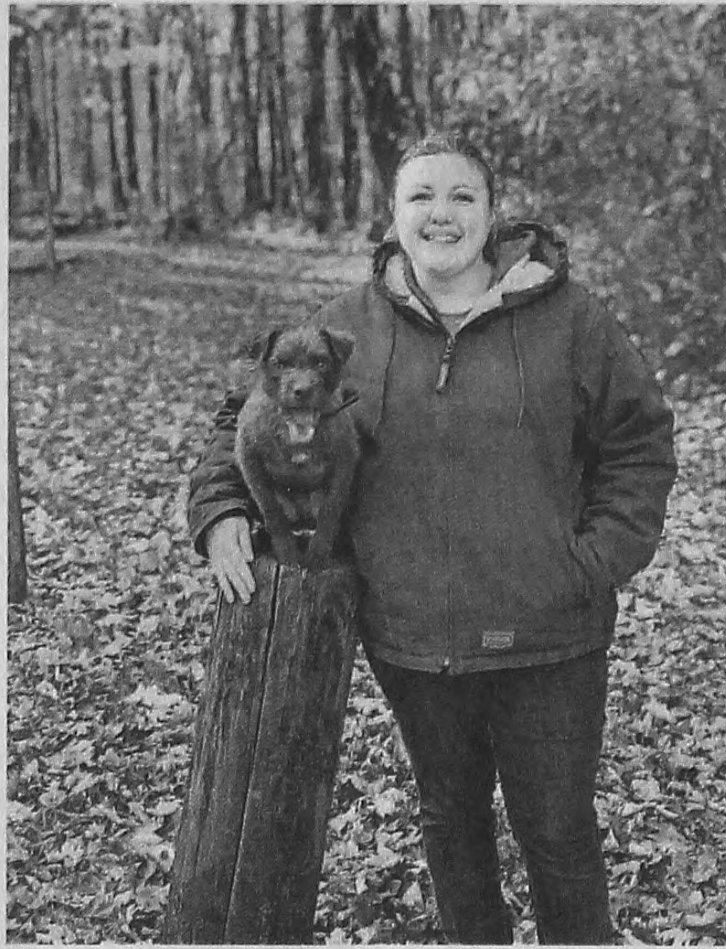
White, owner of Meraki K9, a dog training business partnered with It's a Dog's Life Resort and Spa in Wixom, has been professionally training and competing with dogs for more than a decade.

The 28-year-old, who has competed at the Westminster Dog Show with a duck tolling retriever and placed fifth in an UpDog Triple Crown Worldwide Championship with a malinois, wanted a smaller dog to fit her lifestyle.

Frank is a "great house dog and snuggler," but also a motivated terrier with great drive.

With that in mind, she put in her application in February 2020 to compete with Frank on "America's Top Dog," ready to face what the show's website describes as "a massive canine obstacle course designed to test their speed, agility, teamwork, and trust as they navigate a series of challenges over two rounds of competition."

She was excited to be selected for the show and spent six months preparing Frank before they went to Los Angeles to go head-to-head with the big dogs.



Alexa White and Frank, a patterdale terrier, will compete on the A&E show "America's Top Dog" on June 29. Frank is a "great house dog and snuggler" and a motivated terrier, she says. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEXA WHITE



That training included work on jumping over 5-foot-high walls and navigating different surfaces.

Frank, who has already made his big screen debut as a "ferocious-looking" terrier in the 2019 film "Happy Death Day 2U" is a softie at heart and is now ready for his small screen debut.

Viewers who tune in to "America's Top Dog" at 8 p.m. June 29 will see Frank and other dogs utilizing their skills in a showcase of what dogs are bred to do in both physical and mental challenges.

While White can't disclose the outcome, for her and Frank, it was a really fun experience.

"It's truly an honor to be selected among America's top pet owners and was amazing to see everyone competing with their dogs and on that stage and having that time with Frank," White said. "I think he had the best night of his life."

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

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DNA proves man is not boy who went missing in 1994

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

DNA from a man claiming to be D'Wan Sims, the boy who went missing in 1994, did not match a DNA sample on file for Sims' father, Livonia police confirmed.

"This investigation is still an ongoing open case and we encourage anyone with information regarding the disappearance of D'Wan Sims to contact the Livonia

Police Department," Lt. Charles Lister said in an email.

The man claiming to be Sims did so in late 2019. He had called Livonia police and submitted a DNA sample at the department.

Sims went missing on Dec. 11, 1994. According to reports, he was shopping at Livonia's Wonderland Mall with his mother when he disappeared.

His mother, Dwanna Wiggins, became a suspect but maintained her innocence. She died late last year.

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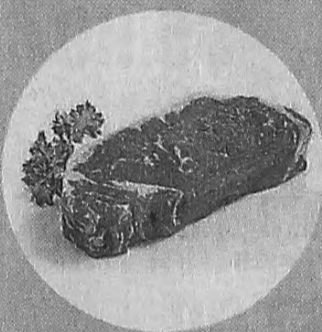
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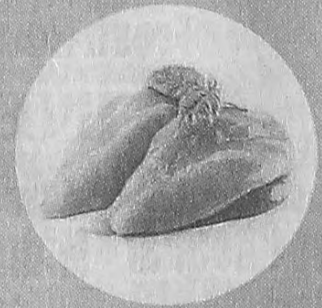
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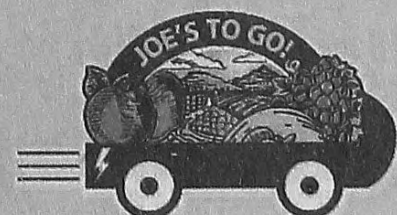
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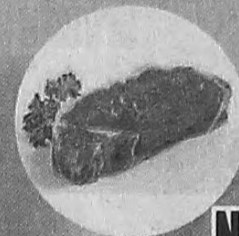
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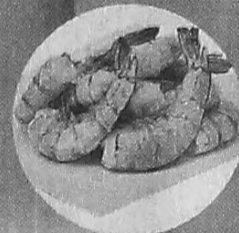
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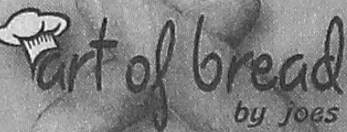
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SPORTS

Underdogs no more



South Lyon freshman Ava Bradshaw limited Allen Park to three hits and one walk in a 5-0 victory in the Division 1 softball final at Secchia Stadium in East Lansing on June 19. PHOTOS BY WRIGHT WILSON/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

South Lyon softball wins D1 state title against Allen Park

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ava Bradshaw was a mess, a nervous wreck heading into the Division 1 softball state final.

South Lyon head coach Dan Depaulis said that's common for his freshman pitcher, saying that she wakes up between 5 and 6 a.m. before big games to go to her basement and pitch around cinder blocks.

But the nervousness did not come from Allen Park, a team that South Lyon lost to early in the 2021 season. Bradshaw was comfortable in her and her teammates' abilities on the softball field. It was the gravity of the situation, the weight of the work put in to get to this moment.



South Lyon players take a team selfie with the Division 1 championship trophy.

See SOUTH LYON, Page 2B

Mercy fails to match Allen Park's firepower

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Asia Barbato had a lot to deal with in the Division 1 state semifinal.

The Mercy freshman pitcher was set to face an Allen Park offense that had mercied four of its five previous playoff opponents, outscoring teams 62-1. Barbato and the rest of the Marlins defense had battled through its fair share of games in the 2021 post-season, squeaking out wins against Novi and Walled Lake Northern.

But the Jaguars offense got the better of Mercy (32-5), falling to Allen Park (32-10), 9-5, in the state semifinal, the team's deepest playoff run since the Marlins' 2016 championship.

"We knew they were big hitters, we knew they were going to get their hits," Mercy head coach Corey Burras. "They are a great team. Everybody hit, top to bottom, like they said they did. And they did. They showed it today and they got on top of our pitchers, made the adjustments like we usually do."

Early on, Mercy found its way out of some major jams.

After walking two and hitting a batter in the first, loading the bases with one out, Barbato struck out Mia and Molly Hool, returning to the dugout unscathed, as she would remain through the first three innings of play.

In that time, Mercy took the lead after a sacrifice fly in the first by Kendall Spivey. But in the fourth inning, that lead was erased quickly.

Two singles and a double loaded the bases for the Jaguars, recording their first run of the game on a bases-loaded walk by Faith Peschke.

After a run-saving snag by Mercy shortstop Grace Nieto seemingly saved a few runs from scoring and put the Marlins in a position to get out of another jam, stranding five runners through the first three innings, Madilynn Ramey hit the dagger, sending a pitch from Barbato over the left-centerfield wall for a grand slam.

A single and a double after Ramey's home run sent Barbato out of the game, finishing with seven earned runs on seven hits, four walks, two strikeouts and a wild pitch.

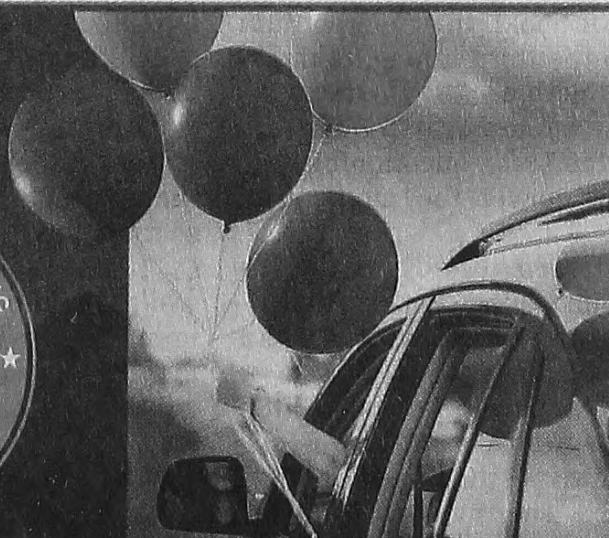
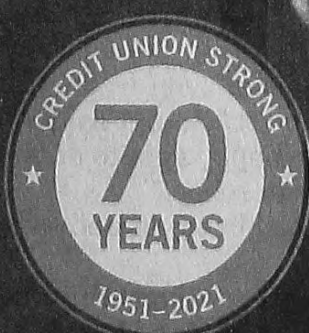
"She learned that big games have a lot of pressure," Burras said of his freshman pitcher. "This will benefit her, even if it's a rough game; they were hitting the balls. She has three more years of this. It's a great lesson. A lot of juniors and seniors learned the same lesson she learned today."

Mercy answered with three runs in the top of the fifth — headlined by a two-RBI double by senior second baseman Maggie Murphy — and an RBI triple by Spivey in the seventh. But

See MERCY, Page 4B

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Farmington seniors celebrate signing to cap off school year

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A group of Farmington senior athletes arrived at their home gym to celebrate.

For most, their high school athletics careers were complete. Most had already signed their letters of intent. But Athletic Director Tim Micklash still wanted to give them an opportunity to recognize the work it took to get to where they were.

Fifteen of Farmington's 18 signees attended a signing day ceremony June 3, looking back at what it took to earn a scholarship and a spot with a college program.

Here's the stories of four athletes honored.

'I don't want to do anything else'

Madeline Greaves started swimming when she was 6 years old. Her mom put her in a class just to see if she would enjoy it as much as her older sister had.

She did, finding a home in the water quickly. But it wasn't until seventh grade when Greaves realized it was something she could not live without.

"I tore my ACL when I was in seventh grade," she said. "It kind of put in perspective how I don't want to do anything else. I don't want to put anything else at risk for my swimming because I knew I loved it and I knew I wanted to stick with it through high school and in college."

When Greaves arrived in Farmington Public Schools, she found she was pretty good at swimming, too.

In two seasons at Harrison, she was an eight-time All-State placer, earning state championships in 2017 and 2018 as a part of the 200-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay.

After moving to Farmington High School in 2019, Greaves became a state champion herself, finishing first in the 200-yard independent medley and the 500-yard freestyle. As a senior, she earned four more All-State finishes, beating her state champion time by nearly a second in the 200-yard IM.

In those state meet races, Greaves realized she was on a Division 1 track, matching swimmers who were already committed to high-level collegiate programs. As soon as her recruiting officially opened prior to the start of her junior year, Division 1 programs started to contact her, including Purdue, where she committed to in November 2019.

Over the past two years, Greaves said Farmington has helped her prepare for the strenuous schedule of a Division 1 college athlete, saying she bonded with friends over the grind of late nights studying and early-morning practices.

As the COVID-19 pandemic nears its end, Greaves said she will have an opportunity to make herself known in the Purdue swim and dive program with the amount of new swimmers on the team.

"The freshmen that were there now are still going to feel like freshmen next year," Greaves said. "I think it's nice we're all going to be in the same boat, but I have high expectations for myself at Purdue."

Campbell finds home on ice

Ella Campbell grew up where hockey



A group of Farmington senior athletes participate in the school's signing day ceremony. COURTESY OF CINDY FLYNN

is king: Ontario, Canada. She even remembers, when she was younger, when her and her classmates would go out skating for gym class.

When Campbell and her family moved to Michigan when she was 10, hockey was something she only did for fun, but soon dove in head first.

"My parents were like, 'Hey, there's a team if you want to try out,'" Campbell said. "I was 10 years old, so I was like, 'Sure.' I stuck with it from there."

Campbell found that she loved the competitive nature of the sport, along with meeting new friends and traveling the world with her little league team.

Over the past two years, Campbell has been playing for the Little Caesars AAA Hockey Club, improving her skill level as she got onto older teams.

"When I moved to Tier 1, that huge drastic change of skill level... that's what got me going," Campbell said. "All these girls are going to college. And I was like, 'If I want to go to college, I have to compete with them.' That's what really pushed me to do better."

Campbell will play for Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts, starting in 2021, which competes in the Independent Women's Club Hockey League. As she prepares to join the team, Campbell said the coaches have been more focused on developing a connection between her and her teammates and creating a family atmosphere.

But Campbell knows there will be an increased level of competition at Curry College.

"I know we are going to be playing a lot of good teams," Campbell said. "We're a newer team, so we don't have a bunch of connections with each other yet. Hopefully we will bond well with each other so we will be playing good, but the competition we will be playing against will be next level. I really hope I will be prepared for that."

Reaching for the ceiling

Eli Bride has always found soccer as

his outlet for his competitive nature.

Ever since he joined a soccer team at 3 years old, Bride has loved to win, striving for that feeling in each practice and in each game played. That mentality followed him wherever he went, including his freshman season at Farmington.

"I always strive for the highest I can get, so I went in, going for varsity my freshman year, made it," Bride said. "We had a very competitive team, ended up getting some playing time and started sophomore year."

"I always reach for the ceiling, always go to the top. (I) did as much as I could and worked hard."

In his four seasons with the Falcons, Bride's teams won 22 games, including three playoff wins against Ferndale — Farmington's only win of the 2018 season — Groves and Royal Oak, respectively.

At the end of his senior season with the Falcons, Bride broke his ankle, ending his campaign prematurely. However, in winter 2020, he was still contacted by the Spring Arbor University coaching staff, who liked his film and wanted to see what he could do in the context of its team.

To Spring Arbor and other programs looking at Bride, it was his 6-foot-1 frame that they liked in a center-midfielder, using his size to shield people off and win 50-50 balls.

After a few trips to Spring Arbor, Michigan, to practice with the soccer team, Bride was offered in February 2021, later committing to the Cougars.

With a high school career seemingly defined by COVID-19, Bride said earning a spot to play college soccer is a "dream come true" and that he will bring that same mentality he brought to Farmington — that competitive nature — 75 miles west to Spring Arbor.

"I'm obviously going to work hard," he said. "They are a good team. They are always in nationals every single year, always go down to Texas. Great program. It's going to be competitive and I'm ready to work, work hard and earn my

spot."

Musial shines in the bowling lanes

Jonah Musial first started bowling as something to do when there was no baseball. In the winter, Musial found himself in a bowling league as early as age 5, using the lightest ball possible at first.

But as he got older, he found he was improving at a rapid rate.

"I always just had fun being better than everyone," Musial said. "Just being that young and always beating the big kids was always so much fun. I feel like that and having a passion for it naturally."

After fracturing his growth plate pitching during freshman year, Musial started to focus solely on bowling, practicing three days a week and competing in local tournaments regularly.

As a freshman bowler at Farmington he took off, winning the first tournament he competed in and later setting the unofficial high average of 229 his sophomore and junior seasons.

Musial left the Farmington school team as a senior, training alone and allowing him to increase his skills with the help of Team USA coaches, allowing him to get noticed by Mount Mercy University, one of the top bowling schools in the country.

"First off, the academics are amazing and I just loved the environment there. Second, their bowling program, they started ranked third in the nation and finished fifth this year," Musial said.

"Their coaching is amazing, and once I showed up to tryouts and their practices, their community was just so amazing and welcoming."

Musial said his focus will be academics first, but that he wants to see what he can do in those first few tournaments and see where he stacks up against high-level competition.

"I'm going to give it my best and see if I can compete against the big dogs," Musial said.

South Lyon

Continued from Page 1B

"There's part of you that's nervous and then there's a part of you that knows you've done what it takes," Bradshaw said. "I know I prepared myself, but I was nervous because I care so much about the game."

"We came so far. Just to not win, it felt wrong."

From the moment Bradshaw threw her first pitch against the Jaguars — leading to a line drive that easily landed in the freshman pitcher's glove for the first out of the game — she knew it was theirs to lose. She pumped her fist, pointing down, marking their territory and putting their stake in the trophy on the line.

Not even a rain delay could halt that momentum, as South Lyon (29-6-2) beat Allen Park (31-11), 5-0, for the team's first state title in school history.

Leaving the circle after a scoreless first, striking out one, Bradshaw was no longer nervous. She was just looking for

a lead.

In the freshman pitcher's first at bat in the bottom of the first, with sophomore third baseman Grace Walters at second, she laced a double to the left-center gap, pumping her fists and clapping her hands when she got to the second-base bag, knowing she soon could do what she loved: pitch with a lead.

"It completely swung the momentum in our favor," Bradshaw said. "It changed the game because now, we were in control. We could go out there and shut them down."

South Lyon held that momentum heading into the third inning, taking a two-run lead with an RBI single by junior Julia Duncan in the first. But a rain delay led to the Lions questioning how much staying power the momentum had.

As his team sat in the dugout, Depaulis told his team to erase the first two innings from memory. Instead, view it as a scoreless, five-inning game.

"I think it calmed the nerves a little because we were all a little nervous, sitting down and all that," senior Riley Boulter said. "The five-inning game

really cut off some of the worryness and (let us) fire back."

Bradshaw needed help. After stranding two runners on first and second in the fourth with back-to-back strikeouts of Mia and Molly Hool, the freshman hit Allen Park sophomore Faith Peschke in the head with a fastball and walked the next batter on four pitches. Senior Madison Seymour picked up Bradshaw, securing the last out on a fly ball to center-field to continue the shutout.

Bradshaw recorded a complete-game shutout, striking out nine, while allowing three hits and one walk.

South Lyon was not done offensively. Boulter secured two insurance runs, clearing the bases with a double in the bottom of the sixth. The senior finished the game with two hits and two RBI, scoring once.

"I think I have been in shock for a while to be honest," Boulter said. "This is unreal. I'm so happy I got to do this before I leave high school."

Depaulis had been an underdog before.

When he was a senior at University of Detroit Jesuit in 2001, he helped an un-

ranked Cubs team to a state title. As a coach of an unranked South Lyon team, he said he likes the underdog role, reveling in the idea that no one believed in his team.

"We really had a chip on our shoulder," Depaulis said. "We really embraced it. We didn't really talk about it... we couldn't control what the rankings were, but we felt they weren't really respecting us."

That changes immediately for South Lyon, with 12 of its 15 players set to come back for the 2022 season.

The expectation doesn't scare Bradshaw. It may make her nervous when those big moments arrive, but it doesn't mean she isn't confident.

She's always about setting and exceeding high expectations.

"There's never going to be a limit," Bradshaw said. "I'm proud of myself and proud of this team. I think if we just learn from this, there's nobody that can stop us."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

Hartland wins state girls soccer title

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

EAST LANSING — Underneath the tight wrapping that held it secure was an unsightly ankle that had turned gray since being injured three days earlier.

Whatever. Nothing was going to keep Julia Pietila from playing the final soccer game of her Hartland High School career, especially since it happened to be for the state Division 1 championship.

Uncertain if she would even play when she arrived Saturday at Michigan State University, Pietila scored two goals for the Eagles in a 4-0 victory over Troy Athens at DeMartin Soccer Complex.

Maria Storm and Hannah Kastamo scored the other goals and Morgan Seog made six saves for her sixth shutout in seven postseason games.

"It's just indescribable," Seog said. "But there's no other team I would have rather played this game with. These girls, they have a tremendous work ethic and it's just incredible to see how we can persevere through every game and improve."

Pietila injured her left ankle Wednesday during the second half of Hartland's semifinal victory over Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central. Her chances of playing in the state final appeared remote at the time and improved only slightly in the days that followed.

"I was told by a few different people I wouldn't be playing today or they laughed when I said I would," Pietila said. "It feels good with adrenaline."

"I taped it up and started warming up to see how it felt. I said, 'All right, it's now or never,' so I just went with it. I feel like once I got in the swing of things, I forgot about it and was more focused on the game, which was helpful. If I'd been thinking about it, I'm sure I wouldn't have been able to run at full strength."

One of those who didn't take Pietila seriously when she said she would play Saturday was Hartland coach Andrew Kartsounes.

"She was saying, 'I'm gonna play,'" Kartsounes said. "We were like, 'Yeah, OK.' But she comes in and she tells us, 'Just let me play. Don't take me out so I don't cool down.' Then she goes and



Hartland's Emma Kastamo (16) looks to swipe the ball during a 4-0 victory over Troy Athens in the state Division 1 soccer championship game June 19 at Michigan State. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

scores the first and fourth goal. I told her, 'You realize you scored the game-winning goal in the state final your senior year on one leg?' You couldn't tell."

Pietila scored the all-important first goal with 23:04 left in the first half when she charged to the net and knocked in the rebound of a Kastamo shot that deflected off the hands of Athens goalie Nitya Balusu.

"Hannah Kastamo, my teammate, did just about all the work," Pietila said. "She beat the other player down the line

and slipped a ball in and it barely hit the goalie. I was just right there to get a little garbage goal in."

With a 1-0 halftime lead and Athens applying pressure early in the second half, Kartsounes said Storm's goal with 31:32 left in the game to put the Eagles up 2-0 was huge.

"They really started out the second half and were taking it to us," Kartsounes said. "I was standing there saying, 'We can't do this for 40 minutes. We're gonna have to get out and possess

the ball a little more and create a chance or two.' That's what we ended up doing."

The Eagles created more breathing room nearly two minutes later when Kastamo scored off a pass from Justina L'Esperance with 29:20 left. Pietila scored her second goal of the game and 18th of the season with 18:21 remaining when her seemingly harmless shot off a pass from Alyse Daavettila was bobbled and made it across the goal line.

See HARTLAND, Page 4B

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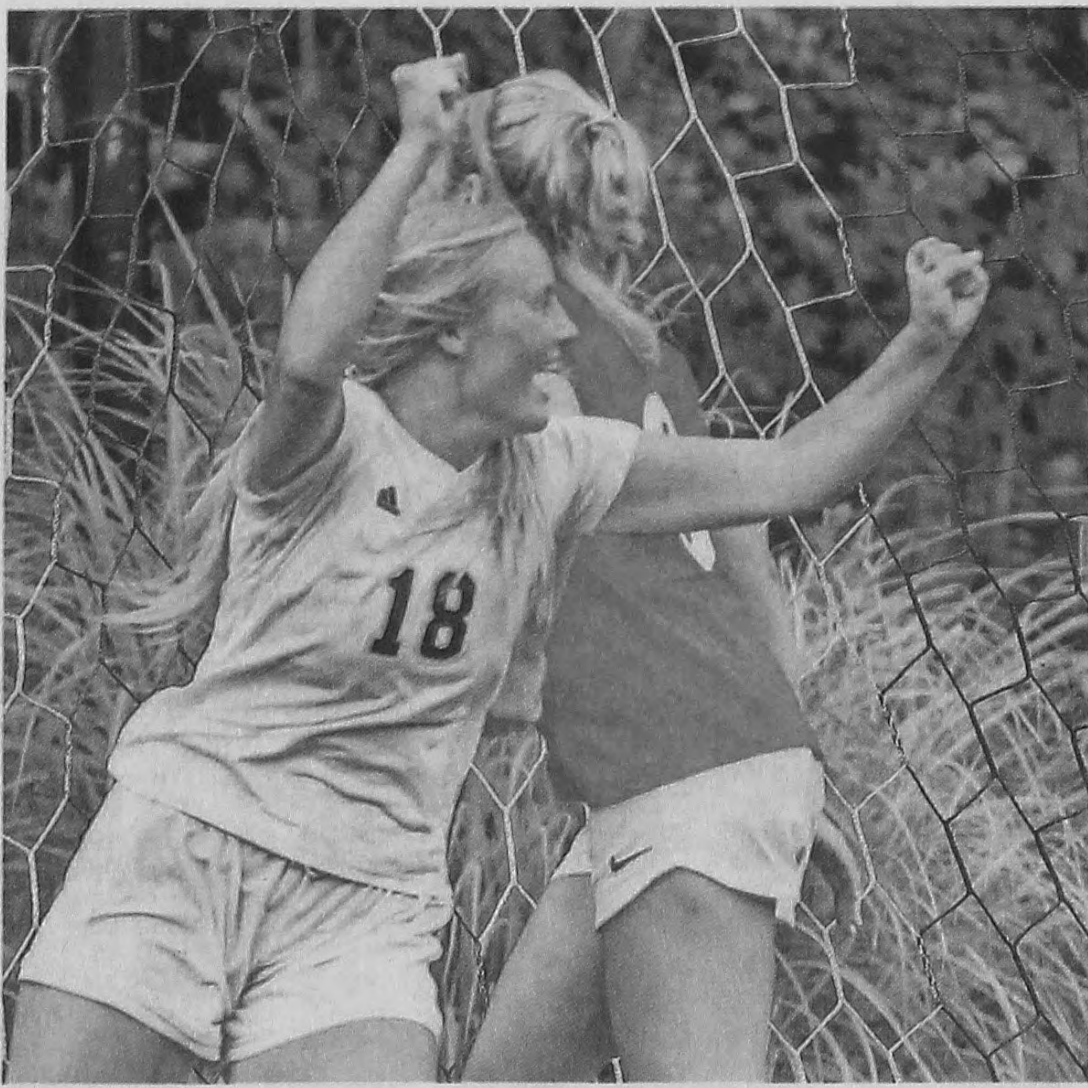
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Hartland's Julia Pietila celebrates the first of her two goals over Troy Athens in the state Division 1 championship game June 19 at Michigan State. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

Hartland

Continued from Page 3B

"That was a good ball back, but I can't say I executed it very well," Pietila said. "But, hey, it went in, so I can't complain."

When the clock hit zeroes, Hartland (20-4-1) made history with the first high school soccer state championship by a Livingston County boys or girls team. Brighton's girls lost in five state finals between 1994 and 2005 and Brighton's boys lost in the 1998 title game.

"It feels amazing, and to do it with my teammates and my best friends, there's no better feeling," L'Esperance said. "I'm so proud of my team. This season, we stepped it up toward the end of our season. That's the best I've ever seen Hartland play."

For Kartsounes, it was his 190th victory in 16 seasons coaching Hartland's girls. He's also coached the boys for 27

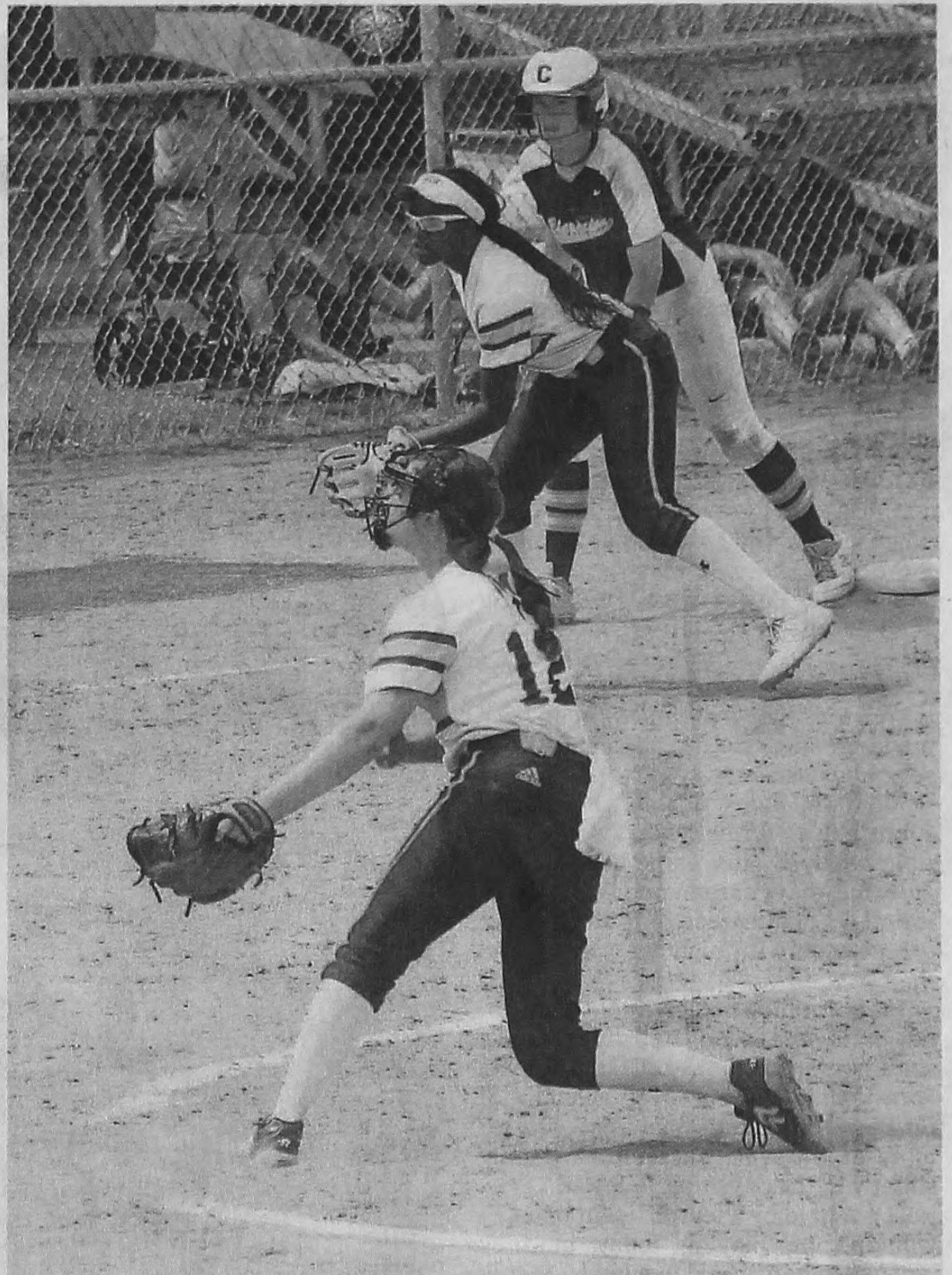
years. None of his teams got past regionals until this season.

"I just finished my 30th year teaching," Kartsounes said. "Everybody keeps asking me when I'm gonna retire because I'm No. 1 in seniority at the high school. I really was wondering if I was ever going to get here personally. It was amazing to get here, then to play the kind of game we did today it's just amazing."

The Eagles won by four goals over an Athens team that entered the game with a streak of eight consecutive shutouts and had a 17-1-4 record.

Hartland allowed only two goals in its last 10 games, both coming in a 3-2 victory over Forest Hills Central in the semifinals.

"They work so well together," Seog said of her defense. "They know how to move together and they can clear it. Having them in front of me and me behind them, it's comfortable. We know it's going to work."



Farmington Hills Mercy freshman Asia Barbato delivers a pitch during the Marlins' victory over Clarkston on June 12. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mercy

Continued from Page 1B

the Marlins could not keep up with Allen Park, which added two more runs in the sixth on an RBI double by Avery Garden and an RBI single by Mia Hool.

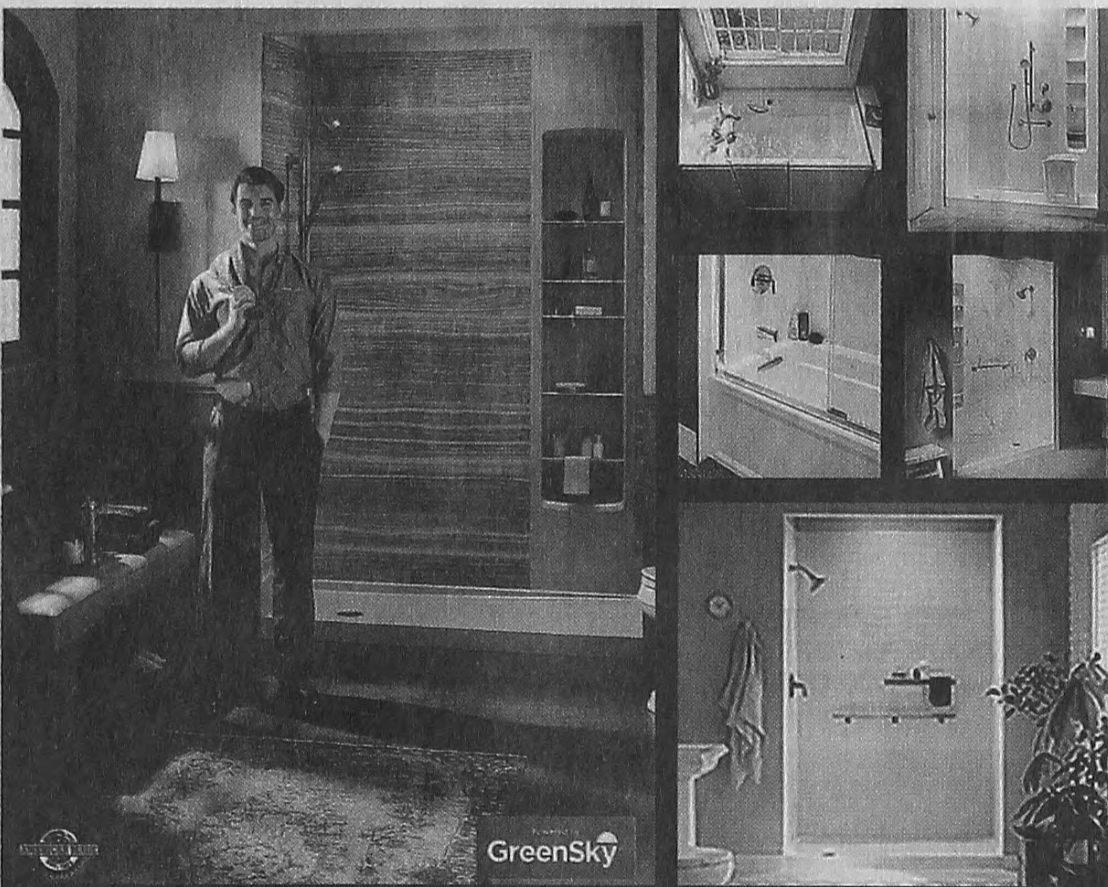
Burras felt his team had to work to return to the final four, especially after first-round losses to North Farmington in each of the past two seasons.

The Mercy head coach said his team

had the potential, but could not take an extra step and match the Allen Park offense.

"We had no cupcake games, so we always had to come through," Burras said. "We did really well and it really benefited our team having that experience getting here. We just didn't get that edge, didn't get that victory today."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



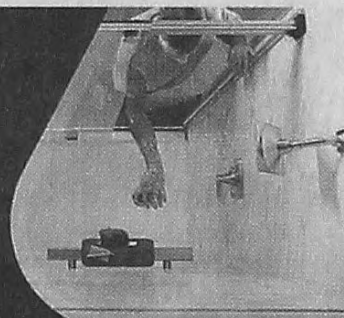
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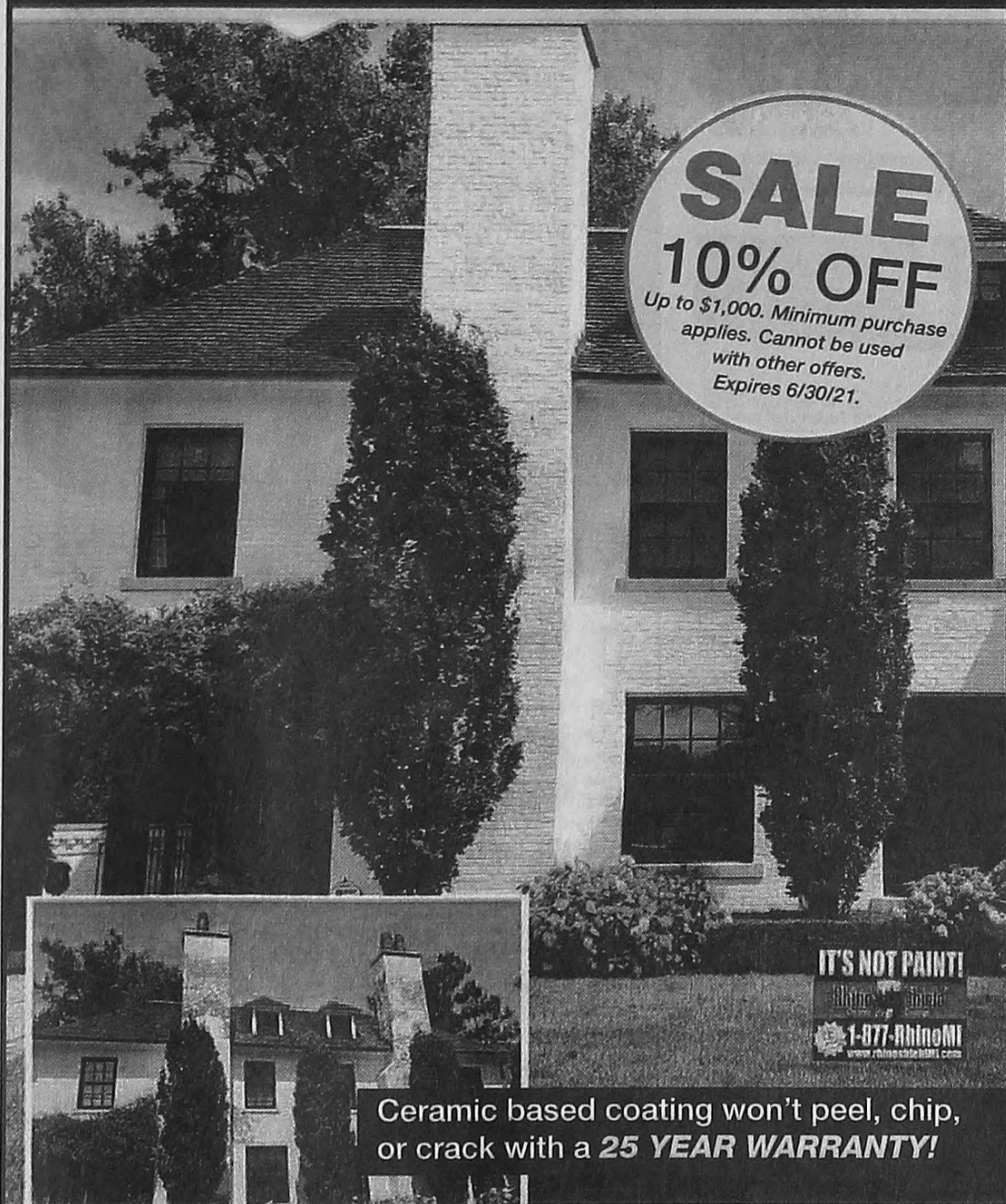
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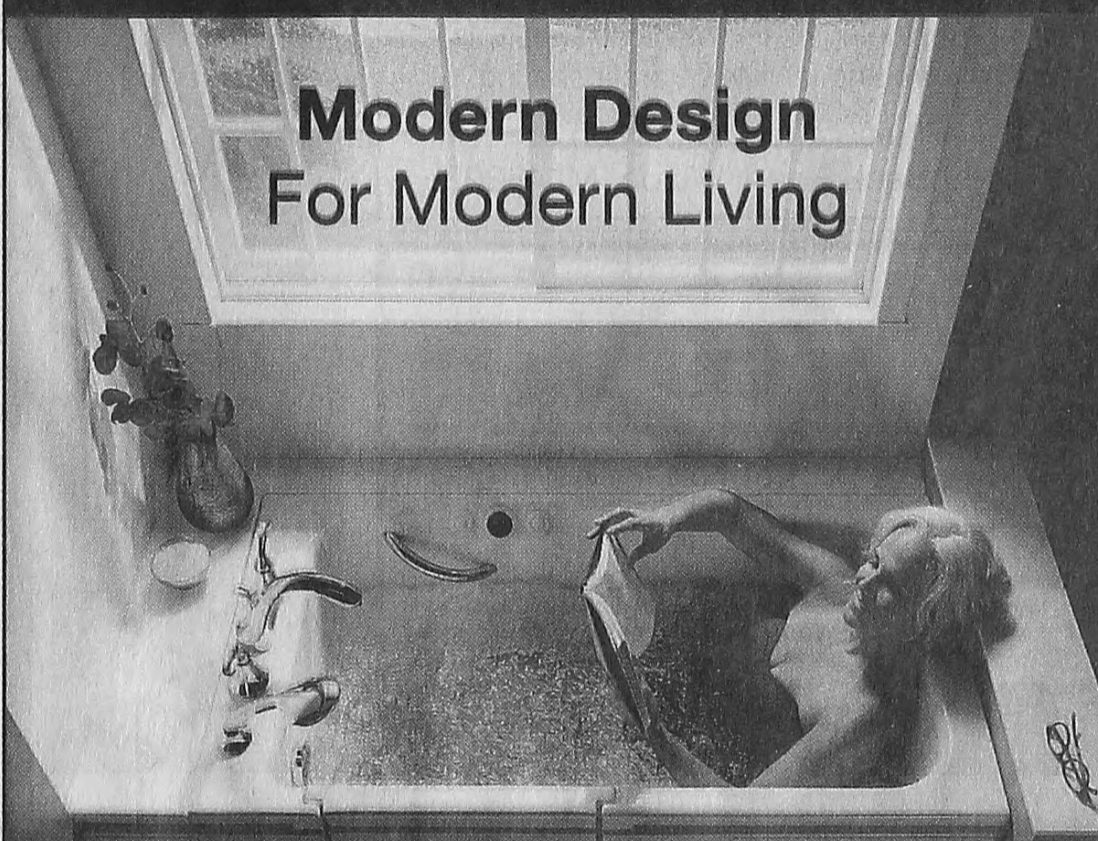
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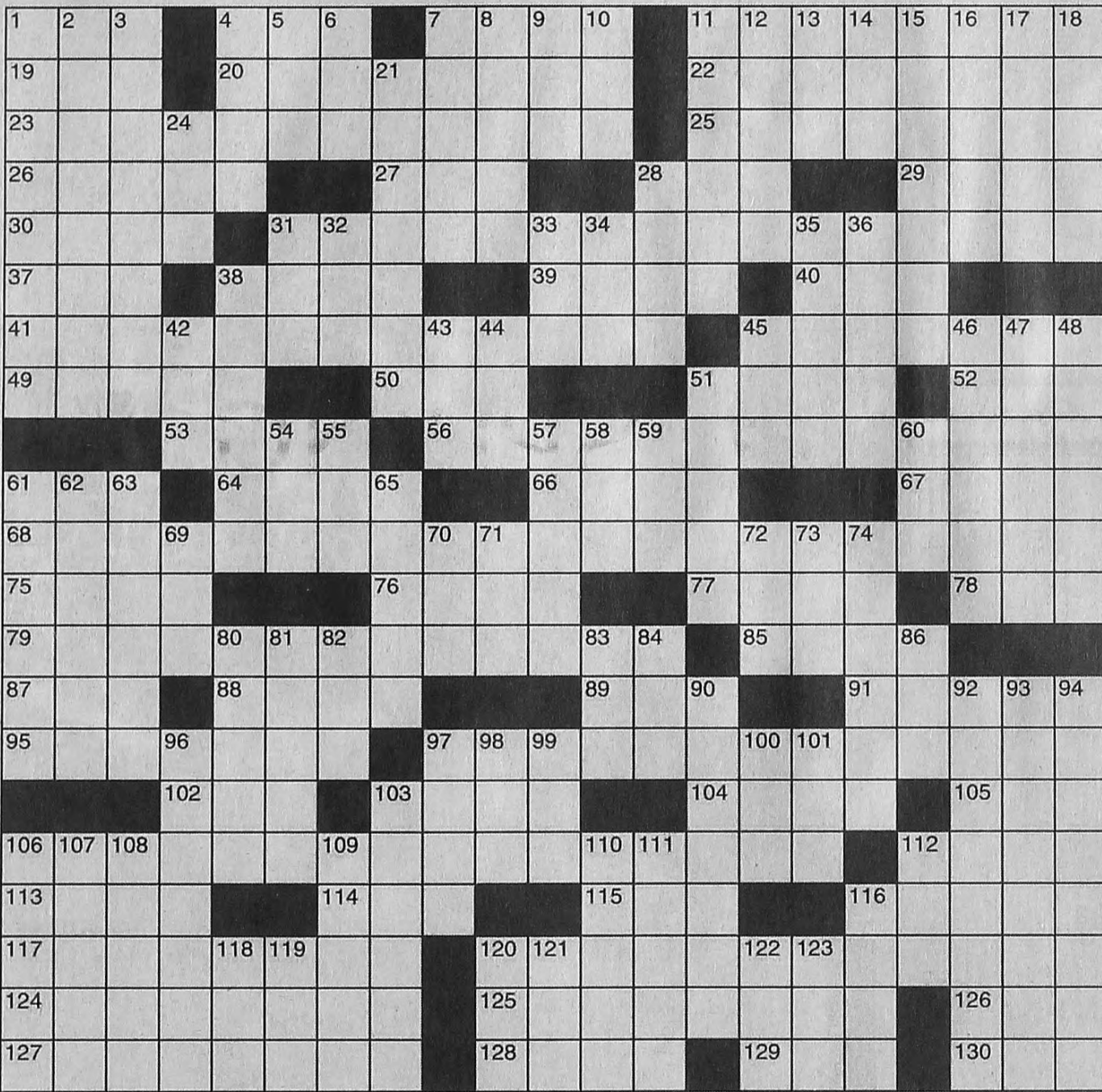
THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

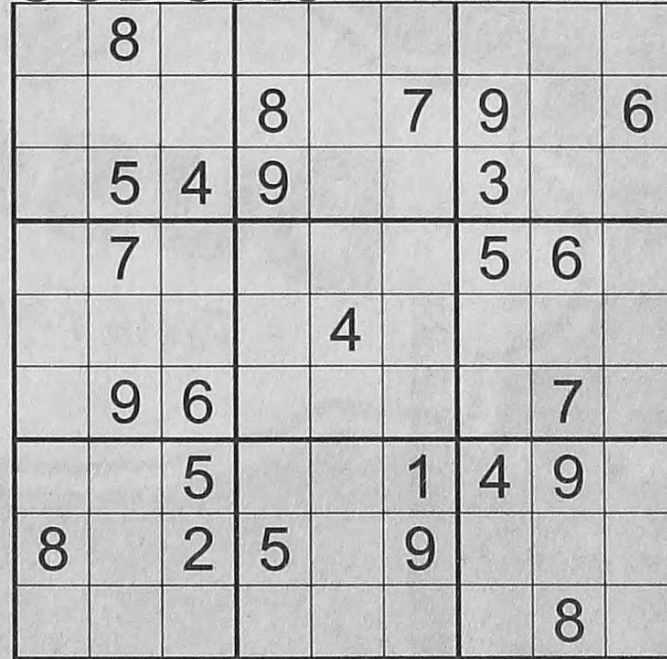
'TWOULD BE NICE

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Bluff City Law" network
 - 4 Mandible site
 - 7 Talks lovingly
 - 11 One painting with dots
 - 19 Long-popular ISP
 - 20 Mythical horses
 - 22 Indy 500, e.g.
 - 23 Outdoor food party for 11- and 12-year-olds?
 - 25 Some very valuable violins
 - 26 Old Texas siege site
 - 27 Saddlery tool
 - 28 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
 - 29 Not adorned
 - 30 Type
 - 31 Identical sibling near some falling rocks?
 - 37 Caesar's 106
 - 38 Neighbor of Vietnam
 - 39 River through Orsk
 - 40 "Norma —"
 - 41 "Happy Days" star with gleaming eyes?
 - 45 Ingredient in Nutella
 - 49 A noble gas
 - 50 Wedding page word
 - 51 Top-notch
 - 52 Genetic stuff
 - 53 Major exhibition
 - 56 Perform gastric bypasses?
 - 61 Coastal inlet
 - 64 Roof overhang
 - 66 Musical sign
 - 67 "Say again?"
 - 68 One working to promote high-quality serge and denim?
 - 75 Fuzzy picture
 - 76 Tilted type: Abbr.
 - 77 Imitate a lion
 - 78 Susan of "L.A. Law"
 - 79 Contest to see who has the cleverest taunts?
 - 85 Have too much of, for short
 - 87 Lance of the O.J. trial
 - 88 Paris hub
 - 89 Negatives
 - 91 "Wonder Woman" star Gal
 - 95 Cber's lingo system
 - 97 Time of day for muscle spasms?
 - 102 That, in Lima
 - 103 Any day now
 - 104 "I goofed!"
 - 105 K-12 org.
 - 106 Expert at recognizing the finest strong string?
 - 112 Lacking spice
 - 113 "— it grand?"
 - 114 Tofu source
 - 115 Call to squad cars, for short
 - 116 Lamp dweller
 - 117 Arbitrator
 - 120 Super-itchy wool cloth?
 - 124 Coveted part for an actor
 - 125 Big Apple animal attraction
 - 126 — Lanka
 - 127 It provides product plugs to websites
 - 128 Skin malady
 - 129 Passports et al.
 - 130 IRS form fig.
 - DOWN**
 - 1 "Solaris" actress
 - 2 Amaze
 - 3 Glaze
 - 4 Mother of Mars, in myth
 - 5 Singer
 - 6 Golfer
 - 7 Michelle
 - 7 Possess jointly with someone else
 - 8 Big name in toothbrushes
 - 9 Come — (temptations)
 - 10 Old JFK flier
 - 11 Of a pelvic bone
 - 12 City northwest of Genoa
 - 13 Ending for krypton
 - 14 Yappy lap dog, in brief
 - 15 Predicament
 - 16 Oahu porch
 - 17 Virtual b'day greeting, e.g.
 - 18 Look at again
 - 21 Certain dried berry
 - 24 911 VIP
 - 28 Banned apple spray
 - 31 Body pic
 - 32 "Amazing!"
 - 33 Brynner on Broadway
 - 34 Plural "is"
 - 35 Brand of clog remover
 - 36 Oregon's capital
 - 38 Wildcats with ear tufts
 - 42 Caviar eggs
 - 43 Seine, for one
 - 44 Royal Botanic Gardens site
 - 45 Pan's cousin
 - 46 Corsage flower
 - 47 Get a whiff of
 - 48 In conclusion
 - 51 In regard to
 - 54 Fathers
 - 55 Eggs
 - 57 Bacterium in the gut
 - 58 Furry TV ET
 - 59 Small cask
 - 60 "So cute!"
 - 61 Easter animal
 - 62 Hurrier's cry
 - 63 Share a border with
 - 65 Give moral guidance
 - 69 Part of MoMA
 - 70 Ballplayer
 - 71 Not cooked
 - 72 Hugs, in a love letter
 - 73 Father
 - 74 "Wild Thing" singers, with "The"
 - 80 Not rigid
 - 81 Triage physician, for short
 - 82 Corrida cheer
 - 83 Blasting stuff
 - 84 Part of 130-Across: Abbr.
 - 86 Slangy denial
 - 90 Container for flats or heels
 - 92 Stupidity
 - 93 Things unlike all the others
 - 94 Exchanged, as an older model
 - 96 Franc division
 - 97 Stage award
 - 98 Go after romantically
 - 99 Ending of some pasta names
 - 100 Debtor's slip
 - 101 "Says You!" ailer
 - 103 Noisy sleeper
 - 106 Florida city
 - 107 Use, as a tool
 - 108 Pakistan's longest river
 - 109 "— Mio"
 - 110 Anglo- —
 - 111 Back column
 - 112 Kitten's cry
 - 116 Old Pontiacs
 - 118 Opp. of departure
 - 119 "Mazel —!"
 - 120 Pacers' org.
 - 121 Foe of Frodo
 - 122 Rambo's gun
 - 123 Grassy turf



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com.

SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★★

6/24

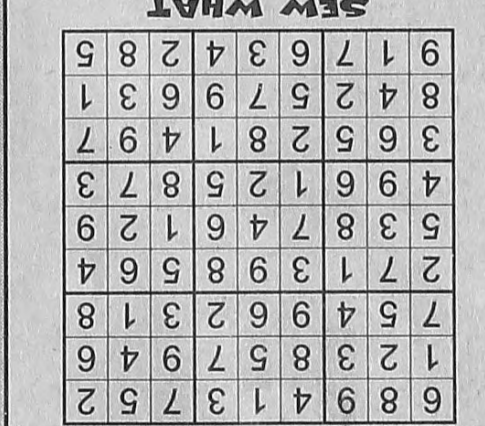
Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SEW WHAT

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



- ADAPT
- ADJUST
- BOBBIN
- CALICO
- CHIFFON
- CLOTH
- COTTON
- CUFFS
- CUT
- DENIM
- DRESSMAKER
- DUMMY
- EDGE
- FABRIC
- FASHION
- FELT
- FIT
- FRAY
- FRINGE
- FUR
- GARMENT
- HEM
- LACE
- LINEN
- MEASURE
- NEEDLE
- PATTERN
- PIN
- POCKET
- POPLIN
- PRESS
- SATIN
- SCISSORS
- SEAM
- SEW
- SHAPE
- SILK
- SIZE
- STITCH
- TACK
- TAILOR
- TAPE
- TRIM
- TUCK



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ROCHESTER HILLS | SALINE | SOUTH LYON | TECUMSEH | WEST BLOOMFIELD