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Visitors to Heritage Park in Farmington Hills explore the splash pad July 1. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Westland council OKs \$1M for flood cleanup

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland residents who experienced flooding after last week's heavy rainfall can expect a well-funded cleanup effort.

Westland City Council met Friday to discuss relief for residents following recent in-home flooding for many residents. Members voted 5-2 to allocate up to \$1 million toward cleanup efforts. Members Tasha Green and Peter Herzberg voted in dissent.

Herzberg said he wished the administration had updated council more during initial cleanup efforts. The councilman originally called for the meeting four days earlier, Monday, June 28. Members Green and Mike McDermott joined him in that request.

"If an update had gone to the whole council, we might not have to have this meeting today," Herzberg said.

See **CLEANUP**, Page 2A

A guide to splash pads, pools in metro Detroit

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hot summer temperatures have finally arrived.

Kids — and, let's be real, adults — can find some relief on a hot day at a splash pad. They're cool, refreshing and more than friendly to non-swimmers.

And metro Detroit is full of them.

Traci Romeo said her two sons love the splash pad at Farmington Hills' Heritage Park. They have a blast enjoying the water and soaking one another with water guns.

"We come here a lot," she said. "The kids love the splash pad."

Here's everything you need to know about the region's outdoor pools and splash pads:

Heritage Park in Farmington Hills

The free splash pad at Farmington Hills' Heritage Park is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day. The park is at 24915 Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

The city generally keeps the splash pad open through Labor Day.

See **GUIDE**, Page 3A



Jonathan Romeo reloads his squirt gun at the splash pad.

Woman from Canton turns 110 on July 4

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Bonita Gibson was such a skilled tree-climber when she was 10 years old, men would pay her to pick cherries that were too high for tools to grab.

"I'd get a quarter every time I climbed a cherry tree and brought the big ones down from the top," Gibson said.

That was 100 years ago.

Gibson celebrated her birthday on the Fourth of July. At 110 — believed to be Michigan's second-oldest person behind 113-year-old Irene Dunham —

See **WOMAN**, Page 2A

Livonia AM Rotary Club plans return of carnival

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Another summer festival might be coming back to Livonia.

The Livonia AM Rotary Club is undergoing an approval process for its annual carnival, which was canceled last year due to the pandemic. The event, if

approved, would take place July 30 through Aug. 8 in the parking lot of the old Sears, 29500 Seven Mile Road.

"It's a carnival just like the ones we've held there before," said Bob Carris, the club's immediate past president. "We are hoping to put that on, and it should do well. Livonia hasn't had much going on."

The event would be a true carnival complete with rides, games and concessions. Wade Shows Inc. would facilitate the event.

Carris said Wade Shows' involvement is what allowed the AM Rotary to propose the event on relatively short notice after pandemic restrictions lifted. The event is still awaiting final ap-

proval from the city's council and planning commission.

"Wade Shows does everything. All we do is publicize and get it through the city," Carris said. "Wade Shows runs and does the whole thing, and this is what they do."

See **CARNIVAL**, Page 2A



Woman

Continued from Page 1A

she is still a firecracker.

"I feel fine," she said at the outset of a recent interview, smiling broadly. "I sure don't feel 110."

A resident of Canton's Waltonwood Carriage Park assisted-living facility since she was a spry 102-year-old, Gibson visited a casino for the first time when she was 106, attended her first Detroit Tigers game when she was 105 and flew in an airplane for the first time at the age of 99.

"I didn't win at the casino," she joked, "but people kept coming up to me and giving me \$20 bills when they found out how old I was. That was fun."

When Gibson isn't writing daily letters to her "oodles" of friends and family, she enjoys reading and watching game shows, particularly Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy! and The Price Is Right.

"I don't get too many answers right on Jeopardy!, but I did answer one — Where was President Eisenhower's favorite get-away? — that nobody on the show got right," Gibson said, her eyes twinkling with pride.

Although Gibson's mobility and hearing aren't what they used to be, her memory is impeccable.

She recalls her cousin folding up his blanket as his mother cried on the porch after he was called to war: World War I.

"Parts of the letters he'd write to me were blanked out (by the military) because he wrote things they didn't want civilians to know," Gibson said.

The historical event that impacted her the most unfolded on March 1, 1932.

"I'd say the (Charles) Lindbergh baby getting kidnapped affected me a lot," she said. "It was the talk of the town. I remember worrying so much about what was going to happen to that baby."

Gibson's resilience has no limits. She survived battles with mumps, measles and whooping cough as a child and COVID-19 as a 109-year-old.

"Bonita slept for two straight weeks when she had COVID but was never hospitalized," said Waltonwood Life Enrichment Manager Erin McGraw.

Gibson hinted at one habit that has helped her live such a long and productive life.

"I was brought up in the country, where everybody grew their own vegetables and fruit, so I ate healthy food," she said. "We didn't have enough money to buy junk food and it wasn't too available."

She is not a fan of fitness, though. "I hate exercise," Gibson said, chuckling.

Gibson worked many years for her husband's potato-broking business in Idaho Falls, Idaho, where the couple



Bonita Gibson, who turned 110 on July 4, survived mumps, measles and whooping cough as a child, and COVID-19 recently. PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

lived a frills-free life.

"For a little while after we were married in 1930, we lived in a tent," Gibson recounted. "We didn't have the \$5 we needed for rent. We were happy, though. We didn't need anything fancy."

The Gibsons raised one child, Richard, and enjoyed traveling the country in a Silver Streak trailer during their golden years.

Waltonwood's staff worked overtime to assure that Gibson's birthday bash was special. The walls of the facility's dining room were lined with 110 red, white and blue-colored hearts, each one commemorating a significant moment during each year of her life.

And a photo collage, including one image of a 6-year-old Gibson in 1917, is posted on a wall surrounding a sign that reads: "Bonita 110 Years Young".

"I have relatives flying in from as far away as New Mexico," Gibson said. "I can't wait."



A sign in the Waltonwood dining room pays tribute to its oldest resident.

Cleanup

Continued from Page 1A

Green, who is running for mayor, said she felt \$1 million was too much and expressed disappointment the meeting didn't happen sooner. She suggested council approve a smaller amount and discuss more funding, if it's needed, at a later time.

"We have cities with higher populations that are sitting at \$500,000," she said. "I see no sensible reason to open the checkbook to this administration ... I'm not confident in the way this was handled."

Steve Smith, Westland's finance director, recommended the \$1 million allocation.

Some streets experienced flooding, and many residents faced substantial basement floods following heavy rainfall — about 6 inches — last week. Additionally, the administration estimates millions of gallons of raw sewage was discharged into the Rouge River because the city's sewage system was overwhelmed. The city expects to spend roughly \$500,000 on cleanup efforts, though that number could grow as work continues.

The city has been offering increased bulk trash pick-up for water-damaged items, and the city's emergency man-

agement team has been working on cleanup non-stop, according to city administration.

Mayor Bill Wild said the city has assisted more than 1,300 residents apply for reimbursement funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for flood-damaged items.

"Our team has been working really hard on this," Wild said. "We're doing everything we can to get things off the street."

Some said they wished the meeting happened sooner and expressed concern regarding a buildup of flood-related waste at the Hawthorne Valley site on Merriman Road, north of Warren Road. The city has been using the site as a

temporary dump before items head to a landfill. Wild said though the situation is unideal in his opinion, it saved the city time during cleanup. He hopes to be off the site "as soon as possible."

"I do have concerns regarding how the crisis was handled; this is not the time for it," Edward Pruett, another candidate for mayor, said. "This is a time to focus on the community."

Wild is seeking reelection as mayor. Dan Beier is the fourth candidate on the ballot.

Residents experiencing flood-related issues can contact the city's department of public services at 734-720-1770.

stankersle@hometownlife.com

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Published Sunday and Thursday by
Observer & Eccentric Media

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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50
\$104 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon
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Carnival

Continued from Page 1A

Though a potential approval is down to the wire with timing, Carris said he's optimistic his club will get the green light because it's done the event so many times in the past.

The event would be the second large event held in the city this summer — The Livonia Chamber of Commerce is hosting a concert for residents 21 and older July 30. Both events will, organizers expect, help make up for the loss of Livonia Spree, which was canceled in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic.

AM Rotary's carnival will not carry an admission price, but rides, games and concessions will have costs associated with them. The club is also hosting its annual Touch-A-Truck event at Aug. 28 at Greenmead Historical Park, 20501 Newburgh Road.

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

Guide

Continued from Page 1A

When kids are finished with the fountains and sprayers, Heritage Park also has a playground, nature trails and fields perfect for a picnic or game of soccer.

Parents enjoy that Heritage is cost-free and has plenty of open spaces for parents to keep an eye on their kids.

"My kids love coming here," Rachel Verstraete said. "I can see the splash pad pretty much from anywhere, and it's pretty decent as far as shade goes. It being free doesn't hurt either."

LeeAnn Varga, who brings her kids to the park, added it's nice to have another playground nearby.

"I love that there's a park right there and it's shaded," she said.



The Sprayscape in Plymouth Township Park is a popular summer attraction. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

fountains and sprayers for kids to cool off in.

Capitol Park also has areas for tennis, inline skating, skateboarding, baseball and volleyball along with a walk/bike trail and playground.

Sprayscape in Plymouth Township

Plymouth Township's free Sprayscape splash pad is part of Plymouth Township Park, 46640 Ann Arbor Trail. It's open 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily through Labor Day.

The splash pad has plenty of sprayers as well as interactive elements like water cannons.

Township Park also has a playground, walking paths, baseball diamonds and a fishing pond.

Heritage Park in Canton

The splash playground at Heritage Park, 1150 S. Canton Center, is free and open through Labor Day.

Hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Heritage Park also has pavilions, a playground, walk/bike paths, volleyball and baseball.

Clements Circle Park in Livonia

Clements Circle, 9999 Harrison Street, has a pool and splash pad open through Labor Day. The pool is open 1-6:45 p.m. Monday and Friday; 1-8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and noon to 6:45 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. There is no open swim Wednesdays.

For Livonia residents, adults pay \$5 and children or seniors pay \$4 for a day pass. Residents can also purchase a season pass for \$75, adding \$25 for each additional person.

Non-resident adults will pay \$9 and children or seniors pay \$7. Seasonal passes for non-residents cost \$150, adding \$35 for each additional person.



The H2O Zone in Westland is part of Central City Park. COURTESY LIVONIA YMCA

Shelden Pool in Livonia

Shelden, 33123 Van Court Avenue, is a traditional pool kids and adults can enjoy. It is open July 3 through Aug. 22.

The pool is open 1-6:45 p.m. Monday and Friday, and noon to 6:45 Saturday and Sunday. It is closed Wednesdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Resident fees for adults are \$5 and children or seniors pay \$4 for a day pass. Non-resident adults will pay \$9 and children or seniors pay \$7.

Hours of operation are 1-6:45 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and noon to 6:45 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The pool is closed Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Resident fees for adults are \$5 and children or seniors pay \$4 for a day pass. Non-resident adults will pay \$9 and children or seniors pay \$7.

Kirksey Recreation in Livonia

Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard Street, has a splash pad open through August when weather permits.

Day passes for residents are \$5 for children aged 4 to 13 and seniors over 62, \$7 for teens and \$8.50 for adults. Non-

residents pay \$10 for children and seniors, \$14 for teens and \$17 for adults. Any child younger than 3 years old is free.

A day pass also covers entry to the center's indoor pools, rock wall, gymnasium and other amenities.

H2O Zone in Westland

The H2O Zone is part of Central City Park, 1901 N. Carlson Street. It's open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily through Labor Day.

The spray park includes an 18-foot helicopter above ground that sprays water from the rotors and an overhead dump bucket. Central City Park also has a playground, free WiFi and plenty of spots to sit.

Residents pay \$3 for a day pass or \$40 for an annual pass. Non-residents pay \$10 for a day pass and \$80 for an annual pass. Annual pass covers a family of up to six people.

Handy Park in Redford

Handy Park's free splash pad is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Handy is part of Capitol Park, 26590 Capitol Avenue. The township also opens the splash pad on weekdays when the temperature is above 90 degrees.

The car-themed park offers plenty of

Splash 'n' Blast in Milford

Splash 'n' Blast is in Kensington Metropark, 4570 Huron River Parkway. Kensington has a \$10 car entry free, and the splash pad is an additional \$4 per person.

The park has traditional splash pad elements as well as water cannons and two water slides. The park is open daily through Labor Day 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and 3-6:30 p.m.

Kensington also has a beach, a walk/bike trail, farm, nature center, boat rentals, playgrounds and a disc golf course among other amenities.

Flodin Park in Canton

The splash park at Flodin, 43399 Saltz Road, is a free and open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Flodin is the larger of the township's two splash pads.

People can also use a playground and walk/bike path as well as amenities for baseball, volleyball, basketball and tennis.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

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Four-year project to rebuild I-275 underway

Minnah Arshad Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Michigan Department of Transportation plans to rebuild 24 miles of I-275.

According to MDOT's news release, the four-year project will span over six phases for the highway stretch between Will Carlton Road and 6 Mile Road in Wayne County. It will affect Ash, Canton, Huron and Van Buren townships, along with Livonia, Plymouth and Romulus.

- The project includes:**
- 10 miles of concrete pavement repairs
 - 14 miles of concrete pavement rebuilding
 - Asphalt resurfacing of four interchanges
 - Rebuilding concrete pavement for parts or all of six interchanges
 - Improving 65 bridges and a retaining wall
 - Drainage improvements
 - Sign replacements
 - Traffic signal modernizations

- Intelligent transportation system (ITS) improvements
- Sidewalk improvements compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Tree replacements
- Metro Trail segment replacements

Closures to look out for in 2021

- July 6-late fall:**
- I-275 will have one lane open in each direction between I-94 and South Huron Road

- Pennsylvania Road will be closed over I-275
 - July 7-11:**
 - The northbound I-275 ramp to Eureka Road (airport entrance) will be closed
 - The westbound Eureka Road ramp to northbound I-275 will be closed
 - Starting July 12:**
 - The 5 Mile Road bridge over I-275 will be closed
 - The Eureka Road bridge over I-275 will have one lane open in each direction
- Visit revive275.org for more.

Every adult should have an estate plan



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

I need your help. I have been married to my current husband for a little over 20 years. I have two adult children from my previous marriage. My husband also has a child from his previous marriage. For the last number of years, I have tried to convince my husband to do some sort of estate planning, but he absolutely refuses. He's of the belief that if we do one, bad things will happen to us.

Currently, we have IRAs and 401(k)s where we are the beneficiaries of each other's and the secondary beneficiaries for mine is my children and for his is his child. In addition, we each have our own personal account at Schwab. Our home is in both of our names.

We have an unwritten understanding that after the first of us passes away, the other one would add the other one's children as their beneficiary. I am fearful that if I pass first, my children will be left out.

Is there any reason why I can't have my own estate plan done without my husband? If I can, what can I do that protects my children's inheritances and at the same time, protect my husband?
Thank you, C.T.

Dear C.T.:

Absolutely, you can have an estate plan on your own, and I definitely recommend that you do so. I believe as adults we have adult responsibilities and one of those responsibilities is to recognize that our time on earth is limited, and plan for the inevitable. It is smart for you to have an estate plan, whether your husband wants to do one or not.

To protect your kids and your husband, I would recommend that you consider a living trust.

A trust has many advantages such as avoiding probate, but it also has an advantage in that you can control your money past your death.

For example, you could provide in your trust that upon your death, if your husband is still living, he could receive a monthly distribution from the trust for his lifetime and that upon his death the remaining money goes to your children. That way, he is receiving money during his lifetime but upon death the remaining money would go to your children. You could also provide in the trust that under certain circumstances he would be able to withdraw additional money. The key is you set the terms and conditions of the trust.

If you do decide to go the trust route, the one sticking point you may have is who the trustee is after your death. The trustee is the individual or company who would manage the trust according

to your wishes.

In the situation at hand, I would not recommend that your husband be the trustee. I believe you would want some checks and balances, and thus, a third party as trustee would be appropriate. You could name an individual as trustee, or you can hire a professional. Firms, like Schwab, offer trustee services.

The trust could also be effective with regards to the home. However, depending upon how your home is owned, you may need your husband's cooperation in transferring your share of the home to the trust.

As I've mentioned in the past, creating an estate plan is not optional; it is mandatory. We live in a complex world, and without an estate plan, you could leave your family and loved ones with a mess that may take years and substantial dollars to resolve. Not everyone needs a trust, but at a minimum every adult at least needs a will.

Remember, if you don't do any estate planning, you have no control over where your assets go upon your death. You in effect are deferring to the state because that's who will determine who gets your money.

Good luck!

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

Wayne City Council appoints new member

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wayne City Council has a new member.

Council appointed Deborah Wass to the Ward 4 seat on June 29. Wass is a planning commissioner for the city and serves on the board of review.

"I feel like I have a lot to learn and I'm excited to get in and learn," she said. "There's a lot of growth going on and I think that's a positive for us."

Wass, the only interviewee for the position, is filling the seat left vacant by former Councilman Anthony Miller. Miller resigned in early June because he was moving out of Wayne.

Wass said she wants to help the board be more unified, hire more police officers, improve city finances and improve the way the city markets itself.

"We've worked together on the planning commission and now we're going to work together on council," Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Porter said. "I think you'll be a very good addition to our council."

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

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Obituaries

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Jean Laura Bidner

Jean Laura Bidner beloved mother, spouse and dear friend of many passed away peacefully on Sunday May 30, 2021 6:40pm at her home in Farmington Hills MI. She passed on with her daughter and husband holding her hand.

Formerly of Livonia, MI and Madison, WI. Jean was born August 8, 1960 in Milwaukee, WI. Growing up in Madison she was an accomplished Girl Scout, Debater, Prose, and was fluent in French. She graduated top of her class from LaFollette HS and went on to earn a BA from the University of Wisconsin where she met her husband on Halloween 1979. She later earned a Masters in Industrial Relations, also at UW.

Her career spanned the Public Mediation Center in Madison, Container Corp in Chicago doing contract bargaining and then with the State of Wisconsin as a labor bargainer. These positions allowed Jean to use her analytical skills and her ability to bring different sides together and articulate their positions. That, and with her forceful nature rewarded her with success.

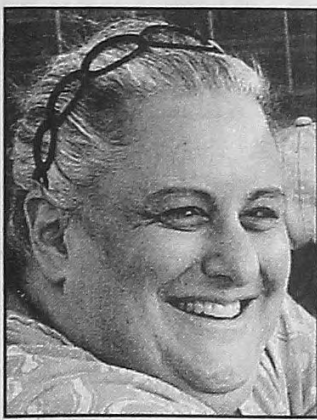
On moving to Michigan in 1994 she opted to stay at home to raise her family, a fact that she took immense pride in. Along the way Jean was also an educator, she worked at Adelphi Business School in Chicago and Sienna Literacy Center in Detroit. After her children graduated high school she worked at the Little Valley Tub with her daughter forging even stronger bonds with her children.

Jean loved playing piano and listening to music, cooking her treasured recipes, spending time with her family, and talking with anyone and everyone about their lives and the chaos the world brought that day. She had passion for her children's activities, serving as an administrator of youth sports and being the registrar for LYSC for several years. She helped produce and acted in several Livonia Civic Choirs productions. She was an inspiration to all that knew her, supporting and motivating anyone who was in her orbit. Most of all, she loved her family who cherished all the years spent with her and who miss her immensely.

Surviving her are her husband of 42 years David, two children Robert and Katie. Her parents, Mourad and Bobby and her brother John Arganian of Wisconsin.

A memorial get-together remembering and celebrating her life will be on July 10th, please contact the family for details.

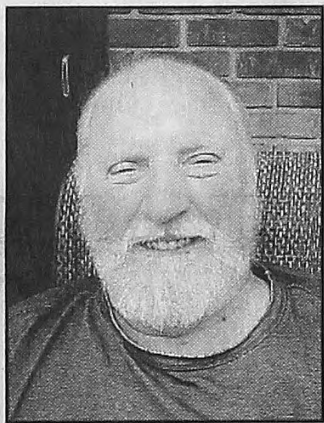
Gifts in lieu of flowers in her name may be made to Greenmead Historical Society, Henry Ford Home Hospice or Sienna Literacy Center.



May
Eternal
Rest
be
Granted
Upon
Them

Emil B Fronek

Beloved father, grandfather and friend died peacefully on June 26, 2021. He was born in Garden City, MI on January 23, 1944. Attended Garden City High School, graduating in 1962. He retired from the Ford Truck Plant in Wayne, MI after 40 years of service. He enjoyed the last five years living in Fenton, MI.



Emil was incredibly intelligent and creative; he could put an engine in a car one day and weld a sculpture the next! In his younger years, he loved hunting and fishing with his buddies, scuba diving with his dad and riding motorcycles. In his later years, he became more eccentric with his long hair, long beard and unique style. His signature scent, patchouli, entered the room before he did! Always the life of the party, his dry sense of humor and quick wit will be missed by all who knew him. The last two years of his life were filled with one medical issue after another, however, he handled it all with grace and dignity and he never missed an opportunity to turn on the charm with the nurses! He dearly loved his dog "Baby". She will be cared for by family. Emil leaves behind his three children: Eric Fronek (Jen), Lisa Scott (Larry) and Curtis Ayers (Michele). Affectionately known as Big Grandpa, he leaves behind 5 grandchildren: Madelyn Fronek, Lily Fronek, Damien Clark (Teresa), Paige Scott and Tyler Scott. Emil was preceded in death by his father, Emil W Fronek, his mother, Martha Shephard and his sister, Fay Wright. A memorial service is not scheduled at this time.

Jeannette Marie Kalosky

Kalosky, Jeannette Marie May 10, 2020 Age 78. Loving mother of David (Lori), Daniel (Lorie), Kevin (Masha), Carolyn, Gary (Joan), and Keith. Dear grandmother, "Mooma" to some, of Jillian (Jim), Caitlin (Kevin), Sterling, Brendan, Gabrielle, Vanessa, Halle, Morgan, Anastasia, and Cheyenne. She lived for her grandchildren, and would do anything for them. Sister of Robert (Margaret), James (Judith), Marilyn, and sister-in-law of Judy. Jeannette is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and raised Jeff (Kellie and son John), and Val (John and daughters Lauren, Catherine) after her sister Shirley died. Jeannette was predeceased by her parents: Harvey Burke and Edna (Bartz) Burke, brother Harvey, sister Shirley, great nephew Dylan, Boyfriend Art Yarmak, ex-husband David Kalosky. Her six kids were her life, her family was everything to her. Once they were old enough, she went to work at Crowley's in Farmington Hills selling men's suits and then at Jacobson's at Laurel Park. Jeannette raised her children in the Bel-Aire subdivision in Farmington. She was kind and compassionate to everyone she met, she touched many lives and many people wanted to be her friend. She was an avid Tigers fan and took her kids to Tiger Stadium on many occasions. She played golf when she was still physically capable but then resigned to watch it on TV every weekend. She loved listening to Willie Nelson, Pavarotti, Motown, Bob Seger, Neil Diamond, and Rod Stewart, so she was cool. Her brother Jim, thought she had the most beautiful smile and would just like to hear her say one more time, "shut up, Jimmy!" A Celebration of Life will be held 12:30 pm Sunday July 11, 2021 at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home 41555 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI 48375 with visitation from 11 am until time of service. Memorial contributions may be directed to National Multiple Sclerosis Society www.nationalmssociety.org



Never Forgotten

May you find
peace in this
time of sorrow.

Plymouth Twp. rezoning denial could lead to charter school near church

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The dogged determination of a group of Plymouth Township residents was rewarded June 22 when the township's board of trustees voted 5-2 to deny a developer's rezoning request that could have led to 42 homes being built on a 27-acre property owned by nearby NorthRidge Church.

Township Supervisor Kurt Heise and Clerk Jerry Vorva voted against the denial that would have rezoned the land from RE-1 to RH-1. The Plymouth Township Planning Commission voted 6-1 June 16 to recommend that the board of trustees deny the rezoning request.

The property is currently zoned for 17 homes — a restriction that would not make a development at the site financially viable, Leo Soave Building Company representative John Pastor repeatedly asserted.

Residents who live near the affected property — most of whom vehemently argued during a series of meetings that an additional 42 homes near the megachurch would add to an already nightmarish traffic situation — may find their victory is short-lived as Pastor revealed during the latter stages of the process that Soave may purchase the property and sell it to a company that operates charter schools.

Trustees Bob Doroshewitz, John Stewart and Audrey Monaghan, and Treasurer Mark Clinton were displeased with how the developer introduced the charter school option so late in the discussion.

"The way (the charter school option) was presented has not been well-received," said Doroshewitz, the lone trustee on the planning commission. "They kind of dropped it on us as a bomb."

Stewart called the charter school option "an illusory threat."

"It's not a threat," Pastor countered, when asked before the final vote whether a rezoning denial would lead to Soave purchasing the property and then flipping it to National Heritage Academies. "It's an option."

A representative of NHA was present during the June 22 meeting.

Pastor said Soave's purchase of the property — a largely wooded area located along Ridge Road, southeast of NorthRidge — was contingent on the rezoning of the property. In order to build 42 homes on the property, the land would have to be rezoned and a cluster housing option would have to be permitted by the township.

Doroshewitz admitted the NorthRidge property rezoning decision was one he "struggled with more than any other during his 17 years on the board."

"When the project was first proposed a few months ago, I was supportive of it," Doroshewitz said. "I thought, 'What's the big deal between 28 houses (the number of homes that would have been allowed if the property was rezoned, minus a cluster housing option) and 42.' I said, 'What's the big deal, right?'"

"Then I began to listen to feedback from residents who live near the property and I began to understand it is a big deal to a lot of people. I always said that the day I stop listening to my constituents is the day I should retire. After a lot of time thinking about it, I came to the conclusion that with so much push back on the project from residents, we need to listen to the people who put us in office."

Heise said a rezoning denial could put the township in the crosshairs of a lawsuit, considering NorthRidge was denied a request to make the property a parking lot in 2015 and a developer seeking to build 72 homes on the property in 2018 was turned away due to wide-scale push back from neighboring residents.

"If this current project regarding NorthRidge is denied, they could argue that they have been denied the best use of their land three times in five years," said Heise, who noted the Margate development in Plymouth Township that was given the green light in 2019 to build 35 units on 10 acres is a precedent that could be used against the township.

Doroshewitz argued that the township was not preventing NorthRidge from developing the property with a vote to deny.

"The property is still commercially usable," he said.

After hearing Heise's discussion regarding possible legal action against the township, Monaghan made a motion to postpone the voting on the rezoning until township attorney Kevin Bennett could review the issue.

"I don't think it's fair to members of the public who have spent enormous amounts of time and resources to come to meeting after meeting after meeting to delay this any longer," Doroshewitz said. "They want a decision and I think we should make a decision tonight."

The motion to delay the vote was defeated, 6-1. An online petition created by residents to show their displeasure with the potential rezoning of the NorthRidge property was signed by 516 residents as of June 25.

"None of us moved to Plymouth Township for this ... overcrowding selling out and the risks associated with increased high-density traffic," Kevin O'Callaghan commented on the petition website. "If NorthRidge Church wants to live its Christian values, it will respect the care and safety of its neighbors."

After tragedy, heart check is extra meaningful

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Angelina Maruskin's heart check on June 26 held extra significance.

The 16-year-old Milford High School junior, a competitive dancer and pom team member, contracted COVID-19 last November, which can potentially impact the heart.

Additionally, she helped Beaumont Health top more than 19,000 students screened since the inception of their free student heart check program began in 2007 and was among the first students checked in more than a year after the program was paused during the pandemic.

"I have heard of other student athletes who had heart problems that had COVID and I just want to be sure I'm OK," Angelina said.

Beaumont Children's pediatric cardiologist Dr. Ismael Gonzalez Rangel said participating in the Student Heart Check at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak is an important first step to ruling out possible COVID-19-related cardiac complications.

While he noted that kids who contract COVID typically do very well and most are not hospitalized, Gonzalez Rangel said that since the pandemic began, at least 20 children have been admitted to Beaumont with a condition called Multisystemic Inflammatory Syndrome- Children (MISC), in which their heart and lungs as well as other body systems are inflamed.

Because the condition is so new, the long-term effects are not yet known.

"COVID definitely affects heart while you are ill, it binds to the muscle of the heart and other vital organs," Gonzalez Rangel said. "We don't know the long-term effects or repercussions in the future."

Heart screening is a good first step and contributes to the body of knowledge as well as makes sure kids have healthy muscle."

The heart screening takes about an hour, is free to students ages 13 to 18, and includes a medical history, blood pressure check, an electrocardiogram and a



Angelina Maruskin, a Milford High School pom team member, was among the athletes who have their hearts checked (for free) for any possible issues at Beaumont Royal Oak on June 26. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"quick-look" echocardiogram - which is an ultrasound image of the heart. COVID-19 vaccinations will also be offered.

In the 14 years since the program has been in place, 1,979 screened patients were recommended to seek follow-up, 221 were told to stop sports and follow up with a cardiologist due to heart abnormalities and nine were diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is the single most common cause of death among U.S. athletes. Nearly 4,000 of these deaths are among young people, and one in 200,000 high school athletes will die suddenly, most without any prior symptoms. In addition, male athletes are 10 times more likely to die suddenly as a result of HCM.

In addition to her daughter, Gina Maruskin's son Joseph, a Milford High freshman, also had his heart checked on Saturday at Beaumont.

Maruskin said besides Angelina suffering a bout with COVID-19 in which she had trouble breathing just walking downstairs, the family has a history of heart trouble, and also has close friends who suffered a tragedy the screening can prevent.

In 2004, when Maruskin was pregnant with Angelina, her friend Nadine Langley was also carrying her first child, a daughter. Nadine's husband, Matt Langley, a Lakeland High School graduate, was playing hockey when he suddenly collapsed on the ice and died from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a thickening of the heart muscle that often goes undetected until a fatal cardiac event occurs.

He was just 34. Five months later, Mattie Langley was born, named after her late father. The Matt Langley Foundation established in his honor hosts a golf scramble, this year's set for Sept. 21, the proceeds of which support the Beaumont Heart Check program for student-athletes, and also awards a \$1,000 college scholarship annually to a Milford and Lakeland graduate.

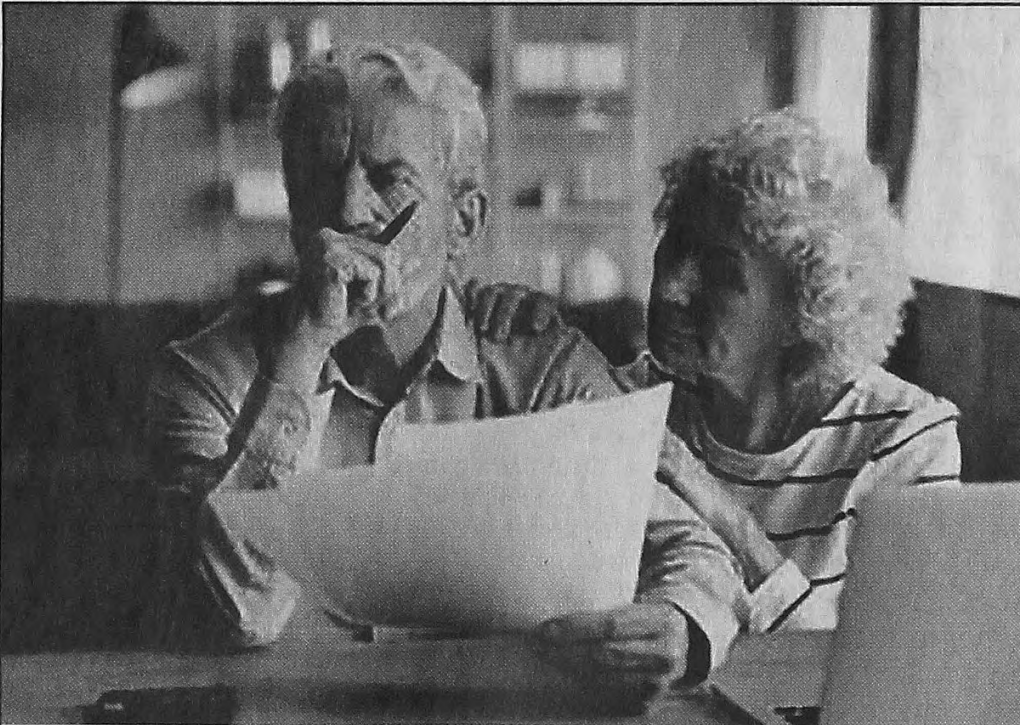
Beaumont hopes to resume the screening events at schools soon, but encourages families in the meantime to schedule a full sports physical with their child's physician.

Beaumont also offers resources for adults interested in assessing their risk of heart disease. This includes a free online heart risk assessment.

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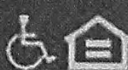
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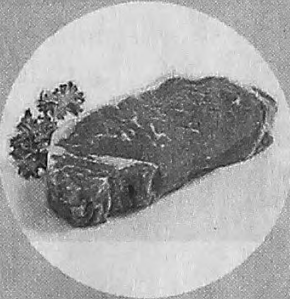
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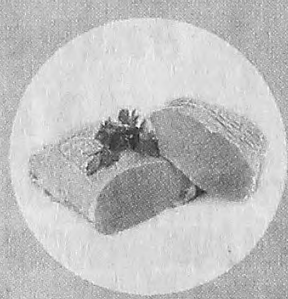
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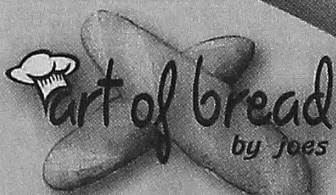
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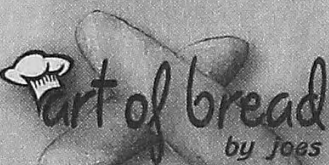
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SPORTS



Logan Lockwood placed first in the USA Weightlifting Youth National Championships in Detroit, helping him qualify for the Youth Worlds competition in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARCEY LOCKWOOD

South Lyon teen takes weightlifting worldwide

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Logan Lockwood first started lifting at age 7, trying to find something to do in the winter months to stay in shape for the motocross season.

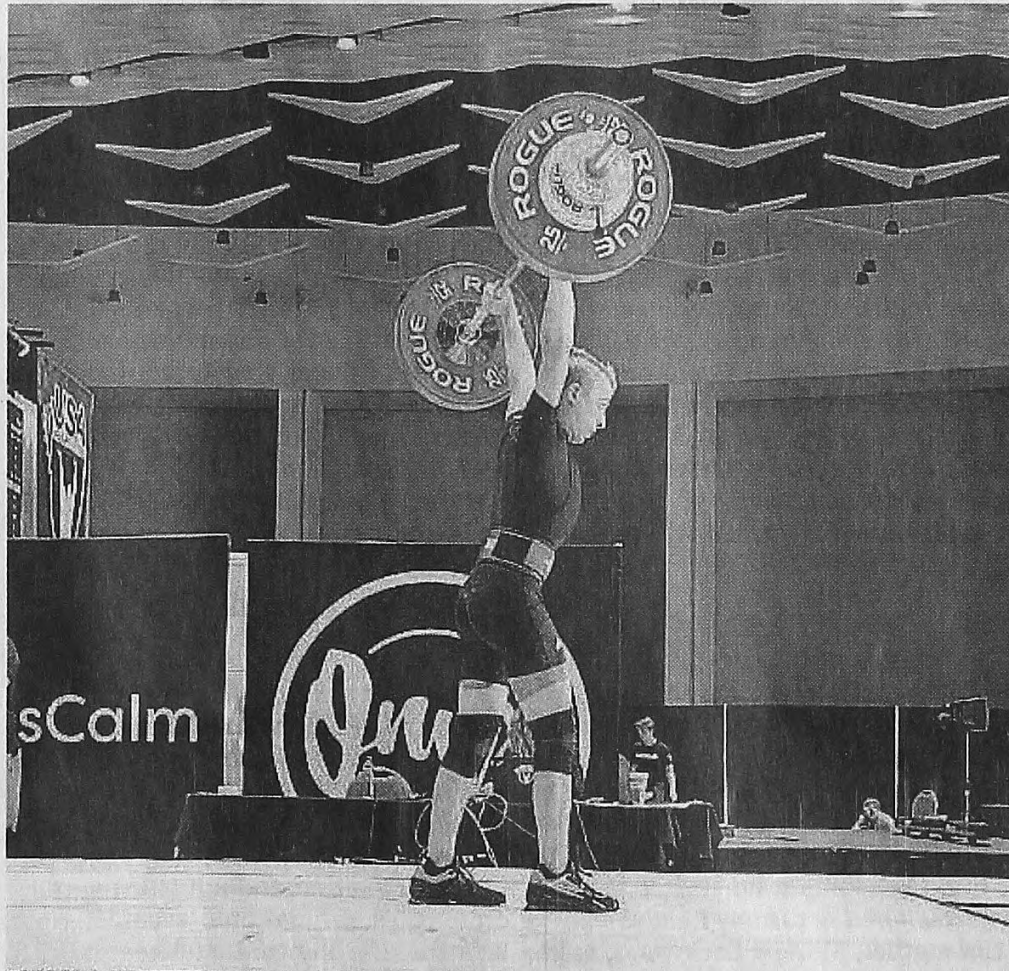
Two years later, Olympic weightlifting appeared on Lockwood's radar, finding something he was good at. He joined the 4 Star Strength gym in Livonia, meeting up with coach Matt Adamcheck, who saw potential in Lockwood from the very start.

"Even for his first couple of visits, for the age he was at he was incredibly disciplined and highly coachable," Adamcheck said. "At those young ages, it's not very common for someone to be that moldable."

Lockwood, now 15, had the perfect body type to succeed in Olympic weightlifting, using his smaller-sized frame for the amount of clearance you have from the bar overhead. He was strong, picking up CrossFit before he tried this style of lifting, which gave him some habits Adamcheck needed to help break.

But his coach saw something he could work with

See **TEEN**, Page 2B



Lockwood, who will be a freshman at South Lyon East next year, started Olympic weightlifting in fall 2019.

Livonia United develops love for lacrosse in second season

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

COVID-19 never stopped Chris Merucci's project. It just pushed it back one year.

In 2019, the Livonia United girls lacrosse program took to the field for the first time with 22 novices and finished with a KLAA East title and a playoff victory. Moving into 2020, the head coach's goal was simply to continue the growth.

After tryouts, Merucci had the numbers he wanted — fielding a full varsity and JV team for the first time — but after the season was canceled in March 2020, he was unsure those numbers would return in 2021.

He thought he may have to start from scratch.

"The optimism was high," Merucci said. "We were still a little bit nervous: Would we get the numbers?"

He got the numbers, fielding two full teams in 2021 with players from Franklin, Stevenson and Churchill high schools. Merucci also saw progress on the field, winning 14 games for the program's second-straight KLAA East title.

"I told them, 'You won every game that you were supposed to win. That means a lot. That means you were not upset once,'" Merucci said. "We were down two, three goals in many of those games. We came back, they dug deep — gritty, tough, determined — and they pulled out those games."

More importantly, Merucci has seen players find love for a game they would have never been exposed to.

Something new

Mackenzie Latham already had a path set for herself heading into high school. The freshman, already a member of the Livonia Franklin pom team in the fall, was going to join track, something she had intended to do in eighth grade but couldn't do during the pandemic.

Lacrosse came out of nowhere after she heard from a friend about the Livonia United team and took a chance.

She took a chance at her position, too, finding her place at goal, a position that took her time to get comfortable protecting.

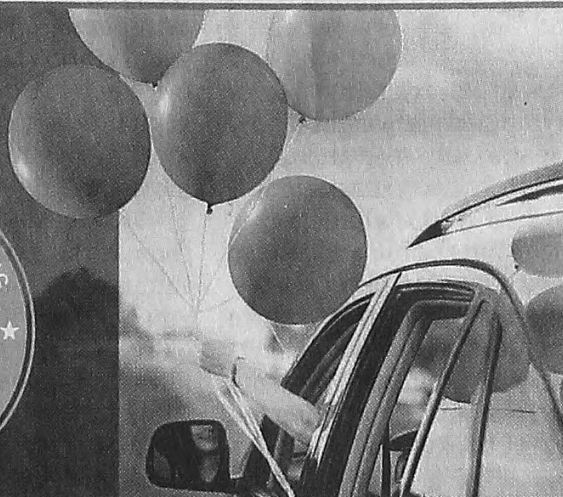
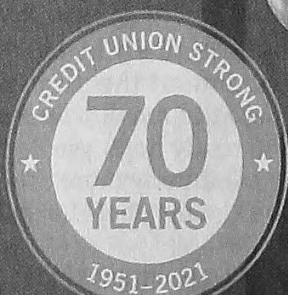
"I'm just really all about trying new things," Latham said. "When I first got into that goal, I thought that it wasn't for me. It's kind of a little scary, I think I'd rather go play defense or the field or something else. Once I finally got into it and I finally got the hang of it, I was like, 'Wow, this is really my thing.'"

Heading into the 2021 season, Merucci didn't know what he was going to do at the goalkeeper position, joking

See **LACROSSE**, Page 2B

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Brighton's Seiter to play basketball for Oakland Community College

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brighton's Kylie Seiter went into her final season of high school basketball unsure if it would be her final season, period.

Maybe it would be time to move on from the sport she's played most of her life and cherish the memories.

But as the Bulldogs' season neared its conclusion, Seiter knew she wanted to continue playing.

"Before the beginning of the season, I wasn't sure," she said. "Once it was nearing the end, I knew I couldn't be done. ... I just worked so hard to get to where I am today. Just dropping all that potential I had and everything I worked for, I feel like that would be something I'd regret.

"I love the sport so much. I just knew I wanted to keep playing."

Seiter will continue playing basketball at Oakland Community College in Auburn Hills after signing with the Raiders.

"I just liked how welcoming the coaches were," Seiter said. "They were willing to talk a lot to me about the program. I know it's a two-year school, but they told me since it was so late in the recruiting process I could go there a year or two. It's like another two years of AAU. I could go there and get recruited by a four-year school and transfer."

Seiter was part of three district championship teams at Brighton, earning second-team All-Livingston County as a senior. She averaged 9.4 points, 4.3 rebounds and 3.7 assists as a senior.



Brighton's Kylie Seiter will continue her basketball career at Oakland Community College. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Michigan Elite Throws Club hosts clinic for field athletes

Courtesy of Michigan Elite Throws Club

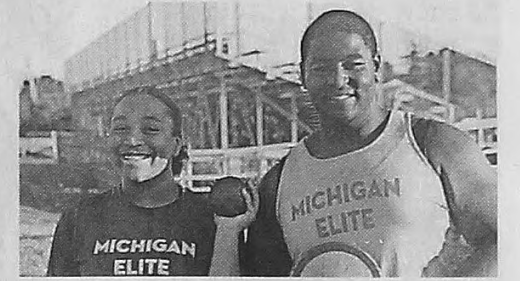
The Michigan Elite Throws Club will hold a clinic this weekend at Livonia Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road, for athletes looking to improve in field events such as shot put, disc, hammer and javelin.

The club is led by former Olympic Trial qualifier and world champion powerlifter Nia Henderson. Special guests include the Western Michigan head/throws coach, Michigan State University throws coach and Venderbilt Sports Admin/Ghanian hammer thrower.

The two-day clinic for any age 12 or older costs \$85 per day or \$150 for both days (July 10-11). It will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. both days.

Henderson said the clinic is designed for both beginning throwers as well as advanced throwers.

Register at athletic.net or email michiganelitethrowsclub@gmail.com.



The Michigan Elite Throws Club will hold a clinic this weekend. COURTESY OF NIA HENDERSON

Lacrosse

Continued from Page 1B

with fellow coaches that Livonia United would have to win games "25-24." Instead, Latham stepped up, allowing an average of 9.5 goals per game, including 11 games in which the opponent scored less than 10.

"She kind of went into it blind," Merucci said. "It could have gone south. It could have been a disaster. It's just a great story. She's resilient and has a great personality and thick skin. A goalie has to be someone that can just shake it off when times get tough, let it roll off her back. She was resilient and her teammates fired her up and supported her."

Latham said becoming the team's goalkeeper really helped her dive into what the team had to offer, instead of just being one of multiple newcomers fighting for playing time at attack or in the middle. She embraced the pressure, becoming what Merucci called the "lightning rod" of the team in her first season.

After her first season with Livonia United, the freshman's goals have changed dramatically, looking at colleges and watching lacrosse at the next level, seeing herself in that position.

Looking back, taking a chance was all it took for Latham to find her No. 1 sport.

"When I first went in there, I didn't think I would be a good goalie," she said. "I didn't save anything because it was my first season of lacrosse and my first season at goalie. I totally exceeded my



The Livonia United girls lacrosse team finished the 2021 season with 14 wins, recording its second-straight KLA East title. COURTESY OF MACKENZIE LATHAM

expectations and my coach's expectations and my team's expectations. I'm just kind of amazed with myself of how good I've done with my first year because I didn't think I could actually do it."

Taking the lead

Payton Pilarski found her love of lacrosse through Livonia United, too. But heading into 2021, she was more than just a player. She was a senior, a captain and, pretty much, an assistant coach.

Merucci is the only member of the Livonia United coaching staff, putting a significant level of weight on the captain

to lead.

"They know that I'm the captain," Pilarski said. "There's no assistant coach, but if there had to be one, it would be me. If Coach Chris is out helping someone else, I'm the one that's going to get the team together and they all kind of know that. It wasn't really that hard. It was just known."

On the field, Merucci described Pilarski as his "biggest impact player:" if he needed a critical goal or turnover, he could get one with the senior who earned All-Conference and Academic All-State honors in 2021.

It was something he saw the senior work toward even when there were no

games going on.

"She was dynamite this season all the way from the offseason, a pandemic year, all the way to the season," Merucci said. "She was at my indoor turf facility daily working out by herself, putting in the reps, getting on the ladder, working on footwork, wallball, shots on net, constantly, never taking a day off."

"When you do that and you back it up, you can talk."

Pilarski first started playing lacrosse as a sophomore when the team was established in 2019, having no idea how much of a role it would play in her life.

While she loved the sport itself, it wasn't something she considered continuing in college until March 2020, when her junior season was taken away.

"I just wanted to keep playing because I didn't like that I was not able to keep playing lacrosse," she said.

After the converted hockey player picked up a lacrosse stick for the first time in 2019, Pilarski earned a spot on Hope College's lacrosse team starting next season. It's an opportunity she's excited for, she said, but it's something that would not have happened if she didn't step up and be the leader Livonia United needed her to be in 2021.

"I learned that I'm a better leader than I thought I am," Pilarski said. "Every other team, I'm not the leader; I let other people take the reins. On this team, I'm the one that has to lead it, and I can do that very well."

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.

Teen

Continued from Page 1B

"Natural talent is something that comes every now and then in the sport," he said. "A lot of people who get into weightlifting, they have to really grind for a long, long time to understand movement patterns and the barbell needs to move with their body."

"Logan just kind of got it from the get that he needed to do it certain ways. He wasn't trying to fight it. It was very natural."

After starting full time in fall 2019, Lockwood found his home, breaking state and national records along with earning state and national championships. As he continued to develop, he continued to win, winning gold at the 2021 American Open Series 1 and the 2021 Youth National Championship in Detroit — each at 49 kg — to qualify him for the 2021 U15, U17 Pan American Championships in Monterey, Mexico and the Youth Worlds competition in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

"I definitely didn't think I would be

getting to worlds this early," Lockwood said. "I knew I wanted to go at some point and do well, but, at this point, I just want to go and see what it's like, put some numbers on the board and see what it's all about."

From the moment he started, Lockwood was already turning heads.

His mother, Marcey Lockwood, said she remembers Logan in the gym, working on the snatch — one of two lifts in the sport — and having an audience.

"Some of the guys and girls came over and were like 'Man, I'd be happy to snatch like that,'" Marcey Lockwood said. "His bad day is everyone else's good day."

When it came to teaching Logan Lockwood Olympic-style weightlifting, Adamcheck made sure the incoming freshman at South Lyon East understood why he had to do what he did: learning where to put the bar and how to keep tension with it using his body.

Adamcheck also needed to make sure Lockwood knew that it's a long-term sport, one with a high turnover rate from injury and burnout, something the coach didn't want Lockwood falling victim to.

"We just kind of focused on technique and — call it a perfect mixture of just enough puberty happening and him being a good, disciplined kid — everything kind of just came along," Adamcheck said.

"By doing that and not chasing (records), he's set national records. Now he's making international teams in a very organic way."

Lockwood had learned that success in weightlifting is more than just lifting heavy weights.

It's 12 hours of workouts per week, working on snatch and clean-and-jerk complexes, but also emphasizing squats to strengthen his legs. It's watching what you eat and what your weight is. It's adapting to how your body is growing, gaining more muscle to lift more.

"I would say it definitely takes a lot of time at the gym, but at the same time, things at home... the small things that you do that you really don't see outside of the gym... it's definitely more time put in that you don't really see," Lockwood said.

Facing the biggest stage that Lockwood has ever competed on, Adam-

check is focused on keeping him invested. The coach wants the experiences in Saudi Arabia and Mexico to show his lifter that he has a future in the sport, one that is on the trajectory of the Olympic Games.

This is something Lockwood's mother is still trying to comprehend.

"I am still today, in shock and processing all the great things that are happening so fast, basically within a year-and-a-half of competing," Marcey Lockwood said. "I think every day, my eyes get a bit wider and I'm realizing, 'Wow, the sky's the limit for Logan.'"

But the one word that keeps Adamcheck confident about Logan Lockwood's development at such a young age is discipline, something the coach feels he has ample amounts of.

To Adamcheck, it's going to allow his lifter to not get intimidated by any stage he's on.

"It's going to be overwhelming to a certain extent. But Logan's incredibly disciplined," Adamcheck said. "He's literally like a 65-year-old in a 15-year-old's body."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com.

Hartland baseball coach joins Hall of Fame

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brian Morrison figured his potential as a baseball player beyond college was limited.

"I loved playing, but I was also 5-8, so I knew that was going to end at some point," he said.

Morrison's playing days ended after two seasons as a pitcher at Concordia University, when he decided his best path to an extended career in baseball was as a coach.

It was in that role that Morrison found his niche, building Hartland into one of the top programs in the state during 17 years as the Eagles' coach.

His accomplishments at Hartland have earned him induction into the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Morrison and other members of the Hall of Fame's Class of 2020 were honored in a ceremony June 28 at Comerica Park as part of the East-West All-Star Baseball Classic. The induction ceremony and game were canceled last year because of COVID-19 restrictions.

"It's real special," he said. "A lot of the guys that are in it already or even some of the guys I'm going in with I've gotten to know, learned from some of those guys when I was a younger coach and asked questions of some of those guys in there. It's pretty special to be included in that group."

Three Hall of Fame coaches Morrison singled out for their guidance during his early years were Mark Carrow of Brighton, Pat O'Keefe of Grand Ledge and Greg Jackson of Adrian. Between them, those coaches won 2,690 games.

Morrison joins Carrow, inducted in 1992, as the only Livingston County coaches in the Hall of Fame.

"I admired how they ran their stuff," Morrison said. "They were more than happy to answer any question I had and always treated me with respect."

One of the men who inspired Morrison to become a coach was another Hall of Fame inductee, Norm Hoenes of Westland John Glenn. Hoenes, inducted in 1996, was Morrison's high school coach.

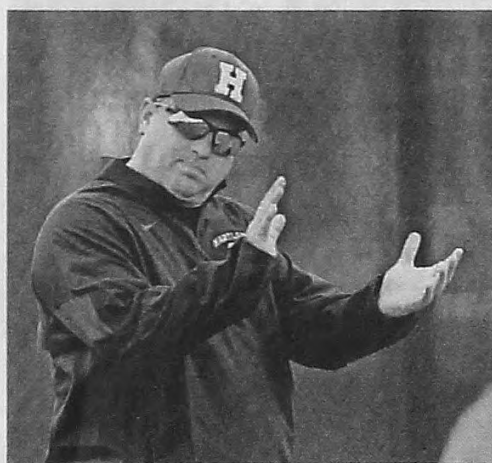
"Probably right about my senior year of high school is when I realized at some point you're not going to play anymore," Morrison said. "I had great coaches when I was in high school. I kind of wanted to follow in their footsteps, I guess."

Morrison came to Hartland to coach football before becoming the junior varsity baseball coach in 2001.

He was named varsity head coach the following year, beginning a 17-year run in which his teams went 458-179.

The Eagles never had a losing season under his watch, although they came close in 2015.

Hartland had a 13-14 record late in the regular season, but all those narrow de-



Former Hartland coach Brian Morrison was inducted into the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame on June 28 at Comerica Park. ALAN WARD/LIVINGSTON DAILY

feats early in the year balanced out in the state tournament.

Hartland had four one-run victories, including two in extra innings, during a seven-game run which culminated with the program's only state championship. The Eagles went 13 innings against Lakeland in the district championship game and 10 innings with Portage Northern in the state final.

"There were eight to 10 one-run games if they go the other way our record's a lot better," Morrison said. "We didn't realize it at the time, but we realized afterward that we were pretty good."

We just started getting key hits and we were just making every play. Our pitchers threw strikes. You're not giving anybody anything."

The Eagles also won five regional championships and 10 district championships with Morrison as coach. He was voted district Coach of the Year 11 times and regional Coach of the Year five times.

He was nominated for the Hall of Fame by one of his assistant coaches, Aaron Bell.

It was Bell who took over the team for the 2019 season when Morrison was removed as coach when he allegedly "roughhoused" a student during gym class. The decision stood, despite an outpouring of support from players and others in the community at a school board meeting.

Morrison moved from the high school to the Farms Intermediate School, a fifth- and sixth-grade building in the Hartland district.

Because the school day ends later at Farms, it's difficult for Morrison to return to coaching.

"It would be one of those things where I'll just go day by day and see what happens," he said. "It's a great building I'm in, but the hours don't work out to be out early enough to contribute somewhere. If I do coach, I'm not the type of person that does it 50%. I'm either going to be there all the time or I'm not going to do it."

It's a new, wild frontier for MSU, U-M athletes with NIL freedom



Spartans Insider
Chris Solari
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A certain irony exists that college athletes received their freedom from the trope and tripe of amateurism just days before Independence Day.

And just as the fruits of the American revolution eventually gave rise to a new frontier out west, where anyone could make a buck before laws caught up to those stretching the boundaries in new territory. If the opening salvo of name, image and likeness rights being wrested from the NCAA's century-long control are any indication, it is the early days of a new, wild frontier in sports.

But as the old idiom goes, freedom isn't free.

There will be turmoil and problems. Because there is no way to educate athletes on what their true value is and what the market might dictate. And no way to predict which athletes might find willing partners to pay them.

Instead, everyone — from those making the money to college administrators ensuring compliance with makeshift and patchwork NCAA regulations to lawmakers at the state and national level — are trying to figure out what has been unleashed, both from the benefits and pitfalls that are to come.

MSU and Michigan athletes jumped in quickly, starting to promote a number of different businesses via their social media channels. Among the most prominent was Spartans junior cornerback Kalon Gervin, who plugged national brands Pedialyte and PSD Underwear. More will be coming for all of them, in all sports, as marketers begin to craft their pitches and work with those with numerous followers to target.

"I'm actually looking forward to seeing some of the things that they're going to do," said Michigan State Rep. Joe Tate (D-Detroit), a former MSU football player. "Digital technology has advanced, and social media wasn't a thing when we played. So it is going to be exciting."

Though how much local athletes are making on their deals remains difficult to discern — and could for a while — there already are signs that things won't be just and equitable.

Look at the \$2 million going to Hercy Miller, an incoming freshman at Tennessee State. That seems ludicrous until you realize his father is Percy "Master P" Miller, who has sold more than 75 million records and has an estimated net worth of \$200 million. Hercy's deal to become a brand ambassador for a software development firm was not permissible when his older brother, rapper/actor Percy "Romeo" Miller, played two seasons of basketball for USC.

Hercy Miller's deal could end up being a baseline for what a player such as LeBron James' son Bronny might get as a four-star prospect with superstar



Michigan State's Julius Marble signs autographs after his team's Moneyball Pro-Am game in 2019 at Aim High Sports in Dimondale. LANSING STATE JOURNAL FILE

bloodlines and an established marketing audience of nearly 6 million Instagram followers — nearly 50 times the 126,000 Hercy Miller has on that platform.

Also watching and waiting his turn will be Emoni Bates, the Ypsilanti native who has been among the top players in the country since middle school. He just completed his junior season with Ypsi Prep, a program created by his father to showcase his son and others on the national prep hoops circuit against the likes of other high-profile players such as Mikey Williams, another teen with a nine-figure social media following.

It's no coincidence Ypsi Prep took on the moniker "Ball Boys," virtually the same name as the Ball Boy Apparel company that has been selling merchandise since last summer with an illustrated logo that could pass for a younger Emoni.

Meanwhile, one of the first deals made public — between Miami (Florida) quarterback D'Eriq King and a moving company for a reported \$20,000 — shows businesses are willing to attach themselves to rising prospects with the college football season fast approaching.

This past week was open season for athletes to explore their new horizons. However, while they're enjoying the attention and the moment, there remains concerns from those in their orbit.

Administrators are concerned it is a pathway to legalizing cheating, with some parties pushing the limits within the patchwork rules until the NCAA and states can come up with consistent enforcement and punishment policies.

Those in the marketing world also are

cognizant of the potential for 17-23-year-olds making poor decisions or getting into legal trouble — as they're wont to do on college campuses when surrounded by their peers — that could reflect badly on both the school and businesses they represent. Even unsavory accusations carry a stigma for a brand spokesperson.

Coaches are worried their players will spend more time outside of practice and team activities trying to enhance their brand — rather than focusing on academics or putting in extra time working on their craft in the weight room, practice facility or film room — prioritizing short-term gains over the potential for thousands and millions of dollars down the line if they make it to the pros, here or abroad. On top of that, how will one player making significantly more money than their teammates affect chemistry and cohesiveness as a unit?

All of that is compounded by the concerns about potentially newfound wealth for athletes. How they might use it, particularly within the sometimes-raucous lifestyles of college athletes? Are they going to set aside money to pay the taxes required as an independent contractor? And are their advisers really acting as agents, plucking a big percentage of those earnings, bilking an unsuspecting teen for their own benefit?

No one has answers, because everyone is reacting on the fly as a new frontier of collegiate sports is settled. Trying to learn and adjust while making history.

Contact Chris Solari: csolari@free-press.com. Twitter: @chrissolari.

Tigers' Soto selected as 2021 All-Star

Evan Petzold Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Tigers reliever Gregory Soto has been selected to the 2021 All-Star Game, scheduled for July 13 at Coors Field in Denver.

The Tigers had a few worthy candidates — rookie starter Casey Mize, second baseman Jonathan Schoop, righty reliever Jose Cisnero and Rule 5 draft pick Akil Baddoo — but the left-handed Soto was selected to represent the organization on the AL All-Star team's roster.

This is Soto's first All-Star Game in his three-year MLB career.

"It's a big achievement," Soto said Sunday. "For me and my family, it's very important. Since I was a kid, I've always thought about that. Now it's a dream come true."

Soto, 26, is 4-11 with six saves, a 2.94 ERA, 20 walks and 40 strikeouts over 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings (36 appearances) this season. He made his MLB debut in 2019 as a starter but transitioned to the bullpen, where he is thriving.

"His stuff has always been talked about, written about and feared from the other side," said Tigers manager AJ Hinch, who informed Soto of his All-Star Game selection Sunday morning. "The big question: Was he going to be able to harness it? And he's really put together a nice run of quality outings in high leverage with zero room for error. I've only put him in the toughest spots imaginable."

Soto entered Sunday with a 0.53 ERA in his past 17 outings, with six walks and 20 strikeouts over 17 innings. (He gave up three earned runs and got two outs in a Sunday appearance against the Chicago White Sox.) His improvements through the month of June displayed how far he has come in his ability to throw strikes, trust his arsenal and attack hitters.

His strengths include a 97-100 mph fastball and a wipeout slider.

With the All-Star game nod, Soto is looking forward to showcasing his development on a national stage. He is the franchise's third All-Star reliever in the past four years, following Joe Jimenez in 2018 and Shane Greene in 2019. (Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there wasn't a Midsummer Classic in 2020.)

Growing up in the Dominican Republic, Soto watched plenty of All-Star Games and focused on the left-handed pitchers. Early on, he pinpointed the event as a goal for his MLB career. He began working toward becoming an All-Star when the Tigers signed him in December 2012.

In 2019, Soto posted a 5.77 ERA, 33 walks and 45 strikeouts, appearing in 33 games (seven starts).

Last year, the 6-foot-11 lefty finished with a 4.30 ERA, 13 walks and 29 strikeouts in 23 innings. All 27 outings were as a reliever.

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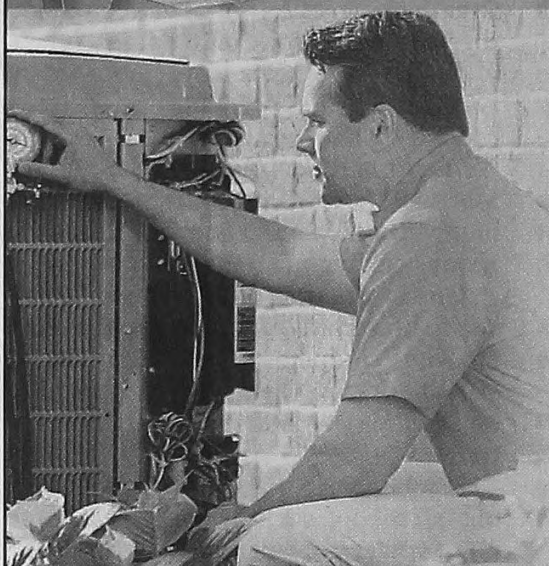
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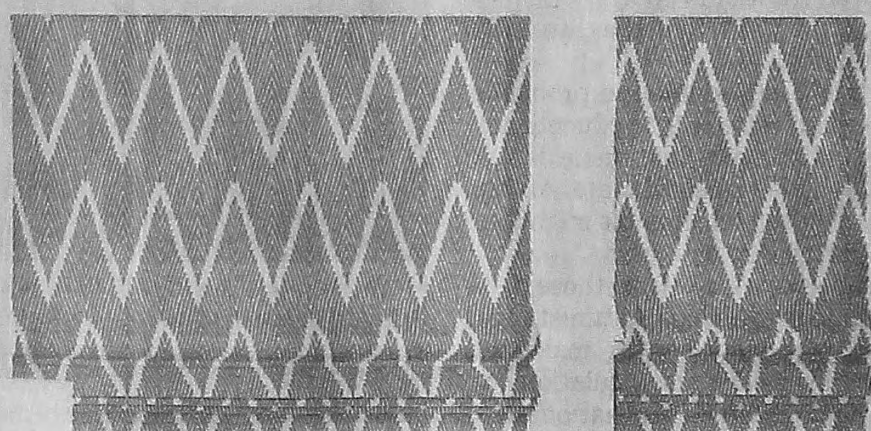
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John Scanlon
Finance Director/City Treasurer

Publish: July 1 & July 8, 2021

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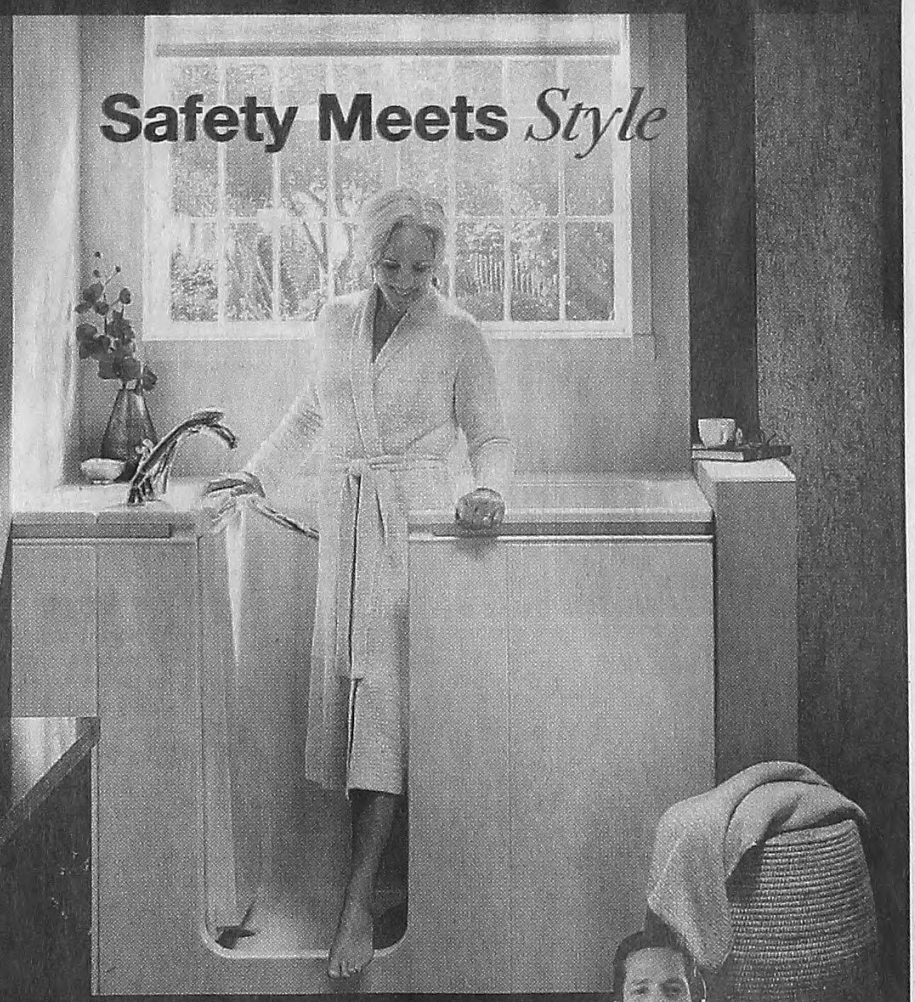
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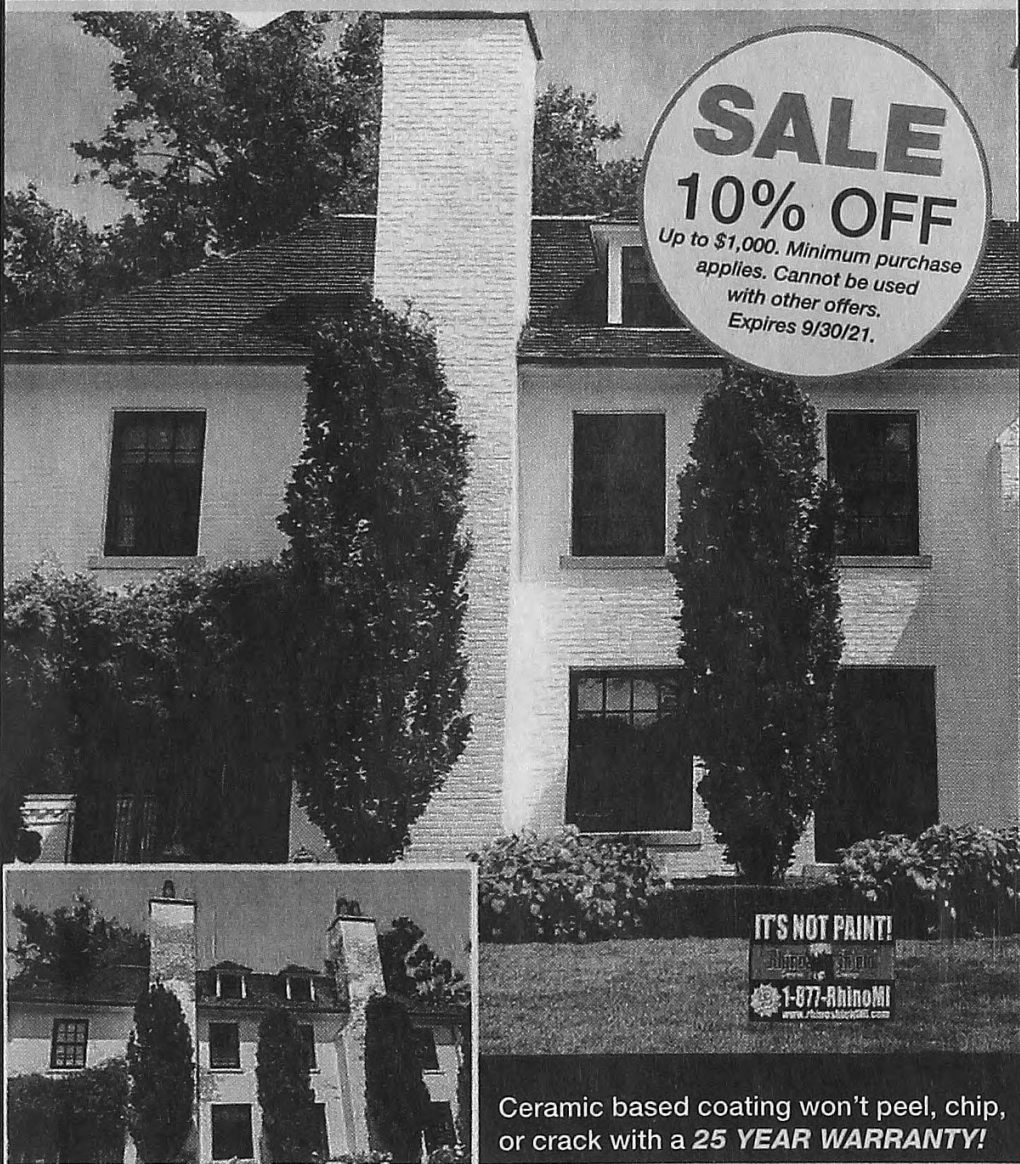
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Novena to St. Jude-Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, Kinsman of Christ, Intercessor of all who invoke your aid in time of need. I pray to you to use your great God given power to aid me in my urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known. Pray for us who ask your aide St. Jude. Say three Hail Marys, three Our Fathers and three Glorias. This Novena has never been known to fail. Say Novena for nine days, then promise to publish as soon as favor is granted.
Thank you St. Jude. V.V.

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Engineering & IT

American Axle & Manufacturing has openings for Product Development Engineers at its facility in Detroit, Michigan.

Job duties include:

1. Performing product design and engineering for new product launches for automotive transmission assemblies utilizing GD&T, DFM, reliability, DFMEA, DVP&R, 3D CAD, FEA and APQP.
2. Design release using Ford SCAFF and GM KCDS systems, product development management (requiring MS Project, Gantt Chart, WBS, network diagram), program management costs/schedule performance index, prototype fabrication management (including Ford GPIRS material requisition and pedigree management), production validation (DVP&R, test orders) and production launch support with adherence to Ford & GM production validation & PPAP procedures.
3. Using GM ECR (GM 3660) & Ford SREA concern/notice systems to support production changes.
4. Managing and maintaining engineering documents within Agile Product Lifecycle Management system.
5. Communicating with customers throughout full new product launch phases, including customer design release process, customer concern/notice, and ECR process, validation process, prototyping process and launching process.
6. Travelling to AAM plants, customers and suppliers sites for 8D problem solving with scientific and systematic approach using GD&T Monte Carlo stock analysis, statistical tests, DOE, capability study, and GR&R.

Position requires: Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, or a related field, or foreign equivalent education, and 6 months experience working in the automotive engineering field. 6 months experience is required in each of the following:

1. Participating in automotive transmission programs from for OEM's, from planning phase through launch phase, using GD&T, DFM, reliability, DFMEA, DVP&R, MS Project, Gantt Chart, WBS, network diagram.
2. Using Agile Product Lifecycle Management system, including change control process, engineering print, model, specification management and release, testing orders, design/FEA order issuing.
3. Managing prototype build phases utilizing all aspects of the GM and Ford (GPIRS) prototype processes.
4. Using Ford SCAFF and GM KCDS system.
5. Utilizing automotive APQP & PPAP process, including both supplier PPAP review and sign-off with Supplier Quality and PPAP preparation and submission to customer.
6. Using Ford SREA system and GM ECR system (GM 3660) procedure to support design validation/verification.
7. Approving 3D CAD/FEA from designer or analysis engineer.
8. Using Minitab to perform statistical analysis, including GD&T Monte Carlo stock analysis, statistical tests, DOE, capability study, GR&R.
9. Supporting team during 8D problem solving within mass production environment, including production FTQ improvement, incident root cause analysis, corrective action and resolution.

Experience may be obtained concurrently.

Applicants should apply on line at www.aam.com/careers and reference job ID# JREQ-191141.

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Engineering & IT

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Robert Bosch LLC seeks Sr. Application Calibration Eng in Plymouth, MI. REQS: Bachelors degree, or frgn equiv in CompSci, Electrical Eng, Mechatronic Eng, or rel Eng field +5 yrs professional work exp in Automotive eng. Apply online at www.boschjobs.com, search Sr. Application Calibration Engineer / REF110386X

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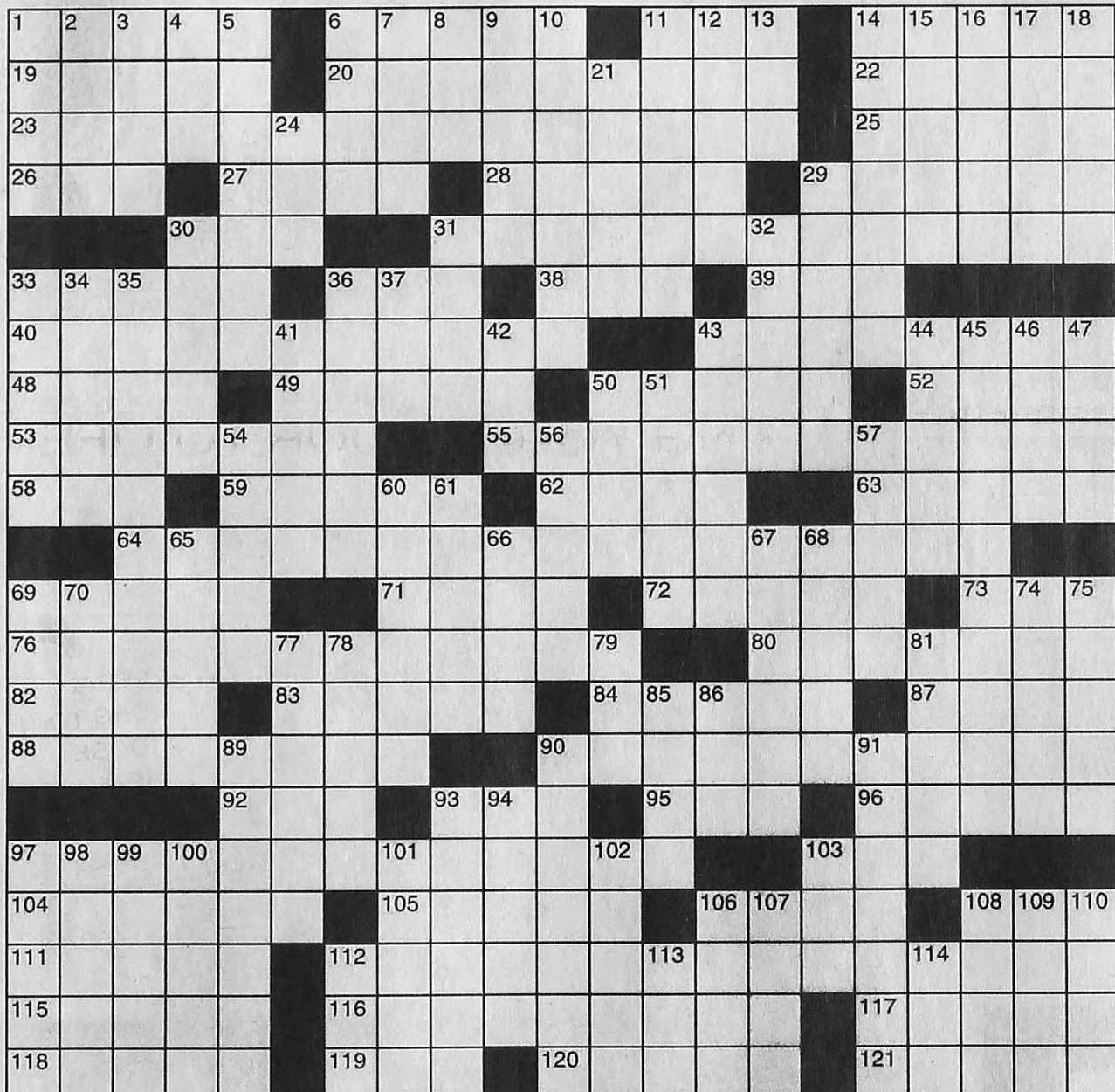
THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ODD BIRDS

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|------------------------------|---|--|
| ACROSS | 43 Mob member | 87 Some small batteries | DOWN | 36 Failed to be | 75 Aides: Abbr. |
| 1 Soprano's last note, perhaps | 48 Adept | 88 In — (while not present at the event) | 1 Bees' place | 37 Mo. in fall | 77 Spiteful types |
| 6 Jordanians, e.g. | 49 "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" playwright Joe | 90 Bird performing under the big top? | 2 Horned Egyptian goddess | 41 Commotions | 78 Buckeye State sch. |
| 11 Oscar winner Rockwell | 50 "Atlantic City" director Louis | 92 Abbr. of fair hiring | 3 Surrounded with a belt | 42 Extremely old: Abbr. | 79 Slugging stat |
| 14 Mazda model | 52 Prefix with 33-Down | 93 Store clerk on "The Simpsons" | 4 Witch | 43 Particles believed to bind quarks together | 81 The Evil One |
| 19 NBA Hall of Famer — Thomas | 53 Fellow soldier | 104 German subs | 5 Mythological fire-breather | 44 Kitchen wrap | 85 Mut's threat |
| 20 Tanzanian national park | 55 Bird that travels to and from work? | 105 Absorb a loss | 6 Korea's place | 45 Result of backcombing | 86 Pitching star |
| 22 "Burnt" or "raw" color | 56 Bird wearing a hard hat? | 106 "Sure, sign me up!" | 7 Peruse | 46 Toledo's lake | 89 Fishers with seines, say |
| 23 Bird from Richmond? | 62 El — (certain current) | 108 The Gem State: Abbr. | 8 Brow's shape | 47 Pack of coins | 90 Dead skin at the base of a fingernail |
| 25 Trident, e.g. | 63 Stand for art | 111 Mournful song | 9 Catcher Yogi | 50 2,002, in Roman numerals | 91 Lycra, e.g. |
| 26 Winter D.C. hrs. | 64 Bird wearing a hard hat? | 112 Bird living in the Sistine Chapel? | 10 Be disdainful of | 51 Comeback to "Are too!" | 93 "Trainwreck" director Judd |
| 27 Fermented honey drink | 65 Far — eye can see | 113 1986-2001 Earth orbiter | 11 Nose partition | 54 Two wives of Henry VIII | 94 Word before jury or larceny |
| 28 Fashion's Oscar de la — | 71 Ending for switch | 14 Feral horse | 12 Elite squad | 56 En pointe, in ballet | 97 Betrayer of Jesus |
| 29 Patron associated with a "fire" | 72 Groove for a letter-shaped bolt | 15 Drive along | 13 1986-2001 Earth orbiter | 57 Ranch in Ferber's "Giant" | 98 "Take — out of crime!" |
| 30 A handful of | 73 Cell material composed of element #56? | 16 "That rings —" | 14 Feral horse | 60 1990-2019 Toyota minivan | 99 "— the Greek" |
| 31 Bird partially composed of element #56? | 76 Bird nesting in winter precipitation? | 17 "I love you," in Mexico | 15 Drive along | 61 Moisturizer brand | 100 Big name in restaurant guides |
| 33 In less peril | 80 Causes to be ashamed | 18 Symbol on a one-way sign | 16 "That rings —" | 62 Relative of a univ. | 101 Repasts |
| 36 Seek the affection of | 82 Finnish coin | 21 Wish-fulfilling spirits | 17 "I love you," in Mexico | 63 Part of NASA | 102 Web vending |
| 38 Archery asset | 83 Not worth — of beans | 24 Innovative | 18 Symbol on a one-way sign | 64 Kimonos, e.g. | 103 Pine's cousin |
| 39 Solo of sci-fi | 84 Not one's best effort, in sports lingo | 29 River in a Foster tune | 21 Wish-fulfilling spirits | 65 Melodramatic cry of sorrow | 106 Frozen drink treat |
| 40 Bird that always keeps to itself? | | 30 Flu symptom | 24 Innovative | 66 Relative of a univ. | 107 Widespread |
| | | 31 — -chic (fashion style) | 29 River in a Foster tune | 67 Refuse to talk | 108 Privy to |
| | | 32 Will, biblically | 30 Flu symptom | 68 Kimonos, e.g. | 109 Arp's art |
| | | 33 Part of NASA | 31 — -chic (fashion style) | 69 Out of port degrees from | 110 Author Haley |
| | | 34 Shady shelter | 32 Will, biblically | 70 Rebuff rudely | 112 #2 execs |
| | | 35 Movie cast members | 33 Part of NASA | 74 Writer Zora — Hurston | 113 Dir. 135 |
| | | | 34 Shady shelter | | 119-Across |
| | | | 35 Movie cast members | | 114 Author Levin |



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

SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★★

7/08

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!

ZZZZZZZZZ

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.

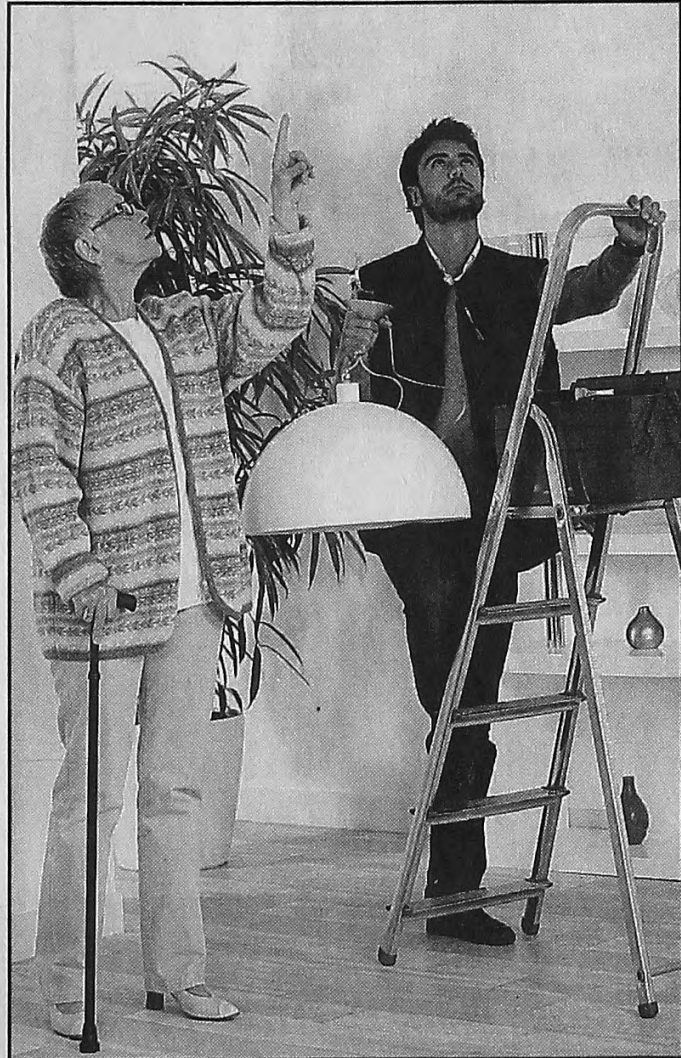
S N O O Z E S P S B E S I R R G E
 D R E A M W A K E N E R I T E R V
 T E K N A L B M N E I S G A S E I
 F C A I N M O S N I H A N G T P T
 W P T N A M R O D G W S T O W O A
 M R A L A S H J F X N Y T R R S D
 T N C R H A Y A C D W I T N U E E
 W A P E S M T R M O R D I N R U C S
 W O V B I A G S L M X O E R O O R
 T C B M U J F L E A O Q W R O F C
 E O U G A I D L I S C U S I M U
 N C N L N P T E E H S H K I E T E
 I K K S A S R A S B J U U Y E T Z
 S L U L L A B Y Q T T O C T A T O
 S M U E M D U V E T A Y K P E W D
 A P E T A N R E B I H R S I A Y N
 B P O V J Z F F O D O N S K R V E

- ALARM
- BASSINET
- BED
- BLANKET
- BUNK
- COCOA
- COT
- COUNT SHEEP
- CURTAINS
- DORMANT
- DOZE
- DREAM
- DROWSE
- DUVET
- FORTY WINKS
- HAMMOCK
- HIBERNATE
- INSOMNIAC
- KIP
- LANGUAGE
- LULLABY
- MORNING
- NAP
- NOD OFF
- PAJAMAS
- PILLOW
- QUIET
- RELAX
- REPOSE
- REST
- RETIRE
- RISE
- SEDATIVE
- SHEET
- SHUT-EYE
- SIESTA
- SLEEP
- SLUMBER
- SNOOZE
- SNORE
- STARS
- TIRED
- WAKEN
- YAWN



ZZZZZZZZZ

4	9	1	6	9	7	3	2	8
7	3	2	7	8	9	4	5	6
9	5	9	3	8	5	2	3	8
7	4	7	9	4	7	2	3	9
5	3	5	6	8	7	9	1	6
4	2	4	2	3	4	2	5	3
5	8	5	9	7	3	7	3	8
1	5	1	4	8	6	2	7	3
3	6	3	7	1	4	2	8	3
2	7	2	8	3	4	6	5	1



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ADOPT A PET
GET A JOB
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BUY A BOAT
FIND A TREASURE
GET A MASSAGE
HIRE A HANDYMAN

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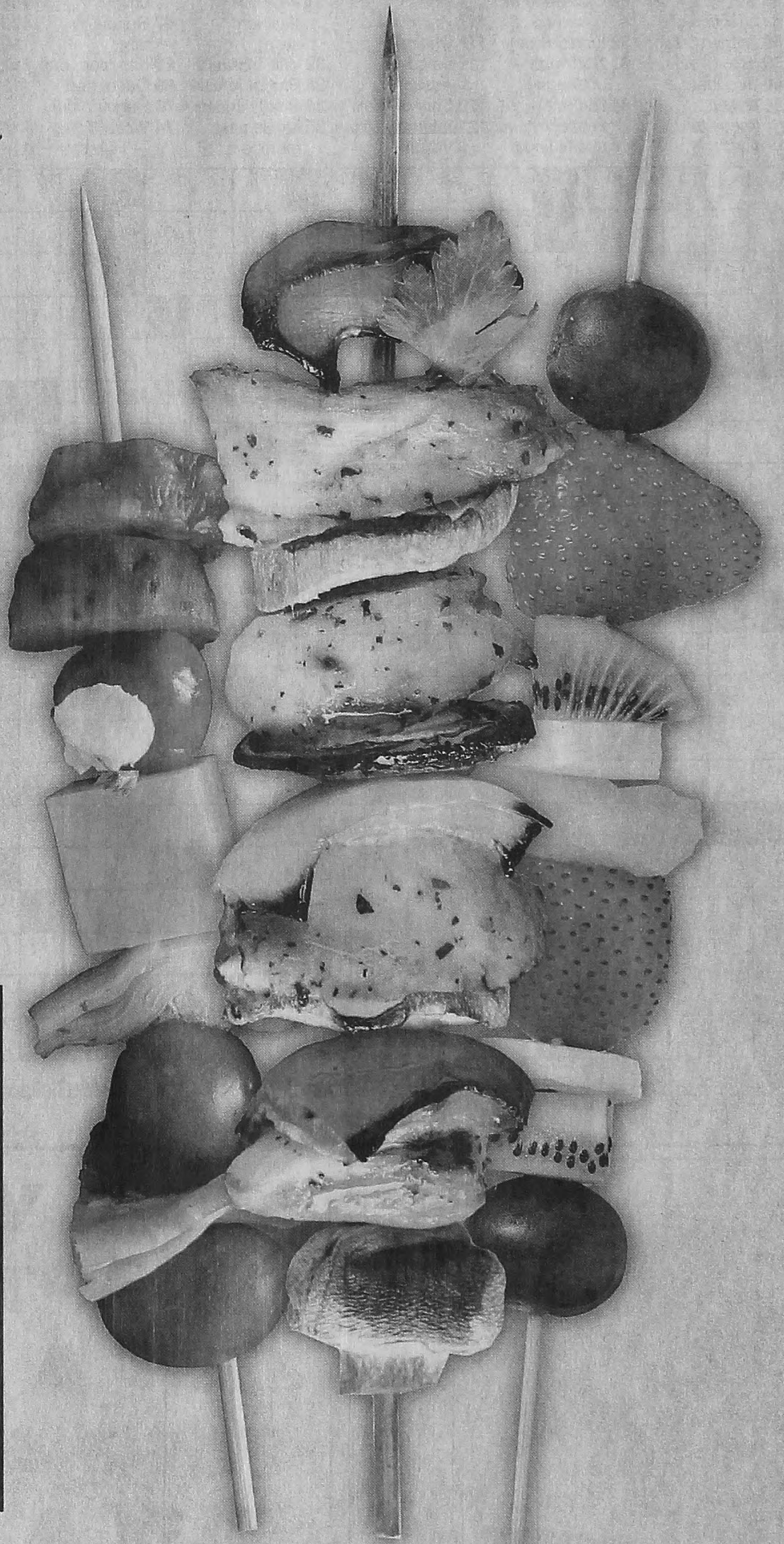
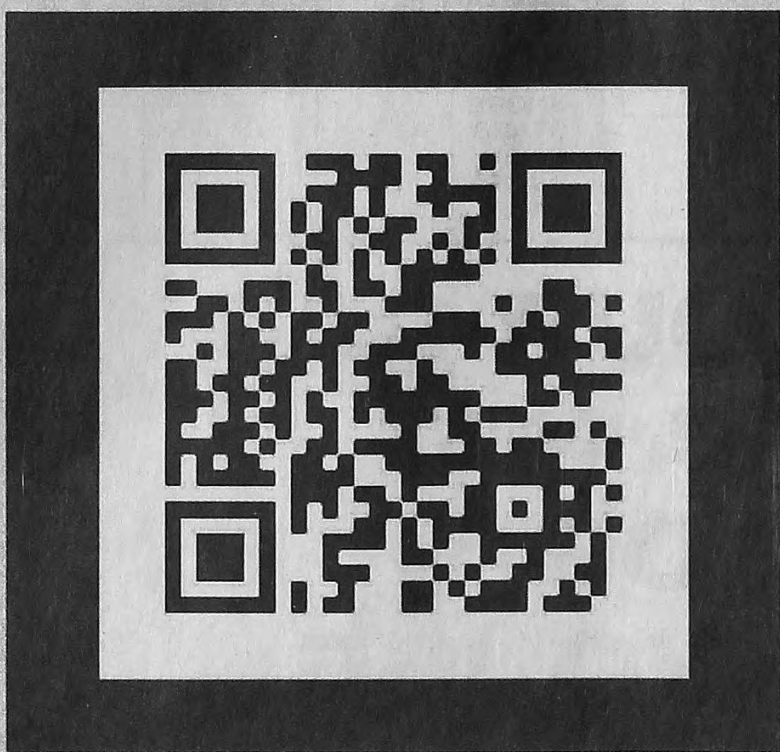


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