



North Farmington football rolls over OAA White opener

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Owner: Razing 132-year-old downtown Plymouth structure 'an option'

Ed Wright

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth preservationists can let out a sigh of relief — at least for the moment — when it comes to the future of the 132-year-old structure at 711 W. Ann Arbor Trail, located within a stone's

throw of Kellogg Park.

In August, Joseph Koch, the building's owner since 1999 and a former Plymouth mayor, submitted an application to the city's Historic District Commission seeking permission to have the structure razed, explaining in a letter attached to the application that, "the value of the property would increase tre-

mendously if the building were removed and the site was developed to a higher and best use."

Days before the commission was scheduled to discuss the application at its Sept. 1 meeting, Koch asked to have the matter postponed until October.

"Razing the building has always been just one of a few options," Koch told

Hometown Life. "I'm taking more time to look at all of my options. I may even ask to have it postponed beyond the October meeting. And even if I'm given the green light to raze the building, it doesn't necessarily mean I will."

Koch said his first choice was to reno-

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Longtime friends recreate biking trek from their youth



Twins Dan, left, and Dale Roberts go over a map of the state of Michigan to trace some of their recent bike trips with friend Pat Foley. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Shelby Tankersley

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They can tell you stories all day — literally.

Their cycling adventures over the last 50 years have taken them around the Mitten State, and they've encoun-

tered plenty of novelty along the way. They'll tell you about extreme weather, hitchhiking and the kindness of so many strangers.

It's part of what's kept them close all these years.

"We haven't come away from one trip without stories," said Pat Foley, who lives in Hamburg.

Foley and brothers Dan and Dale Robert grew up in Westland and have known each other since they were 9 years old. They all graduated from Churchill High School, part of Livonia Public Schools, and have remained friends throughout their lives. They're

See BIKING, Page 2A

North Farmington seniors carry on wacky student ID tradition

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com
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The students of North Farmington High School's class of 2022 are taking part in one of their school's most beloved traditions.

Every year, seniors at North Far-

mington go all out for their student ID photos, dressing up as characters from movies and television or celebrities.

Students head to Twitter to post photos of their student ID cards and the people or characters their looks are based on. In previous years, the posts have trended online and garnered national attention.

Most of this year's participants can be found by searching #NFID22 on Twitter.

Here are a few of our favorite ID photos this year:

- Megan
- Walter White

See IDS, Page 2A

Canton's 'Picnic in the Park' will feature fireworks, food, live music

Ed Wright

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As dusk turns to darkness on Sept. 24, full-fledged fireworks will explode over Canton Township for the first time in over 26 months.

Canton's Leisure Services staff has organized "Picnic in the Park", a micro-version of the township's annual June Liberty Fest. The event, set for 5-9 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 24 at Heritage Park, will feature live music, mouth-watering food and a first-class, night-capping fireworks display.

Leisure Services Deputy Director Jonathan Lafever cautioned residents not to expect a Liberty Fest-type extravaganza, but the four hours should be packed with some fun-generating activities, he said.

"We've lined up live entertainment for the amphitheater, we're lining up as many food trucks as possible, and we know the community wants and deserves a fireworks show, which we will deliver," Lafever said. "It's kind of a unique time of the year to hold a fireworks show, so it will have a different kind of feeling. But the fireworks will be as big and spectacular as the ones people see during Liberty Fest."

"Picnic in the Park" is a one-year deal, said Lafever, who is expecting Liberty Fest to return to its pre-pandemic greatness in 2022.

"There was a lot we had to consider while planning 'Picnic in the Park'; we had to go over the calendar a few times and look at a lot of variables," Lafever said. "For instance, the site where they shoot off the fireworks is close to Pheasant Run Golf Course, so we had to make sure there were no big outings scheduled for the 24th.

"We also looked at what was going on locally and regionally with high school and college sports and try to select a night that would be the most conducive for the event. We're looking forward to a fun, entertaining evening."

There will be no carnival-style rides,

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A North Farmington student dressed as the Fresh Prince for his senior ID photo. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

IDs

Continued from Page 1A

The heir to the Tipton fortune

- The second-most annoying "Gossip Girl" character

If you're wondering who the most annoying is; it's Jenny Humphrey.

The Fresh Prince

- A serial fish killer
- Someone who definitely won't be joining your dumb a capella group
- The world's best babysitter
- The village matchmaker
- "All I'm getting is coffee, and it's not even for me."

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

Picnic

Continued from Page 1A

Lafever added.

Attendees will be expected to follow Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) guidelines that may be in place at the time of this event.

Spectators are also encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs to ensure that every guest can enjoy this outdoor community celebration.

The township is welcoming vendors or community groups interested in applying to have a presence at the event. Booth space fees are \$35 for non-profit organizations and \$95 for businesses.

Each vendor/group must supply their own canopy, tables and chairs within a 10-foot-by-10-foot self-contained booth space. Limited vendor booths are available with no access to electricity. The online application deadline is Sept. 21, with spaces filled on a first-come, first-served format.

The roster of entertainers includes the Packin' Heat Band, a professional nine-piece band that performs a variety of music, from Motown to the latest dance-chart tunes; and Killer Flamingos, a Dearborn-based pop rock band.

Fireworks are expected to begin at 8 p.m.

Eateries that have committed to attend include Great Lakes Confections, Impasto, Maraschinos Pub and PizzaPazza.

A beer and wine garden will also be available within the amphitheater area on the south side of Heritage Park for individuals 21 and older.

A convenient Uber, Lyft, parent drop-off/pick-off spot has been designated on Civic Center Boulevard in front of the Canton Public Library's main entrance.

All event welcome booths will also feature children's wristbands that can be filled out to include their parents' contact details, in case they become separated.

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

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Historic

Continued from Page 1A

vate the second story of the two-story building into a condominium and leave the first floor as the site of his wealth-management business.

"However, the cost of simply adding fireproofing to the second story — a requirement when you combine residential with retail — was \$200,000," Koch said. "I reached a point where I asked myself, 'Would it be in my best interest to have the building taken down for \$25,000 and construct a new building?' The increase in tax revenue to the city would be significant if I built a three- or four-story building — it could be as high as 50 feet, I believe — that included retail and condominiums."

"As far as the historic nature of the building, I understand that it was built in the 1880s, but its exterior has been altered several times (since 1889) and it no longer resembles the structure it was back in the 1920s when Dr. (Luther) Peck lived and worked in the building. I love Plymouth and I'm looking at all of my options to do what is best for myself and the community."

Immediate pushback

The application seeking to raze the Tudor Revival style structure — regardless of its current exterior renovations — generated immediate pushback from the city's preservation community.

"I've been a Plymouth resident for 21 years, and have seen so many original beautiful buildings torn down for nothing other than personal preference," Kathy Wyrwas said. "History and taking care of things gives a place its character. It's maddening when outsiders come in and disregard that."

The Plymouth Preservation Network, which shared the Sept. 1 meeting's Zoom information on its Facebook page, is also concerned with the possible loss of a landmark structure



A home at 711 Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

that sits just across the street from Kellogg Park.

"Plymouth needs to stop viewing historic buildings as obstacles and see them for the community assets that they truly are," a member of the Plymouth Preservation Network said in a Facebook message to Hometown Life.

Information provided by the group said the structure, originally built by Charles Miller, is best known for serving as the residence and office of Dr. Peck, who was born in 1880 and move to Plymouth in 1904.

Peck originally lived in a wooded home directly across Deer Street in a space that is now a public parking lot and purchased the 711 W. Ann Arbor Trail property in 1920.

According to zillow.com, the 3,535-square-foot building has an 2021 assessed value of \$1.2 million.

"The people who demolish these historic houses are killing the character of the city," Plymouth resident Patrick Gietzen said. "I'm not saying that some shouldn't come down; there are old homes that are in bad shape. But the ones worth saving — like the one at 711 W. Ann Arbor Trail — shouldn't be

demolished because once they're gone, there's no bringing them back."

Because the structure is located within Plymouth's Historic District, any renovation or demolition of the building must be approved by the Historic District Commission.

Koch said he recently listed the property for sale and found an interested buyer, but the agreement fell apart when the prospective buyer could not secure a liquor license.

"Ultimately, I want to find a best-use scenario for the property," said Koch. "One of the options is having it razed, which is why I submitted the application before I know 100% that I'm going to have it razed. I've invested a lot of money into this property and it's my right to have it developed, if I choose, to its highest and best use."

Koch said that while he has the utmost respect for the city's historic-minded community, pushback from preservationists did not factor into his request for a postponement on the razing application.

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

Biking

Continued from Page 1A

all 67 years old now.

Cycling has long been a shared hobby. As teens, they'd bike 14 miles to a lake in Plymouth for a swim or 15 miles to a camping shop in Farmington to ogle at equipment they couldn't afford.

Eventually, they decided to go farther. So they planned a trip cycling to Grand Marais in 1971, an Upper Peninsula town near Pictured Rocks on the southern coast of Lake Superior, as 17-year-olds along with friend Mike Fairbairn. The trip was roughly 1,200 miles and took three weeks.

"My mom was kind of against it," Dale Roberts, who still lives in Westland, said. "We said we graduated that next year and could get drafted into Vietnam. So, then they kind of said we were right."

They biked from Westland and up the middle of the Mitten to Grand Marais. On the way back, they traveled down the western side of the state through towns like Charlevoix and Traverse City. The only time they weren't on bicycles was when they needed to catch a ride over Mighty Mac, which doesn't allow bike or foot traffic.

"We look back and think how in the hell did we do that?" Foley said.

They've kept those cycling trips up throughout the years — a lull came in their 30s and 40s while they raised families — and decided to recreate that first big trip this summer. Fairbairn, who is still in touch with the group, couldn't make it.

"What was different about this was it was the 50th," Dale Robert said. "We've done these trips all along, but this time we wanted to get back up to Grand Marais like we did 50 years ago."

The trip was different this time — they drove to the Upper Peninsula and biked 220 miles instead of riding the whole 1,200. They had better gear and more "comforts," too than they did at 17.

But it created time to reminisce. Dale Robert says they spoke for hours on the trails about previous trips, like the one time they got caught in a tornado. They had been asleep on a football field on a guided trip.

"Tornado sirens start going off, but we decided to stay," Foley said. "It was scary. The tent blew down on us, so we're holding onto the tent."

Or there's the time Foley and Dan Robert had an interesting hitchhiking experience. Dan Robert ran into Foley's bike, and they needed to head into a bigger city for repairs.

"An old lady picked us up," Foley said. "We're in the backseat and she's



An 1971 article from the Wayne's The Daily Eagle from when the cycling buddies first conceived of a long distance bike ride. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Pat Foley, who lives in Hamburg, gets his bike off his car's rack. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

asking about us. I go, 'Aren't you worried about picking up hitchhikers, ma'am?' She reaches under her seat and goes, 'No, I hitchhiked when I was a little girl and I carry Bessy around with me.' She's waving around this pistol and now we're the ones who are worried."

It's those novel encounters that keep them on their toes and create a sense of adventure during every trip. They've encountered plenty of kindness along the way, too. The three have so many stories of free lodging, beer,

pizza and coffee. They joke that Yoopers never make them pay for beer.

"You never know what's going to happen," Dan Robert, who lives in Livonia, said. "That's part of the fun."

But it's the break from reality, the sense of exploration, they love the most. Dale Robert said it's as simple as that.

"It's just adventure."

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

Australia wildfires inspired an ArtPrize 2021 dream come true

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michelle Middleton watched helplessly last year as wildfires ravaged Australia, killing or displacing millions of animals, including the Outback's beloved koalas and kangaroos.

At home in New Hudson, she despaired over the crisis across the world, and then took matters into her own hands in the form of a needle.

"I couldn't take it anymore — it was breaking my heart and I needed to create something to feel better," Middleton said. "I find solace in art, it gives me peace in my heart and an outlet to express myself."

Over the course of the next five months, she sculpted a unique, remarkable, and emotionally inspired work of art using a felt needle and wool. The 3-dimensional piece depicts a koala and a baby kangaroo embracing amid a blackened Australian landscape, atop a cloud and held in the hands of God.

The artwork titled "Finding Peace" has been selected for ArtPrize, an international art competition, and will be on display Sept. 16-Oct. 3 at Arktos Meadery in Grand Rapids. Entries in the competition vie for more than \$200,000 in cash prizes.

Venues choose the artists whom they want to host, and artwork will be all over the city, in bars, restaurants, hotels, museums, as well as outdoors in parks, on sidewalks, on bridges, even in public waterways. Multiple venues vied to display "Finding Peace" in this year's ArtPrize, a dream come true for Middleton, who has worked as a hair stylist for more than three decades.

Middleton's father discouraged her from pursuing art as a career, despite an aptitude she showed for it in high school, as she said he wanted her to avoid becoming a "starving artist." Instead, she went to cosmetology school and was soon doing so well as a hairdresser, its own kind of art, that she set aside pursuing a possible degree in computer aided design or fine arts.

She kept art on the backburner as a hobby, including painting, ceramics and sculpture. About a decade ago, she added a new art to her repertoire—needle felting. The craft involves jabbing a needle with tiny barbs on it into wool, which



Michelle Middleton, a New Hudson artist, with her needle felt sculpture, 'Finding Peace,' an entry in ArtPrize. The sculpture of a koala and baby kangaroo embracing in the hands of God after the Australian wildfires, will be on display from Sept. 16-Oct. 3 in Grand Rapids as part of the international art competition. COURTESY OF MICHELLE MIDDLETON



'Finding Peace,' a needle felt sculpture by Michelle Middleton, depicts a koala and kangaroo in the hands of God after the Australian wildfires. COURTESY OF MICHELLE MIDDLETON

also has tiny barbs, in order to felt the two together.

"Wool actually breathes," she explained. "The more you jab it together, the tighter it gets. You can get it so it's really airy or so that it is so hard and solid that it can hardly be penetrated."

Middleton originally got into needle sculpting when she was looking for a way to memorialize her pet dog she had lost. Soon, she was making needle felt sculptures as memorials for other people's pets and had enough interest that three years ago, she started her own business, The Felted Woolly, LLC. She even works fur from pets into some sculptures.

"Some people think it's creepy, some people think it's beautiful," she said. "It's art, everyone has their own opinions."

Middleton has been busy with commissioned works from The Felted Woolly, as well as her full-time job as owner of The Cutting Edge Hair Color Studio at Abbey Park and an occasional instructor at the Suzanne Haskew Arts Center in Milford. Now she is looking forward to her next act as an ArtPrize artist. On Sept. 24 and 25, she will experience it all for the first time as not only a visitor, but an artist who has contributed.

She is offering "Finding Peace" for sale, too, with a price tag of \$15,200. If it sells, it will sell at a price she feels is fair for how special it is to her, and if not, that's OK.

"Art is all about expression, giving emotion and feeling," Middleton said. "If I could make something to make me feel better, it could make other people feel better. When I am doing my art, it's my relaxation time. I don't have to concentrate on what is going on in today's news, bad stuff or good stuff, I am just concentrating on my art — it's my zen." Learn more at artprize.org.

Other entries

Artists with local connections taking part in ArtPrize 2021 include:

Melissa Machnee, who teaches welding and metal sculpture at Schoolcraft Community College, entered Be Love More, a 3D sculpture inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement. The work appears at First (Park) Congregational Church.

Westland native Kelly Agius entered Foot Apparatus Design I and II, a 2D work using graphite on paper. Her work appears at 250 Monroe.

Kevin Macfarlane of Northville began

paining in 2018 after a career in engineering. His work Bad Lands - T. Roosevelt Nat'l Park is a 2D oil painting on canvas. It is showing at First (Park) Congregational Church.

John Merigian, a Cranbrook graduate, entered Man Who Walks into the show, a 13-foot tall welded corten sculpture showing at Gerald R. Ford Federal Building U.S. Courthouse.

Jim Craven of Canton, a self-taught sculptor entered Boutique Sculpture Garden #1, an art installation showing at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

Megan Citrine LaCroix just opened her first location in June at The Village Arts Factory in Canton. Her entry Symbiosis, an acrylic painting on canvas, is showing at Water Colors Aquarium Gallery.

Virginia LaMont Naegeli of Franklin is showing Catharine's Silk Poppy, a silk painting, at Sandy Point Beach House.

Photographer John Sobczak of Birmingham entered Temps lie' (connected movement) in ArtPrize. The work is showing at Devos Place.

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

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New mixed-use development planned in Birmingham's Rail District

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Massive changes are coming to Birmingham's Rail District.

After the plans to close the Big Rock Chophouse on Eton south of Maple were announced earlier this month, the new plans for the site recently saw one of its first reviews by the city.

The plans call for a new, mixed-use development near 325 S. Eton on the site near the restaurant and the Reserve banquet center, though the restaurant building will remain. The former Grand Trunk Western Railroad Birmingham Depot train station is on the National Register of Historic Places and cannot be torn down.

"The train station is a crown jewel. It's a historic building," said Victor Saroki of Birmingham-based Saroki Architecture who is working on the project. "It's going to remain."

The plans were recently brought before the Birmingham Planning Board during its regular meeting held Sept. 9 at Birmingham City Hall. The planning board recommended both the community impact study and the preliminary site plan during its meeting, moving the project forward.

The new building would sit on the site of the Reserve and would consist of a four-story mixed use building with commercial space on the first floor and 50 residential units total. The units would be smaller than some of the other residential units in the Rail District, being closer to 700 square feet.

Saroki said he's seen more demand for smaller rental units such as the ones they plan to build, receiving requests from potential tenants looking for smaller spaces to only find they did not have any in any of the nearby properties.

"This is an exciting part of town. We want to make it more approachable," he said. "And we're seeing a need for it."

While the new building will expand their reach of residential units, Saroki said it was important for the new building to have its own character.

That's why the new structure will have a slightly different look and feel to



A major redevelopment is under consideration at the site of Birmingham's Big Rock Chop House at 325 S. Eton in the city's rail district.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

it compared to the other ones nearby in the Rail District.

"We didn't want to just do another District Lofts building," Saroki said. "We want it to be a companion building, a sister building, but not just another District Lofts building."

The meeting took place a day after it was announced that Big Rock Chophouse — which has operated since it changed names from Norm's Eton Street Station in 1997 by owners Norm and Bonnie LePage — would close by the end of the year.

Few comments regarding the project were offered by planning board members, though Chairman Scott Clein did praise the project before the vote on the preliminary site plan.

He said he believed the proposed use will fit that part of Birmingham well.

"I think I'm probably going to speak for the board when I say this is a beautiful submittal. (I) really thank you for the detail that was placed into this and the hard work," he said. "I think the use is just more appropriate than the Reserve, and as much as I love the Reserve and I thought it was really well done, it makes more sense."

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

Sheriff: State Rep. Jewell Jones brought handcuff key into jail

Kayla Daugherty

Livingston Daily

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

State Rep. Jewell Jones, D-Inskter, was charged with two felonies after prosecutors allege he brought a handcuff key into the Livingston County Jail following his court hearing Tuesday afternoon.

"Allegations in this matter allege the Defendant taping a handcuff key to the bottom of his foot with clear tape and was found by Livingston County Corrections Officers upon his incarceration," Livingston County Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Carolyn Henry wrote in a bond recommendation form. Jones was charged with one count each of bringing a weapon into a jail and escape waiting a felony trial.

Jones was charged with one count each of bringing a weapon into a jail and escape waiting trial for a felony.

Jones was handcuffed and transported to the jail Tuesday afternoon after Livingston County Judge Michael Hatty revoked Jones' bond after Jones pleaded guilty to his third bond violation.

He was out on bond after being charged with drunken driving stemming from an April 6 incident in Fowlerville.

Jones is also charged with possession of a weapon while under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving and four counts of resisting and obstructing a police officer.

"He realizes the seriousness of the allegations," Byron Nolan, one of Jones' attorney, said during the arraignment.

Henry asked for a high cash or surety bond citing Jones' bond violation.

"He has shown this court that he is not going to follow terms of bond set by this court," she said. "He has shown to the court, through his actions, that he will lie to the court and he will continue to do whatever he wants."

Livingston County Magistrate Jerry Sherwood set Jones' bond at \$100,000 cash or surety.

Sherwood also ordered Jones to surrender any police items such as a handcuff key, baton and pepper spray.

"This guy is a piece of work. He truly believes that he doesn't have to follow the judge's orders, doesn't have to follow rules," Livingston County Sheriff Michael Murphy said. "He's the reason that politicians and elected officials get the bad rap."

Murphy said there is no general rule for when those in custody may be handcuffed and he is not sure why Jones brought the key with him.

"You could run through unlimited



Attorney Ali Hammoud, left, represents State Rep. Jewell Jones in court Tuesday for a third bond violation. Judge Michael Hatty revoked Jones' bond and sent him to jail. Upon entering jail, officials said they found a handcuff key on Jones. A report was made and forwarded to the prosecutor's office. GILLIS

BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

possibilities," he said. "At the end of the day, folks are handcuffed to and from a facility. If someone has a handcuff key, that's a bad day for us."

Prosecutors filed a motion to revoke Jones' bond earlier this month after he tested positive for alcohol three times on Sept. 3.

His alcohol tether indicated a transdermal alcohol concentration level of 0.023 at 12:59 p.m., 0.023 at 4:37 p.m. and 0.022 at 7:09 p.m. on Sept. 3, according to court records.

Jones attempted to tamper with his tether by putting a sock fully underneath the tether on Sept. 6, Livingston County Assistant Prosecutor Christina Richards said Tuesday.

He pleaded guilty to two previous bond violations since charges were filed in April.

In June, Jones pleaded guilty to a bond violation after leaving military training without notifying his attorney or court officials.

Livingston County District Court Judge Daniel Bain ordered Jones to have an alcohol monitor placed on his ankle following the first violation.

Jones failed to pay the July 8 invoice for the device, Emily Shelton, a Livingston County probation officer, said during a second bond violation hearing.

At that hearing, Hatty ordered Jones to pay a \$1,000 fine.

Jones is scheduled to appear in front of Hatty for a pretrial hearing on Friday.

Contact Kayla Daugherty at 517-552-2848 or kdaugherty@gannett.com. Follow her on Twitter @KayDaugherty92



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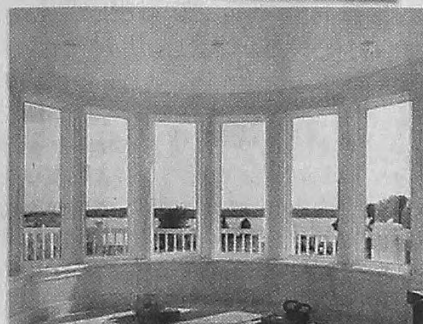
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LG-G01713778-03

Church Mice goes into hiding for pandemic, comes back with first album

Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When the pandemic wiped clean a schedule of Church Mice gigs, vocalist Christian Thompson coped by turning to his music.

Once he and the other Church Mice felt safe, the rock band reunited in the recording studio, producing "Flying," its first album of six songs.

"Some of that material was in place before the pandemic, but the time off allowed us to sort of develop it more thoroughly," Thompson, a 1987 Birmingham Seaholm graduate, said. "Everybody needed something to divert their attention away from this ominous cloud that was over us."

Thompson said the pandemic certainly pushed his musicianship toward new depths.

"It almost pushed us in a direction even more," he said. "Like...Man! Life is short. Life is precious and any one of us could get sick and be gone, God forbid."

"I do think that it helped in some ways foster some creativity, foster coming back together, finding a way to come out of the shadows back together into some sense of normalcy."

Church Mice is composed of longtime friends Thompson and guitarist Bill Solomonson, who have been playing together since their Seaholm days. There's also bassist Bryan Frink, a Birmingham Groves graduate; drummer Jason Gittinger, and keyboardist Rob Dawson. With Church Mice and other bands, they have been playing for years.

Also united by ties to Kensington Church, some of them departed from the church on somewhat sour notes. That led to their Church Mice moniker.

"I wanted to lampoon that church band concept," Thompson acknowledged. "Actually that church band is what brought my level of musicianship up considerably from where it was."

"It's just a little bit of a twist and a lampooning. We were the church band and now we're not the church band. We're kind of like the little mice that get the crumbs."

The crumbs can't be bad if Spotify and other streaming services are playing Church Mice music. The band also is back to performing gigs, rocking on stage at the recent Soaring Eagle Arts, Beats & Eats in Royal Oak.

"The crowd was very much more attuned to the music than in previous years," claimed Thompson, adding that the band's crowd was about 50% larger than in previous years. "I had multiple people approach and speak to me after - all very appreciative and effusive with praise."

"From an artist standpoint, I was told multiple times by longtime fans and music-loving friends that this was the best Church Mice has ever sounded. (It) felt pretty nice to hear that from such discerning and often constructively critical folks."

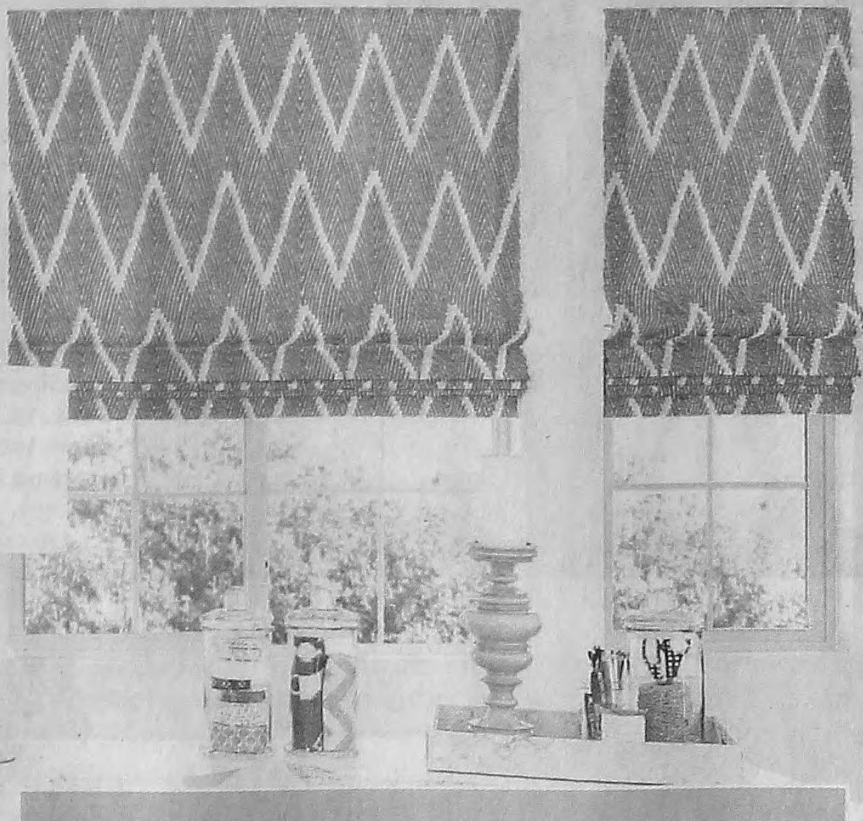
A new song should appear this fall. More are likely to follow.

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



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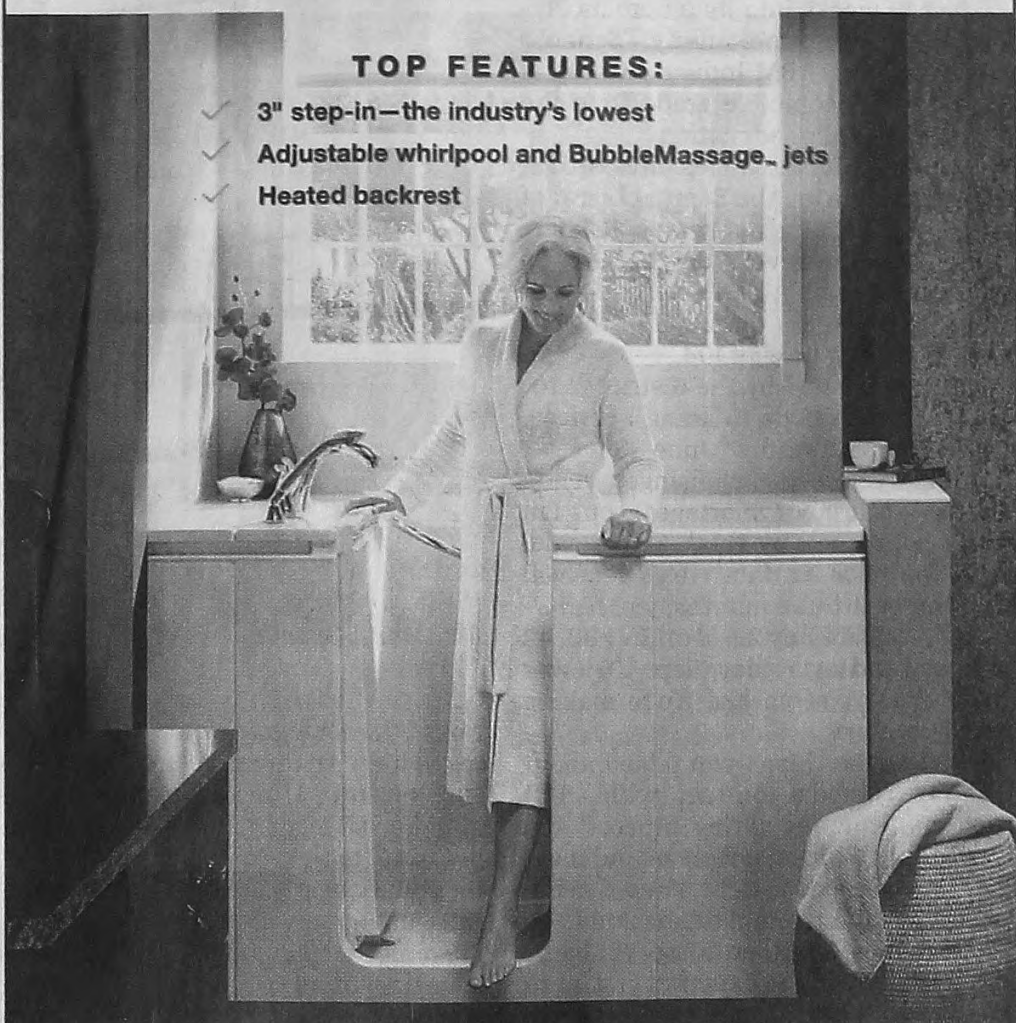
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Plymouth-Canton Schools' new custodial firm struggling with staffing

Ed Wright

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Just 10 weeks into its tenure as Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' custodial firm, ABM Industry Group is earning an incomplete grade from the district's board of education.

Board of Education Treasurer Patrick Kehoe said during the Sept. 14 board of education meeting that he was "flabbergasted" by the revelation that ABM's dedicated staff for the school district was just 49 — less than half of the expected staffing level of 104.

ABM was hired by the district to replace Grand Rapids Building Services, whose contract expired June 30.

"I appreciate the challenges you're having (with labor shortages), but I'm really concerned by this," Kehoe said. "Looking back at data we've received over the past three months, you had 37 (employees) on July 23, 41 on July 30, 42 on Aug. 6 and last Friday (Sept. 10) it was 42. It doesn't seem like we're making much progress."

"One of the things you talked about when we signed a contract (with ABM) was your vaunted hiring process and your ability to bring people in and meet the district's needs. Right now we're below 50% staffing. I'm flabbergasted."

ABM Vice President Eric Hudgens said his company is experiencing labor shortages throughout the country, especially in Michigan and Illinois.

"I'm having heart palpitations because of our current staffing challenges," Hudgens said, responding to Kehoe's remarks. "We're doing everything in our power to attract workers, including raising employees' wages, tripling the size of our internal recruiting organization. We're not going to make any excuses. This is an unprecedented time in our industry."

Hudgens shared a trace of optimism, noting that the number of job applications were on the rise since the federal government's unemployment supplemental benefits expired on Sept. 4.

Hudgens said ABM's struggles to raise staffing levels are multi-faceted.

"For us, pay is always an issue; we're on the lower end of the scale," he said. "Transportation is certainly a challenge as well, and we're looking at ride-share programs to address this. When you



ABM Industries had just 49 employees dedicated to cleaning Plymouth-Canton Schools buildings as of Sept. 14. The expected staffing level is 104. ERIN COUCH/TIMES RECORDER

look at the demographics of our employees, a lot of them are related and commute together. If one leaves (the company), they all leave. This is a very sensitive issue to us.

"And, honestly, being a K-12 custodian is just not an appealing job for folks. Trust me, we're pulling out all the stops (to attract more cleaners)."

Hudgens said the legalization of marijuana in Michigan is proving to be a hiring issue as well for ABM.

"We get a number of applicants who don't pass the drug screening," he said.

A system has been set up, Hudgens said, that allows Plymouth-Canton teachers to fill out a Google doc to let ABM know of missed cleaning tasks.

Board of Education President Patti McCoin echoed Kehoe's concerns.

"I can't say I'm not disappointed because when you came to us for the contract, we were kind of assured you'd be able to meet the district's staffing requirements," McCoin said. "What concerns me is that these are schools filled with children and teachers, and cleaning isn't going to get done."

"What also concerns me is that teachers are going to ... lose the motivation to complete a Google doc day after day for missed cleaning tasks because they're getting tired. They have 45 other



Custodial staffing has been an issue in the Plymouth-Canton schools with less than half of the jobs filled to start the school year. BRIAN POWERS/THE REGISTER

things to do before the students come in in the morning and they're going to run out of time. This is going to snowball. I'm already getting emails from teachers for missed cleaning tasks. This is becoming a huge, huge problem."

ABM reported there are 22 potential employees currently enrolled in a training program.

"We need to see that get up to 40-

something or 50 by the end of the month," Hudgens acknowledged.

Troy, Michigan-based ABM, which signed a three-year contract with two one-year renewals with the school district, will deliver another update to the district on Sept. 23.

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

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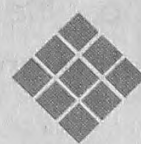
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Obituaries

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Amy Romanza Juntunen

LIVONIA - Amy Romanza Juntunen, 86, a 53-year resident of Livonia, passed away June 26, 2021 due to congestive heart failure. Married to the late Wallace G. Juntunen for over 66 years, Amy "Ro" was born January 11, 1935, Grove Oak, Al. Daughter of Margaret and General Brandenburg, elder sister of John (Dottie) Brandenburg, Sally Brandenburg, Louise (late Homer) Bishop. The family moved to Michigan in her early years where she attended Clinton- a one room schoolhouse in Oak Park, then Berkley High School, graduating class of 1953.



Wonderful Mother to Elizabeth (late Clarence) Charest, Judith (late John) House, Alan Juntunen, and Douglas Juntunen. Grandmother to Krista (Kevin) Woodman, Robert (DeAnn) Kling, Gabrielle Charest- (David) Turken, Casey Charest, Jared Charest and John House. Great grandmother to six children.

Received Bachelor and Master of Interdisciplinary Studies from Wayne State University late in life. A member of the first class in the program for Interdisciplinary Studies, Amy earned a writing award that had been inactive, but was renewed especially for her-- Otto Feinstein's Excellence in Senior Writing. She accomplished this while working full time for SPEC Associates in Detroit, MI as a Project Director. Her career began as a part time interviewer in the 1960s in New Orleans, La where the family resided for her husband's career. She loved work as a Social Researcher and Evaluator, not retiring until 70 years old out of pure interest and desire. Amy has been published in a social research journal.

Our representative government was important and she participated. A lifelong Democrat, she served as precinct delegate 22 years, Livonia Board of Canvassers, and as Wayne County Democrat Second Vice Chair. One of her greatest thrills was attending a national convention with her sister in 1992.

An avid reader all her life, she covered all genres. In her retirement, Livonian and Plymouth librarians may recall the monthly rolling travel bag filled to the brim of returned books with rarely any unread!

Each Christmas, she gifted to family members young and old, the book of their choice. If you opted out, a donation was made in your name. She never forgot your birthday- always sent a card.

Not many could make us laugh out loud, as she, sharing her wonderful sense of humor about the absurdities of life. Her remarkable memory will be a loss to us all. Forever in our hearts. Always an inspiration. (You could not call her during Jeopardy.) Love you, Mother. With deep gratitude. Future informal memorial to celebrate her life.

Anne Tarbell Krom

SARASOTA, FL - Mother of Holly, Frances, William, Katharine, and John. Grandmother of Ashley, Bradford, Blake, Elizabeth, Hannah, and Abby. Great Grandmother of Milo and Jude.

There will be no memorial service. A private Family Celebration of Life will take place when the family can gather in the summer of 2022.

Contributions in memorial can be made to Planned Parenthood or Habitat for Humanity



Lorraine A. Waling

LIVONIA - Passed away September 8, 2021. Age 97. Beloved wife of the late Victor. Loving mother of Kathy (Jack) Fein, Pat (Gerry) Rogers, Victor (Michelle), Karen (Jeff) Long and the late John (Joy). Cherished grandmother of 6, great grandmother of 4. Funeral Mass was held on September 11, 2021. Lorraine was a member of the Women's Army Corps during World War II, the Livonia Senior Center, the Bowlerettes, the Wings Group and Generations. She was an avid Detroit Tiger Fan, enjoyed bowling and Bingo. Donations may be made in Lorraine's name to the Livonia Senior Center, 33000 Civic Center Dr., Livonia, MI 48154. Share a Memorial Tribute with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com

GRIFFIN
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Melinda "Mindy" (Guleff) Smith

PLYMOUTH - Age 57, lifelong resident of Plymouth, passed away on September 8, 2021. She was born October 21, 1963; daughter of Jerry and Virginia (Sparma) Guleff. Mindy graduated from Plymouth Canton High School; Class of 1982.



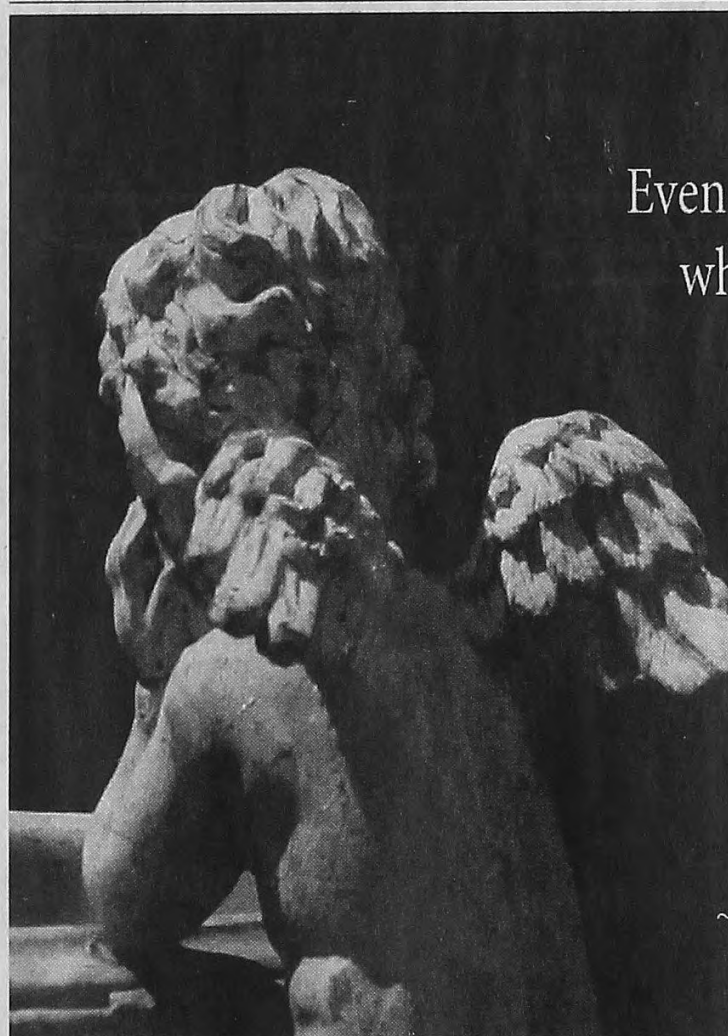
Mindy enjoyed watching old movies, cartoons, and vintage game shows. She also enjoyed doing word search puzzles. Mindy found joy in the simpler things in life. She was blessed to have a wonderful core group of friends for years. She loved spending time with family and friends and cherished all the memories they made.

Mindy is survived by her loving sister, Melissa Guleff-Eggenberger; her brother, Mark (Susan) Guleff; her sister-in-law, Ginna Guleff; her nieces and nephews, Meagan Eggenberger, Erica Eggenberger, Sasha Guleff, Izabella Guleff, Olivia Guleff, and Harley Wilt; and her aunt, Sondra Breehl. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Michael Guleff.

Memorial Visitation will be held Monday, September 20, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 West Dunlap, Northville. She will be laid to rest at St. Joseph Cemetery in Massillon, Ohio.


In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate memorial contributions to American Cancer Society, PO Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

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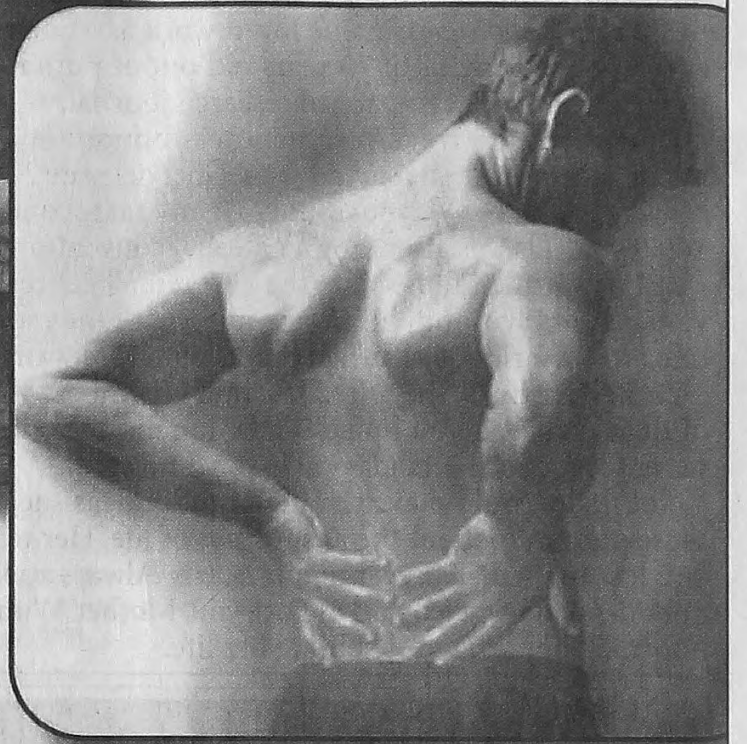
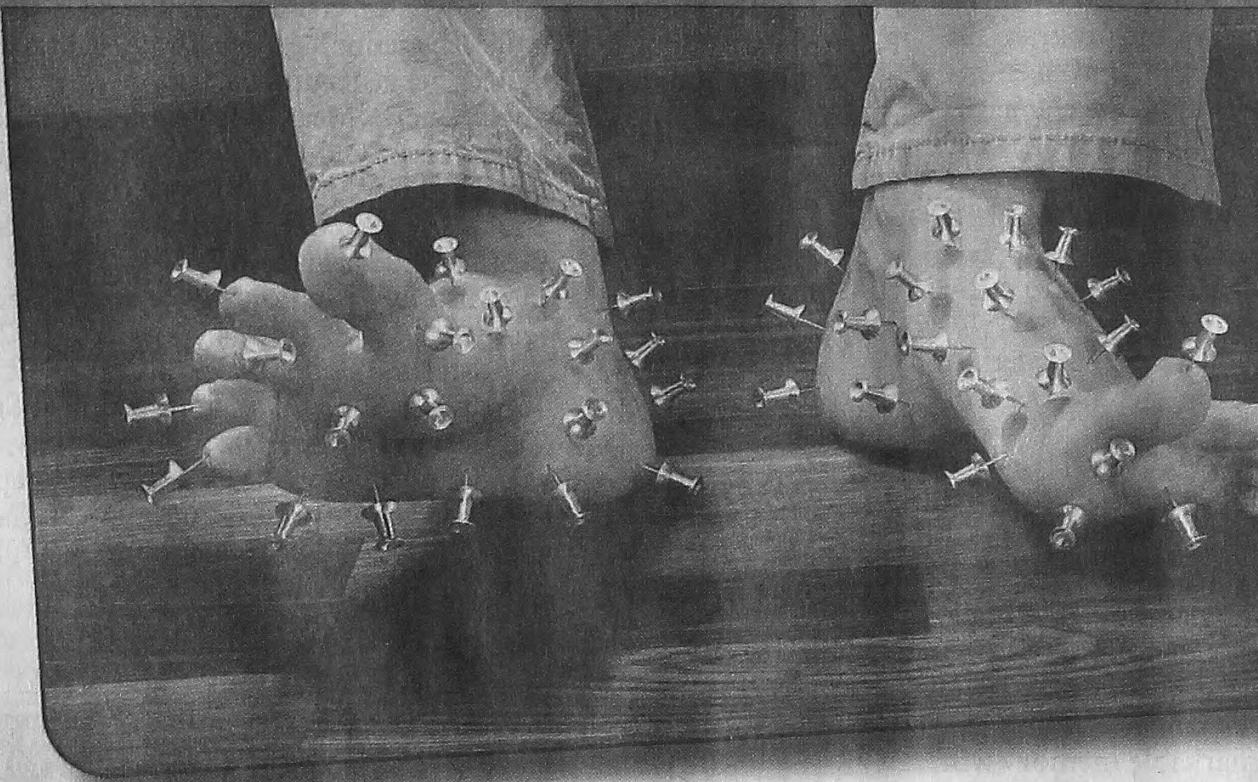
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SPORTS

Defense gives Novi boys soccer confidence

Team holds Canton scoreless

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After holding Canton scoreless through the first 40 minutes of play, Novi's defenders still found something to talk about at halftime.

The Wildcats felt like they allowed too many open looks: a corner kick that

Novi ended up saving, a header by junior Riley Genthe off a free kick lob.

Novi head boys soccer coach Todd Pheiffer preaches perfection in the back. The scoring will come by itself, but if the Wildcats can hold teams in the KLA West scoreless, then they are already on the path of a deep playoff run.

"Our defenders take pride in that," Pheiffer said. "Even when they give up a scoring opportunity, they are upset by that. They get together. They talk."

Novi (3-0-1) held Canton (4-3-2) scoreless, recording its second-straight

shutout: a 2-0 road win for the Wildcats to keep them undefeated early on in 2021.

All of Canton's scoring chances in the second half came either from fouls or corner kicks: all of which were stopped by junior goalkeeper Ryan Zotkovich. None came over the course of natural play.

But the defense had its share of momentum. Novi kept Northville — currently ranked as the No. 1 Division 1 team in the state by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association — score-

less, recording a scoreless draw Sept. 2.

But this is nothing new for Pheiffer. This is a program-wide mentality that both Novi's boys and girls teams answer to.

"We figure we're good enough every year and we'll create scoring opportunities," Pheiffer said. "But the key is holding."

To the head coach, this is normal Novi soccer. The 2020 season wasn't.

Playing through the COVID-19 pan-

See **SOCCER**, Page 2B

North Farmington football rolls over Groves in OAA White opener



North Farmington's Chase Reed tries to get past Groves' Jackson Crane. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Ben Szilagy
Special to Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Winning your conference is on every team's list to start the season. On Sept. 10, North Farmington opened up OAA White play with a massive statement.

The Raiders dominated Birmingham Groves, 49-0, behind the legs of

senior running back Jasper Beeler.

"A win like tonight, it's huge," North Farmington coach Jon Herstein said. "We set the tone to achieve one of our goals (this season). Going out there and getting a win to start off to set you up to accomplish that helps continue that through league play."

The Raider (3-0, 1-0 OAA White) defense had two interceptions by seniors Chase Reed and Landon Canty, while

also forcing two fumbles in the shutout. As a unit, North Farmington's defense held Groves to 110 yards all game on 10 possessions.

"We have a very veteran group out there that really understands what we're trying to do. They play really good together, and they trust one another. They just play really good sound

See **OPENER**, Page 2B

One quick story before I leave Hometown Life

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA Today Network - Michigan

After all the stories you all have told me over the past two years, I thought I would tell you one of mine.

I didn't know what the hell I was doing.

It was early August 2019. I was driving on West Park Drive between Walled Lake and Novi heading to my third apartment tour of the day. One week prior, I had just accepted my first sports reporter job out of college: to cover high school athletics in the northern and western suburbs of Detroit.

I was young and wide-eyed. I was in an area where I had no family, no friends. I had no knowledge of the area, no idea who the good teams were, who the top athletes were. And in the next week, I was expected to settle down and help take over a sports section that had been defined by distinct voices for decades.

I felt I was immediately expected to know everything, to be the top sports voice from the get go; a weight I loaded on myself even before I stepped foot in the paper's office.

Anxiety and pressure began to build, quickening my breathing. I continued to drive feeling panicked, getting closer to my reality.

My future was here. I was scared. OK, this is a downer of a goodbye column so far, I know. But this is where I started.

As I reflect on my two years with Hometown Life, all I can say is that it got better.

From my first ever football practice at North Farmington, I was off, traveling in my trusty Toyota Camry with a Texas license plate from Livonia to Canton, from Birmingham to Wayne, from Novi to South Lyon; following teams to Detroit, East Lansing, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo.

I met all sorts of coaches and players, learning about sports I was not familiar with, gaining their trust to tell their stories, giving people an idea of what it was like to be and to lead athletes.

I was never an athlete myself. I was that kid in the nosebleeds of Houston Astros games — yes, those Houston Astros — soaking in every aspect of the game: the highest of highs and the true lowest of lows. I left many a game feeling heartbroken, with my parents and brother knowing not to talk to me after

See **GAY**, Page 2B

Brother Rice soccer's rebuild takes upward turn

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Three years into his tenure as Brother Rice's head soccer coach, Danny Price isn't done building.

The Warriors have seen incremental progress after two seasons, turning a two-win season in the first to five in the second, with 11 of 15 total games being decided by two goals or less, including Brother Rice's first-round playoff loss to Detroit Country Day.

"We were just young," Price said. "Just young and the Catholic League games came a little bit too soon for those guys. In terms of quality, the way that we play, it took notice."

"I think they know what we're all about this year."

But despite wins against Birmingham rival Seaholm and Catholic League rival Detroit Catholic Central to start 2021, Price, watching his team as it prepares for a match against De La Salle, knows Brother Rice hasn't played its best soccer yet.

The Warriors' brand of soccer isn't for everyone. Instead of the brash, direct and fast offenses of high school teams around the region, Brother Rice is more of a possession-oriented team, building itself to deal with the physicality of the Catholic League.

It's something juniors Evan Thornton, Josh Copeland and Enzo Bordogna all learned for the first time a season ago.

All three joined the Warriors as

See **RICE**, Page 2B

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Michigan high school football 2021: Week 5 schedule

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kensington Lakes Activities Association

Livonia Churchill at Dearborn; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Livonia Franklin vs. Westland John Glenn; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Livonia Stevenson at Wayne Memorial; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Canton vs. Novi; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Northville at Brighton; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Plymouth vs. Hartland; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Salem at Howell; 7 p.m., Sept. 24

Catholic High School League

Brother Rice at Detroit Catholic Central; 1 p.m., Sept. 26
Cranbrook Kingswood at Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard; 5 p.m., Sept. 24

Lakes Valley Conference

Milford vs. Walled Lake Western; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
South Lyon at Lakeland; 7 p.m., Sept. 24 - Ben
South Lyon East vs. Paw Paw; 2:30 p.m., Sept. 25

Oakland Activities Association

Groves vs. Oak Park; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
North Farmington at Rochester; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Seaholm at Rochester Adams; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Bloomfield Hills vs. Farmington; 7 p.m., Sept. 24

Independent

Detroit Country Day at Harper Woods; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Livonia Clarenceville vs. Dearborn Advanced Tech Academy; 7 p.m., Sept. 24

Western Wayne Athletic Conference

Garden City vs. Romulus; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Redford Thurston vs. Dearborn Heights Annapolis; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Redford Union vs. Dearborn Heights Robichaud; 7 p.m., Sept. 24

Michigan Independent Athletic Conference

Lutheran Westland vs. Pittsford; 7 p.m., Sept. 24
Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

demic, Novi was only able to play nine games before the state tournament, losing to Brighton in the first round of district play.

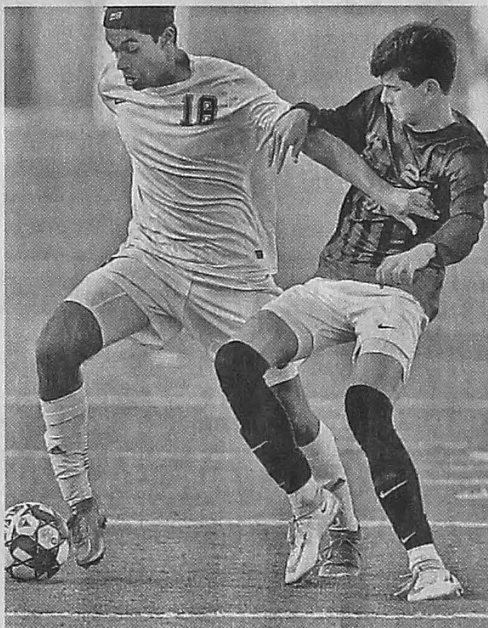
To senior Miguel Aguirre Del Valle, 2020 was a new experience: fielding a large group of inexperienced juniors with a small group of seniors. Now in 2021, those juniors are seniors and now have more chemistry, more connections and more familiarity with one another.

"I think there was way less confidence last year, but the seniors were still strong and we still got far," Aguirre Del Valle said, who scored Novi's second goal of the game: connecting on a rebound after a try by sophomore Yuto Shiwa.

"This year, it's just a big group of seniors that we didn't have last year. We're more confident together because we played throughout these four years of high school."

With 13 seniors on the roster — including third-year senior Saurav Setti, who Pheiffer views as an anchor for the Novi defense, there is a youth movement for the Wildcats as well. Sophomore Nic Russo connected on the first score of the game — the first goal of his varsity career — with 11:21 left in the first half.

But Pheiffer knows where the leadership is coming from. It's from the



Saurav Setti, left, tries to keep Canton Chief Nicholas Hatsios from the ball as he enters Canton's zone. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

seniors. It's from a defense that has allowed two goals in its first four games.

It's from a group that wants people to get back to playing Novi soccer.

"These players that were on the team last year look at that and go, 'That's not how we want to remember playing Novi soccer,'" Pheiffer said.

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.

Rice

Continued from Page 1B

sophomores, transferring in from Utica Eisenhower, Warren Mott and Oxford, respectively. The 2020 campaign taught the trio to fight on the soccer field, racing down the field and putting opposing players under pressure defensively.

"Catholic League soccer, it's really physical. It's pretty physical, so you have to be able to stand your ground," Copeland said. "If you want to be the best, it's just what you have to do."

It's a physicality the Warriors showed in their first matchup against the Shamrocks.

Hosting the reigning Division 1 state champions, Brother Rice earned the 1-0 shutout win with 10 men for much of the second half. Looking back at the tape, Price said the scoreline flattered Catholic Central, seeing six or seven chances that the Warriors could have put back that didn't go their way.

Riding the emotional high from their first non-forfeit win against Catholic Central since Sept. 13, 2018, Price's team tied Division 1 powerhouse Rochester Adams in a game the head coach said the Warriors should have won. But the idea is there: Brother Rice is a good soc-



Brother Rice soccer practices on Sept. 8, 2021. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

cer team and could make some noise in the Catholic League.

"They are all in the zone right now," Price said. "They are a very tight-knit group of 24 players... They are all very much together. It's the first time in my three years I've actually had a team

Gay

Continued from Page 1B

a loss.

If I felt like that from the stands, I couldn't imagine what those athletes on the field must have felt.

Those realities came clear to me in the most intimate way in the past two years: approaching coaches and players after hoisting a state title trophy, approaching them after a playoff loss, watching the strength of a student or a coach as he or she gave me answers fighting through tears.

For those moments of bliss to those moments of sorrow, I thank you. I thank you for allowing me to write down what led up to that point, asking what went through your head and what the moment means to you.

These moments furthered my relationship with you, the Hometown Life

community.

I leave Hometown Life thankful: for you — the coaches, the players, the parents, the athletic directors, the school administrators — for my coworkers and for local journalism.

I leave Hometown Life feeling I have left it in a good place for its next chapter.

And while I'm super excited for what's next, that same anxiety is returning. The pressure to perform, that weight of expectation that I put on myself is back.

I still feel I don't know what the hell I'm doing at times. I'm still the same guy driving on West Park Drive between Walled Lake and Novi.

At least now I have a tangible example to look back on of what it looks like when I can step out of that space and do what I was hired to do: tell stories.

As always, thanks for reading.

Contact reporter Colin Gay on Twitter @ColinGay17.

Opener

Continued from Page 1B

team defense," Herstein said of his veteran unit.

Beeler dominates

While the defense had its way with the Falcons (0-3, 0-1 OAA White), senior running back Jasper Beeler continued to build off his early-season success with a six-touchdown affair.

"My legs are dead. Very dead. But I give all the glory tonight to my offensive line. Without them tonight doesn't happen. Every run there was a great hole to run through. They just made it a lot easier for me," the running back said.

Beeler dominated the first half with five touchdowns.

On the opening drive, he scored on a four-yard run, scampered for a 61 yards on a screen pass from sophomore Ryan Shelby on the second drive before ending the first quarter with another big play with a 50-yard touchdown run.

"He's special. He's an excellent receiver and an excellent tailback. He's worked really hard over the course of his career here at North to really work on his athleticism, get stronger to be able to take this workload," Herstein said.

"The plays were there and he had the opportunity to make them. It's a special night, but he had five in the first week too."

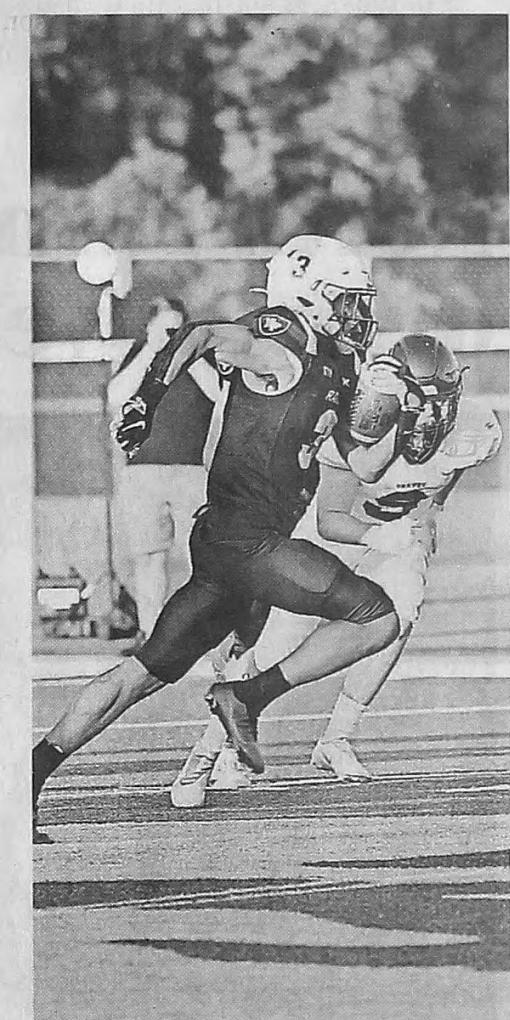
Beeler capped the first half with a 26-yard touchdown run and a 40-yard touchdown run before earning a 21-yard touchdown reception in the third quarter.

Even though he didn't play the fourth quarter, Beeler's night included 151 rushing yards on eight carries, and three receptions for 104 yards.

North Farmington's back-up QB Josh Henderson had a 21-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter as well.

Groves reeling

While the night wasn't perfect for the Falcons, its defense did stiffen up midway through the second quarter, earning a goal-line stand on fourth down when North Farmington tried to



North Farmington senior running back Jasper Beeler led the Raiders with five touchdowns. COURTESY OF TOM BEAUDOIN

run two quarterback sneaks from the one-foot line.

Victories like that though have been few and far between for Groves and head coach Brendan Flaherty. The Falcons have also been without its star receiver and MSU commit Jaden Mangham who is dealing with an injury.

"We have a lot of inexperienced guys playing football, and we're playing some pretty good teams. You have that, some bad luck, overthinking stuff coaching wise. That's the gist of it, really," he summarized.

"Jaden's hurt, and it's frustrating because he brings so much to our team. He brings confidence, he can erase plays on both sides. But that's some of the bad luck we're dealing with. He wants to be out there with his teammates more than anybody. But he's hurt, so what are you going to do?"

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scouted to play soccer at the next level, including Copeland, who has aspirations to play at the Division 1 or high-end Division 2 level, Thornton, who is talking to Case Western, and Bordogna.

For Thornton, it's just a matter of continuing to play the game that he loves.

"I just can't imagine hanging the boots up," he said, starting the game at age 3. "It's just my passion. It's what I've always done."

To get to the level he wants to play at, Copeland said it comes down to Brother Rice's training. It's nothing new to what Price was already doing: training with intensity, committing to the process of preparing to be the best team in the league.

Bordogna knows the potential of this group. With two years left of high school soccer, the junior didn't miss a beat when asked what the goals are for this group: a league title and a state title.

But it all comes down to the style of play. It's not singular. And if the machine is working — if everyone on the team exudes the effort and sacrifice necessary — it could leave a large impact on the state.

"We play as a family," Bordogna said. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

that's that together in terms of what they want to achieve.

"We don't just want to be a statistic this year. We want to be the statistic."

It helps to have talent that colleges are keeping their eyes on.

Brother Rice has six players being

Northville girls golf continues to build environment

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Samantha Coleman knows there's a level of pressure each time Northville's girls golf team reaches its goal.

It's a pressure that keeps the junior up at night, remembering times where she would be up at 2 a.m. texting teammate Haesol Park, "This is what we have to do."

The now-junior golfer just missed the start of Northville's dynasty, winning its first state title in 2018, another in 2019 and yet another in 2020, one of 11 teams in Michigan high school sports history to win three straight state championships and the first since Forest Hills Northern between 2017-19.

It's not a nervous energy, but more motivation to continue the tradition that Coleman inherited.

"That's just how all the girls on the team are," Coleman said. "That's our goal throughout the entire season. That's what we think about. That's what we're working for."

This isn't something Northville head coach Chris Cronin has to teach. It's not something he introduces in a big speech at the beginning of each season, reiterating to his golfers what they are a part of and what the expectations are.

It's not setting the culture. It's maintaining an environment, cultivated on what the Mustangs had done before, passed down from the past three classes of golfers. Everything Cronin does is to put his player in a position to win state titles: playing at the hardest courses and making as competitive a schedule as possible.

But it's not about just the varsity team or the immediate state title within reach. It's about the fifth- or sixth-straight championship, the longevity and the possibility of how long Northville's reign could last.

"I can't make a kid want something. They have to see it and kind of fall in love with it and see that it's what they want. Then they will come to me and ask, 'How can you help me get there?'" Cronin said, pointing out that different golfers come to that realization in different ways, whether it's through teammates or on their own.

Coleman is a good example of what to



The Northville girls golf team won its second straight state championship. DEBBIE STEIN

shoot for, but is also an anomaly.

Cronin views the junior as cut from the same cloth as a golfer she didn't cross paths with at Northville: Nicole Whatley — the senior that led the Mustangs to its first state title in 2018.

In Coleman's first two years at Northville, she was an All-State golfer; shooting a 165 as a freshman — fourth best on the Mustangs — and a 75 in the one-day state tournament in 2020, which was the top score for Northville and the sixth-best score in the field.

Over the course of her two seasons with the Mustangs, Coleman said she learned a whole new level of teamwork, developing a desire to win for those around her instead of just herself.

"I'm very competitive, and when I get to play for my teammates as well, it's a whole different environment," Coleman said.

It's an environment that seemingly sinks into each golfer donning the orange and black no matter if she is with the top team or not. It creates progress, allowing many golfers, including Coleman, Ava Gill and Megha Vallabhaneni to shoot personal bests. But it's also collective, leading to a school record team score of 290 in the Sun Dried Invitational Aug. 27.

"Our sights are set on October and playing our best golf then, but I don't think you can play mediocre golf all year and show up in October and be great," Cronin said.

Each tournament now is not life or death to the Northville head coach. It's a building block to get to what they want. It's an opportunity for experience, getting the Mustangs off the practice course and giving them a glimpse of what could come.

It's something he's instilled in his team's leaders.

"States is the goal, but we know we have to do the grunt work beforehand," Coleman said. "We don't think like, 'If you lose this tournament, you're going to lose states.'"

Cronin knows a state title is not a given. He knows there's programs around the state vying to stop the Mustangs' run: Plymouth, Okemos, Rochester Adams. He knows Northville will not be able to distance itself until the lights are on in October.

But he sees glimpses of Northville's staying power.

In a KLAAs match against Hartland Sept. 8, Cronin's varsity team was already done, beating the Eagles by 20-30 strokes. The junior-varsity team



Northville Mustang varsity golfer Emily Hofner warms up at Northville Hills Golf Club before a practice round. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

was finishing up with one more Mustang to go.

Instead of the varsity team checking out, Cronin watched the varsity team going to the last hole to support their teammate, to watch the growth of the program happen in real time.

"One thing that really helps us is the girls coming in knowing just inherently that they are going to get that support from their teammates," Cronin said. "Whether it's during the season, during the offseason, they decide that they want to be a part of that."

It's why the head coach sees the most growth from those second-team players between Year 1 and Year 2, or Year 2 and Year 3. It's the environment that Coleman has become used to, making it commonplace to text teammates at 2 a.m., wondering how she can get better, how she can help the team continue its dynasty.

"It's just something we all know that we're capable of doing something great," Coleman said. "No matter who's on the team, you want to be a part of that. You just push yourself."

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Brighton bolstered by one of South America's top volleyball players

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — Scott Pitcher liked the makeup of his Brighton volleyball team before the season, but one element that was in short supply was veteran leadership.

A couple of weeks after tryouts were completed and with the season about to start, more leadership arrived on a plane from Chile.

With the addition of foreign exchange student Ana Erskine, Brighton doubled the number of seniors on a roster that has six sophomores. Paris Dickson was the team's only senior before Erskine arrived.

The Bulldogs got more than just another senior voice in the locker room. They got an elite talent who is one of the top players for her age in South America.

Erskine was named MVP and best outside hitter in the 2019 UI7 South American Championship playing for Chile's national team.

"She gives us the option to have a second senior, which makes it nice for this young team," Pitcher said Tuesday night after Brighton's 25-11, 25-17, 25-19 victory over Hartland.

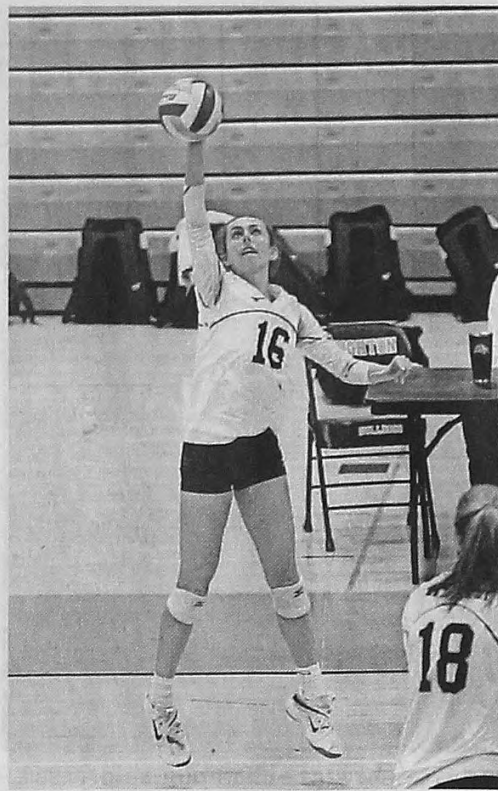
"She's calm. She's stable. She can hit the ball quite well. She's very aggressive. She serves aggressive. She plays aggressive. It's good for our team with so many sophomores playing to see that aggression. As we say, many of us coaches, we'd rather have them be aggressive making mistakes than being passive making mistakes."

Erskine has fit in seamlessly with a team of girls who have grown up together and trained all summer for this season, going through the tryout process. She arrived on Aug. 24, four days before a season-opening tournament.

"I've always wanted to live this experience," Erskine said. "I like it so much here. You have to be brave to come here. The teammates are amazing. I really like them."

It didn't take long for Pitcher to realize he needed to make room on his roster for Erskine.

"When we went through the special kind of tryout, if you would, she's 48



Cameron Herman of Hartland hits the volleyball against Brighton Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

hours off the plane and she makes a big impression immediately," Pitcher said. "The kids welcomed her with open arms, which made it easy for her."

After her sensational performance in the South American championships, Erskine was unable to play in 2020 because of COVID restrictions.

"Last year we can't practice a lot because of COVID," said Erskine, who has played volleyball for 10 years. "We do work in the house. We just keep practicing all the things in the house."

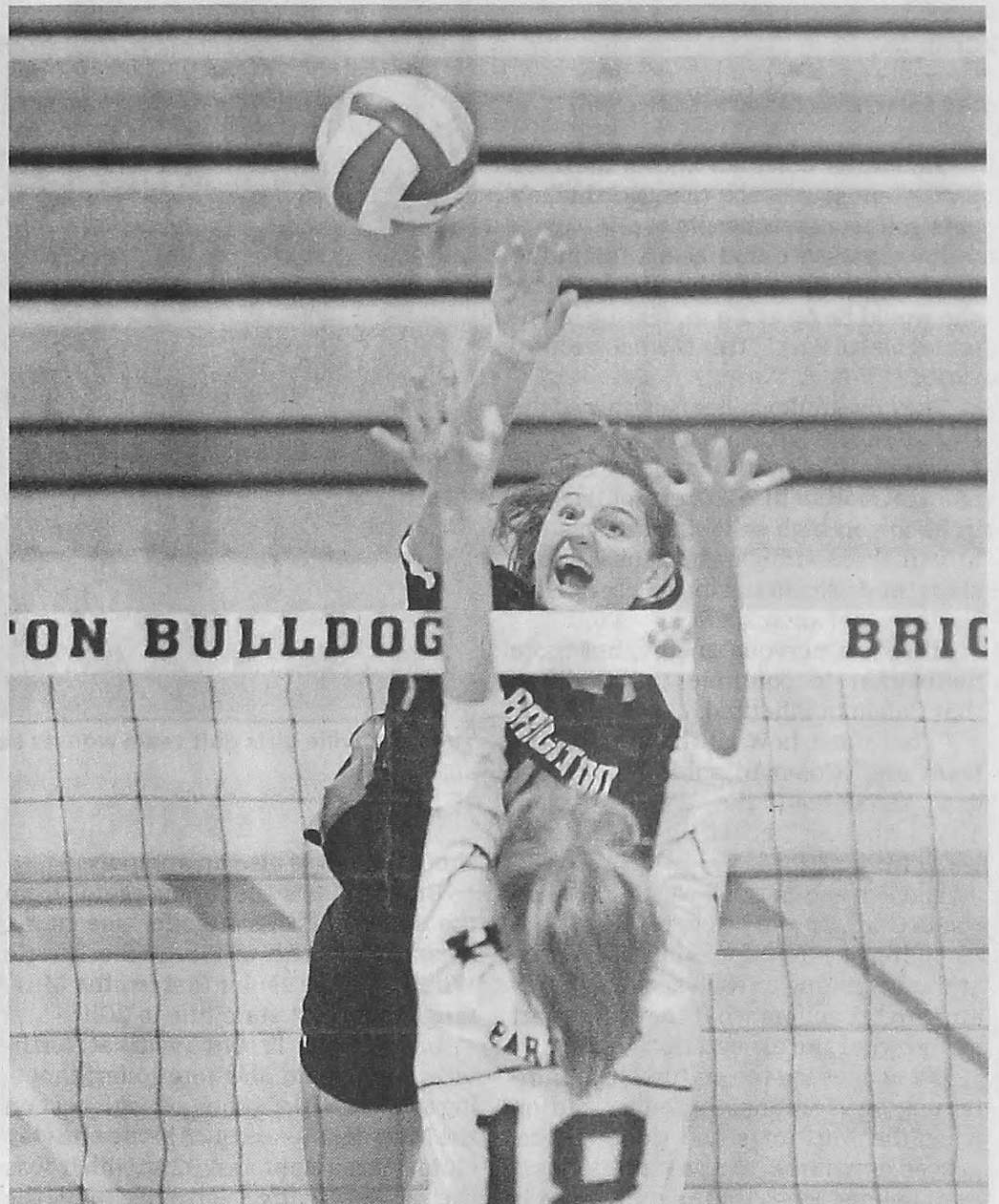
Erskine leads Brighton (7-3-1) with 93 kills, nearly double anyone else's total on the team. She averages 3.2 kills per set, with team-high percentages of .509 for kills and .333 for hitting.

She had nine kills against Hartland. Sophomore Abby Mainka had six kills, while sophomore Lea Gage had five aces and 18 assists.

Brighton got out to a 7-1 lead in the first game and gradually pulled away.

Hartland led 8-4 in the second game before Brighton went on a 10-2 run. Leading 16-14, the Bulldogs closed the game with a 9-3 run.

The third game was tied 13-13 before



Brighton's Ana Erskine had eight kills in a 3-0 victory over Hartland Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Brighton took control with six straight points.

"We had to shift our mentality," Hartland coach Nicole Sidge said. "I felt like we were not quite ready to start, unfortunately. It was just, 'Bring it back together. You guys know how to play a game' ... making sure you're moving defensively, making more communication, more effort, that kind of stuff. It was more, 'Let's get focused and do this.'"

Brighton has beaten Hartland 11 straight times since losing 3-2 to the Eagles in the 2015 district semifinals.

Howell 3, Canton 2

Howell improved to 3-1 in the league and 5-5-1 overall with a 25-18, 21-25, 17-25, 25-18, 15-12 victory.

Ruby Earl had 14 kills and 13 digs; Addy Davis had 12 kills, 14 digs and four aces; Kaylea Jones had eight kills; Chloe Kiser had 28 assists; Alison Eskola had 22 assists; and Macy Frantti had three blocks for Howell.

Charyl Stockwell 3, Rochester Hills Lutheran NW 0

The Sentinels won 25-11, 25-22, 25-15, holding off a comeback bid in the second game.

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com.

WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WILLIAM D. FORD CAREER-TECHNICAL CENTER

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WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WILLIAM D. FORD CAREER-TECHNICAL CENTER

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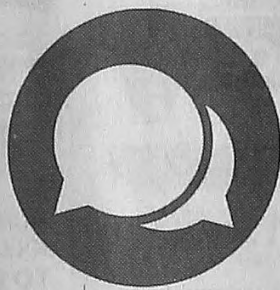
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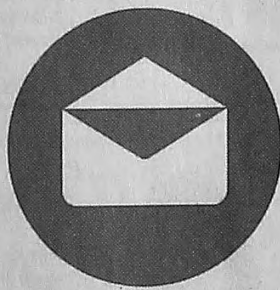
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The 3 Steps to Networking Online

How you can use social media networks to help your career

By ZipRecruiter.com

Here's a little secret about the job search: employers don't always hire the person with the best resume and qualifications. Sometimes job seekers are hired because they know someone within the organization. That may not seem fair, but there is something you can do about it—networking.

Professional networking has always been integral to career advancement. Social networks are another way to make those connections. It is important to remember that networking is about more than just finding a job. The goal should be to find like-minded people who share your interests and passions, with whom you can build a mutually beneficial relationship. If you do that, when an opportunity for a job comes along, you'll be the first person they think of.

Professional networking through social media may seem intimidating, especially if you don't think you know the right people, but the truth is that you already have everything you need to get started.

Step 1: Reach Out to Everyone You Know. And Don't Know.

The most important thing you can do to effectively network on social media is to connect with people you don't know well to expand your contacts.

Chances are that you are unlikely to find job opportunities through a close friend or family member because they know a lot of the same people that you do. It's important to connect with them, but you are a lot more likely to get re-

ferred to a job by someone you don't know as well. That is because acquaintances probably have a network of people you don't know, and the ability to make introductions. In fact, finding a job through weak ties can lead to higher pay and satisfaction.

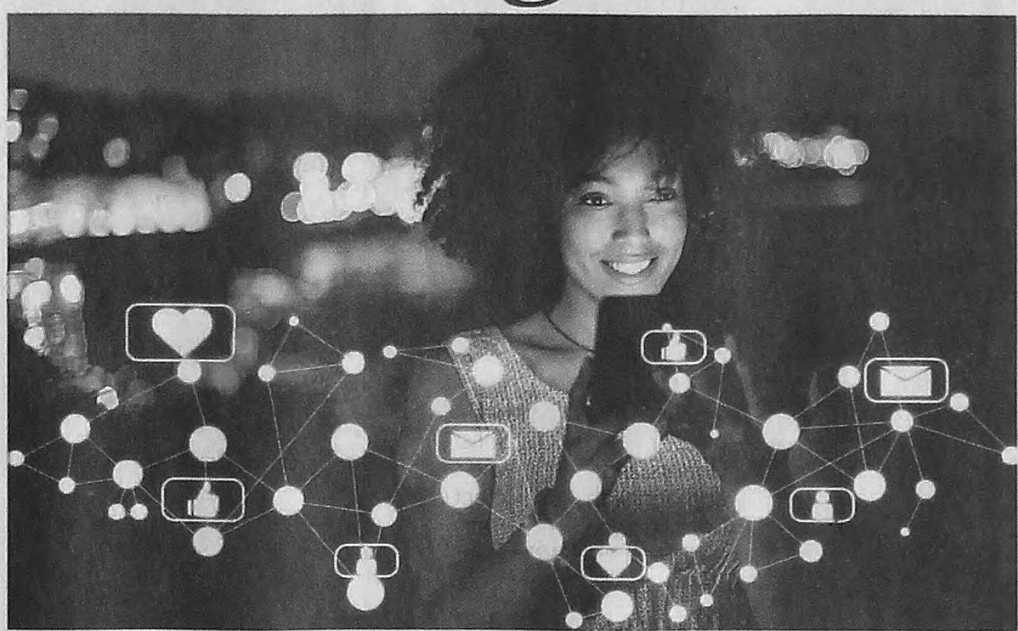
Use multiple social networks to reach out to anyone you have the slightest connection to. Start with extended family, alumni from schools you've attended, employees of companies you have worked for (even if you've never met), thought leaders in your industry, and members of clubs, organizations, or social media groups you are in. It might feel awkward, but it doesn't hurt to ask. The worst that can happen is that your requests aren't accepted—the same place you are now.

Step 2: Get Involved

To build professional relationships on social networks, engage with the content that your new connections share.

As you add more connections, your social media newsfeeds will be populated with content from a more varied group of people. Take in these new perspectives and get to know the type of content they are putting out there. Then, start engaging.

Like, share, and comment on the posts you see. Doing so signals to the poster that you're a fan of their content, and could even create a positive physical reaction in their brain. When someone receives an interaction on something they share, their brain produces dopamine, a chemical response associated with pleasure. Increasing the number of likes a



VLADIMIR VLADIMIROV/GETTY IMAGES

contact has not only makes them look good to their followers, it makes them feel good, too. And you'll be the source of that feeling.

Step 3: Share Your Passions

Build professional relationships on social networks by standing out with content that highlights the topics you are passionate about.

Social media is a two-way street. If you see someone's posts, they can likely see yours. This is your chance to let them know about your passions, interests, and who you are as a person. Everybody has multiple interests, hobbies, and perspectives. Being authentic will help you stand out in a crowded newsfeed and attract other people who are interested in the same topics that you are. (Just be sure the content you share is appropriate. Skip topics that you wouldn't discuss in an actual workplace.)

Carefully curated content that makes it look like your life is perfect may look pretty, but it makes for a boring story. Being real about your goals and passions will grow interest as you take your network on a journey with you. Whether you are working on restoring an old car, learning a new language, or on a mission to get healthy, sharing your story will engage followers and turn them into fans who are invested in seeing you achieve your goals. The network of "strangers" you originally connected with, won't feel that way once they see your full personality and share in your progress.

Once you've built out your network on social media, pay attention to the connections who like and comment on the items you post. They likely share your same passions or are just interested in you as a person. Reach out to those people, taking the relationship off a social network and into the real world.

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 find a new friend...
Lost

To the person who adopted Tasha, 1 yr old purebred black/tan German Shepherd, from the humane society in Ann Arbor at the end of December 2020:
 I would like to offer you \$12,000.00 for returning Tasha to us. I will also cover her unilateral hernia repair if you had the surgery performed. I was planning when Tasha was 1 1/2 yrs. to have her spayed as well as her hernia repair and gastroplexy (breed prone to bloot). Also to follow up on her spleen and blood work. Her two aunts had splenomegaly (had the spleen removed with treatment) and HYPERTHYROIDISM with treatment. I was misdiagnosed for asthma leaving another condition untreated. (I have since recovered). This led me to believe along with the doctor had allergies to Tasha and Eve. The Allergist/Immunologist who also misdiagnosed me said the dogs were making my asthma worse. This is why I brought Tasha and Eve to the Humane Society. So excruciating painful! I later tested negative for asthma and properly treated. No words to describe how I feel giving up Tasha. I never would have given Tasha and Maize up if I had providers who diagnosed me correctly. Maize had her gastroplexy, blood work and spleen exam on 8/9/2021. We have always taken excellent care of our animals and with vet care.
 I hope you will consider my offer for Tasha's return. We love Tasha and are heartbroken.
 Thank you! Respond to: findshepherds@gmail.com

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Super Crossword

ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS

ACROSS

- 1 Father
- 6 Gather
- 11 No. on a car lot sticker
- 15 Quaint letter salutation
- 19 Pool table fabrics
- 20 Large town, in Italian
- 21 Burn slightly
- 22 Purple fruit from a palm
- 23 Candid bow wielder? [Anne]
- 25 Green
- 26 Lisa formerly of "The View"
- 27 Bread eaten at Passover
- 28 Gallic senior citizens? [Victor]
- 31 Subside
- 33 Earnest and solemn
- 35 D.C. VIPs
- 36 Four doubled
- 37 Ebony-colored card given on February 14? [Karen]
- 41 Stable scrap
- 42 Writer Ayn
- 43 Houston site
- 44 Little bit
- 46 A Great Lake
- 50 Cry of worry

DOWN

- 53 Precious gem that formed just recently? [Neil]
- 57 Port in Italy
- 61 Boot leathers
- 62 Chi preceder
- 63 Hueless Focus or Fiesta? [Betty]
- 67 Self-help writer LeShan
- 68 Butts in
- 70 Long-eared hopper
- 71 Undersized carriage with a fold-down top? [Martin]
- 76 Prefix with plane
- 77 University of Maine's town
- 79 Reply to "Are you?"
- 80 Annoyed small songbird? [Christopher]
- 82 PD alert
- 83 Mutiny
- 87 Pioneer in graph theory
- 88 Sweetheart prone to sulking? [Ron]
- 92 Sailor who flew on a roc
- 97 Absorbed by
- 98 Follower of "Co.," often

DOWN

- 1 Very close bud
- 2 Eternally, in poetry
- 3 "Glitter rock" group
- 4 Sicilian spewer
- 5 "For shame!"
- 6 Circus tumbler
- 7 "Glee" actress Lea —
- 8 Pt. of NCAA
- 9 Pear waste
- 10 Actress Gilbert
- 11 Poet Rod
- 12 Razor feature
- 13 Hotel listing
- 14 U. lecturer
- 15 Slashed-price product
- 16 Pastry bag fill
- 17 Cowboy's workplace
- 18 Vision
- 24 127-Down between Russia and Ukraine
- 29 Prefix with plane
- 30 Stephen of the screen
- 31 Spanish river
- 32 Boring
- 34 T. —
- 38 B-F linkup
- 39 "No" vote

DOWN

- 40 General on Chinese menu
- 41 Stage prize
- 45 Total up
- 47 More stringy
- 48 Possible follower of "Psst!"
- 49 Menlo Park "wizard"
- 51 Grow mellow
- 52 Ring arbiters
- 54 Meat stamp inits.
- 55 Subtlety
- 56 Horned viper
- 58 Osaka drama
- 59 "— y plata"
- 60 "This is not —!" ("Red alert!")
- 63 Self-reflective question
- 64 Talk about ad nauseam
- 65 1950 Asimov classic
- 66 Five doubled
- 67 Elegant tree
- 69 With 109-Down, unprocessed facts
- 72 "Mon Oncle" star Jacques
- 73 Actress Joanne
- 74 MSN rival
- 75 Employs
- 78 Suffix with audit or arm

DOWN

- 81 — Lanka
- 84 Revise copy
- 85 Ryder vehicle
- 86 A maestro conducts it
- 89 In Maine
- 90 Doze off
- 91 Dude
- 93 — de plume
- 94 Removes via very hot water, as impurities
- 95 "No" voter
- 96 Writer Roald
- 100 Oxfam or Amnesty Intl.
- 101 Huge statues
- 102 Voted in
- 105 Twisty fish
- 107 Gung-ho
- 108 Writer Santha Rama —
- 109 See 69-Down
- 110 Fishhook lines
- 111 Hefty slices
- 112 Deep pink
- 113 Madonna musical
- 114 Groove for a letter-shaped bolt
- 118 Ingests
- 119 Old Chrysler
- 120 Bombek of humor
- 122 Sextet halved
- 126 "I reckon so"
- 127 Body of water
- 128 Drop the ball

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19					20					21				22				
23				24						25				26				
		27						28		29				30				
31	32		33				34			35				36				
37		38						39	40				41					
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				57	58	59	60			61							62	
63	64	65	66						67					68	69			
70					71				72			73	74	75		76		
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133					134					135							136	

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

SUDOKU

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

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!

ICE WITH THAT?

Can you find all the words containing ICE? 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.

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

ANSWER KEY

- ADVICE
- APPRENTICE
- ARMISTICE
- AUSPICE
- BICENTENARY
- BICEPS
- BODICE
- CAPRICE
- CHOICES
- CREVICES
- DEVICE
- DICED
- ENTICEMENT
- EPICENTER
- ICEBERG
- ICEFALL
- INJUSTICE
- INVOICES
- JUICE
- LATTICEWORK
- LICENSE
- LIQUORICE
- MAGNIFICENT
- MALICE
- NICELY
- NOTICE
- OFFICERS
- PLAICE
- POLICEMAN
- PUMICE
- SERVICED
- SLICE
- SLUICWAY
- SPICE
- TRICEPS
- TWICE
- UNPRICED
- VERMICELLI
- VOICES
- WOODLICE

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

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

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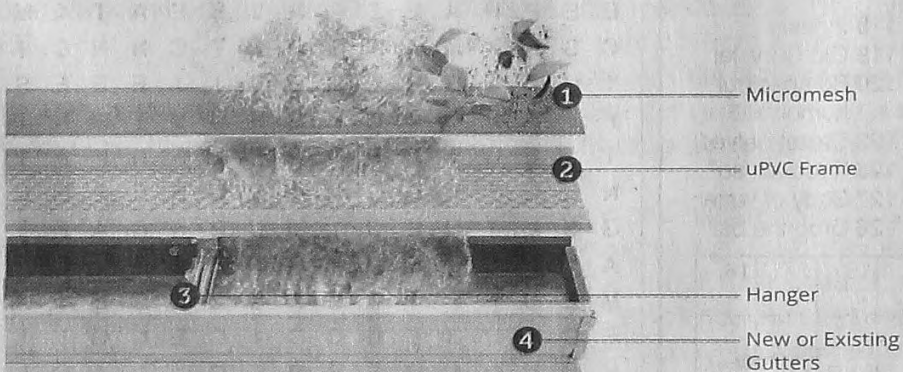
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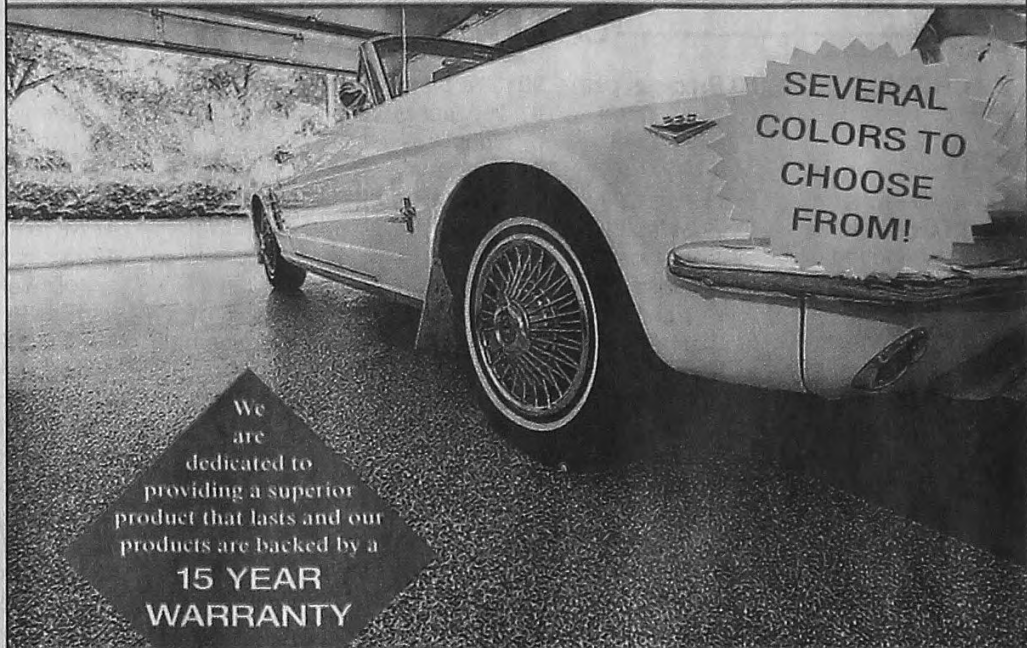
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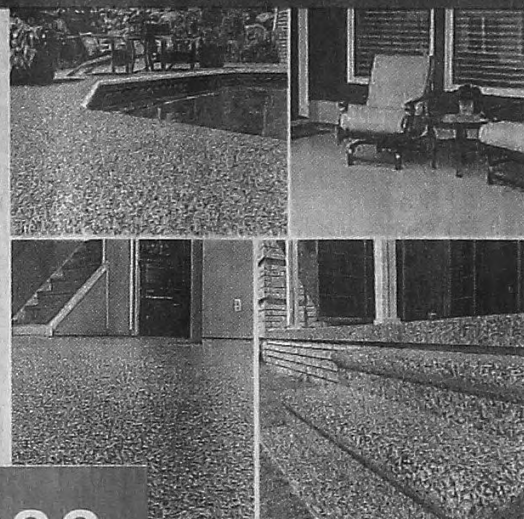
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