



Melissa Mosquera discusses her brain tumor-related health scare with East Middle School students during her first day back to work in nearly two months. COURTESY OF PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Educator turns serious health scare into lesson

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the hours leading up to her Oct. 4 brain surgery, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools teacher Melissa Mosquera shared a heart-to-heart conversation with her daughters Lila and Mia, reinforcing the feelings of love and pride she had for them.

"I wanted them to know I was at peace, no matter what," Mosquera said.

Mosquera, an educator at East Middle School, was so uncertain of the operation's outcome she told her best friend where she could find the dress she wished to be buried in should the procedure have an unhappy ending.

"I read over and signed many, many waivers, all of which were pretty scary," Mosquera reflected. "They make it very clear that brain surgery is the unknown. There are no guarantees. My doctor even told me that, ideally, he wanted to ensure me that when it was over, I'd at least be at 70% of who I was before the surgery."



Mosquera with her husband, Jason, and daughters, Mia and Lila, just hours before she had a seizure caused by a brain tumor. COURTESY OF MOSQUERA FAMILY

See EDUCATOR, Page 2A

Vintage furniture showroom relocates

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sometimes Andy Schulist feels a little bit like a time traveler.

The Farmington Hills resident loves to surround himself with pieces from the past, ranging from couches to stereos to wall décor celebrating former local businesses like Farmer Jack.

For years, Schulist shared his love of vintage goods at his business Mad4Mod, first located in Farmington before moving to Farmington Hills. Now, the showroom has a new home: Stark Road in Livonia.

"My mom always said she thought I was born in the wrong time," he said. "I didn't grow up with any of this stuff, and some people, I think, are surprised when they come in and find out it's my store. They just think I'm an employee."

The business moved its operations this fall to a space in the industrial area between the CSX Railroad tracks and Plymouth Road.

It's a showroom dedicated to selling furniture and trinkets you'd expect to see on an episode of "The Brady Bunch," from couches to dining room sets to lamps to even old record players. Mad4Mod is a space designed to showcase the best from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

Schulist said his interest in such classic looks began when he was younger. He said he remembers spending time at his grandmother's house and seeing the room he "wasn't supposed to be in" filled with nice furniture.

"She had a lot of this furniture back in the '50s. She had a very modern home in Huntington Woods," he said. "In later years, I learned the different names and different things and I really got into it."

His love for the look was cemented after visiting an exhibit on designer Florence Knoll at Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills years ago. From there, he began looking for pieces and collecting them.

It was then he began selling them to the public hungry for the feel of yesteryear. Schulist said business goes well and doesn't just attract those who grew up with such furnishings; he said there's a demand for such furniture

See SHOWROOM, Page 2A

Text promising money from Mega Millions winners a scam

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Diane Jenkins was suspicious when she received a text message saying the winners of the \$1 billion Mega Millions ticket bought in Novi wanted to share the wealth with her.

But when she received a second text last month from a "George Reed" who

said he was in charge of payments and identity verification for the 500 people who had been randomly selected to receive \$4,500 each, she started to wonder if it could be true.

"He said all you have to do is send your driver's license," Jenkins, a Florida resident, recalled. "I got a message before and disregarded it, but then I thought, 'What if this is real?'"

It's not, and the Federal Trade Commission advises consumers that one of the main signs of a scam is a request for financial information in order to receive the prize.

Anthony Davis in Beaufort, North Carolina, recognized this when he was also contacted by a likely scam artist who promised \$20,000 from the lottery winners in exchange for his Social

Security number.

"I know that is not how the Social Security department works," Beaufort said simply. "Maybe there are people falling for this."

Kurt Panouses, the Florida tax attorney who accepted the billion-dollar prize on behalf of the Mega Millions

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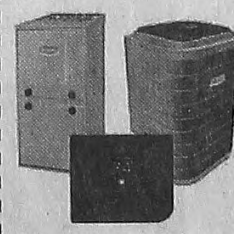


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Educator

Continued from Page 1A

"I was being positive for my family, but I did not expect to survive the surgery. I'm not sure why. But I thought it sort of makes sense: My kids are at a good point in life (Mia is 12, Lila 10). I told them, 'I want you to know I'm happy with the life I've lived, I'm happy about the young ladies you've become; your dad and I raised you right. I might not survive and that's OK. You have to keep on moving.'"

Mosquera not only survived the delicate four-hour procedure during which doctors removed a golf ball-sized tumor from the front of her brain, she returned to teaching Nov. 29 (four days after Thanksgiving) — armed with a powerful life lesson to share with her sixth- and seventh-grade students.

"When I opened my eyes for the first time after the surgery, I felt like it was the first day of my second life," Mosquera said. "The one thing that I take away from it is each day is a gift. I really ap-

preciate the strangest little things in my life that I may have taken for granted before, and that's the message I shared with my students.

"A few of my friends suggested my story resonates with so many people because what happened to me could have happened to anybody."

If on Oct. 2, there had been a list of people least likely to be carrying around a large, ominous mass in their head, Mosquera's name would have been at the top. The picture of health — "I've never used a sick day, never had stitches," Mosquera revealed — the 42-year-old attended a wedding and reception that night, returned home and fell fast asleep.

At approximately 4 a.m. Oct. 3, Mosquera's husband Jay was jolted out of a deep sleep by the sounds of his wife suffering a violent seizure on the floor, a few feet from her side of the bed.

Not long after Mosquera was transported by paramedics to a St. Joseph's Hospital emergency room in Ypsilanti, extensive tests revealed the mass near the front of her brain.

"What amazes doctors is that I had

zero symptoms — no headaches, loss of hearing or vision issues," Mosquera said. "My doctor told me recently that his staff is still talking about my case because this isn't usually how it goes ... a tumor that size with no symptoms."

Tests determined the mass removed from Mosquera's skull was benign — a revelation that has placed her on a relatively smooth road to a full recovery. The biggest hurdle she'll face is being prohibited from driving for six months.

"I am so appreciative of my doctor, Dr. Jay Thawani, and his staff," Mosquera said. "They are amazing. Before my surgery he told me he'd like to ensure me I'd be 70% of myself post-surgery, but I honestly feel like 100 (percent)."

Mosquera's harrowing experience was brightened by an against-the-odds case of coincidence: Dr. Preethi Kesavan, a former East Middle School student, was a member of the surgical team that removed the tumor.

"Preethi was in the talented and gifted program at East, so I'm not surprised she's on her way to becoming a brain surgeon now," Mosquera said. "She's a very talented young lady. This is really

an amazing example of coming full circle — a former student operating on my brain."

Mosquera said her successful emergence from the daunting health scare has shone a light on the vast village of friends and family who stepped up when she was down.

"I have been overwhelmed by the love and gracious acts of kindness people have shown me," said Mosquera. "My oldest daughter Mia is in seventh grade at East, so we drove to school together every day. When this happened, my work friends created a Google doc that arranged rides for Mia to get to school."

"There was a Sign-Up Genius created for meals: Just about every day for two months there would be a casserole on our doorstep and on Sundays they'd fill up our fridge with groceries. Just about every day somebody was sending me floral arrangements, my students made me cards and gifts. It's been so amazing."

Mosquera's return to teaching started with half days of instruction, and she dives back into a full-time routine the first full week of December.

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Showroom

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from a younger crowd looking for quality-made pieces at a time where it can take months to acquire a new piece of furniture from stores.

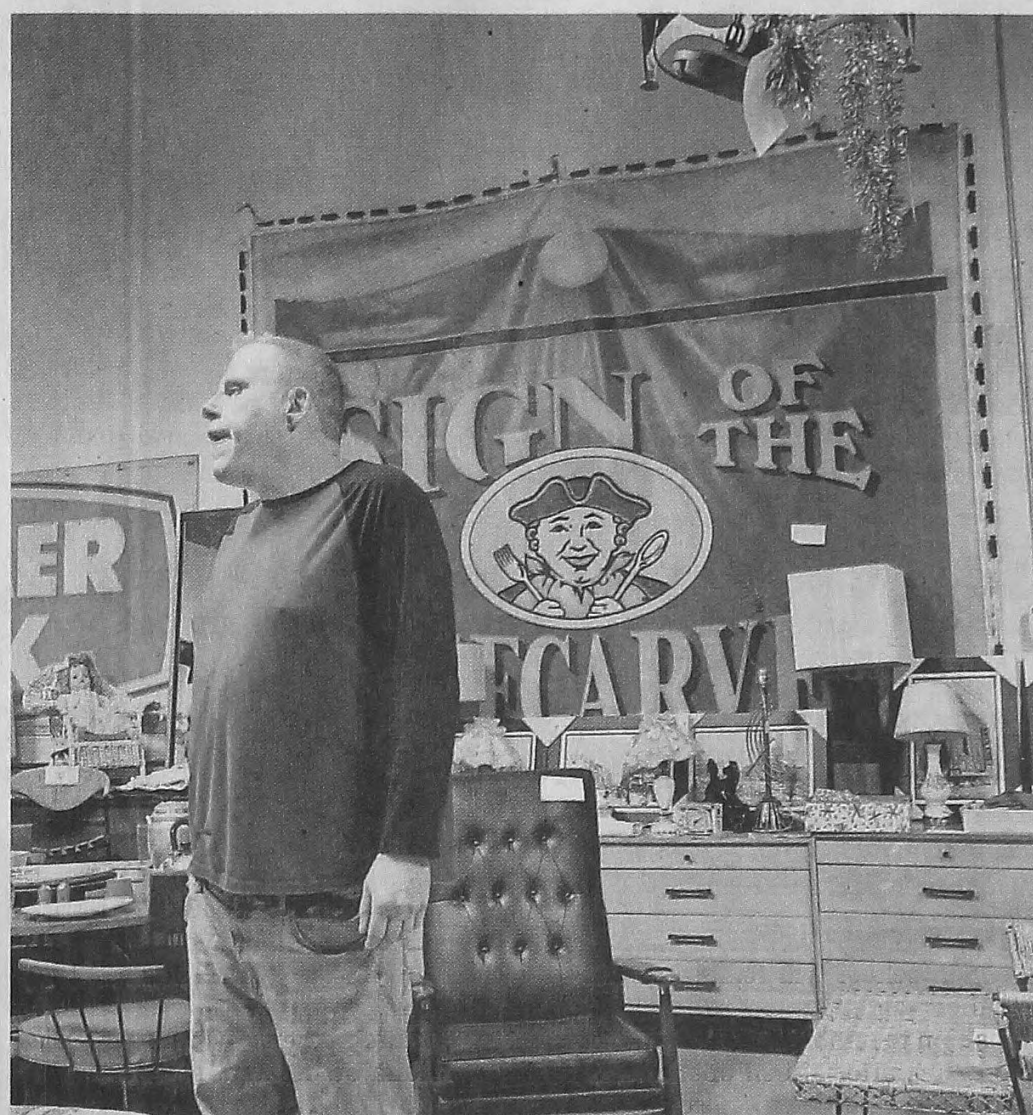
"They realize that the quality of new stuff is so poor," he said. "The younger people are smarter, they're realizing that the quality is there and the resale is there."

"If they buy something, it's a good investment and it's something they can pass down to their kids or grandkids down the road."

Mad4Mod is located at 12335 Stark. More information, including how to visit the showroom, can be found at mad4mod.space.

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

Andy Schulist surveys his Mad4Mod warehouse of vintage furniture and items. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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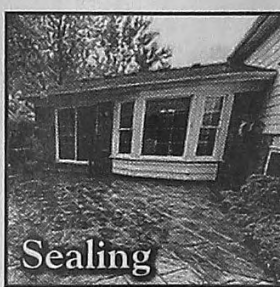


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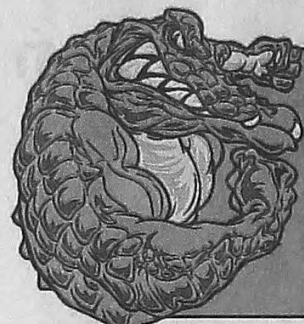
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Scam

Continued from Page 1A

winners back in March, confirmed his clients aren't offering random strangers a slice of their pie.

These fraudulent text messages, emails and phone calls from scammers are an ongoing issue, he said, and he receives five to 10 phone calls per week from people trying to verify the validity, like an elderly woman who said she gave the scammers her information.

Panouses felt bad, but the woman assured him she hadn't lost more than \$100.

The Wolverine FLL Club, four friends from southeast Michigan who burned breakfast when they realized they won, have not spent much of their flush bank accounts, their lawyer said.

"This money hasn't changed any of them," Panouses said. "They are doing great, everyone's happy. It really didn't change any of their lives; they aren't buying boats and houses. They are thinking things through. No one is flying private planes, even though they could."

He said travel is on the itinerary though, with the winners planning on a

warmer climate as it gets colder.

Panouses is also helping the club with its year-end taxes and putting together large charitable gifts which they can do anonymously.

Panouses reemphasizes that lottery winners will not reach out to individuals to give money, as they typically max out at the current \$11.7 million federal gift tax exemption limit.

"You typically give to your children, cousins, best friends ... you give \$1 million or \$2 million each and go through that quick," Panouses said. "After you give away \$11.7 million in gifts, the IRS says, 'Wait a minute.'"

The lottery group is still in the process of determining where they want to make donations, which could include scholarships to Michigan colleges and universities.

"Lottery winners, the ones I have had, have done a good job of giving away a lot of money to organizations that do great work," Panouses said. "They don't hoard, they just make sure they use it for good purposes."

Not, however, to make individual donations to random strangers.

"Those things don't happen," Panouses said. "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

PUBLIC NOTICE PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD

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December 21, 2021
7:30 P.M.

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The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its Regular Meeting on December 21, 2021. The meeting will be offered electronically for guests.

Please see agenda on website www.plymouthlibrary.org. The agenda will be posted by December 18, 2021. The District Library Board will provide auxiliary aids and services of materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI at 734 453-0750 x 217.

4 dead, 7 injured in Oxford High School shooting; suspect in custody

Frank Witsil Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The morning after Michigan's worst school shooting in recent memory, the community awoke after experiencing what the governor had called "every parent's worst nightmare."

At Oxford High, where authorities said 1,800 students otherwise would have been getting ready for lessons Wednesday morning, instead were at home as investigators pieced together the deadly shooting that killed four and injured seven more.

The Oakland County Prosecutor said Wednesday that she has charged the suspect with first-degree murder, terrorism and related gun crimes.

Prosecutor Karen McDonald named the suspect as Ethan Crumbley, age 15, and said the charges against him include terrorism, four counts of first-degree murder and related charges to the use of a firearm at the school shooting. She added that she is seeking to charge Crumbley as an adult.

The sounds of youth — the chattering in the halls, the opening and closing of lockers, and the rushing to class — were absent, replaced by an eerie quiet and the voices of local and national media doing stand-up reports.

In downtown Oxford, 34-year-old Dani Wagner said she never imagined this could happen.

An employee at Mark Young Jewelers; she attended Oxford High and now has a child of her own.

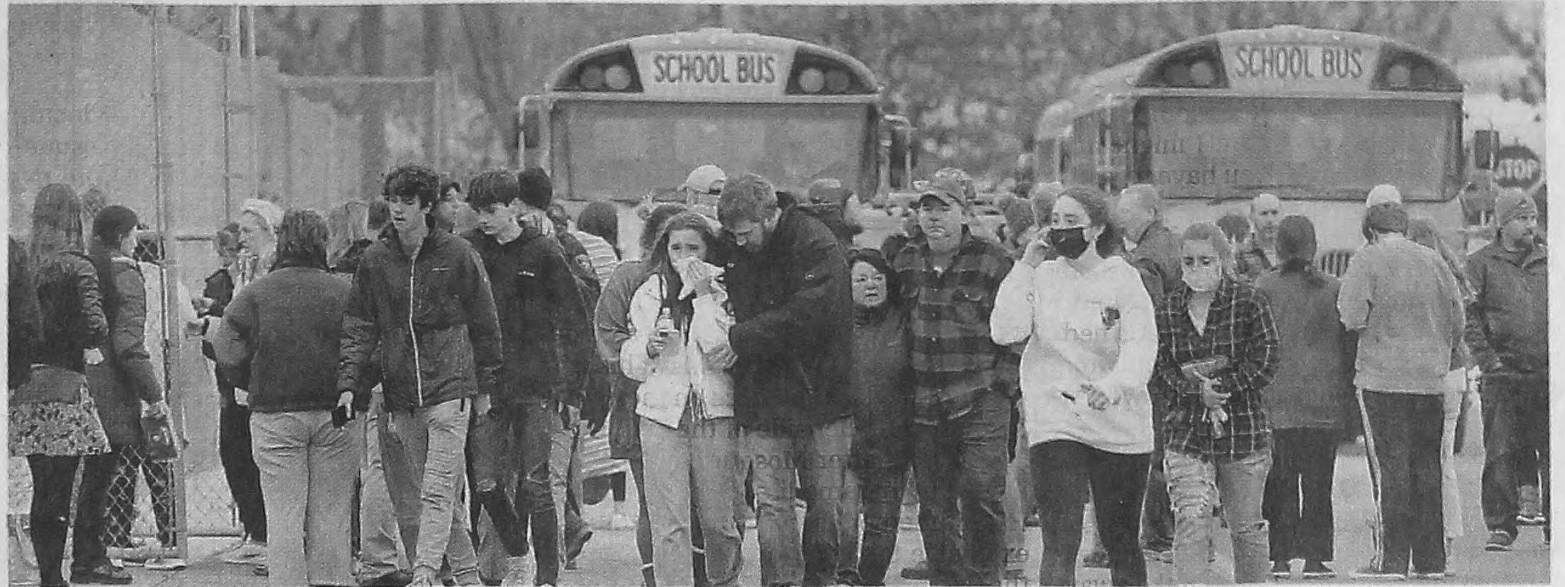
"They had their babies taken away from them, and it's almost Christmas. I just can't imagine having them ripped away from you like that," she said through tears, adding that "maybe it'll get people to open their eyes a little bit to everything going on and be closer as a community."

Several cars, abandoned Tuesday at the school as students fled, remained in the parking lot. A teen — likely a student — picked up her Jeep. She appeared, an onlooker said, as if she were still in shock.

It was unclear Wednesday how long the high school will remain closed or whether administrators will decide to transition to remote learning.

In 2019, after a teen opened fire on students and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killing 17 people, and injuring more, many teachers and students struggled with survivor's guilt and post-traumatic stress.

In that case, the shooter pleaded guilty and is expected to be sentenced next month.



Parents walk their kids away from a parking lot where many students gathered after a shooting Nov. 30 at Oxford High School in Oxford that left four people dead. Police have taken a suspect into custody. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

'This touches us all'

On social media, some people changed their profile photo to the Oxford High Wildcats mascot over a black ribbon and the words: "Prayers for Oxford" as a show of support for the survivors.

Twitter messages popped up using the hashtag #OxfordStrong.

There's also an online petition to rename the school's stadium after 16-year-old football player and honor student Tate Myre, one of the three students who was shot to death. It had nearly 50,000 signatures.

And GoFundMe, a for-profit crowdfunding platform, said it is monitoring the platform for fundraisers.

The slain victims had been publicly identified just hours earlier by Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard at a 10 p.m. news conference.

"This touches us all personally, and deeply, and will for a long time," Bouchard said. "But we also want the community to know that we're here for them and we will leave no stone unturned."

Bouchard described how the deputy who arrived scooped up Myre and rushed him to the hospital in his car because it would be quicker.

The teen died on the way. The three other students who died were Hana St. Juliana, 14, Justin Shilling, 17, and Madisyn Baldwin, 17. Other victims, who were injured, ranged in age from 14 to 47, and included a teacher, who was discharged from the hospital.

The suspect had at least two magazines, firing at least 12 rounds based on the spent casings they found, Bouchard said. There were seven more rounds in the gun. Police also found a backpack, the sheriff said, the teen had likely used to bring the pistol.

Two magazines have been found, law enforcement officers were searching for a third.

Gun violence epidemic

The sheriff offered new, heartbreaking details of how the shooting unfolded and tried to answer reporters' questions like, what was the motive? And many times he had to acknowledge that investigators still just didn't know.

The sheriff also asked the public to share any information with police by calling the hotline, 248-858-4911, and emailing the sheriff's office at OC-SO@oakgov.com. They could do so, he said, anonymously if they wanted.

Ten shootings have taken place on Michigan K-12 school property causing injury or death since 2014, according to Gun Violence Archive data. Across the United States there have been at least 28 school shootings in 2021, according to Education Week.

Officials at the news conference made a point to urge everyone who needs help to seek it.

Just before the news conference, hundreds of people — in shock and in tears — attended three different memorial services. They lit candles. They sought comfort. They said they didn't think something like this could happen in their community.

Yet, this year alone, school shootings have occurred in 19 states.

The sheriff detailed how his deputies and hundreds of other law enforcement officers from multiple agencies swarmed the school and rushed in. Every second, he said, counts, and law enforcement's quick actions likely saved lives.

Within minutes, he said, deputies arrested a 15-year-old sophomore who

turned himself in and they took possession of a 9mm Sig Sauer SP 2022 pistol his father purchased just four days earlier.

One photo taken from the school showed a classroom door, barricaded with several student desk chairs, and what a student said was a bullet hole in the wall.

A search for answers

School surveillance video, the sheriff said, shows the suspect early Tuesday afternoon emerging from a bathroom with the pistol.

Detectives are trying to determine where exactly he went next.

They are piecing together the suspect's path using school video, interviews with students and other witnesses, and other evidence, like shell casings, that has been gathered from the school.

"The person who's got the most insight into the motive," the sheriff said, referring to the suspect, "is not talking. So if we find anything in any of the the evidence we've seized, or phone, or any evidence from the home, that will be something we're looking for."

Bouchard said the teen was "coming down the hall" when he was arrested. The sheriff added active shooter training "interrupted what potentially could have been seven more victims."

Some students who were interviewed by reporters said they believe the suspect was bullied and was not well-known at the school.

The suspect apparently posted photos of what appears to be the gun he used, Bouchard confirmed. But the sheriff said his office was not aware of credible threats of violence in advance of the shooting.

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Highland Twp. woman, pets saved in house fire

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Highland Township woman, three other people and their animal friends were spared "certain death" from a flame-engulfed home the eve of Thanksgiving.

Deputies from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office said they were dispatched to a burning \$350,000 home in the 6500 block of Milford Road, between White Lake and Chana roads, shortly before midnight on Nov. 24.

They learned a 41-year-old resident was in the basement, reluctant to leave because she was concerned about \$10,000 worth of birds, ferrets and other pets.

Deputies broke out a small basement access window, grabbed her wrists and pulled her to safety. The woman is a Huron Valley School District bus driver.

"The quick actions of these deputies saved this woman's life," Sheriff Michael Bouchard said. "The fire was spreading rapidly throughout the garage and the living area of this home.

"We were able to save a few of the animals but more importantly, this woman is alive today. A Thanksgiving Day tragedy was avoided."

The four residents were taken to a nearby hospital to be treated for their smoke inhalation.



Flames engulfed a Highland Township home in the 6500 block of Milford Road on Nov. 24 shortly before midnight.

COURTESY OF OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Highland Township firefighters extinguished the fire, but first responders deemed the fire-ravaged home a total loss.

Deputies said the fire likely started when a family dog knocked over a heat-

er in the garage and ignited a bed of straw. Flames moved to the garage and living area, blocking access to the basement.

A pig and three dogs also were saved. The Huron Valley school community

has been making others aware of the GoFundMe account created to help the family.

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

Farmington Hills-based bank to be bought for \$323.5M

JC Reindl DetroitFreePress.com
USA TODAY NETWORK

Farmington Hills-based Level One Bancorp is being acquired by a larger Indiana bank and its brand name will be retired.

First Merchants Corp. of Muncie, Indiana, announced Thursday that it plans to buy Level One in a stock-and-cash deal valued at \$323.5 million that is expected to close in the first half of 2022.

Level One has \$2.5 billion in assets, 16 branches and a mortgage center in southeast Michigan and reported 282 full-time employees at the start of the year.

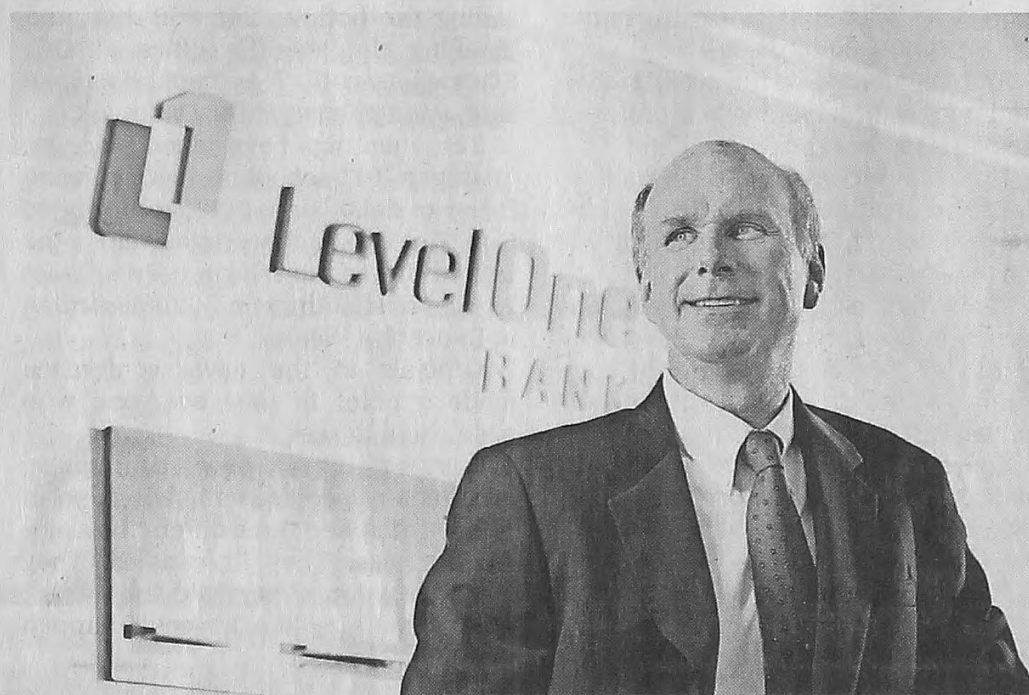
It was co-founded in 2007 by its CEO, Patrick Fehring, a former regional president for Fifth Third Bank, who says he will likely retire next year once the deal is finalized.

Level One would merge with and into First Merchants under the proposal, which is still subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals.

Once the sale is finalized, the newly enlarged First Merchants would have about \$17.6 billion in assets and 122 banking offices across Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois.

It would be the No. 9 bank in the Detroit, Ann Arbor and Monroe markets with a 1.57% market share, according to First Merchants.

"We believe our partnership with First Merchants will provide tremendous benefits to our customers, shareholders and communities," Fehring said in a news release. "We look forward to continuing the legacy of exceptional customer service, local responsiveness



Level One was co-founded in 2007 by CEO Patrick Fehring. COURTESY LEVEL ONE BANK

and strong community engagement that has defined Level One Bank."

In a subsequent phone interview, Fehring said there are no plans to close any existing Level One branches — "the offices are pretty spread out geographically" — although some "job dislocation" is likely after any bank merger.

"Work-from-home and remote work has really advanced post-pandemic, so there will be opportunities for our team members that maybe didn't exist two years ago in a bank deal," Fehring said.

Fehring said he doesn't anticipate the deal encountering any regulatory obstacles that might result from President Joe Biden's executive order this summer that called for greater scrutiny of pro-

posed mergers across all sectors of the economy.

"The heightened scrutiny appears to be focused on transactions that have more of a negative impact on a local market, like banks getting together where there could be some overlap," he said. "There is no real overlap in this case. And (the scrutiny) is really focused on transactions creating super large banks. We are still a pretty modest-sized institution ... and I don't expect any significant challenges."

The Level One-First Merchants deal is the culmination of a decision by Level One's board of directors to seek possible suitors.

"As boards do, they drive the course

of an organization, and a decision was made to talk to a couple of suitors," Fehring said. "It wasn't a broad net, and it was fairly short courtship."

The last big acquisition by First Merchants was its 2019 deal for Monroe Bank & Trust, which was headquartered in Monroe.

As for Level One, it last acquired Ann Arbor State Bank in early 2020. Before that, it acquired Bank of Michigan in 2016, Lotus Bank in 2015, Paramount Bank in 2010 and Michigan Heritage Bank in 2009.

The banking industry nationwide and in Michigan has experienced significant consolidation.

Local examples include the recently completed merger of Detroit-based TCF bank into Columbus-based Huntington bank and the still-pending acquisition of Troy-based Flagstar Bank by New York Community Bancorp.

The New York bank disclosed in its latest earnings report that regulatory approval for the Flagstar deal is taking longer than anticipated and likely won't happen until 2022.

The total number of FDIC-insured commercial banks nationwide dropped to just over 4,500 in 2019 from about 12,350 in 1990, as the deposit market share of the 30 largest banks grew from 28% of deposits to nearly 70%, according to a report on bank consolidation by FJ Capital Management.

The Level One-First Merchants deal would give Level One shareholders a 0.7167 share of First Merchants common stock, in a tax-free exchange, and \$10.17 in cash for each share of Level One stock, for a current mix of about 75% stock and 25% cash.

Timeshares may sound good, but they can drain finances



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Dear Rick:

I have a couple questions that I hope you can help me with. My first question deals with a timeshare. A few years ago before COVID, while on vacation in Mexico I purchased a timeshare. At the time I thought I would use it and it would be a great investment; however, it hasn't turned out that way.

Since I purchased the timeshare, I have not even used it once and don't ever plan to; however, I still have had to pay annual maintenance fees. When I purchased the timeshare, I was under the impression that you only pay maintenance fees if you used the property. I have since discovered this is not accurate.

In addition, I just received a special assessment for a few thousand dollars from the timeshare. I don't want to pay the special assessment and I don't want to pay anymore maintenance fees. I have contacted a number of companies about selling my timeshare, and the

highest offer I've received is \$1,000. I initially paid \$25,000 for the timeshare.

My question to you is what should I do? If I sell for the \$1,000 I will have a \$24,000 loss. My question is can I do anything with that for tax purposes? In other words, can I write off my loss?

Thank you, Carol

Dear Carol:

In reviewing your situation, as much as I hate to take a loss I do believe that it's probably best for you to do so. After all, the reason you purchased the timeshare was to use it, and if you're not going to use it there's no reason to continue to pay the yearly maintenance fees and the special assessment.

On the whole, I don't think of timeshares as investments; rather I think about them as quality of life. When I think about an investment, I think of something that generates current income or something that will appreciate over time.

Unfortunately, timeshares don't do that. I think timeshares are a lot like a car in the fact that we know as soon as you drive a car off the lot, it depreciates. In a timeshare, as soon as you buy it, it depreciates. In addition, one thing to note is there is a substantial secondary resale market.

In many situations, you can pick up on the secondary market a timeshare for less than half of what it originally sold for. When you buy a new timeshare, the price has been marked up.

Another reason I'm not a fan of timeshares is the fact that in many situations they are sold to people who are on vacation when their guard is down.

The timeshare industry is filled with high-pressured salespeople, and this is a turnoff to me. When it comes to the sale of timeshares, it's not unusual for salespeople to offer all sorts of incentives such as free meals, spa treatments or even free golf to get you to their sales meetings. At these sales meetings, all too often they are very high-pressured and meant to trick you into signing a timeshare contract. My belief is that if salespeople use high-pressured sales tactics, it's something I should avoid.

There are certain situations when a timeshare can make sense and that's particularly if someone is going to use the property for many years into the future. In those situations, a timeshare may make sense. However, if you're thinking of a timeshare don't buy it because you think it's a good investment, because it's not.

Unfortunately, if you sell your ti-

meshare and you have a loss, you cannot deduct the loss. The IRS treats timeshares as personal use property and as such, you cannot deduct a loss. It is similar to if you own a vacation home, and you sold your vacation home at a loss; you would not be able to deduct that.

Of course, it doesn't work the opposite way. If you actually have a profit from the sale of your timeshare, which very few people do, you have to report the profit. Many of you may be saying that's not fair. My answer — who said taxes had to be fair?

For those of you who have a timeshare and are not using the property, there are many ways to sell your timeshare on the secondary market. In the great majority of situations, you will have to take a loss. However, what you gain is the fact that you no longer will have to pay annual maintenance fees or special assessments, and you get the peace of mind that you no longer have to think about your timeshare.

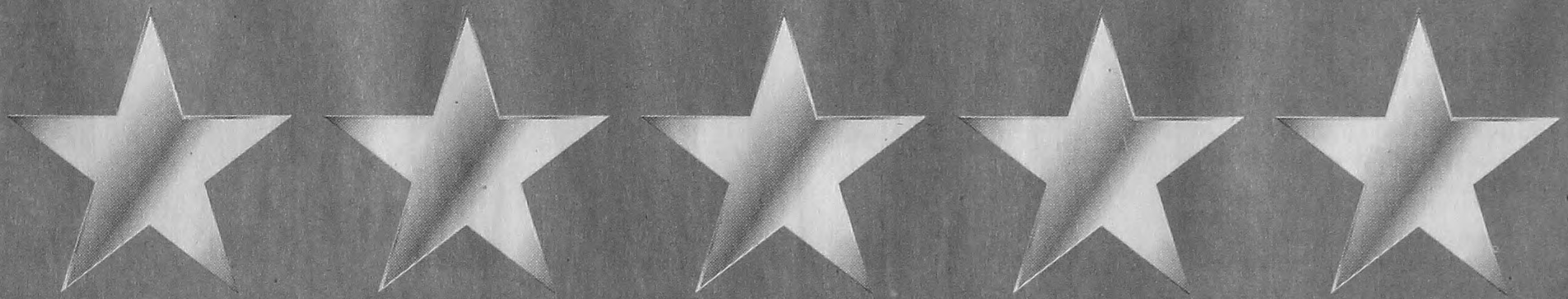
Good luck.

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.

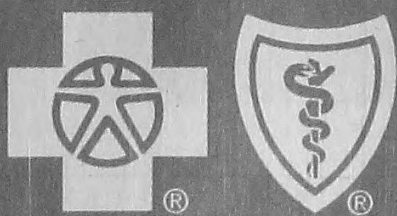
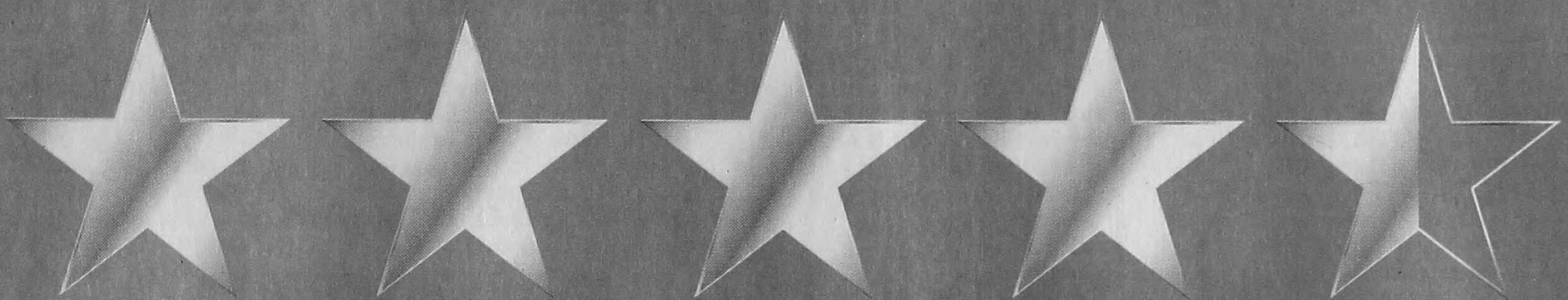
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Obituaries

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

Carol Kaiser

Age 77, Carol Kaiser, left this earth to be with the Lord on November 18, 2021, after complications with pneumonia ended her fifth and final battle with cancer. With determination, she lived by her words "It ain't over, 'til it's over," first spoken eighteen years ago after her first diagnosis.

Born April, 1944 in Detroit, MI to Robert and June (Freer) Anderson. Siblings included sisters' the late Judy Emery, Sue and Kim, and brother, late Robert Anderson. Loving wife to late Jim Kaiser, mother to Judie Kaiser and Jimmie (Carol L.) Kaiser and grandmother to Paul Travis. Fond niece, cousin and friend to many.

Carol was born only 3 1/2 lbs., along with her identical twin, Judy, whom she adored. Carol had pure love for family, her husband, children, and was a devoted wife and mother. She enjoyed hosting parties and all were made to feel welcomed and at-home.

Carol was creative. She loved music, singing and playing the piano by ear. She sang her first on stage performance with her twin sister at age 5. Many were awed by her God-given artistic talents (drawings/paintings, sewing, crafts, interior decorating and life-like oil paintings of people). Carol continued on with her painting throughout her life, leaving an unfinished painting as she passed.

Carol was proud of her Native-American heritage and belonged to a non-profit organization, South Eastern Michigan Indians, Inc. (SEMII) and learned history and cultures, attended pow-wows and enjoyed arts and crafts.

Upon retirement, Carol and Jim moved to northern Michigan, where family vacations were had, as they loved and respected nature and the outdoors. In the remaining years of her life, she resided in Illinois with the comfort and care of her daughter.

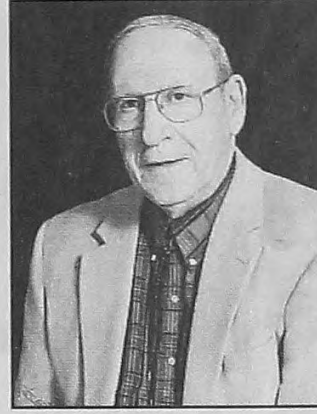
Carol's passion for life, driven nature, laughter brought on by her as she naturally made people laugh, sense of humor, cheerful, outgoing and high energy disposition, wonderfully flamboyant ensemble, and yes, the eye lashes, will all be missed. She was "down to earth" and brightened lives with her smile, her art and her loving presence.

A celebration of life is intended with time and place TBD. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to SEMII.



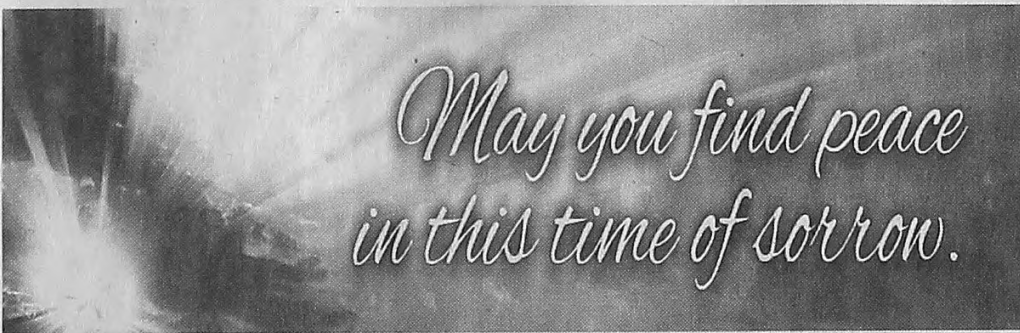
Barbara Ruth Kelly

FARMINGTON - Barbara Ruth Kelly of Farmington, Michigan passed away Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at the age of 89. Beloved wife of the late Charles (Dick) Kelly for 62 years; loving mother of Martin (Susan) Kelly, Patricia (Scott) Russell, Lisa (Marty) Brinkman, Cecilia (Dave) Keiser and the late Mark Kelly; cherished grandmother of 11; great grandmother of 13; preceded in death by siblings Orvis Henke, Harold Henke, Joyce Nowels, Eric Henke. Funeral Services have taken place with interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorial contributions suggested to the Alzheimer's Association, 25200 Telegraph Rd. Ste. 100, Southfield, MI 48033-7443 or Chelsea Retirement Community Foundation 805 West Middle Street, Chelsea, MI 48118. www.thayer-rock.com



Norman Henry Recla

LIVONIA - Norman Henry Recla, Age 84 of Livonia. Cherished husband of the late Kathleen "Kay". Beloved father of Suzanne (Steve) Upmeyer, Carolyn (Paul) Stoecker, Norman Recla, and Julie (Richard) Worden. Loving grandfather of Nick, Jennifer, Will, Rachel, Grace, Ethan and Elizabeth. Norman will be missed by many loving nieces, nephews, family and friends. A memorial service will take place at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com



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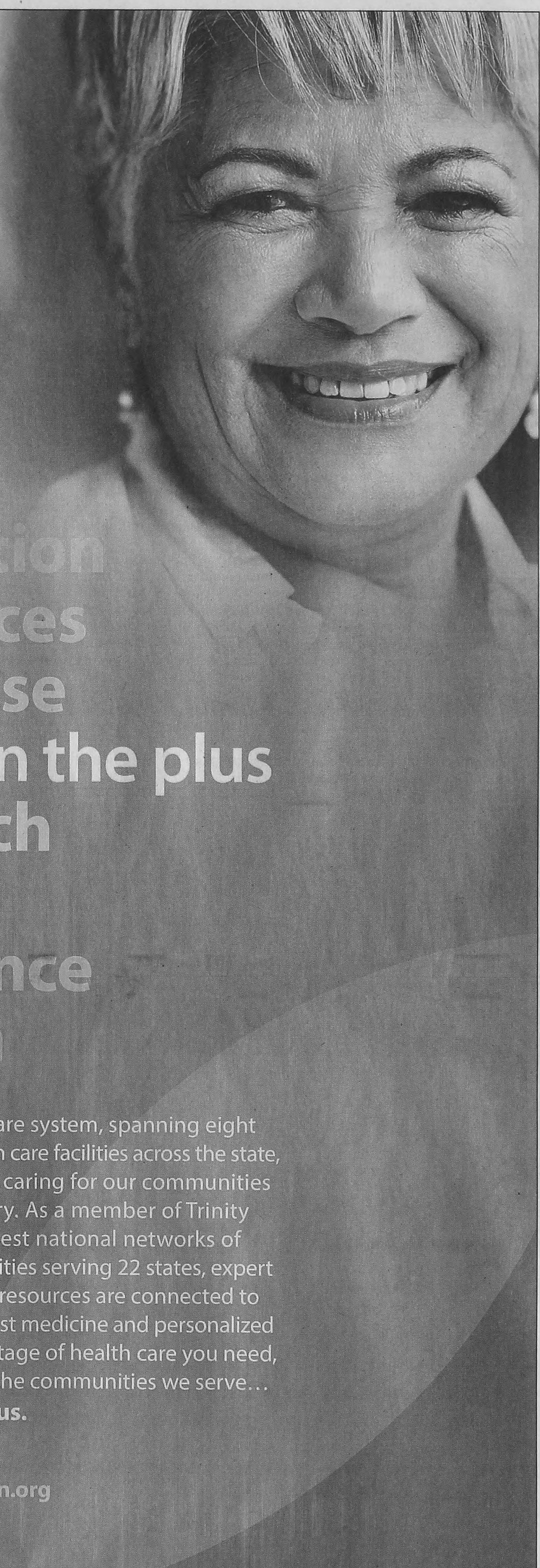


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SPORTS

Freshman inspires Clarenceville girls to win

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Alayah Weaver toed the foul line and buried the first of two free throws.

The freebie gave the Livonia Clarenceville girls basketball team a three-point lead just 12 seconds into the fourth quarter of Monday's season opener at Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart.

Standing at half court behind Weaver, teammate Dee Robinson cracked a smile and started fist-pumping. Before the next free throw went up, Robinson grabbed the bottom of her uniform and wiped some sweat from her chin.

That brief moment to both celebrate and towel off was well earned for the

freshman, who inspired Clarenceville to a 46-36 comeback victory in her debut.

The Trojans overcame a 14-point first-quarter deficit, held Sacred Heart to just 11 points in the second half and received a game-high 21 points from their rookie.

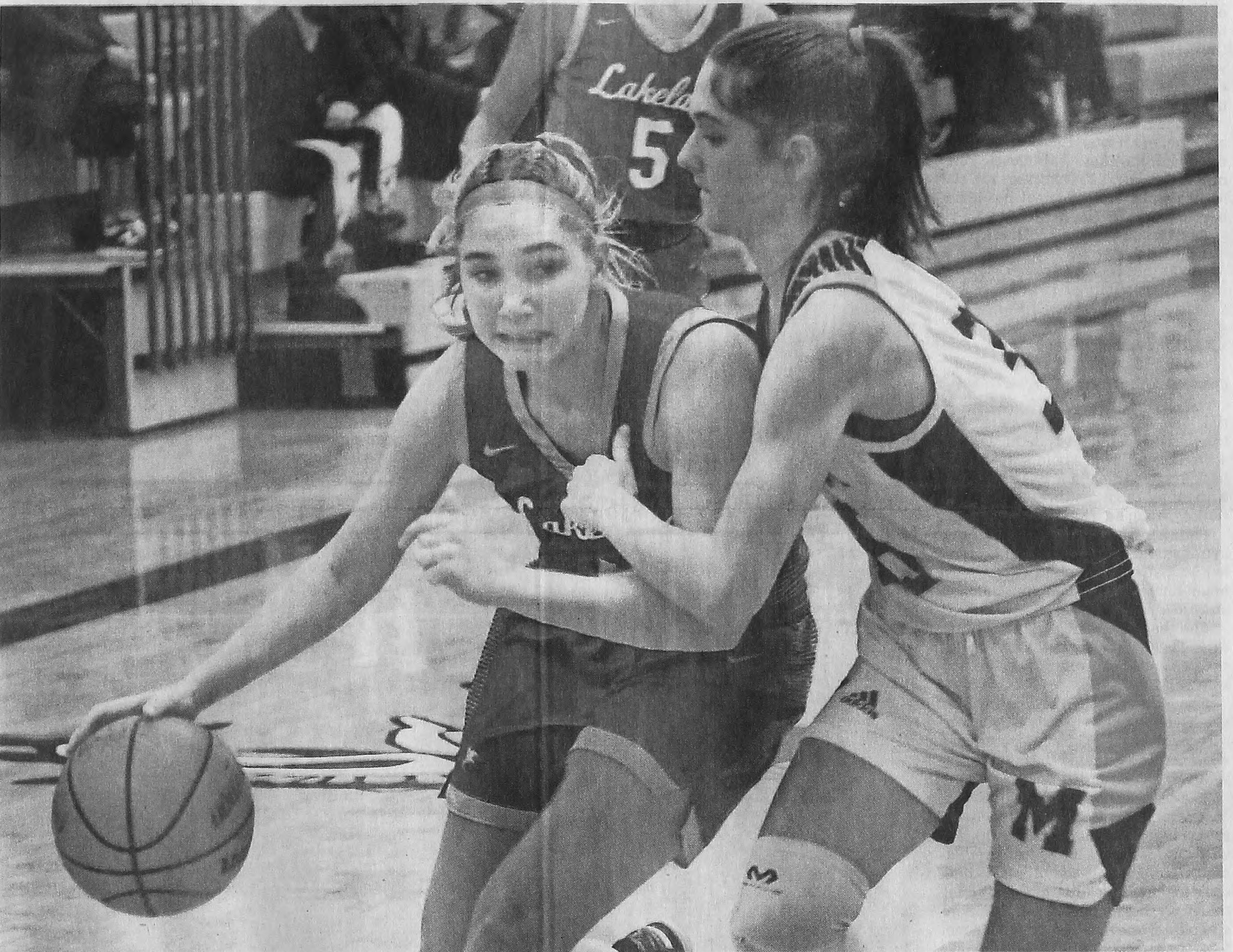
The wildest part about it all? Robinson didn't even start. She checked in midway through Sacred Heart's 16-2 run in the opening few minutes.

"She had to earn her spot. She's only a freshman," Clarenceville coach Kristen Alshekie said. "So I had to make her work for it, and she did. As a freshman, she's being a huge leader right now. That's what we need."

See **FRESHMAN**, Page 2B



Clarenceville freshman Dee Robinson dribbles up the floor Nov. 29 against Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart. The Trojans won, 46-36, coming back from a 14-point first-quarter deficit. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Farmington Hills Mercy's Sophie Dugas (right) defends White Lake Lakeland's Molly Libby on Nov. 30. The Marlins won, 50-28. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

MERCY SENIOR STEPPING UP

Sophie Dugas went from rotational player in 2020 to captain and starter

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Mlive.com's Jared Purcell tabbed Farmington Hills Mercy's Maya White as one of the top-25 girls basketball players in metro Detroit in a pre-season article.

And it's easy to see why the forward is so heralded.

During the Marlins' 50-28 opening-night victory over White Lake Lakeland, the junior used her 6-foot-1 frame to battle down low with ease.

She's the only returning starter from last year's squad, which graduated four different Division I college athletes. They lost seven players in all.

The fundamentals and mechanics she uses to create high-percentage

shots in the paint should make her one of the best players in the Catholic League. She totaled just six points against the Eagles, but scoring wasn't required from her in an early-season tune-up that saw Mercy lead 18-2 after the first quarter.

But this game story isn't just about White. She's a proven commodity already. This writing is actually about

Sophie Dugas, a rotational player from a year ago, who's now both a captain and starter. She showed in the opener that she'd be worthy of making Purcell's top-25 list should he ever redo it later this winter.

Mercy's success starts with its defense, especially its half-court 1-2-2 trap

See **SENIOR**, Page 2B

"After my car accident, Community Financial gave me a lower rate on my auto loan and a check for a new car in under 24 hours."

D'ANNA L.
MEMBER SINCE 2010

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Get the rest of D'Anna's story at CFCU.ORG/SayItBest

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Freshman

Continued from Page 1B

"A leader on the court. Someone to run the court, talk to the girls and communicate. That's what we needed out of her."

The Gazelles surprised Clarenceville by using a full-court press, something Alshekie said the Trojans hadn't practiced before opening night.

After the Trojans settled down and got Robinson into the action, they took care of business the rest of the way.

They scored eight straight to open the second half, quickly erasing part of their 12-point halftime deficit. That included Robinson driving to the hoop, sinking a contested layup and drawing an ensuing and-one opportunity.

Sacred Heart didn't score its first basket of the half until Kayla Nafso, who scored 13 points, made a layup with 3:08 left in the third quarter.

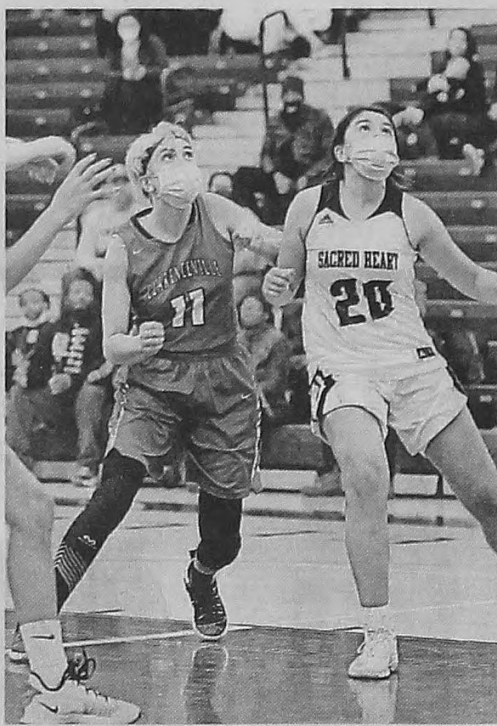
Clarenceville scored three baskets in transition to close out the period, including two layups from Robinson, one of which drew another and-one free throw that ultimately knotted the score at 28.

Kate Vallimont, who led the team in rebounds and posted 13 points, gave the Trojans their first lead by sinking a pair of free throws early in the fourth.

"I just told them to keep their energy up and keep their focus," Alshekie said of the comeback effort. "They had excellent energy before the game. At halftime, their energy was just the same way in the locker room. ... Keep our energy, keep our focus. That's our motto this year."

Sacred Heart kept it within one point after Vallimont fouled out and Robinson briefly left the game with muscle soreness in her left calf. That short run saw Marisa Nafso score four of her team-best 16 points for the Gazelles.

Once Robinson returned, though, the



Clarenceville's Kate Vallimont (left) fights for a rebound with Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart's Kayla Nafso. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Trojans pulled away once and for all.

Weaver and Robinson each made free throws in the bonus. Then Robinson came up with two more transition baskets. And then Robinson threw a Patrick Mahomes-like side-arm pass to Jenna Coogan, who made a layup to extend their lead to 10 in the waning moments.

Robinson might not have started in her first game, but she likely secured a spot in the starting lineup for Game 2.

"It's nothing new to me. I've always had to earn my stripes," Robinson said. "But I just know that every game, whether I come off the bench or I'm a starter, I'm going to work hard."

"Either way, I'm going to put in work and put up points on the board."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports for HometownLife. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.



Clarenceville's Dee Robinson drives to the hoop.

Senior

Continued from Page 1B

that it employs. Leading the charge with the pressure all night was Dugas, who scored a game-high 11 points. Transition basket after transition basket started with either Dugas getting a steal or the senior joining her teammates in a trap.

Both her first-quarter baskets came in transition, including one field goal off her own steal. She added another fast break bucket in the third and immediately followed it up with a 3-pointer.

She has the skill set to dribble through the paint for contested layups or catch and shoot from downtown off a screen.

Had Mercy not been so deep in 2020, she likely would've been a bigger contributor. Now she's getting her chance to show just how talented she is as a third-year varsity player.

"Sophie is very good defensively," coach Gary Morris said. "The fact that she's a senior (makes her a captain), and we only have two seniors (6-footer Sarah Cunningham is the other). I think she's looking to lead in terms of doing things on the floor. She's a good offensive player. She's got the ability to shoot from the outside, but she can also take the ball to the basket. She's a hard worker. She comes to practice every day ready to work and get better."

Dugas' offensive and defensive efforts might not even be the best thing she brings to the team.

She prides herself on how upbeat she is. She can recognize when the team is in a lull and needs a pep talk.

"I'm just more of the positive (type of) person," said Dugas, who believes she gets her kindness from her parents. "I want to be the positive person around the team, especially if we are really down or if we're having a bad practice. I want to lift everyone up or give high fives. I just like to turn things around."

That attribute wasn't required from her in the opener, as Mercy never trailed. Lakeland didn't score its first basket until 4:01 remained in the first quarter. It didn't score again until 35 seconds into the next period. The Eagles finally cracked double digits on the scoreboard with 3:51 left in the third thanks to Molly Libby (10 points) draining a pair of threes.

But Dugas' inspiration will be needed in the coming weeks. Mercy faces Grosse Pointe North on Sunday at Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall and also has tough matchups against Brighton and Shrine to close out December.

She says the Marlins have what it takes to have a successful year, though.

"Our first goal is to (solidify) our defense, which will set up our offense," Dugas said. "We're a smaller team this year. We have Maya White, who is a ju-



White Lake Lakeland's Ashlyn Dostal dribbles against Farmington Hills Mercy. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Mercy's Maya White is introduced to a home crowd Nov. 30 before the game.

nior, and she's our best post. We're really focusing on working it into the post more because she's one of our assets. ... We've always been a really good defen-

sive team.

"But it's really hard this year because seven people left (to graduation), so it's a lot of rebuilding this year."

School records fall in Wildcats' opening-night win

Plymouth had plenty to celebrate following its season opener.

Not only did the Wildcats beat Dearborn Crestwood, 44-15, but Morgan Miller broke two school records.

The senior made 15 field goals and scored 35 points, both totals are all-time highs for the program.

"Mo is a great example of earned success," coach Ryan Ballard said of his star small forward. "She put the work in all summer and fall to have success like that in the game. I'm so proud of her because she's not only a great player but a great teammate."

Patriots win opener on the road

Erin Young totaled 17 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks as Livonia Franklin downed host Trenton, 40-27. Also contributing were Kalin Bates with 12 points, Leah Kuhn with seven points, five rebounds and five steals.

DIVISION 1 STATE FINAL BELLEVILLE 55, ROCHESTER ADAMS 33

Belleville breaks through for first D1 title

Wright Wilson Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Anyone up for a shootout? That was the mode of the Michigan high school football Division 1 final, which boasted two teams capable of big plays. Belleville made more of them Saturday in finally winning its first state championship, 55-33, over Rochester Adams.

The Highlanders' Parker Picot threw three long touchdown passes; that would usually be enough, but he took a backseat to Belleville freshman Bryce Underwood, who had five. He completed 12 of 21 attempts for 284 yards and was the team's leading rusher with 62 yards.

It took just two minutes to crank up the Underwood aerial show, when he hit Jeremiah Caldwell on fourth-and-3. Caldwell, with a step on his defender, caught the ball on his fingertips, hauled it in at the 30, and outran the defender for a 56-yard touchdown.

But it only took Adams three minutes to answer with a 56-yard score of its own. Picot spotted Brady Prieskorn on an out pattern a step ahead of Caldwell; he caught the ball at the 15, then made it to the goal line, which he lunged over for a score.

Another long touchdown pass gave Adams a 14-7 advantage when Picot connected with Christian Schomer on a 31-yard throw with 49 seconds left in the first quarter.

Belleville's next drive stalled out near midfield, and a fake punt only gained two yards when the Tigers needed nine, so Adams went to work at its own 49. The possession led to Colin Timko's 27-yard field goal, which made it 17-7.

But the Underwood-to-Caldwell connection made a quick comeback. The duo hooked up on a 72-yard play along the right sideline to get Belleville within three, then did it again two minutes later. Caldwell was wide open in the flat, caught the ball at the tail of the Lions' midfield logo, juked one defender into missing a tackle, and cut up the sideline the rest of the way, making it 21-17.

On four targets, Caldwell had three touchdown catches and 204 yards re-



The Belleville defense tries to run down Rochester Adams' Christian Schomer during the first half Nov. 27 at Ford Field.

ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

ceiving.

With 1:24 remaining before halftime, Adams had enough time for one more drive; Schomer's 49-yard kick return gave the Highlanders a great starting point at the Belleville 46. Timko nailed a 35-yard field goal with seven seconds before half to make it 21-20 going into the locker room.

Takeaways opened things up for the Tigers in the third quarter. On the Highlanders' initial possession, Belleville forced Adams into punting on fourth-and-21 from its own 37. Aaron Alexander broke through the line over center and blocked the kick, and Jeremiah Beasley

returned it to the Highlander 6.

On the second snap of the ensuing possession, Underwood tossed ball to Kevin Simes, running through the backfield from the slot position, and Simes carried it 5 yards into the end zone to make it 28-20.

Belleville grabbed the ball back on Adams' next series. The Highlanders had the ball in Tiger territory, but it was stripped from Picot and Dennis Crawford returned the recovered fumble 50 yards to the Adams 25. Two plays later, Beasley burst through the left side for a 25-yard touchdown, giving Belleville a 35-20 cushion.

The Tigers went up by three scores on their next drive, as Deshaun Lee got outside his defender and Underwood had his fifth touchdown pass, a 19-yarder, making it 42-20 with 10:59 to play.

Picot's third touchdown pass was his most dramatic. With seven minutes to play, and facing fourth-and-28 at the Belleville 33, he faced a heavy rush and fired a desperation heave which was tipped and collected by Prieskorn.

Colbey Reed added another touchdown for Belleville on a 1-yard run with 5:20 to play, and Underwood put an exclamation point on things by running for a 30-yard score with 3:28 left.

DIVISION 3 STATE FINAL DETROIT KING 25, DEWITT 21

Defense makes a stand in Crusaders' win

Brad Emons Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

It will go down as *the* goal line stand of the 2021 Michigan high school football playoffs.

And it couldn't have come at a better time as Detroit King's defense came up huge down the stretch to deny DeWitt a repeat championship, 25-21, in the Division 3 final on Saturday night at Ford Field.

Trailing by four, DeWitt marched 67 yards down to the King 5 and had first-and-goal, but on fourth down, the Crusaders' Karl Williams and Blake Bailiff combined to stop Bryce DeWitt at the 1 with only 2:29 left.

"As far as the linebackers — me and Blake — we just looked at our keys," said Williams, a 6-foot, 195-pound senior. "Whenever the guard and tackle came straight at us, we shoot that gap and meet the running back. He came straight at us and we met the running back in the gap."

King then came up with a clutch first down pass from Dante Moore to Chansey Willis Jr. to go into the victory formation.

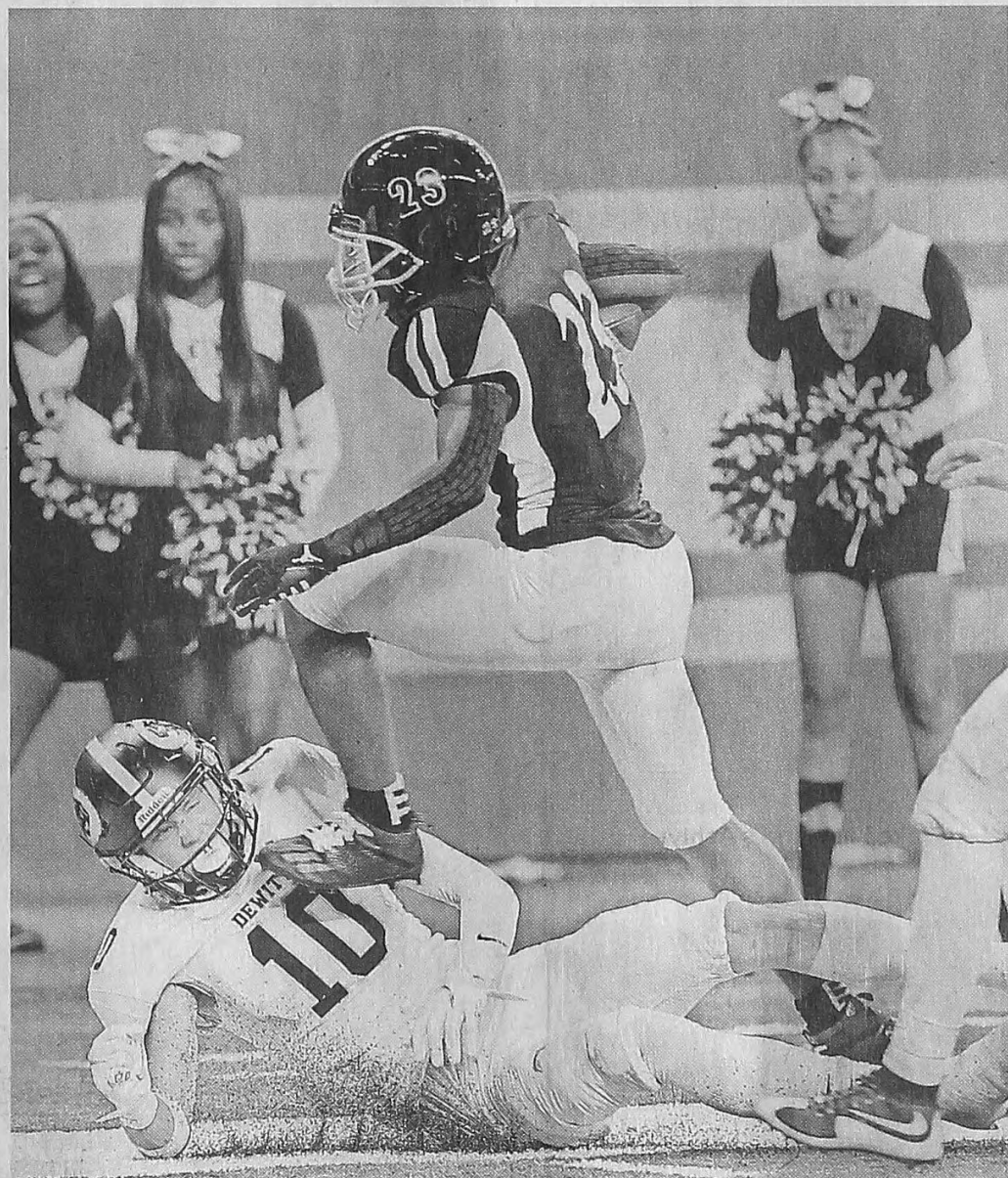
"It was a hard-fought one," said Williams, who had eight tackles, including a sack. "It was just happiness all around the whole stadium because we've been working for this forever, since the summer. It's been our goal since the summer. To accomplish our goal — that's big."

Moore, a junior and one of the top QBs in the nation, was 18-for-24 passing for 228 yards, while Terrence Brown, one of the King heroes on both sides of the ball, rushed for 113 yards on 11 carries.

"I had a lot of hits, they hit me a lot, but I'm good," Brown said. "It was tough. They (DeWitt) would never give up. They just kept fighting until the end and they're a very good team."

King finishes the season 13-1 overall and secured its fifth state title in program history, while DeWitt ended its season at 12-2.

King coach Tyrone Spencer said it was his team's best defensive effort of the season and it couldn't have come at a better time.



Detroit King running back Sterling Anderson Jr. bowls over DeWitt's Thomas McIntosh during the first half Nov. 27 at Ford Field. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

"The goal line stands ... making adjustments when they were trying to outflank us and outnumber us ... great job by the kids staying focused, staying confident and believing in themselves," said Spencer, who garnered his third state title as the Crusaders' head coach. "Awesome group of kids."

Brown also came up with a clutch interception and 21-yard return to the DeWitt 25 with 11:50 left in the fourth.

"They put us in a position, Coach trusts me and said they were going to try me and I came into my zone and I locked

in and had to make a play ... finish the game out strong," Brown said.

It led to the Crusaders' go-ahead TD as Sterling Anderson took it in from 3 yards out with 8:22 to play. The score was set up by Moore's 10-yard pass to Joseph Williams, whose second effort led to a critical first down.

Up 21-19 at the half, DeWitt forced its third turnover of game with 8:06 left in the third when Bryce Kurncz hit Moore from the blind side and lineman Trevor Dennis pounced on the fumble at the King 27.

But the King defense held when Terel Hollingsworth and Marquise White teamed up to sack Holtz on fourth-and-goal at the Crusaders' 8.

To open the game, King took just 56 seconds to score as Brown bolted up the middle for 51 yards to stake the Crusaders to a quick 7-0 lead.

DeWitt really could have been behind, but its defense came up with a pair of critical stands in the red zone during the opening quarter as Wisconsin commit Tommy McIntosh denied Lynn Wyche-El Jr. on fourth-and-goal, followed by a fumble recovery at his own 6 (after a replay review).

King got a pick-six from defensive end Kenneth Merrieweather, who batted down a Tyler Holtz pass at the line of scrimmage before plucking the ball out of the air and racing 45 yards for a TD with 10:42 remaining in the second quarter.

The Crusaders, however, failed on the PAT and DeWitt got on the board with 5:46 left in the second period on Holtz's 6-yard TD pass to DeWitt to cut the deficit to 13-7.

Brown ran for a 6-yard TD with 3:03 left in the half to cap a nine-play, 70-yard drive. But the Crusaders were denied on the two-point conversion attempt and DeWitt answered with only 40 seconds to play in the half on a 15-yard TD pass from Holtz to McIntosh.

Just 25 seconds later, Holtz picked off Dante Moore's pass at his own 31 and raced down the sideline untouched for a 69-yard pick-six to give the Panthers a 21-19 lead.

"I thought we doing really good," Spencer said. "We had control of the game at the end (of the half) and went a little haywire with the turnovers, but we persevered through and we won, so I'm happy for the kids and everybody. It's always fun to be here."

Holtz was 10-for-18 passing for 156 yards, while Flegler added 69 yards rushing on 10 attempts.

"Some of it was self-inflicted on us with turnovers, but at the end of the day, hats off to them (DeWitt)," Spencer said. "They had a great game plan keeping an umbrella on everything and making us earn everything underneath."

DIVISION 7 STATE FINAL PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA 14, LAWTON 10

Pewamo-Westphalia consistently strong

Wright Wilson Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

It looked like it was going to be a walk for Pewamo-Westphalia in the Division 7 state championship game.

The Pirates — who had won state titles in 2016, 2017 and 2019 — jumped on a loose ball coughed up on a faulty center-quarterback exchange on Lawton's first play from scrimmage.

Pewamo-Westphalia's first play, a pass from Cam Cook to Brock Thelen, went for 34 yards, setting the ball at the 2-yard line. Two plays later, Cook rolled out into the end zone. And then Lawton watched helplessly as the Pirates got the ball right back with an onside kick.

But it just wasn't that easy as the game went on. P-W had to round up a fourth-quarter touchdown and come from behind to beat Lawton, 14-10, at Ford Field on Saturday morning.

"Obviously on our first drive it was good go out there and score, but after that, it was a dogfight," Cook said. "It became whoever was next to score. It was going to take a big play."

Despite the rough start, Lawton didn't implode. The same squad who turned the ball over five times in its state semifinal win over Jackson Lumen Christi pushed Pewamo-Westphalia to the brink, tying the game by halftime and taking a brief lead for about half of the fourth quarter.

That's when Pewamo-Westphalia (14-0) responded with a 10-play, 80-yard scoring drive to reclaim the lead. On third-and-3, Dak Ewalt burst through the hole opened by Landon Nurenberg and Corey Schafer, and scampered 35 yards to the end zone with under six minutes to play.

"Honestly, I was surprised a little bit. It was just a fight. We were pounding the ball down," Ewalt said. "I just saw an opening. Nurenberg put a block on the linebacker and it created an opening and I just went for it. I was just looking to get some yards, get a first down, and keep rolling."

Lawton (13-1) had two more opportunities to grab the lead back. The first drive stalled at their own 30, and the Blue Devils were finally done in by one



Pewamo-Westphalia's Dak Ewalt celebrates after scoring a touchdown against Lawton during the fourth quarter Nov. 27.

NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

last turnover — On first down from their own 25, Connor Bengel picked off a pass intended for Cooper Geib at the Blue Devil 42 with 1:20 to play, and the Pirates were able to take a knee to run out the clock.

Lawton, which ran the ball on 21 of its first 23 plays, finally found success with its passing game, as a 41-yard strike from Landon Motter to Luke Leighton evened the game at 7 with 1:13 to play be-

fore the half.

The Blue Devils took a 10-7 lead with 10 minutes to play on Ethan O'Donnell's 43-yard field goal. The scoring drive was set up by Lawton's defense, which had pinned Pewamo-Westphalia and forced a punt from the 8-yard line, so the Blue Devils had good field position to start, at the Pirate 45.

P-W was able to contain Lawton running back Jake Rueff, who entered the

contest with 2,317 rushing yards and 46 touchdowns — the fifth-best total in state history. The Pirate defense kept Rueff out of the end zone and limited Rueff to 50 yards on 16 carries, his longest gain being 8 yards.

The Pirates outgained Lawton, 240-204. Cam Cook, who had been injured since Week 5, returned to the Pewamo-Westphalia lineup and completed 6 of 15 pass attempts for 101 yards.

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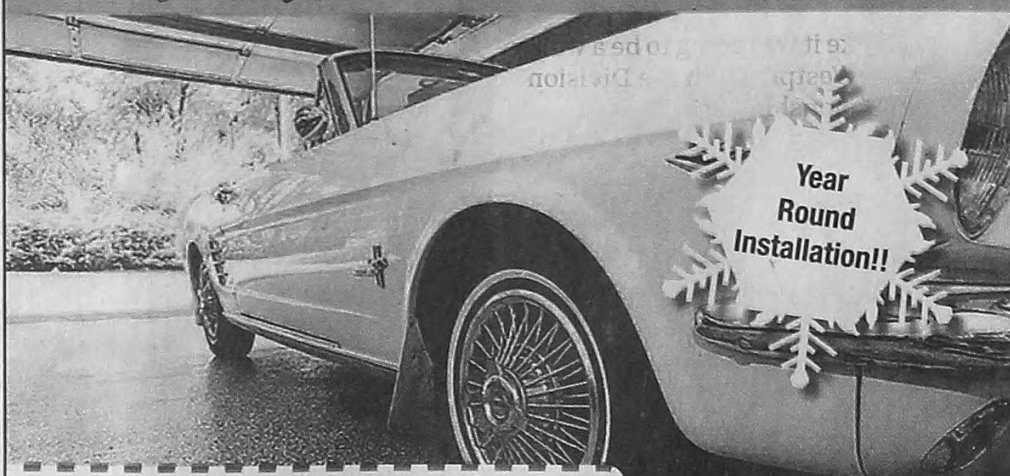
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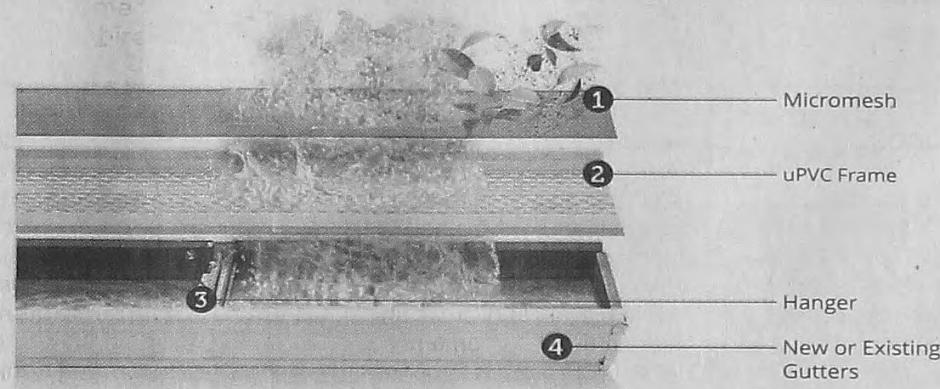
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State Quits Rate Reaches Record High Led by Growth in Leisure and Hospitality

By ZipRecruiter

Today's state JOLTS report, which captures the extent to which labor market conditions differ across the country, shows one unifying sign – the Great Resignation is a national trend, and people are looking for better opportunities regardless of their job market. Here are three key takeaways:

1 With 7.1% of the workforce quitting their jobs in one month, Hawaii is leading the way in the Great Resignation. The state's quits rate is more than double the current national rate of 3.0%, which is a record high.

Hawaii, Montana, and Nevada are at the forefront of the Great Resignation with the highest quits rates in the country. Hawaii's quits rate of 7.1% is the highest rate seen in any state on record.

Hawaii and Nevada saw the steepest job losses during the pandemic, due to the importance of tourism and the large share of employment in leisure and hospitality. Those industries are now rapidly restaffing, creating opportunity both for unemployed people and for currently employed job seekers.

Nevada has the lowest gap between its job openings and hires rates, which suggests that time-to-hire is particularly rapid in the state, with employers able to fill vacancies more quickly than elsewhere.

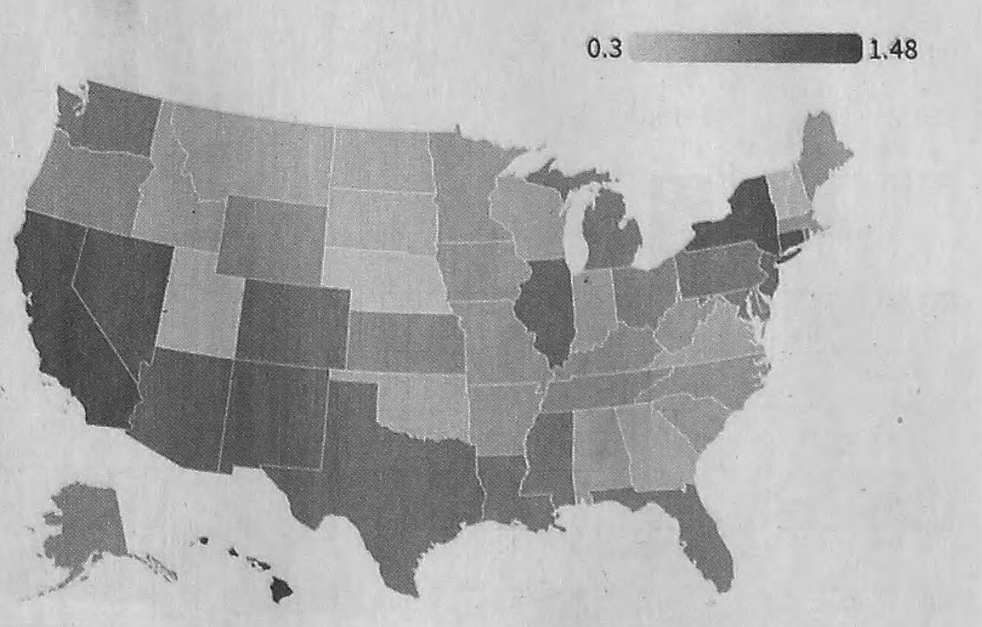
Montana has more than 2 job openings per unemployed person, putting substantial bargaining power in job seekers' hands. The abundance of opportunities available in Montana is encouraging people to leave their jobs for better ones.

2 Nebraska made history last month with the lowest state jobless rate ever recorded, at 1.9%. Nebraska's quits rate is also low, making the pool of employed job seekers small. Because of this, the city of North Platte, NE is offering people up to \$5,000 to move there.

Nebraska has more than 3 job openings per unemployed person – the highest ratio in the country.

Although businesses have reported difficulty filling vacancies nationwide, employers in Nebraska face the steepest odds. That is because there are 69K job openings but only 19.3K

Unemployed persons per job opening
November 2021 Release



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, State Employment and Unemployment and Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, Released Nov. 2021


unemployed people in the state. Unemployed people in Nebraska have more options and face less competition in the current job market—not only due to a low unemployment rate, but also because of a relatively low quits rate. These combined factors benefit Nebraskans because they face little competition from other unemployed people, as well as from employed job seekers.

3 Hires are lagging behind job openings most dramatically on the east coast, where high

employment costs and a higher share of workers in white-collar jobs often lead to slow hiring processes.

The hires rates in Massachusetts, West Virginia, and Maryland have not caught up with their job openings rates in the current labor market. Although Massachusetts and West Virginia have some of the highest job openings rates in the country, ranking in the top 4, they nevertheless have the widest gaps between openings and hires, an indication of slower hiring processes than in the rest of the country.

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Super Crossword **BEGINNING AT THE TOP**

ACROSS

- 1 Skipper's site
- 5 Las Vegas attractions
- 12 Part of WMD
- 16 Dol. fractions
- 19 Safe, at sea
- 20 Venezuela's main river
- 21 Brand of skin cream
- 22 "— Abner"
- 23 Limit for riding a roller coaster, often
- 26 Oath reply
- 27 In — by itself (unique)
- 28 '60s muscle car
- 29 Port-au-Prince locale
- 30 Profound
- 31 Spherical bacterium, for short
- 32 Payoff of athletic training
- 35 "Othello" foe
- 37 Grammy category
- 38 Rocker Patty of Scandal
- 39 Animal that hunts, but isn't hunted
- 45 Is remorseful
- 48 Life's work
- 49 Frazier foe
- 50 Mauna —
- 51 Peel, as fruit

DOWN

- 2 Choose (to)
- 3 1983 J.P. Donleavy novel
- 4 Digital camera resolution units
- 5 Foldup beds
- 6 ETA part. Abbr.
- 7 Long attack
- 8 Photo-sharing app, for short
- 9 Totally unacceptable
- 10 Bar code-scanning gizmo: Abbr.
- 11 "That's how it was told to me"
- 12 Artistic theme
- 13 Supreme Court's Samuel
- 14 2015 and 2017 Best Actress nominee
- 15 Similar-meaning wd.
- 16 Set of regular customers
- 17 Tables with data on daily ebbs and flows
- 18 Steepness
- 24 Like the Greek letter eta
- 25 Type of fish that a
- 59-Across is
- 30 Places to get body wraps
- 32 "The Raven" writer
- 33 Positive aspect
- 34 Roman 2,050
- 36 Cur's threat
- 39 Bank stmt. ID
- 40 Oom- (tuba sounds)
- 41 TV's Estrada
- 42 Singer Bobby
- 43 Bar order
- 44 "— a pity"
- 45 Egg — yung
- 46 Scarf down
- 47 Poor grades
- 50 Bread buy
- 53 33-Down's opposite
- 54 Like mosaics
- 55 Uno + due
- 56 "Today" co-host Kotb
- 57 "Nova" ailer
- 59 Variety
- 62 ATM code
- 63 "That's right!"
- 64 Spam holder
- 65 "— had a secret love ..."
- 66 Suffix with contradict
- 67 They precede Novs.
- 68 Shelter
- 69 Key-centered compositions
- 70 Eddied
- 73 Spanish dances like fandangos
- 74 Happy as — in mud
- 75 List of dishes
- 76 Verge
- 78 Aussie bird
- 79 Verve
- 80 Stately tree
- 81 Takeaway game of strategy
- 82 Link with
- 86 Ancient
- 88 Sleuth, slangily
- 89 Noisy nappers
- 90 Tropical cereal grass
- 91 D.C.'s home
- 92 Spam holder
- 94 Variety
- 96 Tokyo beer
- 97 Subtleties, e.g.
- 98 Social grace
- 99 Narrates
- 100 "— bad moon rising"
- 101 Philosopher with a "razor"
- 103 Bar order
- 104 Slimy
- 105 Think piece
- 109 Footed vases
- 111 Actress Saldana
- 112 Detroit-to-Montreal dir.
- 113 Hexa- halved

SUDOKU

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

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!

DESIRE

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.

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

ANSWER KEY

ADDICTION
 AMBITION
 ASPIRE
 AVID
 BEHEST
 BLOODLUST
 CAPRICE
 CARE
 COVET
 CRAVE
 CURIOSITY
 DROOL
 EAGERNESS
 ENVY
 FANCY
 FANTASY
 FEEL LIKE
 GOAL
 GREED
 HANKER
 HOOKED
 HOPE
 HUNGER
 IMPULSE
 INCLINATION
 INDULGE
 ITCH
 LONGING
 LUST
 MANIA
 MISS
 NEED
 PLEASURE
 PREFER
 PURSUE
 RELISH
 REQUIRE
 TAKE TO
 TASTE
 TEMPTATION
 THIRST
 URGE
 WANT
 WHIM
 WILL
 WISH
 YEARN
 YEN

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

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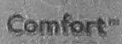
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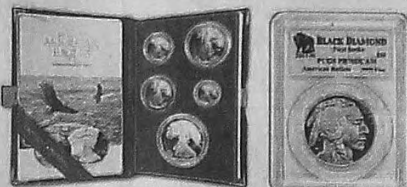
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