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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

District hires security firm for high schools

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Beginning Monday, high school students in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools district saw some new faces roaming the halls.

The district partnered with Securitas AB, a private security firm based in Sweden, to station two full-time guards at Wayne Memorial High School and four guards at John Glenn High School, the larger of the two school buildings. "Coming back, we knew it was going

to be hard for kids after 19 months off (away from school buildings)," Superintendent John Dignan said. "It takes some of the pressure, too, off teachers and administrators because now you'll have people dedicated to different parts of the building."

Guards will be present in hallways and the cafeteria throughout the school day to monitor behavior and promote a safe learning environment. They will be unarmed.

See SECURITY, Page 2A



Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Exalted Ruler Charley Dawson stands near the entrance of the lodge's new facility in Plymouth.
 ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth Elks secure new home

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The unenviable task of searching for a new home during the heart of a seller's market and through a relentless pandemic turned out remarkably well for the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325.

Operating without a facility to call its own since it closed on the sale of its former longtime property on Ann Arbor Road in February, the Plymouth-based Elks officially purchased a 4,000-square-foot building near the intersection of Ann Arbor Trail and Lilley Road last month.

"It's an exciting time for us," said

Lodge 325 Exalted Ruler Charley Dawson. "It's like Christmas came early for our members.

"With everything going on with COVID, I initially thought there would be a lot of buildings out there for sale after we sold our Ann Arbor Road property.

See ELKS, Page 2A

Soap shop proposes 2nd Michigan location in Canton

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A new business hopes to make Canton Township's Ford Road a little less smelly in the future.

Tennessee-based Buff City Soap plans to open a shop in part of the building that formerly housed the Canton 7 GDX movie theater that's becoming a Planet Fitness gym. The soap shop would occupy space in the eastern part of the building.

It's a juxtaposition, the project's petitioners say, that is a match made in heaven.

"We're hoping certainly that Planet Fitness folks after they've gotten all stinky and worked out want to come over to Buff City Soap to get a nice fragrance," Brad Angelini, an architect working on the project, said.

Patrick Sloan, the township's community planner, said the plans call for the additional tenant to open its own storefront, which requires some work to the building.

"As it turns out, Planet Fitness is not proposing to occupy the entire area," he said. "Buff City Soap is a proposed commercial tenant."

If it opens, it would be the second Buff City Soap shop in Michigan; the first opening in Brighton earlier this year. The company launched in 2013 near Memphis, Tennessee, and has opened several stores across the country. The business sells a wide array of soaps, bath bombs and other personal care items. There was no immediate word on how soon the shop could open its doors.

See SOAP SHOP, Page 2A

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Mayor pitches Build A Better Westland plan

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Westland is set to get \$26 million from the American Rescue Plan. Mayor Bill Wild has big ideas for that money.

During his state of the city address Dec. 2, Wild pitched his “Build A Better Westland” plan to community leaders and residents present. Wild said the plan is meant to start a conversation in which other local leaders and the community at large can share their own ideas for improving the city.

“This historical, once-in-a-lifetime federal funding provides the city an opportunity to advance a bold vision to build Westland’s future and strategically invest in our residents, businesses, infrastructure and community assets,” Wild said.

The American Rescue Plan is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package adopted by the federal government earlier this year. The plan is meant to help

kick start economic recovery during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Westland has already received \$13 million, and expects to receive the other half of its funding early next year. Funding must be dedicated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

To date, Westland hasn’t spent any of the money it’s received.

“I’m sure each of you have some great ideas on how to best utilize these one-time funds and I’m sure the city council does as well,” Wild told the crowd at his address. “I have plenty of my own, and I’ll share a few with you to get the conversation started.”

Wild’s “Build A Better Westland” plan includes investments in local amenities like parks and public safety. One of the bigger projects he presented is turning the former Marshall Upper Elementary School into a recreation center similar to The Hawk in Farmington Hills. The city has been exploring a Marshall redevelopment for the better part of 2021.

“This historical, once-in-a-lifetime federal funding provides the city an opportunity to advance a bold vision to build Westland’s future...”

Westland Mayor Bill Wild

“The building could potentially house a branch of the Westland library, offer additional services for our seniors and perhaps offer the opportunity to partner with other organizations to create a true community center located in the center of the city,” Wild said.

Wild also proposed using funding to stop recurring basement flooding in certain pockets of the city. Over the summer, the city experienced significant

flooding following heavy rainfall.

Wild said he’d also like to replace the city’s two oldest fire stations — Station #2 at Merriman Road and Ann Arbor Trail and Station #4 at Palmer and Newburgh roads — make improvements to the police department building, purchase two fire engines and update the police patrol fleet with hybrid vehicles.

The mayor would also like to see funds go toward the city’s parks, historic neighborhoods, pave the city’s remaining dirt roads and promote partnerships focused on diversity and equity.

“There are plenty of opportunities to create transformational change in our city,” Wild said. “That is my goal and I look forward to working with city council to deliver that type of progress in the near future.”

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

Security

Continued from Page 1A

The superintendent said the partnership has been in the works since the school year began and is unrelated to the recent school shooting that killed four teens in Oxford.

Wayne-Westland has one student re-

source officer from the Westland Police Department serving its district. The officer is based at John Glenn but services all of the districts 9,500 students across 18 schools. Having a security presence at the high schools, Dignan said, will allow the student resource officer to better serve the other schools.

The student resource officer will, however, continue to serve the two high schools.

“The SRO also has all of the middle and elementary schools,” the superintendent said. “So, they’re not always there. We need more people who are in the hallways with our kids and interacting with our kids.”

Securitas operates in 53 countries around the globe and employs over 300,000 people. The company has five offices in Michigan and, according to Dignan, has a good reputation of work-

ing in schools.

“Every district I’ve been in, we’ve had them,” Dignan said. “They’re very proactive in working with our kids and they develop great relationships with kids. It’s almost like they become part of the family, and we wanted that more than anything else.”

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

Soap shop

Continued from Page 1A

The movie theater closed its doors in the spring of 2019 after a 30-year run in the community. The property had remained empty with work taking place to revamp it and turn it into a gym, which opened its doors Dec. 6.

The proposal, which required waiver approval from the township, was reviewed by the Canton Planning Commission at its Nov. 29 virtual meeting.

Planning commissioners expressed support for the project during its meeting, saying it would make a good fit for the region. In addition to the facade improvements on the building, the location near a gym was also an appropriate call, said Commissioner Nancy Eggenberger.

“I have no problems with this and I think it’s going to be an interesting addition,” she said. “I like the idea of somebody smelling better after they’ve worked out.”

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



A Buff City Soap store is slated to be added on the eastern portion of the incoming Planet Fitness at 43555 Ford Road.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Elks

Continued from Page 1A

But it seems like a lot of the businesses that were in the shutdown stage were leasing, so when a property became vacant, another tenant would move in.”

When the property at 110 Ann Arbor

Trail — the former site of an Airgas Store — went on the market in June, the Elks jumped on it, Dawson said.

“The first time we walked in here and looked around, we knew it was perfect,” Dawson said. “We were looking for a building between 4,000 and 5,000 square feet, and this is 4,000 right on the dot. Plus, we’re in Plymouth, which is ideal. Everything worked out great.”

Dawson said the lodge has continued to do business throughout its time without a home base thanks to the generosity of fellow service groups in the Plymouth area.

“The Masonic Lodge in Old Village (Plymouth) let us use their lodge for our meetings, so we could continue to conduct business,” Dawson said. “And the VFW Post 6695 — just up the road from here — was kind enough to let us use

their facility every other week or so to give our members an opportunity to come together.

“When the Masonic Lodge was looking for a new facility years back, we gave them the use of our lodge until they relocated from Penniman Avenue in downtown Plymouth to their current location. That’s how the fraternal organizations work around here: We help each other.”

The potential for Lodge 325’s roster of 339 members to grow at its new home is encouraging, Dawson said.

“Our intentions are to be more visible to the public in our new place as opposed to where we were,” Dawson said. “I think we’ll see more people just walking in our door and asking what we’re all about.”

Dawson said the organization’s primary focus is on helping veterans and

families of disabled children — a mission it will continue to embrace in its new headquarters.

The Elks plan to renovate the former Airgas Store space to make it more functional for its purposes. The renovation will include knocking down several walls to give the building an open floor plan feel.

Dawson said the timeline for officially moving into the building is still fuzzy, “but I’m hoping we’re up and running in here by early summer of 2022.”

In October, Toll Brothers and Pomeroy Living unveiled a concept draft plan for a 373-unit development with apartments, townhouses and clubhouse on the property.

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



The Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325 has a new home base in the former Airgas building at Ann Arbor Trail and Lilley in Plymouth. COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

hometownlife.com

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Wayne County COVID-19 cases and deaths tracker

Mike Stucka
USA TODAY NETWORK

New coronavirus cases leaped in Michigan in the week ending Sunday, rising 80.6% as 70,095 cases were reported. The previous week had 38,811 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked third among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week coronavirus cases in the United States increased 67.6% from the week before, with 843,458 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 8.31% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, 48 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Thanksgiving significantly disrupted who got tested, how many people got tested, what labs operated and what government agencies reported on time. Some governments reported three days of data for Thanksgiving week; some reported none. The reporting of many cases and deaths were shifted from Thanksgiving's week into last week, making Thanksgiving week artificially low and the latest week artificially high, skewing the week-to-week comparison. These numbers are unreliable even as they're accurate to what states reported.

Wayne County reported 10,512 cases and 159 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 5,721 cases and 44 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 234,312 cases and 5,975 deaths.

Oakland County reported 8,335 cases and 73 deaths

in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 4,513 cases and 23 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 173,149 cases and 2,857 deaths.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in Schoolcraft County with 1,186 cases per 100,000 per week; Keweenaw County with 1,134; and Shiawassee County with 1,077. The Centers for Disease Control says high levels of community transmission begin at 100 cases per 100,000 per week.

Adding the most new cases overall were Wayne County, with 10,512 cases; Oakland County, with 8,335 cases; and Macomb County, with 6,723. Weekly case counts rose in 82 counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Michigan ranked 34th among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 60% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 68.8%, a USA TODAY analysis of CDC data shows. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which are the most used in the United States, require two doses administered a few weeks apart.

In the week ending Thursday, Michigan reported administering another 387,714 vaccine doses, including 110,471 first doses. In the previous week, the state administered 231,506 vaccine doses, including 46,715 first doses. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 12,261,664 total doses.

In Michigan, 864 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 403 people were reported dead.

A total of 1,517,325 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began,

and 26,108 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 49,085,361 people have tested positive and 788,363 people have died.

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

Michigan's COVID-19 hospital admissions rising

USA TODAY analyzed federal hospital data as of Sunday, Dec. 5.

Likely COVID patients admitted in the state:

- Last week: 4,150
- The week before that: 3,764
- Four weeks ago: 2,426

Likely COVID patients admitted in the nation:

- Last week: 88,233
- The week before that: 76,364
- Four weeks ago: 68,138

Hospitals in 33 states reported more COVID-19 patients than a week earlier, while hospitals in 28 states had more COVID-19 patients in intensive-care beds. Hospitals in 45 states admitted more COVID-19 patients in the latest week than a week prior, the USA TODAY analysis of U.S. Health and Human Services data shows.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control. If you have questions, contact Mike at mstucka@gannett.com.

Health department updates school COVID-19 guidance

Christina Hall Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Michigan health department updated quarantine recommendations for schools to help prevent transmission of the coronavirus and keep students in the classroom.

State health officials continue to recommend universal masking in all K-12 school settings, but have not issued a mask mandate, leaving individual school districts or counties to decide whether to have such a rule.

Last month, the health officials issued a public health advisory recommending everyone over the age of 2 wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, at indoor gatherings as the state is in the throes of its fourth coronavirus surge. There were 46 new coronavirus outbreaks statewide in K-12 schools and 511 ongoing outbreaks in these settings, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported Monday.

The updated guidance, released Friday, indicates students exposed to coronavirus cases may not have to quarantine at home and can stay in the classroom.

Here are the quarantine guidelines for students who are exposed to the virus at school and do not have symptoms:

- Fully vaccinated contacts without symptoms do not need to quarantine.
- For those who are unvaccinated, and both the exposed student and the coronavirus-positive student were masked, contacts can participate in school activities if they wear a mask for 14 days after exposure and use a "test to stay" strategy. That suggested strategy is to test every other day for seven days after exposure.
- For those who are unvaccinated and one or both students were unmasked, if additional testing and

mitigation strategies are used, contacts may participate in school activities at the discretion of the local health department.

Students who test positive for the virus should not attend school and should isolate at home for 10 days after the onset of symptoms or after the positive test if they do not have symptoms. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, should not attend school or school activities and should be tested for the virus, MDHHS said.

Health officials are encouraging vaccinations, which are approved for those ages 5 and older, as well as wearing masks and testing to keep students in school and children, staff and families safe. They also encourage local health departments and schools to quickly isolate coronavirus cases, identify close contacts and adopt quarantine policies to reduce the risk of transmission.

Farmington schools create internet hotspots in district

Courtesy of Farmington Public Schools

One thing that the pandemic revealed was how to complete many tasks remotely.

Since learning shifted over the last two years to include more online work,

Farmington Public Schools wanted to assist families with this shift.

Throughout the summer, the school district's IT team installed internet hotspots at each of our schools across the district.

Hotspots were placed where outdoor seating is available and/or space for parking so it can be used within your vehicle.

Each hotspot has a range of 100 feet. Hotspots can be found in the following locations:

- Farmington Early Childhood Center - Front Parking Lot: west wall of building
- Beechview Elementary School - Main Parking Lot: south wall of building
- Forest Elementary School - Main Parking Lot: west wall of building
- Gill Elementary School - Main Parking Lot: south wall of building
- Hillside Elementary School - Front Parking Lot: north wall of building
- Kenbrook Elementary School - Main Parking Lot: south wall of building
- Lanigan Elementary School - Main Parking Lot: south wall of building
- Longacre Elementary School - Main Parking Lot: south wall of building
- Wood Creek Elementary School - Main Parking Lot: on pod classrooms north wall of building
- East Middle School - Near Main Parking Lot: north side of building
- Farmington STEAM Academy - Side Parking Lot: NE corner of building
- Power Middle School - Main Parking Lot: center of south wall
- Warner Middle School - Back of Building: south wall of building
- Farmington High School - Student Lot: east wall of building (near custodial entry)
- Farmington Central High School - Main Parking Lot: west wall of building
- North Farmington High School - Near Student Lot/TV10: west side of the building
- Visions Unlimited - Main Parking Lot: west wall of building



North Farmington High. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tary School - Main Parking Lot: SE wall of building

- Wood Creek Elementary School - Main Parking Lot: on pod classrooms north wall of building
- East Middle School - Near Main Parking Lot: north side of building
- Farmington STEAM Academy - Side Parking Lot: NE corner of building
- Power Middle School - Main Parking Lot: center of south wall
- Warner Middle School - Back of Building: south wall of building
- Farmington High School - Student Lot: east wall of building (near custodial entry)
- Farmington Central High School - Main Parking Lot: west wall of building
- North Farmington High School - Near Student Lot/TV10: west side of the building
- Visions Unlimited - Main Parking Lot: west wall of building

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Former adult foster care owner, pharmacist charged with fraud

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The former owner of two Livingston County adult foster care facilities has been charged with fraud after police said she switched pharmacies for her residents in exchange for a free trip to Spain.

Holly Purdy, of Howell, was charged with one count of health care fraud kick-backs on Oct. 28, according to court records. Neeta Raval, a Wixom pharmacist who offered the bribe, has also been charged with fraud.

Police received a tip about Purdy, 51, in 2019 after she switched to Quality Plus pharmacy in Farmington, a Michigan State Police trooper testified at an Oct. 28 hearing that led to charges.

"She went to the pharmacy and made a deal with Neeta Raval, that she would give her the business as long as she got a trip to Spain and that is why she switched," the trooper testified.

Raval, 64, admitted to offering the trip to Purdy in exchange for her business and showed police the \$1,949

Holly Purdy was in charge of filling and distributing medications to at least 15 residents between her two adult foster care facilities.

charge to Royal Caribbean for Purdy's trip, the trooper testified.

An employee who answered the phone Friday said Raval is still employed with Quality Plus. Numbers listed for Purdy and Raval were disconnected Wednesday afternoon.

Purdy was in charge of filling and distributing medications to at least 15 residents between her two adult foster care facilities, Blue Heron Pond in Green Oak Township and Nightingale Retreat in Genoa Township.

Both facilities were shut down at the end of February 2019.

Police and state officials conducted a raid at Blue Heron Pond in February

2019 following a report by a hospice nurse regarding Purdy's request to fill a resident's prescriptions for Xanax, morphine MS and Norco, according to a Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs suspension order issued Feb. 27, 2019.

According to the order, Purdy filled the resident's painkiller prescriptions - 15 times - after those prescriptions had been discontinued.

Michigan State Police seized what they say are at least 700 expired or fraudulently obtained pills and vials from the two now-closed adult foster care facilities, according to a LARA report.

The seized medication consisted of Ativan, Xanax, Gabapentin and liquid morphine.

The facilities housed residents who were physically handicapped, as well as those with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, according to LARA.

Both Purdy and Raval failed to appear for their scheduled arraignment Nov. 24 in front of Magistrate Jerry Sherwood.

Sheriff's office investigates report of shots fired at Walled Lake Central

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A report of shots fired Tuesday morning at Walled Lake Central High School in Commerce Township spurred another Oakland County Sheriff's Office schools investigation into what seems to have been a phony episode.

Undersheriff Michael McCabe said a report happened at 8:31 a.m. Dec. 7 but arriving deputies found no evidence of injuries or confirmed shots fired.

Other police departments responded as well, and deputies cleared the building, 1600 Oakley Park Road.

Shortly after 9 a.m., the sheriff's office canceled additional police response.

Deputies are investigating the original call.

Missing Tennessee woman reunited with daughters

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A metro Detroit family's prayers were answered when they were reunited with Phyllis Greene, their mother and grandmother.

The reunion happened at a Beaumont location in Dearborn the night of Nov. 23. The 73-year-old Greene, who had spent more than a day driving north from her Vonore, Tennessee, home, had walked into the building a few hours shy of midnight.

Staff called police, who made the connection that this was the woman Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard hoped to find.

They contacted Greene's daughters -

Tracey Lynn Vitkay of New Hudson and Michelle Vitkay Adams of Canton Township, relieving them of so many worries.

"(She was) a little confused and disoriented, but healthy and unharmed. That's the main thing," Vitkay said.

Greene, who is resting before the holiday, had a malfunctioning cellphone when she left Tennessee on Nov. 22 to spend the holiday with family. The trip normally takes less than 10 hours. When she didn't arrive in New Hudson by dark, the sisters became worried and contacted police.

They worked with law enforcers in Tennessee, Ohio and Michigan in hopes of finding their mom, who was driving alone. Law enforcers did their best to

alert the public with descriptions of Greene, her vehicle and license plate.

Before her disappearance, Greene had last contacted Vitkay via an email sent on the eve of her departure. She contacted her other daughter with a landline call. The sisters had firm plans to get their mother's cellphone fixed even before she departed.

This was Greene's fourth trip back to metro Detroit this past year. She recently signed a mortgage so that she could return to the area and live closer to two daughters and some grandchildren.

Vitkay and Adams are still trying to figure out what happened to their mother, a sharp woman who occasionally had been getting disoriented before this last road trip.

A traffic camera spotted her vehicle in Columbus, Ohio, at about 2 a.m. Nov. 23. Vitkay confirmed her mother's usual route is Interstate 75 and feared her mother became confused in Cincinnati, where a bridge has been undergoing improvements.

"A reroute would have her going around Cincinnati to the east," Vitkay said. "I'm thinking she did that and just didn't make her connection back to (Interstate) 75 and continued north instead."

Greene made it to Dearborn in her vehicle, a white 2017 Lincoln MKC. Her cellphone had lost power, but her daughters are grateful to all the people who supported them in their crisis.

"We say thank you," Vitkay said.



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Oxford High School ninth graders Rory Metzger (left) and Zachary Majewski help tie ribbons around trees outside the school Dec. 1 following an active shooter situation that left four students dead and multiple others with injuries. PHOTOS BY RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Schools close, review safety plans in wake of Oxford High shooting

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

School officials in Oakland County have been heightened alert ever since the Nov. 30 mass shooting at Oxford High School in which a sophomore is charged with killing four students and wounding six more students and a teacher.

School districts across metro Detroit increased law enforcement presence at schools Dec. 1, and by Thursday most Oakland County school districts canceled classes as rumors of potential violence in school buildings circulated online. By Friday, all area school districts closed. Monday, most districts returned to classes again.

Novi Community School District and Farmington Public Schools remained closed to students Monday, but staff was scheduled to work that day in both districts. Students were expected to return Tuesday.

"We have a heightened police pres-

ence throughout the district, not because of a specific threat, but because it is important and prudent to do that today in particular," Huron Valley Superintendent Paul Salah said Dec. 1, the day after the Oxford shootings.

He described the mood in the building that day as "somber."

Many school districts tried keeping the school day operating as normal as possible for students. In Livonia, administrators were visiting each of the district's 23 schools to check in with students and staff.

"Our cabinet team met and created a game plan to visit all of our schools throughout the morning and early afternoon," Stacy Jenkins, district communication administrator, said. "They're just checking in with our principals and our school psychologists to see if they might need anything. We're really encouraging our school administrators to keep the day as normal as possible."

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 6A



Lora Murphy hugs Cassandra Spezia (foreground) as she helps pass out candles for a prayer vigil at LakePoint Community Church in Oxford.

Kids ask: How safe are we?

Miriam Marini Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Waves of chaos continued to descended upon metro Detroit on Thursday, Dec. 2, two days after the rampage at Oxford High School that left four students dead and seven others injured.

With copycat threats circulating on social media, districts in Oakland County and beyond canceled classes out of caution for students' safety. Law enforcement leaders continued to emphasize the severity with which they will pursue all reports of threats.

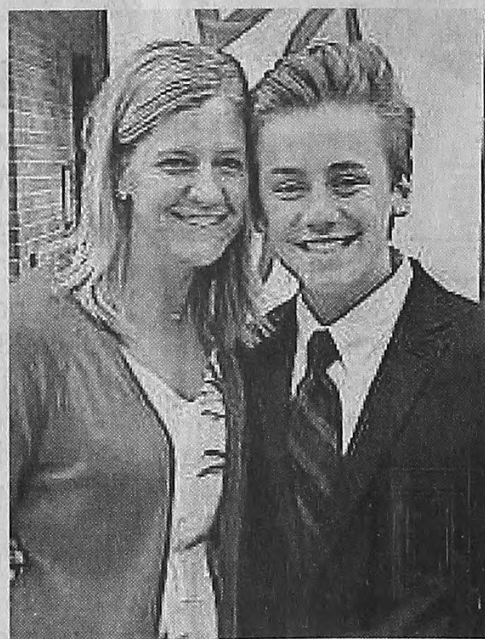
But behind the goose chase of threats and social media rumors of a "hit week" are parents who are walking a fine line of ensuring their children's security without affecting their kids' mental and emotional health.

"I felt like I was going to throw up," said Jill Dillon, 51, of Canton, recalling dropping off her 14-year-old son to school Wednesday morning. "It was nauseating, thinking that I'm supposed to be taking him someplace safe, and is he really going to be safe?"

It's a mix of emotions to process, Dillon said. The thoughts never stop racing through her mind, she said, but pause at the reasoning: Statistically, the chances of a school shooting happening at Canton High School — where her son attends — are low, but not impossible.

"When something happens this close to home, it brings it closer to your heart and makes you really wonder, how safe are we?"

Reining in these worries, Dillon said she instead focuses on conversations with her son, Aidan, and practical ad-



Jodie Roden and her son David, 14.
COURTESY OF JODIE RODEN

vice, like staying alert of his surroundings and following his teachers' instructions, imparted through active shooter drills.

"It's not necessarily about location, or what the school is or isn't doing — it's about an individual or individuals," she said. "It's unrealistic to think it can't happen in your community because it certainly can."

At 1:08 a.m., Novi Community Schools Assistant Superintendent R.J. Webber woke up to his phone ringing nonstop: It was a call concerning copycat threats being made toward nearby districts. He spent the rest of the night

See **KIDS**, Page 6A

Oxford tragedy a reminder threatening violence can have harsh consequences

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Schools across Oakland and Wayne counties found themselves weighing the legitimacy of online threats made in the wake of a shooting that killed four students in Oxford on Nov. 30.

Livonia Franklin High School Principal Andrew Pesci wrote to parents saying the community's help in identifying potential threats is of the utmost importance. Livonia has not identified any credible threats against its student body following the Oxford High School shooting.

"Yesterday morning, I shared with students the importance of reporting any potential threats directly to a Franklin staff member," Pesci wrote in a Dec. 2 email to families.

The 15-year-old charged with murdering four of his classmates in Oxford faces four counts of first-degree murder and a terrorism charge among other charges.

Michigan's penal code states a person threatening violence against a school can be charged with a misdemeanor leading to a \$1,000 fine and/or a year in jail. A credible threat in which the person intended to inflict harm on others can lead to up to a decade in prison.

"We look at all of our incidents on a case-by-case basis based on the facts and evidence in each matter to make

the determination whether or not charges will be issued," Maria Miller, a spokesperson with the Wayne County Prosecutor's office, said.

Like now, after the Parkland, Florida, shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, metro Detroit schools saw a noticeable increase in online threats.

In 2018, a 17-year-old from Plymouth was sentenced to three months in jail and three years probation for threatening to bomb the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. That same year, teens in Farmington and South Lyon schools were sentenced to serve two or more years probation for threatening violence. In one of the South Lyon cases, the student was in jail for 32 days after the judge imposed a \$10 million cash bond. Middle school students in Novi were charged with making a terrorist threat after someone overheard a conversation during class in 2018.

However, school-related threats have not been limited to the aftermath of school shootings.

In October, police arrested a St. Joseph, Missouri resident for making a shooting threat against Walled Lake Central High School. Back in 2015, a Milford freshman was arrested on terrorism and false threat charges after he said on social media he was going to "kill everyone at school Monday." He eventually pleaded no contest and spent more than six months at Children's Village, a youth detention center.

Schools

Continued from Page 5A

Jenkins added Livonia has added to its student support staff, including social workers, in recent years, who can support students who are processing difficult emotions or are nervous about coming to school.

Paul Shepich, superintendent of Clarenceville Public Schools, said his district's approach was similar. Clarenceville does not have any student resource officers at its schools and did not seek a police presence Wednesday.

"We felt strongly that we wanted this not to be bigger down here, locally, than it already was," Shepich said. "We had no reason to believe any kind of copycat issues were at hand, so we tried to use other strategies to deal with the fallout of that incident."

The onus of protecting children from school shooters is a heavy one for districts which already bear the burden of fixing problems in kids like depression, hunger and more in addition to the primary goal of educating students.

"It's important to be mindful that if we are going to meet all the needs of kids, which is expected, we need more resources to hire social workers, counselors, and nurses," Salah said. "We provide all those things, but based on limited resources."

School districts have spent heavily on various security measures, including reconfigured front offices,

limited entry access to buildings or classroom doors that automatically lock when closed.

"It's important to note that every school shooting that has occurred across the country has forced districts to be hyper vigilant with safety measures," Salah said. "We don't wait for a tragedy to be prepared."

Novi Superintendent Steve Matthews recalls that when he started his career in education in the '90s, school buildings were open, with anyone able to walk right in. The mass shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999 changed all that.

"We ask ourselves on a regular basis, 'Are we doing enough to keep students safe?'" he said. "I think we are doing all we can, but we are always evaluating if we are doing everything to keep them safe without making them feel like they are watched all the time. I don't want (students) to feel they are in an environment where every move is monitored, students do best when they feel comfortable and safe."

Novi Superintendent Steve Matthews said an increased police presence was also in effect at Novi Schools immediate following the violence on the other end of the county, but otherwise the schools would continue the safety measures that have been evolving for years.

Those include annual training and drills for kids and staff on how to respond to active shooters, security cameras, and secured entryways to buildings.

Districts in the area do not have bag checks or metal detectors as students enter the buildings.

"It would be a monumental effort, with little action-

able outcome," Matthews said of adding such security measures. "It's better to pay attention to social and emotional mental health... Over the last three years, we've had a concerted effort to bring restorative practices to the district, with students and families sitting down and working through conflicts and trying to help students understand the impact of their actions on others. It's difficult and hard work and takes time, but that work is just as important as securing entry into a building."

School officials are directing families to various resources in an effort to help manage the latest trauma, and also encouraging students, parents and other community members to use a hotline for suspicious behavior.

One option is the State of Michigan's OK2SAY tip line by calling 1-855-565-2729, emailing ok2say@mi.gov or texting to 652729. It is available around the clock for anyone in the community to report safety concerns.

"Your children are our children, and we will continue to do everything in our control to maintain safety in our schools," South Lyon Schools Superintendent Steve Archibald said in an email to families in that district.

Several agencies provide helpful information for those discussing the topic with children:

- www.apa.org/topics/gun-violence-crime/school-shooting
- www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/16/07/coping-community-crisis

Kids

Continued from Page 5A

and morning discussing student safety and planning the best course of action. "I've done this (been an educator) for 30 years and this is the first day I've had where we're off school for a reason that no parent was equipped or ready to explain why," Webber said.

Administrators nationwide — even globally — have been stretched thin for nearly two years, between keeping students healthy during a pandemic and devastating staffing shortages, and now Michigan educators are having to face guiding students through another crisis. Not to mention the long-term, lasting impact all this has on students, Webber said.

"We're already seeing behavioral struggles with kids because of the trauma of the pandemic, and now we have this," he said. "The fall of 2021 has been, hands-down, the most difficult four to five months of my educational career," Webber said, adding that he has taught in prisons and in Africa.

A flood of threats across the region was far-reaching, with some being suspicious posts online, others tangible.

On Thursday, a 17-year-old Southfield student with a semi-automatic pistol was arrested and a bomb threat was made at South Lake High School, prompting a police investigation.

"If you're making threats, we're going to find you," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said during



Jill Dillon's children, Aidan, Jake and Hannah.
COURTESY OF JILL DILLON

a news conference Thursday, specifically called to address the estimated hundreds of copycat threats reported. "It is ridiculous you're inflaming the fears and passion of parents, teachers, and the community in

the midst of a real tragedy."

Bouchard said the pursuit of threats has exhausted his office's resources but will continue nonetheless. He said he has enlisted the assistance of the FBI and Secret Service to tackle threats. This week has been the most challenging for FBI Detroit Special Agent Tim Waters, who has worked in the community for 21 years, he said during Thursday's conference.

Despite the influx of threats, prosecutors encouraged residents to direct reports of threats to their offices, not to post on social media.

It's the confusion of what's real and what's not that's scariest for 14-year-old David Roden, a freshman at Northville High School, which stayed open Thursday.

"Everyone was on edge. It's just kind of weird, being close to the situation," he said, "because it's never been close to home, but this one's closer than they've (school shooting) ever been."

His social media sphere is flooded with rumors of more shootings, Snapchat screenshots, and blurry Instagram stories, promising that Tuesday's horror was just the beginning. But teachers are having open conversations in his classes, helping him and his classmates to parse the confirmed facts from the fake.

David's mom, Jodie, said she used to worry about her kids reaching school safely with her daughter, 16-year-old Emily, behind the wheel.

"It's sad that you're nervous sending them off to school and hoping that the person sitting next to them isn't the person that could, you know, do something to them," she said, laughing nervously.

Obituaries

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Ruth V. Hartman

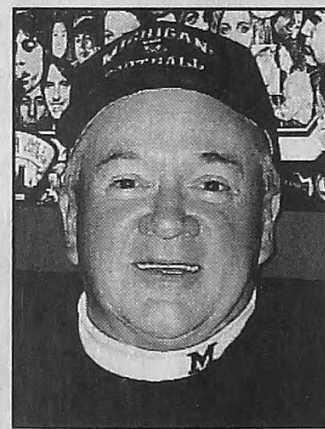
- - November 24, 2021
Age 91. Beloved wife of William J. Hartman, Jr (d. 2014). Dear Mother of William (Jennifer), Mary Benedict (William), Thomas (Kim), and John (Loria). Survived by eight grandchildren (Steven, Jayne, Lauren, Caroline, Jacqueline, Mary, Bridget, and Tommy) and one great grandchild, David. Born in Detroit on October 7, 1930, daughter to Ed and Marie Rautiola and older sister to Roy Rautiola (Sandy) of Brighton, MI. Ruth graduated from Detroit's Central High (1948), Wayne State University (BA 1952), and the University of Michigan (MA 1954 Education) where she felt privileged to have lived in the renowned Martha Cook residence hall. As a longtime resident of Detroit and Highland Park, Ruth's early career was dedicated to the people of the area at both the Kronk Recreation Center, and the Highland Park School District as a teacher. Ruth and Bill relocated to Birmingham, Mi in 1958 to raise their family. Ruth found the time to use her considerable needlepoint skills as a conservation volunteer at Detroit Institute of Arts. She served as an officer and on various committees of the Birmingham Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). In addition to many other groups and associations within the area, she provided guided tours of the Cranbrook House and Gardens. She was also a longtime member of the Lutheran Church of the Master in Troy, MI. A memorial ceremony will be arranged after the new year; details to follow. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500.

View obituary and sign tribute wall at AJDesmond.com



Patricia Murley

FARMINGTON HILLS
- Age 80, went to be with God on December 2, 2021. Pat was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on May 28, 1941 to Wessyl and Madalyn McKinley. Her family, including brother Edmund (b. 1944), moved to Holly, Michigan in 1951. She graduated from Western Michigan University (B.S.) and the University of Michigan (M.S.) with degrees in Speech Pathology. She started working as a speech therapist at Madison Heights Public Schools and then moved to Birmingham Public Schools, from where she retired after forty years. She thoroughly enjoyed her job, her colleagues, and the children (and their families) she helped. Pat married David K. Murley, whom she met at Western Michigan. They moved to Farmington Hills in 1968 and resided there the rest of their lives. David predeceased her in 1990. She is survived by their three grateful and loving children: Dave (Sarah Hubbard), Bill, and Annie (Michael) Kosem. Pat was active in her church, various bible study groups, and the Farmington Goodfellows. She helped organize the North Farmington Senior all-night party in 1986. Despite her many commitments to family, she had an active social life, enjoying concerts, musicals, and walks with friends. Pat had a kind and generous spirit. To celebrate of her life, in lieu of flowers, we ask that you consider instead doing something kind and unexpected for another human with the hope of brightening their day or make a donation to The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee <https://www.elephants.com/>. Private graveside services were held at Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia.



Thomas Charles "TC" Wilmot, Jr.

WAYNE - Thomas Charles "TC" Wilmot, Jr. - 83, passed on November, 28, 2021. Loved father of Thomas (Sandra) Hill. Grandfather of Tyler Hill. Uncle to Beth, Patty, Cathy, Linda, Anita, Molly, Carol, and Joel. Dear brother of the late Dorothy Flory; and brother, Murray Wilmot. Interment at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, in Westland, Michigan. Memorial service to be held at a later date. Please view and add tributes at www.uhtfh.com

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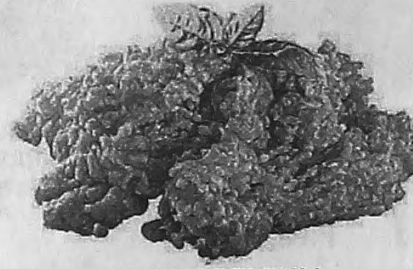
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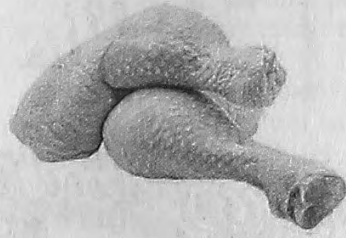
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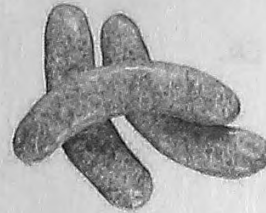
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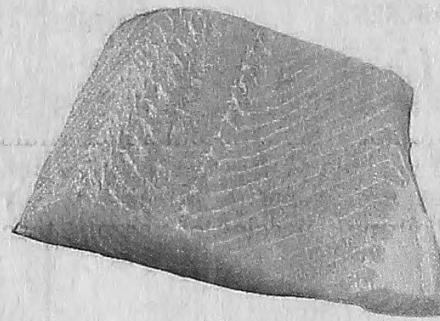
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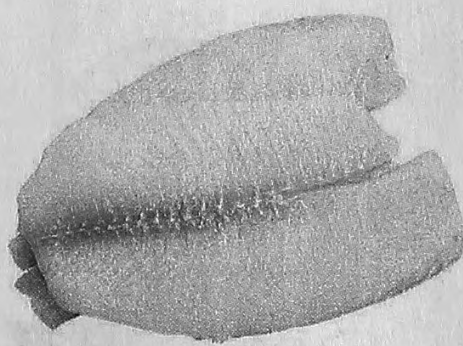
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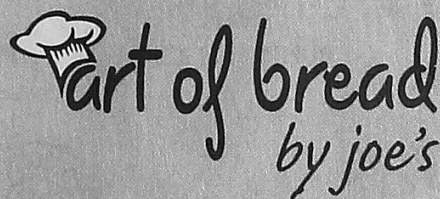
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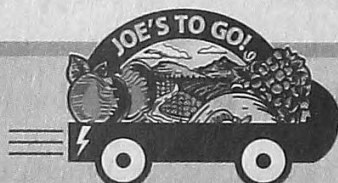
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SPORTS

Canton beats Franklin by mercy rule

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With both the Canton and Livonia Franklin hockey teams lined up on separate blue lines, the players couldn't do much else but giggle and smile throughout all the awkwardness.

The pre-game playing of the national anthem just wasn't going to happen. The song would not play. Nothing was coming out of the speakers overhead.

Some players had red cheeks from the embarrassment.

So the head referee skated toward center ice, signaling to both squads that the game was going to start without it.

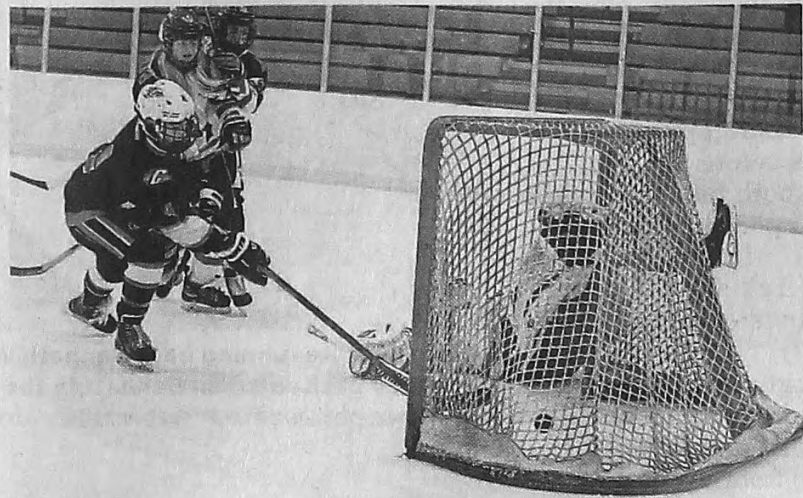
And that hiccup was the first of many during the Chiefs' 10-2 mercy-rule victory Dec. 1 at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena.

Tyler Husted (seven points) and Danny Fletcher (six) each recorded hat tricks.

Canton scored five goals in the opening period, including four in a six-minute stretch, but it just couldn't put away the Patriots and end the game early.

"I think my guys decided to be sluggish toward the end of the game," Canton coach Justin Maedel said. "It's kind of hard to keep them up. You can't really get on the guys because of the fact that

See MERCY, Page 4B



Canton's Tyler Husted scores a goal against Franklin on Dec. 1 at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena. The Chiefs won, 10-2, in a mercy-rule victory.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

Wayne Memorial grad beats buzzer for Purdue win

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Never has Jeanae Terry been the type to step up and take the game's final shot.

When she was a three-star recruit at Wayne Memorial, she would defer to her teammates in those moments. It didn't matter if it was to knot the score, snap a tie or hit a come-from-behind shot at the buzzer. Her lack of confidence in her own abilities was, in fact, the biggest weakness in her game. And both her former high school coach, Jarvis Mitchell, and mother, Tomilia Terry-Carpenter would agree.

Well, what a difference three years makes.

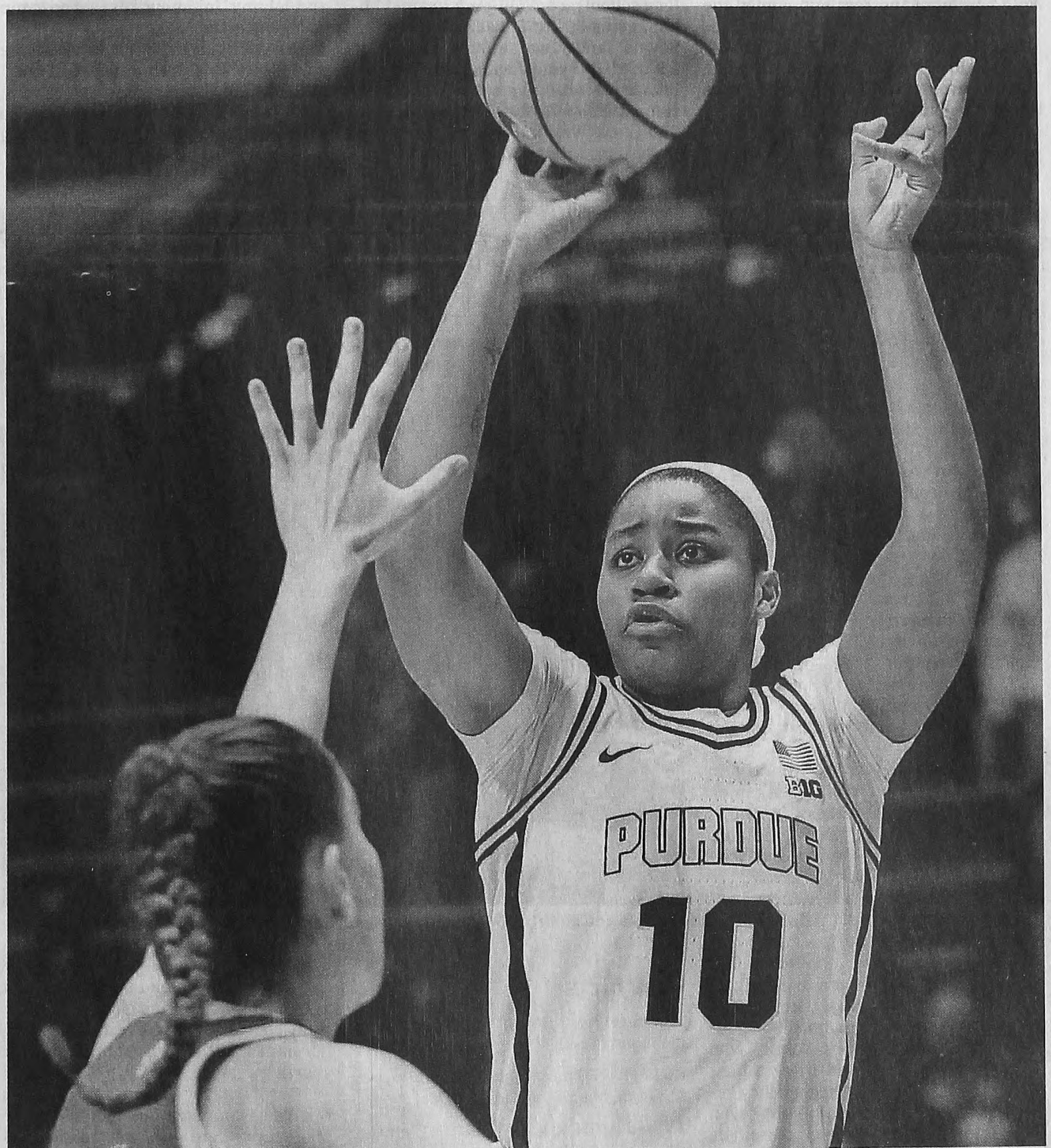
Terry, who transferred from Illinois to Purdue before this school year, buried a buzzer-beater that lifted the Boiler-makers over visiting Georgia Tech, 53-52, on Dec. 1.

That's a quick way to gain confidence in yourself.

"Being in that moment and taking that shot, how incredible," Terry told Hometown Life. "A lot of the times growing up, throughout my high school career and in college, I've always been so nervous to do that. The fact that I did it, put up that shot and stayed confident in myself, it was just a fun, fun experience, having the crowd yelling and screaming.

"It's something I'll never forget."

With three seconds left, Terry received an inbounds pass near half court,



Purdue guard Jeanae Terry shoots over Georgia Tech center Nerea Hermosa during the first quarter Dec. 1 at Mackey Arena in West Lafayette. Purdue won, 53-52. NIKOS FRAZIER/LAFAYETTE JOURNAL & COURIER

See GRAD, Page 3B

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MSU, Pitt stars add Peach Bowl pizzazz

Chris Solari Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Mel Tucker knows Michigan State football's secondary — one of the nation's worst — will face one of its biggest challenges of the season in the Peach Bowl: Slowing down quarterback Kenny Pickett and the Pitt Panthers' prolific passing attack.

"I know we're going to have to do a much better job on our pass defense," Tucker said Sunday. "We've got to tighten up some areas. We've got to get some guys back healthy in order to be able to have a chance to contain him and slow him down."

Pat Narduzzi knows his Panthers have a similar test ahead: Stopping Spartans running back Kenneth Walker III. Even though his run defense is one of the best in the country.

"We haven't played Kenneth Walker yet," the Pitt coach said.

The two Maxwell Award and Walker Camp Award finalists, who also have been in the conversation for the Heisman Trophy all season may not go up against each other, but their offenses will be the centerpieces to watch when Walker and No. 10 MSU faces Pickett and No. 12 Pitt.

Though either could opt out of the postseason game before the Dec. 30 game in Atlanta, both have expressed their intentions to play — Walker after the Spartans' 30-27 win over Penn State on Nov. 27 and Pickett after Saturday's Atlantic Coast Conference championship game.

Both Tucker and MSU quarterback Payton Thorne said Sunday they believe Walker will keep that promise.

"I haven't heard from any of the guys that they've decided not to play," Tucker said. "At this point I'm assuming everyone is going to play, but if something changes, I will certainly make sure everyone knows that."

The 6-foot-3, 220-pound Pickett won ACC Player of the Year and guided the Panthers (11-2) to their first league title Saturday, a 45-21 blowout of No. 19 Wake Forest in Charlotte, North Carolina. Pickett went 20-for-33 for 253 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions, breaking Dan Marino's school record with an ACC-record 42 touch-



Michigan State running back Kenneth Walker III runs by Maryland Terrapins defensive back Jakorian Bennett in the second half Nov. 13 at Spartan Stadium. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

down passes. He also scored on a 58-yard run, utilizing a fake slide to fool stunned defenders.

Yet that proved to be one of the red-shirt senior from New Jersey's least prolific games of the season. Pickett threw for a school record 519 yards against Miami, going 39-for-55 with three touchdowns and two interceptions. He eclipsed 400 yards against North Carolina State (416, three TDs) and New Hampshire (403, five TDs) and topped 300 yards five other times this season.

Pickett ranks third in the nation this

season in touchdown passes and fifth at both 357.2 yards per game passing and 4,319 passing yards. Pitt's offense ranks fifth in FBS at 502.9 yards per game and third in scoring at 43 points. He also is a finalist for the Manning, Davey O'Brien and Johnny Unitas awards that go to top college quarterbacks.

"He definitely can put the ball where it needs to be. He's shown that all year," MSU safety Xavier Henderson said. "He's got some pretty good numbers. So we'll just have to really keep working fundamentals and technique."

The Spartans have battled injuries, inconsistency and issues in coverage all season. They have allowed 26 of their 35 opponents' touchdowns through the air and rank last in the country among 130 Football Bowl Subdivision teams in allowing 337.7 passing yards per game and 84th in passing efficiency defense (138.88).

The last five opposing quarterbacks Tucker's team has faced each passed for more than 300 yards, including 536 for Purdue's Aidan O'Connell and 432 for Ohio State's C.J. Stroud in the Spartans' two losses.

"We got to be better — not only the secondary, but the linebackers as well," Henderson said. "We have to better in playing zone coverage and kind of melding with the quarterback. And then when the quarterback's looking and he's going through his progressions, we gotta do a good job of staying in our zone and melding up the quarterback. I think that's something we struggled with throughout the year."

The Spartans have their own offensive weapon, however, with Walker.

The 5-10, 210-pound junior from Arlington, Tennessee, was named Big Ten running back of the year and first-team all-conference last week, and is a finalist for the Doak Walker Award as the nation's best at his position. He ranks second in the country with both 1,636 rushing yards and a 136.3 yards-per-game average, and his 18 rushing touchdowns rank eighth in the nation.

MSU ranks 41st in total offense at 430.9 yards — 185.6 on the ground (42nd) and 245.3 passing (56th) and is tied for 39th at 31.9 points a game.

Narduzzi's run defense ranks sixth in allowing 91.8 rushing yards. Pitt held Syracuse's Sean Tucker, who ranks fourth in the country in rushing, to 29 yards on 13 carries in a 31-14 road win on Nov. 27.

However, Narduzzi was quick to caution Walker presents a different challenge.

"He's a great running back," Narduzzi said. "He can run. He's fast. ... We know what kind of athlete he is. It'll be a big challenge, and just because you stop one at Syracuse doesn't mean you can stop one at Michigan State. It'll take a lot of work."

Georgia regroups while prepping to face U-M

Michael Cohen Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Bulldogs began their season with a smothering 10-3 win over then-No. 3 Clemson that foreshadowed their defensive prowess.

Led by coach Kirby Smart, a former defensive coordinator at Alabama, the Georgia defense developed a reputation as one of the best in the history of college football.

The Bulldogs posted shutouts against Vanderbilt (62-0), Arkansas (38-0) and Georgia Tech (45-0) while holding every regular season opponent to 17 points or fewer. Only South Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee managed more than 10 points against Smart's star-laden unit.

The Bulldogs lead the country in scoring defense (9.5 points per game), rank third in rushing defense (81.7 yards per game), third in passing defense (171.5 yards per game) and second in total defense (253.2 yards per game).

But the narrative has changed following a shocking loss to Alabama in the SEC championship game.

Not only did Georgia suffer its first defeat of the season on the biggest stage, but its trademark defense was shredded from start to finish by Alabama quarterback Bryce Young, who threw for 421 yards and three touchdowns and rushed for a score. Wide receiver Jameson Williams caught seven passes for 184 yards and two scores. The Crimson Tide racked up 536 yards of total offense and converted 50% of its third downs to stun the Bulldogs and stifle their hopes of both a perfect season and the No. 1 ranking in the College Football Playoff.

"You have to be brutally honest with yourself at a time like this," Smart said. "You have to be able to go through and say who are we? What are we doing well? Maybe we're not as good as we thought in some areas. Where can we improve that? Sometimes you only see that through a loss."

Three things to watch

Problems in the secondary: The aerial bombardment from Alabama exposed Georgia's issues in coverage on an



Georgia coach Kirby Smart and RB D'Andre Swift in 2019. USA TODAY SPORTS FILE

Fast facts

Matchup: No. 3 Georgia (12-1) vs. No. 2 Michigan (12-1).

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m., Dec. 31, Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Florida.

TV/radio: ESPN; WXYT-FM (97.1) and WWJ-AM (950).

afternoon when the pass rush didn't generate pressure.

The Bulldogs did not record a sack against the Crimson Tide and were credited with six quarterback hits by Pro Football Focus.

An absence of pressure forced the corners and safeties to hold up in coverage longer than expected, and the results were poor.

Safety Lewis Cine was charged with yielding seven receptions for 147 yards and a touchdown by PFF. Nickel back William Poole was tagged for eight catches, 97 yards and a score. The Bulldogs do not have a defensive back rated in the top 50 coverage grades in the

country among defenders with at least 200 such snaps this season.

By contrast, U-M cornerback DJ Turner ranks 28th after another terrific showing against Iowa.

"Our guys have played well at times this year, and each guy has had some poor plays where we haven't made plays on the ball downfield, and our front has really protected them a lot of the way," Smart said. "It was evident (against Alabama) when you get zero sacks and you pressure as much as we did, you're probably going to have some one-on-one situations that you don't win them all. We're going to go back to work at it, work really hard."

Managing the next three weeks: During his teleconference, Smart was asked whether he feels more prepared to tackle the preparation for a national semifinal having reached this stage in 2017. Smart gave a fascinating answer about how complicated the next few weeks are for coaching staffs trying juggle many different tasks.

"I certainly think having experience, having played in it as a coach, organiz-

ing it, knowing what's about to happen," Smart said. "You basically got three-and-a-half to four weeks that you've got to try to manage better than three other programs. We're all at square one. Nobody's really ahead of anybody else. It's like the beginning of a new season. Who manages the next three-and-a-half, four weeks best in terms of award shows, final exams, Christmas break, practices, bowl time. There's a lot that goes into that. Weight discipline. It's a competition. We want to manage that the right way."

"I think having done that one time certainly helps us from understanding what we need to get done, how we prepare, and those things."

Among the strengths exhibited by Jim Harbaugh's staff this season is the ability to effectively manage their time in seven-day segments to create, install and perfect the plan they want to run the following week. Having the better part of a month to prepare for a single opponent is a different challenge.

Smart's son admires Hutchinson:

In one of the lighter moments from his teleconference, Smart was asked for any early impressions of Aidan Hutchinson, who was named MVP of the Big Ten championship game after snaring his 14th sack of the season.

Smart said he caught parts of Michigan's win over Iowa on television and admired the energy, passion and relentless nature of Hutchinson. He was also impressed by the way Hutchinson handled himself during postgame interviews.

But Smart acknowledged he doesn't yet know enough about Hutchinson and the Wolverines to make accurate statements about their personnel.

That doesn't apply to his son, though. "I got a 9-year-old son that loves college football, watches everything on YouTube," Smart said. "He started telling me about Michigan's players. That's the first guy he started telling me about. I'm like, how does my 9-year-old son know about Aidan Hutchinson? He knew everything about him, was giving me all these stats."

"I was pretty amazed because I really just started to fill myself in about Michigan last night, and he was talking about Aidan."

Grad

Continued from Page 1B

did a crossover dribble in front of a defender and raced through the lane to sink a runner as time expired.

"It just came down to making a play," Terry added. "You've got to play aggressively and confidently. I just had to make a play, knowing what I can do. I saw the ball was in my hands to make the last shot."

"I wanted to do a one-dribble pull-up. I noticed my girl was still attached to me and so the runner was available. Three seconds left. Just be aggressive. That was the first time I've ever hit a shot like that, and it was a childhood dream of mine to make that type of shot. To be able to do that and execute it, wow."

The Boilermakers celebrated in the locker room by tossing water on Terry. She conducted hours of interviews with local media afterward, she said.

She was mobbed by classmates and fans as she walked to classes the next day.

Perhaps the best part of the night was being able to celebrate with Mitchell, her coach at Memorial, who made the trip to West Lafayette, Indiana, to see his former forward in action.

"I hated every minute of it," Mitchell joked about watching Terry nail the game-winner. "I wasn't surprised much about the shot. I'll always go on record and say she's by far one of the most talented players in the Big Ten. She's one of the most talented players I've coached."

"When she went out and took the shot, I stood up and ran toward the scorers table because I knew it'd be going in. When she's not thinking and her natural instinct takes over, I don't think there's another better player in the country. That's my bias, but I'm extremely proud of her. And that was a big moment for me as well because I remember when she wouldn't take that shot. She would defer. Now she's doing it on one of the biggest stages."

Terry-Carpenter, who watched the game on television from her home, said she was anxious watching her daughter take the final shot.

"I was nervous waiting for them to get through it in," she said. "I was hoping she didn't get the ball. She's been nervous about being in that position of putting up the last shot. I was hoping she



Purdue head coach Katie Geardis and Purdue guard Jeanae Terry celebrate after defeating Georgia Tech, 53-52, on Dec. 1. NIKOS FRAZIER/LAFAYETTE JOURNAL & COURIER

didn't have to put up the last shot.

"When it went in, I was literally at home screaming. Like, 'Oh my god! She's actually taking the shot! She's believing in herself!' When it went in, I can't even tell you how happy I was. I was literally running through the house and screaming at the top of my lungs. I just knew what it meant for her, and I knew the kind of anxiety she had about doing something like that. To see her take that shot and see it went in, it was amazing."

Terry-Carpenter, a club director for Boys & Girls Club, who focuses on encouraging children on a daily basis, said her daughter has always been a natural star player, even dating back to her elementary school days.

But she's had confidence issues in the past.

"When she was 5, I could see during a game that she didn't have confidence," Terry-Carpenter said. "I told the coach, 'Can I just talk to her at halftime?' I told her then, 'This is you. God gave you this

talent. You can do this. You. Can. Do. This!' That's how I've always been supporting her, by telling her He wants you to be out there. He wants to see you succeed."

Now that she has the experience of hitting such a big shot, she'll be more likely to step up during big moments for the Boilermakers as the season goes on. That's enough to make her mom proud.

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

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Canton's Danny Fletcher battles Franklin's Jake Donnelly on Dec. 1 at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mercy

Continued from Page 1B

it's just a game where what we're trying to do is use it as another practice. So they can just get another skate. It's difficult, but you try to stay with it with them. ...

"I think we had some opportunities that we gave up on because we just didn't really want to get a goal."

All the credit goes to Franklin.

Instead of rolling over and dying, the

Patriots battled back.

Franklin's Luke St. Ledger scored almost eight minutes into the second period to keep the game from turning into a running clock. Almost three minutes later, the senior defenseman assisted Dustin Fretter on a power-play goal to ensure both teams would have to come back for the third period.

Husted, who assisted on all three of Fletcher's first-period goals, was huge for Canton late in the game, though. The senior assisted Cameron Kitts on a power-play goal and then scored twice himself.

"He came on as a sophomore," Maedel said of his captain. "He's been with me all three years that I've been here. He's special because he's a hard-working kid. He's very skilled and has a high hockey IQ. He's just a kid who just works hard. He wants to play juniors. He wants to advance. So I think that's a lot of motivation for him. He's been a pleasure to coach for the past three years."

"He's very smart. High, high hockey IQ. Sense of the ice. Finding the soft areas. Passing the puck. He gets assists, and he gets goals. He's a player who will forecheck, and he'll backcheck. He cre-

ates opportunities in the offensive zone."

Vince Hall banged in a rebound off a missed Luke Amos shot to activate the mercy rule with 4:20 left.

Canton goalie Jackson Saulsberry earned the win.

"We came out firing a little bit and got a couple of lucky ones," Maedel said. "Their goalie (Brenden Pedersen) is good. We played to shoot off pads for rebounds. A couple of them scored like that. A couple of nice shots, too, that he had no chance on."

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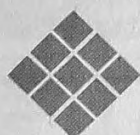
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"MM, GOOD!"

ACROSS

- 1 Kiddie-lit elephant
- 6 Seder bread
- 11 Warren in the Pro Football Hall of Fame
- 15 Numbered work of a composer
- 19 "I'd love to help"
- 20 Fictional town in an Edgar Lee Masters title
- 22 Intensify, with "up"
- 23 Aged female horse that has won lots of singing awards?
- 25 Dog food brand
- 26 Flimsy
- 27 Hive swarm
- 28 "Lie Down With Lions" novelist Ken
- 30 Romanov royal
- 31 — fi film
- 33 Michael of "Superbad"
- 34 Stephen of the screen
- 35 Time when everybody turned down their radios all at once?
- 41 — v. Wade
- 42 Aussie critter
- 43 Soporific drug
- 44 Electrolysis particles
- 45 Reading quickly in the Scandinavian manner?
- 50 Novelist Stout
- 52 Hammer or Spade
- 53 History topic
- 54 Hot tub sigh
- 56 Tranquility
- 60 Brainchild
- 62 Big meeting to discuss protective metal gear?
- 66 Foot the bill
- 69 A-bomb, e.g.
- 71 "— dare?"
- 72 — Lilly
- 73 "Tamerlane" poet
- 74 Cold, damp park birds?
- 79 Declare
- 82 Apia locale
- 83 Elton John's '70s label
- 84 Figure skater Midori —
- 86 Bet to win and place
- 90 Cloning stuff
- 92 Was an overly aggressive barber?
- 96 Cato's "to be"
- 99 — alla Scala
- 101 Intensify, with "up"
- 102 Antique auto
- 103 Trouncing in a number-adding contest?
- 109 Bullring call
- 110 Balcony box
- 111 "Send help!"
- 112 Netflix rival
- 113 Medium for burning data
- 115 Pork serving
- 118 Of sentence units
- 121 Cork's land
- 122 Decreed to be the most prudish?
- 126 Observes
- 127 Computer programming output
- 128 More skillful
- 129 Chances
- 130 Covered with bathroom rolls, slangily
- 131 Outback food
- 132 Fliers' homes
- 5 Add ammo to
- 6 Emails or texts: Abbr.
- 7 Wet mo.
- 8 Come — halt
- 9 Body not staying at rest?
- 10 "My treat"
- 11 Family in computer games
- 12 DuVernay of "Queen Sugar"
- 13 Flawless
- 14 Request in advance, in a way
- 15 Spoken exam
- 16 Sicily's capital
- 17 A gazillion
- 18 Brief plugs for political candidates
- 21 Bread variety
- 24 — Lube (STP alternative)
- 29 Chou En —
- 31 Add fuel to
- 32 Groups on church risers
- 33 The Plame affair, informally
- 35 Hammer or spade
- 36 52-wk. units
- 37 Dad's partner
- 38 Longtime wire svc.
- 39 Moses' peak
- 40 Seltzer, e.g.
- 41 ICU VIPs
- 46 Imbiber's hwy. offense
- 47 "— be nice if ..."
- 48 Like taffy
- 49 Bea Arthur sitcom
- 51 Air-testing gp.
- 55 Hispanic "hello"
- 57 Intensify, with "up"
- 58 Loving sound
- 59 Previous to, poetically
- 61 12-hour clock toggle
- 63 Lowing sound
- 64 Fluid dram fraction
- 65 "Hawaii —" (Jack Lord series)
- 66 Acer offerings
- 67 Styled after
- 68 Orange tuber
- 70 Say aloud for transcription
- 75 Net access provider
- 76 Groom, e.g.
- 77 "The Dance" singer Brooks
- 78 Canned heat
- 80 Good Grips brand
- 81 Nursery cry
- 85 Dramatist Clifford
- 87 Merry-go-rounds
- 88 Not kosher
- 89 Hurry-scurry
- 91 For free
- 93 Furious state
- 94 Spill cleaner
- 95 Sony products
- 96 1962 Paul Anka hit
- 97 Tarnished
- 98 Tarnished
- 100 Chinese soup
- 104 Sort
- 105 Facet
- 106 "Surprised to run into you!"
- 107 University in Greenville, South Carolina
- 108 In a blazing brandy sauce
- 114 Fed Eliot
- 115 Ace or queen
- 116 Fruit drink brand
- 117 Tip jar bills
- 118 Nursery school, briefly
- 119 Play — (perform some songs)
- 120 Env. items
- 123 Receivable
- 124 John in court cases
- 125 High-tech organizer

#2,068

Average time of solution: 65 minutes

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

SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/09

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 S H T Y N O E
 I H V U D A S B R S L S C A K O D
 L A O G S A M E E R I U 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

- 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

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