

Canton intersection to get safety upgrades

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One of the most crash-prone (not related to Ford Road) and funkier intersections in Canton Township is on the verge of getting significantly safer and a lot less funky.

The point in southwest Canton where Ridge, Denton and Saltz roads converge has become a hotspot for traffic accidents for several years, especially since the construction of nearby massive residential developments like Cherry Hill Village generated much higher volumes of traffic on the former

rural stretch of roadways.

Wayne County Commissioner Melissa Daub, whose jurisdiction includes southwest Canton, lives not far from the intersection, so she's well aware of its danger factor.

Her awareness was crystallized in 2018 when she was elected to her first

term as a commissioner.

"A short time after I was elected, I started getting a lot of calls and emails from residents asking if Wayne County could install a light at that intersection," Daub said. "It's a unique intersection

See INTERSECTION, Page 2A



Deadwood Bar & Grill server Allison Sawyer brings drinks to customers in one of the Northville restaurant's igloos.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Winter outdoor dining options return as COVID-19 cases surge

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Dining this holiday season is a far cry from what it was in 2020. But for Victor Dzenowagis, he's still seeing a lot of interest in the lone lifeline restaurants had last winter: outdoor dining.

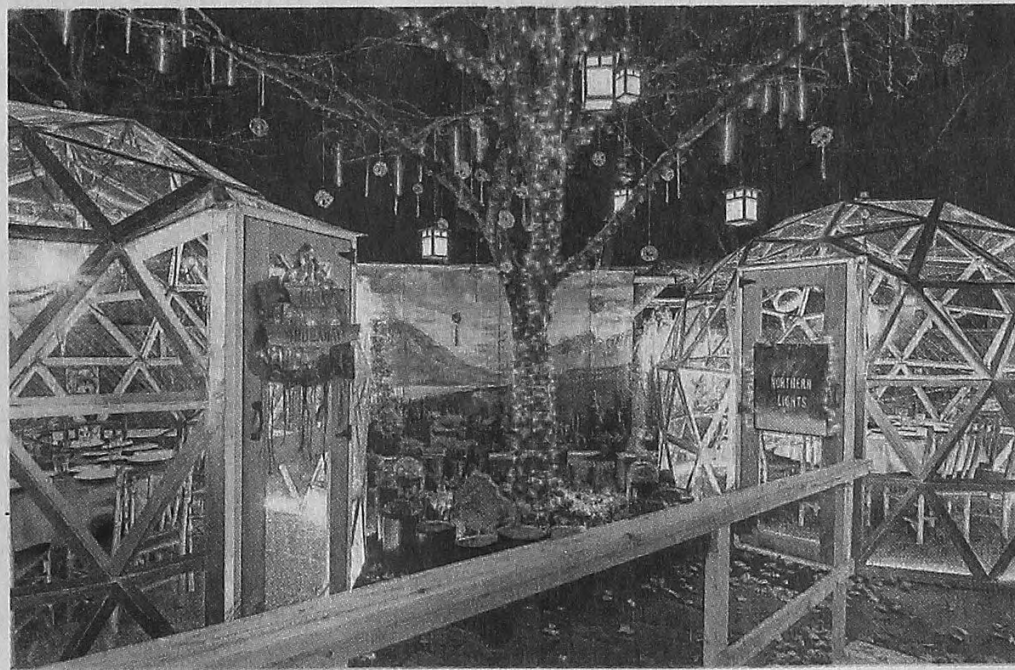
The co-owner of the Moose Preserve Bar & Grill in Bloomfield Township and Deadwood Bar & Grill in Northville Township said they launched the igloo concept at their restaurants back in 2019 before COVID-19 first appeared in the United States, thinking it was a novel idea for people looking for a unique dining experience.

State restrictions prohibiting indoor dining at restaurants last winter prompted more restaurants to install igloos or other outside structures for patrons, and Dzenowagis said he is excited to offer the igloo option for a third year.

"It's kind of a private little world and I think people like that," he said. "I think it's becoming a tradition for people. We're busier than ever with them."

The changing seasons and colder temperatures raise questions for

See DINING, Page 2A



The Moose Preserve Bar and Grill in Bloomfield Township will bring back its two igloos for dining this winter. COURTESY OF THE MOOSE PRESERVE/JACOB HAWKINS

"It's kind of a private little world ... I think it's becoming a tradition for people. We're busier than ever with them."

Victor Dzenowagis Co-owner, Moose Preserve Bar & Grill and Deadwood Bar & Grill

Plans for marijuana shop in Westland move ahead

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plans to construct a new marijuana dispensary along Ford Road in Westland took another step forward.

The city's planning commission reviewed and recommended approval to the city council for the development of a marijuana retail establishment at 37655 Ford Road during its meeting Dec. 1 at Westland City Hall.

Common Citizen, a Marshall-based company with retail locations in Flint, Battle Creek, Hazel Park and a medical marijuana location in Detroit, plans to occupy the facility. Other locations planned for the company include spots in Lansing and Pontiac, according to its website.

"We've got a couple of other irons in the fire but we're really excited about coming here," said Mike Beck, the company's director of community and government affairs.

Common Citizen wants to use the site, located between Newburgh and Hix, as a retail establishment to sell marijuana.

After looking at the facility's renderings, Commissioner David Rappaport said what's proposed on the Ford Road site is a vast improvement over another area dispensary, Michigan's Finest, which opened last year in Wayne.

"The facility that is proposed is very nice," he said. "I think that a move like this and a facility like this ... I believe this goes a long way to mitigating some of the demonizing rhetoric that's gone around with marijuana use."

The site plan and special land use was recommended unanimously for approval by the planning commission. It now goes to the city council for its review and final determination.

The proposal, which came months after the commission first heard and recommended approval of a lot split at the property this past summer, comes as litigation over the city's selection process of which companies to grant marijuana licenses continue to work through the legal system.

Several lawsuits were filed in March by companies not selected by the city to move forward with the application process.

See SHOP, Page 2A

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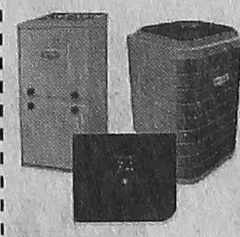


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Intersection

Continued from Page 1A

because there's a curve right before the roads come together and it's only a two-way stop.

"The problems arise when people think it's a four-way stop and when they realize it's not, it's too late."

Data collected by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments supports residents' concerns.

From 2016 to 2020 there have been 60 reported vehicular crashes at the intersection or within 150 of where the roads meet.

Forty-three (or 71%) of the incidents have been labeled "angle" crashes, not surprising given the area's unique convergence of roads.

Daub's request for the installation of

a light at the intersection was approved earlier this year.

Design work and engineering for the light started earlier in 2021 and the project is slated for completion some time in summer 2022.

Wayne County Department of Public Services engineers completed the engineering portion of the project a few weeks ago, Daub's office reported.

"I've heard from some residents who are frustrated because they heard work would start this fall and they don't see any changes to the intersection," Daub said. "Before any construction work starts — work people can actually see — there's a lot of engineering and designing that has to be done. It's a very involved process, but once it's done, that intersection will be a lot safer."

Daub said the evolution of the project is proof that residents' input can play a big role in getting things done.

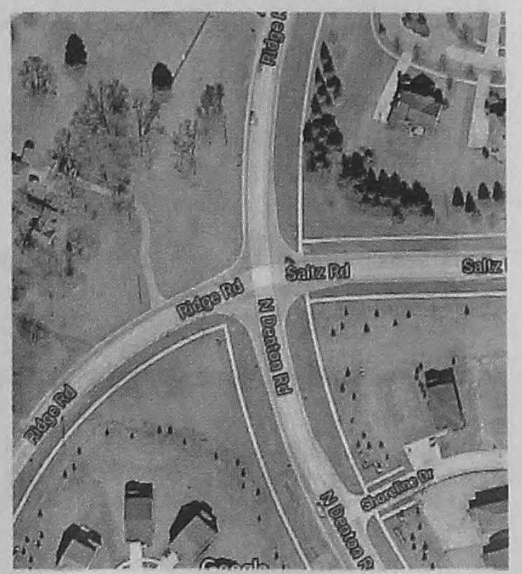
"Hearing people's concerns is so important, especially with a safety-related issue like this," Daub said. "It's very helpful when I apply to the county for a project like this that I have feedback from residents to back it up."

"Obviously, the crash statistics are important, too, but input from residents is vital."

Approximately 65% of the crashes at or near the intersection from 2016 to 2020 resulted in property damage only, while 35% caused injuries to motorists and passengers. There were no serious injuries or deaths over the four-year stretch, the SEMCOG data reported.

Daub encourages residents in Wayne County's District 10 to contact her office at 313-224-0882 if they have concerns, safety related or otherwise.

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



The point where Ridge, Saltz and Denton roads converge in southwest Canton Township is slated for the installation of a light sometime in 2022. COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

Dining

Continued from Page 1A

restaurants and customers going into what appears to be another winter where the virus that causes COVID-19 continues to infect thousands of people across the state. With restrictions on indoor dining absent this year, restaurants and downtown districts wrestle with what they can offer and what they should do when it comes to outdoor dining offerings this season.

That feeling couldn't be more active than in downtown Northville. The community closed the major thoroughfares to vehicle traffic for more than a year to help bring shoppers and diners to the community.

Jeri Johnson, marketing and communications director for the Northville Downtown Development Authority, said while there have been some people clamoring for street to reopen to traffic, most have reacted positively to the changes since they were first implemented.

"It's given them so much more room to spread out into the streets and have these outdoor structures," she said. "I think the downtown businesses will embrace the winter and use their structures again."

The closures in downtown Northville are expected to remain through next November, after a recent decision by the city council recently expected the duration.

Even with all the activity last winter, including programs such as Heat in the Street to bring heated shelters to the road, the district continues to see plenty of activity.

"I do think a lot of the restaurants will put their fire pits back out," she said. "So far, the stands where vendors can sell items have been busier this winter than they were last summer."



Tables and heaters await diners outside of Northville's Center Street Grill.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Area restaurants got creative after the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services shut down dining rooms in November 2020 among rising COVID-19 cases across Michigan at a time when vaccines were not yet available.

But that ban came with a caveat: restaurants could offer outdoor dining following specific conditions, including limiting how many sides a shelter could have and restricting structures such as the dining igloos to people within the same household. Indoor dining remained banned by the state until February.

Those restrictions are gone, leaving restaurants to decide if and how they would offer a similar experience this winter to those diners who still may not feel comfortable dining inside, especially with the elevated case numbers and positivity rates of COVID-19 Michigan is currently experiencing. The Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention has said outdoor dining is less risky than indoor dining when it comes to contracting the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

One such restaurant that ventured into outdoor dining for the first time last year was SuperNatural Brewing and Spirits in Livonia. The brewery at 36685 Plymouth Road erected "beer shanties" last winter, a step that allowed the restaurant to bring back a few employees from furlough during the closure.

Ernie Pacsai, one of the owners, said they plan to bring them back albeit with a slight variation: instead of three smaller tents, they'll keep one small one and combine two to make one larger tent.

The purpose, Pacsai said, is to allow for larger groups the opportunity to gather in a separate setting if they don't want to be inside the brewery.

Will they see a lot of takers? Pacsai isn't quite sure.

"Last year, it was a needed thing. This year, I'm not getting a big draw from our customers," he said. "If you can eat in your own spot with your own people, there's a draw to it."

There's even less uncertainty about outdoor dining in downtown Plymouth. Despite the city allowing for outdoor dining to be allowed through the end of the year, few restaurants have looked to provide it for diners, said Sam Plymale, the downtown manager for the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority.

Just four downtown restaurants applied to keep outdoor dining on public property through the end of the year, and at least one had already removed the option by early December for a lack of demand, Plymale said.

On the flip side, he's noticed the dining rooms in many downtown Plymouth spots are filling up as they did pre-pandemic.

"My view as I'm driving through town at night, people aren't dining outdoors," he said. "People have gone back to the way things were before COVID and eating inside."

There's already been a good reaction from diners looking to utilize the igloos at both the Moose Preserve and Deadwood, Dzenowagis said. Reservations at the Moose Preserve are filling up fast, and reservations are made even faster at Deadwood.

There's an allure to the igloos, each of which are adorned in different themes with elaborate décor, one that Dzenowagis said customers are attracted to more so than being indoors.

"People have their own favorites. It's different than dining inside," he said. "I think even with dining rooms open, it still provides a chance to cheat Mother Nature."

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

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by
Observer & Eccentric Media

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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50

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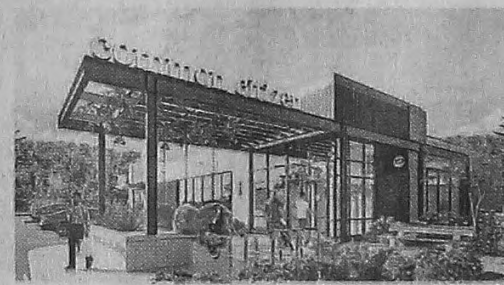
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Those cases, originally filed in Wayne County Circuit Court, have worked their way through that court and into the Michigan Court of Appeals.

That was something attorney Tim Diemer, who represents one of those rejected companies, reminded the commissioners during the public hearing portion during its meeting to discuss the proposal.

Diemer said with the case appealed to a higher court, it's possible another injunction could be issued that would halt any further movement on the development, though there was no such injunction currently in place at the time of the meeting.

"We're going to be back in front of the judge addressing the scoring rubric and be back to square one, going through all the stuff all over again," he said with his prediction the earlier court ruling will be overturned. "These



A rendering of the proposed Common Citizen dispensary in Westland.

COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND

"We've got a couple of other irons in the fire but we're really excited about coming here."

Mike Beck Common Citizen director of community and government affairs

renderings are lovely ... but I heard demolition was being planned and other steps, and I'm here to try and put the brakes on things."

Diemer said he's filed a motion to reimpose the injunction with the state Court of Appeals and said he believes a decision could come on that motion by

the end of the month.

Rappaport said given that there was no status quo order currently in place, not moving forward with a petition for site plan and special land use could cause harm to the applicant who has the legal right to move forward with the planning process.

"One of the issues we have to wrestle with up here as a representative of both the citizenry and making our recommendation to the city council and to the city as functions is we not only have to consider fairness to you and potentially your clients, but we also have to the fairness to the petitioner that's before us," he said. "If we were to be awfully kind and generous to delay our proceedings for you and your clients and you arguably have the potential not to be successful in your appeals, we would have unnecessarily delayed the process for the petitioner in front of us currently."

"We are currently under no obligation not to move forward."

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

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Prosecutor, sheriff clear air over coffee

After public discord, 'working together hand-in-glove'

John Wisely Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald and Sheriff Michael Bouchard met for coffee Sunday, clearing the air between them after a public dustup over their roles in the Oxford High School shooting case.

"I've been on the phone with Mike Bouchard at least five times since this morning," McDonald told the Free Press on Monday afternoon. "We made a point of sitting down yesterday afternoon to try to open the lines of communication to make sure that we are on the same page."

McDonald said she was confident the two offices were cooperating on the case and will continue.

"I feel really good about it actually," she said.

Bouchard wasn't available Monday afternoon but Undersheriff Michael McCabe said the relationship between the two offices is professional.

"The sheriff and the prosecutor are in regular communication and yesterday they spent time together over coffee,"

McCabe said. "They're working together hand-in-glove on this investigation."

The comity is a switch from Friday when McDonald announced involuntary manslaughter charges against James and Jennifer Crumbley, the parents of Ethan Crumbley, the defendant in the shooting at the school on Nov. 30.

The Crumbleys were not in custody when the charges were made public and didn't appear for an afternoon arraignment, despite assurances from their lawyers that they would. That prompted a manhunt that ended early Saturday in the dark of night when the couple was found in an industrial building in Detroit near the Belle Isle bridge.

McCabe blasted McDonald publicly, telling the Free Press: "In my entire 44-year career, I have never, ever seen a prosecutor announce charges in a major case without the suspect being in custody first."

McDonald told CNN that night that the Crumbleys fleeing "wasn't on anyone's radar," adding it was unfortunate that there was a discussion on national TV "about who is to blame" for the couple's disappearance.

"I don't care who is to blame," she said. "What I really care about is the victims."

The two offices need to work together on cases every day, not just major ones like the Oxford High shooting.

McDonald said that they do, though there has been a bit of a learning curve.

Bouchard, a Republican and former state senator who once ran for U.S. Senate, has been sheriff since 1999. McDonald, a Democrat, took office in January after giving up a safe seat as a judge to run for prosecutor.

McDonald trounced incumbent Jessica Cooper by an almost 2-1 margin in the Democratic primary last year, before easily beating Republican Lin Goetz in the November general election.

She ran on a platform of transparency and communication and fashioned herself as a more progressive prosecutor.

She brought new scrutiny of the Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies over their use of jailhouse informants in criminal cases. She reexamined the handling of informants, who had sometimes had a dubious history. Ultimately, Juwan Deering, who had been convicted of murder and arson

in a fire that killed five children, was released and charges dropped after he spent 15 years in prison in a Sheriff's Office case that relied heavily on informants with questionable credibility. She put a new policy in place that all use of informants must be with her approval.

"Keep in mind that Jessica Cooper was in office for 12 years and that this is a new relationship," she said. "I'm not just a new prosecutor, but I'm a different kind of prosecutor."

McDonald said that about 20% of her office's cases come from the Sheriff's Office, with the rest coming from local police departments. She said she's established a Law Enforcement Advisory Council and meets regularly with police chiefs from across the county.

She is a different prosecutor, but she said she's confident that police across the county recognize her commitment to public safety.

"It's unfortunate that there was a public perception, even for a small period of time, that we were at odds," she said. "We just have to be on the same page and we have to work together to try to bring justice to these victims, and also to help support the people in both of our offices and in this community."

Pickle jars in Northville baffle social media users

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Simple pleasures, as the iconic commercial jingle goes, are the best, which is why hundreds of social media posters want to know what's behind the seemingly innocent stack of pickle jars on Sheldon Road, just south of downtown Northville.

The jars — sometimes as many as eight, other times as few as one or two — are assembled on what appears to be a former mailbox post, sometimes joined by mini pumpkins, sometimes not.

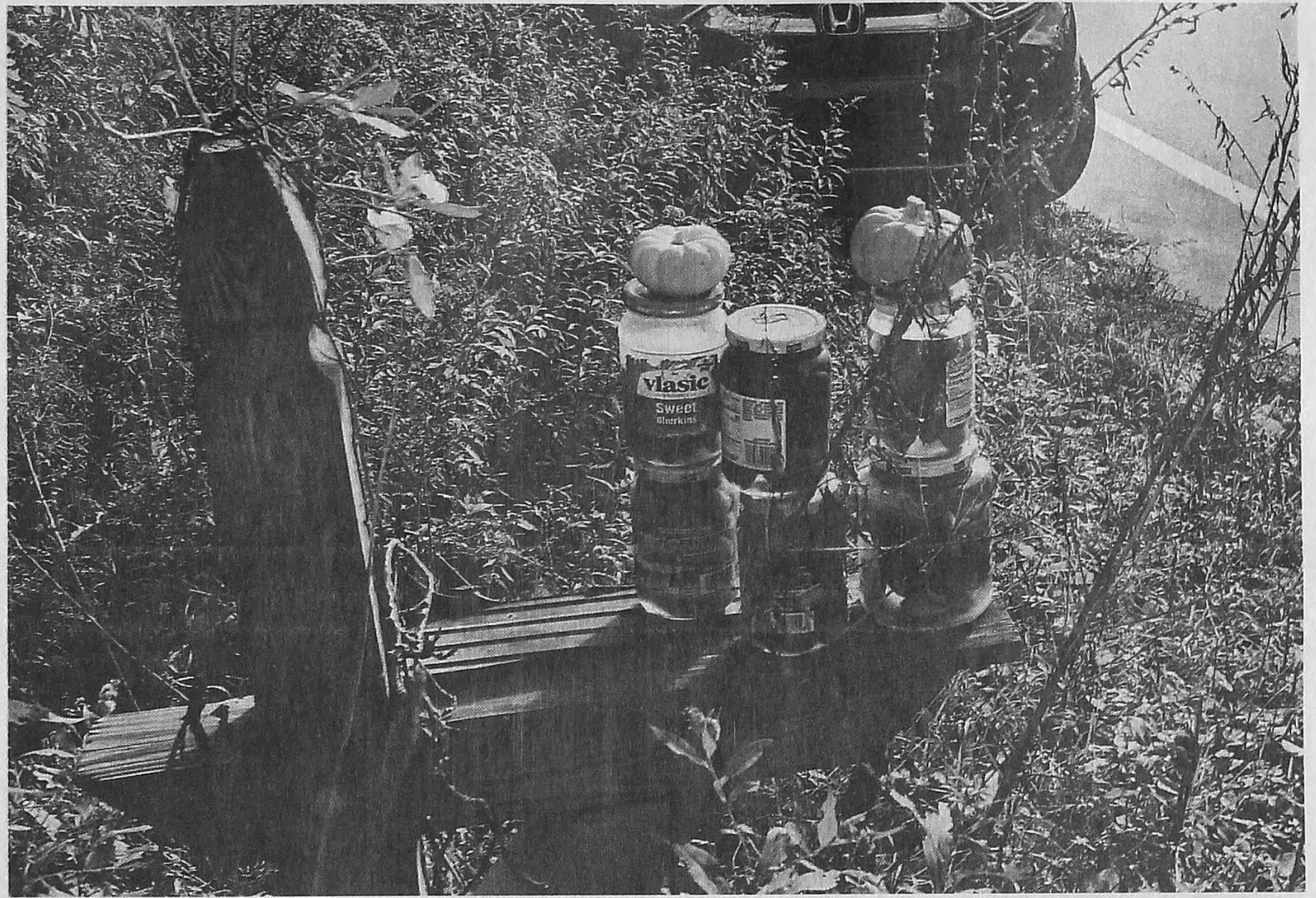
The pickle display has been there for several months, if not years, longtime residents claim.

Strangely enough, there is a similar scenario playing out near a highway on-ramp in Des Peres, Missouri, where a single pickle jar sat for a few years and even inspired its own Facebook page (a landing place for pickle memes and jokes) before it was ultimately stolen and replaced by other jars of pickles.

Many posters' theories are dramatic ("Could be a tribute to a lost loved one who loved eating pickles...or a beloved pet named Pickles"); others are light-hearted ("It's just something you see to brighten your day or give you a little chuckle!" and "Where else does Sasquatch have storage?")

One seemingly common-sense answer suggested is that a nearby resident is placing pickles in the sun at the conclusion of the pickling process doesn't jibe, according to a Michigan State University farming-related website that asserts setting jarred pickles in the sun for three days to ferment is very unsafe.

"While fermentation can be a safe way to make pickles, temperatures inside a jar sitting in full summer sun exceed that at which fermentation occurs (below 72 degrees Fahrenheit)," the website insists. "Above this temperature, the yeast dies and fermentation won't take place."



Six mysterious jars of pickles and a couple of small pumpkins lie atop a former mailbox stand along Sheldon just south of Seven Mile in Northville. The pickles have been on the post for awhile and there's no signage to indicate why they're there.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plus, the pickles are present year-round, even during the sun-desolation days of February.

Other suggestions that the pickles are placed on the post so passersby can stop to take a jar and enjoy are shaky because if this were the case, there would be a sign stating "FREE PICKLES" or something similar, right?

Northville Mayor Brian Turnbull's feel-good theory is that at least a few neighbors of the area surrounding the

pickle post are of German descent, and pickles are looked on as objects of good luck in Germany.

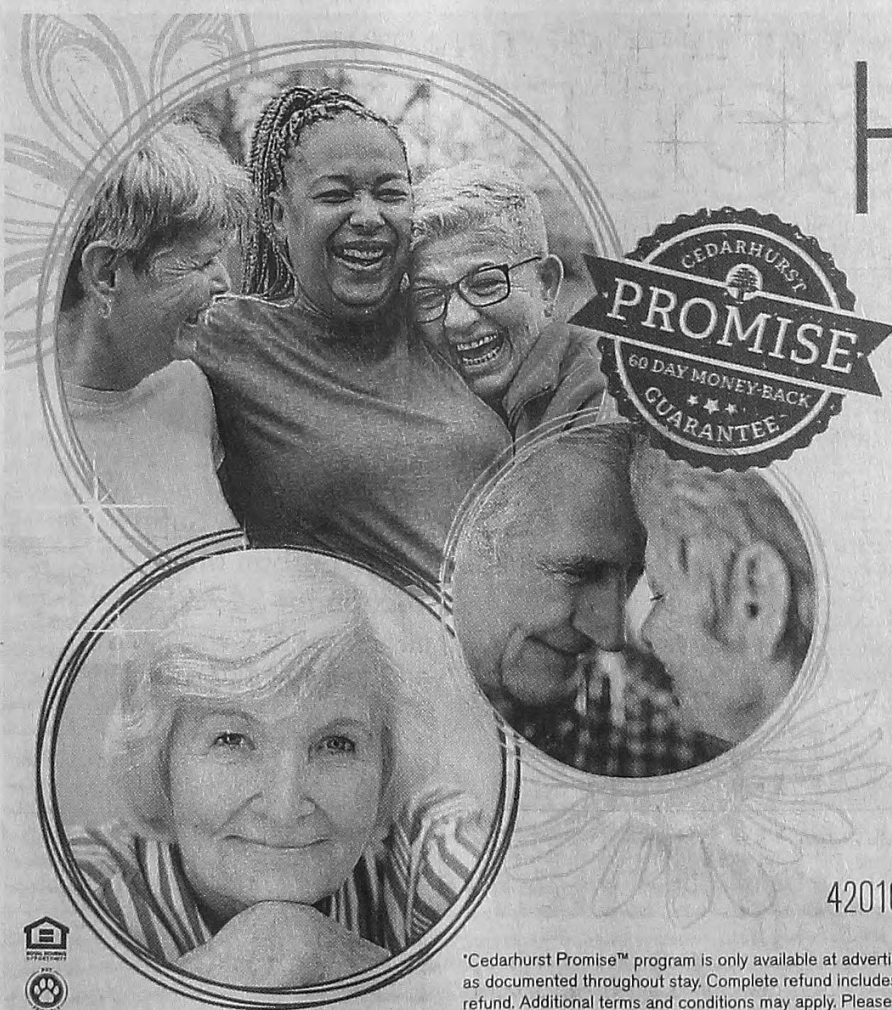
"Look closely at a decorated German Christmas tree and you might see a pickle-shaped ornament hidden deep within the evergreen branches," Turnbull said. "According to German folklore, whoever finds the pickle on Christmas morning will have good luck for the following year."

As some posters emphasize, maybe

the purpose of the pickles is simply to generate conversation that helps us — if only for five minutes or so — get our minds off of more pressing matters, like pandemics, labor shortages or rising gas prices.

Maybe it's best, they insist, that the mystery remains — pardon the pickle pun — preserved forever.

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



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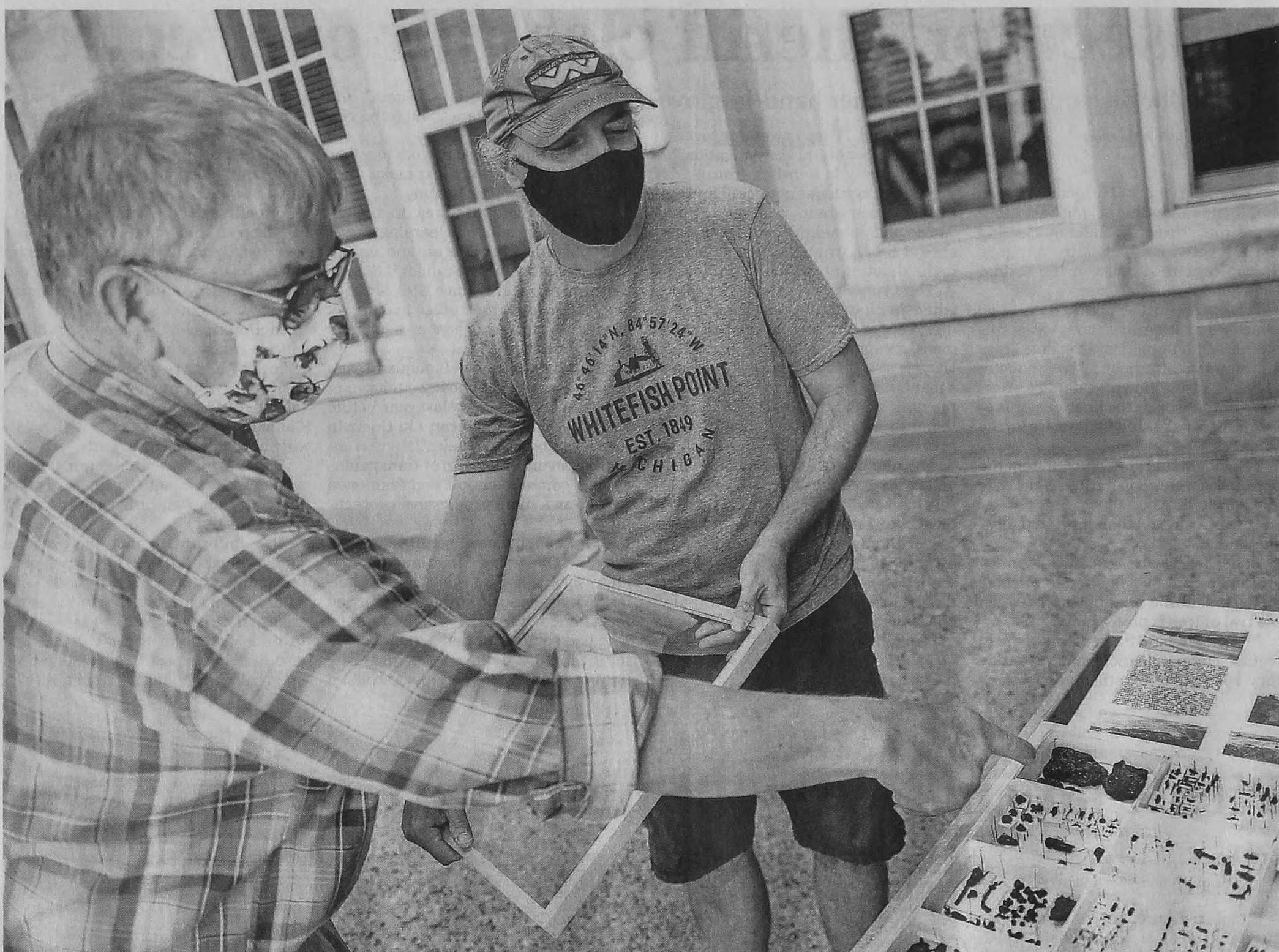
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Gary Parsons, director of the MSU Bug House (left), talks about a collection with MSU professor Anthony Cognator outside the College of Natural Science.

NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

How to keep winter bugs out of your home

Sophia Lada Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the warmer months, mid-Michigan residents deal with mosquitos and ants — some must also endure bees, wasps and termites. Now that winter is upon us, there's an entirely different set of bugs to be on the lookout for.

Bob Yoakam is the "Lansing Bug Man" — his pest control business deals with bug issues mostly in the spring and summer however, this time of year is when he starts getting more indoor calls.

"Now that it's this cold, they're already in your house," Yoakam said.

So, what are the bugs to watch out for in winter? And how do you get rid of them once they're inside? Read on for the five most common winter bugs in Greater Lansing, and how to keep them out of your home.

Five most common winter bugs

Gary Parsons is the director of the MSU Bug House, part of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, where you can learn about all sorts of insects and arachnids — and interact with live specimens.

According to Parsons, the five most common bugs found in Michigan homes during the colder months are:

- 1 Box elder bugs
- 2 Multicolored Asian lady beetles

(ladybugs)

- 3 Brown marmorated stink bugs
- 4 Western conifer seed bugs
- 5 Cluster flies

Each of these bugs have adult stages in the winter, which makes them mobile and motivated to get out of or avoid cold and rain and snow.

Most are seeking a dry spot to enter a hibernation state, somewhere they know they'll be protected. Some may go into the bark of trees, or inside a fallen log. Stink bugs especially are known to hibernate in rock, such as the crevasses of a cliff.

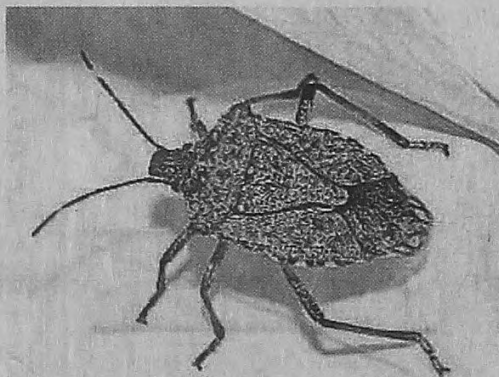
Ladybugs and stink bugs are distasteful, meaning pets may get sick from eating too many. For the most part, though, these are all harmless, Parsons said.

These bugs view houses as just another place to spend the winter because they can sense the warmth. Once inside, they mostly just hibernate in the house.

How to prevent bugs getting in

Obvious entry points for bugs are where there's an electrical, water or air-conditioning line entering the house, Yoakam said. Caulking and sealing holes around these openings is a good first step toward a bug-free home, but it's not as certain as using a pesticide, he said.

Other common places for bugs to sneak in is through warped siding, or



Brown marmorated stink bugs are a nuisance inside mid-Michigan homes, especially during cold weather, but do not pose any real threat. USDA

windows and doors that aren't well-insulated. Parsons said he's had stink bugs get into his house through vent pipes in the roof. He recommends sealing up all cracks where bugs could get in.

Parsons said bugs tend to prefer south- or west-facing sides of the house, because those areas tend to get more sun in the winter. He also uses a mesh screen over his attic vents and other openings to keep bugs out of his home.

"The first thing you should do is try to prevent them from getting in the house," he said.

Once bugs are inside, they emit an attractive pheromone to help other bugs find the safe, warm area and then it be-

comes a matter of getting them out.

How to get bugs out

"We do not advocate using pesticides," Parsons said. "It really has little effect on these things anyway." He said there are more effective ways to deal with bugs indoors that don't leave any residue.

According to Parsons, the best way to address the bugs who have made it inside your house already is to vacuum them up, or capture them in some sort of container to take outside.

These bugs die in the cold, so there's no need to worry about them coming back inside.

Parsons warns residents to not squish bugs — stink bugs and lady bugs especially can leave a stain, not to mention possible odors.

Yoakam the "Lansing Bug Man" approaches getting bugs out a bit differently: "Without a pesticide keeping a bug out of a house, I don't know another way to be honest," he said.

More about bugs

To learn more about how to keep bugs out of your home this winter, visit the Lansing Bug Man website or MSU Bug House. And for more resources about bugs in general, including tips for keeping them out of your home, visit the MSU Extension website.



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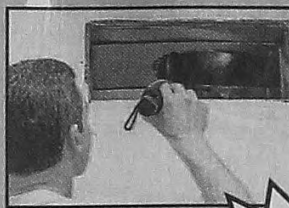
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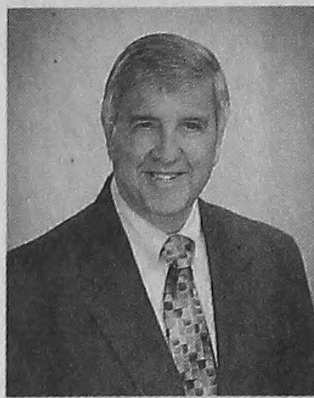
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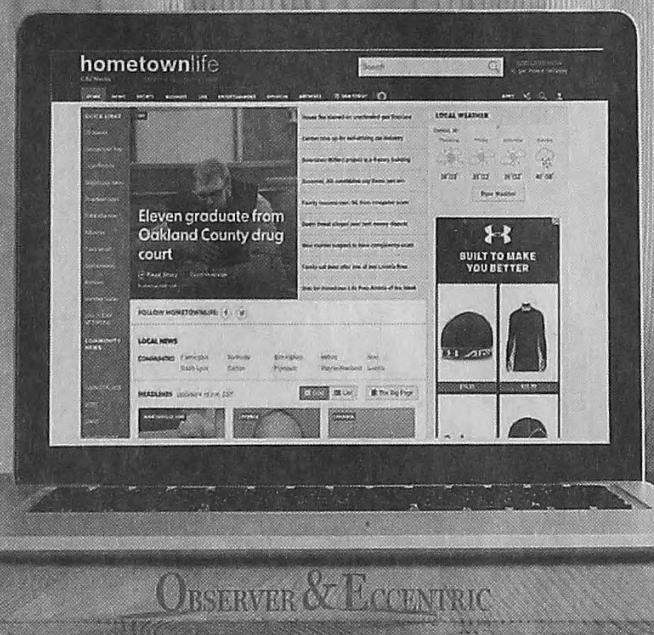
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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

Oakland County jeweler to close after 70 years in business

Emma Stein Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Karagosian and Sons Jewelers, a Sylvan Lake staple, has been in business since 1950. Now, 70 years later, it soon will be closing its doors for good.

"It's time to retire and enjoy our life," said co-owner David Karagosian.

The store, located at 2266 Orchard Lake Road, will be open until Dec. 24, or as long as supplies last. It is running a sale where everything is 50%-70% off in the final weeks.

Karagosian owns the store along with his brothers, Harry and Tim. He said he has loved every minute of running the business with his family, but they've been doing it for over 40 years and feel it's time to hand in the towel.

He said it was a tough decision to make, but ultimately the right one for him and his family.

"We have a lot of very sad customers," Karagosian said. "We have a lot of customers that have become friends over the years, so they're not just customers."

Karagosian's parents first opened the store in 1950 in the basement of their house, he said, and they transitioned to its current location in 1968. Eventually, the brothers took over.

"It was something that we never really talked about," Karagosian said. "It was just something that was expected. ... We had no problem with it, it was busy store, we were all trained very well by our parents. It was natural."

None of the brothers' children wanted to take over and so the jewelry store ends with them.

As a high-end jewelry store, Karagosian and Sons Jewelers has seen its fair share of celebrity costumers. While Bob Seger, Norm Cash and Chuck Daly, among others, have purchased from the Karagosians, the store is ultimately rooted in its community.

He said his favorite memories around the store are times when customers are the happiest.

"Especially when a girl gets so excited when she's receiving her beautiful diamond ring that we've made for her, or we also get the woman that received her grandmother's ring or her mother's ring that's worn and restore it to like-new condition, you know something that's just cherished so much and now she's able to wear it again," he said.

The Karagosians own the land, and they're not exactly sure what will replace their store yet.

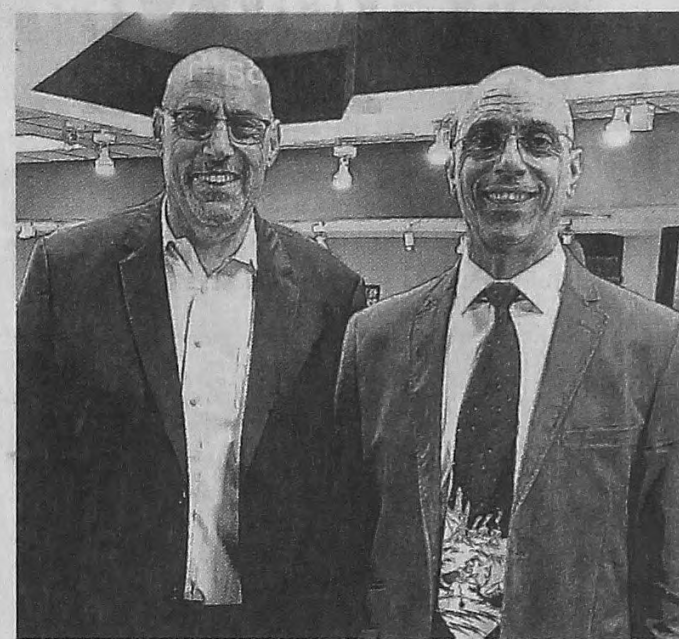
For Karagosian himself, he wants to take some time off and head to a warmer climate.

"The business has been very good to us," he said. "We are appreciative to the community for supporting us for all these years. And I would do it again. If I had to start all over, I would definitely do it again."



Customers peruse Karagosian Jewelers, located at 2266 Orchard Lake Road in Sylvan Lake.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY HARRY KARAGOSIAN



Brothers Harry and David Karagosian own the store with their other brother, Tim.

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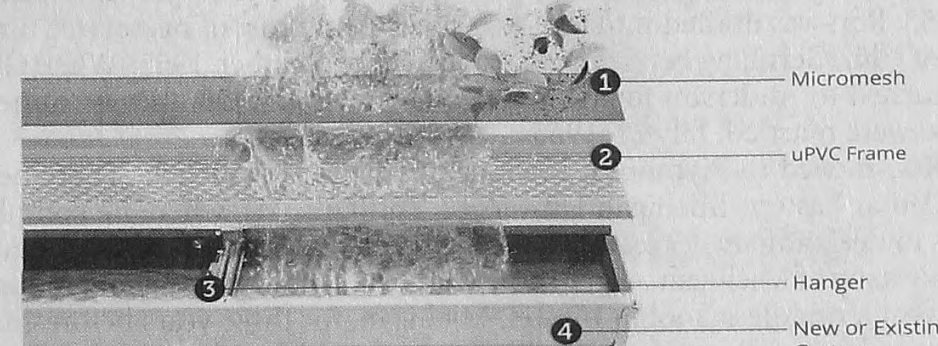
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Obituaries

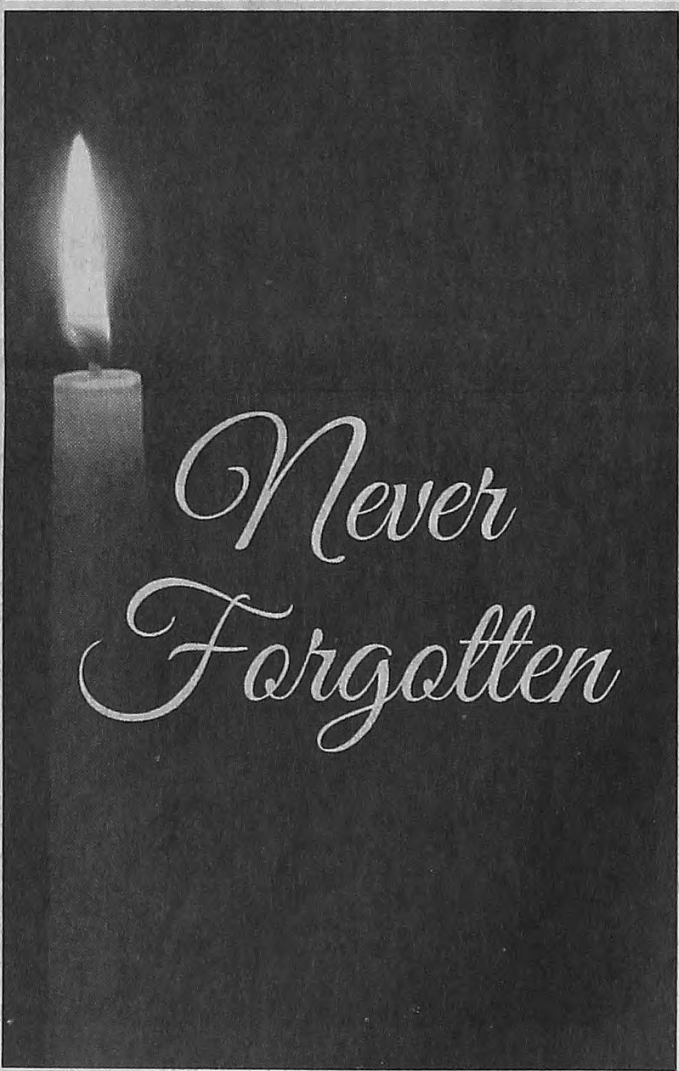
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Ruth V. Hartman

-- 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



Claudia Estelle Rice

GARDEN CITY - Claudia Estelle Rice, 65, of Garden City, Michigan, passed away December 1, 2021, with her loving family at her side. Claudia was born on August 28, 1956.

Claudia is survived by her husband Edward Steve Rice, daughter Jessica Giles, son Steven Rice, daughter Amy Rice (Celeste), sister Pam Bell (Jeff), sister Denise Dwyer (Mike), brother Julius Ptak, sister Ruth Marie Janowicz (Danny), brother Larry Ferri, sister Joann Wellman (Larry), sister Lori Rice, and many loved nieces, nephews, and cousins. Claudia was adored by her grandchildren, Jordan Rice, Connor Giles, Abigail Giles, Dru Seymour, Alexis Selko (Olti), and Austin Lehman.



In her later years, spending time with family was her favorite daily activity. Claudia's love extended to her children's friends, many of whom knew her as a second mother who always had an open door, sympathetic heart, patient ear, and wise piece of advice.

Claudia lived her entire life in Michigan, although she cherished her travels to Colorado, Hawaii, Aruba, Niagara Falls, Virginia Beach, Tennessee, Vermont, and many other places. She graduated from West Senior High School in Garden City, Michigan and holds an Associate of Criminal Justice from Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Michigan. Throughout her life, she worked as a receptionist, tax preparer, cashier, and lunch lady at her children's elementary school. However, her priority was being a wonderful wife, supportive mother, and loving grandmother.

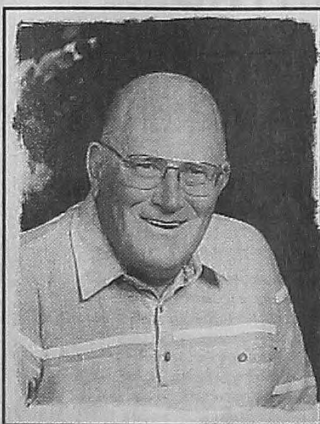
Those who knew Claudia will agree she was an extraordinary, kind, courageous, brave, giving, and fierce woman. Claudia fought a battle with Multiple Sclerosis for over three decades. She participated in several medicinal and therapeutic studies hoping she could help others overcome their battle against this debilitating disease.

Claudia is joined in heaven by her parents, Gerald and Bernadette Soma, sister Debbie Soma, sister Flo Ferri, brother John Rice, sister Laura Mae Kaatz, and several more beloved family and friends. Cremation has taken place, and a Celebration of Life event will be held for family and friends in the spring of 2022. Donations in her memory can be made to Vista Maria at <https://www.vistamaria.org/donate>.

Walter Harold Smith

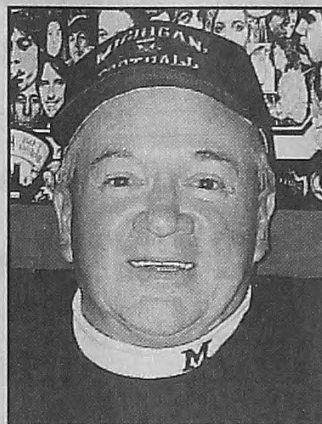
FARMINGTON HILLS

- Walter Harold Smith passed away Friday, Dec 3, 2021, on his 90th birthday. He was the beloved husband of Virginia (nee Schury) Smith, and beloved father of Timothy Smith, Jeffrey (Jean) Smith, and Kristine (Stephen) Van der Ploeg. He is also survived by his four grandchildren, Nicholas Smith, Joshua (Klara) Van der Ploeg, Madeline (John) Shelman, and Jessica Smith; two great-grandchildren, Anna Van der Ploeg and Andrew Shelman; and his sister, Lois (nee Smith) Schaefer. He was predeceased by his parents, Walter and Elsie (nee Weingarth) Smith, and his brother, Dale Smith.



Walter's life will be celebrated in a memorial service on January 22, 2022, at 11 am at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI, 48152. Visitation will begin at 10 am, and luncheon will be served at the church following the service. Please notify Tim Smith (313.689.5956, prospector1581@aol.com) if you plan to attend the luncheon.

Memorial gifts can be given in Walter's name to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI, 48152, or to Genesis Lutheran Church, 7200 Mack Ave, Detroit, MI, 48214. To send a message of sympathy to the family or to share a favorite memory, please sign Walter's online guest book at www.NeptuneSociety.com.

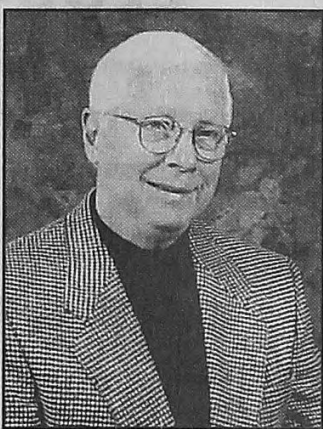


Thomas Charles "TC" Wilmot, Jr.

WAYNE - Thomas Charles "TC" Wilmot, Jr. - 83, of Wayne, MI, 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

Ronald (Ron) South

Ronald (Ron) South was born October 16, 1932, in Springfield, Illinois, to Ira and Mildred (Wood) South. He was an industrious child who delivered papers at an early age and saved to buy his first bicycle. His second job was at the local drugstore. Ron graduated from Feitshans High School, January, 1951, and worked at a Pillsbury Mills Factory for nine months before enrolling at Anderson College, Anderson, Indiana. Even in college, Ron always had a job at one time working full time at a Delco Remy Plant in Anderson.



At Anderson, Ron had many friends who appreciated his quiet humor and accepting personality. He had a deep religious faith, worshiping regularly at a local church and singing in the choir. Ron was a member of Triad, a men's group on campus. During his sophomore year, he began dating another AC student, Gloria DeFilippo. In December, 1953, Ron was drafted into the Army and spent most of his service time in Neu Ulm, Germany, returning to Anderson, September, 1955. When Gloria returned to Anderson for Homecoming, October 1955, they reconnected and were married, July 21, 1955.

Ron moved to Plymouth, Michigan, where Gloria lived. There he enrolled at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI, where he completed his undergraduate degree. He later earned his Masters of Education at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. He taught Middle School Industrial Arts at a middle school in Inkster, Michigan, for three years before changing to elementary education in Plymouth, Michigan. He was chosen as an Elementary principal in Plymouth and his first assignment was to open a new school: Tanger Elementary. He would later open another new school, Eriksson Elementary.

Ron continued to be active in his church and community, teaching Sunday School classes, working with the youth group and always singing in the choir. He was President of the local Kiwanis Club.

August 8, 1968, a huge sign was draped over the roof of Tanger School declaring THE SOUTHS HAVE TWIN BOYS. Ron now added Father to

his list of titles. Paul and Mark South became an integral part of his life. He was a wonderful Dad even on camping trips with Indiana Guides. The Souths enjoyed traveling around the United States. In 1980 Ron and Gloria were hired by the Department of Defense Dependent Schools to teach at Berlin American School, a 7-12th grade school for children of military personnel based in West Berlin, Germany. Ron went from being an elementary principal to teaching ninth grade Career Education, Coaching the football team, and being the sponsor of the Senior Class. In 1982 they returned to Plymouth where Ron was once again an elementary principal until 1987.

In 1987, Ron was again employed in Department of Defense Schools in Frankfurt, West Berlin and Heidelberg Germany, retiring in 1995. He spent the next year playing golf and planning trips for him and Gloria while she worked. Then in 2000, Ron came out of retirement and spent the next four years teaching 4th grade at another DODDS school in Vilseck, Germany. Last retirement was in 2004 and a move to Holland, Michigan, to be closer to family.

In Holland Ron sang in the choir at Third Reformed Church, was a member of Hope Academy of Senior Professional Evergreen Commons and the Evergreen Chorale. He and Gloria spent winters in New Smyrna Beach, FL, and made an annual trip to London, Germany and Italy for Thanksgiving and the early part of Advent.

Ron is survived by his wife, Gloria; sons, Paul and Lori (Applegate) South and Mark and Kim (Heeke) South; granddaughters, Ashleigh South and Taylor Scheipline, Elisabeth (South) and John Gray, Genevieve South, and grandson Kai South; great grandchildren, Kairi and John Gray; sister, Norma Altman; brother, Marvin South; nephews, Jeff and Clara South, David and Cinda Christie; nieces, Cheryl and Chuck Brown and Rebecca and Mike Wiese; plus many great nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Memorial Service to Ron's life will be in The Chapel at Hoosier Village, Zionsville, Indiana on Friday, December 10, 2021, at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to Holland Rescue Mission, Holland, Michigan (<https://give.hollandrescue.org>) or Toys For Tots (<https://www.toysfortots.org>).

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be
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Upon
Them

When to consider donations, investments for your year-end financial planning



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Here we are in the homestretch of 2021. I know at the end of 2020 we were happy to see a new year and I think we all feel similarly about 2021.

Before we close out the year, I want to run through some of the financial things you can do before the end of the year that may be beneficial to you. Of course, the events won't apply to everyone because everyone's situation is different. However, taking advantage of these issues can help you financially.

The first reminder – and one that I've mentioned many times in the past – is a Roth IRA conversion. The benefit of a Roth IRA conversion is the fact that when money is withdrawn from a Roth IRA, there is no income tax. In other words, when money is withdrawn from a Roth it is income tax free.

In addition, Roth IRAs are not subject to required minimum distributions. Therefore, when you turn 72, you do not have to take a distribution; you can let the money grow tax free for as long as you choose.

To determine whether a Roth IRA conversion makes sense for you, you need to understand where you are with taxes this year. A conversion is a taxable event, so it could potentially throw you into a higher tax bracket.

Therefore, it is important to do projections based on last year's information as to where you stand with your current taxes.

If you find that you can convert money and 1) it will not throw you into a higher tax bracket; 2) you have the money to pay the tax on the money that you're converting; and 3) you can leave the money in the Roth IRA for at least five years, then generally, a Roth conversion will make sense.

On the other hand, if the conversion will throw you into a higher tax bracket or you don't have the money to pay the taxes without touching the money that you are converting, then a Roth conversion probably doesn't make sense. The key is that everyone should look at their

Investors can be more tax efficient with year-end charitable contributions by donating appreciated securities.

individual situation to see if Roth conversions make sense.

Investors who are charitable in nature can be more tax efficient with year-end charitable contributions by donating appreciated securities. When you donate appreciated securities, the charitable contribution is equal to the full fair market value of the securities donated; however, you avoid paying capital gain tax.

For example, if you have a stock that you paid \$10 a share for and today it's selling for \$50 a share, if you donate that security, you can write off \$50 as a charitable contribution and you avoid paying taxes on the \$40 of capital gains.

In addition, if you are taking required minimum distributions, and if you're not itemizing your deductions, you can donate all or a portion of your minimum required distribution directly to a charity. This gives you the benefit of avoiding paying tax on that portion of your minimum required distribution.

You shouldn't donate money just to get a charitable contribution; however, if you are donating to a charity, you might as well make it as tax efficient as possible.

Lastly, if you have a flexible spending plan through your employer, it is important to spend all remaining funds in the plan before year end. In some of these plans, if you do not use it before the end of the year, you lose the money. Therefore, it is important that you understand the terms of your flexible spending account, and spend the money before you lose it.

The reality is that you no longer have time to delay. If any of the aforementioned items apply to you, do it now because you may find that in a few weeks, it's too late.

Good luck!

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

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Obituaries

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.



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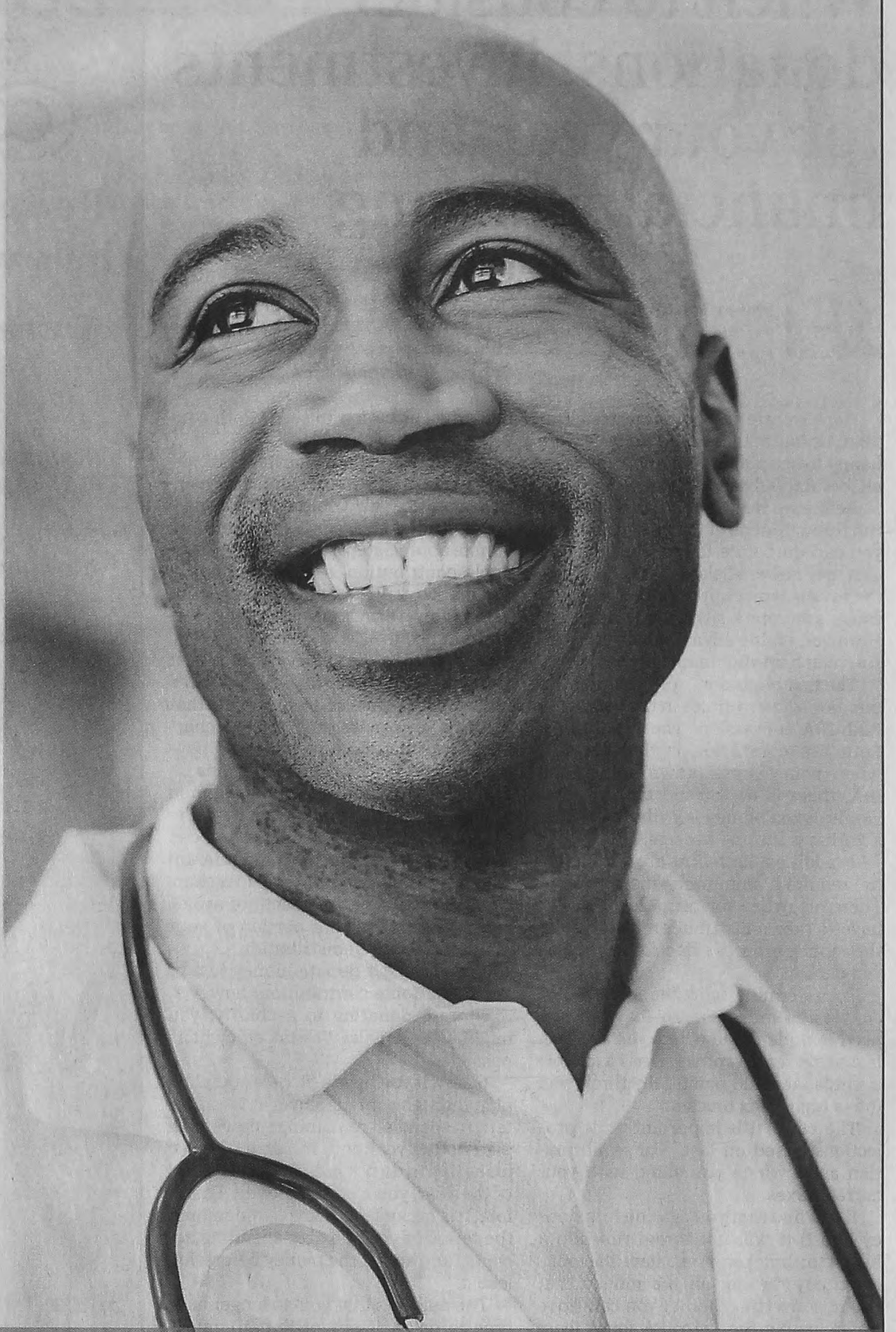
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SPORTS

Madison Morson could be the best in metro Detroit

The sophomore scored 25 points in her second-straight game

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There were six seconds on the clock. And then five, and then four. Madison Morson dribbled her way to the white volleyball stripe on the west end of Ypsilanti Arbor Prep's court and threw up what would have been a prayer for most girls basket-

ball players with three ticks left in the third quarter.

But Morson — an up-and-coming sophomore for Salem — isn't like most basketball players. Her stroke looked flawless. Almost professional. She had the arm strength for the attempt. The shot went in. It was never in doubt. Then she somewhat hoisted her hands into the air as if she was too embarrassed to celebrate what went down as her first career buzz-beater. The Rocks' bench erupted, jumping out of their chairs and rushing the court to greet her.

And then Morson shrugged. But not confidently like Michael Jordan did in the 1992 NBA

See **MORSON**, Page 3B



Salem's Madison Morson (middle) shoots over Ypsilanti Lincoln's Stephanie Clark (right) during an Ice Breaker tournament girls basketball game on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at Ypsilanti Arbor Prep. **BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM**

Bloomfield Hills rolls past Novi in boys basketball season opener

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

Any coach will tell you that the first win is always the most important one. That message echoed from Bloomfield Hills coach Paul Kurajian after the final whistle blew on the Black Hawks' 67-60 victory over Novi Tuesday night.

"We just played hard and executed our stuff," he said. "We were able to play well defensively which got us going on our transition game. It's something we want to do, is to run the floor. It gave us a good jump start early."

"The first win is always important. Novi is an unbelievably well-coached team. Any time you can beat a team like that, that is that scrappy and can run good stuff, we're happy."

It's easy to be happy with the start Bloomfield Hills (1-0) received from the early going.

Using a suffocating man-to-man defense and cutting off passing lanes, the Black Hawks jumped out to a 18-9 lead at the end of the first quarter including a 11-0 run that stymied Novi.

Bloomfield Hills had balanced scoring across the board throughout most of the game, and especially in the first half. Three different juniors — Ahmed Tayler, Derrick Lee Jr and Noah Adamczyk — had six points apiece while senior Carson Brodsky had five in the first half that helped build a comfortable 31-19 lead.

That lead swelled to 17 points at the end of the third quarter, 51-34, using the same transition offense that helped build the lead all half long.

"Effort and the execution was there," Kurajian said. "We stressed cutting off the passing lanes, because Novi is a good passing team. We had to be in gaps, and really use our hands to get deflections."

Adamczyk led the way with 20 points, while Lee Jr. chipped in 14 points and 6 rebounds. Brodsky finished with 8 points and 13 rebounds.

"We're excited for the group this year. We have a lot of guys that can hurt you," Kurajian said. "We have a team that doesn't have to stress one guy. We can run anything through any one of our guys. We're fortunate to have that flexibility."

Novi coach Chris Housey said the Wildcats struggled getting back on defense to keep up with the Black Hawks.

"We were a little behind on running the floor. Bloomfield Hills pushed the



Julian Manna brings the ball upcourt for Bloomfield Hills. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tempo on us, and were a little faster down the floor," he said. "We just didn't do a good job of sprinting back on defense. We talked about it at half time that there were a lot of two-on-zeros, three-on-one down the floor."

"When you play good teams, you can't come out slow. They just took it to us in that first half."

Despite being down most of the game, Novi (0-1) wasn't going to go out

without a fight.

Leading the way for the Wildcats in the fourth quarter was junior Te'John McGowan who almost single-handedly clawed Novi back into the game.

McGowan went on a 10-2 run of his own knocking down a free throw, a 3-pointer and a couple of baskets to cut the lead to 59-48 with 2:06 to play in the

See **BASKETBALL**, Page 4B

Why Walker isn't a Heisman finalist

It's because people like me, who cover games, can't see everyone's impact

Graham Couch
Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

We're not supposed to divulge our Heisman Trophy ballots until after the winner is announced this Saturday. But for the team I cover, the season-long dream of its star running back winning the Heisman Trophy died ahead of schedule, when Kenneth Walker III wasn't among the four finalists selected Monday to be in New York for this weekend's ceremony.

My responsibility here is first to you, the reader and, perhaps, Michigan State football fan. Believe it or not, I do a better job writing for you than I do with my Heisman Trophy ballot. And I'd bet my mother's house that many of the 870 media members who are part of the 928 total votes are also better at their beats than they are their ballots.

Here's the thing: Any writer or reporter covering one team or a couple teams for 12 hours every Saturday sees very little college football elsewhere. And none of us should be voting for an award that requires intimate knowledge of the national landscape. Nor should anyone who, year after year, puts a quarterback at the top of their ballot just because those are the names they know and the highlights they see.

Who votes and who leads our ballots most years has diminished the most prestigious individual award in sports. It's a quarterback award, with exceptions made in certain years when there isn't an obvious choice at that position and when someone else steals enough momentum.


Walker, against all odds, had that momentum for two months. Michigan defensive end Aidan Hutchinson took it in November. Alabama line-

See **COUCH**, Page 5B

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Matthew Boyd: 'I would always be open to coming back' to Tigers

Evan Petzold
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Matthew Boyd doesn't want his time with the Tigers to end.

But he understands baseball is a business. The Tigers non-tendered him at the Nov. 30 deadline, meaning the 30-year-old did not receive a contract for the upcoming season and became a free agent for the first time in his career.

"It hurt, just being completely honest," Boyd said Monday. "It's tough. It's tough because you give everything for the organization. You know that it's not an end, but you understand the business side, and you can't fault them for it."

Boyd posted a 3.89 ERA in his injury-plagued 2021 campaign, registering 23 walks and 67 strikeouts in 78⅓ innings over 15 starts.

One week before the tender deadline, the Tigers contacted Boyd's agent — Scott Boras, one of the most influential and powerful agents in baseball — to inform him the organization wasn't going to tender Boyd a contract for the 2022 season.

Boyd was projected to earn \$7.3 million in 2022, according to MLB Trade Rumors, through the salary arbitration process. He becomes a free agent in winter 2022, so this season marked his final year of arbitration eligibility.

"I'm not going to get into it at this point, because there is a decision to be made on our part," Tigers general manager Al Avila said Oct. 5. "Eventually, there'll be a decision to be made on his part, if that gets to that point. It's going to be a two-way thing here for us."

After informing Boras of Boyd's non-tender status, the Tigers offered to sign the veteran left-hander at a cheaper rate. The Tigers didn't want to pay Boyd his projected \$7 million because they're worried about the health of his left arm. He underwent flexor tendon surgery, performed by Dr. Keith Meister, in late September.

The Tigers continued their negotiations with Boyd's camp, even just before the deadline.

"I don't think that door has closed," Boyd said. "If it doesn't work out this year, I don't think it's closed in the future. I love the organization. Detroit is a second home. It's the birthplace of our daughter. It's where our family grew from two to six. I don't think that door has closed. It's not closed on my end. I would always be open to coming back. Who knows what the future holds, but I wouldn't be against it."

When the Tigers non-tendered Boyd, several teams — some from the West Coast, some from the East Coast and an American League Central rival — reached out to Boras to express interest in his client. Those conversations reached a standstill when MLB owners locked out the players after the Dec. 1 expiration of the collective bargaining agreement.

Player activity is frozen until MLB and the MLB Players Association agree to a new labor deal, which might not happen until February.

"When it comes to free agency, it's exciting," Boyd said. "The first thought is, 'OK, that's tough,' but what I know is that I got a fixed elbow. I feel better than ever right now. I was throwing the best baseball that I ever have in my life when I was healthy. That was really, really exciting. Seeing the sky was the limit, the best is yet to come."

"It's kind of that mixed emotion. You go through that emotional down, like, 'OK, this could be the door closing on what was an amazing seven years of not only my life and career but my family's life.' And then you go, 'Wow, I feel like we're not to the peak of that mountain yet. We're still climbing. There's a lot of amazing things ahead of us, and that part is really exciting. Not knowing where that's going to be is also kind of exciting."

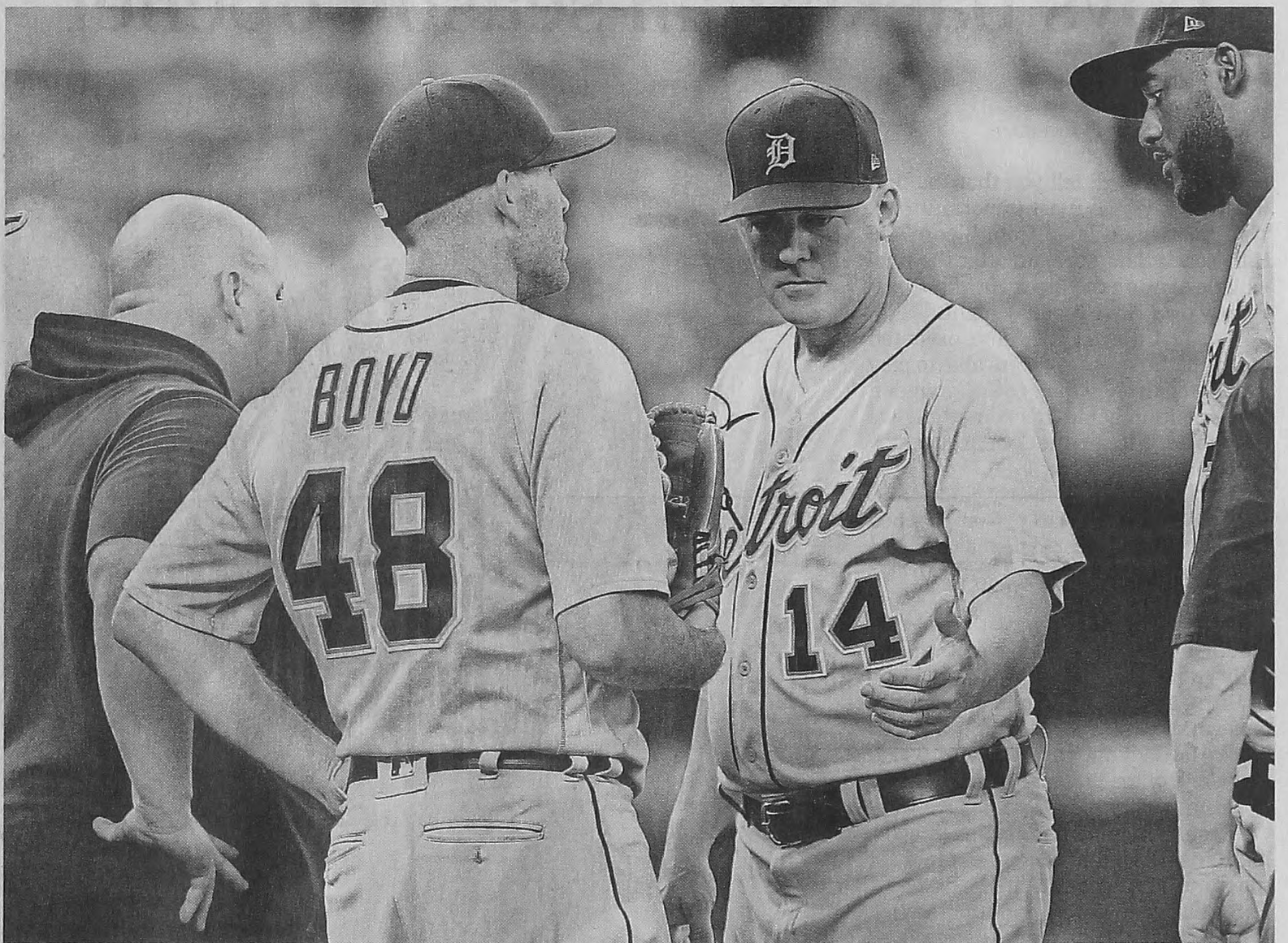
The left-hander exited his June 14 start with left arm discomfort and made two more appearances — Aug. 29 and Sept. 4 — the rest of the way.

As for Boyd's pre-injury success, he credits pitching coach Chris Fetter.

"I just felt very free," Boyd said. "There was the comfort of him speaking the same language. He said, 'This is what you do great, and I want you to do more of what you do great. At the same time, these are things that you do great that you haven't done a lot. I want you to do that, too.' That was freeing. Just attacking guys with the sense of, I don't care what the scouting report says, I know what I do. I know what my



Aug 17, 2020; Chicago, Illinois, USA; Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Matthew Boyd (48) throws a pitch against the Chicago White Sox during the first inning at Guaranteed Rate Field. Mandatory Credit: Mike Dinovo-USA TODAY Sports MIKE DINOVO, MIKE DINOVO-USA TODAY SPORTS



Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Matthew Boyd (48) comes out of a baseball game after talking to manager A.J. Hinch (14) during the third inning at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri, on Monday, June 14, 2021. REED HOFFMANN, AP

strengths are."

Boyd finished last season third among Tigers pitchers with 1.4 fWAR in 78⅓ innings, behind reliever Michael Fulmer (1.6 fWAR in 69⅓ innings) and starter Spencer Turnbull (1.5 fWAR in 50 innings).

For reference, newly acquired left-hander Eduardo Rodriguez — who the Tigers signed to a five-year, \$77 million contract in November — logged 3.8 fWAR in 157⅓ innings for the Red Sox in the 2021 season.

"I felt like we were just getting started," Boyd said. "Looking forward, it's really exciting to me."

"Using my off-speed more. Not being tied to the count. Just saying, 'I'm going to throw my best pitch when I want to throw it.' Letting the at-bat unfold in that sense was very, very liberating."

Boyd looks forward to making a full recovery from flexor tendon surgery. He is on track to begin his throwing program in early January and return to the big-league mound (barring no setbacks) in early June.

"(Dr. Meister) said the surgery couldn't have gone any better," Boyd said. "Right after surgery, he told me the prognosis was going to be better than it was before surgery. I could return to play faster than he thought would be the standard for the surgery. Rehab is going great. It feels so good that I feel like I'm doing something wrong. I've had no issues with it."

Both Meister and Dr. Neal ElAttrache performed medical examinations.

They informed Boyd the ulnar collat-

eral ligament in his left elbow remains intact. Therefore, they do not think Boyd will need Tommy John surgery, a procedure with a much longer timeline for recovery.

"That wasn't even on the table," Boyd said. "They said it looks so good that it wasn't even a thought."

Spanning seven years with the Tigers, Boyd had a 4.87 ERA in 777⅓ innings. He averaged 2.9 walks and 8.7 strikeouts per nine innings during his 147 games. The Tigers acquired him (and lefty Daniel Norris) from the Blue Jays in exchange for David Price at the 2015 trade deadline.

The Tigers had a .451 winning percentage — 435 wins, 529 losses — during Boyd's tenure. Detroit hasn't made the postseason since 2014.

"I hope they know that I gave it my best every single time I picked up the baseball," Boyd said. "They got all I had. The best is still ahead of me. We had some tough years. That was really, really tough. But we kept our eyes forward and still did our best to represent the Old English D well by giving all we had every single night. We did that collectively and personally. I don't know if that was received that way, but that's how I felt on the inside."

If Boyd ends up returning to the Tigers, he will rejoin an organization boosted by \$217 million spent in free agency: Rodriguez for \$77 million over five years and shortstop Javier Baez for \$140 million over six years. The Tigers also traded with the Reds to acquire catcher Tucker Barnhart, then exercised

his \$7.5 million option.

The Tigers believe they have enough talent to snap their playoff drought in 2022.

"The best is ahead for the Tigers, without a doubt," Boyd said. "The off-season moves were really impressive. We had a really good team last year, and they've only added to that. They're going to be a much better team next year."

"Winning a championship is what I've always wanted to do there. It drives you because you hear the fans. You hear how passionate people are about the Tigers. You hear about the love for the Tigers that people in Michigan and across the country have. It's a generational team. Being a Tigers fan is almost passed down."

"That's why you want to win. You want to win it for the city, for the state and for the franchise because of what it means to people, and because of the hours that you put in. Winning a championship would be special. Who knows if I'll be awarded the opportunity to do it with the Tigers. I do believe I'm going to be awarded that opportunity as a player. I'm going to do everything I can to help my team — whatever team that is — win."

"But it would be special if it was in Detroit."

Contact Evan Petzold at epetzold@freepress.com or follow him on Twitter @EvanPetzold.

Morson

Continued from Page 1B

Finals.

She shrugged because she's still trying to figure out all this.

The 6-foot guard isn't your prototypical metro Detroit basketball star. She isn't hellbent on making the WNBA. She doesn't have a childhood basketball mentor leading her cheering section in the front row of the bleachers.

She has never played AAU basketball a day in her life. She has never played against the top competition.

"I'm going to change that," first-year Salem coach Rod Wells said following the Rocks' 71-31 victory over Ypsilanti Lincoln in Saturday's Ice Breaker tournament game. "I haven't seen anyone like her. She scores so smoothly. She had 25 tonight, and it was just a smooth 25. She had 25 in the last game, but I thought she had 15 points."

"She does it effortlessly. She does it within the flow of the offense. She doesn't really understand how good she is, but once she figures that out, the world is going to be in trouble. She doesn't even know how good she is. She just plays."

Yeah, she does. She definitely just plays.

That buzzer-beater was part of a 12-2 run for the Rocks. And each of those 12 points were scored by Morson, who kicked off the scoring spree with a bucket in transition, a field goal down low off an out-of-bounds play and a put-back attempt following a teammate's miss, which happened to draw an and-one opportunity that she buried.

Then she scored again in transition. And then she hit the Steph Curry-ranged 3-pointer at the horn.

"I knew I was going to shoot it, but I didn't know where I would be on the floor, so I kind of just threw it up," Morson said. "I saw 5, 6 seconds left on the clock, so I just threw it up when I got far enough down. It was very cool. I had never made a buzzer-beater before. It was a very cool experience."

That's right. She can do it all. She can drive to the hoop. She has the handles of a veteran point guard. She carries herself in the post like a 6-foot-5 center.

During Salem's 11-0 run to start the game, she sailed a block 20 feet out of bounds. It landed somewhere behind



Salem's Leilah Howard (middle) battles Ypsilanti Lincoln's Tamia French for possession during an Ice Breaker tournament girls basketball game on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at Ypsilanti Arbor Prep. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Salem's bench.

"When I took the job, I heard I had a good player," said Wells, a former state-champion coach and assistant at Arbor Prep who also has experience with the University of Michigan-Dearborn. "The way they described it, I thought she was just a forward or something. I didn't know that she could handle the ball and do all the things she could do. I'm just trying to bring the best out of her."

"I knew she was going to be special after the second practice with her. That's when I saw her touch the rim. When she touched the rim, I said, 'Wow!' So I had her watching Kobe (Bryant film) all summer. I want her to have the mentality of Kobe, and she's starting to get it. I want her to be aggressive and to go after what she wants. And she's not even there yet."

"She's fun. She has a great attitude. The girls respect her. The girls want her to shoot the ball because she takes good shots. They know that she's a very good ball player. You wouldn't know it from her demeanor. She just plays the game. Once she gets some travel experience and plays against tougher competition, she's going to be good. Getting her was a surprise. I didn't know she was that good. I'm really happy with her."

It's almost unfair how much of a natural Morson, the daughter of former college baseball player Theo Morson, is at playing the sport. And with how talented her teammates are this year, it makes



Salem's Madison Morson dribbles past Ypsilanti Lincoln defenders during an Ice Breaker tournament girls basketball game on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at Ypsilanti Arbor Prep. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

her look almost unguardable.

Opponents can double-team Morson, but that leaves guard Shaheed Ali Bakkar (three points) open to drive through the paint to create backside opportunities for post-player Leilah Howard (seven). It allows Ashley Kopacko (11) to drain a trio of 3-pointers. It keeps Marissa Kintz (nine) open at the perimeter to make a heads-up pass from triple-threat.

And the reality is Morson has no formal training.

"Honestly, I owe it to a lot of the guys at my local gym," the sophomore said. "I go to Lifetime Fitness. I would play with them over the summer non-stop. Just scrimmages. Whether it's half court or full court, they've taught me a lot about taking it to the hoop. They really helped me a lot."

"And Coach Wells. We just got him this year. Big improvement. The first couple of practices with him over the summer were an insane improvement for our team. He helped a lot, and he's still helping."

Morson has the opportunity to be the best player in metro Detroit, and she still hasn't realized it. How exciting for the

Rocks, who are 2-0 to kick off Week 1 of the season. They have 18 regular-season games left to see how much Morson's game can grow.

Plymouth Christian passes first test of season

Morganne Houk poked the ball loose, and it sailed out of bounds.

She hardly had time to wipe the sweat off her face before she readied herself for another defensive play after the whistle.

Only 31 seconds remained, and Plymouth Christian led by 18 points, but the junior was still gunning for steals.

"We have one speed, and we don't know how else to play, and we're not going to play another speed," PCA coach Rod Windle said following the Eagles' 65-49 victory at Detroit Country Day.

The Yellowjackets are just one season removed from a final-four appearance in the Division 2 playoffs, yet the D-4 Eagles were nonchalant following the road win.

They're shooting for a deep run in this year's playoffs after last year's tough loss to Allen Park Inner-City Baptist in the district final.

"Yeah, we have high hopes, and we're working hard to fill those hopes," Windle added. "We're kind of untested in terms of teams don't know us in terms of what we've got, and we've got kids ready to play every possession. I'm really proud of the way the girls worked tonight."

The Eagles are led by a pair of returning all-state players in Houk and Anna Fernandez, who scored 15 and 26 points, respectively, in the win.

Country Day opened with a 10-2 lead but PCA battled back with an 18-2 run to knot the score by halftime. Hernandez scored nine points in each of the third and fourth quarters to help the Eagles pull off the comeback.

"We were gritty on defense," Windle said of limiting the Yellowjackets to just 19 second-half points. "They (Country Day) have some really good players over there, and we talked about that. We rotated. We got off our man to give help. We did some awesome things."

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

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Novi Wildcat Nathan Schave, right, looks to pass the ball. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Wildcat Luke Aurilia, center, goes up for a rebound. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Bloomfield Hills' Ben Canty rips down a rebound. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

game.

"Te' John is a great player, and a special kid. He works incredibly hard, too. When he gets into a rhythm, he's really hard to stop. Coming into the game we had a lot of respect for their players, but we showed that we have a really good one, too, in him," Housey said of his star.

"Even when he was banged up, he pushed through, played hard defense, and made us really proud. He's got a lot of good things coming."

The Black Hawks were able to keep the Wildcats at bay with its free throw

shooting late in the fourth quarter to sulk away the clock and leave with a 67-60 win.

Novi senior Danny Groechel added 18 points, six in the first half, while fellow senior Blake Ellison added 12.

Housey said that even though the game didn't go the way he'd like and that his team was out hustled for most of the game he's proud of the way his team fought.

"That's one of the things I love about this team is their fight. They won't quit. It would have been easy to pack it in, or give up. We just kept fighting through every possession. As much as you hate to lose, there are things you can build on, and that's what we'll build on going forward."

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Couch

Continued from Page 1B

backer Will Anderson Jr. never had it and might have been the best player in college football. That's what I'm told. I saw him play bits of a couple games.

But I saw all 263 runs by Walker. Every single step. All 1,636 yards and 18 TDs. And I saw about 20 throws by Alabama quarterback Bryce Young, who I voted atop my ballot, just ahead of Walker and then Hutchinson, who I saw devastate several offenses, including MSU's. Apologies to the Heisman Trust for leaking my ballot. But, again, understand the story of the Heisman Trophy, for most of my readers, ended Monday. To them, what happens Saturday in New York is irrelevant now.

Young's performance against Georgia — the dominant defense of the year, or at least so we thought — pushed him over the top for me. Of course, I only saw parts of that game because I was covering an MSU-Toledo nonconference basketball game, which tipped off in the middle of the SEC championship. There were other Heisman voters at that basketball game. Probably hundreds more at basketball games that day around the country. We try to do the best we can with our votes, but those of us whose college football coverage is locally focused see less of players and teams from around the country than many of you.

One can make an argument for four Heisman finalists ahead of Walker. That's what voters did in sending Young, Hutchinson, Pitt QB Kenny Pickett and Ohio State QB C.J. Stroud to New York. But I'd bet my sister's house that many of the folks making that argument didn't see enough of Walker to make it. Just like I didn't see enough of Anderson to know where he truly belongs in the pecking order. I do know that Walker had a spectacular season. That he elevated an entire program and carried a team to 10-2 and a top-10 finish, a team that otherwise might have been .500, if that. He propelled the Spartans past Miami and Michigan and Penn State. If he hadn't played at all against Ohio State, instead of carrying six times while hobbled in that debacle in Columbus, he would have been better off. That wasn't on him.



Michigan State's Kenneth Walker III had Heisman momentum for most of the season, but lost out in the last couple weeks after the Spartans dropped their second game. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

I can explain Walker's impact all day. I saw everything. He's absolutely Heisman-worthy. The same can probably be said for several other players. The timing of their most visible Heisman moments was no doubt better since they came late in the season.

I have a question for Heisman voters: Did you watch Walker run in the snow against Penn State? I didn't think so. I didn't catch much of Alabama-Auburn that day, either. Just the end, which left an impression.

I can't imagine I'll have a Heisman ballot next year. This column probably

isn't good for that. The vote won't be better or worse without me. Just more of the same ignorance, quarterbacks and momentum. Quarterbacks have won the Heisman 17 times in the last 21 years. What are the odds that 17 times in 21 years a quarterback was actually the "most outstanding" player in college football? Come on.

If you want the selection process to be worthy of the Heisman Trophy's prestige, bring some dignity and accuracy to it. Perhaps have a smaller panel of former coaches and maybe select national or retired media folks doing the

voting — people who commit to watching as much as they can all season. Perhaps make the finalists for the Heisman the winners of the individual position awards — the Davey O'Brien (QBs), Doak Walker (running backs), Biletnikoff (receivers), Butkus (linebackers), and so on and so forth.

Because Saturday's Heisman winner will have won a well-meaning vote. But he'll also have been picked by a lot of people who barely saw him play.

Contact Graham Couch at gcouch@lsj.com. Follow him on Twitter @Graham_Couch.

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Link to project: <http://links.pccsk12.com/BMbidopps>

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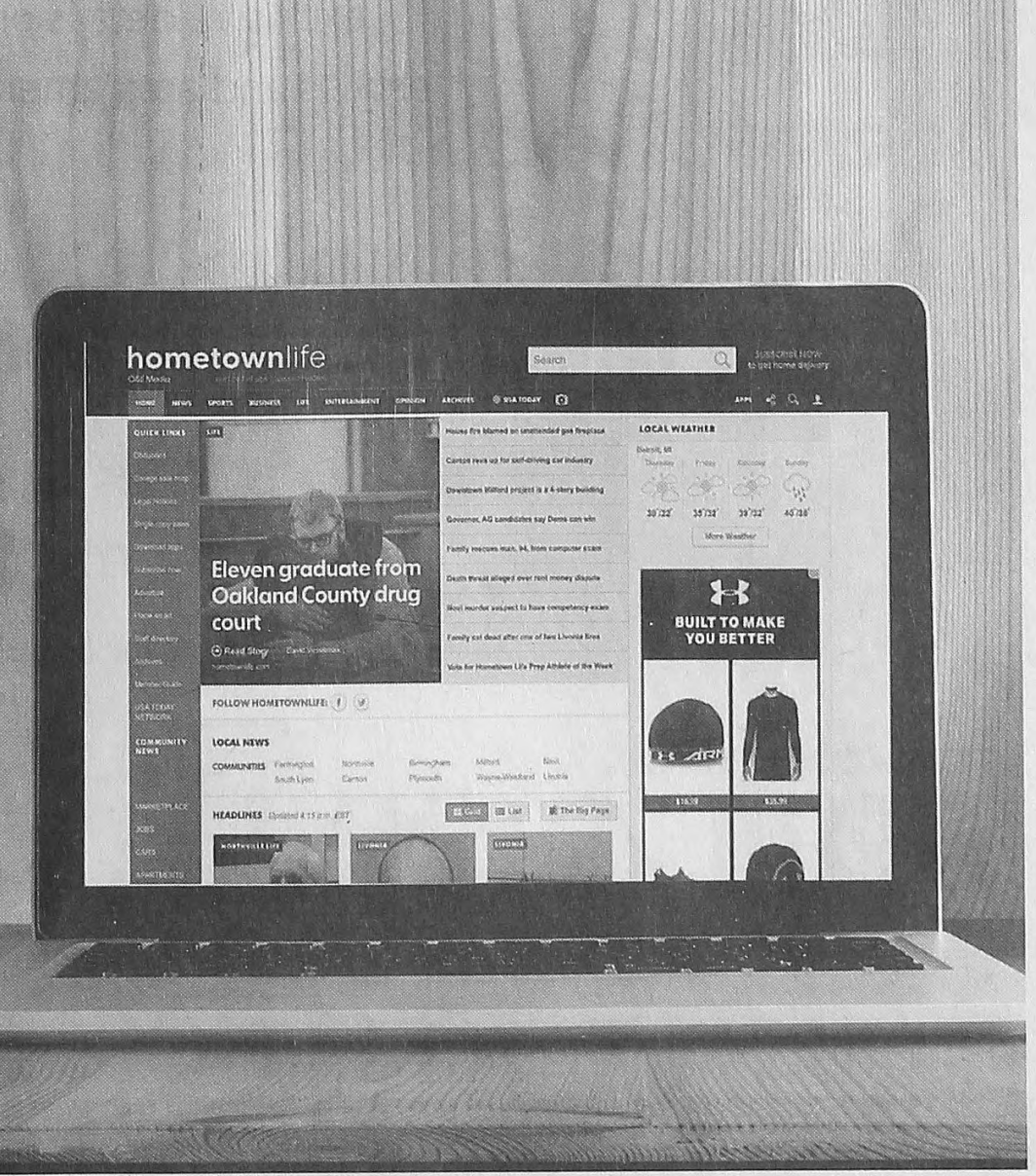
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Publish: December 12 & 19, 2021 LO-000036052 3x4

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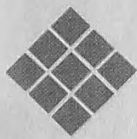
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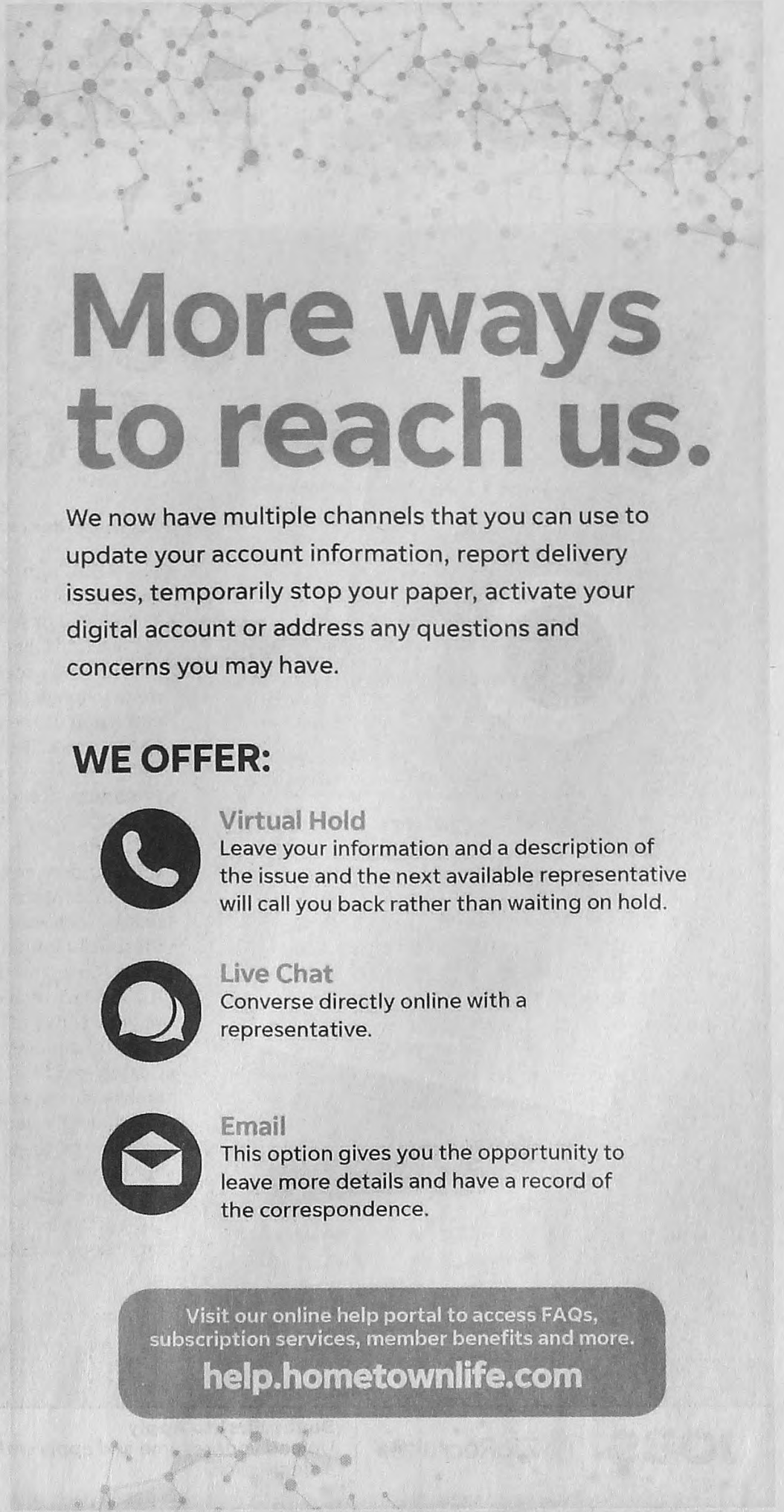
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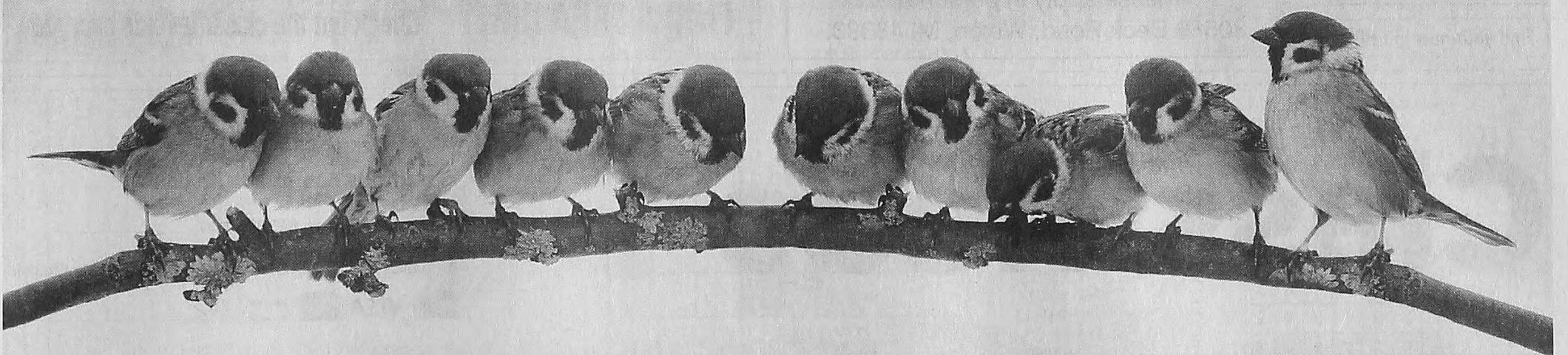
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Job News Roundup

By ZipRecruiter.com

- The F.D.A. approved coronavirus vaccine booster shots for all adults.
- The House passed President Joe Biden's \$1.7 trillion Build Back Better Plan, which would provide for programs designed to curb climate change, child-care subsidies, a one-year extension of the enhanced child tax credit and universal pre-K. The Senate is likely to approve it later this year.
- Premiums for employer-sponsored family health coverage rose 4% for plan year 2021, topping \$22,000.
- CVS announced that it will close 900 stores over the next three years. Employees will be offered jobs at nearby locations.
- Starbucks employees in Buffalo, NY and Mesa, AZ have started mounting efforts to unionize.
- Airlines are on a hiring spree ahead of holiday peak season travel. They also anticipate the release of pent-up demand for travel in 2022.
- Costco and Starbucks have announced plans to increase starting pay to \$17 and \$15 respectively.
- Colorado is raising the starting pay for government employees to \$15 per hour to overcome staffing shortages.
- William Paterson University plans to resolve budget shortfalls amid declining enrollment by laying off dozens of faculty and staff.

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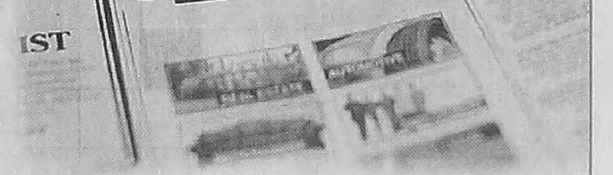
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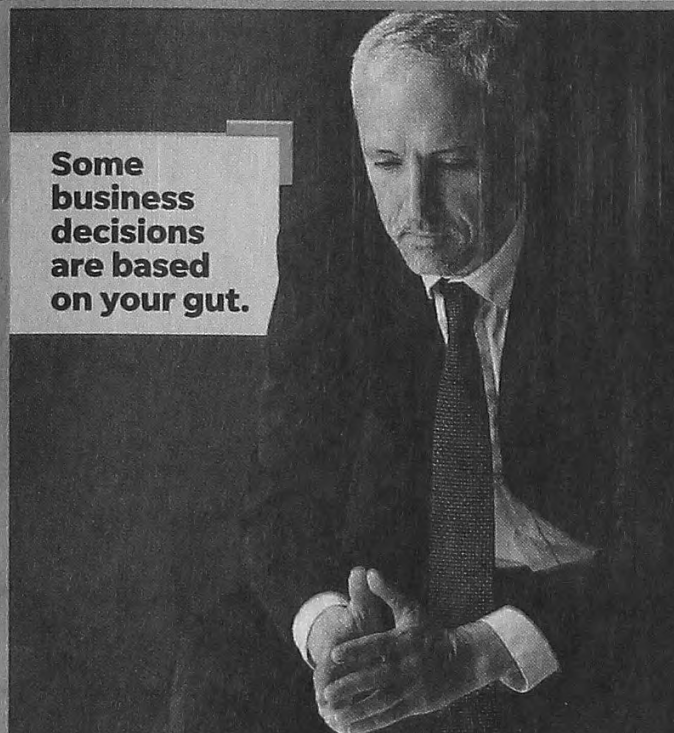
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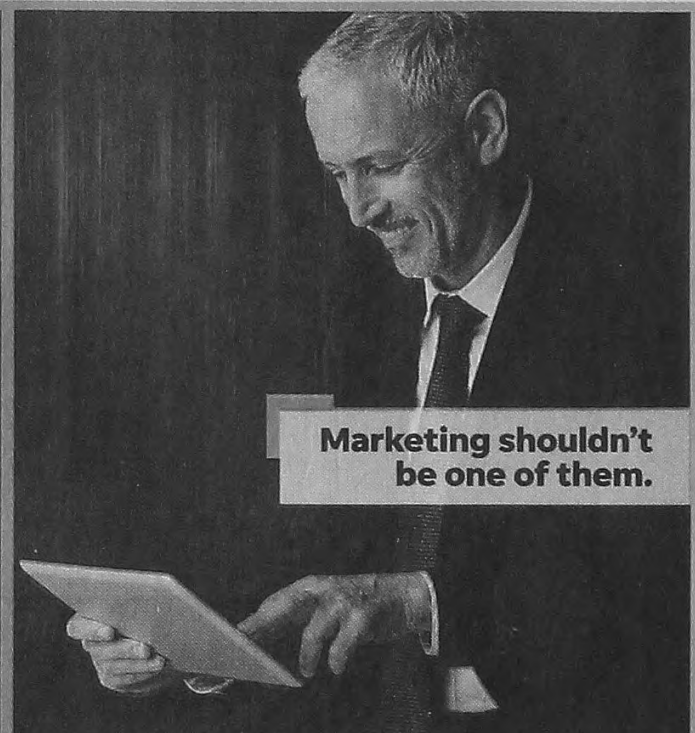
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ANIMATED WOOFERS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Agree (with)
 - 5 Ability to cope well with difficulty
 - 11 Mini-devils
 - 15 Girl
 - 19 Forget to say
 - 20 Vocation
 - 21 Heist booty
 - 22 — Stanley Gardner
 - 23 Sicilian resort city
 - 26 Rain-starved
 - 27 Get ripper
 - 28 Taken with
 - 29 Legendary nude horse rider
 - 31 Small bird
 - 32 Enhaloed Fr. woman
 - 33 Lightning source, as shortened in weather reports
 - 36 Like wicker baskets
 - 37 Rotating rocket ride at Disney theme parks
 - 40 Alternatives to dice
 - 43 Has the helm
 - 44 Exactly
 - 46 Lime drink
 - 47 "Oh, go on!"
 - 49 Kevin Bacon's "Footloose" role
 - 55 Spring-loaded stick
 - 58 R&B's Rawls
 - 60 Suffix with script
 - 61 Elvis — Presley
 - 62 Twitched, as a muscle
 - 65 Pasta strip
 - 69 Raiment
 - 71 — and yang
 - 72 Depressing or untidy sort
 - 75 Santa —, California
 - 76 Overprotect
 - 78 Most ashen
 - 79 Discovered
 - 81 Old cracker brand
 - 82 Short time, for short
 - 83 Sheeran and O'Neill
 - 85 Regatta tools
 - 86 Grammy nominee for writing the Lee Ann Womack hit "I May Hate Myself in the Morning"
 - 92 Retort to "No you're not!"
 - 95 Moray, say
 - 96 Gin mill
 - 98 Be emphatic
 - 102 Moniker for Boston's locale
 - 107 Flying disc renamed "Frisbee" in 1957
 - 109 Zones
 - 110 FDR part
 - 112 "Indeedy"
 - 113 "Law & Order: —" (NBC series since '99)
 - 114 Silly grin
 - 117 Gravy Train competitor
 - 118 Insult, in rap
 - 119 Be very mad
 - 120 Baseball's Ty
 - 121 Their names begin eight answers in this puzzle
 - 125 Wields
 - 126 Major city in Norway
 - 127 Squirrel food
 - 128 Actress Hathaway
 - 129 Period before 6-Down
 - 130 Close-call cry
 - 131 Present in a different form
 - 132 Attention-getting cries
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Piano recital pieces
 - 2 Free-verse poet
 - 3 Kitchen nook
 - 4 Hellenic H
 - 5 Red apple
 - 6 It follows Holy Week
 - 7 Stooges, e.g.
 - 8 New Year in Vietnam
 - 9 Zodiac sign
 - 10 Mess up
 - 11 "Word has it ..."
 - 12 Munchies from Mars
 - 13 Pint-size
 - 14 Smeltery junk
 - 15 Entice
 - 16 Get there
 - 17 Split-off bit
 - 18 Alternatives to coupes
 - 24 Sun blockers
 - 29 Oscar winner Sophia
 - 30 Proprietor
 - 33 Uncle, in Spanish
 - 34 Sky shiner
 - 35 Head, in French
 - 38 Creditors' takebacks
 - 39 Square in the first column of a bingo card
 - 41 Speed
 - 42 Nuptial vow
 - 45 Try to equal
 - 48 "We're No Angels" actor — Ray
 - 50 Regatta group
 - 51 Gym pad
 - 52 Pop singer Grande
 - 53 Intersection
 - 54 Presses and stretches
 - 55 Hitchcock film of 1960
 - 56 Downer drug
 - 57 India's Indira
 - 59 Takes stuff out of a suitcase
 - 63 Nero's 1,550
 - 64 Up 'til
 - 66 Popeye's Olive
 - 67 Lofty poem
 - 68 "ER" roles
 - 69 Exist
 - 70 Luggage-screening org.
 - 73 Oil gp.
 - 74 "Frozen" heroine
 - 77 Fawn nurser
 - 80 Hen's perch
 - 82 Road deicer
 - 84 T. rex, e.g.
 - 87 U.S. flag sewer Ross
 - 88 Meadowland
 - 89 Sappy tree
 - 90 Earthen cooking pot
 - 91 Person, place or thing
 - 93 Motorist's distance marker
 - 94 Attach with a click
 - 97 Siouan tribe
 - 99 "All finished!"
 - 100 "Kids" actress Chloë
 - 101 Bridge supports
 - 102 Amount a sack will hold
 - 103 Stimulate
 - 104 Naval petty officers
 - 105 Most secure
 - 106 OK for eating
 - 108 Traffic cones
 - 111 Funny bone locale
 - 115 Garbage barge
 - 116 Dance violently
 - 117 Razor choice
 - 121 Uber order
 - 122 Fabulous flier
 - 123 Fabled flier
 - 124 "Zip-a-Dee-Doo- —"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19				20						21				22						
23			24							25				26						
27			28							29				30						
31			32				33	34	35					36						
37			38				39					40	41	42						
43						44						45	46							
			47			48			49					50		51	52	53	54	
55	56	57				58			59					60				61		
62			63	64			65	66	67	68				69	70					
71			72				73							74				75		
76			77				78							79				80		
81						82						83	84					85		
86				87	88				89	90	91		92		93	94				
				95					96				97		98			99	100	101
102	103	104	105						106		107				108					
109									110	111					112					113
114							115	116							117					118
119																				
125																				
129																				

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

SUDOKU

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

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

OPPOSED TO

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.

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

ANSWER KEY

- ADVERSARY
- AGAINST
- AGITATOR
- ANGRY
- ANTI
- ASSAILANT
- AT ODDS
- BESIEGER
- CHALLENGER
- CONTENDER
- CROSS
- DISRUPTIVE
- DISSENTER
- ENRAGED
- ERRATIC
- FOE
- FUMING
- FURIOUS
- GLOWERING
- HEATED
- HECKLER
- HINDERER
- HOSTILE
- INVADER
- IRATE
- LIVID
- MAD
- MALCONTENT
- OBSTRUCTOR
- OPPONENT
- PROTESTER
- REACTIONARY
- REBEL
- RILED
- RIVAL
- STIRRER
- STORMY
- TESTY
- TOUCHY
- UNFRIENDLY
- VEHEMENT
- VEXED
- VIOLENT
- WILD

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

OPPOSED TO

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

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