

Canton basketball in search of 'next man up' as districts begin

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OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Garden City buys Schoolcraft's Radcliff Center

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Garden City is buying Schoolcraft College's Radcliff Center with plans to turn the facility into a community building.

Its city council recently voted to purchase the 15.89 acre property and some

equipment for \$210,000. Schoolcraft will close the center in July. The Radcliff Center is roughly two times the size of the Maplewood Community Center, which Radcliff will replace.

"I've had a lot of people come up to me excited that we get to repurpose this building," Councilman Brian Earle said. "We've looked at redoing the Maple-

wood Center, and it's just a ridiculous amount of money. So, I'm excited to get in here."

The purchase has been in the works for about six months. The Radcliff Center, 1751 Radcliff Street, is Schoolcraft's only facility outside the City of Livonia and serves as a health-focused campus.

The Radcliff Center houses School-

craft's pharmacy, health technology and EMT programs. After this semester, the three programs will move to the Livonia campus so students in all of Schoolcraft's health programs are learning in the same space.

"We're very pleased that the Radcliff

See CENTER, Page 2A



Merrill DeRose has been named the top adaptive physical education teacher in the state by SHAPE Michigan.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth-Canton adaptive PE teacher earns elite award

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It takes a special kind of person to excel as a physical education teacher whose classes consist entirely of students with autism, cognitive impair-

ments and physical disabilities — especially during a restrictive pandemic.

Count Plymouth-Canton Schools educator Merrill DeRose among this extraordinary group.

Earlier this year DeRose was named the recipient of SHAPE Michigan's

Adaptive Physical Education Teacher of the Year, an award that goes annually to an educator who "serves as a positive role model, epitomizing personal health and fitness, enjoyment of

See AWARD, Page 2A

Madonna University investigating conduct of 2 coaches

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

An investigation continues five months after student athletes at Madonna University alleged inappropriate behavior from two coaches overseeing female sports programs.

The two men, Volleyball and Softball Head Coach Jerry Abraham and Volleyball Assistant Coach Brian McClain, have been the subject of a Title IX investigation and on paid leave since October. The investigation is being conducted by a third party and is ongoing.

"We took these complaints seriously and followed all legal requirements for investigation and determination," the university said in a statement. "The complaints were promptly turned over to a team of independent investigators to determine the facts and to comply with the Title IX requirements of a hearing."

Title IX protects students from sex-based discrimination. Most Title IX inquiries take roughly two months, a university attorney said, but can take longer based on the nature of allegations. Madonna's investigation is entering its sixth month.

The private university declined interview requests with Acting President Ian Day or Athletic Director Scott Kennell, citing the inquiry's ongoing status. Abraham also declined an interview. McClain is no longer listed as a coach on the university's website.

David Boyd, chair of Madonna's board of trustees, said the board is uninvolved in the investigation and all decision making has come from university administration.

"The board has very much a strategic, supervisory perspective," he said.

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Staff shortages cause of Livonia snow removal delays

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

There’s been a noticeable difference between Livonia local and Wayne County roads when it comes to snow removal this year.

Residents have complained it takes days for Wayne County to clear its roads after significant snow fall. People have described some of the city’s major (county maintained) roads, like Five Mile and Farmington roads, as legitimately dangerous after a snow storm.

On top of that, recent warmer temperatures have created the worst pothole season Michigan has seen in years.

“I know there’s deep frustration with the potholes at this moment,” Wayne County Commissioner Terry Marecki (R-Livonia) said. “I hope we see improvements every day with the new Wayne County plan. Many of these roads just need to be replaced.”

Marecki, along with Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan, visited a recent Livonia city council meeting to discuss why snow removal has been so sparse this season and how the county plans to tackle pothole issues.

In a typical year, 19 trucks and drivers are assigned to clear snow from roadways in Livonia, Northville and Canton.

This year, there’s nine.

Wayne County is down 61 plow drivers due to staffing shortages, Marecki said, and private contractors rarely offer the kind of scale a county needs. Cities, which have their own roads to plow, aren’t always able to help either. The county is responsible for 2,500 miles of roadway.

“This is a higher skilled job,” she said. “It’s not a job where you can pull an employee from another area in Wayne County and ask them to drive a plow truck.”

According to Marecki, the county is discussing options regarding how it can handle a staffing shortage if it happens again next winter. Livonia’s council voted to discuss potential partnership opportunities in a committee meeting — an idea Brosnan has also floated.



Wayne County staffing shortages led to situations like this, where considerable amounts of snow still covered the lanes of Eight Mile east of I-275 about 10 a.m. Feb. 18. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Unlike snow removal, Marecki said Wayne County is able to enlist extra help to fill potholes, both inside and outside its own staff. The county has contracted three private firms to provide 10 extra crews through the end of May. The crews will fill potholes six days a week.

Todd Zilincik, Livonia’s city engineer, noted the city is also working to patch

things up as fast as possible on locally-controlled roads like neighborhood streets and Newburgh Road.

“Our cold patch crews were out this weekend,” Zilincik said. “There’s patch crews out there working diligently to fill those potholes ... We do appreciate the residents’ patience.”

Marecki, Brosnan and other city offi-

cials encouraged people to report potholes to Wayne County by calling 1-888-762-3273. People can also download the new “City of Livonia” app on their smartphone to report issues online.

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

Coaches

Continued from Page 1A

“The board is informed when these serious processes are entered into, but from an operational standpoint, the board is not involved.”

Abraham and McClain missed 2021’s volleyball season, and Abraham is missing the current softball season. In their absence, other coaching staff have led the programs.

The college is also searching for a new chief administrator following former President Michael Grandillo’s sudden retirement in late February. Boyd said he’s thankful for Grandillo’s service to Madonna, and the board is planning to launch a national search for a new president.

A university spokesperson said Grandillo’s retirement, which became effective the same day it was announced, is unrelated to the investigation. The former president cited “relatively minor” health concerns as the reason for his abrupt exit, the university said

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

Award

Continued from Page 1A

activity and sensitivity to the needs of students,” the association’s website states.

“I was shocked, to be honest,” DeRose said, recounting the moment she was told she had won the award. “It’s not something you think is going to happen. As teachers, we don’t go into the profession necessarily for the accolades; we do it because we want to teach our youth to be good people and help them learn.

“It’s nice to know other people are noticing what you’re doing.”

Plymouth-Canton Schools Secondary Education Supervisor Dennis McBride said DeRose is an effective educator due in large part to the “tenacity, grit and humor” she brings to the gym.

“When you go into her classroom and observe, if you don’t smile, there’s no place that can make you smile,” McBride said. “Merrill is a phenomenal individual and a treasure for our district.”

Pursuing a challenging field like adaptive physical education was a natural choice, revealed DeRose, who has a sister with severe cerebral palsy (Katee) and another who is an educator (Lindsay).

“I always thought I’d be a physical education teacher, then a grant was offered through Western (Michigan University) for adaptive P.E., so I was like, ‘all right, let’s do this,’” she said. “I like that every day is different; you never know what you’re going to get. There’s



Merrill DeRose, right, with sisters Lindsay (left) and Katee. COURTESY OF MERRILL DEROSE

a surprise factor that I like. I also work with a really good staff of fellow teachers and para-pros.”

A native of Farmington Hills and resident of Livonia, DeRose currently teaches classes at Liberty Middle School and Salem High School. She also serves as a coach for three of the district’s unified sports teams (basketball, bocce ball and bowling).

“I try to keep my classes as consistent with the other general education physical education classes,” DeRose said. “I mix in everything from swimming units to basketball skills, dancing and cardio drumming. The main goal is to get the students moving.”

DeRose admitted virtual learning during the heart of the pandemic was not ideal for her job.

“First of all, physical education classes aren’t meant to be taught online,” she said, smiling. “It was tough at times coming up with interesting activities that kept the students engaged on their computers as a lot of my students can’t maneuver technology on their own.

“But we did the best we could. Most days went pretty well and we got the kids moving, which is always our ultimate goal.”

Although non-teaching observers and parents of her students consider what DeRose and her peers do as extraordinary, she maintains a humble attitude.

“We go to work every day and do what we love,” she said. “When you love what you do like I do, I’m not even sure I’d call it work.”

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Newsroom Contacts:
Phil Allmen, Content Strategist
Mobile: 248-396-3870
Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com
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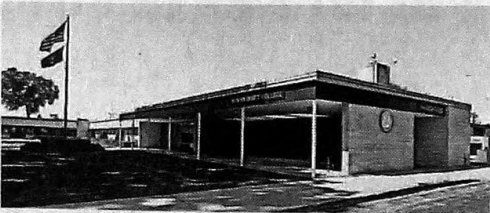
Center

Continued from Page 1A

Center will continue to serve the Garden City community in a new way for many years,” said Schoolcraft President Glenn Cerny.

One resident expressed concern that the city would close its library, which is inside the Maplewood Center, which council didn’t address. The library is looking to raise \$100,000 to build a standalone facility for itself, an effort supported by the USA Today Network, of which Hometown Life is a part.

The city will do some renovations to



The Schoolcraft College Radcliff Center in Garden City will close in July. The city plans to turn it into a community center. COURTESY OF SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

the building, including asbestos removal, cleaner power sources and a potential new entrance. City Manager Doc Dougherty said he feels the building is in good shape, but it won’t reopen to the

public as it is.

“There’s a possibility of an additional gymnasium,” he said. “There’s a smaller basketball courts — it’s more of a stage. We’re also looking at possible senior luncheons, daddy daughter dances, puppet shows and other things.”

Council unanimously supported the purchase and many members noted their own excitement to see what comes from the redevelopment.

“I just think it’s a wonderful opportunity for Garden City to move forward into the future,” Mayor Pro Tem Pat Squires said. “I’m proud to be part of it.”

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

Livonia Salvation Army store expansion, renovations begin

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Major renovations are finally coming to Livonia's Salvation Army store after years of delays.

Originally announced in 2019, plans to renovate the store at 33600 Plymouth Road were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those plans will finally become a reality in March, said Envoy Jacquelyn Idzior, administrator for business for the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center for Southeast Michigan.

"This project is like 11 years in the making. I'm so excited to start," she said. "I'm just excited for the construction to finally be kicking off. This just gives us something to look forward to."

The renovations will include plenty of new features, including LED lighting, a high efficiency heating and cooling system, bathrooms, flooring and more. The work will also result in a new donation center at the site.

The project will see the shop expand west into the former Italian restaurant space, which will also be part of the renovations. The store will continue to operate while work takes place.

"It will be very congested, but we will remain open during construction," Idzior said. "We're hoping that this first phase one of the construction will be done mid-to late summer."

The goal is to have the entire store completed sometime in the fall, she said. Once completed, Idzior said the store will closely resemble the Salvation Army store in South Lyon.

Donations will still be accepted at the center and items will remain for sale, though the selection will be a more curated assortment of goods at the shop.

"They're going to be extra selective about what they're putting out," Idzior said. "I hope that our customers are still going to have great things to choose from."

The Salvation Army stores have been impacted by the economic issues all businesses have seen. Item pickup has been suspended due to a lack of drivers,



Construction has already begun inside the Salvation Army store in Livonia.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Salvation Army Thrift Store at 33600 Plymouth Road in Livonia.

Idzior said, and some stores across the region have had to close their doors. That includes the store at Telegraph and Joy in Dearborn Heights, right on the border with Redford Township.

Hours have also been impacted as well: instead of being open for 12 hours a day, the Livonia store is currently open

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, with donations being accepted Tuesday through Saturday.

Idzior said they also hope to reopen the fitting rooms at the Livonia store after the renovations, which has also been closed due to staffing issues.

Proceeds from the store and others in southeast Michigan support the Salvation Army's Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center in Detroit, which assists those seeking recovery from drugs and alcohol.

"The adult rehabilitation center actually is a six month program for men and women struggling with drug and alcoholism addition," Idzior said. "Donors and the shoppers, this is what funds our entire program."

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

Farmington Hills Police offering free at-home drug disposal pouches

Courtesy of Farmington Hills Police Department

The Farmington Hills Police Department, in partnership with Beaumont Health, is offering one free Detera pouch per person available from the front desk at police headquarters at 31655 W. Eleven Mile Road.

Detera pouches offer an easy way to safely dispose of unneeded or expired medications at home.

Using a simple three-step process, the Detera Drug Deactivation System permanently deactivates any medication, including opioids.

Each Detera pouch has a water-soluble inner pod containing activated carbon. Drugs are placed in the pouch, warm water is added, then the pouch is sealed, shaken, and disposed of in the regular trash.

Each pouch deactivates 45 pills, six ounces of cream or liquid, or six patches, rendering them inert and non-retrievable.

As a precaution, Detera should be kept out of the reach of children and pets as the medication is deactivated.

Detera is safe for the environment and helps keep drugs out of the water system. It is recommended that drugs NOT be disposed of in toilets or sinks.

Most importantly, Detera helps keep unneeded medications away from teens and young adults.

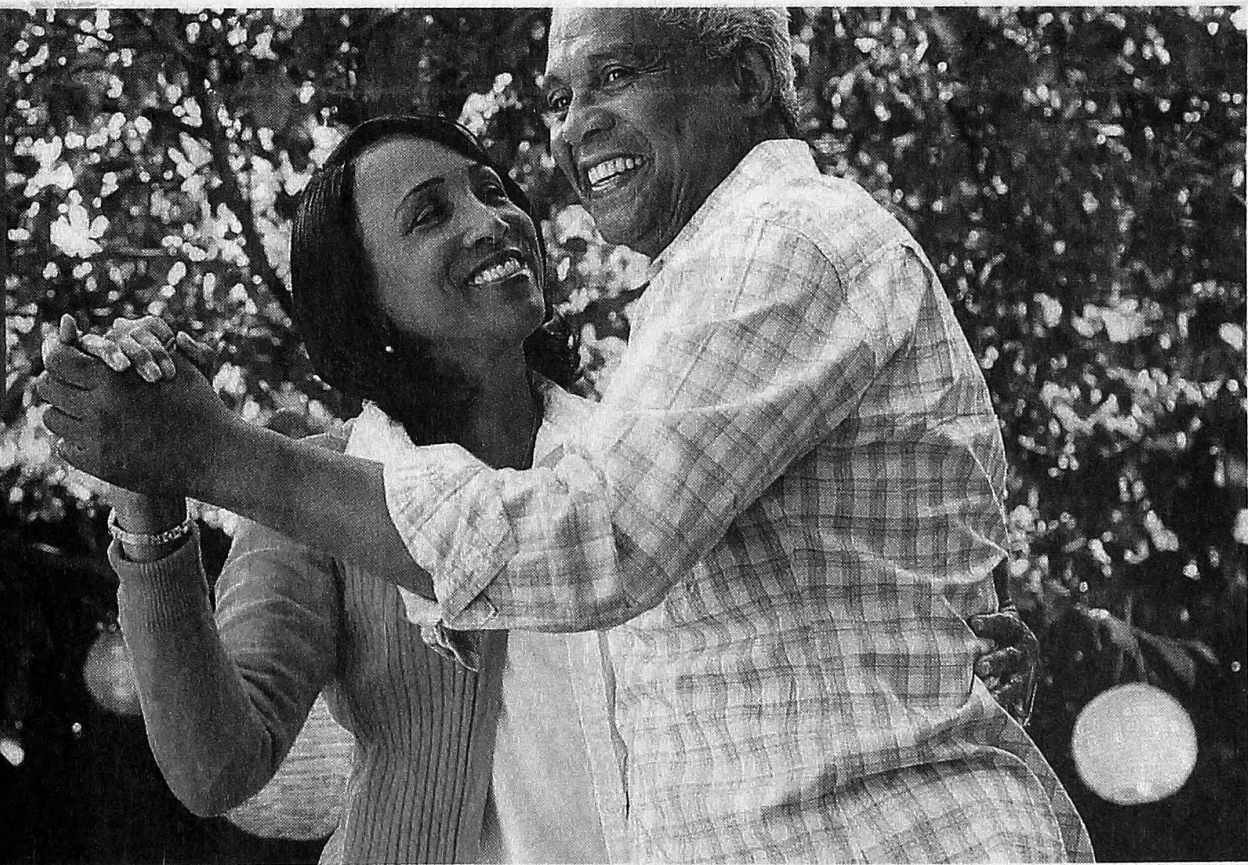
The National Safety Council reports that teens are more likely to abuse prescription drugs than illegal street drugs, with 70% of them getting drugs through friends or relatives.

The Farmington Hills Police Department also participates in Operation Medicine Cabinet, where anyone may use the drop box in the lobby available 24/7 to dispose of prescription pills.

Participants are asked to leave their names with officers at the Command Desk, who will deposit the pills in an envelope before putting them in the drop box.

To learn more about Detera, go to www.deterrasystem.com or watch a YouTube video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1RxmAMWKOU.

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People watch as firefighters from multiple departments clean up equipment and put out hot spots Feb. 18 at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Township.
KELLY JORDAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Oakland Hills clubhouse ruins challenge fire inspectors

Bill Laitner Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

It was one of Michigan’s largest wooden structures and modeled after George Washington’s historic mansion at Mount Vernon.

More than 24 hours after the Feb. 17 momentous fire that destroyed the historic Oakland Hills Country Club clubhouse, firefighters were still pouring water Friday afternoon on “hot spots,” trying to keep the piles of century-old timbers from reigniting.

They’d spent the entire night on the scene at Maple Road just east of Telegraph in the heart of Oakland County’s

affluence, officials said Friday. At the same time, local firefighting veterans were looking ahead.

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department was forming a team of inspectors, to include experts from the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office and from multiple insurers that are said to have provided coverage for the venerable clubhouse. Bloomfield Township Fire Marshal Peter Vlahos predicted they’d end up conducting “one of the most extensive investigations that I’ve ever been involved with” in the community of more than 42,000 residents.

Yet, already both Vlahos and his boss — Fire Chief John LeRoy — said they be-

lieve that the cause of the blaze may never be known. Like most commercial buildings, the clubhouse was equipped with ceiling-mounted sprinklers which, when triggered by smoke, begin spraying sheets of water. Still, the clubhouse sprinklers had been unable to quench the fire, LeRoy said.

The fire’s origin and initial spread “may have been in the walls and between the floors, so the sprinklers couldn’t get at it,” LeRoy said. The initial 911 call for the fire came at 9:17 a.m. Thursday after a cook smelled smoke in the kitchen, although it’s unknown whether the fire started there, LeRoy said.

His dire prediction: “We’ll probably never know what truly happened, the damage is so far advanced.”

The piles of ancient smoldering timbers are so daunting that fire inspectors will be challenged to survey the ruins, Bloomfield Township Fire Marshal Peter Vlahos told the Free Press. Likewise, Vlahos also said he was doubtful that a cause would be pinpointed.

“We’re going to have to use some heavy machinery” to move debris so that inspectors can get to the bottom of the fire’s trail of evidence, Vlahos said.

And when they get there? Clear evidence of the fire’s cause may well have gone up in smoke.



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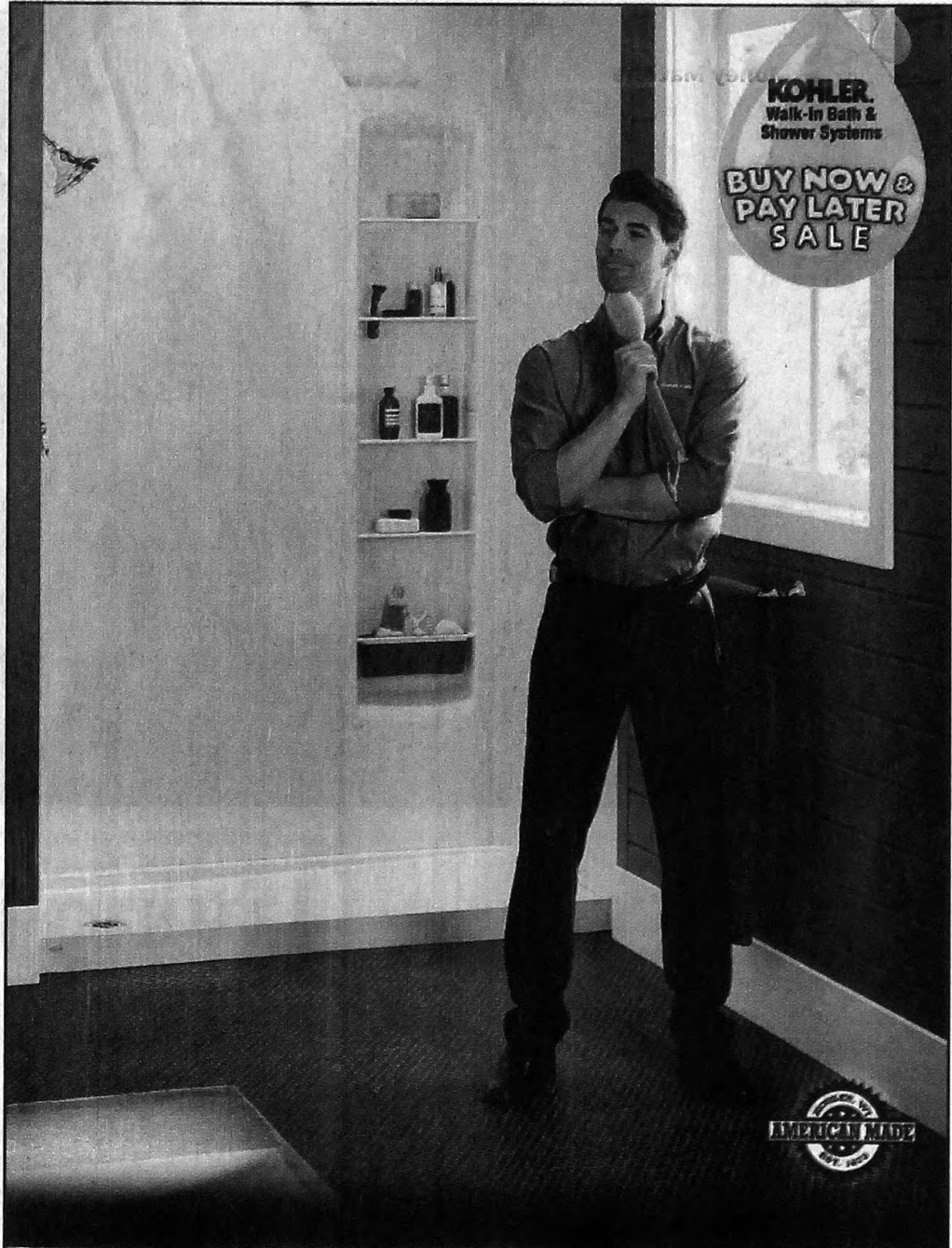
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Holocaust center showing film about all-Black women’s battalion in WWII

Courtesy of the Zekelman Holocaust Center

As Allied Forces were winning WWII and liberating concentration camps in February 1945, U.S. troops and their families weren’t receiving their mail. Enter the only all-black Women’s Army Corps battalion to serve in Europe during WWII, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion — or The Six Triple Eight.

Despite facing racism and sexism from their own leadership and troops, these women served with honor, clearing 17 million backlogged letters in three months, far quicker than the Army’s six-month goal.

They were never fully recognized — until now.

The documentary film “The Six Triple Eight” by Lincoln Perry Films is about the real-life story of the 6888th Battalion.

The film is available for viewing anytime March 1-9 on The Zekelman Holocaust Center website at holocaust-center.org, or from March 1-15 at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History website, thewright.org.

“The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History is delighted to share the history of the 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only African-American women’s unit to serve overseas during World War II,” said Jennifer Scott, senior vice president of exhibitions and programs at the Wright Museum. “Recognizing the roles of African American women is deeply interwoven in our mission of opening minds and changing lives.”

Additionally, and in honor of International Women’s Day on March 8, the filmmakers will hold a virtual discussion of this incredible true story. Executive Producer James Theres, Producer Edna W. Cummings and Detroit Free Press columnist Nancy Kaffer will all be part of the discussion via Zoom. Registration for “The Six Triple Eight” virtual program is available at holocaust-center.org/March.



Soldiers of the 6888th Central Postal Battalion, an all-Black women’s unit deployed overseas during World War II, during a military parade in 1945 in Birmingham, England. COURTESY OF THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENAEUM, DORIS MOORE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

James Theres is a writer for the Department of Veterans Affairs and is an army veteran. He also is an independent filmmaker who has written, directed and produced three award-winning documentary films: “The 30th of May,” “The Hello Girls” and “The Six Triple Eight.”

Edna W. Cummings is a retired Army Colonel, business consultant and the producer of “The Six Triple Eight.” She is working to bring recognition to the battalion, and to encourage the passage of the Six Triple Eight Congressional Gold Medal Act, through which the soldiers would receive Congressional Gold Medals.

“This is an incredible story of perseverance and teamwork,” said Sarah


Saltzman, director of events and public relations at the Zekelman Holocaust Center. “These women battled racism and sexism to do their duty and pull off a truly Herculean feat. It is an honor to share their achievements with such distinguished guests.”

Community Partners are the University of Detroit Mercy Women’s and Gender Studies Program and Wayne State Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies. Program Supporters are the PNC Foundation, Robin & Leo Eisenberg, Lauri Ellias and James Murphy, Garry Kappy, Stewart Shear and Eric Billes.

For more information visit holocaustcenter.org or call 248-553-2400.

“This is an incredible story of perseverance and teamwork. These women battled racism and sexism to do their duty and pull off a truly Herculean feat. It is an honor to share their achievements with such distinguished guests.”


Sarah Saltzman
Director of events and public relations at the Zekelman Holocaust Center



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Obituaries

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Ruth Carter Lewis

On Friday, February 11, 2022, Ruth Carter Lewis, loving wife and mother of four children, nine grandchildren, and one great grandchild, passed away at age 89.



Ruth was born on September 27, 1932, in Wheeling, West Virginia to Harlan and Lois (Boyd) Carter. She received her bachelor's degree from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, and later had a career in the financial planning field. On June 12, 1954, she married Lynn L. Lewis. They raised three daughters, Deborah, Jennifer, and Cynthia, and one son, Stuart.

Ruth was passionate about being involved in her children and grand children's lives and enjoyed travel and exploring new adventures and hobbies. She was admired by family and friends for her generous and loving nature. She was known for her warm smiles and words of encouragement, and her kind and compassionate spirit.

Ruth was preceded in death by her father, Harlan, and her mother, Lois, and siblings Harlan (Ted), Margaret and Mary Ellen, and her husband, Lynn. She is survived by her four children, Deborah, Jennifer, Cynthia, and Stuart, nine grandchildren, and one great grandchild. A family memorial service is being planned to be held at Ruth's childhood home, Everbreeze Farm, in Wheeling, West Virginia in the spring.



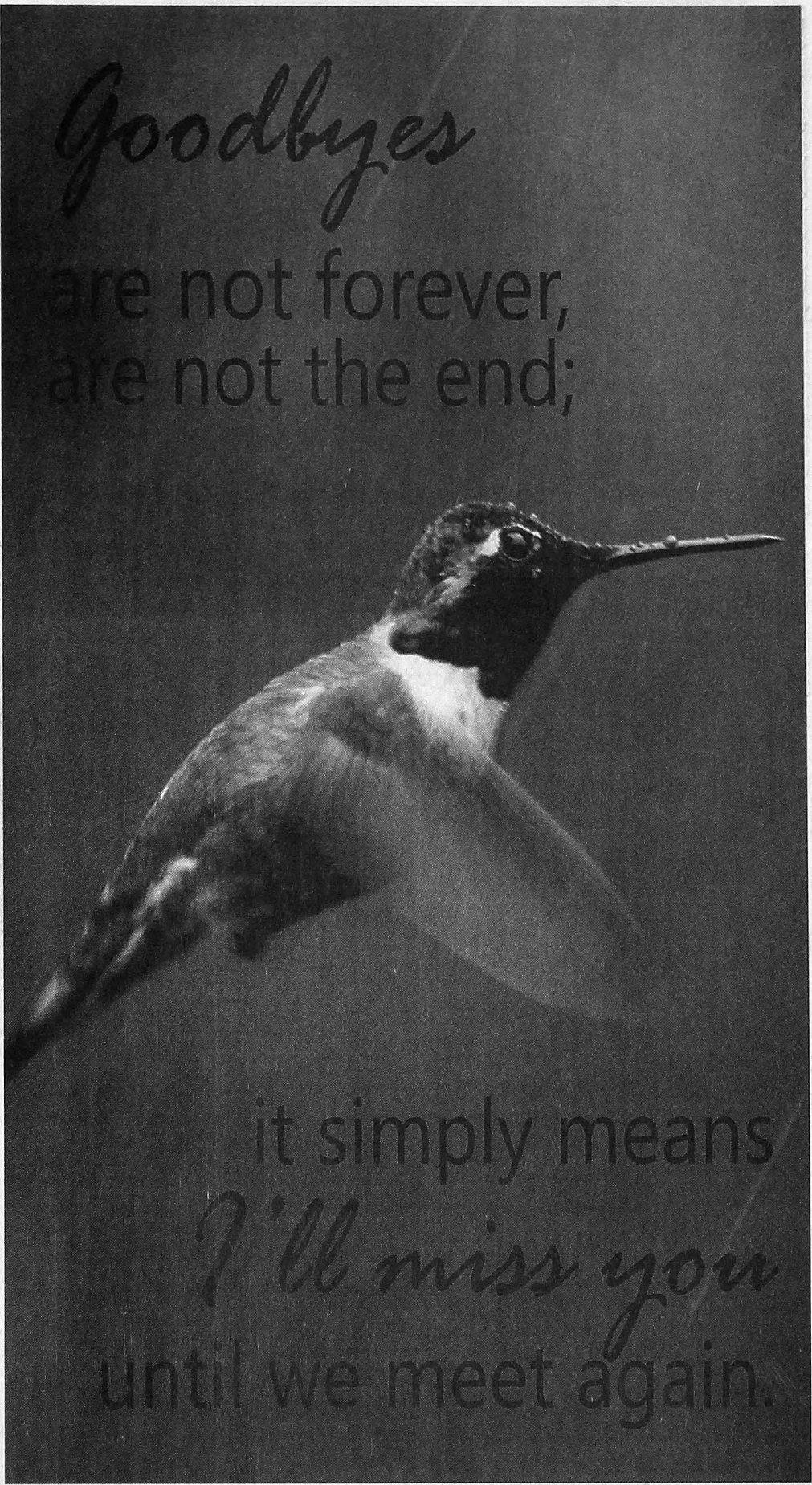
Eternal Rest



Cheryl Lee Summers

Cheryl Lee Summers, age 71, was born in Wayne, Mi on January 10th, 1951. She died surrounded by her family on February 19th, 2022. She was the beloved wife of Mark, her husband of 48 years. She was the loving mother of Keith(43), Jillian (41) and Erin(38). She was the proud grammy to Chase(8).

Cheryl was a kind, warm hearted woman, that could strike up a conversation with anyone. She loved to read and never passed up a chance to go for a drive on a summer day. She loved to sit in the park and discover new beautiful places. She loved her family and friends and wanted nothing but the best for them all. She always had a smile on her face. She will be extremely missed by all who knew her. We will love her forever and always.



Grace Fletcher Gordon

Grace Fletcher Gordon (July 8, 1927 - February 23, 2022)

At 94 years young, Grace Fletcher Gordon passed away at home in Bloomfield Hills on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 with loving family surrounding her. She is preceded in death by her son, John Hurter Gordon III of Covington, Louisiana (Deborah Broadwell Gordon of Mandeville, Louisiana). 'Fletch' is survived by her husband of 72 years Clayton Hill Gordon, M.D., her children Peter Fletcher Gordon, M.D. (Paula Retamal Zamora) of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and Susan Gordon Kern (Jeffery Loud Kern) of Aiken, South Carolina. 'Grammie' or 'Ghiggy' is survived by her grandchildren Jennifer Elizabeth Gordon (Samuel Ruesga) of Guadalajara, Mexico, John Hurter Gordon IV (Mary Kathleen Gordon) of Mandeville, Louisiana, Ian Fletcher Gordon (Caroline Hill) of Denver, Colorado, Clayton Gordon Kern of Royal Oak, Michigan, Mackenzie Gilchrist Kern of Royal Oak, Michigan, Paget Grace Kern (Jacob John Collins) of Arvada, Colorado; and by her great-grandchildren Sophia Ruesga Gordon, Emma Ruesga Gordon, and John 'Hayes' Gordon.



Grace Katherine Fletcher was born in Alpena, Michigan on July 8th, 1927 to Katherine Gilchrist Fletcher and Colonel Philip Kingsbury Fletcher. She attended McFee School in Alpena and graduated as a border from Dana Hall School in Wellesley, Massachusetts. She grew up riding horses on the beach of Michekewis Park, celebrating birthdays at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island where she watched Esther Williams swim in her famous movie scene, and sailing on Lake Huron. Gracie was the only girl to race against and win the all-boy summer regatta, leaving few sailor boys to remain her friends. She was Alpena's Ice Queen with lifelong friends in her court, and she played her bugle in the annual Alpena parades with the American Legion Band. After a year at Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia, Gracie lived in New York City where she graduated from Finch Junior College. She attended Mexico City College for a year with a major in Spanish; she was fluent in Gilchrist as well.

Gracie met her husband Clayton Gordon when he was a medical student studying with a summer job at Alpena General Hospital, and were married in Alpena at Trinity Episcopal Church on April 10th, 1950. Gracie and Clay made their home at The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan from 1950 to 1957 with medical studies, a medical degree in surgery, football games and the welcoming of their three children. John Hurter Gordon III arrived in Ann Arbor, Peter Fletcher Gordon joined the family during the two years of Navy medical military stationed in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Susan Elizabeth Gordon completed the clan back in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gracie was the perfect doctor's wife, and the family settled in Birmingham/Bloomfield Village, Michigan. As she was an involved parent with Detroit Country Day and Cranbrook Schools, and Christ Church Cranbrook. She was a lifelong member of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of Michigan.

Gracie was active with sports and entertaining. She enjoyed bow hunting and fly fishing, snow skiing, paddle tennis, tennis, golf and gin rummy, all in good fashion! She was known to go skiing at Otsego Ski Club with matching ski pants, jacket and helmet in a different color for each day, and in Canada she arrived to her lesson in her brand new outfit matching all the instructors! There was the wedding where she arrived beautifully dressed and matching the bridesmaids! She carried it well! Among the many family dogs who hold endless stories, there was the schnauzer that could not be housebroken so Gracie hired a dog psychiatrist to analyze him. It was the passerby who may have wanted the psychological assistance after driving their car off the road trying to identify the family leashed pet on a walk, it was Arnold the pet pig.

Gracie loved to play the piano, and her composition 'Open My Eyes With Love' was copy-written and played on the radio.

Gracie's years of volunteering in the community included Provisional Chair and being a star onstage at the Junior League Follies for the Junior League of Birmingham. When the JLB hosted the Virginia Slims Tennis tournaments, Ann Hayden-Jones (Wimbledon 1969) and Pip Jones were house guests. Evening parties at the home included Billy Jean King, Francois 'Frankie' Dürr, Rosemary Casals, Kerry Melville, Karen Krantzcke, Betty Stove, Peaches Bartkowicz, and Margaret Court. The following year with the returning tournament, Ann and Pip Jones brought their guest room blessing for our dining room table centerpiece... Baby Pippa Jones. Gracie was the only 'blonde' Cleopatra in history as she starred in the Orchard Lake Production of Caesar and Cleopatra. She was known to host formal teas for the boys at St Peter's Home for Boys in Detroit where she became a Emeritas Board Member. Gracie founded Pretty Things to sell beautiful linens and travel accessories. She hosted numerous trunk showings representing Eleanor Beard of Hardinsburg, Kentucky and over 35 vendors at Sign of the Mermaid in Birmingham, and in Giftorama at Kingswood School Cranbrook. Gracie was an interior decorator, and we now know that airports and hospitals bolt down their furniture after years of Gracie rearranging furniture in waiting rooms to better accommodate family gatherings.

Tennis and golf included fun tournament winnings and remained prominent activities surrounded with friends and family throughout her years and travels: Orchard Lake Country Club in Orchard Lake, Michigan; Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples, Florida; Camelback Inn Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona; and Coral Beach Club in Bermuda. Gracie and Clay shared wonderful stories from their trips to California and Italy with the F. A. Collier Medical Society, golfing from the riverboat going down the Danube, and off the Clipper Ship sailing around Scotland and Ireland. In 1994, they traveled and dined on the QE II with Dolly and Ben Wright, Walter Cronkite with Anne Moeller, Marge and Andy Rooney, Harold Stuart with Francis Langford, Robert Stack, and Herb Caen for the 50th celebration of The World War II Normandy Invasion in France. Annual visits to Bermuda were highlighted with Beach Terrace dinners hosting family Ann Jones Gordon (knighted by the Queen) and The Duchess Katherine and Duke Edward of Kent. Yet it was Coral Beach Club Room 6 where her legacy brings the biggest smiles. Upon arrival each year, Gracie would turn the red and orange flame stitch curtains around, decorating the room with the white curtain lining and giving highlight to the Birdsey artwork which had been re-hung into the room from the hallways. Each night as CBC guests gathered for cocktails, they would look up to view the now red and orange flame stitch curtains in Room 6 greeting their ocean terrace and know that the Gordons had arrived!

Gracie was synonymous with: ethereal, beautiful, elegance, charm, radiance, exceptional, loving, giving, generous, strong, brave, creative, great listener, humorous, a gift of sparkling light... this is only a beginning to a woman who lived life full of grace. She will be re-arranging the Heavens and we will forever recognize her talents with the beautiful clouds decorating glorious skies. We will hear her 'YooHoo's' in the winds. Her legacy of Gracie-isms will endure for generations to share her love and laughter.

There will be a celebration of Grace Fletcher Gordon with a service at Pine Grove Cemetery in Alpena, Michigan in the springtime. Plans will include music from Bob Snyder of Marco Island, Gracie's bugle and song, and a reception at Captain Phil Fletcher's Alpena Yacht Club. Donations in her memory may be sent to the John Hurter Gordon III Endowment Fund at: Detroit Country Day School, 22305 West 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025.

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Pizza boxes will be sporting pink.
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dessert and a non-alcoholic
beverage. Dine-in only, tax and
gratuity not included, some exclusions apply.
Removing the Columbus statue does not rewrite history.
To understand who we are, we need to know where we came from.

**SALUTING OUR
VETERANS**
Veterans Day,

Friday, November 11th

All past and present U.S. military receive
50% off lunch or dinner. Beverages and
gratuity are not included, US Military ID
is requested, (dine-in only).
A donation will be made to Veterans Outreach
Project of Southeast Michigan.

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November 26th - December 4th

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Please DROP an unwrapped toy at any Antonio's location and it
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**14th ANNUAL
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Reservations will be taken after November 1st by
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Tickets \$23 per person, Children 3 and under \$8 Tax
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Each guest is required to bring an unwrapped
toy or make a donation, and toys will be
purchased to benefit Benny Napoleon's
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SPORTS

Plymouth Christian senior signs with UM

Brandon Folsom [Hometownlife.com](#)
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

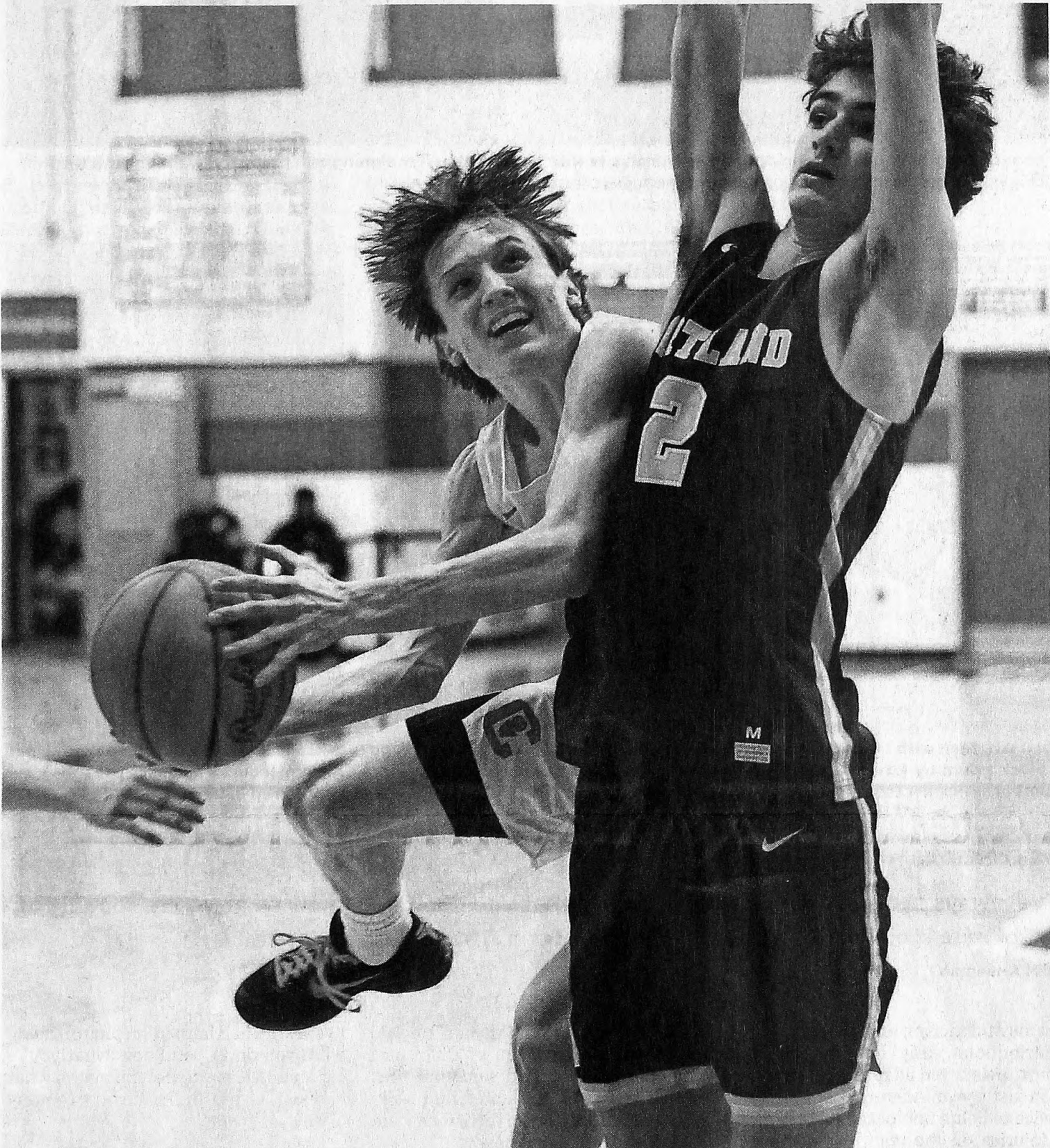
Scott Wiemer called college coaches. He emailed recruiting coordinators. He forwarded film and highlights. The second-year Lutheran Westland football coach had no trouble sending players to the next level at past stops.

They went to Wayne State, Northwood and Concordia-Ann Arbor, among other in-state programs. Some played for Division III schools in Wisconsin. He even had connections with a few assistants at some of the local D-I schools. Certainly, someone would want Wiemer's latest prospect, a 6-foot-7, 220-pound defensive end with a motor

like JJ Watt's, a physicality like John Randle's and both the leadership and strength of Christian faith like Reggie White's. But no one — not a SINGLE team — returned Wiemer's calls, emails or texts last fall. No one wanted Chibikem Anwunah, the Plymouth Christian Academy senior

who participated in his school's co-op agreement with Lutheran Westland so that both small schools could even have enough players to field an 11-player team. It was heartbreaking, actually. So much so that Anwunah gave up on

See **SIGNS**, Page 2B



Canton's Lake McIntosh tries to get a shot past a Hartland defender. Hartland won, 42-39. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Canton in search of 'next man up' as districts begin

Brandon Folsom [Hometownlife.com](#)
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Who knows if Cole Vickers would've made the final shot, let alone even attempted it, in Tuesday's Kensington Lakes Activities Association boys basketball championship game against Hartland. But one thing is certain: The Ferris State signee would've been on the floor in at least some facet. The senior guard is just too good to ride the pine in that situation. He could have drawn a double team to free up a teammate for a wide-open 3-pointer, or he could have set a screen at just the right time to create a shot that way.

Instead, though, Vickers sat on the bench. The best he could do was watch, and maybe even pray a little, as Canton tried its best to send the regular-season finale to overtime. Trailing by three points with 8 seconds left, the Chiefs inbounded the ball in the backcourt to Lake McIntosh, one of the KLAA's best ball handlers and shooters. The senior reached the top of the key, performed a crossover dribble to his left to get Hartland's Carson Conrad out of his way, briefly pump-faked and then got off an awkward 3 attempt. The shot hit the front of the rim and the rebound landed right into the hands of Conrad, who held onto the ball for a

half-second before the final buzzer rang. Then Conrad launched the ball into the rafters above him. Hartland 42, Canton 39. Vickers' view of the Eagles' celebration was blocked. He was sitting in the second row of the bench, just behind coach Jimmy Reddy and teammate Devon Pettus. He had to stretch his neck up high and to the left to even see Hartland's players pile up in front of the scorer's table at half court. And then he briefly shook his head. He felt bad for his teammates. Vickers wasn't on the bench because he was in foul trouble. He tore

See **DISTRICTS**, Page 3B

Our top 5 boys basketball teams: Week 7

Brandon Folsom [Hometownlife.com](#)
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

It's the final week of the regular season, so that means it's the final Hometown Life boys basketball top-five poll. Let's take a look at how the last poll unfolded: *Note:* These records are based on results from before Feb. 28.

1. Novi Detroit Catholic Central (10-8, 2-6 CHSL-Central) (Last week: No. 1)

What a turnaround story for the Shamrocks, who finished dead-last in the Central and came *THIS* close to winning the Catholic League tournament. After beating rival Brother Rice on Cooper Craggs' near buzzer-beater in the tournament opener, CC knocked off Warren DeLaSalle, which is never an easy feat, in the semifinals. Only Orchard Lake St. Mary's stood in the Shamrocks' way at the end. Hats off to CC for the bounce-back effort. A runner-up finish is definitely something to be proud of achieving.

2. Birmingham Brother Rice (12-6, 5-3 CHSL-Central) (Last week: No. 2)

All the Warriors could do after getting bounced from the CHSL tournament was regroup and schedule some non-conference games to round out the regular season. To the surprise of no one, they didn't have trouble beating Royal Oak Shrine, one of the smaller schools in the CHSL, on Saturday. They have games against Detroit Lincoln King (not Detroit King!) and Macomb Dakota left before heading to the district tournament where it faces an intense group of teams. Its bracket includes the likes of St. Mary's, West Bloomfield and Bloomfield Hills, all tough squads.

3. North Farmington (14-3, 7-2 OAA-Red) (Last week: No. 3)

The bad news is the Raiders aren't likely to win the Oakland Activities Association-Red this time around. Ferndale has a two-game lead in the standings and both North and the Eagles have just two games left. It's unlikely Ferndale drops two games. The good news is North got a favorable draw for the district tournament. It looks like it's going to be the Raiders against Livonia Stevenson in the championship. North should be favored to win that game. However, who knows which Spartans squad is going to show up. Stevenson senior Kenoly Jones just dropped 45 points to break the school record for most points scored in a single game.

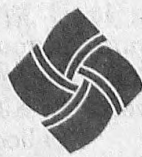
See **TOP 5**, Page 3B

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Signs

Continued from Page 1B

playing college football completely. He decided he'd just pick a school that had a great dentistry program and put athletics behind him. He could always play intramural sports or even try out for his future school's club basketball team (at 6-7, he's thrown down plenty of dunks and alley-oops in PCA's gymnasium during his four years there).

But playing football, that was just going to be a fond memory he'd always hold deeply in his heart.

This past fall he helped the Warriors win their first league championship in their 37-year history. He guided them to an eight-win season for only the second time ever. He ensured they made the playoffs for just the fifth time, and not even the 1996 squad that also won eight games made it to the postseason.

Those were going to be Anwunah's biggest memories of playing the sport.

Or so that's what the senior thought until, in December, Wiemer heard from Albert Karschnia, the person responsible for getting Anwunah a preferred walk-on opportunity at Michigan.

From Africa to opponent's backfield

Anwunah, the son of Nigerian immigrants, spent most of his life in Michigan.

He attended early grade school at Canton Charter Academy before his parents thought it'd be best for him and his siblings to spend a year in Abagana, a Nigerian town not far from both the Niger River and the Gulf of Guinea, where his family is originally from.

"I hadn't spent much time in Nigeria before that," he said. "So my parents thought it was a good idea for me and my sisters to stay there, embrace the culture and get a real feel for what it's like to be Nigerian."

He spent the entire eighth grade in Africa before his parents allowed him to come back to the Canton area.

He was too old to return to Canton Charter Academy, so he enrolled at nearby PCA.

Athletic director Matt Windle will never forget the first time he saw Anwunah walk into the building as a freshman.

"He looked like he was 30 as a 14-year-old," said Windle, who's also Anwunah's basketball coach.

He was already 6-5 and 190 pounds at that age. Windle couldn't wait to get him in the gym and have him battling in the paint for rebounds and blocks.

And, surely, he'd be a good fit on the football team, too, right?

Anwunah actually didn't have any experience playing the sport, plus lots of his friends at PCA ran cross country during the fall. So that's what he decided to do, too.

"I thought that was really funny. He struggled in it," Windle said. "In his first race, I think he was the last-place runner out of everybody who ran the race."

That was actually a 93rd-place finish at the Monroe Jefferson Invitational in 2018. He finished in 24 minutes, 38 seconds, which actually wasn't his worst time or finish of the season. He would be much slower later that fall.

But he also surprised himself with a personal best in the 5 kilometers during a sub-22-minute effort around Thelma Spencer Park in Rochester Hills at PCA's conference meet.

The most successful high school distance runners are about 5-8 and 140 pounds — or the equivalent to just one of Anwunah's tree-trunk-sized legs.

Did no one really think to have the giant freshman give the gridiron a shot? "...uh, no," Anwunah laughed. "I just wanted to try out cross country."

He finally wised up as a sophomore and tried out for football.

He wasn't that successful there either. He lumbered around unathletically and it took a while for former coach Paul Guse and his assistants to figure out what to do with him.

He ended up getting reps at tight end. "We always thought basketball was his sport," Windle said. "That's what he's always played. He came into the school at 6-5 and with a freakish build. He spent the first two years trying to learn the position."

"He was getting some looks on defense the last couple of years. But he didn't become a freak until this past season, and that's when things were starting to click for him."

When Wiemer took over the program from Guse, he asked offensive coordinator Steve Faith if there were any players he could build the program around.

Wiemer said Faith gushed over Anwunah.

"Steve Faith was there and he said, 'You're going to love this kid, and he's very raw,' and he did have a lot of raw talent," Wiemer said. "But that did show

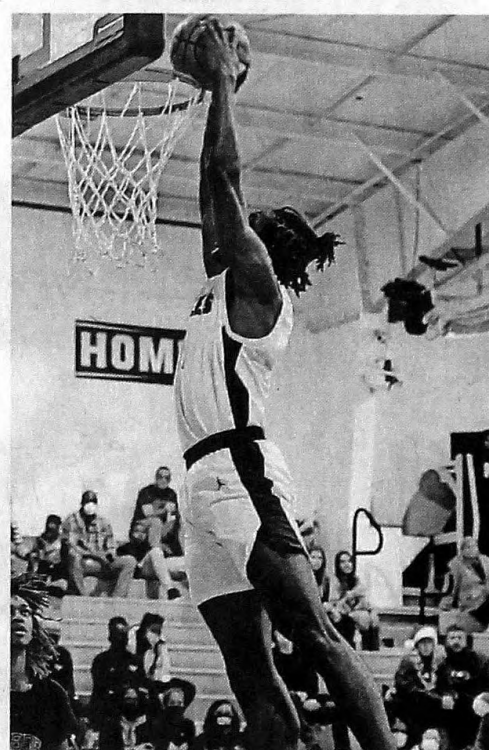


Plymouth Christian Academy senior Chibi Anwunah sits with his parents after signing as a preferred walk-on with the Michigan football team. COURTESY OF PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETICS



Anwunah, then with Lutheran Westland, and teammate (left) Mark McCormick go to block a punt by Advanced Tech's Derreaun Pok in 2021 at Lawrence Tech.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Anwunah dunks against Ypsilanti Arbor Prep in December.

"I've always had faith in keeping on doing what you do. If you know what you're capable of, just pursue it no matter what and just have faith. That's how I got my offer."

Chibi Anwunah

you his athleticism, and he was making contributions early on. And he was smart. He started adapting very well."

In just a year, Anwunah went from a novice to being unblockable.

Injuries on the team forced him to play middle linebacker in some games, but he certainly shined at defensive end. There wasn't a quarterback he couldn't sack. He threw around offensive tackles like they were (traditional) cross country runners.

Plus, he became the Warriors' best blocker on offense, Wiemer said. Whenever they ran the ball to his side of the line, the play was going to go for at least a first down.

He finished his senior year with 51 tackles (31 solo, five for loss), five sacks, two fumble recoveries and one forced fumble.

That doesn't count his effort on special teams as a punt blocker either.

He went on to earn All-Michigan Independent Athletic Conference first-team honors. But what he should've been earning was a scholarship to play college football.

'Keeping on doing what you do'

Karschnia was the director of player personnel at Central Michigan when he first saw Anwunah's highlights.

However, Karschnia never reached out to Wiemer or PCA about recruiting him to be a Chippewa.

That's because Karschnia was actually in the process of moving from Mt. Pleasant to Ann Arbor, as Michigan hired him to be its new recruiting operations coordinator.

Wiemer said Karschnia was digging through his old notes from CMU when he found Anwunah's file.

Karschnia did his due diligence and called Wiemer to see where Anwunah was in the recruiting process.

"He saw Chibi's video and asked if he'd be interested in coming for a visit," Wiemer said. "He wanted information about Chibi's grades, his family and his work ethic. I told him, 'You won't find a

better individual than this kid.' He said that he had seen video of Chibi also playing basketball and said that they think they'll offer him a preferred walk-on once they got him up there for a visit.

"It just came out of nowhere."

Wiemer couldn't believe it. He quickly called Windle about getting a hold of Anwunah since it was PCA's Christmas vacation.

And wouldn't you know it: The Anwunah family wasn't around. They had traveled to Nigeria for the holidays.

"I texted him and said, 'Chibi, can you take a phone call right now? It's important,' and I think we ended up doing a FaceTime voice call over wifi so it'd work out," Windle said.

Although it was early in the day in Michigan, the Anwunahs were actually gathered around the dinner table in west Africa.

Anwunah was shoveling rice into his mouth with a fork when he heard Windle's big news.

"You're joking me?" said Anwunah, who dropped his fork in pure shock.

"I'm not joking you," Windle responded. "We'll talk more when you get back, but the University of Michigan is offering you a preferred walk-on opportunity."

The Anwunahs returned to the states and quickly piled into their car and headed to Schembechler Hall. Anwunah made sure Wiemer was with him for the visit.

They toured the facility. Anwunah took pictures in some Michigan gear. The family even got to meet assistant Mike Elston, who coaches the defensive ends.

And then the offer came. Anwunah committed the following day.

"I was in shock," he said. "I was in the middle of eating some rice and the next thing you know I have a phone call with the recruiting coordinator at Michigan, and he said I should be scheduling a visit. After the visit, he offered me officially, and I just couldn't pass up the opportunity."

"It's truly a blessing... It's really crazy.

I've always had faith in keeping on doing what you do. If you know what you're capable of, just pursue it no matter what and just have faith. That's how I got my offer."

The next Nigerian in the NFL?

Obviously, Anwunah still has work to do.

An opportunity to play for U-M doesn't mean he will be the next best player in the Big Ten, nor does it make him a future NFL draft pick. He's a preferred walk-on, so he's not even promised playing time.

Windle said Anwunah's foregoing his senior track season to focus on lifting weights and conditioning this spring, choosing to prepare for a career in football over defending his league title in the high jump.

But the skies are the limit for Anwunah. He has the work ethic to turn this opportunity into a Hollywood underdog sports movie.

Thirty Nigerians have played in the NFL, including eight who've played defensive end or outside linebacker, the position he'll play with the Wolverines.

What's more, the Wolverines are currently sending at least two of their defensive ends to the NFL this spring in Dearborn Divine Child's Aiden Hutchinson and David Ojabo.

Ojabo, of course, is Nigerian, too. "It's crazy, and it's a blessing, too," Anwunah said when asked about Ojabo. "I'm pretty sure he started in football pretty late, too, and Michigan shaped him into the player that he is. And he's about to be drafted."

Anwunah is the first D-I football player to come out of PCA, a school that doesn't even have its own football team. And he might become its first NFL draft pick. Imagine if he hadn't quit running cross country three years ago. None of this would've been possible.

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

Districts

Continued from Page 1B

his left ACL and part of his meniscus playing against Hartland exactly two weeks earlier on senior night. Now he can't even stand on his own without crutches.

After Canton dropped its first four games of the year, losing to some of the best teams in the state in Hamtramck, Detroit Renaissance, Warren DeLaSalle and Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Vickers helped the Chiefs win 12-straight in the KLAA. They had to win their last three games without him to preserve their perfect 14-0 record in the West as well as get by Dearborn in the KLAA semifinal.

Reddy has been telling his guys that's it's all about "the next man up." For the most part, that next man has been meeting that challenge each night, as the team tries to fill the void left behind with Vickers on the bench.

The loss to Hartland was its first in 16 games. Now it needs to regroup with the Division 1 district tournament kicking off. It hosts park rival Plymouth in Wednesday's semifinal. The last time these two squads met, it took a 15-point explosion by Vickers in the final four minutes to push the Chiefs past the Wildcats by only four points.

"It's definitely tough. It's been tough the past few days knowing that I can't be out there," said Vickers, who is slated to start physical rehabilitation on his knee. "I've just got to support the team as best as I can. I've just got to help coach them and stuff like that."

"I'm kind of like a coach now, kind of like a cheerleader. I'm a player-coach. I've played out there with them, so it's a lot easier to talk with them. I know what they're going through."

The Chiefs (15-5) have a talented ros-



The Canton bench cheers as coach Jimmy Reddy, right, gestures for his players on the court to get back on defense after a basket. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ter. They've got the players to win a district title.

They've just got to continue finding team chemistry.

Unfortunately for them, they just didn't have that in the first half vs. Hartland.

They scored just 11 points in the first two quarters (yes, seriously). They struggled to move the ball to find their bigs in the paint. Their shot selection was questionable at times. And, ultimately, too many turnovers did them in.

One pass attempt was so off-the-mark it actually forced Reddy to turn around in disgust and kick over a chair.

"We've had some time to have the next man step up to kind of gel with the guys that we've got," Reddy said. "To be honest, we've played great defense the last two weeks, even without Cole."

We've just had a couple of nights where we've had a tough time putting it into the hoop or having too many turnovers. Both of those things were true tonight."

Canton found an extra gear in the second half and started chipping away at its 18-11 halftime deficit.

Caleb Williams scored all six of his points in the third quarter to make it a three-point game. That included him converting on a layup, scoring on a cut to the hoop and nailing a fadeaway jumper, all during the same 6-2 stretch.

And then Pettus scored down low off a dribble-drive from McIntosh to make it a 27-25 score entering the fourth.

Dante Favor, who notched a team-best 13 points, cashed in on a put-back to knot the score at 27.

And then Omar Suleiman (10 points) went on an eight-point run of his own.

His 3-pointer with 4 minutes left gave the Chiefs their first and only lead of the night.

"We were struggling on offense, so someone had to get going," the 6-foot-6 senior said. "I just started hitting shots. The team was playing good defensively, getting out and running. It just helped to create offense off the defense."

"Our coaches have just been telling us, 'Next man up,' and we've all been doing a pretty good job of that. Everyone has been stepping up and hustling. We've just got to play harder and come ready for districts."

Added Reddy: "Since Cole's been out, guys have been stepping up. He (Suleiman) did that Friday night against Dearborn in the second half. He had eight points in the second half. He was putting the ball in the basket for us Friday night and he did it again tonight. He gave us a chance to get back in it."

Hartland both killed the clock and found success shooting free throws in the bonus in the final 3 minutes.

Favor scored in the paint to make it 40-39 with 11.3 seconds left, but, once again, Hartland made free throws to keep Canton at arm's length.

"We had our chances," Reddy said.

McIntosh finished with just six points, but it was clear he was the team's best option to take the final shot. He's been a steady guard for the Chiefs, with or without Vickers in the lineup.

It wouldn't have been a shock to see him make that game-tying 3. It just didn't go in this time.

"It was tough, for sure," Vickers said. "But there's no one I'd rather have to take that than Lake. He's a great player. He had a tough night tonight, but his shots are going to fall. He's got to pick it up and get ready for practice."

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

Top 5

Continued from Page 1B

4. Bloomfield Hills (14-4, 4-2 OAA-White) (Last week: No. 4)

That loss to Troy two weeks ago might come back and haunt the Black

Hawks this week. Lake Orion is currently one game ahead of them in the OAA-White standings. Bloomfield Hills can force a two-way tie for first place by beating the Dragons this week, but it'd also need them to drop their game against Birmingham Groves to give the Black Hawks the outright league title.

Bloomfield Hills no longer controls its own destiny. It's going to need some

help from Groves to win it all.

5. Canton (15-4, 14-0 KLAA-West) (Last week: No. 5)

Ferris State signee Cole Vickers is lost for the season, but that hasn't stopped the Chiefs from competing for the outright Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship. They face Har-

land in a must-see matchup this week that'll decide the winner. If Lake McIntosh and the boys can get past the Highlanders without Vickers, that'll be an impressive feat. But it wouldn't be too surprising because Canton knows how to play. This team is always adapting when it faces adversity.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports for Hometown Life.

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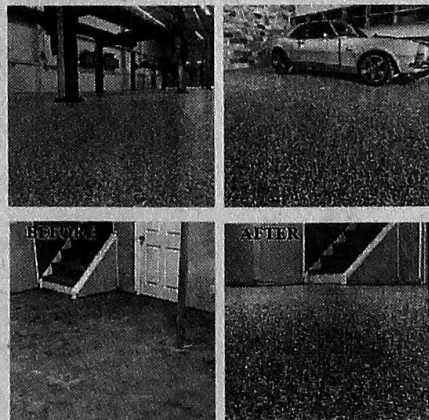
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Three locals win MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The Michigan High School Athletic Association announced 13 winners for their 33rd annual MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award program in Class A.

Three seniors from the Hometown Life coverage area made the grade: White Lake Lakeland's Maeve Spicer, Birmingham Seaholm's Brady Wright and Detroit Catholic Central's Neil Zhu.

Each winner receives a \$2,000 college scholarship.

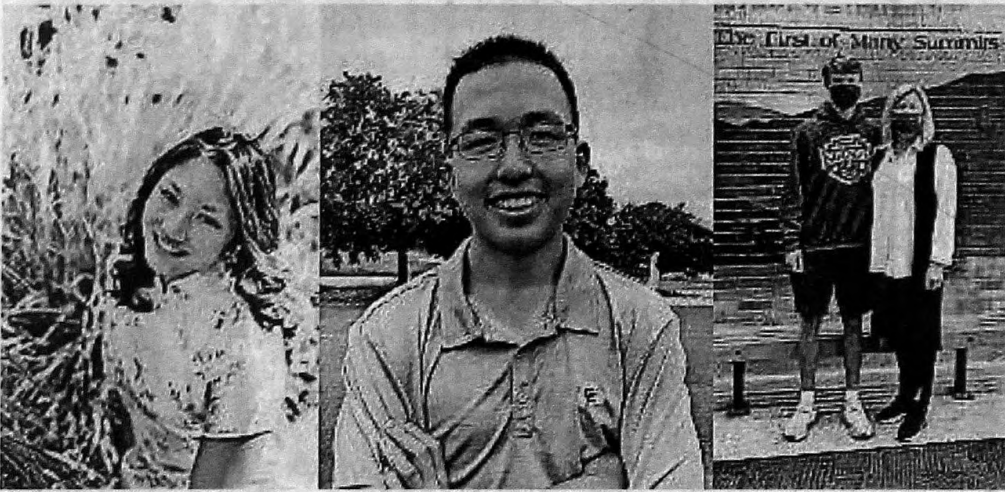
To be eligible for the honor, athletes must carry at least a 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) grade-point average, play a varsity sport and actively participate in their community or an after-school program or club.

The MHSAA picked each winner based on a mix of academic and athletic achievements as well as what they wrote in an essay discussing the importance of sportsmanship in educational activities.

Here's what the MHSAA wrote about our three award winners as well as the highlights the organization enjoyed from each of their essays:

**Maeve Spicer,
White Lake Lakeland**

Competing in fourth season of varsity gymnastics and third of varsity competitive cheer. Also ran junior varsity cross country and participated in track & field as a freshman. Earned all-state in gymnastics finishing sixth on vault at MHSAA Finals as a junior and was conference all-around champion; also earned academic all-state recognition. Helped her Huron Valley United co-op gymnastics team to Regional title as a sophomore. Served as captain of gymnastics and cheer teams. Participating in second years of National Honor Society, Math Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Earned Individual Project Completion of Middle Years Pro-



Pictured from left are White Lake Lakeland's Maeve Spicer, Detroit Catholic Central's Neil Zhu and Birmingham Seaholm's Brady Wright. COURTESY PHOTOS

gramme as part of International Baccalaureate studies. Participating in second year of Peer Corps, and has organized three clothing drives for foster children as part of work for local center. Is undecided where she will attend college but intends to study international relations.

Essay Quote: "Sportsmanship is important because sports themselves are not simply about who is the best, rather what you can learn from them. I have learned valuable life lessons from my sports that I will carry with me throughout the rest of my life such as determination, perseverance, teamwork, integrity, and respect, along with so many others that have built up my character."

**Brady Wright,
Birmingham Seaholm**

Competing in fourth season on varsity ski team and played four seasons of varsity tennis; also played junior varsity lacrosse as a freshman and sophomore. Reached MHSAA Finals flight semifinals as sophomore and junior. Earned all-state and all-state academic for tennis and all-region for ski, and earned multiple league Scholar-Athlete Awards for both sports. Served as team captain

for both. Earned AP Scholar with Distinction and named National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. Earned perfect score on ACT. Participating in second year of National Honor Society and third of National Science Honor Society. Participated in Science Olympiad as competitor and coach and founded high school team, and earned county and state placings. Playing fourth years in school marching and concert bands and served as clarinet section leader. Is undecided where he will attend college but intends to study chemical engineering.

Essay Quote: "Ultimately, what I learned is that the game and the competition is more important than winning a match at any cost. I have seen kids who struggle with losing and will do anything to win. Honor and integrity get thrown out the window to avoid a loss. ... It is important to me that I am honest with myself – I play sports to push myself in ways that academics cannot. Cheating the game does not help you improve or build character."

Neil Zhu, Detroit Catholic Central

Will play fourth season of varsity golf this spring and has helped team to runner-up and fourth-place finishes at

Lower Peninsula Division 1 Finals. Earned all-state and is ranked among top players for his class in Michigan by American Junior Golf Association. Advanced to match play at Golf Association of Michigan 2021 Amateur Championship. Earned AP Scholar with Honor and National Merit Scholarship commended student designations. Participating in second year of National Honor Society tutoring program. Participating in fourth year of finance club and as vice president. Reached highest level of Michigan Music Teachers Association for piano and earned first and second-place finishes in state competition. Completed University of Michigan summer coding program. Volunteered in multiple community service efforts throughout high school. Served as youth leadership member for church as junior and senior. Will attend Swarthmore College (Pa.) and study computer science.

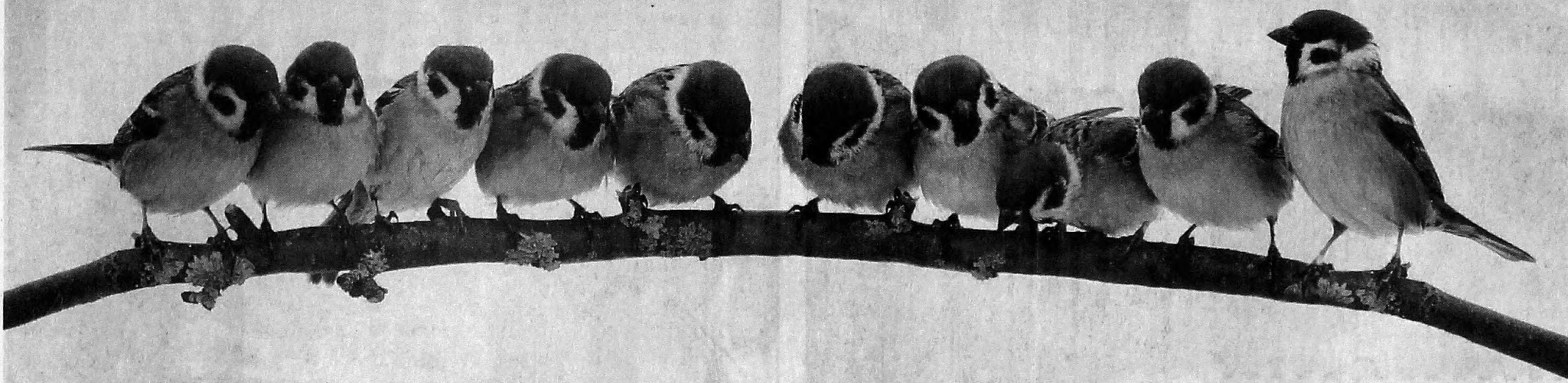
Essay Quote: "The sport of golf is a medium through which my accountability to my decisions and more importantly my accountability to my competitors and values is tested. Therefore, my integrity plays into the principle of accountability. Moreover, golf offers opportunities to meditate on choices which plays into the skill of decision making."

The other Hometown Life area Class A finalists who came up just short in winning scholarships included:

- Conner Bell, Detroit Catholic Central
- Abigail Lueck, Livonia Churchill
- Owen Swisher, Livonia Churchill
- James Oberman, Livonia Franklin
- Samantha Provenzano, Livonia Franklin
- Erica Molnar, Livonia Stevenson
- Caiden Carlson, White Lake Lakeland

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

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Why Ongoing Labor Shortages Could Boost Employment and Earnings for African Americans

Since the pandemic, employment has risen among black men but fallen among black women

By ZipRecruiter.com

Labor shortages have played an outsized role in black American history, from slavery to the world wars to the present. Although labor shortages in the early colonies formed the rationale for bringing enslaved Africans to the Americas to begin with, labor shortages since then have become the most powerful drivers of forward leaps in employment and earnings among African Americans.

That is because labor shortages inspire efforts to recruit new workers—often those previously excluded from the workforce, such as women and minorities. They motivate employers to offer better wages and working conditions, especially to previously undervalued workers. And they shift economic power to employees and job seekers, with effects that spill over into politics and culture.

In an essay titled “The Labor Problem at Jamestown, 1607-18,” historian Edmund S. Morgan explains that the founders of the earliest permanent English settlements in Virginia discovered tobacco, but could not motivate English indentured servants to work the fields. So they looked across the Atlantic to a new supply of labor in the form of enslaved Africans.

300 years after labor shortages in the early colonies drew Africans into exploitation, labor shortages triggered by the First World War helped draw them out. The war caused migration from Europe to grind to a halt, cutting

off the supply of cheap immigrant labor. So businesses took to recruiting African American workers from the South. Those efforts helped bring about the Great Migration of 6 million African Americans out of the Jim Crow South and to the cities of the North and West.

The Great Migration created a new black middle class and changed American culture forever. The Harlem Renaissance was born, as black artists and musicians emerged from a flourishing community in New York. Blues music migrated north along the Mississippi River, to Memphis and Chicago; jazz emerged as an American art form.

The migration largely stalled during the Great Depression when work dried up. While Americans of all backgrounds suffered job losses and economic devastation, politicians often made sure that New Deal programs and patronage primarily benefited white Americans, especially in the South.

But soon, the Second World War created a new labor shortage that changed the di-

rection of black history once again. The need for millions of soldiers led the Armed Forces to recruit African Americans. Their participation in the war effort created new pressure on the government to end racial discrimination in the armed forces, which President Harry S. Truman banned by executive order in 1948.

Though many black Americans were excluded from the full benefits of the GI Bill, which helped veterans attend college and purchase homes, the skills and the status that black Americans had earned through their service opened up new opportunities in shipyards, factories, and government offices.

Wartime labor shortages back home also pushed businesses to open manufacturing jobs to blacks. The experience of blacks and whites working together in wartime industry and military service caused a watershed in race relations and spawned the Civil Rights Movement, while simultaneously growing the black middle class.

Ever since, African American employment and wages have improved most rapidly during periods of very low unemployment. When the national unemployment rate fell below 4% in 2018 and 2019, for example, wage growth for minorities outpaced that for white workers by the widest

margins recorded in the Atlanta Fed’s Wage Growth Tracker. Even declining black home ownership rates finally turned around.

The coronavirus pandemic arrested that progress. And again, as during the Great Depression, African Americans were most severely affected by job losses and least helped by the government programs designed to provide relief and stimulus, such as expanded unemployment insurance benefits and the Paycheck Protection Program.

But the pandemic also created the starkest labor shortage in the post-war period, driving the number of unemployed job seekers per job opening to the lowest on record. Unprecedented hiring challenges are prompting employers to relax job requirements and cast a wider net in their recruiting efforts, while simultaneously raising pay and offering greater flexibility. Those changes are already boosting labor force participation for the youngest workers and those with disabilities—two groups that typically experience the steepest employment barriers.

Given how damaging the pandemic was, for black American women in particular, it is difficult to imagine a full and equal economic recovery. But history should give us hope. The Great Depression interrupted the Great Migration, but afterwards, the “migratory stream turned into a flood,” to quote one scholar. The pandemic could be an even shorter-lived setback. The unemployment rate is already back to where it was in early 2018. And an unprecedented labor shortage is just the thing to get black employment and earnings back on track and take them to new heights.



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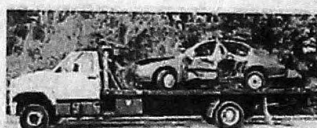
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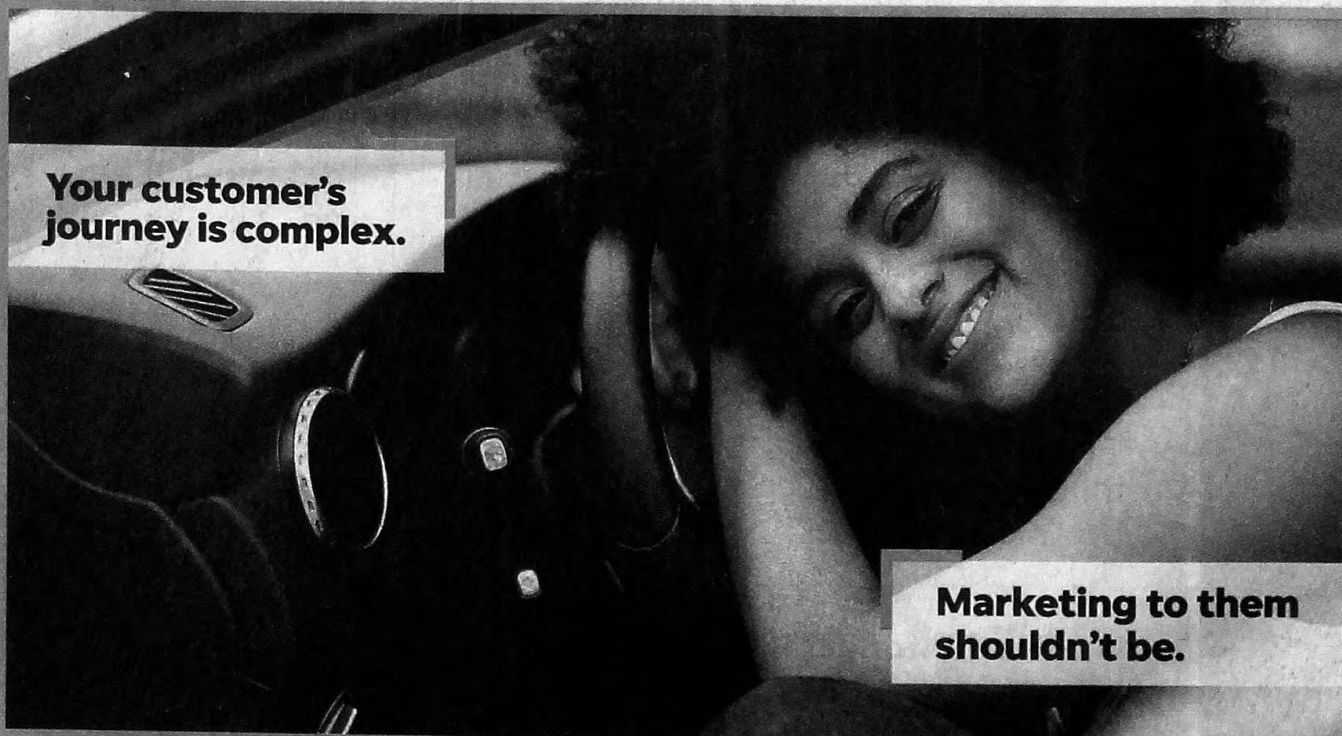
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107 Oslo's nation,
to its natives
108 Pasted
109 Extinct birds
112 Some 35mm
cameras
114 Early Persian
115 Old hands
117 N.Y. hours
119 Dress fancily,
with "out"
120 901, in old
Rome
121 Prefix for a
vintner
122 Sporty truck,
in brief
123 — constrictor
124 Call a halt
to
125 Lead-in to
"kwon do"
or "Bo"

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

SUDOKU

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

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!

WEATHER FORECAST

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.

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

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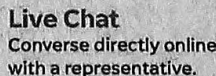
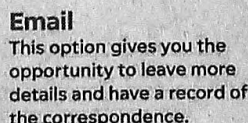
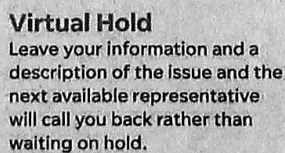
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31 DAY

window & door sale

This isn't one of those 'limited time' offers that's **not really** limited. We're only offering this window discount and this patio and entry door discount for 31 days!¹

There are limited appointments available, and you must book yours before **March 31st**...

which means you only have LESS THAN a month left!

BUY ONE WINDOW OR DOOR, GET ONE WINDOW OR DOOR

40% OFF¹

Minimum purchase of four.

PLUS

\$50 OFF

EVERY WINDOW AND DOOR¹

No minimum required.

PLUS

\$0

Down

0

Monthly Payments

0%

Interest

for 1 year¹

Minimum purchase of four. Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 12 months.

LESS THAN a month left to book your Virtual or In-Home Appointment

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MILITARY DISCOUNT



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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 3/31/2022. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 2/27/2022 and 3/31/2022. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$50 off each window or entry/patio door, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 3/31/2022. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2022 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2022 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

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