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SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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LIVONIA

Proposed entertainment venue rejected

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A proposed entertainment venue and restaurant at a major gateway to Wayne County has some space issues causing Livonia leaders concern.

The proposal, which includes space for a restaurant and stage for music and

comedy acts, would have seen the middle of the building at 27494 Grand River transform in a place that's been largely vacant for years. It would also have an outdoor dining patio.

But the Livonia Planning Commission had second thoughts, including issues with how much parking was available for the proposed capacity.

The plan is deficient of several dozen parking spaces per the city's ordinance, said Mark Taormina, the city's planning and economic development director.

Southfield resident Johnny Adams brought the concept to the planning commission April 12. He said he's spoken to several businesses to try and reach an agreement to find additional

parking to support the venue at the corner of Inkster and Eight Mile roads where Livonia, Redford Township, Farmington Hills and Southfield meet.

"That's why I was trying to solicit to get extra parking," he said. "I did my due diligence."

See REJECTED, Page 2A



Westland's Tattan Park and its splash pad are slated for a major renovation project. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Westland DDA funding \$3M in updates at Tattan Park

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland's popular Tattan Park and its splash pad are getting a face lift.

The city is investing roughly \$3 million in its most popular park, located at 36651 Ford Road, to rebuild the playground and splash pad.

The project is being funded by the

city's downtown development authority.

"The DDA has made significant investments into Tattan Park over the years," Mayor Bill Wild said in a release. "These projects will make visiting the park an experience unlike anything in this region and we can't wait for our residents and visitors to join the adventure."

The dinosaurs are coming

Work crews are slated to rebuild the popular H2O Zone splash pad. City officials plan to reopen by Memorial Day weekend so kids and families can enjoy it this summer.

Updates will turn the attraction into

See PARK, Page 3A

Municipalities say GLWA overcharged for water service to pay off legal fees

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Concerned that the Great Lakes Water Authority improperly charged for municipal waters services for the past decade has several leaders of metro Detroit municipalities thirsting for reimbursements for their respective communities.

In 2012, the State of Michigan requested the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, now GLWA, provide emergency water services to the City of Highland Park because the state determined Highland Park's water treatment plant was creating a public health risk.

At the time, the state said the repairs to the water treatment plant were to be completed in "three to four days," however the repairs were never made.

On March 11, 2022, the Conference of Western Wayne Board of Directors met to discuss the arrearage of water and sewer payments due from the City of Highland Park to GLWA.

The City of Highland Park has paid less than 1% of its water services charges and has accumulated \$54,233,700 in debt since 2012 and that debt has been allocated to the 87 other GLWA member communities, including the 18 communities in western Wayne County.

Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise was appointed chairman of a special committee organized by the Conference of Western Wayne to investigate whether the GLWA — the water provider for many southeast

See OVERCHARGED, Page 2A

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Lakeview student, 17, advances to ‘American Song Contest’ semifinals

Bill Broderick Battle Creek Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

It turns out the “American Song Contest” was saving the best for (almost) last. Battle Creek’s Ada LeAnn didn’t sing her original song, “Natalie,” until the final 15 minutes of the two-hour NBC show on Monday, but it turned out the wait was worth it. LeAnn, representing Michigan and the youngest songwriter on the show at 17, was the lone performer to get an automatic save at the end of the night and now moves on to the semifinals of the made-for-TV original song competition. The semifinals are next Monday.

Of the 12 artists on Monday, LeAnn performed second to last, going just before Sisqo, the international superstar who was representing Maryland and first hit stardom for his “Thong Song” more than two decades ago. “Had to wait a bit to see her on the show. It was like we all couldn’t wait to see her do what she does,” said Jack Austin, LeAnn’s friend from Lakeview High School, who was hosting a watch party with 15 to 20 classmates on Monday. “But we were with her every single minute of the night.” “I’m just over the moon, ecstatic for her. So proud of her. So beyond happy she is finally getting the national success she deserves.”

The “American Song Contest” is a competition between one artist from each state. Part of the show revolves around a jury of music industry experts. During each round, the jury selects one artist to advance immediately to the semifinals. Three more spots from each show are up for grabs based on nationwide online voting. With co-hosts Kelly Clarkson and Snoop Dogg getting ready to read the results from the show jury, LeAnn was shown in a split screen with her parents. When her name came up on top of the list in the graphic, LeAnn showed the emotion of the moment. Comments from one of the show jurors compared LeAnn to mega-star Tay-

lor Swift as her song ended up being the highlight of the night. LeAnn wasn’t available Monday night, but she talked about her experiences prior to the show and even made a prediction that turned out to come true. “Something I have noticed, there is no song that sounds like my song yet, so that’s good news,” LeAnn said. “I think they did a really good job of showing a lot of versatility. The songs are so different, a lot of different genres and every one kind of had their own lane.” “Been a lot of fun getting ready for the show. A couple of us girls have noticed there hasn’t been a lot of women going through to the semifinals. So we are all hoping that changes this week.”

Rejected

Continued from Page 1A

But the planning commission recommended denial of the project, saying the issues of parking and other concerns were too great to overcome. “I understand your dream and I understand you have experience, but this is a very bad location and a very bad venue,” Planning Commissioner Carol Smiley said. “You don’t have anywhere to go.” The commission unanimously turned down both the waiver use and proposal to grant a liquor license at the site. Adams said he looked exclusively at the site, believing it was the perfect location for such a venue.

But with those issues, the planning commissioners said it wouldn’t fit. Planning Commission Chair Ian Wilshaw said talks of expanding such a venue to several hundred spaces would even further not conform to parking requirements. “If you’re looking to have 300 or 400 seats, which we didn’t even evaluate that for parking requirements, you’re not even meeting the parking requirements for the 130-some seats,” he said. While the planning commission unanimously recommended denial, it doesn’t necessarily mean the project won’t happen: Adams can appeal the denial to the city council, which could consider the proposal and potentially approve the waiver use and liquor license. Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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Livonia poised to withhold part of GLWA water payment

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Livonia appears ready to join the communities hitting back at Highland Park and the Great Lakes Water Authority. Highland Park has been receiving water from GLWA for 10 years following the revelation that its water treatment plant was creating a public health risk. Over the last decade, Highland Park has accumulated more than \$54 million in debt from the emergency service and paid less than 1% of what it owes. Livonia residents have paid toward Highland Park’s debt along with the

other 87 communities that use the service provider for water. GLWA has allocated what Highland Park owes to other communities’ bills, which show up in residents’ and businesses’ mail boxes. “I think it is unfair and not right for the citizens of Livonia to pay \$378,000 of another community’s water bill,” Councilman Rob Donovic said. Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan’s office sent a resolution to council that members will likely approve as part of their May 2 consent agenda. Members decided to put the item on consent — an agenda section typically comprised of noncontroversial items not needing discussion that are usually approved as one item — at an April 18 study meeting.

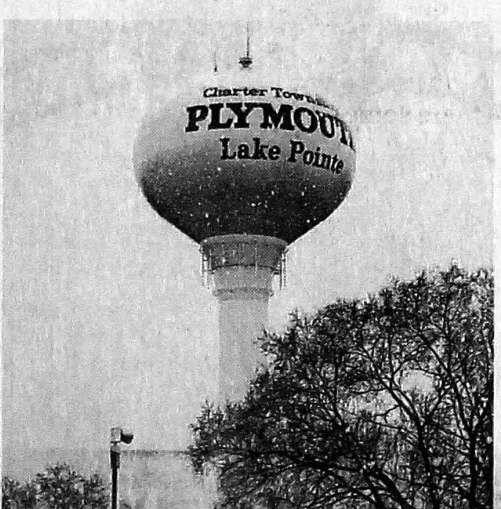
The resolution states Livonia will withhold part of its water payments — about \$3,300 monthly — so it does not pay any more money toward Highland Park’s debt. The resolution also calls on the State of Michigan to reimburse residents for what they’ve already paid and create a pathway to fix Highland Park’s water treatment issues. Council members who spoke said another community’s burdens shouldn’t have been put on Livonia residents and businesses. Other communities, including neighboring Westland, have passed similar resolutions. “That’s an absolute horrible thing to put on our residents,” Council President Jim Jolly said.

Overcharged

Continued from Page 1A

Michigan communities — discreetly raised its constituents’ water rates to help pay for indebtedness and legal judgements created by an ongoing lawsuit filed against the GLWA by the city of Highland Park in 2012. Conference leaders allege the rate increases — amounting to a combined tens of millions of dollars — were buried in rate calculations for almost 10 years. “One of the the selling points of the GLWA was that we’d have more information on how rates were calculated and what we have to pay. So it came as a great shock to the communities that this had been effectively concealed from all of the communities going back as far as 2012,” Heise said about the authority created to replace the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. GLWA Interim Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Coffey countered.

Since its 2016 inception, “GLWA has been committed to transparency throughout its operations, most especially in matters of finance,” Coffey explained. “To assist GLWA in its transparency efforts, the utility has a robust member outreach program, which includes the hosting of more than 80 engagement meetings each year. Coffey asserted the GLWA hosts a series of meetings in advance of the GLWA administration presenting its proposed budget and charges for the coming year to its board of directors for discussion and approval. “Each meeting is typically between two and four hours in duration and goes into great detail of each component of GLWA’s charges,” Coffey said. “Meetings three and four include a discussion of any Highland Park bad debt recovery included.” According to Coffey, worksheets, when applicable, show the Highland Park components. These worksheets are both provided to the representa-



The Plymouth Township water tower.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tives attending the meetings and sent via certified mail to the individual municipalities’ member partner contact of record. “Additionally, GLWA verbally reviews an example charge sheet line by line in the roll-out meetings and includes the Highland Park components in detailed verbal PowerPoint presentations,” Coffey added. “The presentations include slides and verbal discussions of the treatment of Highland Park bad debt expense and include time for questions and answers.” Heise said every municipality that relies on the GLWA for its water supply has been paying higher-than-typical bills because of the Highland Park legal battle, “but communities in Wayne County have been paying the most because Highland Park is in Wayne County.” Municipalities throughout the GLWA’s service area are forming resolutions intended to halt the Highland Park-related payments going toward the lawsuit judgements until the billing issue is resolved, Heise said. The Wayne County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution April 12 saying it didn’t want to see communities subsidizing others municipalities. “This is not about Highland Park, it’s about other communities having to pay for services they don’t receive,” said Commissioner Terri Marecki, R-Livonia, who chairs the commission’s Committee on Public Services. Plymouth Township has paid GLWA approximately \$183,000 toward the Highland Park lawsuit indebtedness since 2012, Heise said, which works out to roughly \$15,500 per year. Heise said Dearborn has been over-

charged approximately \$3.6 million by GLWA because it is directly tied to Detroit’s sewer system. If Plymouth gets reimbursed, Heise said the township would likely invest the money into water usage-related improvements as opposed to reimbursing residents the money they have been overbilled. Livonia has paid \$378,400 toward the GLWA debt owed by Highland Park, Livonia Mayor Maureen Brosnan said. “This is a complex situation involving GLWA, Highland Park and the State of Michigan, and we understand that there are multiple sides to this story,” Brosnan said. “Nevertheless, the City of Livonia is looking to stop further payments to GLWA for the City of Highland Park’s debt and seeking the State of Michigan to become directly involved in this dispute to address the issues in Highland Park and to provide reimbursement for these payments. “Livonia residents should not be on the hook for the water bills and debts of other communities, and I will continue to work to ensure our community is billed fairly for our water use.” Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo said his municipality will wait for further recommendations from the Conference of Western Wayne before deciding on its strategy moving forward. The Northville City Council approved a resolution April 4 requesting, in part, that the State of Michigan and the Great Lakes Water Authority not require the 87 paying member communities to pay for the City of Highland Park’s debt to GLWA and that the GLWA reimburse \$14 million to affected communities dating back to 2017. Coffey asserted the current Highland Park matter must be taken in the context of GLWA’s overall operations and financial strategy. “GLWA’s overall approach is preserving stability while drawing attention to a situation that needs to be resolved for the long-term benefit of the region,” she said. “Our understanding of the goal of the Conference of Western Wayne (CWW) is to drive engagement by the State (of Michigan), with other responsible parties, to the table in order to resolve this matter that continues to impact the region. Accordingly, the focus is on resolving the matter this year so that it is not an issue in future years.” Contact reporter Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com.

**City of Plymouth
Planning Commission Public Hearing Notice
Wednesday, May 11, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
City Hall & Online Zoom Webinar**

201 S. Main Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170
Website: www.plymouthmi.gov Phone: (734) 453-1234 ext. 232

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. located at City Hall & online Zoom Webinar to consider the following:

1. PUBLIC HEARING FOR:
SP22-03: 110 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Special Land Use and Site Plan Review

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:
Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 234

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth Housing Commission is pleased to be opening its Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Waiting List April 28th, 2022 through May 2nd, 2022. After May 2nd, 2022, the waiting list will be closed and the application will no longer be available. All applications must be completed and submitted on-line.

The application can be obtained via a link on our website <http://www.phhousing.net> or go directly to <https://plymouths82022.hdswaitinglist.com>. DO NOT come to the Plymouth Housing Commission offices, we will NOT be distributing any applications. You will need access to the internet. For any updated information refer to our website. For any updated information you may call (734)455-3670, extension 246.

Gourmet slider bar plans arrival in Plymouth

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sidecar Slider Bar, a restaurant known for its small burgers, seeks to locate a new restaurant at 340 N. Main St. in Plymouth.

That bar — in the Markham Place building — would include both the traditional bar and Shift, a more casual bar.

“The trend right now is smaller restaurants, more intimate gatherings, and that type of thing,” said Dan Linnen, a petitioner with the project.

Both concepts would also include an outdoor patio.

“The need for outside space is not going to go away,” Linnen said. “It’s a trend over the last two years and people now expect it.”

Sidecar Slider Bar operates a handful of locations in Farmington, Birmingham, and Lansing and has plans for one in Brighton. It specializes in gourmet sliders and relaxing environments that cater to a variety of crowds.

While plans were not not completely submitted to the city for a total review, several planning commissioners took time to speak about the plans.

Commissioner Hollie Saraswat said the restaurant could help expand a pedestrian-friendly district farther down Main Street.

Having other entities such as Planet Fitness helps, but having a draw like the restaurant could be beneficial, too.

“I would like to see a design that’s a thoughtful and works toward expanding that core,” she said.

Westland CVS closing in May

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CVS customers in Westland will have one less option come early May.

The pharmacy at 7250 N. Venoy will close May 3, according to signage posted on the door and employees working inside.

Located in the Hunter Park Plaza, signs on the pharmacy door point customers who need prescriptions filled to the CVS stores at Middlebelt and Warren roads or Hunter and Wayne roads in Westland.

Inside, the store is becoming more empty of product, with several products, including DVDs, on sale for as much as 75% off. One type of product is still plenty on the shelves: alcohol drinks such as beer and wine still remain, though signs around the store indicate because of the closure, it cannot be sold.

A message seeking more information on the closure was sent to CVS media relations but was not returned.

Once CVS closes, it will leave two businesses operating in that immediate part of the center: a nail salon and Yun’s Village Chinese restaurant.

The CVS is just the latest pharmacy to close its doors in western Wayne County. A Rite Aid pharmacy recently closed its doors at Six Mile and Inkster in Livonia in recent weeks.

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



A rendering of what Tattan Park in Westland will look like in 2023 after an update. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND

Park

Continued from Page 1A

a dinosaur-themed area and will include some updates to the pad’s operating system. The total cost for the work is expected to run just under \$390,000.

Aside from the water toys kids already know and love, the splash pad will feature kid-friendly, dinosaur-themed interactive elements like sounds, graphics and lighting.

‘Mission to Mars’ playground

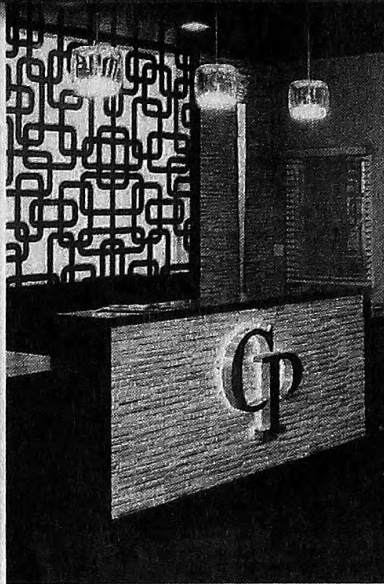
Tattan Park’s playground will also be rebuilt in favor of an inclusive play structure. The new, larger play area will be called “Mission to Mars,” keeping in line with the outer space theme the park already has.

Updates will include American with Disabilities Act-compliant surfacing, sensory play elements and age-inclusive structures along with the space-themed structures. Renderings of the project appear similar, albeit larger, to the wildly popular Rotary Park in Livonia at Six Mile Road and Hubbard Street.

The project will cost \$2.6 million and will start in the fall of this year. Officials expect to use the cold season to get the new playground up and running by spring next year. The play structures already at Tattan Park, which are in good shape, will be moved to the Lincoln-Johnson Field in Westland’s Historic Norwayne District.

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

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The Jimi Hendrix Experience on Aug. 15, 1967, at the Fifth Dimension in Ann Arbor. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY WILSON LINDSEY

Northville photographer captured an era

Brian McCollum Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Wilson Lindsey was a 16-year-old Detroit and budding photographer when he embarked on a whirlwind few years in the thick of the '60s rock explosion.

Lindsey, now a 75-year-old Northville resident, eventually went on to a career in the record business. But for a thrilling few years, he and his lens were on the front lines capturing shows and stars in Detroit.

With the Detroit Free Press increasingly devoting serious coverage to pop and rock music, Lindsey became a regular freelancer for the paper. Today, looking back on those early years, Lindsey has tapped his photo archives to celebrate some of his work, including images never before published.

Working with the Freep, Lindsey found himself alongside some of the biggest names of the day as they rolled through the area. The Beatles. The Rolling Stones. Jimi Hendrix. The Who. Cream. The Faces. There was also the hometown stuff, including photo shoots at Motown.

"I was just phenomenally lucky, I think," he says of landing a plum freelance gig at such a young age. "I threw myself into these assignments and thoroughly enjoyed it. I worked hard at it, and thought I was pretty decent. So it turned out OK. But it was also a lot of pure luck."

As a precocious teen who also had an eye on a music career — he played with a Detroit band called the Train — Lindsey said he could be flaky and self-absorbed in those days.

"I was really immature. But I loved what I was doing and got a chance to meet people who were really idols of mine," he says. "It didn't pay much, but it was a great gig."

Lindsey, who caught the photography bug when his grandfather gave him an old Argus 35-millimeter camera, landed his first professional work across the Detroit River. An avid wrestling fan, he pestered promoter Johnny Doyle to let him shoot match tapings in Windsor. Doyle eventually relented, and Lindsey's photos of regional wrestling stars like Bobo Brazil and the Sheik made their way into the promoters' event programs.

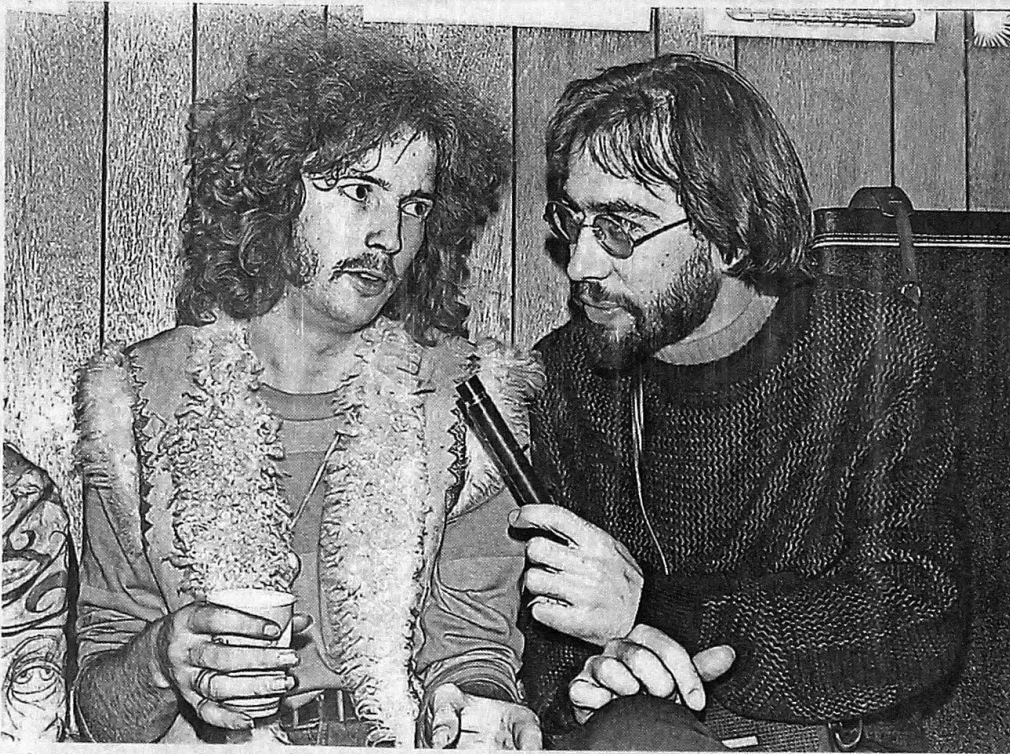
The Free Press got wind of Lindsey after publishing a handful of those promotional images, and the paper tapped the high schooler to follow boxer Cassius Clay — the eventual Muhammed Ali — during a visit ahead of his 1964 heavyweight championship bout with Sonny Liston.

"I had a chance to hang out with him for three days," Lindsey recalls. "They gave me full access to photograph him and just hang out. It was amazing, and now I was totally hooked."

On the music front, it was a time of transition for big-city papers such as the Free Press from the dawn of the rock 'n' roll era a decade earlier, pop mu-



Muhammad Ali, right, then still Cassius Clay, with a sparring partner while promoting his first fight with Sonny Liston.



Eric Clapton of Cream interviewed by disc jockey Ted Lucas in Detroit.

sic had been covered largely as a teenybopper curiosity. The stars and their music were often treated with a kind of bemusement, even dismissiveness, by the cigar-chomping reporters assigned to the task.

Now things were changing. A young Free Press hire, Loraine Alterman, had come aboard to cover pop and rock as a legitimate beat. With Lindsey often at her side, she documented the scene with an approach and vocabulary its audience understood.

"Loraine was a very progressive

thinker in a conservative environment," Lindsey says. "And she knew that I knew something about music. So she related to that. She could communicate with these musicians at the time in this hippie culture."

The vibe was loose, freewheeling. Lindsey often found himself backstage, chatting up musicians. By the time he segued into a record-label career just a few years later, show protocols had dramatically changed, and that openness was a thing of the past.

"The access was a lot different back

then," he says. "We were just hanging out with a lot of these people."

Ken Settle, who took up rock photography in the early '70s and endures as one of Detroit's top veterans in the field, recalls being "a little kid rifling through the Free Press every day" when he started spotting a regular credit on music photos: Wilson Lindsey.

Today, Settle regards Lindsey, along with rock shooter Frank Pettis, as a trailblazer who set the stage for professionals such as himself.

"He's a treasure for us local music fans and photographers," Settle says. "Wilson and Frank were the two guys who had the sense that this music was important and should be chronicled in photos. You can feel that resonance in their work. They really set the template for the photographers that followed."

Lindsey went on to work for several record labels, including a mid-'70s stint as Motown's Midwest regional sales manager and work in Mercury Records' national promotions division.

The old photos he has on hand are survivors: Twenty years ago, while living in Hamtramck, most of his archives were destroyed in a basement flood.

The loss was heartbreaking, Lindsey says. But he remains proud and nostalgic about the work he did — even if he wasn't aware then of the historical import.

"In those days, when I was taking these pictures, frankly, I was just having a good time doing it," he says. "I never really thought there would be any interest, especially this many years later. I'm pleased that there still is."

Candidates file for state, federal office in greater Farmington

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Voters in Farmington and Farmington Hills, along with many other Michigan residents, will see some changes to the way they're represented in Lansing and in Washington, D.C., next year.

Due to new district boundary maps created this year, the two neighboring communities are split between two state house seats and two state senate seats along with other Oakland County communities.

People running in those elections and in congressional races had until 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 19 to file for office. They can rescind their candidacy by Friday afternoon. Here are the local voters should see on ballots.

State house races

Southern Farmington Hills and most of Farmington are in **District 18**, which

also includes communities like Southfield and Lathrup Village.

Wendy Webster Jackson of Southfield, who's never held elected office, is the only Republican in the race. She'll run against either Councilman Jason Hoskins or congressional staffer Caprice Jackson, both Democrats from Southfield, in the fall.

Most of the northern half of Farmington Hills is in **District 19** along with portions of Franklin, Beverly Hills and Bloomfield Hills.

State Rep. Samantha Steckloff, a Democrat from Farmington Hills, is running for reelection in the 19th. Republican Anthony Paesano of Bloomfield Hills, a newcomer to politics, in the fall.

State senate races

Farmington and southern Farmington Hills are in the senate's **District 6**, which also includes Redford Township, Livonia and part of Detroit. Farmington

Hills Mayor Vicki Barnett is among those running for that seat.

Three other Democrats will compete with Barnett in a summer primary. They include State Sen. Betty Jean Alexander, a Detroit resident who currently represents the fifth district; Darryl Brown of Detroit and State Rep. Mary Cavanagh of Redford.

Ken Crider of Livonia is the only Republican to put his name forward and won't face a primary. Crider has previously run for the state house unsuccessfully.

Northern Farmington Hills is in **District 13** with portions of West Bloomfield Township, Novi, Northville Township and Plymouth Township.

Sen. Rosemary Bayer of Keego Harbor is the only Democrat in the race.

Republicans former state Rep. Klint Kesto of West Bloomfield, Northville Township Treasurer Jason Rhines and Brian Williams of Northville will compete in a summer primary.

Congressional race

If she's successful, Congresswoman Haley Stevens, a Democrat from Waterford, might remain greater Farmington's voice in Washington, D.C.

But, she and Congressman Andy Levin, a Democrat from Bloomfield Township, are running for the same seat.

The two representatives in Congress are running in **District 11**. The district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills and other Oakland County communities like Waterford, Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Novi, Walled Lake and Royal Oak.

The winning Democrat will face one of the three Republicans running, Mark Ambrose of Bloomfield Township, Matthew DenOtter of Waterford and Gabi Grossbard of Southfield, in the fall. None of the Republican hopefuls have held elected office before.

Candidates file for Westland-area elections for state seats, Congress

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland and Wayne's representation in Lansing and Washington, D.C., will look a little different in 2023.

District boundaries for each city's state house and senate seats have shifted. The two cities are also in separate congressional districts.

Candidates had until 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, to file for office. Candidates have until Friday afternoon to rescind their candidacy.

State house races

Westland is part of two house districts: the 25th and 26th districts.

District 25 includes Wayne along with parts of Westland and Canton. Rep. Kevin Coleman, a Democrat, is running for reelection in the 25th. He'll face Republican Scott Barlow of Westland, a first time candidate, in November.

Part of Westland, as well as portions of Inkster, Garden City and Romulus, is

in **District 26**. Four Democrats are running for the seat there: Inkster Councilman Steven Chisholm, Stephen Patterson of Inkster, Dylan Wegela of Garden City and Allen Wilson of Romulus.

State senate races

Wayne is part of **District 4** in state senate representation. That district also includes Romulus, Southgate, Belleville, Flat Rock and Trenton.

Sen. Darrin Camilleri, a Democrat from Trenton, will not face a summer primary in his reelection effort.

The three Republicans, however, will. The right-leaning candidates include James Chapman of Belleville, Michael Frazier of Romulus and Beth Socia of Flat Rock.

Westland is in **District 5**, which also includes Livonia, Canton, Inkster and Garden City.

Sen. Dayna Polehanki, a Democrat from Livonia, is facing Democrat Velma Jean Overman of Inkster. Overman has never held elected office before.

Three candidates, Emily Bauman of Westland, Jody Rice-White of Livonia and Leonard Scott Jr. of Canton will vie for the Republican nomination in August. Bauman and Rice-White have previously run unsuccessfully for the state house, and Scott is a first-time candidate.

Congressional races

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib may continue to be Westland's representative in Washington, D.C.

Westland is part of **District 12** for congressional representation along with communities including Livonia, Franklin, Beverly Hills, Redford, Garden City, Dearborn and parts of Detroit.

It appears candidates in both parties will face a primary.

Tlaib, who lives in Detroit and already represents Westland in Washington, D.C., is running for the seat along with fellow Democrats Kelly Garrett of Lathrup Village and Janice Winfrey of Detroit. Garrett is the mayor of Lathrup

Village and Winfrey is Detroit's city clerk.

Three Republicans, Steven Elliott of Rochester Hills, James Hooper of Livonia and Hassan Nehme of Dearborn Heights, will face off in a summer primary as well. None of the candidates have held elected office before.

The City of Wayne is part of **District 13**, in which a host of Democrats and one Republican have filed for office. District 13 includes Romulus, Southgate, Grosse Pointe, Allen Park, Hamtramck and parts of Detroit.

The Democratic candidates who will compete in a summer primary are John Conyers III of Detroit, State Sen. Adam Hollier of Detroit, Portia Roberson of Detroit, Lorrie Rutledge of Detroit, former state Rep. Sherry Gay-Dagnogo of Detroit, Michael Griffe of Detroit, Angela McIntosh of Detroit, former Detroit Councilwoman Sharon McPhail and Shri Thanedar of Detroit.

The sole Republican in the race, Martell Bivings of Detroit, will run against the winning Democrat in the fall.

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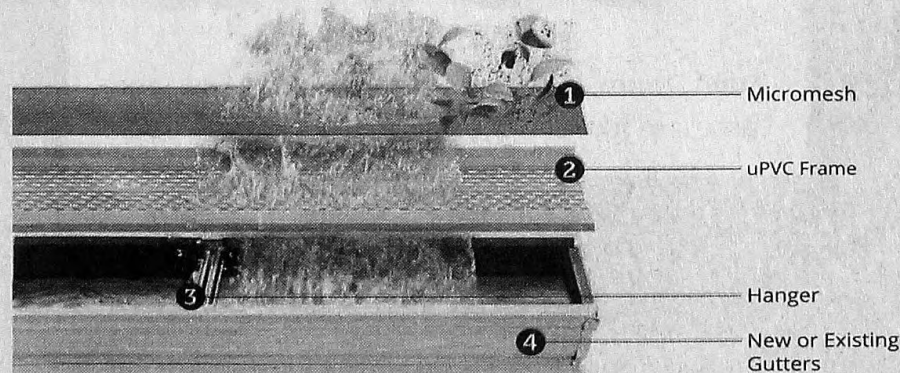
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Candidates file to represent Livonia in Lansing, Washington

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia could have more representation in Lansing than it's ever had before. Due to Michigan's newly-drawn state house, state senate and congressional districts, Livonia is split between three house seats, two senate seats and now sits in a more Wayne County-centric congressional district.

The new boundaries will also make for a more even playing field between Democratic and Republican candidates hoping to represent the city.

Candidates had until 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, to file for office. Candidates have until Friday afternoon to rescind their candidacy.

Here are the candidates who filed by Tuesday's deadline.

State house races

The biggest change Livonia will see is in the state house.

While most of the city has previously been in one district, it's now split between three.

District 16 includes southeastern Livonia along with parts of Redford Township and Detroit.

Democrats Ishmail Terry and State

Rep. Stephanie Young as well as Republican Gabriel Rees of Redford have filed for the seat.

Livonians living in **District 17**, encompassing northern Livonia as well as parts of Redford Township and Detroit, will see some familiar names on election day.

Rep. Laurie Pohutsky, a Democrat who currently represents most of the city in Lansing, will face off with one of the Republican candidates this fall.

Penny Crider, who ran an unsuccessful campaign for the state house in 2020, and newcomer Jeff Vega will vie for the Republican nomination this summer. Both candidates live in Livonia.

The rest of Livonia is in **District 22** along with portions of Plymouth and Northville.

Rep. Matthew Koleszar, a Democrat from Plymouth, is running for reelection there.

He'll face one of the two Republicans running, Livonia Councilman Rob Donovan or newcomer Cathryn Neracher of Northville in the fall.

State senate races

Livonia is part of two state senate districts: the fifth and the sixth.

The southwestern corner of Livonia is part of **District 5**, which includes the city's current state senator, Democrat Dayna Polehanki. The district also includes Westland, Canton, Inkster and Garden City.

Polehanki will face off against Democrat Verma Jean Overman of Inkster in a summer primary.

Overman has never held elected office before.

Three candidates, Emily Bauman of Westland, Jody Rice-White of Livonia and Leonard Scott Jr. of Canton will vie for the Republican nomination.

Bauman and Rice-White have previously run unsuccessfully for the state house, and Scott is a first-time candidate.

Most of Livonia is in **District 6**, which also includes Redford, Farmington, southern Farmington Hills and part of Detroit.

Ken Crider of Livonia is the only Republican to put his name forward and won't face a primary. Crider has previously run for the state house unsuccessfully.

Four Democrats will compete in a summer primary.

They include state Sen. Betty Jean Alexander, a Detroit resident who currently represents the fifth district; Vicki

Barnett, the mayor of Farmington Hills who's previously served in state government; Darryl Brown of Detroit and state Rep. Mary Cavanagh of Redford.

Congressional races

Livonia voters, now represented by the 11th district's Haley Stevens (D-Waterford) will get a new congress person.

Livonia is now in the **12th congressional district** along with Franklin, Beverly Hills, Redford, Westland, Garden City, Dearborn and parts of Detroit.

It appears candidates in both parties will face a primary.

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib of Detroit is running for the seat along with fellow Democrats Kelly Garrett of Lathrup Village and Janice Winfrey of Detroit.

Garrett is the mayor of Lathrup Village and Winfrey is Detroit's city clerk.

Three Republicans, Steven Elliott of Rochester Hills, James Hooper of Livonia and Hassan Nehme of Dearborn Heights, will face off in a summer primary as well. None of the candidates have held elected office before.

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

Plymouth, Canton residents mount campaigns for political seats

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A host of Canton and Plymouth residents have thrown their hats in the ring for state and federal political seats that will be contested as early as August's primaries.

The filing deadline for candidates was 4 p.m. Tuesday. Candidates have until 4 p.m. Friday to rescind their candidacy. These politicians made the Tuesday deadline.

6th District U.S. Representative

Canton Republican Whitney Williams will face off against Northville Re-

publican Hima Kolanagireddy while Debbie Dingell (Ann Arbor) and Shanelle Jackson (Detroit) will battle on the Democratic ticket.

The district includes Plymouth Township, City of Plymouth, Canton Township and mostly stretches south and west encompassing all of Washtenaw County.

5th District State Senator

Canton's Leonard C. Scott filed along with fellow Republicans Emily Bauman (Westland) and Jody M. Rice-White (Livonia).

The Democratic candidates are Verma Jean Overman (Inkster) and incum-

bent Dayne Polehanki (Livonia).

The district includes Westland, Livonia, Canton, Inkster and Garden City.

22nd District State Representative

Plymouth's Matt Koleszar was the lone Democrat to file. The Republican candidates are Councilman Rob Donovan (Livonia) and Cathryn Neracher (Northville).

The district includes City of Plymouth, western Livonia, eastern Plymouth Township, northern and eastern Northville Township and the Wayne County portion of the City of Northville.

23rd District State Representative

Plymouth Republican Richard Sharland and Ann Arbor Democrat Jason Morgan are the only candidates who filed.

The district includes the western parts of Northville and Plymouth townships and stretches southwest into Ann Arbor.

24th District State Representative

Canton incumbent Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton) is the only candidate who filed for this seat. The district includes all but the southeast corner of Canton Township.

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Livonia schools community mourns 2 teachers

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Colleagues and friends say Sherry Lynn Nadon had one of the brightest personalities they've ever encountered.

The late second grade teacher at Livonia Rosedale Elementary, who died suddenly March 27 at the age of 52 while Livonia students were on spring break, was known by people as a kind heart and jokester. Nadon passed away in her sleep.

"She really loved teaching," Lynn Merchant, a long-time colleague and close friend, said. "She was really loving and kind to the kids. A lot of the parents of her students say she paid attention to the emotional needs as well as the academic needs of their kids."

Merchant said her friend was kind, funny, adventurous, thoughtful, fashionable and an ardent mother to her two daughters, Shaelie and Tessa. A relative set up a GoFundMe called "In Memory of Sherry Lynn (Deremo) Nadon" to help raise college funds for the two girls.

"She was not only in love with her students, but being a mom to her two girls was her top priority in life," Paula Kohler, the principal at Rosedale, said. "She was 100% devoted to her girls. They were her number one."

Nadon began her teaching career in the Pontiac school district, but had been with Livonia schools for roughly 20 years. She's taught a variety of grades at the Livonia Cleveland, Roosevelt and Rosedale elementary schools.

At Rosedale, her classroom was colorful and stocked with good books. Coworkers say her laugh could be heard throughout the halls during the day.

"She had a great, big laugh," said Denise Collins-Robison, an elementary support teacher at Rosedale. "She had a really big presence."

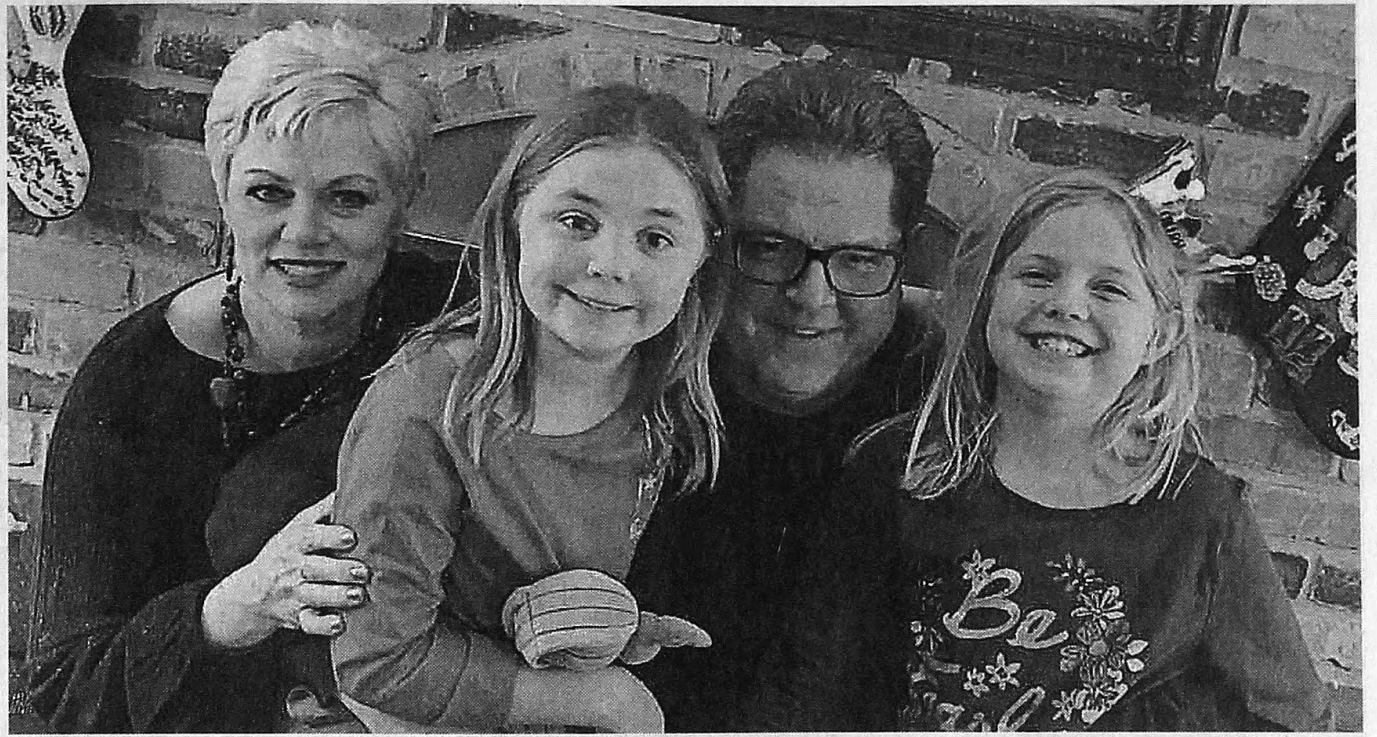
Because Nadon's death took place over spring break, students had a week to process the news before returning to class. Kohler said Livonia's district administration and other Livonia schools have been incredibly supportive as Rosedale staff and students grieve.

"It was very emotional," Kohler said of the first school days following spring break. "But our student support services department provided an army of psychologists and social workers on-site that morning. It was a beautiful thing because they were there to talk to students or relieve staff when they needed."

Though Nadon was known by many in the community as a teacher, Merchant said she'll miss her caring friend and travel buddy.

Merchant recalled a time when a colleague brought a pet bird to school that somehow found its way into Nadon's classroom. When the bird landed on Merchant, who'd stopped by to visit, chaos ensued.

"The bird landed in my hair and I'm screaming for help," Merchant recalled. "She shut the door to her



Sherry Lynn Nadon, left, with her husband and daughters. COURTESY OF THE NADON FAMILY

room so the bird would stay in, but she was laughing so hard that she would not help me get the bird out of my hair ... Sherry Lynn was on the floor laughing. From that day on, she used it as a writing prompt for her class every year."

But of course, Nadon also had a deeply caring side and brought toys to Merchant as she took her grandchildren in early in the pandemic because their mother worked in healthcare and wanted to keep the kids safe.

"She was always a jokester," Merchant said. "She had nicknames for everybody and I always had a lot of fun with her."

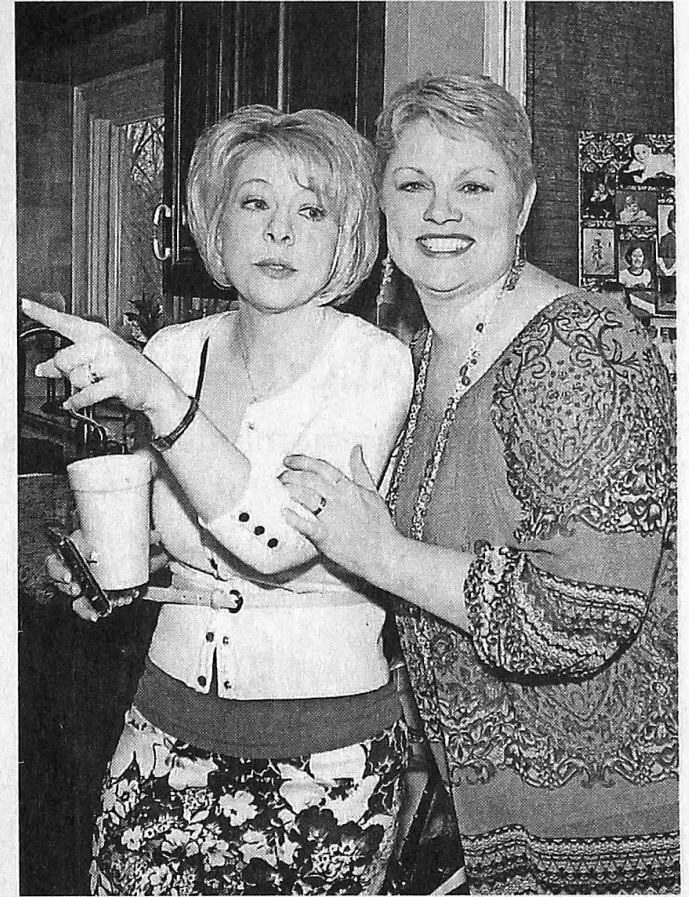
According to her obituary, Nadon is survived by her husband Tim and their two daughters as well as her own parents and siblings. A memorial service is planned for 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at the Plymouth Cultural Center on 525 Farmer St. in Plymouth.

The Livonia schools community is also mourning the death of Melodie Provencher, a retired teacher who also died in late March at the age of 62.

Following her retirement, Provencher continued to be involved with the teacher's union and the Livonia Public Schools Education Foundation. A funeral was held for Provencher in early April.

"She was a bundle of energy and her music class was a blast," Collins-Robison said of Provencher. "My sons are not musicians, but she just made it a lot of fun."

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



Nadon, right, and Lynn Merchant were friends and colleagues for years. COURTESY OF LYNN MERCHANT

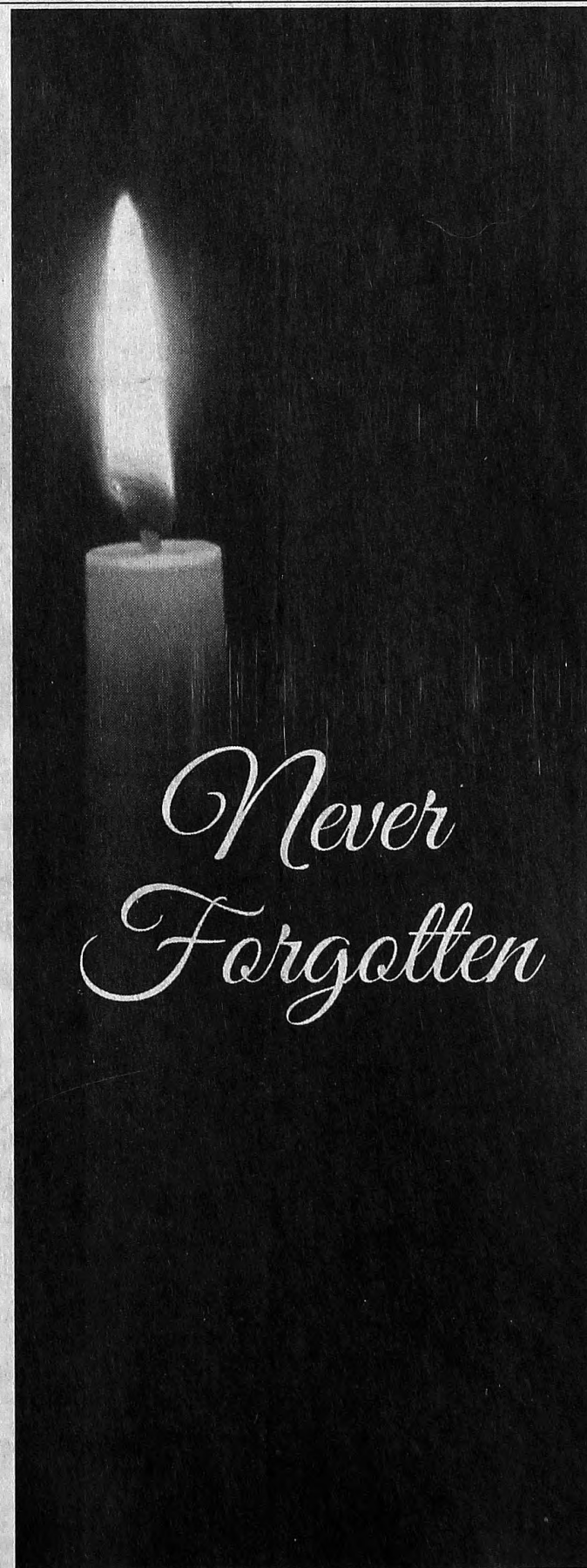
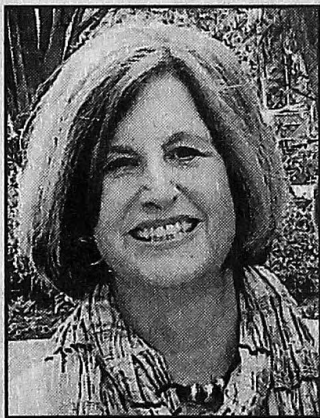
Obituaries

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Susanne Hays Davison

Susanne Hays Davison was born in Indiana, Pennsylvania to Robert and Emily Hays. Susanne is survived by her son, Matthew Davison (Christina), her daughter Katherine (Charles) and her beloved grandsons; Benjamin, Zachary, William and Matthew. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Patricia Hays and many nieces and nephews. Susanne was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Robert Hays and the father of her children, Matthew Davison III. Susanne grew up in Grosse Pointe, Michigan and was a graduate of Grosse Pointe High School. She continued her education at Colby-Sawyer College and the University of Colorado where she was a member of the Chi Omega Sorority. Susanne began her career as a social worker in Detroit before moving to Chicago, Connecticut and returning to Michigan to raise her children. She lived in Birmingham, Michigan for 45 years and was a member at First Presbyterian church. She eventually returned to the workplace by establishing SHDavison and Associates. Her boutique firm sold advertising space in the DAC news and other local publications in the Detroit metropolitan area. Susanne loved cooking, entertaining and spending time with her family. She spent the last three years in Naperville, Illinois to be closer to her children and grandchildren.

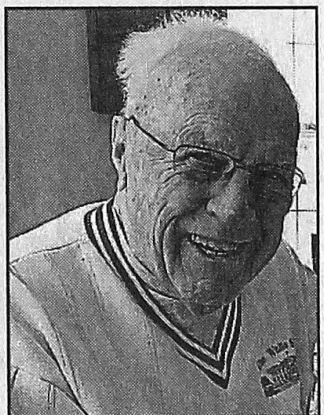
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Robert C. White

-- Bob passed away January 29, 2022, in Grand Rapids, MI, age 93, formerly of Beverly Hills, MI. Longtime business manager for Michigan Bell. Bob married Betty Jean Mann on February 12, 1951 in Bloomfield Hills, MI. They had 47 years together until Betty's passing in 1998. Together, they had four children: Cheryl Goodwin (Tom), Brian (Angelika), R. Joel (Pamela) and Melissa. They shared six grandchildren: Brendan, Carly, Scott, Claire, Leah and Gordon. Later in life he welcomed Carlena into this group. Bob was graced with six great grandchildren too and loved playing with all of them. In February, 2000, Bob married Sharon Spencer who survives him. With the marriage, Bob's family expanded and welcomed Merrie Rancourt (David), George Spencer (Donna), Brenda Spencer and Martha Trexler, along with 10 more grandchildren and several great grandchildren. Committal services Friday, May 6, 2022, 1:00 pm at Greenwood Cemetery on Oak St. West of Old Woodward Ave., Birmingham. The Rev. George R. Spencer officiating. Memorial services will commence on Saturday, May 7, 2022, in Grand Rapids, MI. Memorial tributes to Leader Dogs for the Blind, 1039 S. Rochester Rd., Rochester Hills, MI 48307.

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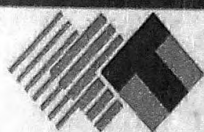
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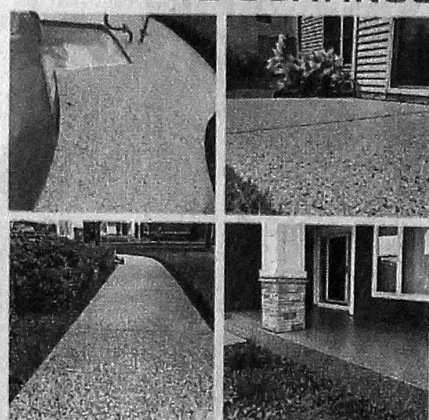
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SPORTS

2022 BOSTON MARATHON



The starting line of the 2022 Boston Marathon. About 30,000 runners participated. COURTESY OF MIKE PEZZETTI

RACE INSPIRES NOVI, SOUTH LYON RUNNERS

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hong Weng of South Lyon and Mike Pezzetti of Novi made it to both the start and the finish line of Monday's Boston Marathon.

Among the obstacles were a canceled pre-race flight for Weng and legs that rebelled against Pezzetti in the final few miles of the 26.2 mile race.

But finish they did, along with roughly 30,000 other runners celebrating the April return of one of the world's most famous races after two challenging pandemic years.

Weng cried as she crossed: not from pain, but from happiness.

It's the first time she's ever been

brought to tears, even after running 70-plus marathons.

"It was a perfect day," she said, less than an hour after finishing in 3:35:30. "I feel great."

Pezzetti acknowledged he was sore and moving a little slow shortly after finishing his race in 3:32:24. But he mustered a laugh, saying "the legs weren't moving fast, they weren't obeying, but that is where the mettle comes in, right?"

It's where the medal comes, too, with mental fortitude and years of hard work. The two shared their stories of how they got to not only the finish line of the Boston Marathon, but how they got started on the path that would lead them to completing 26.2 miles.

From China to Boston

Weng, 39, had to travel nearly 8,000 miles before she ever ran even one mile.

Born in Guangdong Province in southeast China, Weng moved to the United States in 1997. As a student at Farmington Hills Harrison High School, she joined the track and cross country teams as a way to belong in her new country.

"It helped me to fit in," Weng said. "As a kid, I watched the summer Olympics a lot. Swimming and track and field and it really inspired me, but we don't have the option to be on a track

See MARATHON, Page 2B

Middle school basketball coach set to win 600th career game

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the history of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, only 18 different boys and girls varsity basketball coaches have won 600 games or more during their careers.

That includes both Bloomfield Hills Marian coach Mary Cicerone and Hartland girls coach Don Palmer, who both elected to retire after this most recent season.

Cicerone started coaching in 1983 and amassed 692 wins, while Palmer started with Milford in 1977, coached the Mavericks for 32 seasons and then spent the past 11 with the Eagles, winning 653 games in all between the two programs, including making a run to the state championship in March.

And now local Dave Van Wagoner is about to join those two coaching legends in the 600-win club.

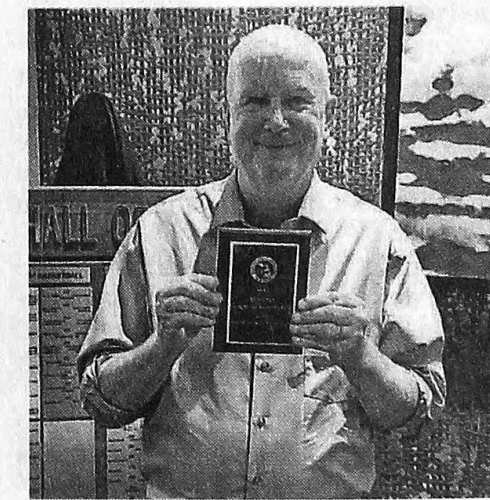
Kind of.

Van Wagoner's name might sound familiar to those of you living in the Canton and Livonia communities.

His uncle, George Van Wagoner, spent 19 seasons coaching Livonia Stevenson. He retired in 1985, after 33 years of coaching, which included stops at Gobles and Allegan as well. He totaled 494 career wins and was later elected into the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan's Hall of Fame.

"Uncle George was the reason I was so excited about getting into coaching," Dave Van Wagoner, 68, recently told Hometown Life. "I sat around when I was little, listening to my Uncle George tell his stories, and I knew, right then, that I wanted to be a basketball coach."

See COACH, Page 3B



Longtime basketball coach Dave Van Wagoner poses with his plaque from the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan for winning 400 games as a coach. He is now approaching his 600th career win. COURTESY

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BOSTON MARATHON LOCAL RUNNER RESULTS

Results of the 2022 Boston Marathon can be found online at baa.org. Below are results of local runners. Included are name, age and official time.

Birmingham

Alex Beired, 52, 3:07:48
Brittany Jackson, 34, 3:37:48
Hebah Hefzy, 39, 3:42:57

Bloomfield Hills

Aeneas Koosis, 26, 2:55:06
Curtiss Haskins, 40, 3:11:12
Andrew Murray, 47, 3:18:38
Goro Tamai, 51, 3:25:33
Sara Bahu, 44, 3:42:33
Jamie Gladstone, 57, 3:44:31
Anna Stanbaugh, 52, 3:57:37
Thomas Hitchman, 61, 4:35:57

Bloomfield Township

Zachary Murray, 33, 3:23:55

Farmington

Collin Hall, 35, 3:01:17
Melissa Peura, 48, 3:45:56

Farmington Hills

Thomas Bailey, 37, 3:18:35
Rebecca Gorski, 33, 3:33:21
Tendai Thomas, 47, 3:42:14
Rachael Ayotte, 45, 3:58:03
David Wong, 53, 3:59:06

Livonia

Tyler Brown, 31, 2:56:41
Jaime Gomez-Espinosa, 57, 3:10:19
Chris Keyes, 51, 4:04:38
Mark Morad, 63, 4:10:19

Westland

Casey Peterson, 29, 3:26:29
Scott Kennell, 45, 3:43:12

Plymouth

Kiersten Waino, 29, 2:50:37
Breanna Herring, 27, 2:55:56
Xaver Tomaszewski, 47, 2:59:22
Rob Gibson, 46, 3:20:08
Kate Hodgson, 29, 3:27:04
Jenn Burkett, 49, 3:29:42
Bernard Biermann, 57, 3:35:36
Jeff Foor, 52, 3:37:21
Kathryn Murphy, 61, 4:06:07
Al Johnson, 61, 4:25:31
Mary Byrd, 67, 5:03:10

Canton

Erik Wippler, 46, 2:45:10
Scott Skelton, 35, 2:52:14
Mikel Gurrea, 37, 3:00:07
Kayla Hughes, 24, 3:28:47
Chuanbing Rong, 47, 3:33:14
Nichole Mackey, 26, 3:42:39
Philip Pairitz, 58, 3:49:55
Michael McCormack, 65, 4:05:28
Colleen Hoffman, 56, 4:16:39

Northville

Yanyib Liu, 50, 3:07:39
Fangjun Jiang, 52, 3:23:47
Chundao Che, 59, 3:30:06
Katie Millar, 44, 3:33:30
Emily Kempa, 30, 3:33:49
Raffaella Medoro-Naurato, 47, 3:41:02
Michael Webster, 62, 4:12:07
Victor Barkoski, 73, 4:35:42
Myrna Carll, 64, 4:40:24

Novi

Hisashi Kikuchi, 43, 3:05:09
Miachel Pezzetti, 55, 3:32:24
Mitsuru Kitamura, 50, 3:33:31
Kanako Nirasawa, 41, 3:33:46

South Lyon

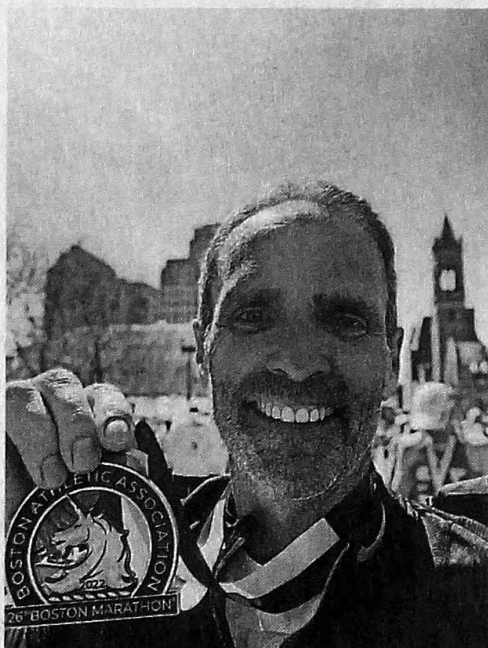
Hong Weng, 39, 3:33:30

New Hudson

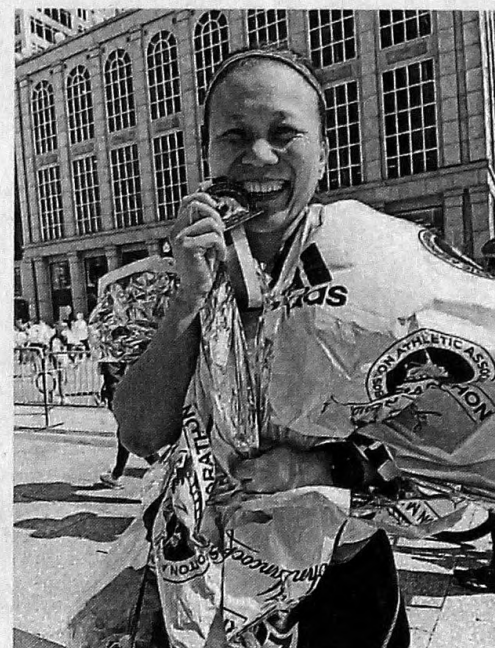
Melissa Christensen, 44, 3:40:42



Spectators cheer on the runners at the 2022 Boston Marathon.
PAUL RUTHERFORD/USA TODAY SPORTS



Mike Pezzetti of Novi holds up his medal after completing the marathon.
COURTESY OF MIKE PEZZETTI



Hong Weng of South Lyon after finishing the marathon.
COURTESY OF HONG WENG

Marathon

Continued from Page 1B

and field team in China. (Running) was for the more gifted, not for the average person."

Weng attributes the completion of her first marathon in Detroit in 2002 to not knowing there was a sweeper that picked up struggling runners who were far behind. She wanted to quit but found the motivation to continue from the need to get back to her car. Weng finished that Free Press Marathon in a little over five hours.

Her marathon running might have ended there but for her love of food, which led to weight gain and a thought that maybe she should keep running and racing.

She did, running the 10-mile Crim Festival of Races in Flint while an engineering student at Kettering University, then improving her marathon time by 30 minutes in Columbus, Ohio. A year later she was running in Chicago and shaving another 15 minutes off her time, running that marathon in 4 hours and 15 minutes. She started thinking she could qualify for Boston, but following a break-up with a boyfriend, she struggled to find the joy in running and mostly stopped.

Then in 2009, she met a Running Fit group and found her motivation again. Suddenly she was competing in more races. Just as suddenly, with marathon times under 4 hours, Boston felt within her reach.

Running had become a reason to travel, and in 2010 she ran a 3:35 marathon in Berlin, qualifying her for the 2011 Boston Marathon, which she finished in 3:38.

Eleven years have passed and Weng has now run in roughly 70 marathons around the world, some ultra-marathons and a few Iron Man triathlons, too.

Still, Boston is the "icing" on the running cake, she said.

Driven to succeed

Pezzetti is also enamored of the race, striving to get back to Boston ever since he first crossed its finish line in 2017. He qualified for the 2020 race, canceled by the pandemic. He qualified for the 2021 race, but missed the final cut when the number of participants allowed was cut by a third.

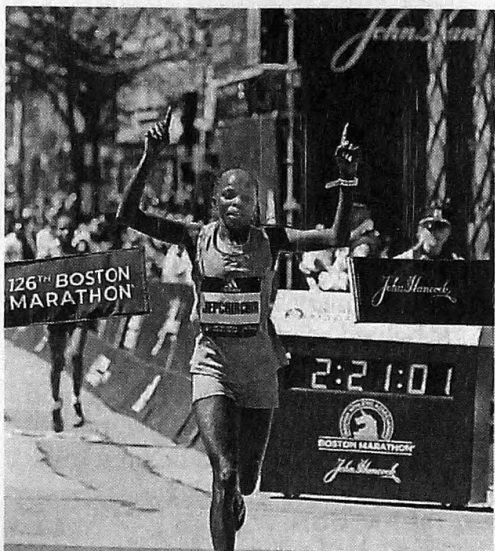
"It was going to be one and done and then I got the itch," Pezzetti, 55, said. "There's nothing like it, it's so exciting."

Pezzetti, a former soccer player, tallied 30 years of running a lot of smaller distances before conquering his first marathon about seven years ago.

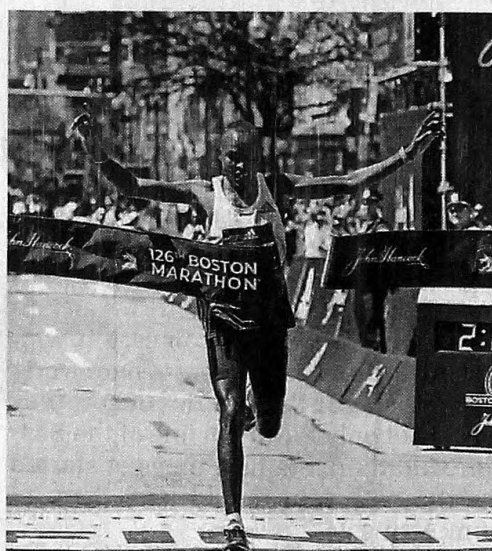
"It's a bucket list thing, but you get so



Boston Marathon wheelchair race men's and women's winners Daniel Romanchuk and Manuela Schar pose for a photo.
PHOTOS BY ERIC CANHA/USA TODAY SPORTS



Peres Jepchirchir crosses the finish line to win the women's division.



Evans Chebet crosses the finish line to win the men's division.

busy with family and work, and it takes a fair amount of time to do one," he said. "Everything I do, I try to give my best effort. And I knew a marathon would take a lot more effort."

Pezzetti is an international tax accountant, attorney and the father of three. With his children now a bit older, he's had more time to devote to the extensive training required.

He and Weng both run several days a week, with a long run that can be 18-20

miles during training.

The training and sound nutrition plans give them the confidence to do what the general population might find inconceivable for themselves.

Mental fortitude and "wall-to-wall" fan support also helps to cross the finish line, especially when the legs and lungs are burning and runners are typically hitting a wall at 20 miles, with hills still to climb.

"I've been driven by accomplish-

ments my entire life," Pezzetti said, prior to the marathon. "I know there will be a lot of pain on Monday, and it's about finding mental strength and knowing I can get through it and crossing that finish line and knowing how great I will feel."

Speaking by phone from Boston, Pezzetti acknowledged getting back to the hotel after finishing the race was a little rough, perhaps even more difficult than the final miles, when he drew strength from the wall-to-wall crowds of cheering, adoring fans.

"Walking back a mile is so painful," he said. "You're shivering because of the mylar (blanket), thinking, 'I'm never doing this again, never doing this again.'"

But after digging deep in the last two miles to earn a 2023 qualifying time, a couple ibuprofen, and a bath with Epsom salt, he already is looking forward to next year's Boston.

Weng feels the same.

I have done other more extreme races and I never cried," she said. "This one, I was crying halfway, crying at the finish. I am super happy, I just felt such accomplishment... If they let me back next year, I will go."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @Susan-Bromley10.

Return of USFL stressed entertainment

Tony Garcia Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan Panthers head coach Jeff Fisher took a team to the Super Bowl in 1999, as well as five other NFL playoff appearances.

Kevin Sumlin, now of the Houston Gamblers, coached quarterback Johnny Manziel to a Heisman Trophy and led Texas A&M to an upset win over No. 1 Alabama in 2012 and a win in the Cotton Bowl in January 2013.

In other words, they know what winning football at the highest levels looks like. Yet on Sunday, the two weren't under the brightlights again. Heck, they were coaching in the spring in a partially filled stadium about three miles from the UAB campus in Birmingham, Alabama.

They stood opposite one another on the sidelines of Protective Stadium in the first weekend of the reboot of the USFL — which lasted three seasons from 1983-85 in its first go-round — leading dozens of former collegiate stars who are trying to keep their football dream alive.

It's the third pro football league to start up over the past four years. The American Alliance of Football was scheduled to play 10 weeks in 2019, only to fold after Week 8. The XFL, itself a reboot of a one-season league from 2001 — lasted just one season in 2020.

The USFL is still in its infancy, its future uncertain, but the men in charge, who've coached at much higher levels, were optimistic after their first game.

"Personally, for me, it was a blast," Fisher said — not exactly a common response to a loss, much less a 17-12 score that came down to the final play. "The first time I stepped foot here with this staff three or four weeks ago, I've been having fun since."

Sumlin concurred.

"Look at both games ... last night's game too," he said, referencing Birmingham's 28-24 win over New Jersey on Saturday night. "If that's any indication, I don't know if you can get anything more exciting than (the game being decided on) the last play of the game the first two games."

"Our guys are having a ball doing it."

The league knows it has to differentiate itself and is doing so through different rules and a new broadcasting dynamic.

For starters, multiple players and coaches wore microphones during the game. Not only does that give the fan more ambient noise, it allows the broadcast team to analyze at a deeper level.

It was early in the first quarter, when Houston quarterback Clayton Thorson — better known as a multi-year starter at Northwestern — was heard saying, 'Four verts', a play dedicated "Madden" players know as all wide receivers running go routes.

The broadcast team recognized the defensive front as well and clued viewers to "Watch for the tight end who should be running up the seam."

Sure enough, that's exactly what happened — but Thorson's ball came just a moment too late and Panthers safety Tino Ellis broke up the would-be touchdown.

Then, there were more colorful mo-



Panthers quarterback Shea Patterson passes against Houston during the second half April 17 in Birmingham, Alabama.

MARVIN GENTRY/USA TODAY SPORTS



Patterson throws on the run as Houston defensive lineman Tomasi Laulile pressures him in the first quarter of a USFL football game at Protective Stadium.

VASHA HUNT/USA TODAY SPORTS

ments, such as when the Panthers returned a punt for a touchdown only to have it called back by a penalty. A Panthers special teams player ran back toward his sideline, telling an unidentified Gambler "Let's do it again, I'll knock you on your ass again."

And then there's the rule changes, which Sumlin said changes his approach.

"For the fans it's great; for the coaches, it's not so great," he joked. "I would say I don't think (the games being this close) is going to change that much just of the rules."

"You look at the scoreboard and say, 'If they score, it's 17-12, do they go for the

field goal, then take the onside kick and go for the points there?' because there's all kinds of scenarios — 3-point plays, 2-point plays — the strategy at that point is different for everybody, and I think it keeps the fans interested and the coaches on their toes."

The league is also looking for more big plays. That's why there are 3-point conversions, the option of going for a fourth-and-12 as a type of onside kick and kickoffs from the team's own 25-yard line in order to create in more kick returns.

If the initial numbers are any indication, the fans tuned in: with a reported audience of more than 3 million for Sat-

urday night's game, which was broadcast on Fox and NBC.

And the coaches didn't even get to see the some of the newer elements aimed at fans, such as the helmet cams, which gave viewers a point of view as if they carried the ball.

One of Sunday's most exciting plays, a 90-yard scoop-and-score, was immediately replayed from the drone cam from just above the field.

The technological improvements extended to ground level, too: When a fourth-down play was in question late, refs turned to a tracker implanted in the ball for an accurate spot, rather than eyeballing the call and using chains, as has been the case in the NFL and NCAA for practically forever.

And then there are the players. They don't all come with name recognition, but Panthers fans — or perhaps just those who are Panthers-curious, as it might be too early for true fandom — have starting quarterback Shea Patterson, who spent two seasons leading Michigan football, to cheer for.

By himself, the No. 1 overall pick in the USFL draft moves the needle. The Panthers' roster also features a few former Big Ten stars, such as running back Stevie Scott III (who had 18 carries for 72 yards and a touchdown Sunday) and Ellis, a corner at Maryland.

"This is a good football team," Fisher said in a message to the fans. "We're going to find ways to win."

The high-profile coaches said they believe there is an appetite for football in the spring.

Will the USFL be successful? It's too soon to say.

But if the opening weekend is a precursor of what's to come, it's going to at least be entertaining, and that's a good place to start.

Coach

Continued from Page 1B

Dave Van Wagoner became a coach himself when he was 22 years old.

Sixteen years later, in 1984, he took over Canton's boys basketball program. He spent 10 years leading the Chiefs, winning over 100 games, five division titles and three league championships. In the playoffs, they won a pair of district championships and made it to the regional final once, the furthest any Canton team has gone in the MHSAA playoffs.

He stepped down from coaching the Chiefs in 1994 because of health reasons. He was never a varsity head coach again.

So how the heck is he nearing 600 wins then?

Van Wagoner has actually found his niche coaching youth-level sports. And for the past two decades, he's been coaching both the boys and girls at Discovery Middle School, a place where he taught for 38 years.

Last month, he wrapped up his 20th season coaching there. And it hasn't been an easy gig. He coaches both the seventh- and eighth-grade teams for both the boys and girls. Yes, that's four teams. Fortunately for him, though, the boys play from December through February and the girls go from February to late March, so he has to coach only two



Longtime basketball coach Dave Van Wagoner wrapped up his 20th season at Discovery Middle School last month. COURTESY

teams at a time. But, still, that's 64 games he coaches in a four-month span, as each team gets a 16-game schedule.

He's already told Discovery principal Terry Sawchuk that he'll be back for another season next school year. He hopes to be coaching into his mid-70s. Maybe even longer than that.

If everything goes well in 2022-23, that'll give him the 600-win milestone, as he bumped his career win total to 583 following this past winter.

Almost 500 of those wins will be from the sub-varsity level. He received a

plaque from the BCAM when he won his 400th non-varsity game a few years ago.

"We won a lot of championships when I was the varsity coach at Canton," said Van Wagoner, who's been coaching for 46 years. "We still hold a couple of school records. I was happy with my time there. After stepping down, I just had to jump back in. Coaching has been in my blood all my life."

Obviously, Van Wagoner isn't doing this to merely chase 600 victories.

Simply put, he loves hanging out

with the kids.

He enjoys teaching them the fundamentals of the game, joking around with them and inspiring them to move on to high school and excel at the JV and varsity levels.

His interview for this story was even delayed a few hours because he wanted to attend a Salem varsity girls basketball practice to watch two of his former players, Madison Morson and Shahd Bakkar.

"The wins are nice, but my biggest thrill is when my former players come back and give me a big hug and talk to me," Van Wagoner said. "The kids listen to me and what I have to say. They even laugh at my jokes."

"I just love being in the gym with my 20 middle schoolers. I love teaching basketball. It gets me out of the house and gets me through a cold winter in Michigan. I want to go as long as I can. It's a blast."

The MHSAA doesn't keep track of career records for middle school coaches, but it's safe to guess that by the time Van Wagoner finally retires, whenever that may be, no one in Michigan will have as many middle school victories as him.

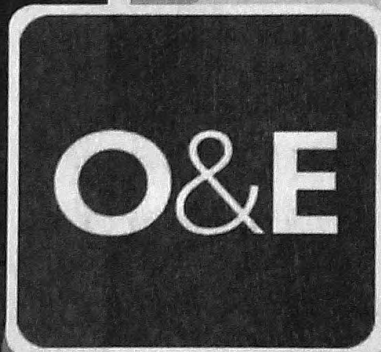
To win so many games while coaching seventh- and eighth-graders, coaching definitely must run through his blood.

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

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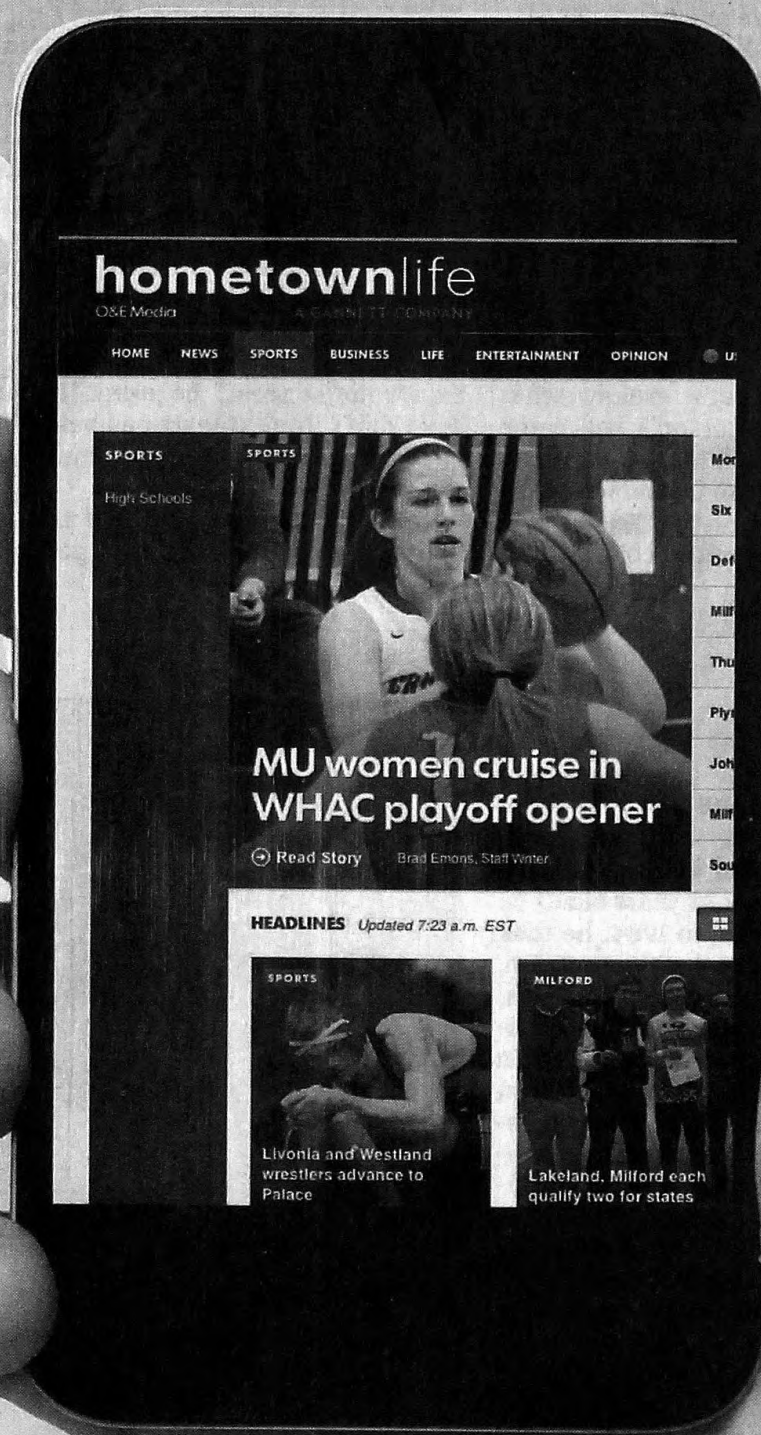
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How to Write a Job Recommendation Letter

ZipRecruiter.com

For some jobs, especially in academia and high-profile positions, employers sometimes request that top candidates submit letters of recommendation as part of the decision-making process. In some instances, employers might even ask for a letter of recommendation to accompany a resume and cover letter as part of the initial application. Colleges also request letters of recommendation as part of applying students' applications, especially as part of master's and doctoral-level degree applications.

Letters of recommendation carry a fair amount of weight for the recipient, and therefore, candidates must carefully consider whom they ask to write one for them. Writing an effective letter of recommendation takes time and effort, though when it's looked at as a privilege, the task can feel more meaningful and enjoyable.

If you're asked to write a letter of recommendation, if you truly don't have the time or don't feel you can represent the candidate in a positive light, it's OK and best to decline the request.

However, if you agree to accept the request and be part of the team helping the person achieve this treasured goal, you'll need to include some basics. It's completely acceptable to ask the requester to provide notes on what they'd like you to include. Here are some tips that can help them. This post provides you with tips to make writing letters of recommendation straightforward, with a letter of recommendation example included.

SAYING "YES" TO RECOMMENDATION LETTER REQUESTS

If you're on the fence as to whether to

write a recommendation letter, consider the following questions:

- Have you directly observed the applicant in class, in extra-curricular activities, at work, or in a relevant situation that allows you to share authentic insights?
- Are you aware of the individual's skills and strengths?
- Do you have specific examples of the individual's relevant accomplishments or work?
- Are you able to provide positive feedback about the person?
- Do you have the time and availability to give the letter what it needs to best represent the one requesting it?

If you answered "no" to any of those questions, then declining to write a letter of recommendation for the individual might be best. This is especially true if you can't provide positive feedback about the person. It's best to decline the request vs. writing a letter that's lukewarm or inaccurate.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION: THE BASICS

As with all business letters, recommendation letters follow a similar format: address and contact information with date, salutation, body, and closing signature. If you refer to recommendation letter samples, you'll find that the body of most well-written recommendation letters will include the following:

- A **brief introduction** that indicates your intent for writing the recommendation, who you are, and your relationship to the requestor.
- An **overview of the positive attributes** you've experienced while observing and interacting with the candidate.

• A **personal story** that dives deeper into one or two of the positive attributes you shared.

• A **closing statement** that summarizes your points and why the candidate would be a good fit for the program or position.

• Your **contact information** in case additional information is needed.

Ask the individual to provide you with a copy of a resume, cover letter, and job description or program information to help jog your memory and give you some information to work with as you develop your points for the letter.

TIPS FOR WRITING A RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Collect information. Ask the person requesting the recommendation to provide you with a current resume. Also, ask for a copy of the job description or program details. A copy of their cover letter can also be helpful. Reviewing these documents will help you align the relevant information you provide with the requirements of the position or program.

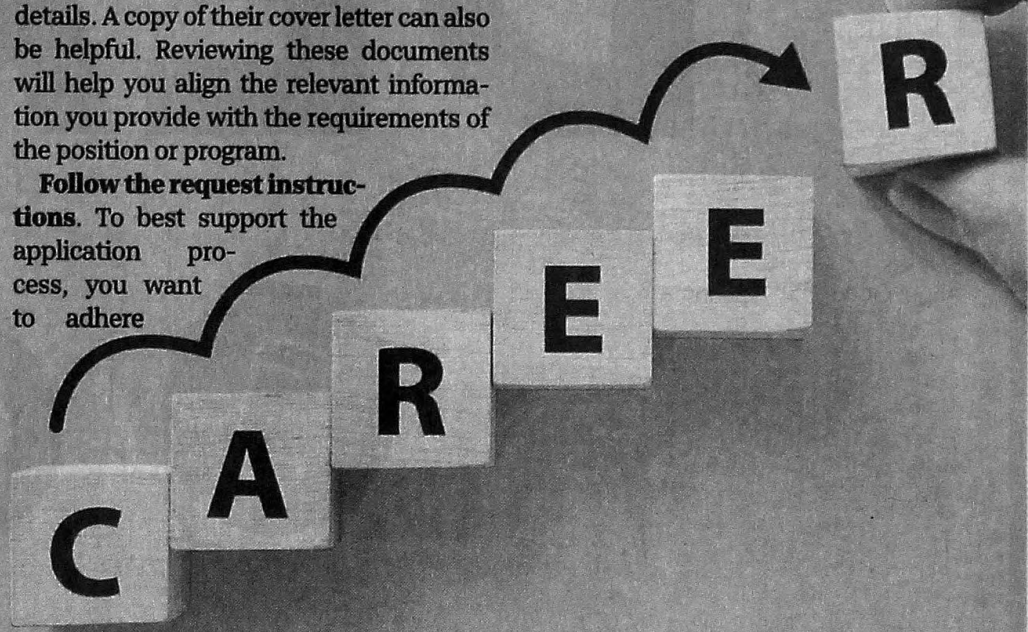
Follow the request instructions. To best support the application process, you want to adhere

closely to any instructions the employer or institution provided regarding what to include and how to deliver the letter.

Use standard business letter format. A letter of recommendation is a professional business letter and, as such, should follow the standard formatting for business letters.

Be direct and honest, while remaining positive. You want the letter to have a positive spin and vibe, while also being concise and to-the-point, providing the information the employer or institution needs to make an informed decision based on your perspective.

Focus on the most pertinent traits and qualifications. Sharing two to three of the most relevant achievements related to the program or job description with specific examples to highlight successes will provide the greatest impact.



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239 HERITAGE DR, MILFORD, 48381; Apr 28-29-30; 9a-5p
Wed Apr 27th 1pm-8pm, Price +30%. Thurs, Apr 28th, 1pm-7pm. 50% off Household, Antiques Vintage, & more. Everything must go!
BIRMINGHAM First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Rd. btwn Southfield/Cranbrook. Wed Apr 27th 1pm-8pm, Price +30%. Thurs, Apr 28th, 1pm-7pm. 50% off Fri, Apr 29th, 9am-11am, \$5 per 13 gallon bag (248) 646-1200
FLAT ROCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY FLEA MARKET: Sun, May 1 at Flat Rock Speedway; 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission and parking; No pets allowed. 14041 Telegraph Road, 734-782-5220. www.flatrockhistory.org

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Super Crossword

MUDDLED FEELINGS

- ACROSS
1 Outlook
7 Opponents
13 Rolling Stones
...
DOWN
1 - Baba
2 "Mayday!"
3 Avenged
4 Kett of comics

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered starting points for across and down clues.

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

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with pre-filled numbers: 8, 5, 3, 7, 8, 9, 1, 3, 4, 8, 6, 3, 4, 9, 1, 6, 8, 7, 4, 6, 7, 8, 2, 9, 5, 6, 4, 7.

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.

ROBIN HOOD

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.

Word search grid containing hidden words related to Robin Hood.

ANSWER KEY

- ALLEN-A-DALE
AMBUSH
BAND
BOW
CAMP
CASTLE
DEER
ENGLAND
FIRE
FOREST
FRIAR TUCK
GIVE
GLEN
HEROES
HORSES
KIDNAP
KING RICHARD
LEGEND
LINCOLN
MAID MARIAN
MEDIEVAL
MEN
MERRY
MOAT
MUCH
MYTH
NOBLEMEN
NOTTINGHAM
OAK
OUTLAW
PEASANTS
POOR
PRISONER
RICH
RIGHT
ROB
SHERIFF
SHERWOOD
SPEAR
STAFF
STEAL
TAKE
TAXES
THIEVES
TOWER
TUNIC
TYRANT
WILL SCARLET

ANSWER KEY grid showing the words from the list crossed out in the word search grid.

ANSWER KEY grid showing the words from the list crossed out in the word search grid.

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tickets
antiques
motorcycle
computer
boat
sports equipment
instrument
jewelry
furniture

FIND YOUR

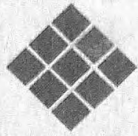
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next pet
collectible
boat
great guitar
camera
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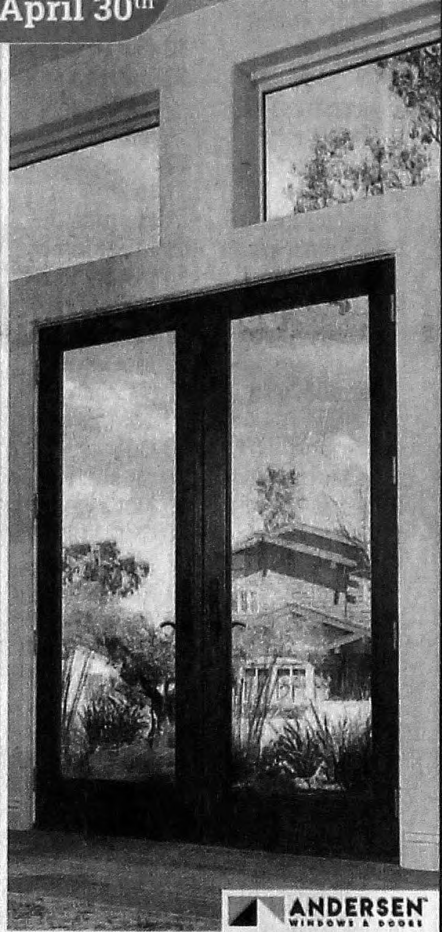
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 Payments

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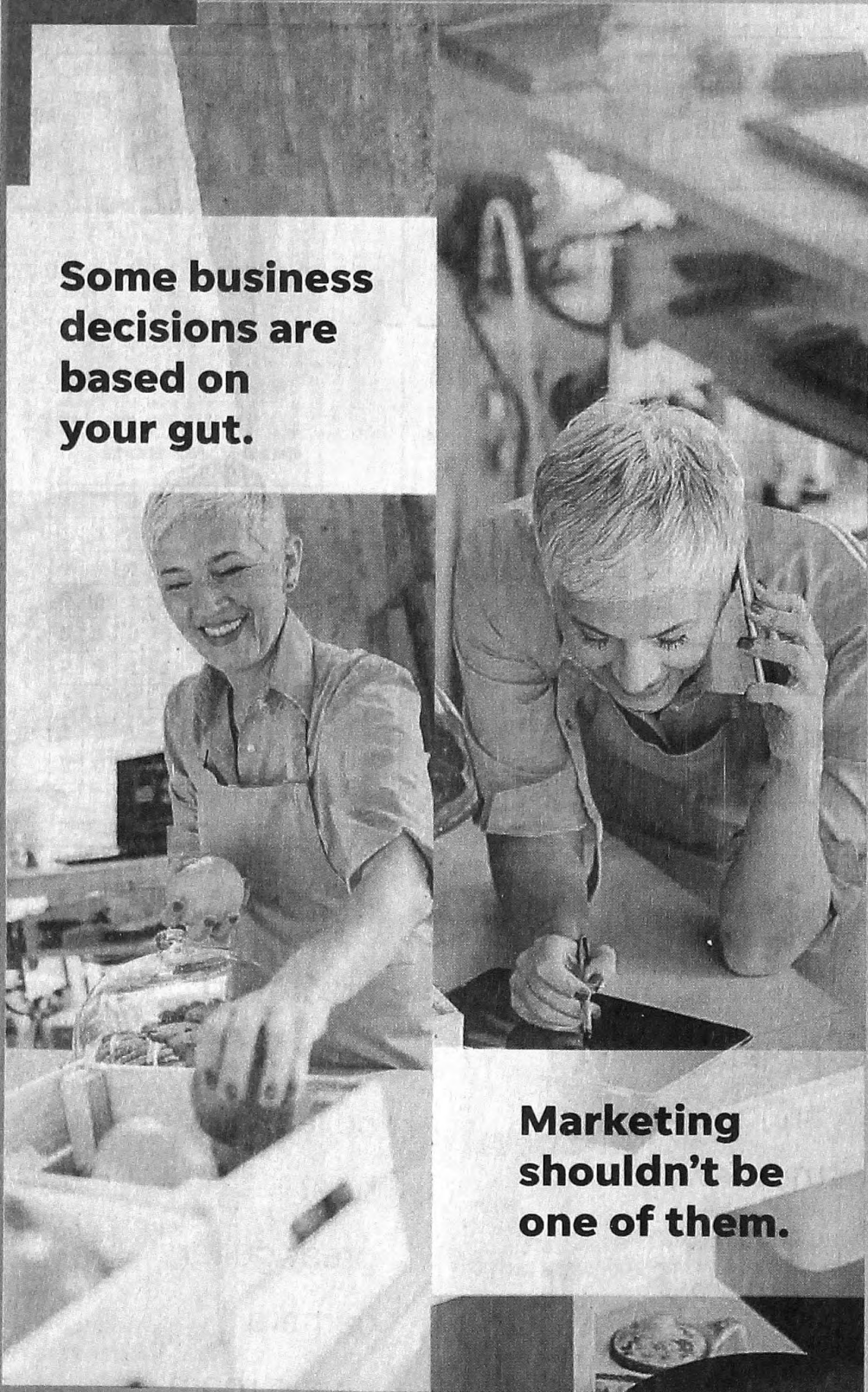
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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 4/30/2022. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$300 off each window and \$700 off each entry/patio door and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 4/1/2022 and 4/30/2022. 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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