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SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Judge dismisses Livonia councilman's appeal

Rob Donovic will not appear on ballot for state House

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Wayne County circuit court judge agreed with Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett's decision to disqualify Livonia Councilman Rob Donovic from a state house primary.

Judge Timothy Kenny denied Donovic's appeal to appear on ballots for the August primary.

Donovic, a Republican candidate for the District 22 state House seat, was removed from ballots after failing to meet the residency requirement.

Kenny said if Donovic plans to con-



Donovic

tinue his campaign, it will have to be as a write-in candidate.

"There is always the option — however, it might be a long shot — of mounting a write-in campaign," Kenny said during the Tuesday hearing. "That is available."

Candidates for state House in Michigan must live in their district for at least 30 days before filing for office.

Donovic lived in the 22nd district for five days before filing for office on April 19, according to a complaint submitted to the Wayne County Clerk's office.

See APPEAL, Page 2A



Elected officials, from left, Canton Township Supervisor Ann Marie Graham-Hudak, Congresswoman Haley Stevens and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell visited the new Canton VA facility May 26 with Jo and Oliver Dillard Jr. The politicians want the facility named after Oliver Dillard Sr., a decorated Army general and longtime Canton resident who died in 2015.

SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Canton VA clinic to honor decorated Army general

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Relatives of Oliver Dillard Sr., a decorated Army general buried at Arlington National Cemetery, recently toured Canton's new VA clinic knowing the spacious, convenient location may be named after their relative.

Congresswomen Haley Stevens and



Dillard Sr.

Debbie Dingell wandered through the lobby, exam rooms and other areas of the 5900 North Lotz Road building with the family.

All were impressed with their surroundings, and Oliver Dillard Jr. was touched to know the facility likely would bear his father's name. Dillard Sr., a re-

tired Army general and longtime Canton resident, died in 2015.

"The effort that he put in to go to the VA is now coming back," said Dillard Jr., who owns DC Hydraulics Inc. on Koppernick Road. "He's getting back the reason he went to the VA, to see VA give back to the veterans more of the

See CLINIC, Page 2A

Tip sparks criticism, threatens Stislicki case

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Danielle Stislicki's parents have suffered several years not knowing what happened to their daughter while the man charged with her homicide so far has escaped a trial.

Their wounds may deepen depending on the outcome of an ongoing Oakland County Circuit Court hearing that seems focused on a controversial tip that yielded evidence, but not a body, and Floyd Galloway's accusations of government malfeasance.

If a judge agrees with Galloway's attorney, granting his wish to quash evidence from the tip and dismiss the case, the prison inmate and convicted sexual assaulter could fathom release as soon as 2033.

For now, his hopes hinge on the hearing, continuing June 13, that alluded to why Oakland County didn't pursue charges after investigating Stislicki's vanishing in 2016 and the pain to which the Stislickis may be suffering.

On May 3, the first day of the evidentiary hearing, Richard and Ann Stislicki watched defense attorney Ellen Michaels question retired police chiefs from Troy and Farmington Hills, along with Farmington Hills police officers, about a tip that ultimately came from a polygraph operator working for Galloway's attorney. Michaels claims law enforcers "actively obscured" the source of the tip.

Michaels pointed toward criticism raised by the Stislickis' former prosecutor Jaimie Powell Horowitz — now a judge in Oak Park's 45th District Court — that Stislicki's case was "grossly mishandled by officials seeking only to protect their own interests."

The hitch is the tip given to Gary

See CASE, Page 2A

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MADE IN THE USA

Clinic

Continued from Page 1A

services that they deserve. This is a great facility. It looks great.”

On May 26, just before Memorial Day, Stevens and Dingell officially shared legislation supported by the entire Michigan delegation to rename the new community-based outpatient clinic after Dillard Sr.

He was studying at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama when a military draft swept him in to World War II. A commanding officer convinced him to pursue studies at the Officer Candidate School.

According to his obituary, he became known for a number of firsts: first Black graduate of the National War College and first Black general officer in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence.

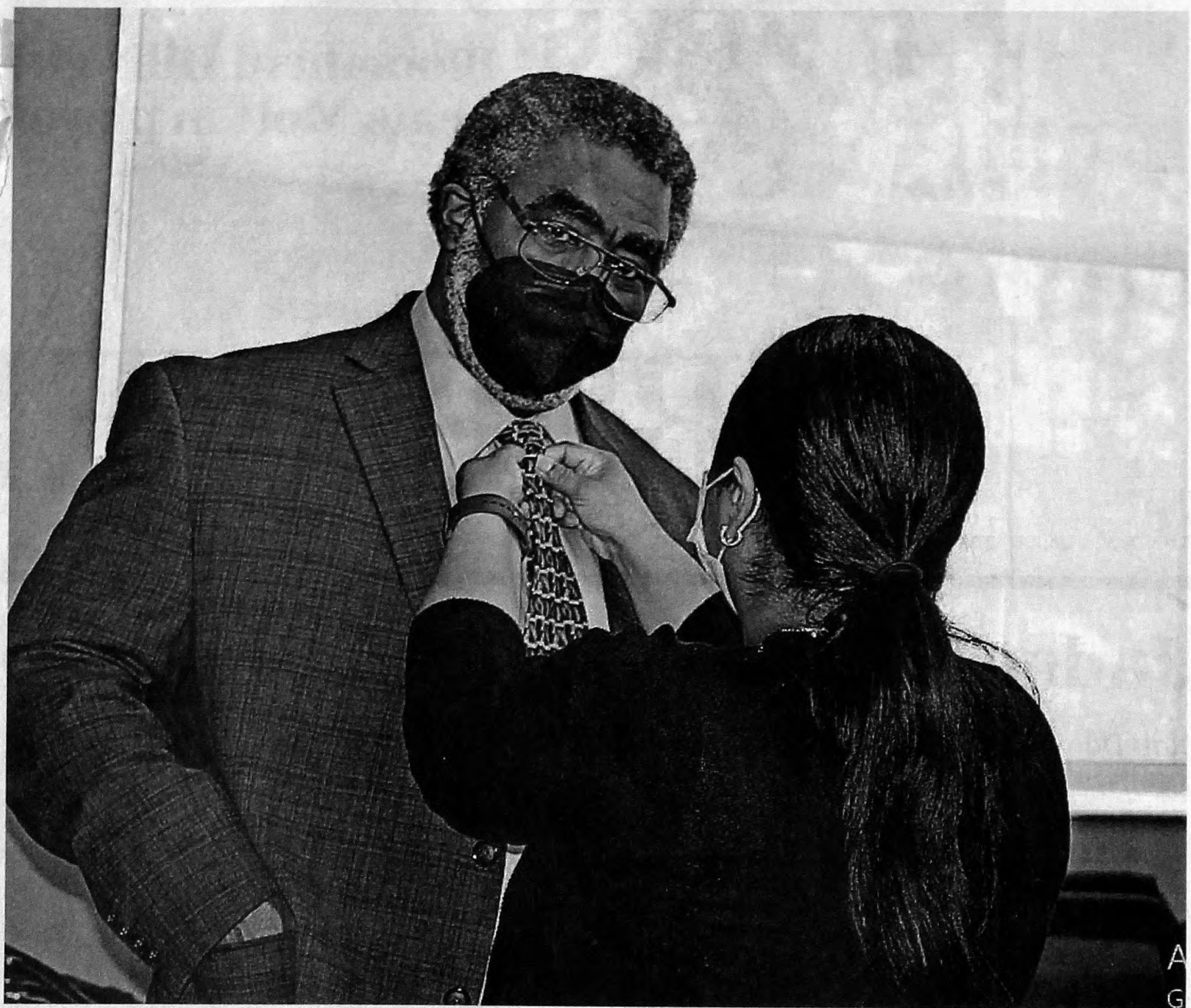
Dillard Sr. retired in 1980 as a major general after almost 35 years of military service. He insisted on medical care from the VA health network and, upon settling in Canton, spent some years relying on care from the VA medical center in Ann Arbor.

“My dad made a conscious effort to try and help veterans – because general officers don’t go to the VA,” the son said. “He figured that, if he went, he would drag the system up because they’d have to take care of him.”

He fondly remembered how the general “really got a real kick” out of walking through the medical center for his appointments. The unassuming man would receive greetings from other patients and members of the medical team.

But the military officer and his non-military son could go back and forth over the propriety of the general’s demands, which occasionally seemed to involve pulling rank.

“Whenever he would get ill, the first thing he would want to do is go to Ann Arbor and go to the emergency and jump the line,” Dillard Jr. remembered. “I would say, ‘You can’t do that. All veterans are equal. They’re all the same rank.



Ellen Dillard straightens her father’s tie. Oliver Dillard Jr. recently toured Canton’s new VA facility, which may be named after Dillard’s father, Oliver Dillard Sr., a decorated Army general who died in 2015. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

That’s not fair.”

Dillard Sr. would mention the obvious — “Well, I’m a general!” — but ultimately would concur with his son.

“It’s nice to see now that they’re giving veterans an alternative place to go, to get care quicker,” Dillard Jr. said of the new Canton facility that’s expected to serve about 12,000 local veterans. “They’re streamlining the service.”

He likened the Ann Arbor VA medical campus to a maze. In contrast, the Canton clinic has one floor, and patients will stay in one exam room while members of the care team come to them.

“This is a nice concept, and I think it’s going to be a real advantage for veterans,” he said.

Ellen Dillard toured the facility with her father. A nurse practitioner who

once helped her grandfather navigate medical services, she also appreciated the convenience of the Canton location.

“It’s a great honor,” she said of the name that is likely to appear on the façade. “He definitely had a lot of accomplishments. He definitely would be proud and excited.”

A ribbon cutting ceremony is expected in the fall.

Appeal

Continued from Page 1A

In Garrett and Kenny’s views, Donovan’s brief residency does not meet what the law requires.

Attorney Eric Doster argued it would have been impossible for Donovan to live in District 22 for more than 30 days because the new districts took effect March 26, 23 days before the April 19 filing deadline. Doster also noted Donovan has lived in Livonia, a portion of which is in District 22, for far longer than 30 days.

But, Kenny noted that draft maps of the new districts had been publicly available for months prior to their adoption in March.

“He moved in and registered six days before the filing deadline, and that is not enough,” Kenny said. “Living in Livonia ... in this court’s view, is not sufficient.”

Donovic did not respond to a request for comment.

Democrat Rep. Matt Koleszar will face Republican Cathryn Neracher in November for the District 22 seat.

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

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Case

Continued from Page 1A

Mayer, Troy’s police chief, a week after Stislicki’s Dec. 2, 2016, vanishing. He then shared the tip with Farmington Hills’ Police Chief Chuck Nebus but Mayer protected the polygraph operator’s confidential status. That led to Horowitz filing her brief to reveal the name.

“It was also communicated to the AG (attorney general) that Oakland County had refused the case based on the source of the tip and because Danielle Stislicki’s body had not been recovered,” Horowitz said in an April 2019 brief, filed a month after Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced charges against Galloway.

By the time he was charged with Stislicki’s death, Galloway was already in prison for attacking a Hines Park runner in Livonia a few months before Stislicki was last seen.

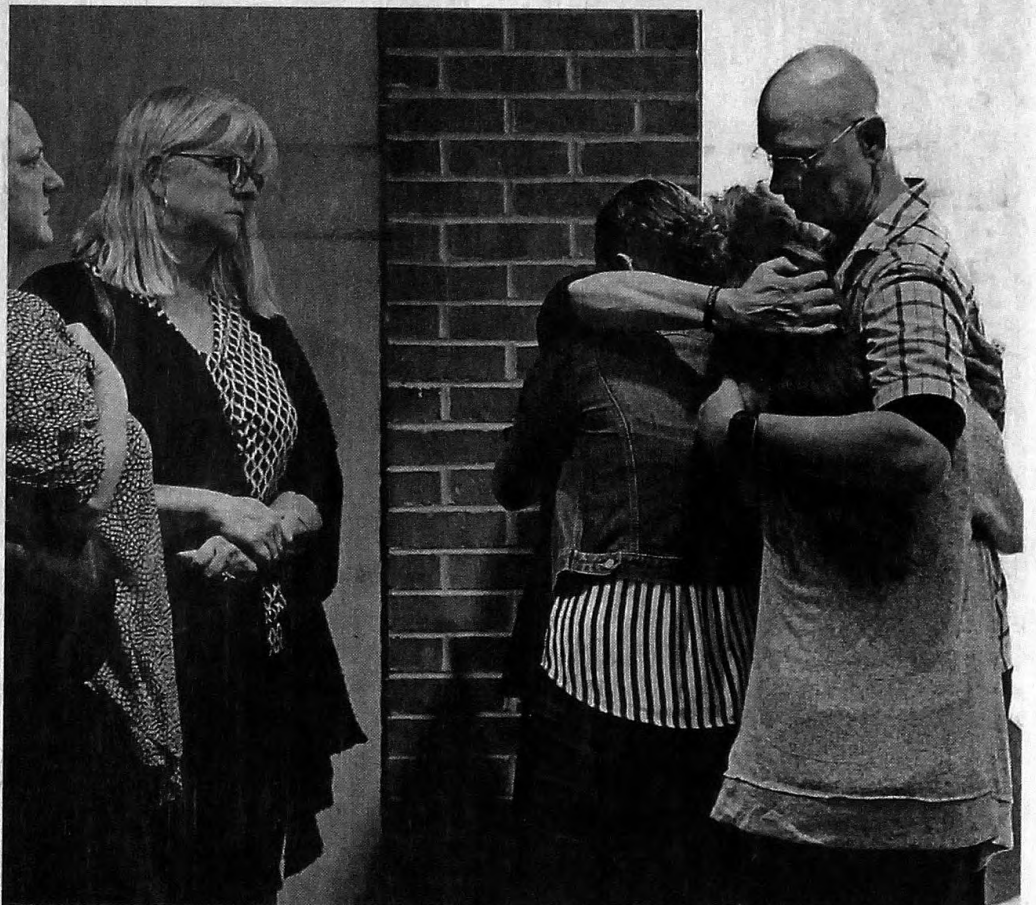
Stislicki, who knew Galloway from her place of work, officially has been declared dead. Her body remains missing.

“The AG had concerns regarding the source, as only the killer could know such details and the possibility of another person assisting in the crime (disposing of evidence – like a body and personal items of the victim) could not be ruled out,” Horowitz added in her brief. “The fact that Mayer and the (polygraph) examiner are fighting tooth and nail to prevent disclosure to the defense speaks volumes as to how damaging the information is.”

She detailed the tip that came in from a polygraph operator who was Mayer’s personal and professional friend. Galloway was a person of interest early in the Stislicki investigation, and the polygraph operator had been working for Galloway’s original attorney John Dakmak when he called Mayer.

Recently repeated in court, the tip consisted of “the security guard did it, he drove her car from his house in Berkley to her apartment, he then walked to Tim Horton’s at 10 and Halsted where he called a Shamrock Cab or something that sounds like Shamrock. He then threw the keys in a grassy area by the freeway while walking to Tim Horton’s. The Fitbit should be near the keys. The victim’s cell phone was placed in the trash at Tim Horton’s and the victim’s body is in a beige or brown comforter.”

Farmington Hills police only recov-



Danielle Stislicki’s family embraces Sept. 10, 2019, after a judge bound over Floyd Galloway’s premeditated murder case to Oakland County Circuit Court.

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE



Stislicki has been missing since Dec. 2, 2016. COURTESY OF THE STISLICKI FAMILY

ered the Fitbit and keys. The items were near the M-5 intersection with Grand River Avenue and Stislicki’s home at Independence Green Apartments.

According to Horowitz’s brief, a crime lab found evidence of two profiles on the Fitbit, one belonging to Stislicki and an unidentified profile that isn’t Galloway’s.

Nebus has said during testimony Mayer would not reveal his tipster and Farmington Hills officers have testified they also did not know the tipster’s name.

Dakmak declined requests to comment for this story, as did Michaels. Horowitz did not respond to a request for comment nor did Mayer’s attorney. The Stislickis declined to talk about the case

during the recent court hearing.

The Michigan Attorney General’s Office sent legal documents previously filed in the case when prompted for comment.

“It is uncontroverted that (the polygraph operator) violated his duty as polygraph examiner by disclosing to a third party information obtained from Mr. Galloway,” Assistant Attorney General Danielle Russo Bennetts said in a court document.

While she said Mayer’s decision to try to keep the tipster confidential was inappropriate, she said he did not act in bad faith when sharing the tip with Nebus and his decision to protect his tipster’s identity does not mean wrongdoing on Farmington Hills’ part.

“He alleges unproven malfeasance and misconduct on the part of essentially, all government parties,” Bennetts wrote of Galloway. “Put in its simplest forms, the defendant seeks from this court a dismissal of the murder charge, based solely upon the actions of one man, (the polygraph operator). (His) action in disclosing the information does not equate to wrongdoing on the part of People and the Farmington Hills police.”

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susan-vela.

Downtown Farmington church puts emphasis on native Michigan garden

Staff Reports

Michigan-made plants are a point of pride for Salem United Church of Christ in downtown Farmington.

The church's grounds are a certified sacred native habitat and are home to flowers and other plants native to Michigan. The church puts an emphasis on native plants because of their environmental benefits, the wildlife habitat they create and their beauty.

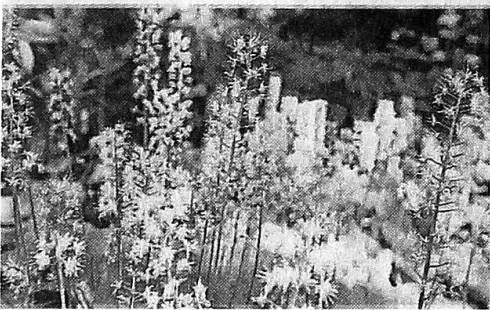
The church's property, located at 33424 Oakland St., includes a pollinator garden, woodland garden and a prairie garden.

Since creating the garden in 2021, the church has seen an uptick in birds, butterflies and bees visiting the property.

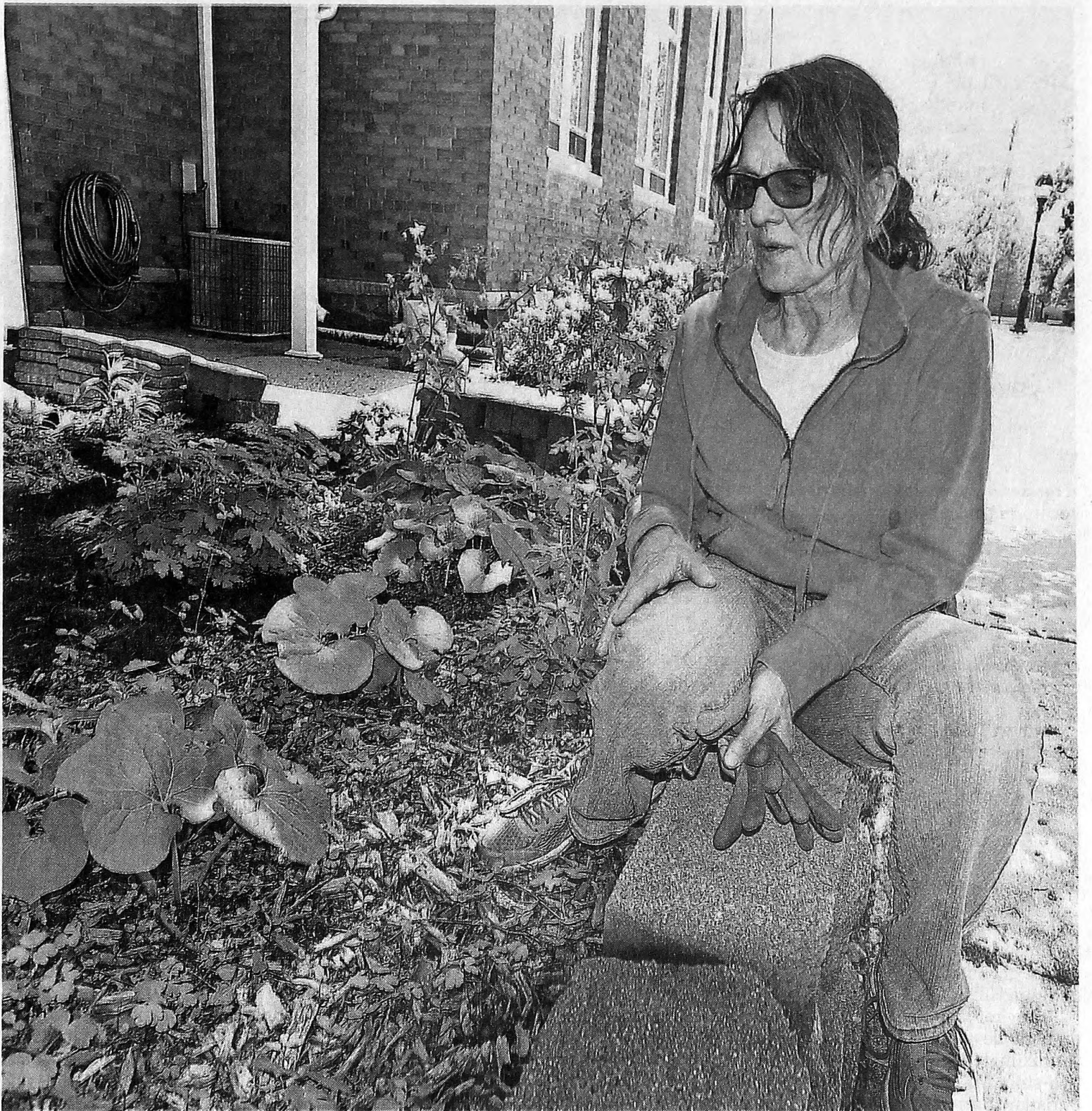
Some of the native flowers on the property include pink and yellow wild columbines and white heartleaf foam-flowers.



Wild columbine growing at the church.

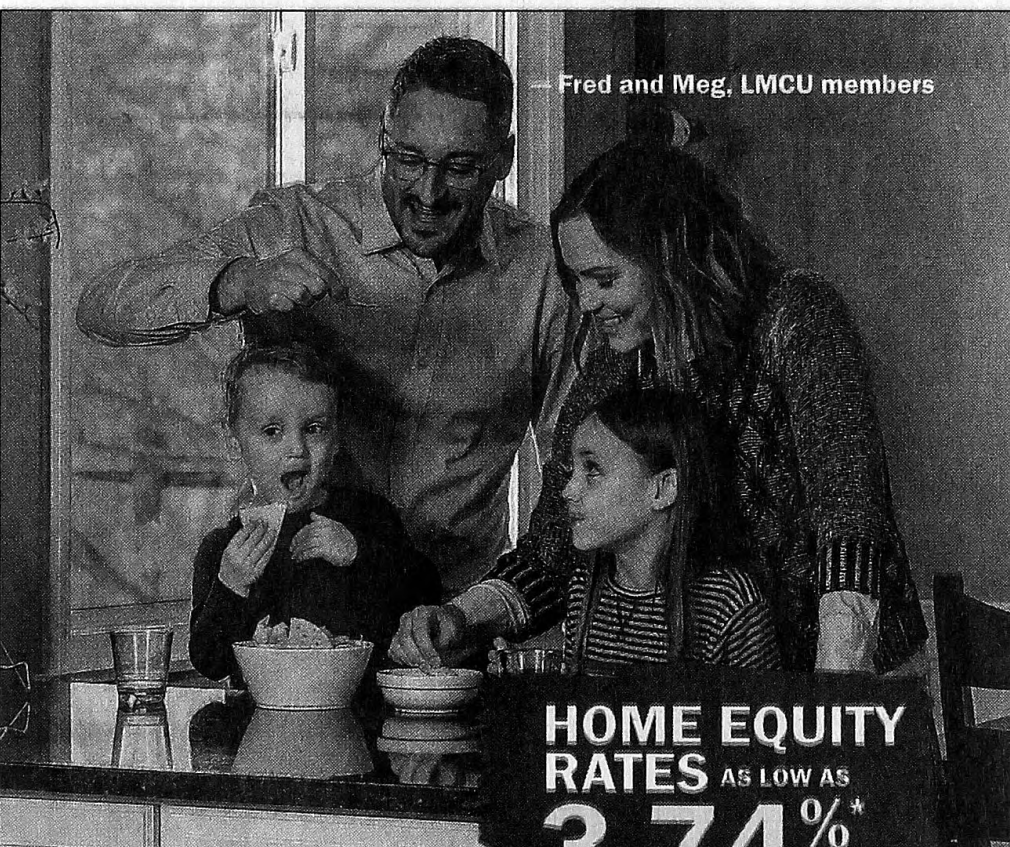


Foam flowers grow in the shade.



Beth Jorgensen tends to the native flower garden at Salem United Church of Christ in downtown Farmington.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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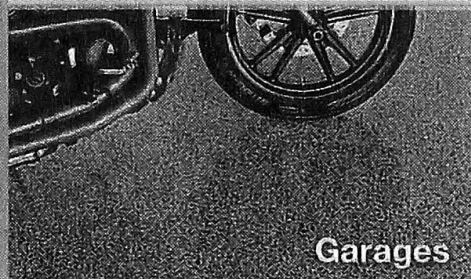
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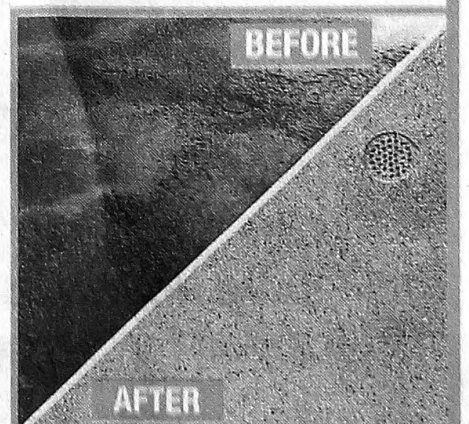
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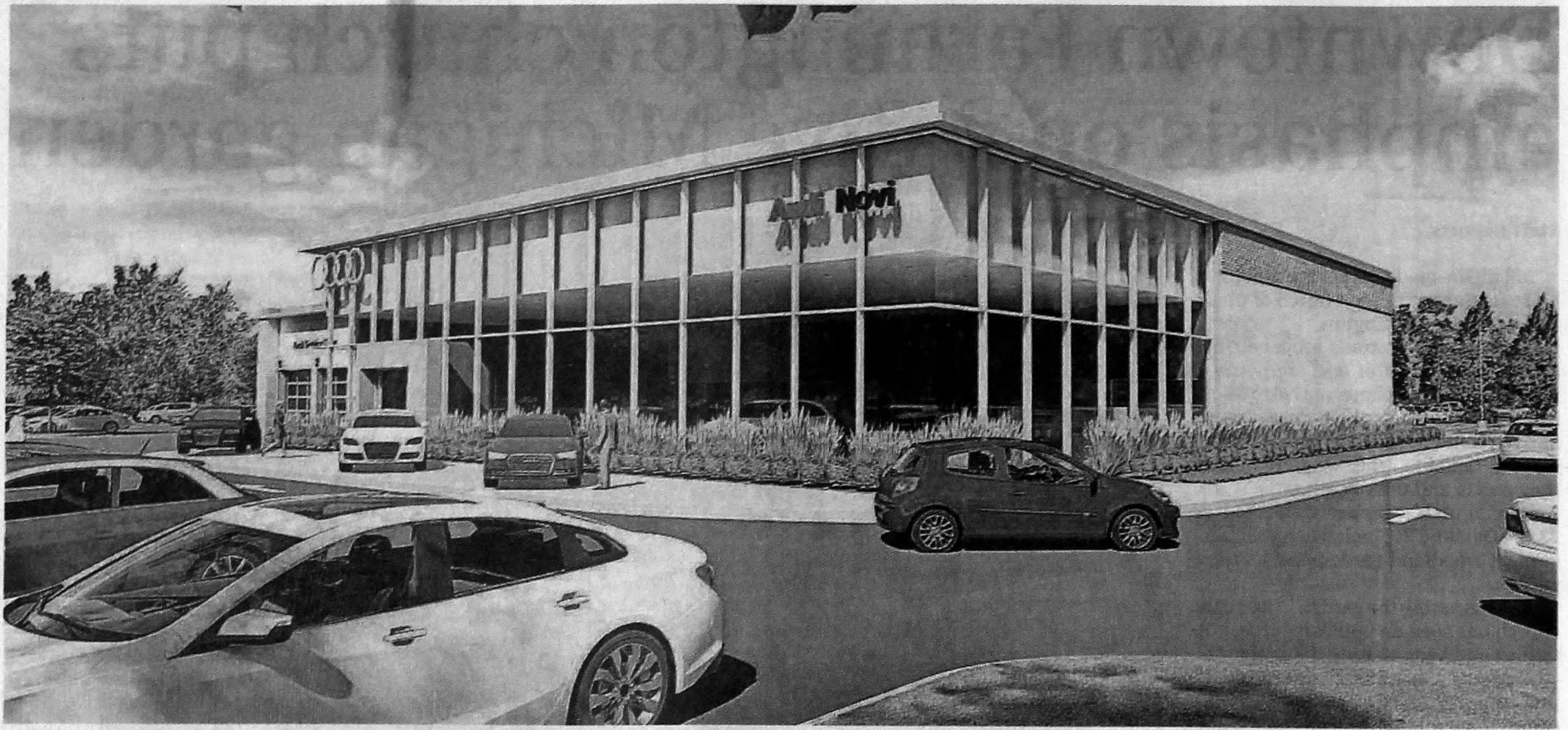
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BEFORE

AFTER



A rendering of what the new dealership at the corner of 10 Mile and Haggerty in Novi is expected to look like. The former Jaguar lot has been empty for years. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF NOVI

Luxury dealership will replace old Jaguar lot in Novi

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Cars will soon once again be sold at the corner of 10 Mile and Haggerty in Novi.

The former Jaguar dealership at 24295 Haggerty will meet with a wrecking ball some time in the future and be replaced with a new, two-story building that will house Audi of Novi.

The plans would bring an auto dealership back to the corner lot, which has been vacant for several years since the Jaguar dealership moved to nearby Farmington Hills.

"They're planning on demolishing that and developing the site to build an approximately 12,000-square-foot, two-story car dealership building," said Christian Carroll, a city planner. "The site's not really changing in use substantially from the previous use."

The plans were reviewed during the city's planning commission meeting May 11 at the Novi Civic Center.

Commissioners recommended approval of the plans, which now need the approval of city council before work can begin.

Shane Burley, an architect with Studio Detroit working on the project, said he expected demolition to begin as quickly as it could.

"We're looking to start as soon as we get the ZBA approval," he said, referencing some additional variances they want to have for the new building. "We do have a few other items to go through from a site perspective, so we plan to gear up and demolish that building."

Planning Commissioner Ramesh Verma said he was concerned about all the glass shattering during the demolition.

With plenty of bustle in the sur-

rounding area, he was worried about it getting off the site and affecting those sites around the former dealership.

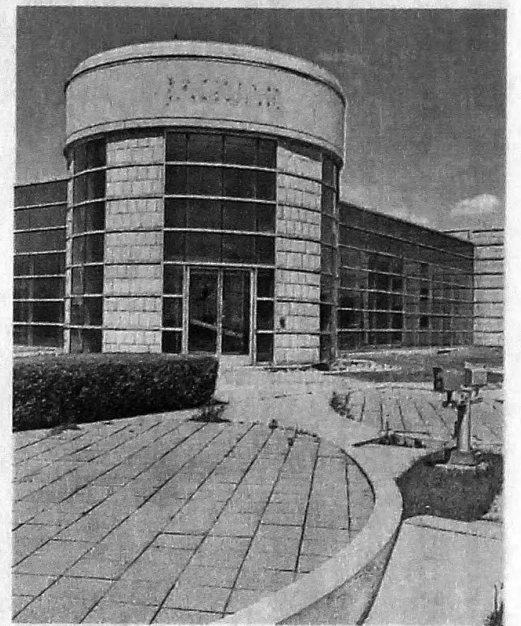
"When you do it, the road is only 60 feet wide and the Dunkin' Donuts and all those (businesses), they are affected," he said. "Make sure you take all of the precautions please."

Burley said the contractor plans to keep all the material on the site when it demolishes the building. He said he expects it will be pushed over; no implosions are expected to take place on the site.

Overall, the commission were in favor of the redevelopment, with all members voting to recommend approval.

"I think it'll fit nicely in the site," said Planning Commissioner Michael Lynch.

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



An Audi dealership will go into the space at 24295 Haggerty. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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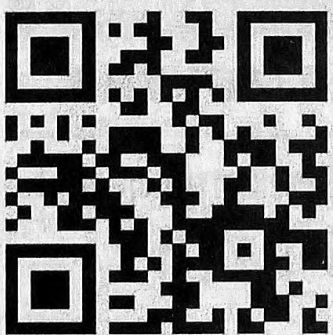
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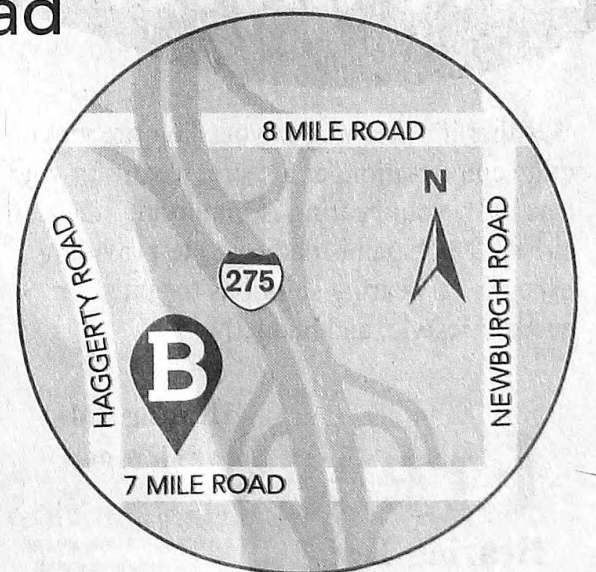


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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

Ancient	Chasm	Lee Point	Solar
Angler	Climb	Link	Storms
Belt	Connect	Lobster	Tiwi
Balmy	Darwin	Monsoon	Top End
Batik	Dust	North	Tour
Big wet	Fiat	Pools	Trip
Boab	Grit	Pots	Tropics
Cafes	Heat	Rain	Vast
Camp	Huge	Rest	Wilderness
Canoe	Humidity	Rock art	
Casuarina	Jabiru	Rods	
Square	Jackaroo	Route	

TODAY'S ANSWER

Matching a Mindil sunset

Darwin lifestyle

JACKEROOROCKART
ARELGNASFLATIAB
BOHEOTDYEHSGRIT
IUUEOBTATFUTPWS
RTGPAISRRTARODS
UEEODCOTTWRCOPE
TNEICNADEHIOLIN
DMMNWNGUWRNNSVR
CUOTAIMSGAANCAE
HAKNCBTTIISEISD
AINLSOAKBNQCPTL
SNIOROILPOUTOTI
MMLMETODMIAURAW
BASCAMPNIYRBTEL
RSUBNTSERSETEHT

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

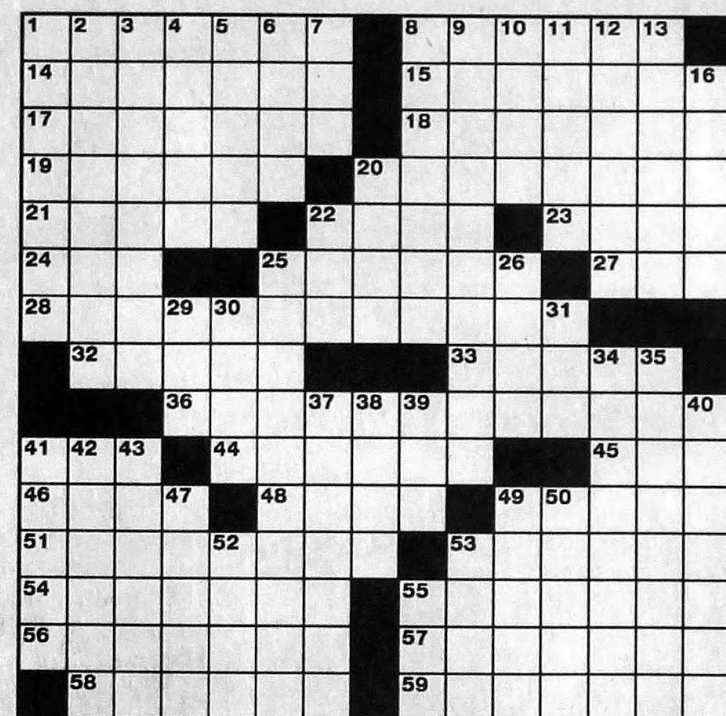
- 1 For few to see
- 8 The absolute worst
- 14 Figured with deduction?
- 15 Opinion checks
- 17 With alacrity
- 18 Lacked a strong beginning
- 19 Post twice
- 20 Inca ruins are on its islands
- 21 Curling equipment
- 22 Pat on the back, maybe
- 23 Go slow
- 24 The point of anything
- 25 Words of wit
- 27 Sight
- 28 Snarky greeting comeback
- 32 Vocal arrangement
- 33 __ school
- 36 Potential asset of thriller fiction
- 41 Trouble spot in many sports
- 44 Aiming to annoy
- 45 Call out
- 46 Back-and-forth
- 48 Howler
- 49 Howler
- 51 Couldn't go on
- 53 Restrictive headwear
- 54 State named for its leader
- 55 Achieves through deceit
- 56 Telenovela fellas
- 57 The buck stops here
- 58 Fun-loving Dungeons & Dragons characters
- 59 Middle Eastern diet

DOWN

- 1 Giving a start
- 2 Intentionally
- 3 Whopping wind
- 4 Change color, often
- 5 They might tell your future
- 6 Lentil, essentially
- 7 Put on
- 8 Doesn't swear for an oath
- 9 '50s free verse
- 10 Sci-fi word
- 11 Give a seat to
- 12 Shingle source

- 13 Aid in reaching out
- 16 Not going straight
- 20 Prepare for playing
- 22 Close cut
- 25 Green beverage brand
- 26 Storage unit starter
- 29 Channels not everyone can see
- 30 Solar heating element
- 31 Don't bet on it
- 34 Devices sent to Little Orphan Annie Secret Society members
- 35 Schoolgoer, say

- 37 Unassuming
- 38 Pain of a person
- 39 Adventurous Dungeons & Dragons character
- 40 Ready to print
- 41 Pains of a person
- 42 Part of much New Age music
- 43 Not one of the 56 Across
- 47 Cartomancy set
- 49 Driver's application
- 50 Isn't straight
- 52 Hard to take in
- 53 Navy
- 55 Not a navy vessel

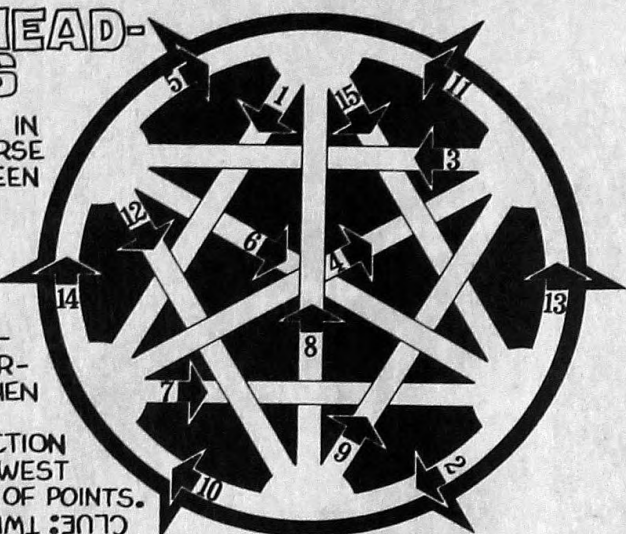


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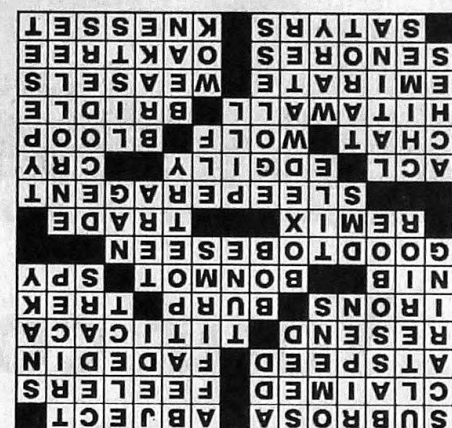
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TODAY'S ANSWER

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Former psych hospital buildings set for demo

David Veselenak hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The last remnants of the former psychiatric hospital in Northville Township are expected to be removed in the near future.

A contract for demolition of the 11 remaining buildings on the property along Seven Mile west of Haggerty was approved by the township board of trustees during its May 12 special meeting. That contract calls for awarding demolition to Asbestos Abatement Inc., the second-lowest bidder that submitted a bid.

With the awarding of the contract,

work is expected to begin later this year. Bob Belair, township director of public services, said the original plan calls for removing six buildings by the end of this year, though the plans now include the removal of all 11 remaining buildings.

"We can tell them any order we want," he said. "Our preference is to get those first 6 done immediately and follow up afterwards."

Those six buildings are expected to come down before the end of the year, with the remaining buildings being removed by summer 2023.

Some hiccups have come up: a recent fire at the property is expected to delay some of the removal.

The demolition contract is expected to cost about \$8.5 million. The project is funded by bonds sold by the township in 2021.

"The funding for the demolition and subsequent inspections come from the \$12 million bond sale Northville Township completed in late 2021 before interest rates rose," said Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo in a statement. "The township will repay the bonds with revenue collected by a Brownfield Tax Increment Financing district created earlier. No money from the township's general fund will be used."

The psychiatric hospital closed its doors in 2003 after it was shuttered by

then-Gov. John Engler. Since then, the buildings have been vacant, attracting people to the site illicitly throughout the years. Plans for the property include transforming it into Legacy Park, which will include trails and bicycle paths.

The demolition will complete the removal of buildings on the property. Several other buildings have already been removed, including the main hospital building back in 2018. Northville Township acquired the property through a millage election back in 2009.

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

Former Ruby Tuesday in Novi to be animal hospital

Susan Bromley hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Dogs and cats could be welcomed into the former Ruby Tuesday building in Novi by early next year.

The dining spot that closed nearly a year ago is set to become the Shelter Bay Animal Hospital after the Novi City Council unanimously approved.

While part of the building will be transformed for veterinary uses, new owner Terry McCarthy plans to keep the Ruby Tuesday kitchen intact and bring in a catering business.

"It's a little too big for us right now," said McCarthy. "We thought to cut it in half and put a vet clinic on the front half... There's a beautiful million-dollar kitchen in the back of this building we don't have the heart to tear up. ... we'll endeavor to see if someone wants a catering kitchen."

McCarthy and his wife, a veterinarian, own Dandy Acres Animal Hospital in Lyon Township and Easthaven Animal Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Shelter Bay Animal Hospital will be an advanced general practice, specializing in imagery and dentistry, and welcoming mostly dogs and cats, but McCarthy said the staff has cared for birds

and even a bearded dragon.

The hospital will not operate as an after-hours emergency clinic and is expected to have mostly regular business hours. But McCarthy said they are "always there for trouble" and some emergencies may be taken care of after typical hours.

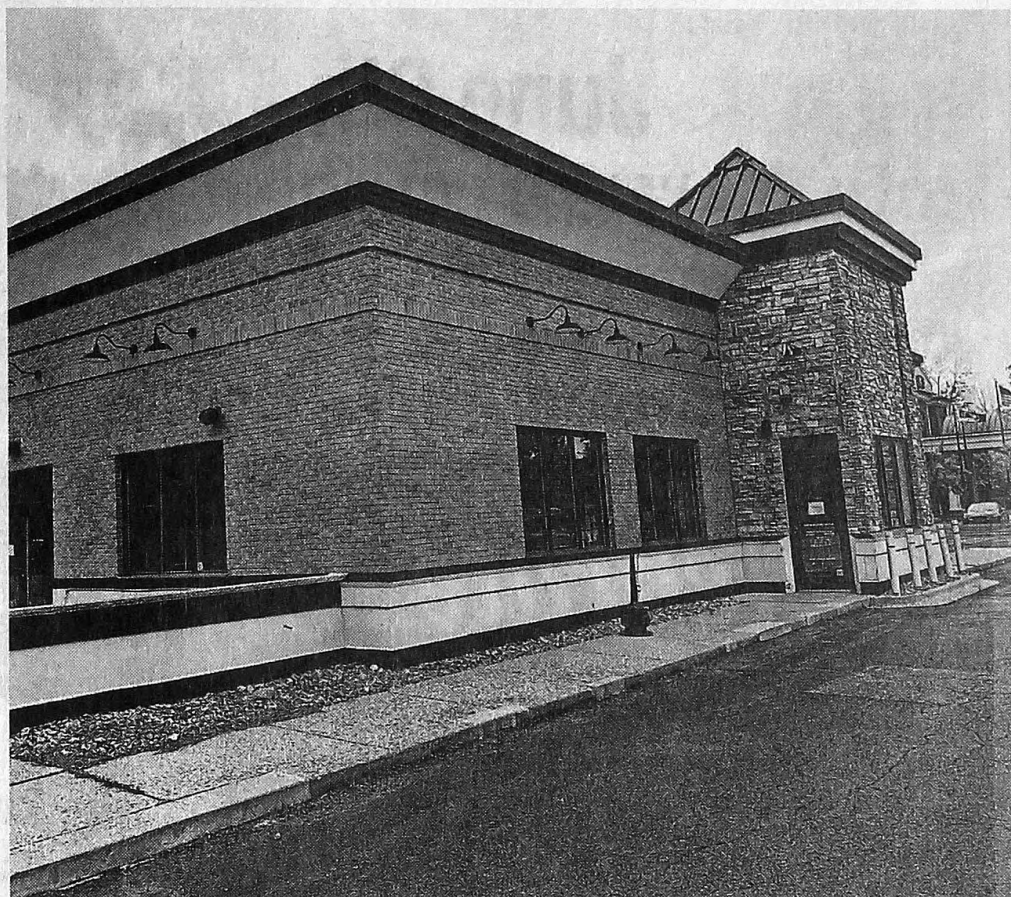
McCarthy said he is excited about the veterinary practice's new facility, which is about 7,300 square feet on 3.15 acres on the south side of Twelve Mile Road.

Ruby Tuesday previously had an agreement with SMART to allow buses in the parking lot when not in service, but McCarthy intends to terminate that agreement.

He said the expansive parking lot, which has 210 spaces, is more than what the hospital needs and said he would consult with his architectural firm about what to do with it.

The building has long been a sit-down restaurant under a 1991 agreement that was struck with adjacent gas station owners. Prior to 2005 and Ruby Tuesday moving in, the building operated as Cooker's Bar & Grill.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.



The former Ruby Tuesday restaurant at 39581 W. 12 Mile Road closed during the pandemic. It was purchased last year by the owners of a veterinary practice, who plan to open it as an animal hospital next year. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Obituaries

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Diane Claudia Bousquette (nee Bickle)

Diane Claudia Bousquette (nee Bickle) died May 23, 2022 at her home in Jupiter Florida. She is survived by her husband of 65 extraordinary years William (Bill) Bousquette, their five children Kevin Bousquette, Matt Bousquette, Janine Mayville, Greg Bousquette and Will Bousquette, their eleven grandchildren and many loving in-laws, nephews, nieces, and friends. She was born and raised in Grosse Pointe Michigan by her parents Melvin and MaryAnn. Diane attended St. Paul High School and the University of Michigan and was an avid supporter of Michigan sports her entire life. Through the years she lived in, and left her mark on, the Detroit area, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Fort Worth, Purchase New York and Jupiter Florida. Diane was a force in life, changing everyone and everything she touched with her love, commitment and energy. Hers was a lifetime of family, travel, arts, sports and contributions to her community. She served as a board member of the Detroit Symphony League, League of Women Voters, Volunteer Service Council of St. Louis, Fort Worth Ballet, Fort Worth Symphony, Fort Worth Opera and the Van Cliburn Foundation. She also served as a docent for many years at the St. Louis Art Museum, Kimball Art Museum and the Guggenheim New York. Her tours inevitably attracted large crowds of people laughing and learning from her unique delivery and insights. Diane was a fierce competitor; captain of her high school's championship basketball team, an avid tennis player, bowler, skier, golfer and trivia champion. She also worked to bring beauty into the world, a tireless gardener, talented photographer, painter, sculptor, pianist and acclaimed Charleston dancer. She loved giving gifts and her family was often surprised by presents unrelated to any special occasion, but instead sent because she was thinking about them. The greatest gift she left her family was her intense passion for living and her drive to experience everything that could be experienced. Diane was unforgettable. The world is a better place for having her and a poorer place for her departure. She will be profoundly missed. Family will receive friends Friday, June 3, 7-9pm at A.J. Desmond and Sons Funeral Home, 32515 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, 248-549-0500. The funeral mass will be Saturday, June 4, 10am at St. Regis Catholic Church, 3695 Lincoln Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Visitation at church will begin at 9:30am. Rite of Committal will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Sign tribute wall at AJDesmond.com



Betty Troyanek

-- of Troy, passed away peacefully on May 19, 2022. Betty was born October 13, 1932 in Port Huron. She is survived by her devoted husband Richard "Dick" L. Troyanek of 71 years, loving daughters Marrie Parsons (John) and Heather Marsoupien (Jerry); 5 grandchildren: Ryan Rozycki (Todd), Allison Miller (Tim), Tyler Parsons (Kari), Laura Young (Kris), and Mallory Bergeson (Scott); 4 great grandchildren and one step great grandchild. Betty was preceded in death by her parents Russell and Gertrude (nee Sparling) Monnier and her sister Geraldine (nee Monnier) Jones. The family will hold a closed funeral to celebrate her life. Interment will be at White Chapel Memorial Park Cemetery. In lieu flowers the family is requesting that you honor Betty's memory by contributing to a charity of your choice. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500.

View obituary and sign tribute wall at AJDesmond.com



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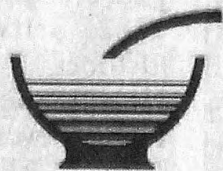


The Rugiero family cordially invites you to join them in celebration of the 29th Annual Feast of St. Antonio on Monday, June 13, 2022. To keep with the tradition of giving to those less fortunate, choose the Lunch Buffet (11 am - 3pm) and donate what you can

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SPORTS



Bloomfield Hills' Avary Hall (right) dribbles past Waterford Mott's Karli Koskinen on May 31 during the Division 1 district semifinal at West Bloomfield. The Black Hawks won, 8-0. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth hockey hires hall-of-fame coach Dallas

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Yes, Dearborn Unified is disbanding as a high school hockey team.

But that's not the only reason Brian Dallas, the former coach of the co-op team between Dearborn and Dearborn Edsel Ford, applied for Plymouth's opening this past spring.

"As I said in the interview, I think Plymouth is a sleeping giant," Dallas told Hometown Life. "They have a lot of athletes and a very positive-oriented district in terms of athletics and academics. The facilities are great. They play in a great league. They have all the ingredients you want in a high school program, and a strong community exists in Plymouth, too."

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools formally announced Dallas' hiring as the Wildcats' new hockey coach on its athletics website on May 6.

Dallas could prove to be the shot in the arm Plymouth needs to become competitive in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

And to be competitive in the KLAA, you need to be elite.

This past winter alone, Hartland won its third Division 2 state title and made its fifth appearance in a state final, while Brighton was the runner-up in D-1 after losing a battle to Detroit Catholic Central.

What's more, Livonia Stevenson has played in three state finals under coach David Mitchell, including winning the 2013 D-2 state title, Novi won a D-1 title in 2011, Brighton has five D-1 championships in eight tries, Howell has played in a pair of D-1 title games and Livonia Churchill even appeared in the 2018 D-3 state final.

If Dallas can get the most out of the talent at Plymouth, he could be the first from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park to get to play for a state championship at USA Hockey Arena.

"I've seen them (Plymouth) play a couple of times over the last couple of years," Dallas said. "I think some of the

See COACH, Page 2B

Black Hawks overcome adversity to conquer Mott in playoff opener

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Western Michigan signee Drew Martin lasered in a goal in the 13th minute to give the Bloomfield Hills girls soccer team a 2-0 advantage in Tuesday's Division 1 district semifinal, they started talking about it being a blowout.

No, not the players on the field.

This chatter was coming from a few of the fans in the stands at West Bloomfield's stadium.

"This one might get over pretty quickly," one of the Black Hawks' faithful said about the lead over Waterford Mott.

You could call it a jinx or a hex or whatever.

But the rest of the first half was any-

thing but easy for Bloomfield Hills.

A few moments later, Alice Spiegel, another WMU signee, limped off the turf.

The Black Hawks started stringing together beautiful pass after beautiful pass. And these weren't hopping and bouncing around either.

See PLAYOFF, Page 3B

MSU grad pushes himself to extremes as long-distance kayaker

Ryan Black Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Each time Mike Stout sets off on one of his long-distance water journeys, he's never quite sure how it will end. Water is unpredictable. And unforgiving.

Yet Stout, who calls himself an "extreme kayaker," said that's part of what

drives him in the first place. If there wasn't ever-present danger, it wouldn't be as fun.

"It's definitely not recommended to push one's self to these extremes, alone, and often in areas other people won't be in," said the 61-year-old Stout, a 1983 graduate of Michigan State who paddled his 6,000th mile earlier this week after completing a trip down the Kala-

mazoo River, starting in Plainwell and ending in Saugatuck. "I'm definitely someone who likes to push the envelope. I like taking risks."

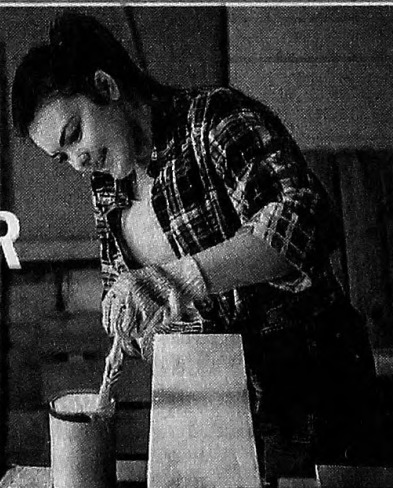
Stout's risk-taking nature has helped him set, in his own words, "unofficial world records." One is his total mileage. Another is becoming the first person to solo paddle across Lake Michigan more than once; he's done that five times, in-

cluding three times in a 33-day span last year. And he became the first person known to have traversed, on his own, the always perilous Lake Superior.

He said he plans to move on from extreme kayaking at the end of this year. He still has a few more things he wants to achieve before then, though.

See KAYAKER, Page 2B

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Kayaker

Continued from Page 1B

'That's what I do'

The precariousness inherent in Stout's weekend passion has led him to keep many of his journeys to himself to alleviate the concerns of others.

"I've made it a habit to not tell people in advance," he said, even if that means those in his inner circle aren't always aware of where he'll be kayaking at any given time. "As far as they know, I'm watching a ballgame or at the movies. My daughters are in their 20s and they have their own lives. They're not worried about what their dad is doing.

"Afterward I'll tell them, 'Hey, I just crossed Lake Michigan again.' They kind of roll their eyes and go, 'Well that's just what dad does. He just likes doing crazy things.' That's what I do. They know me."

That doesn't make it any easier on Christine Pearson, Stout's girlfriend. Once college sweethearts, the pair reconnected last year. Given that Stout constantly posts on social media about his latest kayaking endeavors, Pearson was well aware what she was getting into when they rekindled their relationship 40 years after it first began.

Since they started dating, Pearson said Stout's solo river trips are a breeze — they talk all the time. Not so on the lake crossings, which worry her to no end.

"It's nerve-racking, especially when you can see the power of those waves coming in and what can happen when the wind picks up and changes," she said. "But I trust that he knows what he's doing. I've seen him in action a few times navigating the waters."

'Hilarious and tragic'

Even as experienced and as capable as Stout is on the water, Lake Superior gave him all he could handle. Given its formidable history — nearly a half-century later, the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald on the lake still weighs heavily on the mind of many Michiganders — Stout's close friends begged and pleaded with him not to attempt crossing it.

He did anyway.

And he knew that if something happened during the trip, there wouldn't be a search-and-rescue mission. It would be a recovery operation.

"That one almost turned out tragically," he said, "but obviously, I'm here to tell the story."

With his destination nearing, the wind picked up, gusting at more than 30 mph and sending waves more than 4 feet tall crashing over his kayak. He wanted to make a sharp turn toward the shoreline; the problem is, making such a tight turn makes the kayak more likely to tip over. Instead, he faced the waves head on, paddling parallel to the shoreline until the waves finally receded to the point he could turn toward land.

It remains the worst conditions he's ever battled.

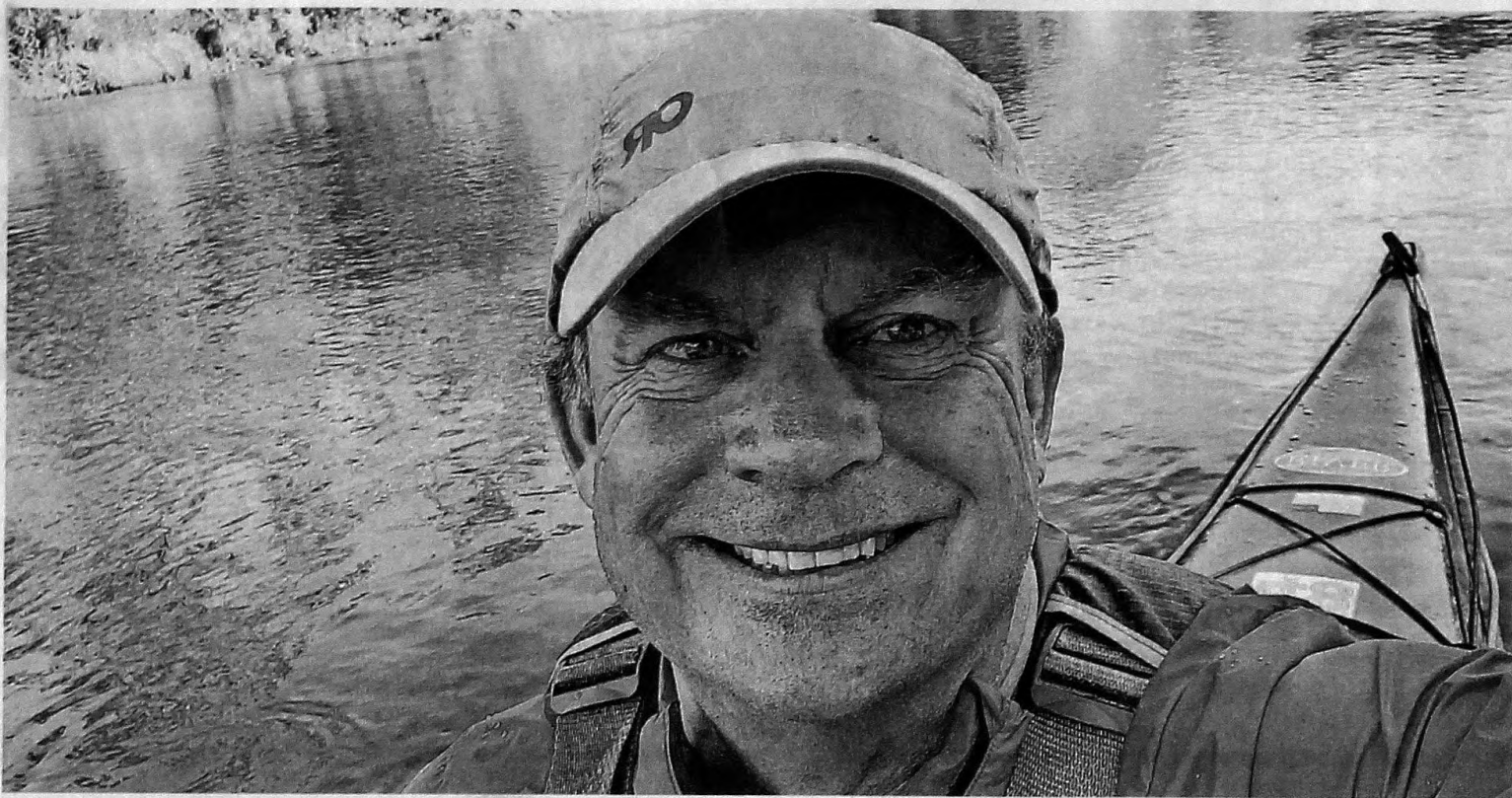
"You just can't let fear or worry set in," he said.

That wasn't the only drama he experienced on that trip, though. As he neared the end of the Houghton Channel, three charter boats shoved off to take clients fishing.

"They're not looking for a kayaker in those conditions at that time of the morning," Stout said.

The first charter boat veered off course just before colliding with Stout's kayak. The second boat got the message and followed the lead boat to the left. The final boat didn't follow suit.

"He almost ran over me," said Stout, who joked it would have made for a macabre conclusion to his epic journey. "What a tragic circumstance (that



Mike Stout, a 1983 Michigan State graduate, paddled his 6,000th mile on his kayak Monday after wrapping up a trip down the Kalamazoo River. Stout has crossed Lake Michigan five times and Lake Superior once. COURTESY PHOTOS



Stout wants to cross lakes Huron and Ontario next. He took up kayaking in 2016.

would have been), having paddled almost all the way across Lake Superior and then to get run over by a charter boat. That would have been hilarious and tragic."

Safety and nutrition

Though it's easier said than done, Stout does everything he can to mitigate danger, including alerting authorities about his car ("If it looks abandoned, it isn't," he said) as well as letting the Coast Guard know about his lake trips (if an SOS comes through, for some reason, it's him). Though he tries to paddle during daylight as often as possible, he has a headlamp and a beacon on his 17-foot, 2-inch kayak when the sun sets.

He also has his replenishment down to a science.

Every hour, he chugs electrolyte-enhanced drinks to remain properly hydrated. Every two hours he'll have a drink and a light snack — an apple, a ba-

vana, beef jerky — "just to get some food in my system," he said. And every four hours, he'll have a fuller meal, with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches a favorite.

"If you get to the point where you're undernourished or underhydrated, that's where you start having cramping of muscles, be it the shoulders, the hands or the abs," he said. "They can lock up on you. They get really tight. It's miserable and painful. So I'm very diligent about my nutrition. It helps me maintain my speed and endurance over long periods of time."

Though he now lives near Minneapolis, Stout, who is the president of his own marketing and consulting firm, grew up in Grand Rapids. His father owned rental properties on the Grand River, where the younger Stout first started kayaking as a teenager. But he was far more interested in other things at that point in his life — "sports, school, girls." So kayaking fell by the wayside

until 2016, when he jumped into the deep end.

His kayak, an open-sea, custom-built version, is more suited to "big waterways" such as oceans than narrow rivers. But with oceans not close to his Minnesota home, he chose the next best thing — the Great Lakes.

"As I became more comfortable and more confident, I began chasing more distance and bigger rivers and new rivers and new lakes," he said. "This evolved out of a way to keep pushing myself."

Inspiring others

Stout, who is planning a future move to the Lansing area, said he plans to step away from his hobby at the end of the year. (He jokes that he makes that statement every year.) But before 2022 concludes, he has more challenges in front of him.

He wants to cross two more Great Lakes — Huron and Ontario — off his list. He wants to paddle across Lake Michigan for a sixth time, and perhaps break the 13-hour barrier; his best time in five attempts so far is 13 hours, eight minutes.

Stout said he's proud of what he's accomplished. But he hopes it doesn't end with him.

"That's why I share my stories of paddling: I hope it inspires adventure in others," he said. "Walk around the park. Go to the beach. In Michigan, you're a short distance from a Great Lake, like Michigan, Superior, Huron. Just go there and take in these incredible views."

While Stout routinely downplays what he's achieved, Pearson and others are amazed.

"He's not going out there to beat anyone's records — because there aren't any records (for extreme kayaking)," she said. "He's just competing against himself and trying to get stronger and beat his own times. He wants to do better than the time he did before. He just wants to do whatever he does the best that he can."

Ultimately, Stout said his various kayaking accomplishments aren't what motivates him.

Instead, he'll remember the quiet times on the water, in rhythm with Mother Nature.

"I've always had a zest for life. I picked up this sport and fell in love with it because I love the water, I love exercise, the adventure, pushing the envelope," he said. "Being in the water alone for long distances, it gives you solitude, serenity. You see things that otherwise you wouldn't see. And I've done some things no one has ever done."

Coach

Continued from Page 1B

things I bring to the table in terms of individual skill development will help the players. It's about improving their game, and that'll help them as a team. I haven't broken down Plymouth in terms of what they have, but there's a great deal of potential with this team. I'll be working to bring that out of them."

Dallas, who will remain a teacher with Dearborn Public Schools while leading the Wildcats, knows a little something about getting the most out of his players.

He was inducted into the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2011.

Before coaching DU for the past nine seasons, he spent 18 years at Dearborn Divine Child, including leading the Falcons to back-to-back appearances in

the D-3 state championship. That included them beating East Grand Rapids 3-2 in 2002 to claim Divine Child's first-ever state championship in hockey.

He's made the state semifinals four times. He's won seven regional championships. He's claimed seven league titles.

He boasts a 357-291-58 career record and has won three different Coach of the Year honors.

Now he's ready to bring that experience to the Wildcats' bench.

"I'm definitely going to instill the belief that you can win any game on any night if you put forth the proper effort and put in the work to get ready for that," Dallas said. "We're never going to go into any game assuming a loss to another team. I know we're going to have to work to get ready for that. We're going to play teams like Hartland, Stevenson, Canton, Salem and Brighton. All of those teams had great years last year.

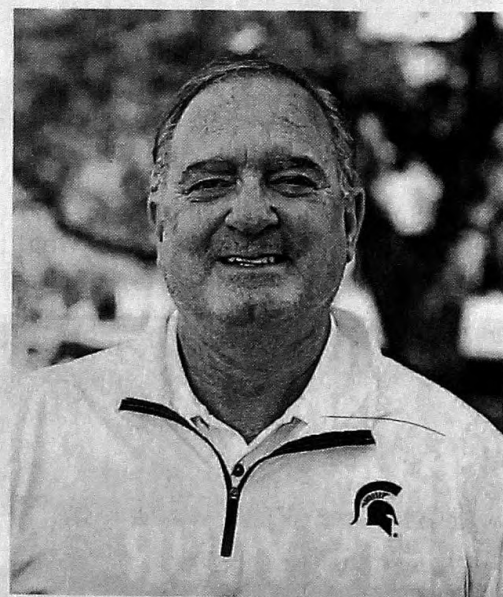
"It's going to be a tough schedule, so

you have to have the mentality that you're going to be competitive as as we possibly can every night. We can never take in an attitude that we're over-matched. We're going to come, battle, block shots, scrap and do everything we can to stay in games and be fully prepared to give our maximum effort to put ourselves in a position to win every night."

A year ago, the Wildcats went 8-17 overall under second-year coach Darrin Silvester. They beat Farmington United 9-0 in the regional opener but fell to the M-1 Griffins (Berkley's co-op) 5-2 in the semifinal.

Dallas plans on hosting summer skills camps as well as taking the team to a summer league in Trenton to learn the strengths and weaknesses of each returner from last year's squad.

"It's something I'm familiar with, and it's good, quality competition," he said about heading downriver for some scrimmages. "It'll give me chance to evaluate everything."



Plymouth High School has hired Brian Dallas as its new hockey coach. He was inducted into the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2011.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Playoff

Continued from Page 1B

They were playing to feet — just the perfect touch.

But the through-balls. Those were another story. Almost every chance at a breakaway or 2-on-1 possession resulted in the side judge waving his flag for an offside call. Not once, not twice but about 14 times. Seriously.

Bloomfield Hills had no trouble controlling the possession, but the few shots they put on frame were just off the mark, either wide left or a little too high to slip into the net.

Another shot even hit the crossbar dead-center. No, not that one. The crossbar on the football field goal post!

In the 33rd minute, Ava Badallo, who's headed to Division II West Virginia Wesleyan, went for a tackle and strained one of her quads. She, too, left the game.

So, yeah, the Black Hawks were fortunate to escape the first half with that 2-0 lead. The game looked far from "getting over pretty quickly." It was an all-out battle.

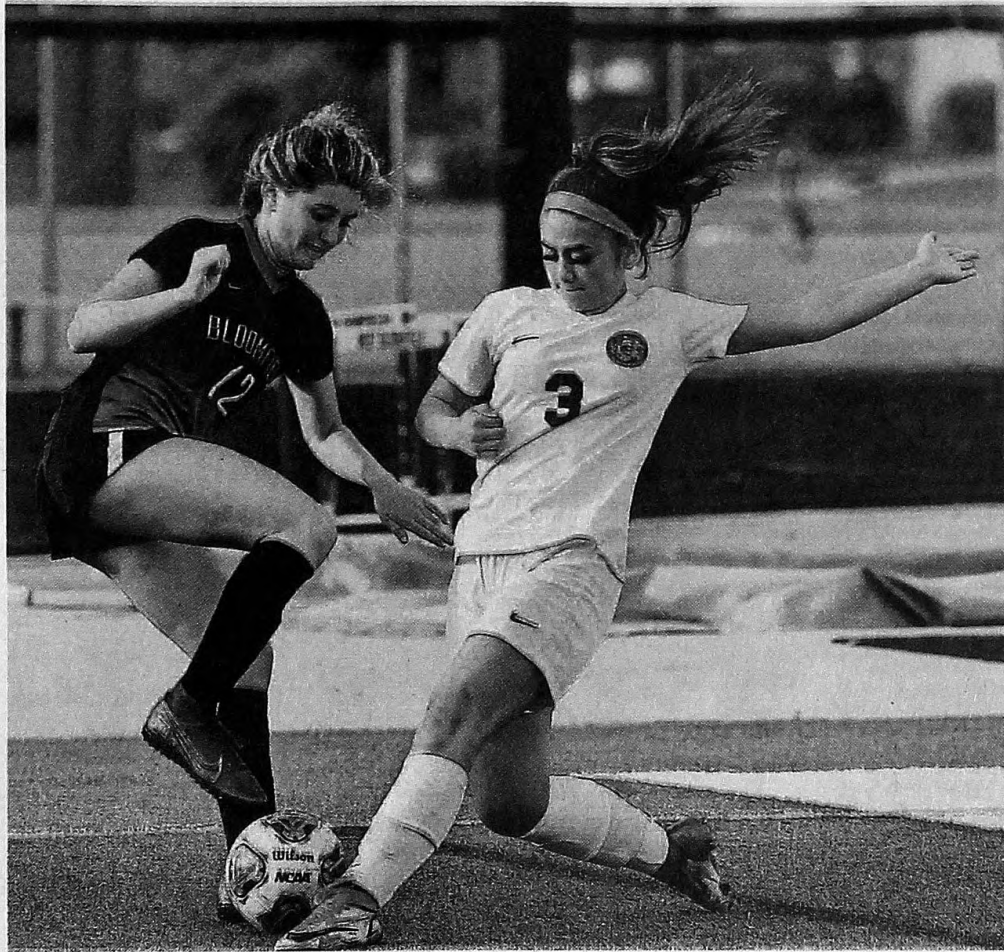
"The first game in the playoffs, I think there were nerves on both sides," Black Hawks coach Alan Zakaria said. "I think our girls relaxed and started playing together. I'm glad to see they improved in the second half."

They sure did.

In an all-out battle, a battle-tested team needs to show up. And Bloomfield Hills sure did show up in the second half.

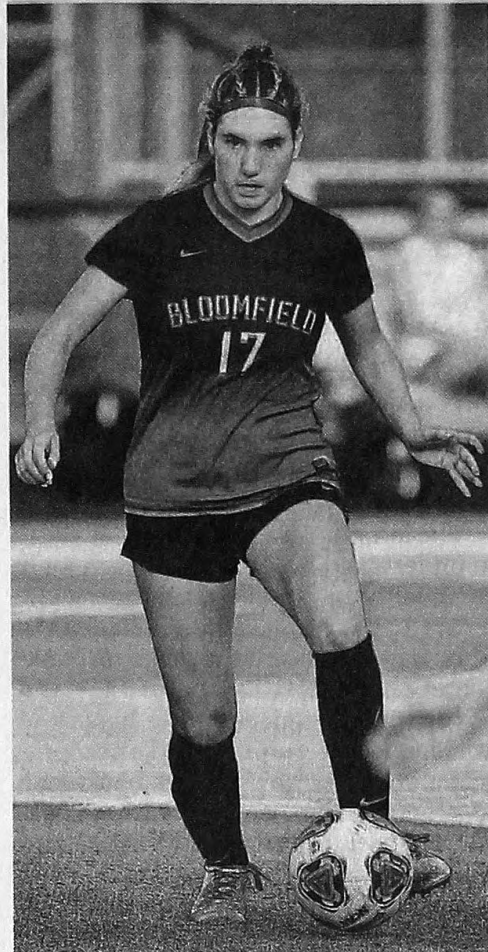
Just look at the Black Hawks' resume. They boast a 10-2-3 record after finishing third in the Oakland Activities Association-Red, one of the toughest leagues in Michigan. The top-four teams in that division all finished ranked in the final D-1 poll released by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association two weeks ago, which included Bloomfield Hills checking in at No. 12.

Earlier this spring, the Black Hawks stopped the bleeding late and salvaged a 5-5 tie with No. 15 Troy. They lost to league champion Rochester, which is ranked No. 5, by just one goal. They beat 10th-ranked South Lyon East and tied third-ranked Pontiac Notre Dame Prep. They've seen their fair share of high-stakes games.



Bloomfield Hills' Esther Rosett (left) gets the ball free from Waterford Mott's Lexi Her on May 31 during the Division 1 district final at West Bloomfield.

PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Bloomfield Hills' Ava Badallo looks to pass against Waterford Mott.

Plus, take a look at their roster. They have two players signed to play for D-I WMU. Badallo is playing D-II. Emma Merchant is headed to Aquinas College. They have seven veteran seniors, and a bunch of the younger girls will for sure play in college, too.

They have some of the best up-and-comers in the state. And guess what? The top player in the school isn't even on this team. Iowa signee Kellen Fife actually plays club instead of for her high school.

So all of that is why it wasn't a surprise when Esther Rosett boomed in a goal just 1 minute, 2 seconds into the second half.

And then the goals just kept coming. Brooke Green pushed in a loose ball in front of the net.

Avary Hall scored one for herself. Emma Henry notched the mercy-rule goal that ensured the Black Hawks an 8-0 victory with 15:18 remaining.

And even Badallo, who came back from injury, scored back-to-back goals

during that stretch. That included her winning a one-on-one with the goalkeeper and nailing a strike from 5 yards out.

In the second half, Bloomfield Hills did everything you'd expect from a senior-laden squad to do in a playoff game. It had no trouble overcoming adversity, even in a game that didn't require the full 80 minutes.

"At first, a lot of it had to do with our mentality," Badallo said. "Yeah, our effort was there. There was so much effort, so much positivity and encouragement, whatever. But, on the field, that wasn't really shown until the second half when we picked it up, talked about it and said we needed to change something, and that's what we did."

"We always talk about the first 10 minutes of each half. In the second half, especially, we picked it up, and we got way higher (on our runs) and finished our opportunities. In the first half, I think we were struggling a lot because offsides had a lot to do with it, and we'd

barely be a yard or 2 offsides, so I think the timing of our runs and plays had to be a little bit sharper, a little bit better. We picked that up in the second half and were able to finish our opportunities and chances."

On paper, the Black Hawks have the big wins and the even bigger star players to prove they not only could win the district tournament but make a push for a regional title and maybe even a quarter-final appearance.

Maybe even more. As long as they continue to fight through adversity, as they did against Mott, anything is possible.

"It's their mentality," Zakaria said. "We really value camaraderie, staying together, being together and working hard. They have discipline and leadership, and they've exhibited that all year long."

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



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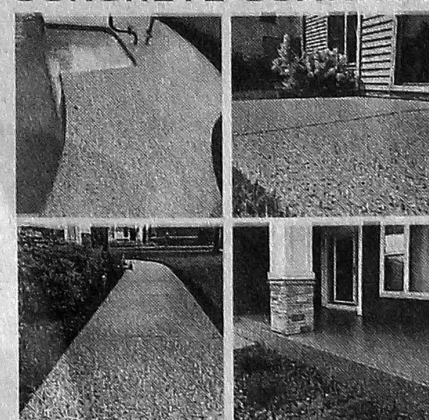
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LASTING LESSONS

One-time heralded MSU basketball recruit now leads alma mater

Ryan Black Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The lessons Marquise Gray has come to understand over the years have only come with the benefit of time.

Gray's life, after all, has been defined by how he dealt with the pressure of expectations — first as one of the most highly touted signees in the history of Michigan State's storied basketball program, and now as the boys basketball coach of his alma mater, Beecher High, one of the most successful schools in the state.

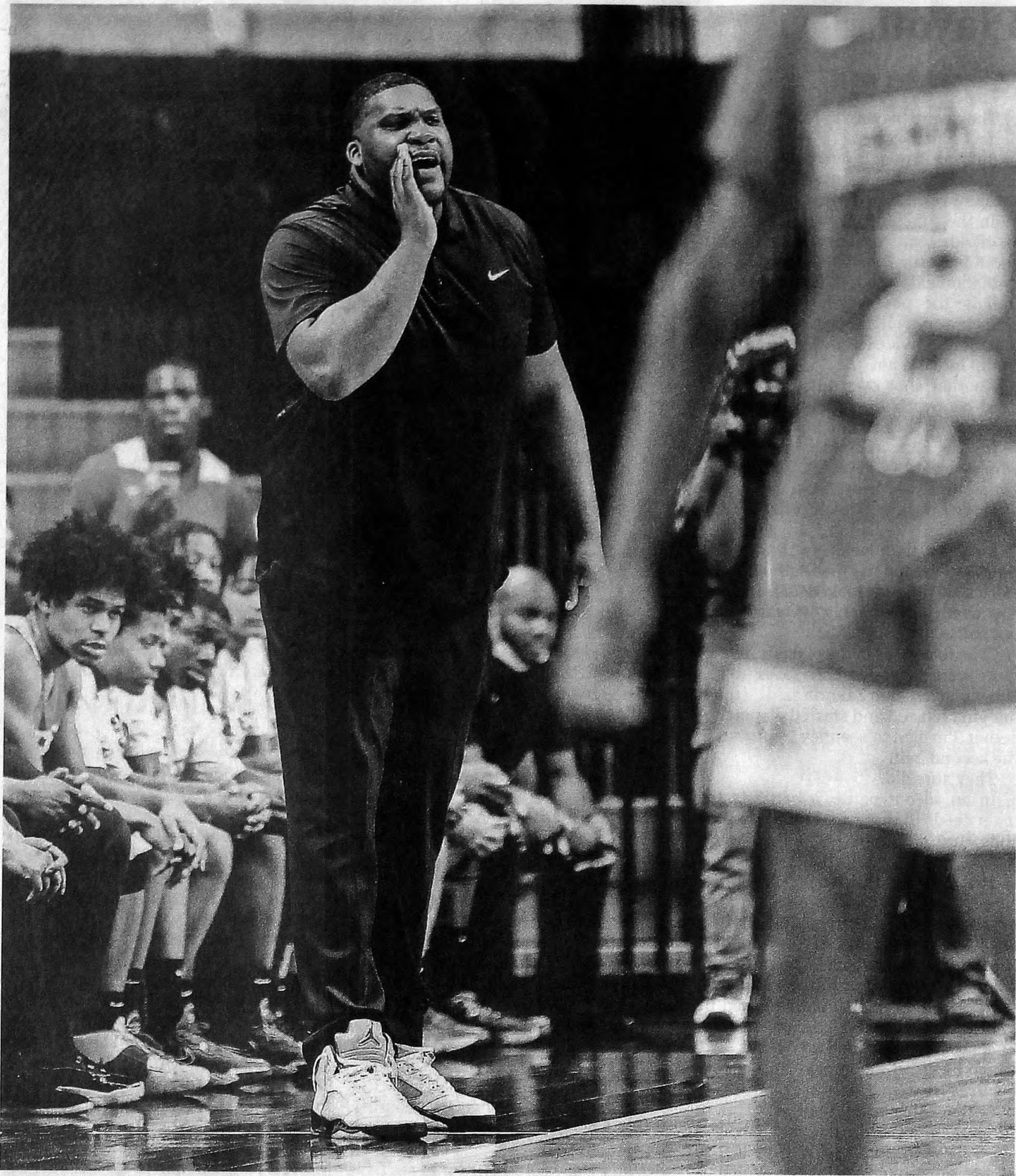
Gray acknowledges that he's now far better equipped to handle any obstacles that may come his way.

He thanks hindsight for that. Gray just wishes he had known the magnitude of what it meant to become the latest "Flintstone" — Flint natives, starting with the group of Antonio Smith, Ma-teen Cleaves, Morris Peterson and Charlie Bell, who helped the Spartans to three Final Fours and a national championship in 2000 — when he signed with the program in 2004.

"I didn't understand the enormity of the decision that I made to come to Michigan State," he said. "In retrospect, I understand it. But at the time, I was a 17-year-old, carefree kid who just wanted to play basketball."

Though Gray was part of MSU teams that made their own pair of Final Four runs, first in 2005 and the next during his final season in 2009, he never lived up to the expectations that accompanied his five-star status. He made peace with that long ago.

His present focus is shaping this generation of Beecher players.



Flint Beecher head coach Marquise Gray calls out to his players March 24 in a Division 3 semifinal against Schoolcraft.
JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

See **LESSONS**, Page 5B

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD SUMMARY OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

In the month of May 2022, the Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees held the following regularly scheduled meetings on **May 9 & May 23, 2022**. A study session was held on **May 3, 2022**.

A full synopsis of the above meetings is posted and available on the Township website at <https://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Government/Legal-Notices.aspx>, and in the Clerk's Office for public viewing. Please call the Clerk's Office at 248-433-7702 if you have any difficulty locating the synopsis.

MARTIN C. BROOK
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP CLERK

Publish: June 5, 2022

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Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant of Michigan Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being Sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

Academy Board of Directors, 2021-22 Amended Board Meeting Calendar, New School High, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth MI 48170, Phone: (734) 386-6601, Website: newschoolhigh.org

Public Hearing

Time: 6:30 pm Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022
Location: 46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth MI 48170

The budget under consideration is available for public inspection at the meeting. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. A copy of the meeting minutes is available for public inspection at the Academy office address within 8 business days for proposed minutes and 5 business days for approved minutes. The Academy shall comply with subtitle A of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336, 42 USC 12101 et seq or any successor law. Should you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting, please contact Wendi Felgner at (734) 386-6601 prior to the meeting.

Publish: June 5, 2022

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Redford Union Schools, District #1 NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2022-2023 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 14, 2022, at 5:00 o'clock p.m., at 17711 Kinloch, Redford, Michigan, the Board of Education of Redford Union Schools, District #1 will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2022-2023 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2022-2023 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2022-2023 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 17715 Brady, Redford, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Lisa Gubachy
Secretary

Publish: June 5, 2022

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PUBLIC NOTICE PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD

Regular Meeting
June 21, 2022
7:30 P.M.

THE BOARD MEETING IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT; THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND IN-PERSON OR ELECTRONICALLY

Persons interested in attending electronically may access the Conference Call by dialing: 1 651 372 8299
Or Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84949591404>
Meeting ID: 849 4959 1404, Passcode: 99536543

Please see agenda on website www.plymouthlibrary.org
The agenda will be posted by June 18, 2022

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its Regular Meeting on June 21, 2022. The meeting will be offered in hybrid format.

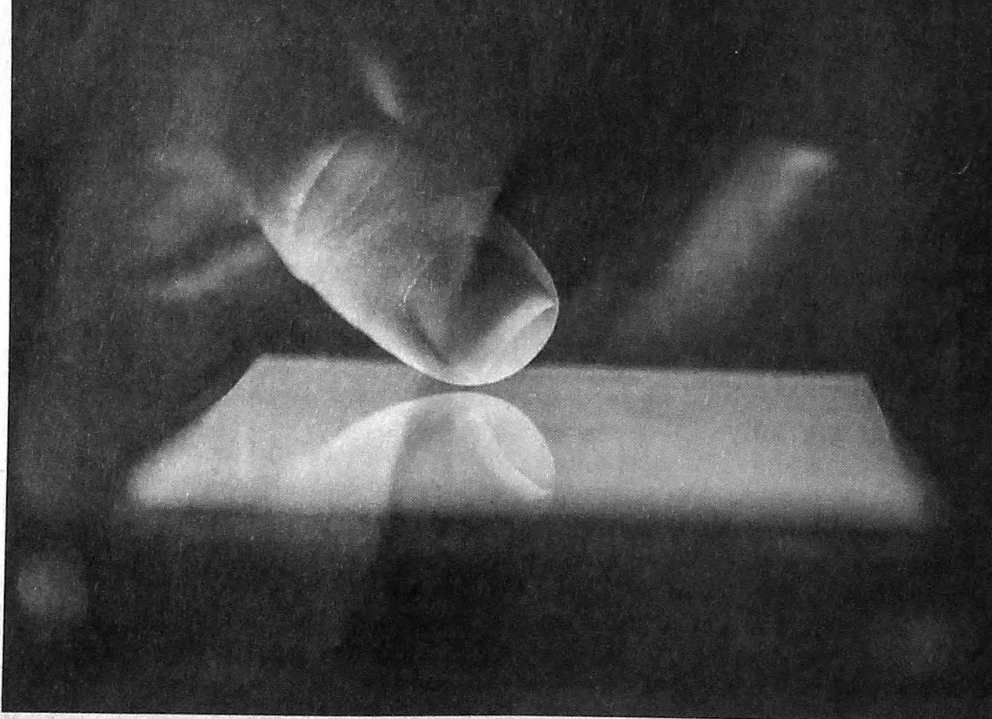
The District Library Board will provide auxiliary aids and services of materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Shauna Anderson, Director, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI at 734 453-0750 x 218.

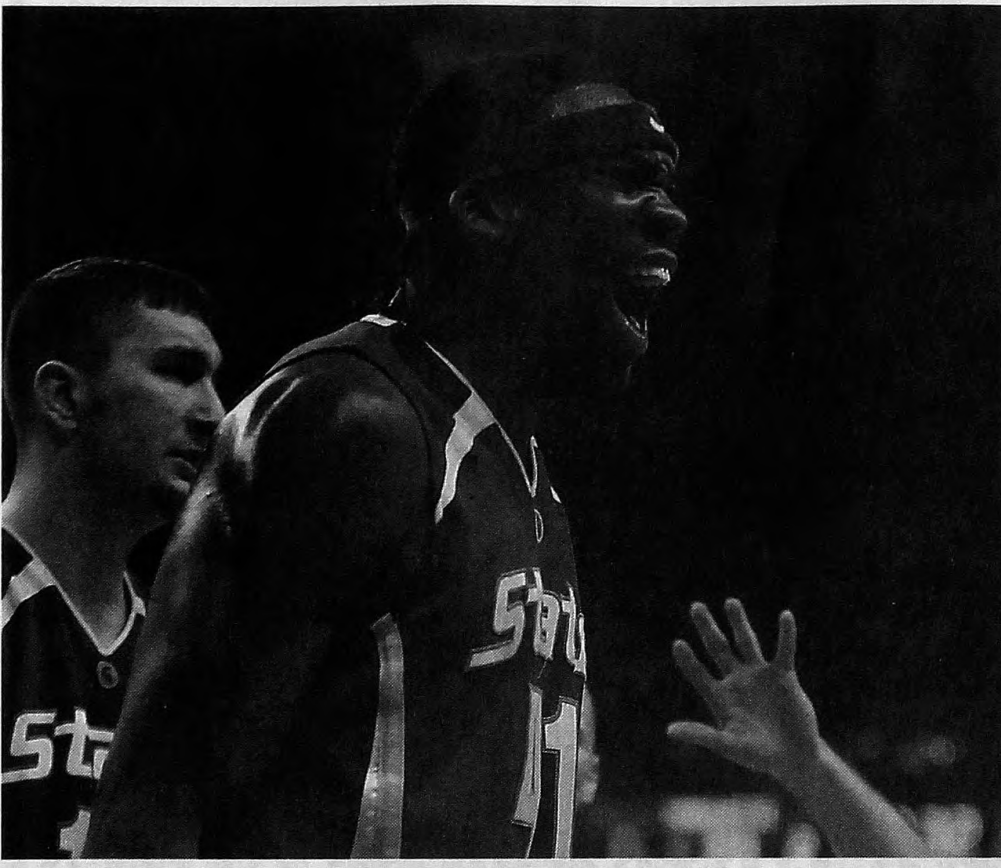
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Marquise Gray, then playing for Michigan State, reacts during a 2007 NCAA tournament game against Marquette. GETTY IMAGES

Lessons

Continued from Page 4B

Carrying on the Beecher tradition

Gray entered the coaching profession almost by accident. Returning to Flint in 2016 after a professional basketball career overseas, he began working with the local Boys & Girls Club.

Though he always knew he wanted to work with kids, he had retired from basketball to spend more time at home. The new job wasn't a solution, as he routinely got home after 9:30 p.m.

One day, then-Beecher High boys coach Mike Williams began inviting Gray to practice. First, he merely addressed the team as an alum. Slowly, Williams began giving Gray more and more responsibilities, first working with the team's big men and later leading breakdown drills. For the next month, Gray didn't miss a practice.

"Maybe a week before the first game that year, Williams threw me a coaching shirt," Gray said. "I was like, 'What the hell you doing, man? I'm not a coach.' He

said, 'You've been coming to practice every day. You've been teaching drills. You're a coach. Whether you know it or not, you're a coach.'"

Gray couldn't deny it. He was hooked. So he joined Williams' staff as an assistant in 2016, and during their time together, the school won a pair of state championships. Last year, Williams left to take the same position at Davison High, leaving Gray to ascend to the top job.

Beecher barely missed a beat, going 22-3 in Gray's debut season, with the only regular-season losses coming to Detroit Martin Luther King (then the top-ranked squad in Division 1) and Grand Blanc, which won the Division I state title in 2021. Beecher reigned as the No. 1 team in the Associated Press' Division 3 rankings the entire season, reaching the state semifinals before losing to Schoolcraft, which went on to capture the state championship.

A Beecher point guard won the Michigan Associated Press Division 3 Player of the Year for boys basketball for the fourth time in as many seasons.

This time, it went to Carmelo Harris, who averaged 27 points and seven as-

sists a game.

All in all, Gray said he had no complaints about his first season.

"Taking everything into consideration, I think we had a hell of a season," he said. "We won big games. We won the games we should have won, and then we competed against some great teams around the area and we showed that no matter the size of the school or the class they're in, we can play with anybody. It's rare that you have a team lose just three games and get to the Final Four with a first-year coach."

Especially one replacing one of the most successful coaches in the state: Williams won six state titles at Beecher between 2012 and 2021. Gray credited words of advice from Williams for easing the transition.

"Mike told me when I took over, 'You're not going to be able to do everything I did here in one year. Don't put pressure on yourself, and don't allow people to put pressure on you. You're not me. Be the very best version of yourself that you can be,'" Gray said. "That rang true to me throughout the whole year."

As if Williams' illustrious tenure didn't provide enough of a burden, there was Beecher itself: its eight state titles and 12 state championship game appearances both rank among the top five in state history. Gray himself was part of that history, averaging 25 points, 17 rebounds, four blocked shots and four assists during his senior season.

Even before he departed, Williams started ceding more and more of the day-to-day responsibilities to Gray.

"Mike did a great job of preparing for things, because he would come to practice late on purpose to allow me to run practice," Gray said. "He'd show up and be stand off to the side watching, but what he was doing was trying to prepare me for when I became the head guy."

For Gray, leading the same program he once starred for was a dream come true. As he tells it, picking up the baton Williams was the least he could do after the school, and the Flint community, invested so much in him growing up.

Yet he knows he won't be around the school forever. Not with more challenges on the horizon.

"This is the tip of the iceberg. But it's not the end-all, be-all," he said. "Eventually, I will coach at the collegiate level."

Perhaps, someday, in East Lansing.

'I wanted to be the go-to guy'

Recruiting rankings didn't start to become all the rage until the turn of the millennium.

Still, Gray's signing with the Spartans in 2004 was significant. At the time, the only MSU recruit with a higher rating — per 247Sports all-time rankings, which date back to 2000 — was Shannon Brown. (Brown remains No. 1 on that list, while Gray is No. 11.)

After Smith, Cleaves, Peterson and Bell, MSU went back to Flint for Kelvin Torbert, a McDonald's All-American, Michigan Mr. Basketball and the Gatorade National Basketball Player of the Year.

That lineage begat Gray.

"I was the 'next guy.' I was the one to keep the pipeline going from Flint," he said. "I didn't understand all that at the time. But perspective is always a great teacher."

A five-star ranking projects superstardom. It never materialized for Gray.

He redshirted as a freshman, when Michigan State reached the Final Four before losing to North Carolina. Though he started 50 games over the next four seasons, he was far more role player than all-time great. He ended his college career averaging 4.4 points and 3.9 rebounds per outing.

"Of course I wanted to be the man. I wanted to be the go-to guy," he said. "But you have to accept things and play your role."

Looking back on it, Gray said he was neither physically nor mentally ready for the rigors of college basketball. Physically, it was facing some of the best players college basketball had to offer, every day, at practice.

Mentally, it was his mindset, which he acknowledged wasn't in the right place.

"My thought process was, 'I'm gonna do two years here and then I'm leaving (for the NBA),' " he said, "as opposed to enjoying the process and learning all I needed to learn, and then when it's time, leave."

Eventually, Gray made peace with his legacy, preferring to focus on the team's accomplishments more than his individual numbers.

"I can't make everybody happy," he said. "With the billions of people in the world, somebody is not going to like you or what you do. You can't concern yourself with them."

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2022-2023 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 13, 2022, at 6:15 o'clock p.m., at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, the Board of Education of Livonia Public Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2022-2023 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2022-2023 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2022-2023 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan [and/or available online at: livoniapublicschools.org].

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

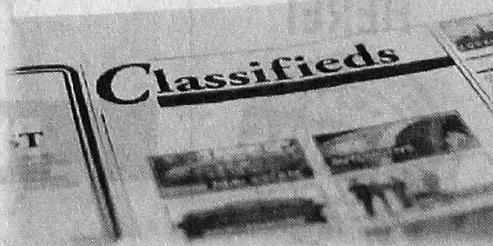
Karen Bradford
Secretary

Publish: June 5, 2022

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Job momentum in the Bluegrass state

Kentucky Has the Highest Number of Job Openings Relative to the Size of Its Workforce

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This month's Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey recorded 11.5 million job openings across the U.S., a new record high. And a record 4.56 million workers quit their jobs. This week's state-level data provide more detail and show us where employers are facing the most acute labor shortages and retention challenges, and—on the flipside—where job seekers can find the most favorable hiring conditions.

Here are the highlights of the State Employment and Unemployment Report and the State Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey from this week:

1. Kentucky led the nation in job openings in March.

There is great momentum in Kentucky's business environment right now. Month after month, the state has ranked in the top 10 with the highest number of vacancies. According to the State JOLTS report, the state's employment level could grow 9.8% if employers were able to fill all their job openings.

The world-known Kentucky Derby had a hand in boosting demand for labor. Since the beginning of 2022, growth in online postings for seasonal jobs has outpaced growth in jobs overall in the Bluegrass state. According to ZipRecruiter's internal data, the number of active online postings for seasonal jobs increased by five-fold in March accounting for 4% of the state's job postings up from 1% just the month before.

2. Kansas workers experienced the greatest degree of job security.

Current labor shortages have made employers rethink firing or laying off workers, given how challenging it has been to replace them. Amid rapid nominal wage growth, which is especially high for job switchers, it can cost employers far less to retain their existing workers than to attract new talent.

3. Alaska workers quit their jobs at the highest rate.

Alaska's workers aren't giving up. Rather, they're trading up due to the abundance of other job opportunities right now. The state posted the second highest job openings rate (9.2%) in the nation, offering plenty of opportunities to Alaskans who are exploring their options.

However, Alaska's wages have yet to respond to the tightest labor market conditions in state history. At 3.4%, wage growth in the state is almost half the national average of 6.7% (as measured in 2021 Q3, the most recent state level

data from BLS). Wages are only growing slowly in the seafood production, and oil and gas industries, keeping overall wage growth low.

4. Seventeen states reached their lowest unemployment rates on record.

With 1.9% unemployment rates, Nebraska and Utah are tied in the race for the lowest jobless rate in the country. They are among 17 other states with the lowest unemployment rates since 1976, when data collection began. Not surprisingly, both Nebraska and Utah also have the tightest job markets in the country with 3.6 and 3.8 job openings per unemployed person, respectively.

States with record-low unemployment rates

State	Rate
Alabama.....	2.8
Alaska.....	4.9
Arizona.....	3.2
Georgia.....	3.1
Idaho.....	2.6
Indiana.....	2.2
Kansas.....	2.4
Kentucky.....	3.9
Minnesota.....	2.2
Mississippi.....	4.1
Montana.....	2.3
Nebraska.....	1.9
South Dakota.....	2.3
Tennessee.....	3.2
Utah.....	1.9
West Virginia.....	3.6
Wisconsin.....	2.8



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Engineering & IT

American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc. has openings for Supplier Quality Engineers at its facility in Detroit, Michigan.

Job duties include:

- Working on commercial activities with suppliers including selection, analyzing sourcing recommendations and documentation, conducting risk assessments, and quality system compliance.
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- Executing program launches and leading supplier APQP process which includes design reviews, control plans reviews, PFMEA, process flows, SPC, run of rate, MSA, and PPAP.
- Resolving external and internal supplier quality and material supply issues by working with a Cross Functional Team (CFT), executing problem solving based in QI-14 Automotive Warranty Management, QI-20 Effective Problem Solving, and including root cause analysis through corrective actions.
- Working in Value Analysis, Value Engineering (VAE) for the fastener commodity CFT, assisting suppliers to interface with AAM Engineering to implement ideas that eliminate waste and create value, based on Lean and Six Sigma procedures.
- Working with suppliers to develop plans and metrics to monitor performance and continuously improve quality and process.
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- Position requires: Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, or foreign equivalent education, and 2 years of experience working in the Quality field. 2 years of experience is required in each of the following:
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- Conducting global quality standards audits using ISO-9001 and IATF16949 and supplier quality system and risk assessments.
- Executing critical process audits including QI-14 Automotive Warranty Management, QI-20 Effective Problem Solving using APQP, PPAP, PFMEA, SPC, and MSA.
- Conducting supplier Tech Reviews and Agree/Disagree matrix for strategic sourcing.

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Garage Sale! Woodbridge Estates on Geddes between Beck & Denton. June 9th, 10th & 11th, 9am-4pm

Livonia, 15336 Blue Skies June 9 & 10 9 AM-4 PM. Kids, Home & Women's items. W/Newburgh, N/5 mile

Livonia - Annual Sub Sale - btw Wayne & Newburgh, enter Sub from Ann Arbor Trail or Joy. June 9th - 9-5. Sun: 9-5. Over 30 Homes. Hunting/Golf/Garden equip., Ice maker, Sewing mach., Tools, etc.

Westland, Subdivision, 100 Carson Dr. Michigan, 48185 Fri: 9-5, Sat: 9-5, Sun: 9-5. Dir: Brookfield Village Condominium Association - sale dates June 3rd - June 5th. Located West of Hix Rd. and North of Cherry Hill Rd.

Westland, Subdivision Sale, 100 Carson Dr., Michigan, 48185 Fri: 9 to 5p, Sat: 9 to 5, Sun: 9 to 5. Dir: Brookfield Village Condominium Association located north of Cherry Hill Rd. and west of Hix Rd.

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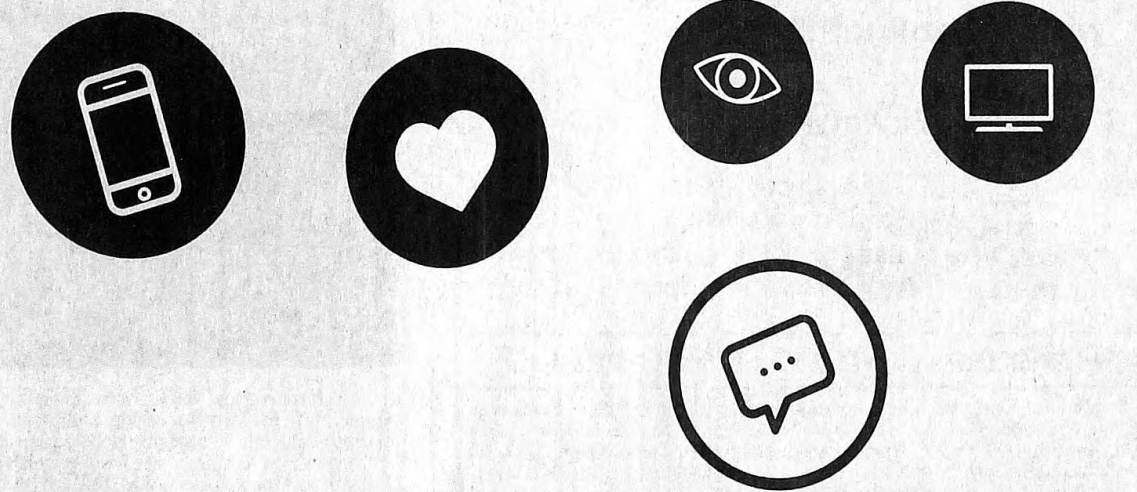
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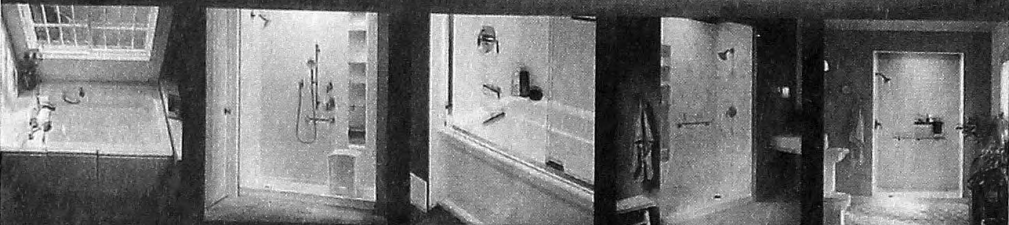
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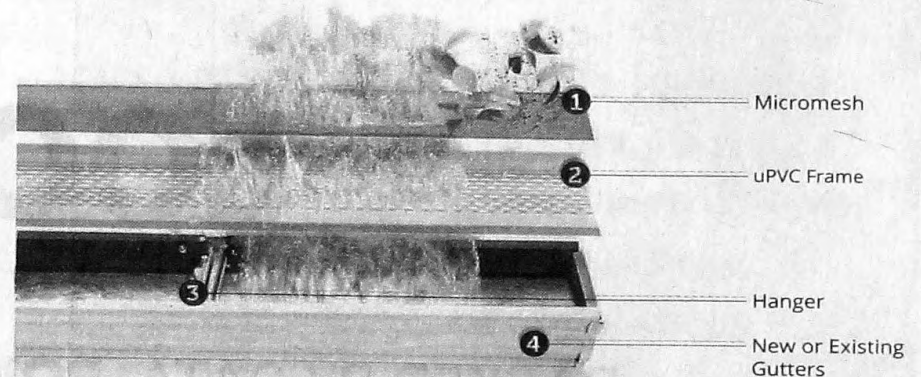
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