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FARMINGTON

Council approves body cameras for police

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington's public safety department will soon begin wearing body cameras for the first time in department history.

City council approved purchasing 21 body cameras for the department's officers during a recent meeting.

As part of the purchase, Farmington will also replace its six dashboard cameras, which are seven years old.

"These two video systems will help improve officer safety, video quality, reduce civilian complaints, reduce liability and increase our transparency," Public Safety Director Ted Warthman said.

The cameras cost \$155,000, which the department will only pay after a 45-day trial period. Warthman said he expects to pay \$102,350 at the end of the day

due to insurance benefits.

Farmington chose Utility Inc. for its cameras, a Georgia-based company that sews the devices into officers' uniforms rather than providing a clip-on device. Utility is also the vendor for Plymouth and Canton townships. As part of Farmington's purchase, Utility is including modified uniforms to suit the cameras.

See CAMERAS, Page 5A



Nasha Vida speaks to visitors inside her new boutique, Vida Voyager, at 853 W. Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

New boutique opens in downtown Plymouth

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's been a longtime dream of Nasha Vida to open her own shop. She took quite the journey to get to her destination.

The Plymouth resident recently opened Vida Voyager, a boutique at 853 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth. Before becoming a shop owner, she served as a staff attorney for the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, a place she called home for many years after moving out west for college.

"I lived there and got exposed to a lot of different stores and traveled. And one of the things I realized I really loved was the small boutiques in cities," she said. "For years, it was like a hobby to scout out where the boutiques are and over time, I just kept thinking, 'What if I could do this?'"

Today, the Northville High School alumna moved

See BOUTIQUE, Page 4A



"For years, it was like a hobby to scout out where the boutiques are and over time, I just kept thinking, 'What if I could do this?'" Vida said.

Wright's Hardware in Livonia to close

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The hardware shop at 29150 Five Mile Road in Livonia has been selling tools for about 70 years.

Before Joe and Jeri Dorr owned the property, it had changed hands a few times already. Most people know the shop as Wright's Hardware, the name it's had since former Mayor Dennis Wright's family owned it.

The Dorr's have owned and run the store for the last 14 years. Hardware is a reflection of their own interests, so people who shop there know the couple has good advice when it comes to home renovation.

"We both had been into rehabbing houses on our own for quite a long time," Jeri Dorr said. "So, we had a lot of knowledge on general renovation and plumbing. We just have that knowledge in our family, and we thought it would be a nice transition into owning our own company."

The couple is about a week away from retirement. They were unable to find someone interested in buying the business, so Wright's Hardware is retiring along with them. A nearby property owner purchased the building and it will likely serve a different purpose in the future.

"The community has been great," Jeri Dorr said. "It's been amazing. We've had wonderful people come in, and they've got all these great stories about the hardware store."

Joe Dorr said he's looking forward to retirement. Owning a small business, he said, is a lot of work. He and his wife plan to move up north, and he's hoping they can go hiking and boating often.

See HARDWARE, Page 5A

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ELECTION COVERAGE

Four seats open on Redford Union school board

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On Nov. 8, voters in the Redford Union School District will choose three people to serve on the school board for six years. Eight candidates are on the ballot.

School board members oversee the district and is the governing body Superintendent Jasen Witt reports to. The school board does not run day-to-day operations; that is the role of the superintendent.

Hometown Life sent each candidate a questionnaire on their ideas and the state of the district today. Particularly long answers were shortened, which is indicated with an ellipsis. Candidates **Lorna Dean, Lavis Engram, Christian Fifeski, LaTina Miller and Zachary Tucker** did not respond to Hometown Life's multiple attempts to contact them. **Tamera Moores**, a candidate running for the district's lone two-year seat, also did not respond.

In the South Redford district, voters will elect two school board trustees. **Amanda Flesher** is the only candidate, so the other seat will go to a write-in candidate. Flesher did not respond to Hometown Life's attempts at contact.

Jim Bailey currently serves on the board. He works as a nurse and also serves on Redford Township's parks commission.

Kiana Schuster is a first time candidate. She's worked for 30 years as an administrative assistant and volunteered to help build the playground at Bulman Elementary when her children were students there.

Krystle Uzarek is a first time candidate who's lived in the district her entire life. Prior to the pandemic, she'd been a regular volunteer at MacGowan Elementary and has worked there as an assistant substitute.

What makes you qualified to be a school board member and why do you want to hold that position? What do you see as the role of a school board member?

Bailey: I am qualified because I meet the requirements established by the Michigan Legislature. What makes me more qualified is I have spent most of my life involved in education by earning multiple varied degrees. I have held public elected office for better than 16 years. Military. Earned the Award of Merit by the Michigan School Board Association. Censured twice, almost three times, by the school board, for my fol-



Bailey

Schuster

Uzarek

lowing the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Per the Michigan enabling legislation for school boards, it exists to govern the school district. Members of the board have the responsibility for carrying out their role within the law. I am able to fulfill that role.

Schuster: I have years of experience in companies small and large. Many of the same issues that face our district are seen also in business. From expenses and holdings to diverse ideas and traditions. As a member of the Redford Union School Board, I would seek to increase communication and understanding about what our students need to succeed.

Uzarek: I come from a family of teachers and I have also worked within an elementary school, so I've grown up seeing ... issues that happen within the schools. I want to be a voice for my fellow parents, the students and the staff at our schools. I plan to have an open line of communication for the families and the staff in our district. No one deserves to go unheard ... I love being a part of this community. I believe that someone on the school board needs to be involved in the community and have the best interests of the community, the students, the parents and the staff of the school district they are a part of.

Are you happy with the overall direction of the district? Why or why not?

Schuster: Many school districts have lost their focus on the basics of education. Because of that shift in focus, students are not performing up to their full potential. Redford Union is no exception. And while I applaud the recent Summer School program that assisted nearly 200 students in advancing or graduating, there is much work that still needs to be done.

Uzarek: There have been a lot of changes happening within the school district that have made me happy as a parent and as a resident. While I can't say I understand or agree with all choices that have been made (like switching MacGowan with Keeler for a year, for example), I can say that I do love the direction the district is going. The early college program at the high

school and all of the building renovations are definitely my favorite parts.

Bailey: How can anyone be "happy" with the state of education when one looks at the statistics? This is state wide. If one is aware of current events, and where we are headed, with potential looming disasters, we need to be producing the best next generation that we can. But, again, looking at the statistics we are falling short.

What should the school district's priorities be coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, including how it spends ARPA funds?

Uzarek: I believe the school district has handled the pandemic and "post" pandemic well. Comparing our districts choices with other districts choices, I believe we are on the right track. The "germ killers" in the classroom are a great idea and I think we should keep making sure masks are available for students and staff who choose to use them as well as making sure hand sanitizer is available in every classroom and office.

Bailey: Involvement of the public in district affairs. Embracing the public, community, parents, and staff. Others include a detailed strategic plan, start spending time thinking through the problems at hand and correcting the faults in the organization i.e. stop electing people who just accept what they are told, a communication system where the left hand knows what the right hand is doing. align K through 12 and beyond, set higher standards, community, parents and public being invited to participate in decision making and educational process, among multiple other things, to start moving in the right direction.

Schuster: Schools need to take stock of the damages and successes that were the result of this trying period. ARPA funds should be thoughtfully spent to overcome the damages and plan for future challenges.

Issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion are a recurring conversation among students, staff and the community at large. What's one tangible action local districts can make to address diversity, equity and inclusion?

Bailey: Funny. Looking from the long view, there are tactics and techniques used, in government and school districts, that keep legally elected representatives from being involved in the decision making process. It provides the mechanism for a handful, or less, people

making the decisions. The same, or like, tactics and techniques used to keep minorities, some religions, specific gender, etc. from decision making participation. Why aren't things improving, with government money being thrown at education, yet things remain the same? This is one way, being built into the system, so change does not take place.

Schuster: The district should make attending meetings more accessible to the public. Meetings that start at 5pm are a tight squeeze for most of our working parents.

Uzarek: One tangible action we can make to address diversity, equity and inclusion is to make sure we offer literature from diverse authors, background and perspectives. I believe we also need to hold our staff accountable for showing bias and make sure the students have a safe place to talk when they feel like they are being treated differently because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, etc.

School districts saw student enrollment drop dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic to private-, charter-, home- or non-school options. With school funding tied directly to enrollment, what are your thoughts on schools of choice policies, and how would you attract new, returning students to the district?

Schuster: Family involvement and fostering a sense of ownership in our schools would go a long way to maintaining and attracting student enrollment.

Uzarek: I, personally, agree with our district being a school of choice district due to the fact that without it, our enrollment numbers would be low. I think the district is already on the right path to attract new students and keep the students we have with all of the renovations that have been done. I think it is very important to maintain a fun, safe learning environment and to keep communication open between our school board, staff and families.

Bailey: Friend, the Michigan Legislature has created a market economy for the Michigan educational system. Parents decide where their children will go. This is no different than how competition exists in our monetary economy. Build a better "mouse trap" and the public will beat a path to your door. Understanding this, one can not just do nothing and expect to draw a clientele. That is not sustainable.

stankersle@hometownlife.com

Meet the candidates running for Garden City school board

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On Nov. 8, voters in the Garden City Public Schools district will choose four people to serve on the school board for four years.

School board members oversee the district and is the body Superintendent Derek Fisher reports to. The school board does not run day-to-day operations; that is the role of the superintendent.

Hometown Life sent each candidate

a questionnaire on their ideas and the state of the district today. Candidates **Charles Barnum, Margaret Sanders and Jaime Beccaccio** did not respond to multiple attempts at contact from Hometown Life.

Jill Buterbaugh already serves on the board, having been appointed in January. She works as a real estate project manager and has served on other community boards like the PTSA for Garden City High School.

Scott George is a first-time candidate. He's the membership coordinator for the Garden City Youth Association and has two children in the district.

What makes you qualified to be a school board member and why do you want to hold that position? What do you see as the role of a school board member?

Buterbaugh: In January, I was appointed as a Trustee by the Garden City Public Schools Board of Education. Prior to my appointment, I had been very active in the district for decades as both an alumna and parent of 2 students. I've taken my role very seriously by attending as many school related events as possible and taking classes over the last 8 months to become a better board member. My goal for the school district is to keep the forward trajectory and continue to build a better, stronger school community. My role as a board member is to not only oversee the superintendent, but to be the eyes and ears of our community as it relates to GCPS.

George: I feel that I am qualified because I am an engaged parent of two students and someone who has been involved within the schools volunteering



Buterbaugh



George

in the classrooms and with extracurricular items. It is my goal to be an advocate and a voice for our students and parents. I want to play a role in moving us forward as someone who shows up

with a drive and a passion for the district to move forward and not be just an empty chair that shows up simply to go through the motions. As a member of the board, I will be someone who can bridge the gap in communication and views between concerned parents and the board. I want to continue to push the district and the schools to put education and safety first while always striving to be better.

Are you happy with the overall direction of the district? Why or why not?

George: While there is always room for improvement and growth, I am happy with the overall direction of the district. However, there are areas that I feel we can greatly improve such as moving the district forward to better utilize and take advantage of technology and resources. I also feel the district could do better by paying more attention and helping to supply more resources in regards to student's mental health. In addition, I would like the district to focus on filling employment rolls and retaining our teachers and our faculty while continuing to expand on areas for the GSRP, IEP and 504 programs.

Buterbaugh: I am overall happy with the district's direction, however there is always room for improvement. Being financially stable, improving our aging facilities, and changing the culture are just some of the forward progress made over the last 5+ years. My goal is to see the district thrive and be the schools of

choice.

What should the school district's priorities be coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, including how it spends ARPA funds?

Buterbaugh: I think using our Covid funds should be spent on the long-term effects that the pandemic has had on our students. Whether that is for more interventionists, counselors or after school tutoring, I would like to have the resources available to help those who have struggled emotionally, academically, or both.

George: School District priorities must be getting our students back into a place where they can succeed. Too many students are struggling and falling behind because of not being in the building face to face to get the education they deserve and need. Some of the funds should be used to develop a tutoring program to help get the students back on a path for success. Also the district needs to review the policies and practices used during the pandemic and develop a plan of action in the event of something happening again that would require a shift in how the education of our students is done.

Issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion are a recurring conversation among students, staff and the community at large. What's one tangible action local districts can make to address diversity, equity and inclusion?

George: Develop an environment to bring students with common interests together such as after school program or activities. These can range from social clubs, reading clubs, student

See BOARD, Page 5A

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ELECTION COVERAGE

Breen, Staudt vie for 21st District House seat

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Democrat Kelly Breen and Republican David Staudt previously served together on the Novi City Council. Now they are facing off against each other in a bid for the 21st District state House seat. Also joining the fray is Libertarian James K. Young.

The 21st District represents Novi, western Farmington Hills, and eastern Lyon Township.

Hometown Life sent identical questionnaires to all three candidates to learn more about them and their stances on issues. Young did not respond.

Kelly Breen is a 16-year resident of Novi and a graduate of Northville High School, James Madison College at Michigan State University and Wayne Law. She previously worked in a free legal aid clinic, including advocating on behalf of abused or neglected children. Breen has served as state representative in the 38th District for the past two years. Prior to her election to this role, she served on the Novi City Council. She is the mother of two children, Abi and Elliott and married to Matt.

Dave Staudt, a Wisconsin native, has lived in Novi for 29 years and has served on the Novi City Council for 15 years, 11 of them as pro-tem. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in management, is owner of Impact Media Professionals and employed as the comptroller of the Associated Builders and Contractors of SE Michigan and the Southeastern Michigan Construction Academy. He is a member of the Novi Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, BPO Elks and Holy Family K of C. He founded the Novi Parks Foundation and the Canine Advocacy Program. He has been married for 37 years to Jean and is the father of two adult daughters, Rachel and Amber.

Statistics show systemic racism is prevalent in law enforcement, government, health care and economics. Name one tangible action state government could

take to help address racism.

Breen: Public education funding must shift to a weighted formula (Michigan Refinance Collaborative Report) and away from focus on property taxes. Children in every community have varying needs (special needs, ESL, age). A weighted statewide funding pool will help all children to receive a quality education based on unique needs.

Education should include an accurate history of our country, in all its complexity, including the contributions of all our people, to help us to fulfill its promise.

Knowing people from different cultures and identities builds relationships, so ensuring there is attainable housing and good public transit will build community wealth.

Staudt: Frankly, I don't necessarily agree with your initial premise that statistics show systemic racism. However, a tangible action the state could pursue is a more comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all and creating greater economic opportunities for communities of color.

How would you grade the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and what, if anything, should the state legislature do next?

Staudt: Grade: F. The legislature needs to address the emergency authority of the governor, fix a very broken and fraud ridden unemployment system, determine how we can better protect the most vulnerable of our citizens, provide additional education resources for those who fell behind during the lockdowns and use the remaining federal COVID funds to address the economic problems of small businesses created by the lockdown.

Breen: B+. Governor Whitmer and her public health team were at the forefront, initially, of promoting measures to protect Michiganders. Even our car companies sought to retrofit production



Breen



Staudt

of desperately needed PPA and medical equipment. But we were hamstrung by leaders who denied the dangers of Covid and refused to support preventative measures. We need to listen

to the science to determine matters related to Covid and other highly transmissible diseases. State, county, and local health departments need to be provided with adequate funding to better prepare us for future pandemics, and we must recruit and train additional healthcare workers.

What are your thoughts on safety and security of our elections, specifically Michigan's election integrity, and do you accept the results of the 2020 election?

Breen: Michiganders should applaud our dedicated election clerks. Election 2020 was very secure with every court throwing out the baseless claims of fraud. The real danger to democracy are those "crying wolf" to sow doubt to raise funds and change laws to limit voting access and change outcomes they don't like while claiming their own "wins" legitimate.

We must allow clerks to count absentee ballots before election day, train poll challengers, install high-speed tabulators where needed, and vote for other improvements included in the "Promote the Vote" ballot initiative which will protect voting access instead of limiting it.

Staudt: While improvements can always be made and there was likely some fraud, Michigan clerks do an excellent job conducting elections. I accept the results of the 2020 elections, including my own results as a candidate for County Commission.

Thinking of the recent school shootings that killed students in Uvalde and Oxford, what recommendations would you make in your effort to prevent similar tragedies in the future?

Staudt: I would support communi-

ties provide armed, sworn police officers at the entrance of ALL K-12 schools. I would further limit the number of entrances into school buildings, require all cameras on a school campus be immediately accessible to local and state police and train school personnel how to work with law enforcement.

Breen: The bipartisan School Safety Task Force on which I serve is proposing improvements in building security, increased mental health support and violence prevention, uniform safety protocols, streamlined police communications, and more.

While Americans will always own guns, there are many of us on both sides of the aisle, including gun owners, who support common-sense measures that can make us all safer. These include adopting "Red Flag" laws to remove guns when there are mental health concerns, consistent enforcement of comprehensive background checks, closing "boyfriend" and "gun show" loopholes, and "safe storage."

Do you support amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include LGBTQ people? Explain.

Breen: Yes. LGBTQ+ people are under increasing attack. A misguided, reactionary Supreme Court has already signaled that they may go down the path of overturning marriage equality and some of the other hard-won gains toward equality for this community, which includes the fundamental right to privacy for all citizens. We need to do all we can to ensure that all who live in our country are treated with dignity and basic human and civil rights protections.

Staudt: Federal law and federal court decisions provide many of the protections being sought by those supporting amending Elliot-Larsen, however, the federal burden of proof is much greater, the penalties potentially more severe and the cost of bringing a claim much greater in the federal system. This may be best decided by a vote of Michigan residents.

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



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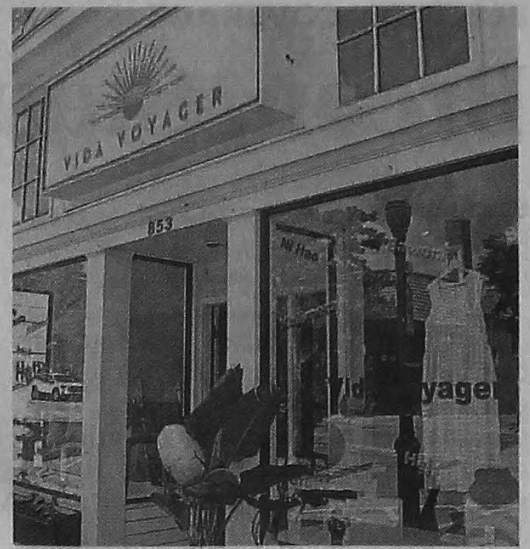
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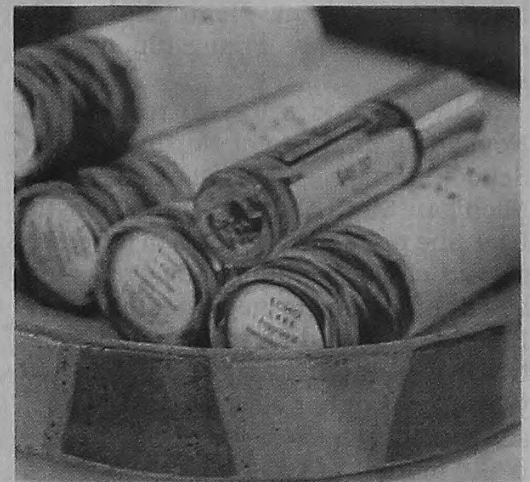
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A variety of stationary is available for purchase at Vida Voyager in Plymouth. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The boutique sells "a little bit of everything," a key component to a great shop, owner Nasha Vida said.



In addition to retail products made by others, Vida Voyager features some products Vida made. That includes the clay dish holding these fragrances.

Boutique

Continued from Page 1A

back home to be closer to family and now runs her own shop, which occupies the storefront that previously held Bella Mia, another boutique that relocated around the corner to another space along Forest.

With the space previously holding a similar style of business, Vida did not have to do much in preparation to open: she added some fresh paint, updated the fitting room spaces and did some additional improvements.

The store sells a variety of goods, with most being marketed toward wom-

en: clothing, bags, jewelry and more. Many of the items are made by small businesses or individual creators, including Vida herself, who sells some of her pottery in the store. There's plenty of locally-made items, but others from across the globe as well.

"I just like stores that have a little bit of everything and bring things you don't see anywhere else," she said. "That was my hope."

That's where she got the name for the store from: having experienced life in several places, she wanted to create a snap shot of that lifestyle in her store. That's evident from the moment guests walk by the store: greetings in several languages adorn the front windows, leading some to believe Vida was bring-

ing a travel agency to downtown Plymouth before she opened her doors, she said.

Vida said business has been good since opening in mid-August, though she admits August was a slower month in downtown Plymouth.

She's gotten plenty of intrigue from patrons wanting to see her offerings, especially since her shop is so unique to the area.

"I think people have been enthusiastic, which is nice," she said. "We have more of a modern take on things."

Since opening, Vida has seen plenty of people she's known from years ago stop in. The feeling among her friends is that she was finally able to complete a longtime goal.

"I think anyone that's known me is like, 'Oh my gosh, you finally did it,'" Vida said. "It's thrilling. It's really exciting to know you can do one thing in your life and then you can do another thing in your life."

Mina Vida, Vida's mother, said her family was impressed with the work her daughter has done to get the shop up and running. She said they're happy she's been able to pursue a dream she's had for a long time.

"Very nice, perfect," the Plymouth said of the shop. "We are so proud of her."

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

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Hardware

Continued from Page 1A

"It's our time; it's our turn," he said. "It's exciting."

The store stayed afloat through the pandemic, but Jeri Dorr says a mix of changing climate, an increased big box presence in Livonia and a consumer shift toward online shopping have left their business less lucrative.

"It's kind of a perfect storm hitting most small hardware stores with weather and not having the amount of snow we usually have," she said. "If you look at a decade ago, the snow would stay from November to February and you're selling snow shovels and salt and fixing

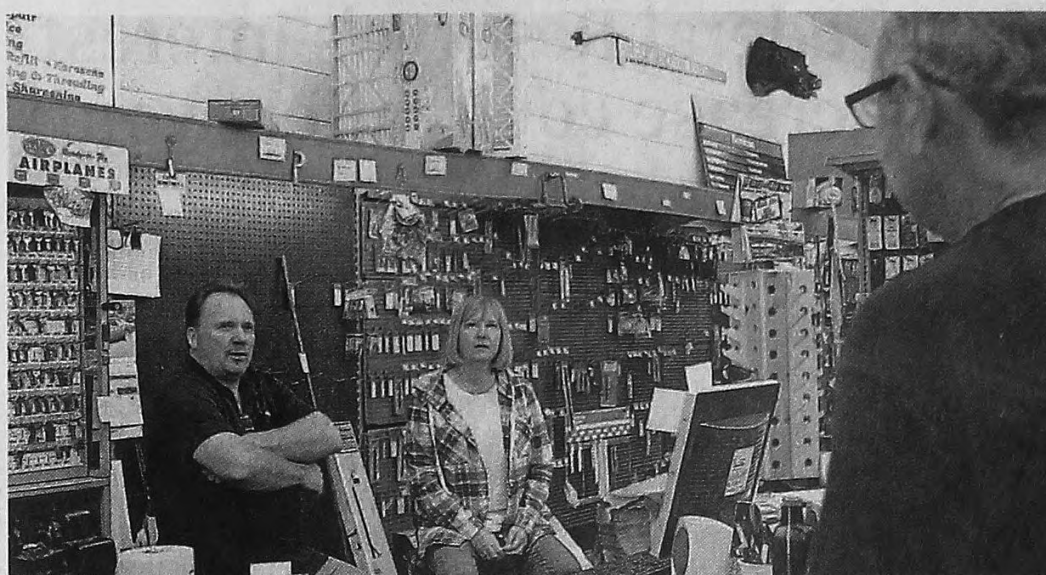
snow blowers. That has decreased steadily over the last 10 years because, whether people like it or not, there's less snow."

Some of her favorite memories are of people who found community in their little store.

"People come in with their stories of what's going on in their home," she said. "It starts off with a job, but then they linger. It reminds me of a barbershop - people start to talk and then there's three old dudes sitting here talking. We have coffee and hang out."

The couple said it's "bittersweet" to close. They'll miss the store, but they're also looking forward to retirement.

"I feel like I've got a mountain coming off my back," Joe Dorr said. "It feels real good."



Joe and Jeri Dorr reminisce with a customer at Wright's Hardware in Livonia. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Cameras

Continued from Page 1A

The body cameras will detect when an officer draws their firearm or begins to run, at which point the devices will automatically turn on. Cameras will also be able to tell when an officer has

been lying down for more than 30 seconds, at which point everyone in the department will be notified of that officer's location.

Aside from providing better audio and imaging than dashboard cameras, the Utility system will also keep untagged videos on file for longer, Warthman said.

Farmington currently keeps an un-

tagged or unclassified video - such as a routine traffic stop - for 90 days. Now, untagged videos will stay in Farmington's system for a year before they are automatically deleted.

Tagged videos - like a recording of an officer's response at the scene of a crime - stay on file forever.

"I don't see any disadvantage to going to body-worn cameras," Warthman

said.

City council also cast a unanimous vote to replace the department's firearm stock, which is 10 years old. The \$13,807.50 purchase includes 25 9 mm pistols that come with optics, holsters, weapon-mounted flashlights, double magazine pouches and magazines.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

Board

Continued from Page 2A

government, etc. The district as a whole needs to make sure every student feels welcome in the buildings and this can be done by making sure all faculty members encourage students to work together openly while building trust and open relationships.

Buterbaugh: Starting with the younger students, finding books that incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion. If it seems "normal" to include everyone, it will be "normal" to the children to act accordingly. For the older students, I think embracing the consequences of not being inclusive, equitable or diverse by teaching those in social study classes will help open young minds. Also, positively promoting clubs that live diversity, equity and inclusion,

like the GSA, will help students in these clubs feel welcomed without stigmas.

School districts saw student enrollment drop dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic to private-, charter-, home- or non-school options. With school funding tied directly to enrollment, what are your thoughts on schools of choice policies, and how would you attract new, returning students to the district?

Buterbaugh: I think the culture of the school district is key. Parents have to trust that their students are getting a quality education. Students have to buy in to the school spirit. Having positive interactions with administration and teachers will help boost morale to current students and entice others to choose GCPS.

George: In order to bring in and retain students the district has to show a desire to keep pushing forward and striving for growth in all aspects. Updating facilities, teacher retention, commitment to school/student safety, and showing the community that each school building is a place where their students will be given every opportunity to learn and reach for excellence in an open and safe environment.

What is an issue facing the district that isn't on residents' radar that should be? What steps would you take to address that issue?

George: A key issue facing the district that needs to be addressed is the social impact the pandemic had on the students. For some, they have had to relearn how to both learn in a classroom setting and how to properly handle themselves socially among their peers.

After the pandemic the amount of bullying between students has increased drastically. To help curb this behavior we need to have more faculty representation. This would allow for more opportunities to spot students who may be struggling from a mental health standpoint and also help prevent an issue before it starts. Generally speaking there needs to be more eyes and ears in areas where bullying is taking place such as lunchrooms, play grounds, and hallways.

Buterbaugh: I think the issue not on the radar that should be is the instability of the economy and political changes, and the effects they have on school budgets. This is the time to start being conservative with our budgets to ensure that the General Fund is healthy for upcoming years.

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



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How Federal Reserve's interest rate increase could affect you



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

As I write this column, the Federal Reserve has just announced a .75 percent interest rate increase. This will be the fifth interest rate increase this year, and it will be the third time in a row that the rate increase was .75 percent. In addition, the Federal Reserve signaled that more interest rate increases will come and rates will probably not start dropping until 2024.

Rate increases are the main tool the Federal Reserve uses to try to lower inflation. The theory is that rising interest rates will make borrowing more expensive, which will eventually reduce demand and, thus, lower prices.

The question many of you have is how rising interest rates affect you, the average U.S. consumer.

From a consumer standpoint, the cost of borrowing is more expensive, which means credit card rates (which are at their highest since 1996) will increase further. In addition, the cost of mortgages (which are their highest rate since 2008) will also increase along with auto loans (which are their highest rates in 10 years).

In other words, if you were going to borrow money, it has gotten a lot more expensive.

On the other hand, if you are not in debt or have fixed rate debt, there actually can be good news as a result of the Federal Reserve's announcement. The good news is that interest rates on savings accounts and money market accounts should rise.

Although the Federal Reserve does not directly influence deposit rates, they tend to be correlated. Therefore, if you are a saver, you may find that you will see an increase in the interest rate paid to you by the bank.

If you have credit card debt with a variable rate, you may find that as the Federal Reserve raises interest rates, your cost of borrowing also increases. Therefore, it is important to be proactive

if you are holding substantial credit card debt. You may want to consider transferring your balance to a lower interest rate credit card.

Every so often, you'll see credit cards offer zero percent balance transfer credit cards. Although many of these deals are gimmicky, they can be used to substantially lower the interest rate on your credit card.

The key is to remember that not all balance transfer offers are the same, so it's important to make sure you understand what you're getting involved in.

In addition, some individuals may find that they can get lower rates by either using a personal loan or a home equity loan.

If you choose to explore this route, it is always important to shop around, because rates do differ.

It wasn't too long ago that the Federal Reserve dismissed rising inflation and claimed that it was transitory; unfortunately, that was not the case. Inflation has been with us for a while, and it appears that it will be a problem for the near future.

That is why I cannot stress enough how important it is for all of us to get a handle on our expenses. Remember, we have much more control over our expenses than our income.

I always believe the first step in controlling your expenses is to know where your money is going. You should be able to account for all the money coming into the home and know where it's going. Once you know where it's going, you can look for ways to become more efficient.

I wish I could tell you when inflation will begin to retreat; unfortunately, I can't. But one thing I do know is that inflation is not going away anytime soon and the more efficient you become with your finances, the easier it will be for you to get through these tough economic times.

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

Canada ends travel restrictions related to COVID-19 pandemic

Emma Stein
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Canada's COVID-19 travel restrictions has come to an end.

Beginning Oct. 1, there are no more vaccine or testing requirements, and there will be no enforced masking on planes.

For Detroiters, who live just minutes from the border, this marks the end of an era.

"Thanks largely to Canadians who have rolled up their sleeves to get vaccinated, we have reached the point where we can safely lift the sanitary measures at the border," said Jean-Yves Duclos, Canada's Minister of Health, in a news release. "However, we expect COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses will continue to circulate over the cold months, so I encourage everyone to stay up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination, including booster doses and exercise individual public health measures."

"I also thank the dedicated public health officers and frontline staff at our land borders and airports who have worked tirelessly to protect the health and safety of people in Canada for the last two years."

This, of course, has a major impact on Michigan, which has four entrances to Canada: the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit, the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron and the Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge in the Upper Peninsula.

What do I need to do to travel to Canada?

The only requirement to cross the border now is to pay a toll — \$5.50 to Windsor, and \$5 to Detroit if you're using the tunnel (it's a little more expensive if you're using the Ambassador Bridge).

Other than that, you're free to come and go as you please, provided you have a valid passport.

The popular Tunnel Bus service to Detroit has not resumed yet, and Transit Windsor said they do not know

when it will return.

The public health agency cited high vaccination rates, as well as lower case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths as the reason for the change.

The government has also faced harsh criticism from some residents over its strict COVID-19 restrictions, including truckers that protested on its borders, blocking trade for days.

The United States' northern border first closed on March 21, 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began. The closure was extended monthly by both governments.

In August 2021, more than a year later, Canada opened its border to fully vaccinated Americans, but everyone passing through had to submit a COVID-19 test.

In March 2022, Canada scrapped its test requirement for vaccinated travelers.

Does Canada require COVID-19 vaccination to enter?

No. Effective Oct. 1, all travelers, regardless of citizenship, will no longer have to:

- submit public health information through the ArriveCAN app or website
- provide proof of vaccination
- undergo pre- or on-arrival testing
- carry out COVID-19-related quarantine or isolation
- monitor and report if they develop signs or symptoms of COVID-19 upon arriving to Canada
- undergo health checks for travel on air and rail
- wear masks on planes and trains

Although the masking requirement is being lifted, the government "strongly recommended" all passengers continue to wear high quality and well-fitted masks.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention currently says Canada has a "high" COVID-19 level and warns people to be up to date with their vaccines before entering the country.

Canada saw 18,718 new COVID cases over the past week, and 223 new deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University & Medicine.

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Obituaries

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Betty Csokas Flores

WHITNEYVILLE, ME - 3/26/1932 - 9/16/2022

Betty Csokas Flores, 90, passed away peacefully at the home she shared with her daughter Carol in Whitneyville, Maine for the past four years.

Her daughters Clara Buescher and Carol Flores were at her bedside.

A celebration of life and interment will be scheduled for Summer 2023 in Maine.

Arrangements:

Mays Funeral Home
26 Church St.
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207-454-3141

Michael Kraus

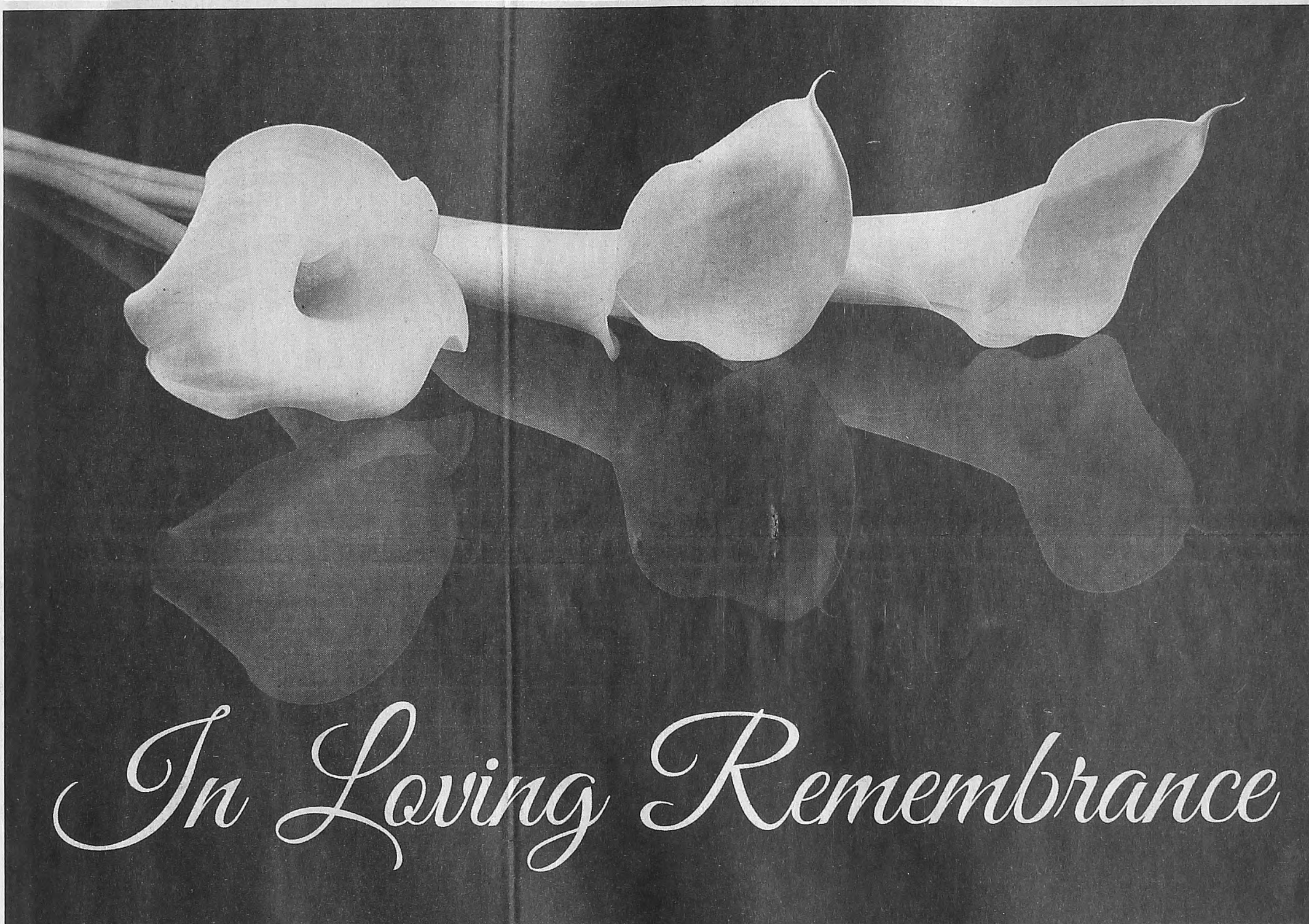
Michael Kraus, Age 64, passed away on September 21, 2022. Cherished son of Barbara and the late Ronald Kraus. Devoted father of Quiana (Phil) Ramos, Michael Thomas, Thomas, and Kristina. Loving grandfather of Brennen Ramos, Braben Ramos, Makaio Thomas. Beloved brother of Lou. Proud uncle to several cousins. He will be missed by many loving family members and friends.

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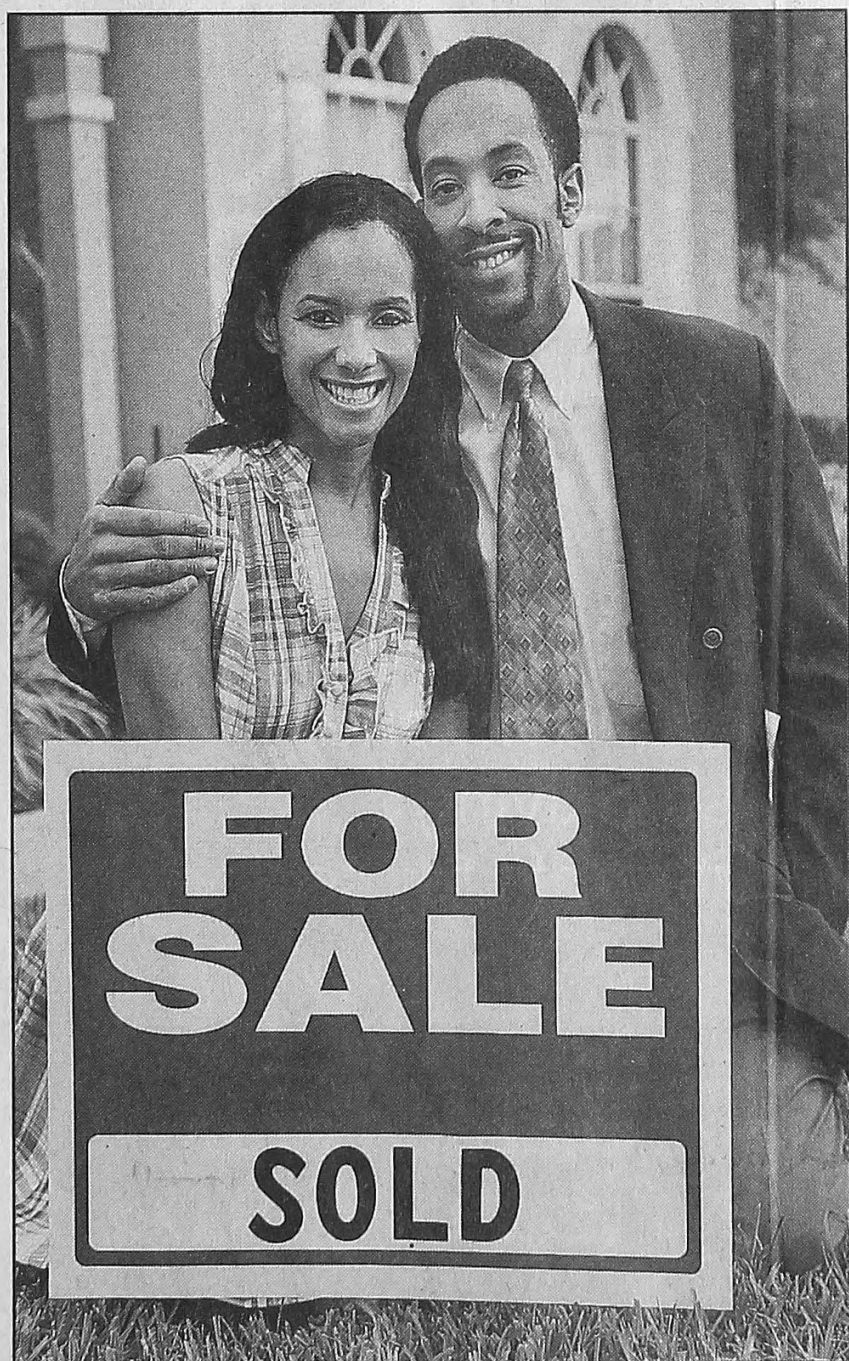
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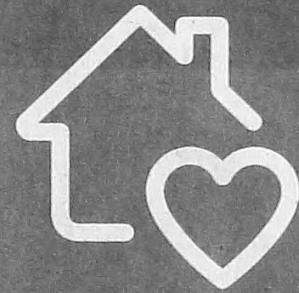


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SPORTS

Zebras star verbally commits to Georgetown

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Mayla Ham's unofficial visit with the Georgetown University women's basketball team went so well in August that she didn't need to wait to take an official one later this winter.

The Wayne Memorial senior was already sold.

The 5-foot-11 small forward verbally

committed to the Hoyas, writing a post on her Twitter account about her college decision.

"The unofficial really sold me," Ham told Hometown Life. "Everything we did there was something you do on your official. But it wasn't official. As soon as I got there, they showed the most love. It's one of the best academic schools, and I'm big on academics."

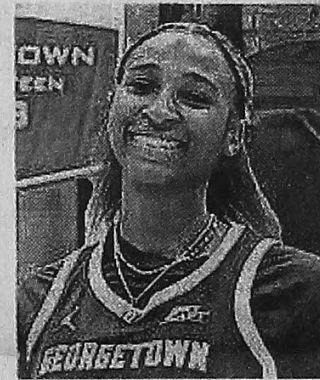
"That was something that really pushed me forward. I was thinking

about going into physical therapy or sports medicine, and I can do that there."

For those not in the know about how recruiting works, there's a big difference between unofficial and official visits.

Anyone can take an unofficial visit, assuming they're invited. Basically, players get to tour the school, talk with coaches and get an inside look at how

See STAR, Page 3B



Wayne Memorial senior Mayla Ham verbally committed to Georgetown University on Sept. 18.
COURTESY OF MAYLA HAM

Week 5's top performers in HS football

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Week 5 of the Michigan high school football season is in the books.

Let's take a look at the stat leaders in the Hometown Life coverage area.

Is your team missing stat leaders? Encourage your coaches to send stats to sports reporter Brandon Folsom at bfolsom@hometownlife.com.

Catholic League

Detroit Catholic Central 21, Brother Rice 19 (CHSL-Central)

WR Brady Blakita hauled in a 37-yard TD pass from Beau Jackson and returned an interception 100 yards for a score for the Shamrocks (4-1, 1-0). Jaden Pydyn punched in a 1-yard rushing TD.

QB Blake Marrogy threw TD passes to Henry Garrity (25 yards) and Andrew Kulka (10) for the Warriors (2-3, 1-1). Kicker Owen Pardi booted in two field goals, including a 33-yarder, and Ben Eck and Eryx Daugherty each pulled down interceptions.

Cranbrook 21, Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard 3 (CHSL-Intersectional 1)

QB Preston Washer was 6 of 14 passing for 118 yards and two TDs for the Cranes (2-3, 1-1). John Kersh rushed for a TD, and brothers Alex and David Yolles each caught TD passes. Kersh led the defense with 15 tackles (one for loss) and an interception, while Alex Smith totaled 10 tackles (four for loss).

Independent

Dearborn Divine Child 15, Livonia Clarenceville 8

RB Miles Ealy rushed 21 times for 124 yards and one TD for the Trojans (3-2).

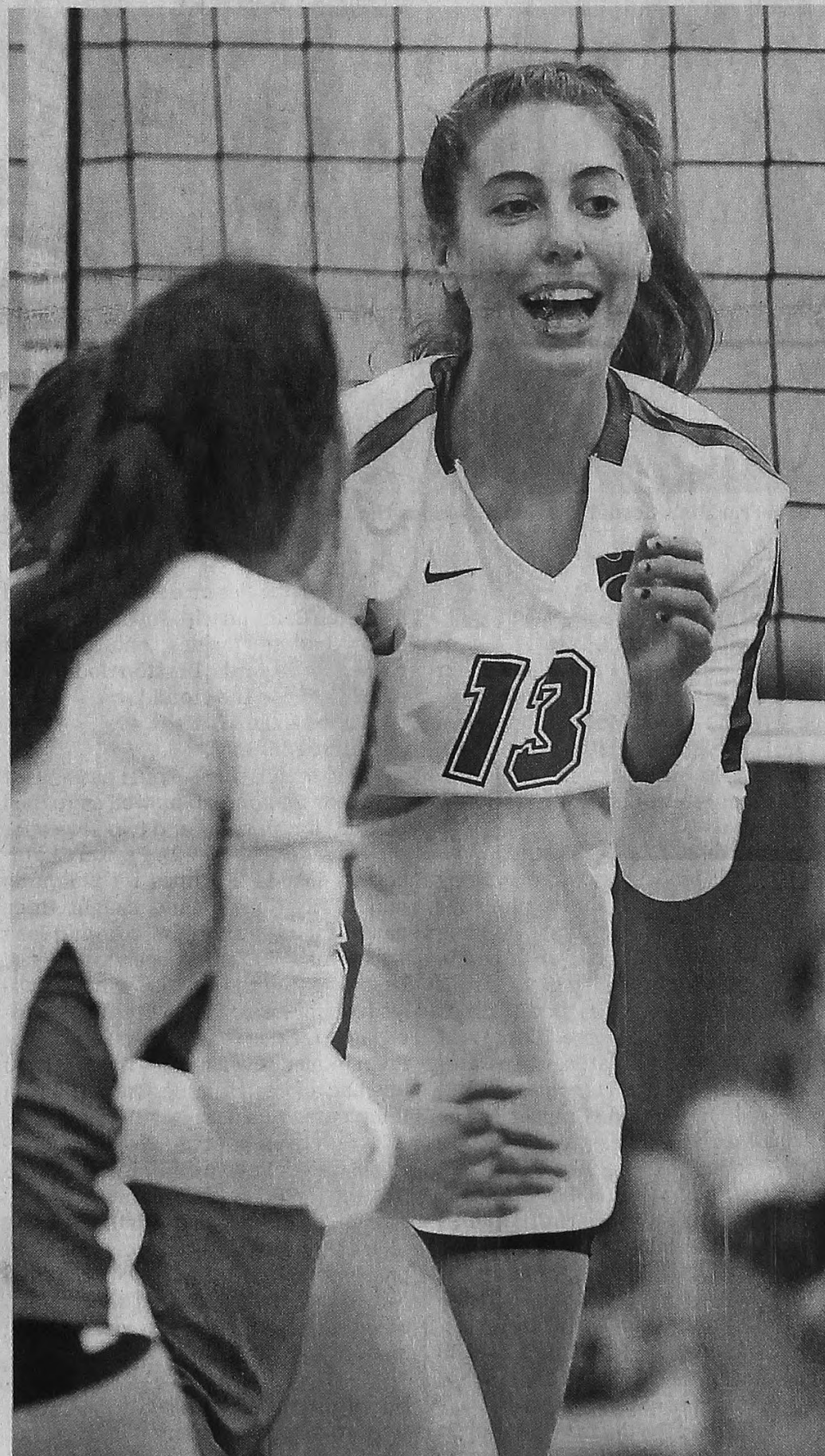
The senior also hauled in 86 yards receiving and converted a two-point conversion.

Detroit Country Day (Open Date)

The Yellowjackets remained 3-1 overall.

See WEEK 5, Page 2B

Novi, Ann Arbor Skyline meet in battle of Miss Volleyball candidates



Novi's Sarah Vellucci celebrates a point against Ann Arbor Skyline on Sept. 22.
BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

They lined up and waited patiently for their turn to snap a photo with Ann Arbor Skyline senior Harper Murray following Thursday's match.

What little girl wouldn't want their picture taken with the No. 1-ranked volleyball player in the country?

There were elementary players wearing their red St. James CYO uniforms. There were middle school players dressed in green. Even some of the JV players got in line.

And most of them will be future Wildcats.

At the end of the day, the No. 4 Eagles' 3-1 victory at Novi meant nothing. It wasn't for a weekend tournament trophy. There were no league-title implications. And the win wouldn't determine any district or playoff seeding.

But the match couldn't have been any bigger.

With a packed house, everyone was on hand to see the real show: Murray vs. Sarah Vellucci.


Both will graduate in January to enroll early at their future colleges: Murray is headed to Nebraska and Vellucci will play at Long Beach State. Both were teammates for Legacy Volleyball Club. Both have helped their high school teams make final-four trips to Battle Creek. And both were recently named Michigan Miss Volleyball candidates.

It felt more like a regional final or state quarterfinal game than merely a random ho-hum non-conference matchup being played in the middle of the season.

It's what you'd expect from a match that features two of the top-five players in the state, according to PrepDig.com, as well as two players who've been close friends since the sixth grade.

"They've been teammates. They're best friends. They've traveled together," said Novi coach Kacy Byron, who has watched both girls develop into Division I recruits as one of Legacy's coaches. "So you know when they square off, it's not just Novi vs. Skyline. It's a little bit of Harper vs. Sarah."

See BATTLE, Page 6B



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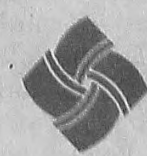
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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Howell scores off 2 punts in win over Salem

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON — Howell did enough damage in the punt game alone to handle its business Sept. 23 in a 43-10 victory over Salem.

John Lovich opened the scoring on a 55-yard punt return and TJ Fischhaber returned Austin Grunwald's blocked punt 16 yards for a touchdown to make it a 36-0 game in the second quarter.

"Special teams were big," Howell coach Brian Lewis said. "We've got to be ready to win on special teams week in and week out. We did a good job of doing that tonight."

Senior quarterback Dru Taylor returned after missing two games with an injury, going 3-for-5 for 65 yards and a touchdown. His scoring strike was a 25-yard pass to Preston Forth, giving the

Highlanders a 43-3 halftime lead.

Sophomore Justin Jones, who started at quarterback one week earlier, had a 1-yard touchdown run while splitting time with Taylor.

"We're mixing in both quarterbacks with Jones and Dru," Lewis said. "There are certain things Dru has done really well for us that we want to take advantage of. He threw the ball pretty good tonight, as far as understanding where to throw it and his reads."

Howell's other touchdowns came on a 23-yard run by Ben Brown and a 2-yard run by Marshall Chambers.

Logan Porter ran five times for 55 yards for the Highlanders (3-2), who were expected to host M-59 rival Hartland on Friday.

"You know how it goes when the Livingston County schools go at each other," Lewis said. "It should be a good week."



Howell's John Lovich scored on a 55-yard punt return to open the scoring in a 43-3 victory over Salem on Sept. 23. DAN ZEPPA/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

Week 5

Continued from Page 1B

Kensington Lakes
Activities AssociationLivonia Stevenson 41,
Wayne Memorial 0 (KLAA-East)

QB ArJon Thompson was 5 of 8 passing for 99 yards, one TD and one interception and rushed four times for 53 yards and two scores. Alex Bowser rushed seven times for 39 yards and a TD, while Aiden Nolan and Luke Evanoff each rushed for TDs. Nolan also caught three passes for 60 yards and a score. Owen Reed led the Spartans (3-2, 3-1) on defense with eight tackles, Dillon Welch had three tackles (one for loss) and two sacks and Chuck Davidek added four tackles (three for loss), one sack and one forced fumble.

QB DeMarus Bird was 3 of 5 passing for 32 yards for the Zebras (0-5, 0-4). Darnell Johnson rushed 19 times for 84 yards, Dwayne Jones added 27 yards and Matt Goudette caught two passes for 31 yards. Jones led the defense with six tackles (two for loss), while Goudette added five tackles and one interception.

Dearborn 38,
Livonia Churchill 19 (KLAA-East)

QB Evan Snead was 7 of 12 passing for 52 yards and had TD rushes of 12 and 17 yards for the Chargers (1-4, 0-4). David Anderson rushed three times for 135 yards, which included an 88-yard TD, while Jon Lytle-Montgomery carried 16 times for 99 yards and Dylan Wilczynski caught three passes for 32 yards. Malachi Bratton led the defense with nine tackles (five solo, 1.5 for loss) and a sack, Tanner Diaz added 5.5 tackles (five solo, 1.5 for loss) and Wilczynski had five solo tackles.

Livonia Franklin 51, Westland John
Glenn 32 (KLAA-East)

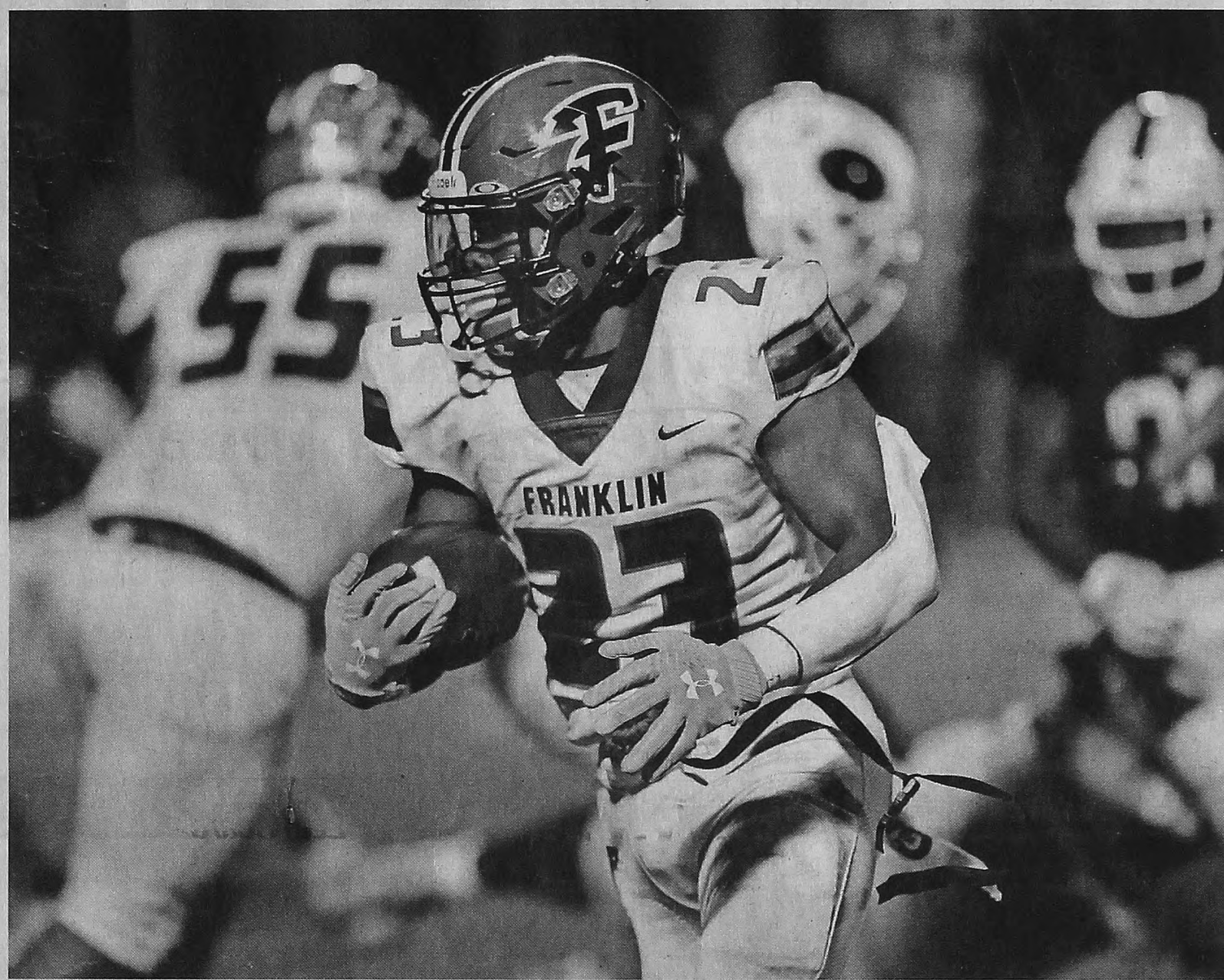
QB JD Bates was 7 of 11 passing for 117 yards for the Patriots (5-0, 4-0). Cordell Mabins Jr. rushed 25 times for 240 yards and five TDs, Michael Wesley carried three times for 52 yards and a score and Drew Kelbert caught three passes for 87 yards. Own Pittenger led the defense with six tackles, while Dominic Simpson intercepted two passes and Griffin Nowack buried a 44-yard field goal.

TE Connor LeCourt caught three TD passes for the Rockets (2-3, 2-2). His first was on a 28-yard pass from running back Xavier Spadacini, another was a 32-yard from QB Nick Wetmore and the final was a 20-yarder from back QB Dougie Wicker. Spadacini also rushed for a 4-yard TD and recovered an onside kick. Wetmore scored on a 5-yard rushing play.

Novi 35, Canton 0 (KLAA-West)

QB Caleb Walker was 10 of 20 passing for 196 yards, four TDs and one interception for the Wildcats (3-2, 3-1). Cole Shires rushed nine times for 88 yards, Martez Langford carried twice for 42 yards and a score, Andrew Kummer caught four passes for 90 yards and a TD, Boden Fernsler had four catches for 49 yards and two scores and Lance Gailiard caught a 55-yard TD pass. Niko Krall led the defense with 21 tackles (11 solo, one for loss), Thaddeus Lawler had 10 tackles (four solo) and Langford intercepted a pass.

RB Devon Pettus rushed 12 times for 77 yards for the Chiefs (1-4, 1-3). Alex Guadagni added 12 carries for 35 yards and Caleb Williams rushed for 30 yards. Dominick Smith led the defense with five tackles (three solo, one for loss) and a half sack. Nathan Levine and Andon Locke totaled four tackles apiece, Zachary Larson had a sack, Nickolas Parker had a half sack and Williams nabbed



Livonia Franklin's Cordell Mabins Jr. rushes the ball Sept. 23 at Westland John Glenn. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

an interception.

Brighton 17,
Northville 14 (KLAA-West)

Backup QB Isaac Pace filled in for starter Luca Prior, who was injured during the game. Caleb Moore scored on a 2-yard TD for the Mustangs (4-1, 3-1), while Angelo Rodriguez caught a 28-yard TD pass from Prior.

Hartland 48,
Plymouth 20 (KLAA-West)

QB Sam Plencner was 5 of 10 passing for 60 yards and two interceptions for the Wildcats (1-4, 1-3). Jaxon McCaig rushed 11 times for 78 yards and one TD, while Nathan Gillick added 15 carries for 64 yards and Plencner carried 17 times for 47 yards and a score. Cam Witt caught one pass for 31 yards, while Camden Short and Kamari Pearson each had two receptions. Orlando Daniels led the defense with 6.5 tackles (five solo), Alex Smaoui added four tackles (three solo, one for loss) and Marshall Thorn had 3.5 tackles (two solo). Tyler Harris pulled down an interception.

Howell 43, Salem 10 (KLAA-West)

QB Robert Ahlgren was 11 of 16 passing for 83 yards for the Rocks (0-5, 0-4). Robert Jones carried 32 times for 135 yards and a TD, while Nick Mullin caught seven passes for 58 yards. Jaywan Thomas led the defense with seven tackles, and Michael Patsy had seven tackles and one fumble recovery.

Lakes Valley Conference

South Lyon 52,
White Lake Lakeland 0 (LVC)

QB Braden Fracassi was 8 of 15 passing for 98 yards and rushed eight times for 60 yards and three TDs for the Lions (4-1, 3-1). Tommy Donovan added 15 carries for 98 yards and two TDs and caught four receptions for 48 yards. Alex Stoyanovich and Andrew Slevin rushed for TDs, and Nicholas Stoyanovich nailed a 31-yard field goal. Ryan Henderson led the defense with five tackles (one for loss), and Alex Stoyanovich came up with two fumbles.

Trey Rowley paced the Eagles (2-3,

2-3) with 11 tackles on defense, followed by Caden Calhoun with seven. Mike Mahaney had six tackles, one sack and rushed for 24 yards. Braxton Godin added 22 yards on the ground.

Walled Lake Western 49,
Milford 35 (LVC)

QB Ryan Allen was 11 of 14 passing for 142 yards and one TD as well as rushed 17 times for 101 yards and two scores for the Mavericks (3-2, 2-2). Peyton Chamberlain rushed 24 times for 125 yards and a TD, Noel Deland caught three passes for 44 yards and a score and Josh Tobias had 30 yards receiving. Wyatt Lesnew paced the defense with 12 tackles (two for loss), Danny Sternberg added eight tackles (one for loss) and Tyler Freer totaled seven tackles (two for loss) and had a forced fumble. Brady Collision intercepted two passes.

South Lyon East 35, Paw Paw 21

QB Dominic Giovannini was 8 of 13 passing for 198 yards and three TDs and rushed for another score for the Cougars (4-1, 3-1). Drew Moyer caught four passes for 117 yards and two TDs, Jordan Newbill scored twice and Caleb Gash added one TD. Daedricco Fizer rushed eight times for 61 yards.

Michigan Independent
Athletic ConferenceLutheran Westland 20, Sterling
Heights Parkway Christian 7 (MIAC)

QB Noah Etnyre rushed for a 95-yard TD and tossed a 20-yard TD to Aiden Sexton for the Warriors (2-2, 1-1). Mark McCormick rushed for a 3-yard score. Etnyre and James Bigelow each fell on fumbles on defense.

Oakland Activities Association

Bloomfield Hills 25,
Oak Park 21 (OAA-White)

QB CJ Jackson rushed for a 17-yard TD and threw TD passes to Aaron Zekman (17 yards) and Jace Reed (7). The Black Hawks (1-4, 1-2) also got a 7-yard TD run from Reed.

Southfield A&T 42, Birmingham

Groves 7 (OAA-White)

QB Cayden Hardy was 7 of 16 passing for 66 yards and two interceptions for the Falcons (3-2, 2-1). Jalin Samuel rushed 14 times for 49 yards, while Josh Woods carried seven times for 32 yards and a TD. Max Young led the defense with six tackles.

Birmingham Seaholm 29,
North Farmington 22 (OAA-Blue)

RB Kyle Robbins scored on a 55-yard TD run for the Maples (5-0, 2-0), while Sean Emerson pulled down a key third-quarter interception.

QB Thomas Balazovic passed for 177 yards and one TD to Quinn Parpart, who had 89 yards receiving. Duke Blanch helped the Raiders (1-4, 1-2) with 78 yards rushing and two TDs.

Troy 16,
Farmington 14 (OAA-Blue)

RB Cam Pettaway rushed for 110 yards for the Falcons (3-2, 2-1), while Keichean Wilson added 76 yards and a TD on the ground.

Western Wayne
Athletic ConferenceGarden City 22,
Redford Thurston 21 (WWAC)

Owen McGraw totaled over 300 all-purpose yards, scored three TDs and converted the winning two-point conversion for the Panthers (3-2, 3-1). Nic Emond and Joshua Sharp-Pelto each fell on loose balls.

QB Nicholas Warren tossed TD passes of 65 and 50 yards to receiver Chase Wright for the Eagles (0-5, 0-4). Keith Tally rushed for a 2-yard TD.

Redford Union 60, Dearborn
Heights Robichaud 0 (WWAC)

QB Cory Chavis was 8 of 9 passing for 205 yards and three TDs. Dawaune Strickland, Daquan Davis, Javerious Shepherd and Deshawn Thornton each rushed for TDs, while Jamel Belcher, Kyren Ware and Dematthew Dixon each had TD receptions. The Panthers (5-0, 4-0) totaled 345 yards of total offense.

Follow Brandon Folsom on Twitter: @folsombrandonj.

Star

Continued from Page 1B

things are done within the program. However, players must pay their own way there.

But an official visit is where colleges pull out all the stops. They can pay for a player and their family to fly in for a game or a practice and give the recruit a top-flight, VIP experience, all on the college's dime.

The fact Ham didn't get Georgetown's best recruiting experience says just how badly they wanted her to come to Washington, D.C., to play basketball. They made the unofficial visit feel as official as possible.

"I fell in love with the city, the facility and the coaches," Ham said. "It's an all-Black coaching staff, and that stood out to me the most. I want to be part of the culture there. I want to help them be at the top of the Big East over the next couple of years."

Coincidentally, the Hoyas stopped by one of Wayne's open gyms since Ham's visit and even offered her teammate, sophomore Colleena Bryant, one of the top point guards in Michigan.

Ham averaged 14.2 points and 9.7 rebounds per game a year ago for the Zebras, who made their second trip to the Division 1 final four with Ham on the team. She was a first-teamer on Hometown Life's All-Area girls basketball team, and she'll be our Pre-Season Player of the Year once the winter rolls around.

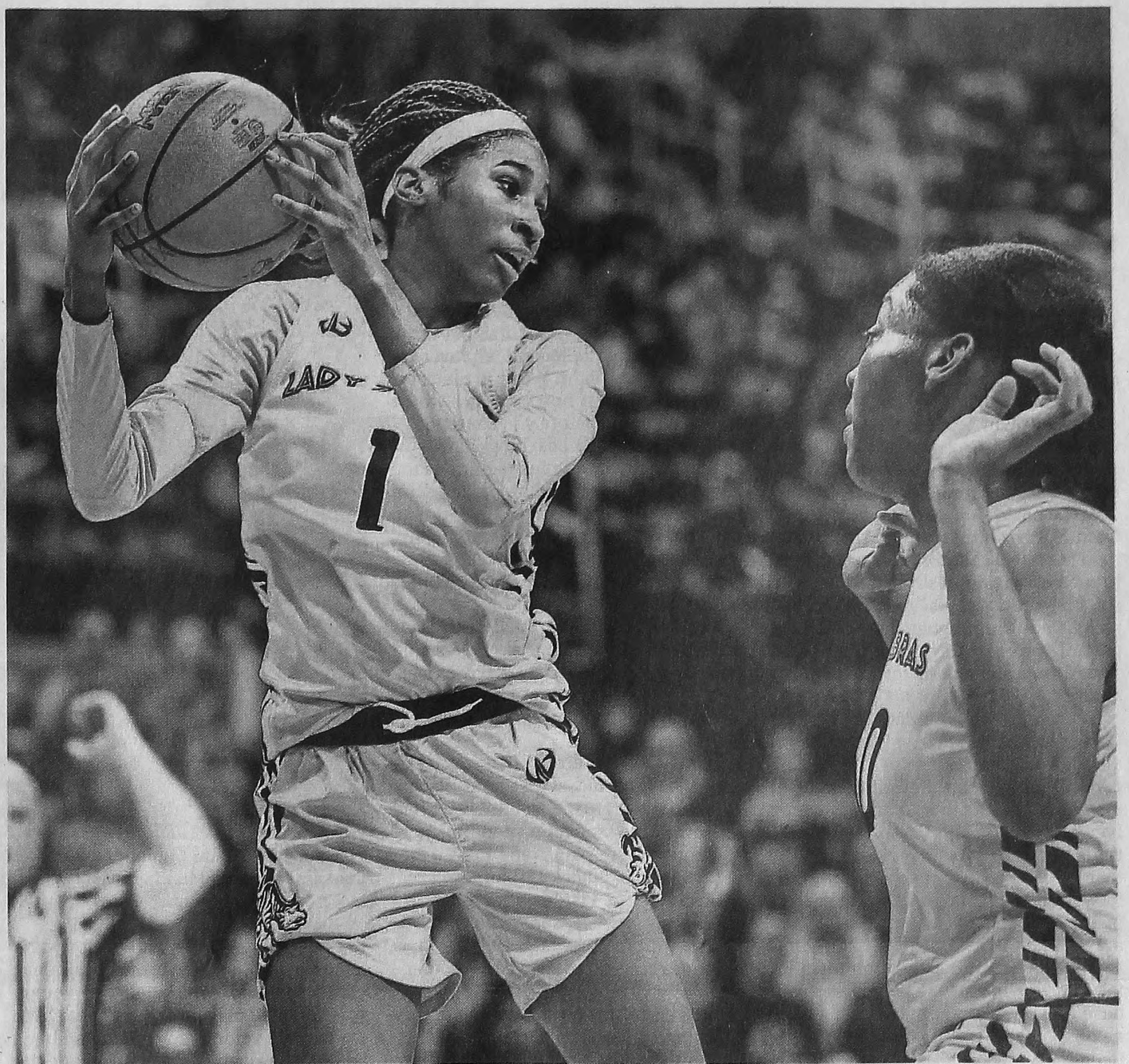
She will likely be a Michigan Miss Basketball nominee when the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan assembles its first watch list.

She currently holds 10 Division I college offers and was strongly considering Central Michigan, Georgia and North Dakota. But the Hoyas are clearly a better fit for her game.

"They said I can come in and be an athletic wing who can score," she said. "They know I can score multiple ways, and I should be able to play a lot as a freshman. They have a couple of wings, but they feel like I can take over the wing role because I can go get a bucket."

The Zebras, 23-3 overall a year ago, should be a favorite to make a state title run in 2022-23.

They graduated just two seniors, which included center Davai Matthews,



Wayne Memorial's Mayla Ham grabs a rebound during the Division 1 state semifinal against Hartland in March.

NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

who is now at Long Beach State.

But they return Ham and shooting guard Paris Bass as their senior veterans, Bryant as their steady ball handler and Alexis Halley, who hasn't had a chance to shine just yet because of injuries but is a promising athlete.

Unfortunately, they lost shooting guard Mia Bazzi, who transferred to Dearborn over the summer. But they will welcome in a slew of talented freshmen


who have already proven themselves on the travel circuits.

"I'm just happy (recruiting's) all over, and it's definitely a stress reliever," Ham said. "I'm ready to focus on my team and focus on winning a state championship. We have unfinished business still."

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

"I want to help them be at the top of the Big East over the next couple of years."


Mayla Ham
On her verbal commitment to Georgetown University



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Pistons at 'ground zero,' Weaver says

Omari Sankofa II
 Detroit Free Press
 USA TODAY NETWORK

It may appear not much has changed for the Detroit Pistons since Troy Weaver was hired as general manager in 2020 — if you judge just by wins.

The franchise finished 20-46 in 2019-20 prior to Weaver joining, then 20-52 during the COVID-shortened 2020-21 season, and 23-59 last season.

Rebuilds aren't easy and often aren't quick, and win totals are an imperfect tool to measure progress. Much has changed underneath the surface. The roster has been completely refreshed over the past few seasons. The 2022-23 team features 10 players on the 15-man roster younger than 24 years old, thanks to several seasons of savvy trading, with six first-round picks and four lottery picks. Cade Cunningham has looked the part of a blossoming franchise player. The Pistons are inching toward respectability.

During media day Monday at Little Caesars Arena, Weaver said the Pistons are now at "ground zero." The young core, for now, is set. Detroit added two more lottery picks this summer in Jaden Ivey and Jalen Duren, and last week's trade for Bojan Bogdanovic gave the team the efficient, floor-spacing veteran forward it previously lacked and sorely needed. The team is optimistic Cunningham, Killian Hayes, Saddiq Bey, Isaiah Stewart and others are ready to take a step forward. The Pistons will have significant cap space available next summer to continue to improve the team.

The Pistons appear, as they should, to be in much better shape than they

were at the start of the rebuild. Now, they're looking forward to doing something they've been unable to do for several seasons — competing every night.

"When I first got here, Ed (Stefanski) and his group had finally started to get the books in order, and we had to reshape the roster," Weaver said. "I thought we were getting out of the red. I think now we're at ground zero. I think we have a full complement of players to compete every night. We're in the competing stage right now. We have to be able to compete before you contend."

Weaver and the coaching staff have been careful not to set expectations too high during the rebuilding process, but it was clear Monday the team wants to see measurable growth. Cunningham was good last season, but needs to be better — more efficient, better-conditioned, more active and engaged as a leader. The rest of the 2020 draft class needs to step up as well. Hayes and Stewart are expected to have career-best seasons as shooters, and Bey should grow more comfortable as a go-to scorer.

But the Pistons are deep in young talent, and we could see several players embrace bigger roles. Isaiah Livers had a healthy offseason after spending most of his rookie campaign rehabbing a foot injury. Marvin Bagley III had a full offseason with the Pistons after a handful of up-and-down seasons with the Sacramento Kings. Hamidou Diallo, too, is hoping to build off of last year's momentum.

Ivey and Duren will have the luxury of easing into their new roles, since they play positions where the Pistons have depth.

"It's the most talent we've had since



Pistons guard Cade Cunningham poses for photos during media day at Little Caesars Arena on Monday. MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS

I've been here," fifth-year coach Dwane Casey said. "Also the youngest talent that we've had. We added two young, very talented players. My first year here we had the veteran guys who had been around the league for a while, made the playoffs. That was a different type of team. But this team is more about the

talent than those teams were."

We've seen several young teams make unexpected leaps in recent seasons. The Cleveland Cavaliers were last year's surprise team in the East, winning 44 games after tallying 22, 19 and

See PISTONS, Page 5B



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Pistons

Continued from Page 4B

19-win seasons the previous three years. The Memphis Grizzlies made a bigger leap, improving to 56 wins after just scraping above .500 the previous year, following three consecutive years of losing records. The Phoenix Suns beat all expectations in 2020-21, jumping to 51 wins after six straight seasons under .500.

The Pistons prioritized adding talented veterans this offseason. Bogdanovic, Alec Burks and Nerlens Noel should raise Detroit's floor and ease some of the depth issues that have plagued the roster. But internal growth will dictate this team's ceiling.

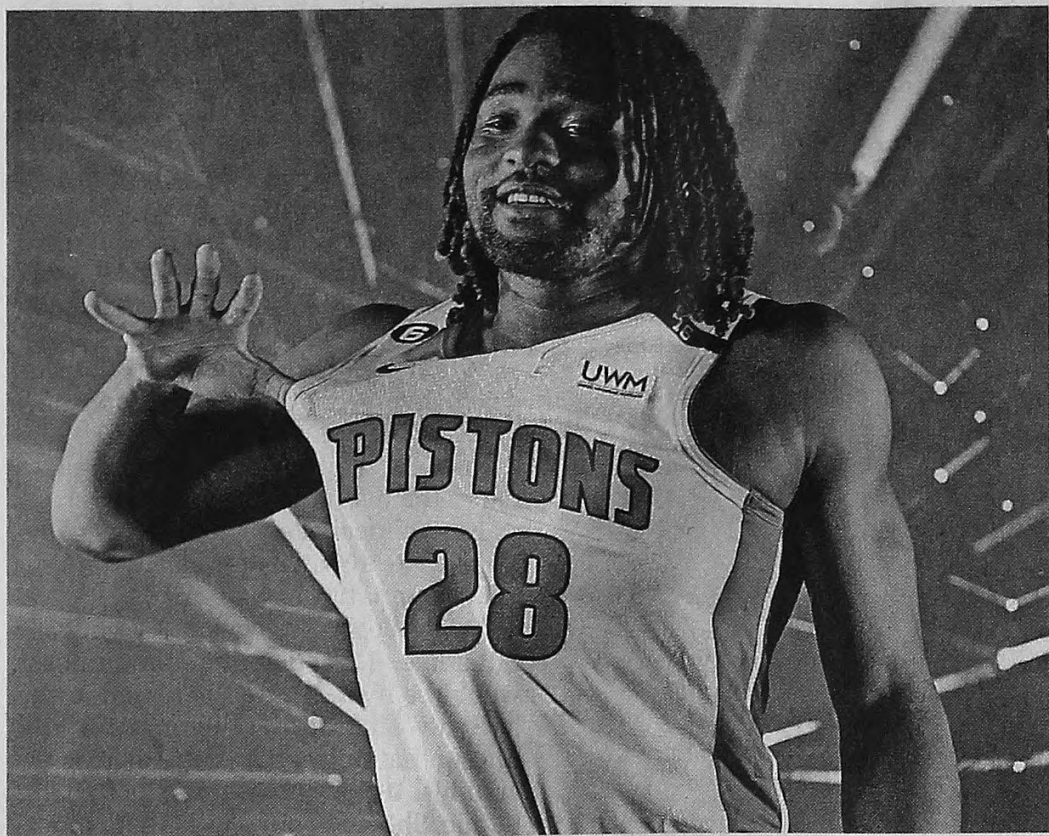
They'll have a difficult path to the playoffs, or play-in tournament. Ten teams in the Eastern Conference — the Boston Celtics, Milwaukee Bucks, Philadelphia 76ers, Miami Heat, Toronto Raptors, Chicago Bulls, Brooklyn Nets, Atlanta Hawks, Charlotte Hornets and

Cavaliers — finished with winning records last year. All except the Hornets appear to be at least as good, or better.

But there are always surprises. Few expected the Cavaliers to make a 22-game improvement last season, and there are always teams hit with the injury bug. It'll be an uphill climb, but the Pistons are looking to the league's other successful rebuilds as examples of what they can accomplish this season.

It starts with Cunningham, who'll have to play at an All-Star level for the Pistons to have a chance. The front office and coaching staff understands that for the Pistons to make a leap, they'll have to be led by their young talent.

"A lot of times, people want to look for all of the answers outside the building," Weaver said. "Internal growth is huge for us. You wonder why teams can take these jumps, you look at the players that they had on their teams who took jumps. We're hoping our players in-house can continue to grow and develop at a pace that allows us to push and grow and compete and then contend the way we want."



Pistons center Isaiah Stewart poses for photos during media day at Little Caesars Arena on Monday. MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS



NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022 CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the City of Plymouth who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the City Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the City of Plymouth City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, October 24, 2022**.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the City of Plymouth Clerk's office, located at 201 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170 at the following times:

- Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a General Election will be conducted in all voting precincts and qualified electors in the City of Plymouth will be voting for the following:

Candidates for the offices of:

- State Governor/Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- United States Representative in Congress – 6th District
- State Senator – 13th District
- Representative in State Legislature – 22nd District
- State Board of Education (2 positions)
- University of Michigan Regents (2 positions)
- Michigan State University Trustees (2 positions)
- Wayne State University Governors (2 positions)
- Wayne County Executive
- Wayne County Sheriff (Partial Term Ending 12/31/2024) (1 position)
- Wayne County Commissioner, 10th District
- Justice of the Supreme Court (2 positions)
- Justice of Court of Appeals – 1st District Incumbent (2 positions)
- Justice of Court of Appeals – 1st District Incumbent (Partial Term Ending 1/1/2027) (1 position)
- Judge of Circuit Court – 3rd Circuit Incumbent (15 positions)
- Judge of Circuit Court – 3rd Circuit Incumbent (Partial Term Ending 1/1/2027) (1 position)
- Judge of Circuit Court – 3rd Circuit Non-Incumbent (5 positions)
- Judge of Circuit Court – 3rd Circuit New Judgeship (1 position)
- Judge of Probate Court – Incumbent (1 position)
- Judge of Probate Court – Non-Incumbent (1 position)
- Judge of District Court – 35th District Incumbent (1 position)
- Schoolcraft Community College – Board of Trustees (2 positions)
- Schoolcraft Community College – Board of Trustees (Partial Term Ending 12/31/2024) (1 position)
- Plymouth-Canton Community School Board (3 positions)
- Plymouth-Canton Community School Board (Partial Term Ending 12/31/2024) (1 position)
- Plymouth District Library Board (4 positions)

The following ballot proposals:

PROPOSAL 22-1: A proposal to amend the state constitution to require annual public financial disclosure reports by legislators and other state officers and change state legislator term limit to 12 total years in legislature

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Require members of legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and attorney general file annual public financial disclosure reports after 2023, including assets, liabilities, income sources, future employment agreements, gifts, travel reimbursements, and positions held in organizations except religious, social, and political organizations.
- Require legislature implement but not limit or restrict reporting requirements.
- Replace current term limits for state representatives and state senators with a 12-year total limit in any combination between house and senate, except a person elected to senate in 2022 may be elected the number of times allowed when that person became a candidate.

Should this proposal be adopted?
YES NO

PROPOSAL 22-2: A proposal to amend the state constitution to add provisions regarding elections

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Recognize fundamental right to vote without harassing conduct;
- Require military or overseas ballots be counted if postmarked by election day;
- Provide voter right to verify identity with photo ID or signed statement;
- Provide voter right to single application to vote absentee in all elections;
- Require state-funded absentee-ballot drop boxes, and postage for absentee applications and ballots;
- Provide that only election officials may conduct post-election audits;
- Require nine days of early in-person voting;
- Allow donations to fund elections, which must be disclosed;
- Require canvass boards certify election results based only on the official records of votes cast.

Should this proposal be adopted?
YES NO

PROPOSAL 22-3: A proposal to amend the state constitution to establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including right to make all decisions about pregnancy and abortion; allow state to regulate abortion in some cases; and forbid prosecution of individuals exercising established right

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including right to make and carry out all decisions about pregnancy, such as prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion, miscarriage management, and infertility;
- Allow state to regulate abortion after fetal viability, but not prohibit if medically needed to protect a patient's life or physical or mental health;
- Forbid state discrimination in enforcement of this right; prohibit prosecution of an individual, or a person helping a pregnant individual, for exercising rights established by this amendment;
- Invalidate state laws conflicting with this amendment.

Should this proposal be adopted?
YES NO

The official list of candidates, full text of these proposals and sample ballots may be viewed at www.mi.gov/vote. Sample ballots may also be obtained at the City of Plymouth Clerk's office, 201 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170.

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and needing accommodations should contact the Clerk's office at: 734-453-1234 ext234, ext225 or ext203.

Maureen A. Brodie, City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Publish: October 2, 2022

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Battle

Continued from Page 1B

"I just think it's really cool that in their final year they're able to compete against each other like this."

Murray guided the Eagles to a 55-4-2 record and an appearance in the Division 1 state championship a year ago. But they lost to Bloomfield Hills Marian in four sets.

Now she's hoping to right that wrong in her final season.

According to the Detroit Free Press, Murray posted 82 aces, 35 blocks, 312 digs and 656 kills as a junior, and she's been adding to those statistics ever since.

The 6-foot-2 outside hitter recently recorded her 2,000th-career kill, and she's in legacy-building mode at Skyline. She's grown as both a leader and a player. Her teammates look up to her. They're poised to make it back to Kellogg Arena. And she soars above the net and hits the ball with the kind of thunder we haven't seen since former U.S. Olympian Alisha Glass was setting state records almost two decades ago at Leland.

"I think losing in that type of atmosphere meant a lot to us," Murray said about last year's loss to Marian. "We wanted to bounce back. We don't want to lose like that again. It's meant a lot (to us) to use the loss as motivation, and we've been working hard."

For the Eagles to capture a state title, there's a chance they'll have to get past Novi in the playoffs.

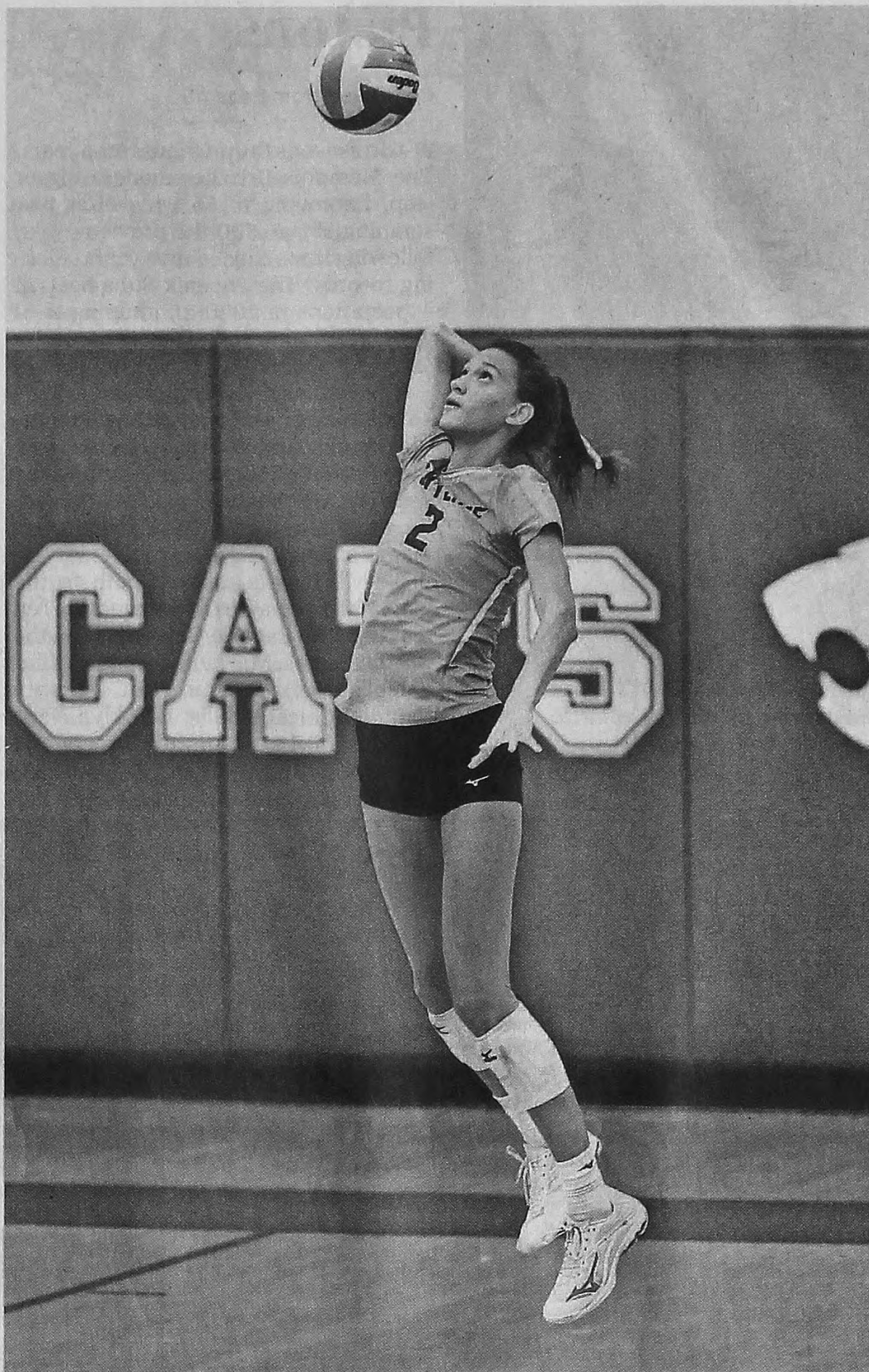
Assuming the Wildcats can get out of their district, which features second-ranked Northville, and beat No. 3 Farmington Hills Mercy in a likely regional matchup, they'd face Skyline in the state semifinal.

And Vellucci, one of the most versatile players in Michigan, should be the one leading Novi there.

Two weeks ago, she recorded her 1,000th career dig. And just this past week, she smacked home her 1,000th kill.

And you might say, "Yeah, but a lot of D-I players reach milestones like those. So what?"

Vellucci is doing this out of position. She's been a career libero on the club circuit, but for the four years she's been on Novi's varsity, Byron has had her play



Ann Arbor Skyline senior Harper Murray serves Sept. 22 at Novi.
BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

as an outside hitter because she's 6-foot tall. Her height is too much of an asset to not use near the net when it comes to slamming down kills and going up for blocks.

The fact Vellucci has 1,000 digs despite playing 75% of matches at the net

speaks to just how great of a player she is. And to have 1,000 kills when she's traditionally a defensive specialist? That's just unheard of.

"Honestly, it's kind of fun because this is the last time I'll ever get to hit," Vellucci said. "You can ask any libero,

and they all love to hit. The little times I get to do it, it's a lot of fun. Though, I do miss (playing libero) a little bit."

She said she worked hard to become a better hitter this past summer.

"I got in the gym with a trainer and was like, 'I want to go out with a bang this last season,' and that's really paid off," Vellucci added. "Honestly, I haven't really hit much, but this summer I really worked out a lot."

When Byron became the Wildcats' coach five seasons ago, she first saw Vellucci play as an eighth-grader. She knew right then Vellucci would be playing at the net for her.

But Vellucci likely could've been one of the state's best liberos had Byron kept her at her natural position.

"As a coach, it goes through your mind like, 'I wonder what her numbers would be if she was a libero and in the back row all the time?'" Byron said. "Her hitting that milestone (1,000 digs) is incredible. It just shows that she's so dynamic. She leads our players both offensively and defensively. She's a good role model in both of those positions. Obviously, she's a rock star in the back row, and that's what she's going to college for. But at the high school level, we really need her to play outside for us."

The Wildcats are 2 years removed from making their own run to the final four. That trip saw them beat Northville in the district and Skyline in the quarterfinal. Lowell bested them 3-2 in the semifinal before going on to lose to Marian in the state championship.

Novi has a tough playoff draw to get back there, but it certainly has the roster to do it with the likes of Kaitlyn Hoffman, who was also club teammates with Murray, Charlotte Stoy, Sasha Ruskin, Sumire Katsumata, Elena Rinkel and Reganne Bennett, among a few others.

And Vellucci will be there to help. While Murray was taking post-game pictures with Novi's up-and-coming players, not far away was Vellucci, who was also snapping a few photos with fans.

After Vellucci took her last picture, she turned around and looked surprised.

Waiting for her was a hug from Murray.

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

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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 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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| Arid | Dairy | Hope | Red soil |
| Athletes | Dams | Iron | Rivers |
| Bull | Emeralds | Lakes | Snow |
| Bush | Emus | Lead | Splayd |
| Cattle | Fire | Manganese | Surf |
| Cities | Flora | ore | Tank |
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T H I G U T T Y I H I T S L R
O A S O A I A A T I C T F T H O
D L E C S N T L I L O L B O N
W A T T N D E P E K O P A P C
O I E A O I E S S N R P P E E
O N L N W R Z R E G G A A E H
D E H K C A B T U O R I L L R
A G T D G U T S P O R C N C S
C O A L L O S D L A R E M E E
F E U L L A L U M I N I U M F
L O C E A N S D O A R O L F R

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Not a slow throw
- 6 Nautical prefix
- 10 Bid for attention
- 14 Detective's alternative to dusting
- 15 It falls in Genesis 7
- 16 Foes, for short
- 17 Scratch off
- 18 Small handful
- 19 Amazon's origin
- 20 Rock that can form in petrified wood
- 21 Double *quattro*
- 22 Put a brand on
- 23 Gershwin orchestral sequel
- 26 Where the tallest statue of the ancient world stood
- 27 South American "Historical Capital"
- 29 Erstwhile microgravity research center
- 32 It has an Arabian Sea coast
- 33 Anthropomorphic amphibian of kid lit
- 34 Mouthguard recommender
- 35 Felipe, *desde* 2014
- 36 Polish place
- 37 GPS reading
- 38 One of motorsports' Triple Crown
- 40 Certain foreign filmdom
- 41 About 9% of Webster's
- 42 Partiality
- 43 Goes green, perhaps
- 45 Highs and lows

- 50 Maritime crew chief
- 51 Fix mentally
- 52 Hercules emulators
- 53 *Ennemie* antonym
- 54 Work up
- 55 Editorialize
- 56 "How often I have ___ upon the grass": Dickens
- 57 One leaving in the spring
- 58 City southeast of Wichita
- 59 City south-southwest of Wichita
- 60 Piquancy
- 61 Articulate

- 3 Epistle to the Hebrews VIP
- 4 Advisor to Achilles
- 5 Lone Ranger's grand-nephew
- 6 What forest replanting supports
- 7 Worldly
- 8 They're thrown from horses
- 9 Above all
- 10 Exits abruptly
- 11 Take it slow
- 12 They keep Silly String
- 13 Travel around
- 24 Rounds of some pro sports?
- 25 Visual aids for tech support
- 28 Works for compliments
- 29 ___ liquor
- 30 Font of creativity

- 31 Valley of the Kings pharaoh
- 33 Rousseau's "source of all the false ideas of society"
- 36 Bettor's buy
- 39 Finished
- 40 Travels around
- 43 Turn in
- 44 Come forward
- 46 Its first fleet was Model Ts
- 47 First name on the first Literature Nobel nominations list
- 48 "Where Brilliance Belongs"
- 49 Go quietly
- 50 Wholesale measure of wool

DOWN

- 1 What some collars keep off
- 2 Goody

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21				22			
23					24				25			
					26				27			28
29	30	31			32				33			
34					35				36			37
38					39				40			41
42									43			44
					45				46			47
48												49
50									51			52
53									54			55
56									57			58
59									60			61

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2022 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 10/1/22

1	24X		2-
2÷			
1-	5+		2÷
		4	

KENKEN

- 1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- 2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- 3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

2	4	1	3
4	1	3	2
4	1	3	2
1	3	2	4
3	2	4	1

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SUDOKU | CREATORS

Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: GOLD**

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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The Discouraging Reacceleration in Core Inflation

ZipRecruiter.com

Most observers expected prices to fall in August after staying flat in July. But they rose +0.1%, despite the 10.6% decline in gas prices, which was offset by increases in the prices of shelter, food, and medical care.

The real action in the report—the focus of the FED’s attention, and the figure most synonymous with future inflation—is core inflation. And that delivered a shock, rising +0.6% in August to 6.3% over the year. Recent surveys suggest the FED may be succeeding in bringing inflation expectations under control, but despite significant monetary tightening and hawkish statements about future policy, core inflation has continued to rise.

That suggests the FED may have to hold rates higher for longer to tame inflation, with greater pain for the housing market and labor market along the way.

Here are some highlights of today’s report:

• **Gas prices are, once again, the major player behind a slowdown in prices.** Gas prices fell for the second month, and have continued to fall since the data were collected for today’s report. But gas prices are volatile and erratic. A jump in gas prices over the winter could take us right back to the higher inflation readings seen earlier this year.

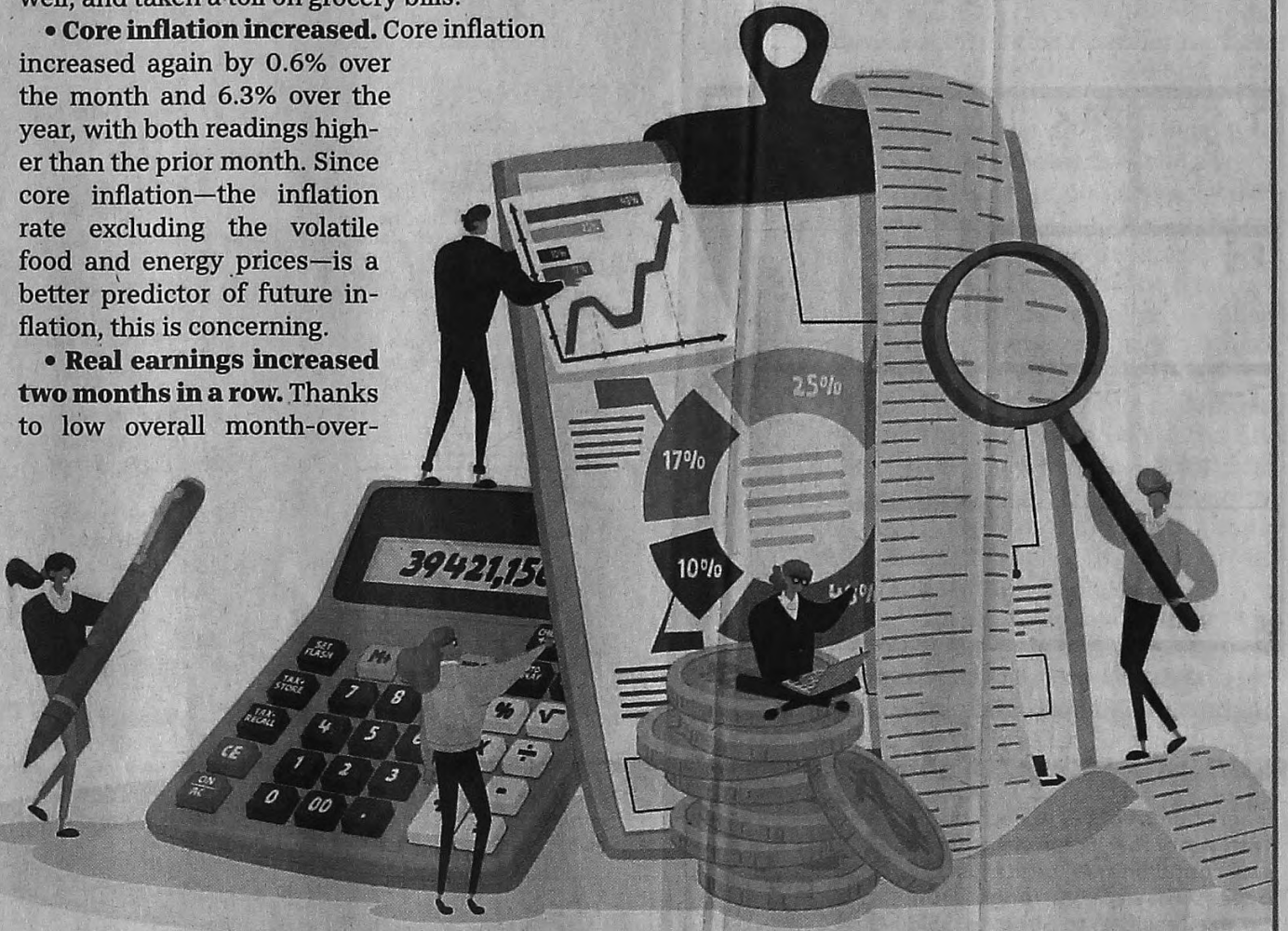
• **Food prices slowed down but remained elevated.** The food index increased 0.8% in August, the

smallest monthly increase since December 2021, but far too high for comfort. In recent months, high gas price inflation is one factor that has contributed to high food prices, but it is not the only one. Supply chain disruptions, shifting consumption patterns, and the war in Ukraine have played their part as well, and taken a toll on grocery bills.

• **Core inflation increased.** Core inflation increased again by 0.6% over the month and 6.3% over the year, with both readings higher than the prior month. Since core inflation—the inflation rate excluding the volatile food and energy prices—is a better predictor of future inflation, this is concerning.

• **Real earnings increased two months in a row.** Thanks to low overall month-over-

month inflation the past two months, the purchasing power of workers’ paychecks is increasing. Real average hourly earnings for all employees increased 0.2% from July to August, but that comes on the heels of a substantial decline in purchasing power seen over the last year.



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