



NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Milford, South Lyon OK garbage contract

Agreement with GFL means price increases

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

GFL locked down waste hauling contracts for years to come in several west Oakland County communities despite some service issues this year.

South Lyon, the Village of Milford and Milford Township officials all agreed to contract extensions with GFL with varying price and service increases in each of the municipalities.

"I don't want four to five months of trying times for our service provider to

overshadow four years of good service," South Lyon City Councilman Steve Kennedy said. "There have been challenges, but they've addressed them in a 24-hour period."

GFL initially proposed a 4.5% cost increase for South Lyon but agreed to reduce it to 4% with rates increasing to \$155.62 annually for single-family homes and \$136.28 the annual rate for

multi-family homes, effective July 1.

The contract, which was due to expire next year, locks in GFL for the next five years.

It keeps the current language regarding the consumer price index, which will allow for up to 2% cost increases each year.

See GARBAGE, Page 2A

Pickle jars in Northville baffle social media users

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

One seemingly common-sense answer suggested is that a nearby resident is placing pickles in the sun at the conclusion of the pickling process doesn't jibe, according to a Michigan State University farming-related

See PICKLE JARS, Page 2A



Paulina Poplawska has been named the new director of the Salem-South Lyon library. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Salem-South Lyon library welcomes new director

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Paulina Poplawska is excited to be back in Michigan starting her new job as the director of the Salem-South Lyon District Library.

Poplawska's first day was Nov. 15, more than eight months after former director Donna Olson retired.

"I love bringing information to patrons, which is the mission of the Salem-South Lyon Library — educating, enriching and empowering our commu-

nity," Poplawska said. "I really enjoy being a librarian, especially since I started, there is never a day that is alike, you never know what to expect. I think that makes it enjoyable."

See DIRECTOR, Page 2A

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Director

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Poplawska, 38, grew up in Canada, just across the Detroit River in LaSalle, Ontario, south of Windsor. She majored in international relations at Michigan State University and after earning her bachelor's degree in 2005. She then earned a master's degree in library science from Wayne State University in

2007, inspired by a librarian aunt and a love of research.

Poplawska was an assistant library director in Liberal, Kansas for seven years before returning to Michigan in 2014 to serve as head librarian at the Holt-Delhi Library just outside of Lansing. For the past three years, she has been a library director in New Ulm, Minnesota.

She is happy to join the Salem-South Lyon community and the dedicated crew at the district library.

"I couldn't pass the opportunity up to work here in this community providing resources to patrons," Poplawska said. "I wanted to be closer to family and have the opportunity to work with this staff and library... I was impressed with the wealth of things we offer."

She points to numerous in-person program offerings, computer and genealogy services, storytimes, and a vast array of e-books and audiobooks in addition to the physical books filling the library shelves.

Poplawska's picks

Paulina Poplawska's two all-time favorite books are "The Coffee Trader" by David Liss and "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. More recently, she has enjoyed:

- "Something Beautiful Happened" by Yvette Manassis Corporon
- "Magical Realism for Non-Believers" by Anika Fajardo
- "Heart Berries" by Terese Marie Mailhot

One of her goals is to bring awareness to the community of all the library has to offer and engage them in lifelong learning.

Linda Hamilton, library board president, said the board interviewed a number of outstanding candidates that could have led and done well, but ultimately selected Poplawska, who will earn an annual salary of \$83,500.

Poplawska's customer service phi-

losophy is a good fit with the SSLDL mission of every patron receiving phenomenal service when they walk in the door, Hamilton said.

"When the library reopened under pandemic guidelines, we started with curbside service when the governor's directive allowed that," Hamilton said. "We were one of the few libraries that allowed people back in the building by summer 2020 and Paulina shared that philosophy and understood the need for those materials."

Hamilton said the library board is looking forward to working with the new director on plans for the library, which includes enhancement of a newly added pavilion.

"We are happy to have a director who will be a real asset to the library and are looking forward to the vision she will bring as we move forward," she said. "We're looking forward to good things in the future."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

hometownlife.com

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Garbage

Continued from Page 1A

GFL also agreed to extend yard waste collection into mid-December and continue the recycling cart distribution at no charge, with 1,500 of the carts available for those who haven't yet received one.

The Village of Milford and Milford Township each approved extending their contracts with GFL by seven years.

In the village each household will see an increase from the current \$11.98 per month to \$12.55 per month

(\$150.60 per year) effective July 1 with no more than a 2% increase each subsequent year of the contract.

In the township, rates will increase to \$13.44 per household per month (\$161.28 per year) from the current \$12.86 per month (\$154.32 per year), beginning Jan. 1, 2023, with 2% increases each year thereafter.

Both the village and the township also will have yard waste collections extend into the first week of December.

Milford Township Supervisor Don Green said extending the contract was a good idea to lock in costs for the next seven years for not only waste hauling but also recycling, yard waste and household hazardous waste collection.

He also noted that the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County provided average waste hauling costs from other Oakland County communities indicating the township is getting a good deal. "Some were at \$227 per year per household and the regional average is \$256.57," Green said. "The average RRRASOC community is \$182.12 and we are cheaper."

He added that while he has seen a lot of news about troubles with waste haulers, the township has "minimal problems."

"Ninety-nine percent of the time, when the garbage is not picked up, it's because (residents) didn't have it out

when the truck comes down the street. Any troubles we have had have been resolved quickly."

Mike Csapo, general manager for the recycling consortium, acknowledged that there certainly had been hiccups over the summer in waste hauling services, but he viewed it as an anomaly in GFL's overall service record and the challenges were not unique to this hauler or to any one community.

He recommended contract extensions, rather than putting expiring contracts out to bid.

"I am a bird-in-the-hand kind of guy, can you negotiate," Csapo said. "If the CPI (consumer price index) goes above 2% your exposure is limited. ..."

"Given the labor environment, costs are going up more than 2% in many industries and there is a reasonably good chance that (later on) if you wanted to extend at 2% they could walk away. Extending under the current terms, there is no change."

Sam Caramagno, GFL director of municipal affairs and operational improvements, said the service troubles the company had earlier this year were related to staffing shortages.

"I think we are beyond that now and they are fixed," he said. "It's been a trying time for us."

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

2022 PAVING BID

Northville Public Schools is seeking bids for paving at Northville High School, Hillside Middle School, Amerman and Thornton Creek Elementary Schools and Cooke School. Bid documents are online by going to the District's web site,

www.northville.k12.mi.us or <https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/Sec9d7f637c1a90018cb55dc> or www.michigan.gov/sigmavass.

Bids are due electronically Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 11:00AM. Late, faxed or physical bids will not be accepted. A pre-bid meeting will be held on Wednesday December 15, 2021 at 10:00AM at Northville High School 45700 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168. For information regarding the project contact Steve Banchemo at (248) 231-9879 or banchemost@northvilleschools.org.

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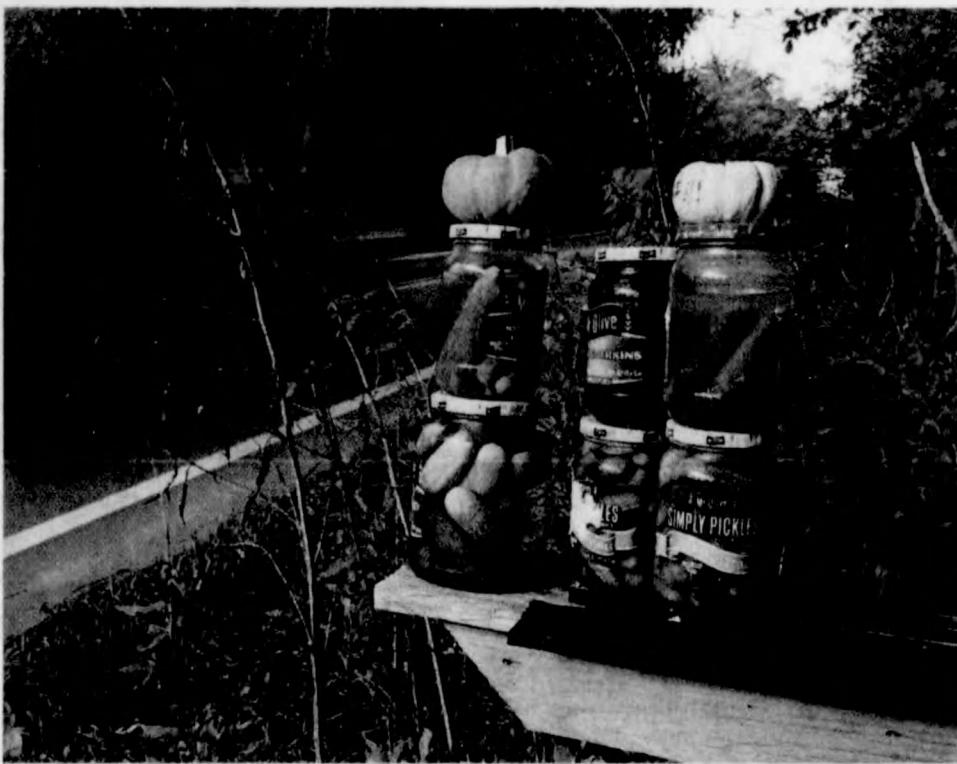
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Six jars of pickles and a couple small pumpkins rest atop a former mailbox post along Sheldon in Northville. The pickles have been on the post for awhile and there's no signage to indicate why they're there. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Pickle jars

Continued from Page 1A

website that asserts setting jarred pickles in the sun for three days to ferment is very unsafe.

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

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

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

Northville Mayor Brian Turnbull's

feel-good theory is that at least a few neighbors of the area surrounding the pickle post are of German descent, and pickles are looked on as objects of good luck in Germany.

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

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

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

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-3313.



Jackson Noble, 5, has a heart-to-heart with Santa Claus during the South Lyon Holiday Spectacular on Dec. 4. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Holiday Spectacular brightens streets, spirits

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

The streets of South Lyon were merry and bright Dec. 4 as the Holiday Spectacular arrived.

Dayna Johnston believes the annual celebration, previously known as Cool Yule, may have been the best attended ever after a year off due to the pandemic.

"We needed this ... especially after all the tragedy around us," Johnston said. "It's for all the families to bring some joy."

Johnston was honored for her volunteer efforts, receiving the key to the city during the tree lighting ceremony, which followed a lighted parade.

Jackson Noble had a one-on-one talk with Santa Claus before the parade, during which he told Santa his plastic dart gun was broken. Santa suggested maybe he could bring some glue, but may also have some other plans after Jackson expressed a desire for "wrestling guys" and a skeleton T-Rex.

Jaime Noble couldn't stop smiling as she watched her son.

"I'm excited to be here," she said. "It's nice to finally be out."

Colleen Whitman agreed.

"We love it," she said. "It's so much fun and it's a perfect night."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.



Santa ditched the sleigh in favor of a South Lyon fire truck for the parade.



A Pearson septic tank truck won the prize for brightest lights in the parade.



The start of the Downtown South Lyon Holiday Spectacular Parade.



The South Lyon cardio drummers do their thing during the parade.

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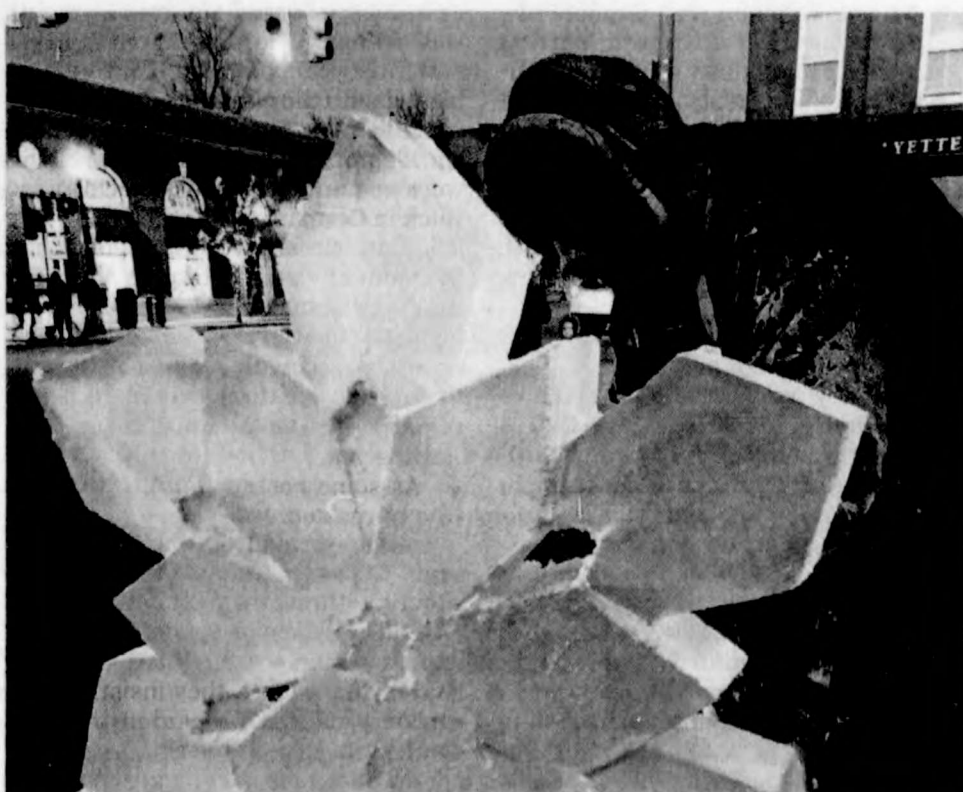
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Oxford High School ninth graders Rory Metzger (left) and Zachary Majewski help tie ribbons around trees outside the school Dec. 1 following an active shooter situation that left four students dead and multiple others with injuries. PHOTOS BY RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Schools close, review safety plans in wake of Oxford High shooting

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

School officials in Oakland County have been heightened alert ever since the Nov. 30 mass shooting at Oxford High School in which a sophomore is charged with killing four students and wounding six more students and a teacher.

School districts across metro Detroit increased law enforcement presence at schools Dec. 1, and by Thursday most Oakland County school districts canceled classes as rumors of potential violence in school buildings circulated online. By Friday, all area school districts closed. Monday, most districts returned to classes again.

Novi Community School District and Farmington Public Schools remained closed to students Monday, but staff was scheduled to work that day in both districts. Students were expected to return Tuesday.

"We have a heightened police pres-

ence throughout the district, not because of a specific threat, but because it is important and prudent to do that today in particular," Huron Valley Superintendent Paul Salah said Dec. 1, the day after the Oxford shootings.

He described the mood in the building that day as "somber."

Many school districts tried keeping the school day operating as normal as possible for students. In Livonia, administrators were visiting each of the district's 23 schools to check in with students and staff.

"Our cabinet team met and created a game plan to visit all of our schools throughout the morning and early afternoon," Stacy Jenkins, district communication administrator, said. "They're just checking in with our principals and our school psychologists to see if they might need anything. We're really encouraging our school administrators to keep the day as normal as possible."

See SCHOOLS, Page 6A



Lora Murphy hugs Cassandra Spezia (foreground) as she helps pass out candles for a prayer vigil at LakePoint Community Church in Oxford.

Kids ask: How safe are we?

Miriam Marini Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Waves of chaos continued to descended upon metro Detroit on Thursday, Dec. 2, two days after the rampage at Oxford High School that left four students dead and seven others injured.

With copycat threats circulating on social media, districts in Oakland County and beyond canceled classes out of caution for students' safety. Law enforcement leaders continued to emphasize the severity with which they will pursue all reports of threats.

But behind the goose chase of threats and social media rumors of a "hit week" are parents who are walking a fine line of ensuring their children's security without affecting their kids' mental and emotional health.

"I felt like I was going to throw up," said Jill Dillon, 51, of Canton, recalling dropping off her 14-year-old son to school Wednesday morning. "It was nauseating, thinking that I'm supposed to be taking him someplace safe, and is he really going to be safe?"

It's a mix of emotions to process, Dillon said. The thoughts never stop racing through her mind, she said, but pause at the reasoning: Statistically, the chances of a school shooting happening at Canton High School — where her son attends — are low, but not impossible.

"When something happens this close to home, it brings it closer to your heart and makes you really wonder, how safe are we?"

Reining in these worries, Dillon said she instead focuses on conversations with her son, Aidan, and practical ad-



Jodie Roden and her son David, 14.
COURTESY OF JODIE RODEN

vice, like staying alert of his surroundings and following his teachers' instructions, imparted through active shooter drills.

"It's not necessarily about location, or what the school is or isn't doing — it's about an individual or individuals," she said. "It's unrealistic to think it can't happen in your community because it certainly can."

At 1:08 a.m., Novi Community Schools Assistant Superintendent R.J. Webber woke up to his phone ringing nonstop: It was a call concerning copycat threats being made toward nearby districts. He spent the rest of the night

See KIDS, Page 6A

Oxford tragedy a reminder threatening violence can have harsh consequences

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Schools across Oakland and Wayne counties found themselves weighing the legitimacy of online threats made in the wake of a shooting that killed four students in Oxford on Nov. 30.

Livonia Franklin High School Principal Andrew Pesci wrote to parents saying the community's help in identifying potential threats is of the upmost importance. Livonia has not identified any credible threats against its student body following the Oxford High School shooting.

"Yesterday morning, I shared with students the importance of reporting any potential threats directly to a Franklin staff member," Pesci wrote in a Dec. 2 email to families.

The 15-year-old charged with murdering four of his classmates in Oxford faces four counts of first-degree murder and a terrorism charge among other charges.

Michigan's penal code states a person threatening violence against a school can be charged with a misdemeanor leading to a \$1,000 fine and/or a year in jail. A credible threat in which the person intended to inflict harm on others can lead to up to a decade in prison.

"We look at all of our incidents on a case-by-case basis based on the facts and evidence in each matter to make

the determination whether or not charges will be issued," Maria Miller, a spokesperson with the Wayne County Prosecutor's office, said.

Like now, after the Parkland, Florida, shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, metro Detroit schools saw a noticeable increase in online threats.

In 2018, a 17-year-old from Plymouth was sentenced to three months in jail and three years probation for threatening to bomb the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. That same year, teens in Farmington and South Lyon schools were sentenced to serve two or more years probation for threatening violence. In one of the South Lyon cases, the student was in jail for 32 days after the judge imposed a \$10 million cash bond. Middle school students in Novi were charged with making a terrorist threat after someone overheard a conversation during class in 2018.

However, school-related threats have not been limited to the aftermath of school shootings.

In October, police arrested a St. Joseph, Missouri resident for making a shooting threat against Walled Lake Central High School. Back in 2015, a Millford freshman was arrested on terrorism and false threat charges after he said on social media he was going to "kill everyone at school Monday." He eventually pleaded no contest and spent more than six months at Children's Village, a youth detention center.

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JOB 19:23-24
 AN ANSWER TO JOB'S PRAYER?

NOTE: A professional journalist, a mild-mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper (who wisely insisted on anonymity) made the mistake of sitting down to interview David about his new book, "How To Keep The Gold In The Golden Years." Several hours later, Clark said he had enough material to write his own book. Would you like to know what they discussed? Read on...

WARNING

PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK: The following is a blatant attempt to get you to buy David's new book. You have been warned. You will also be delighted if you actually buy the book. (<https://booklaunch.davidcarrierlaw.com/>)

Why Do America's Middle-class Seniors Go Broke? New book reveals how they wring out your lifesavings and hang you out to dry. Your Family's Personal Attorney offers middle-class savers surprising insights so you can 'keep the gold in the golden years'

No one has to tell you that Middle-class America is under siege. Prices are skyrocketing. Government enforces strict obedience from some (you), none from others (not you). That's fair! Right? Everybody blaming everybody else. Toxic politics. That's fair! Right? Trillions for the politicians! And who pays? Look in the mirror. That's fair! Right?

David grew up when families were big, every kid had a paper route, and they stayed out until the streetlights came on. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Kiwanis, YWCA. You worked because that is what good people did. And you saved. For the future. Education. You went to church, and you believed. "Do unto others..." "Let your 'yes' be yes, and your 'no' be no." David might be a lot like you.

From paper route to restaurant jobs to autobody repair. Army scholarship to Notre Dame. Boston University Law School. Captain, Army JAG Corps. Jumping out of airplanes, working at the Pentagon. Georgetown University Law. Big law firm time. Solo practice. 40 years practicing law. Radio show host. Newspaper opinion writer. Never forgetting where he started, who he is.

Guided by respect and love for America's overlooked Middle-Class families. Seeing and solving regular folks' problems. Maybe other lawyers and professionals just don't get it. Can't see? or Don't care? Does it make a difference? Forty years working for you. Fighting Nursing Home Poverty. You earned the American Dream. You do not have to surrender.

They told him, "You cannot combine authentic humor and serious scholarship." David said, "Hold my beer!" Read the book. Find out for yourself. Thousands already know. David's "Elder Law Reporter" appears in almost all weekly newspapers. For some, it is the only reason to

keep their subscription. Others clip their favorites. Some have a complete collection! For almost 20 years, his two-hour call-in radio show has been a beacon of wit and wisdom. Humor and insight, a powerful combination.

Growing his law practice throughout Michigan, David is an attorney who has focused on securing the future for middle-class families. By preserving their hard-earned money, they can choose how to live. And they can give advice! Having heard "You ought to write a book!" thousands of times, David is now sharing the mindset that illustrates and explains how to win by bucking the herd mentality to retirement planning.

David L. Carrier and his team of 50 attorneys, paralegals, accountants, and specialists, deliver elder law and estate planning results from offices in Grand Rapids, Holland, Norton Shores and Portage. Combining the archives, compiling true stories and real solutions from years of newsletters, blogs, and newspaper columns. David lays bare the truth that the system works against average individuals who work hard and follow the rules.

"How to Keep the Gold in the Golden Years: Protect Your Family Against Nursing Home Poverty," is a fast-paced, entertaining read that will change the way you think about retirement and long-term care forever. Through real-life scenarios and accurate accounts demonstrating the widening gap between the experience of people who should be aging with grace and comfort and hard reality of nursing home poverty on bare government assistance. You have already done the hard work, but it is hard to believe that bad advice leads to poor results? See how those who plan properly have ensured that their lifesavings and

estates serve themselves and their families. Not big-spending, self-important politicians and government bureaucrats. "Middle-class families spend all of their lives working hard, saving more than they spend, paying down the house, hanging on to the family heirlooms," said Carrier during a recent phone interview. "And then they go broke from long-term care bills. The inheritance is gone from that, or because their estates weren't handled the right way, the taxman gets it all. It's not right. It's a shame, but that's the way the middle-class has been getting screwed for a long time."

Is there anyone who doesn't like a free sample? One chapter, which is available to read for free, details how two women, close friends from high school, with similar lives made different choices. Drastically, tragically, different results. Carrier lays out the scenario, writing:

"Both couples were doing fine. Their homes were paid off and worth about \$175,000. With \$200,000 in savings and \$75,000 of life insurance, they felt secure. Not to mention having prepaid their

funerals. Each couple had three kids and three grandchildren. They even like the in-laws!

"You have friends like these women. Middle-class people who enrich the world. Generous spirits. Authentic kindness. Get it done attitude. Nice homes, colorful gardens. Debt free. Comfortable cash cushion (not that the kids would know). Coupon clipping and natural thrift. No extravagant or expensive habits. Except spoiling their grandchildren. But what is going on with Fred and Barney? Why does Fred put the car keys in the refrigerator? Barney gets so confused with the simplest things. And it is getting worse."

One woman, Wilma, accepts reality and assistance. The program of all-inclusive care for the elderly, which she has paid for through her taxes, eases the strain. In contrast, her closest friend, Betty, rejects the very idea of help as nonsensical promises. But when then their men are stricken with Alzheimer's, reality comes knocking on the door. Wilma's husband, Fred, receives care from outside aides and the family keeps what is theirs. Betty, meanwhile, bears the burden of care for Barney, wearing herself out. Building a rickety financial house of cards that eventually collapses. Dooming herself and her unfortunate husband.

"Betty ran the race. Betty fought the good fight. At the ultimate cost to herself, she did what she believed was necessary. Rapidly pouring out the savings and accomplishments of a lifetime. All gone in the blink of an eye. Is there anything more tragic than needless suffering? When a good person refuses the helping hand, it is more than sadness. When refusal leads to catastrophe, it is more than regret."

"Wilma too ran the race, fought the good fight. Wilma had been there for Fred to the ultimate end. Hospice at the house. Familiar PACE folks who supplied the hospital bed. Hoyer lift and other necessary equipment and services. Given fair warning, the kids made it in from out of town. It was sad, heartbreaking. But not tragic. Surrounded by family and friends. Secure. At peace. What did the lord have in store for her now? Wilma did not know. But she looked forward to finding out."

"Most people, reading this article, will choose Betty's path. Most people, faced with long-term care costs, close their eyes. Reject reality. Hope for the best. As lifesavings evaporate like a snowflake on a hot griddle."

After 40 years practicing law, is it ridiculous to think that Carrier might have discovered the path that preserves what you own and protects what you value? That is the difference between Wilma and Betty. Forty years of experience have gone into the LifePlan™ system. Constant development that incorporates many strategies and delivers on three key goals: Keeping savings intact, paying for the continuing care, and getting beneficiaries what they deserve. Impossible? Maybe. Maybe not.



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Carrier says that following the herd seems like the safe bet, but that when the herd has been stampeding off the cliff, for decades... well, maybe it would not be such a bad idea to consider an alternative path.

If most folks are losing, does that make losing a good idea? "I've got the plan for your family, and it's been battle-tested to defend your ability to live as you want, not as you're told. Haven't you earned that right? I think so!"

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The LifePlan™ secures families' futures and gives middle-class Michigan the winning gameplan. Carrier offers free sixty-minute workshops that start to answer the most frequently asked questions, including:

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- Why is an outdated will worse than no plan at all?
- Do I want strangers making financial and medical decisions for me? Do I want to shut out my family and friends?
- How can I control the care I get (and do not get) in a medical emergency?
- Should I sacrifice my kids' inheritance to accident, illness, divorce, bankruptcy, or their own poor choices?
- Are you against (legitimately) avoiding heavy taxes under the new IRA "reform" and "stimulus rescue" boondoggles?

Planning is critical for peace of mind not only for yourself, but also your family, Carrier said. Once you are in control and secure. A clearly structured LifePlan™ saves families and relationships from exploding during emotional times.

Carrier says too many people spend their lives focused on dying. Is it a good idea to be preoccupied with what happens to your wealth when you're dead and gone? David stresses that you should live for you and your spouse first. Is your vision, your fondest wish, to enjoy exciting life experiences, volunteer work, helping with the grandkids' tuition, or just relaxing at your cozy country cottage or cabin? Have you given up on the idea that you can achieve your personal goals working with your family's personal attorney and the LifePlan™ Team?

"You can get in complete control of your future instead of having no control at all," he said.

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DAVID L. CARRIER
39 Years Practicing Law
 BA, Notre Dame; JD, Boston University Law
 Master of Laws, Tax, Georgetown University Law
 Captain, US Army, JAGC (Veteran)



Kids

Continued from Page 4A

and morning discussing student safety and planning the best course of action. "I've done this (been an educator) for 30 years and this is the first day I've had where we're off school for a reason that no parent was equipped or ready to explain why," Webber said.

Administrators nationwide — even globally — have been stretched thin for nearly two years, between keeping students healthy during a pandemic and devastating staffing shortages, and now Michigan educators are having to face guiding students through another crisis. Not to mention the long-term, lasting impact all this has on students, Webber said.

"We're already seeing behavioral struggles with kids because of the trauma of the pandemic, and now we have this," he said. "The fall of 2021 has been, hands-down, the most difficult four to five months of my educational career,"



Jill Dillon's children, Aidan, Jake and Hannah. COURTESY OF JILL DILLON

Webber said, adding that he has taught in prisons and in Africa.

A flood of threats across the region was far-reaching, with some being sus-

picious posts online, others tangible.

On Thursday, a 17-year-old Southfield student with a semi-automatic pistol was arrested and a bomb threat was made at South Lake High School, prompting a police investigation.

"If you're making threats, we're going to find you," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said during a news conference Thursday, specifically called to address the estimated hundreds of copycat threats reported. "It is ridiculous you're inflaming the fears and passion of parents, teachers, and the community in the midst of a real tragedy."

Bouchard said the pursuit of threats has exhausted his office's resources but will continue nonetheless. He said he has enlisted the assistance of the FBI and Secret Service to tackle threats. This week has been the most challenging for FBI Detroit Special Agent Tim Waters, who has worked in the community for 21 years, he said during Thursday's conference.

Despite the influx of threats, prosecutors encouraged residents to direct reports of threats to their offices, not to

post on social media.

It's the confusion of what's real and what's not that's scariest for 14-year-old David Roden, a freshman at Northville High School, which stayed open Thursday.

"Everyone was on edge. It's just kind of weird, being close to the situation," he said, "because it's never been close to home, but this one's closer than they've (school shooting) ever been."

His social media sphere is flooded with rumors of more shootings, Snapchat screenshots, and blurry Instagram stories, promising that Tuesday's horror was just the beginning. But teachers are having open conversations in his classes, helping him and his classmates to parse the confirmed facts from the fake.

David's mom, Jodie, said she used to worry about her kids reaching school safely with her daughter, 16-year-old Emily, behind the wheel.

"It's sad that you're nervous sending them off to school and hoping that the person sitting next to them isn't the person that could, you know, do something to them," she said, laughing nervously.

Schools

Continued from Page 4A

Jenkins added Livonia has added to its student support staff, including social workers, in recent years, who can support students who are processing difficult emotions or are nervous about coming to school.

Paul Shepich, superintendent of Clarenceville Public Schools, said his district's approach was similar. Clarenceville does not have any student resource officers at its schools and did not seek a police presence Wednesday.

"We felt strongly that we wanted this not to be bigger down here, locally, than it already was," Shepich said. "We had no reason to believe any kind of copycat issues were at hand, so we tried to use other strategies to deal with the fallout of that incident."

The onus of protecting children from school shooters is a heavy one for districts which already bear the burden of fixing problems in kids like depression, hunger and more in addition to the primary goal of educating students.

"It's important to be mindful that if we are going to meet all the needs of kids, which is expected, we need more resources to hire social workers, counselors, and nurses," Salah said. "We provide all those things, but based on limited resources."

School districts have spent heavily on various security measures, including reconfigured front offices, limited entry access to buildings or classroom doors that automatically lock when closed.

"It's important to note that every school shooting that has occurred across the country has forced districts to be hyper vigilant with safety measures," Salah said. "We don't wait for a tragedy to be prepared."

Novi Superintendent Steve Matthews recalls that when he started his career in education in the '90s, school buildings were open, with anyone able to walk right in. The mass shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999 changed all that.

"We ask ourselves on a regular basis, 'Are we doing enough to keep students safe?'" he said. "I think we are doing all we can, but we are always evaluating if we are doing everything to keep them

safe without making them feel like they are watched all the time. I don't want (students) to feel they are in an environment where every move is monitored, students do best when they feel comfortable and safe."

Novi Superintendent Steve Matthews said an increased police presence was also in effect at Novi Schools immediately following the violence on the other end of the county, but otherwise the schools would continue the safety measures that have been evolving for years. Those include annual training and drills for kids and staff on how to respond to active shooters, security cameras, and secured entryways to buildings.

Districts in the area do not have bag checks or metal detectors as students enter the buildings.

"It would be a monumental effort, with little actionable outcome," Matthews said of adding such security measures. "It's better to pay attention to social and emotional mental health... Over the last three years, we've had a concerted effort to bring restorative practices to the district, with students and families sitting down and working through conflicts and trying to help stu-

dents understand the impact of their actions on others. It's difficult and hard work and takes time, but that work is just as important as securing entry into a building."


School officials are directing families to various resources in an effort to help manage the latest trauma, and also encouraging students, parents and other community members to use a hotline for suspicious behavior.

One option is the State of Michigan's OK2SAY tip line by calling 1-855-565-2729, emailing ok2say@mi.gov or texting to 652729. It is available around the clock for anyone in the community to report safety concerns.

"Your children are our children, and we will continue to do everything in our control to maintain safety in our schools," South Lyon Schools Superintendent Steve Archibald said in an email to families in that district.

Several agencies provide helpful information for those discussing the topic with children:

- www.apa.org/topics/gun-violence-crime/school-shooting
- www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/16/07/coping-community-crisis


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Missing Tennessee woman reunited with Canton, New Hudson daughters

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A metro Detroit family's prayers were answered when they were reunited with Phyllis Greene, their mother and grandmother.

The reunion happened at a Beaumont location in Dearborn the night of Nov. 23. The 73-year-old Greene, who had spent more than a day driving north from her Vonore, Tennessee, home, had walked into the building a few hours shy of midnight.

Staff called police, who made the connection that this was the woman Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard hoped to find.

They contacted Greene's daughters - Tracey Lynn Vitkay of New Hudson and

Michelle Vitkay Adams of Canton Township, relieving them of so many worries.

"(She was) a little confused and disoriented, but healthy and unharmed. That's the main thing," Vitkay said.

Greene, who is resting before the holiday, had a malfunctioning cellphone when she left Tennessee on Nov. 22 to spend the holiday with family. The trip normally takes less than 10 hours. When she didn't arrive in New Hudson by dark, the sisters became worried and contacted police.

They worked with law enforcers in Tennessee, Ohio and Michigan in hopes of finding their mom, who was driving



Greene

alone. Law enforcers did their best to alert the public with descriptions of Greene, her vehicle and license plate.

Before her disappearance, Greene had last contacted Vitkay via an email sent on the eve of her departure. She contacted her other daughter with a landline call. The sisters had firm plans to get their mother's cellphone fixed even before she departed.

This was Greene's fourth trip back to metro Detroit this past year. She recently signed a mortgage so that she could return to the area and live closer to two daughters and some grandchildren.

Vitkay and Adams are still trying to figure out what happened to their mother, a sharp woman who occasionally had been getting disoriented before this last road trip.

A traffic camera spotted her vehicle in Columbus, Ohio, at about 2 a.m. Nov. 23. Vitkay confirmed her mother's usual route is Interstate 75 and feared her mother became confused in Cincinnati, where a bridge has been undergoing improvements.

"A reroute would have her going around Cincinnati to the east," Vitkay said. "I'm thinking she did that and just didn't make her connection back to (Interstate) 75 and continued north instead."

Greene made it to Dearborn in her vehicle, a white 2017 Lincoln MKC. Her cellphone had lost power, but her daughters are grateful to all the people who supported them in their crisis.

"We say thank you," Vitkay said. svela@hometownlife.com

Ex-Green Oak Twp. adult foster care owner, pharmacist charged with fraud

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The former owner of two Livingston County adult foster care facilities has been charged with fraud after police said she switched pharmacies for her residents in exchange for a free trip to Spain.

Holly Purdy, of Howell, was charged with one count of health care fraud kickbacks on Oct. 28, according to court records. Neeta Raval, a Wixom pharmacist who offered the bribe, has also been charged with fraud.

Police received a tip about Purdy, 51, in 2019 after she switched to Quality Plus pharmacy in Farmington, a Michigan State Police trooper testified at an Oct. 28 hearing that led to charges.

"She went to the pharmacy and made

Holly Purdy, of Howell, was charged with one count of health care fraud kickbacks. Neeta Raval, a Wixom pharmacist who offered the bribe, has also been charged with fraud.

a deal with Neeta Raval, that she would give her the business as long as she got a trip to Spain and that is why she switched," the trooper testified.

Raval, 64, admitted to offering the trip to Purdy in exchange for her business and showed police the \$1,949

charge to Royal Caribbean for Purdy's trip, the trooper testified.

An employee said Raval is still employed with Quality Plus. Numbers listed for Purdy and Raval were disconnected Wednesday afternoon.

Purdy was in charge of filling and distributing medications to at least 15 residents between her two adult foster care facilities, Blue Heron Pond in Green Oak Township and Nightingale Retreat in Genoa Township. Both facilities were shut down at the end of February 2019.

Police and state officials conducted a raid at Blue Heron Pond in February 2019 following a report by a hospice nurse regarding Purdy's request to fill a resident's prescriptions for Xanax, morphine MS and Norco, according to a Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs suspension order is-

sued Feb. 27, 2019.

According to the order, Purdy filled the resident's painkiller prescriptions - 15 times - after those prescriptions had been discontinued.

Michigan State Police seized what they say are at least 700 expired or fraudulently obtained pills and vials from the two now-closed adult foster care facilities, according to a LARA report. The seized medication consisted of Ativan, Xanax, Gabapentin and liquid morphine.

The facilities housed residents who were physically handicapped, as well as those with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, according to LARA.

Both Purdy and Raval failed to appear for their scheduled arraignment Nov. 24 in front of Magistrate Jerry Sherwood. Neither have attorneys listed on file.

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White Lake police adopt family after dog attack

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Two aggressive dogs mangled young Hunter Heater in October, unnerving his parents, along with White Lake Township police.

Suffering from deep gashes and gouges, the 9-year-old boy kept asking if he was going to die.

"He had over 75 lacerations and puncture wounds throughout his body from the two dogs," Police Chief Daniel Keller said. "Hunter told the officer that he didn't want to die, which is heart-breaking to hear."

"No 9-year-old should have to go through what Hunter went through."

The White Lake Police Foundation has adopted the Heater family for the holidays, making sure their Christmas morning is bright as can be.

"I knew that Hunter and his family were going to need help through this tough time," Keller, president of the foundation, said. "They shouldn't have (to) decide between opening presents on Christmas morning or paying medical bills, so we adopted the Hunters as our Christmas family."

Father Tyler Heater, a factory worker, and his wife, Rachel, a stay-at-home mom and school volunteer until COVID-19 struck, are appreciative.

"It's probably, in my life, the only time I've ever received help like that," Tyler Heater said. "It's the last thing I thought they would do."

The Heaters, who feared they were going to lose their child, are still concerned about the future.

Hunter has continued to improve after more than 200 stitches on his face, arms, legs and neck and more than 40 staples to mend a fractured skull. He's walking and playing Xbox again.

He's on a strict, time-consuming twice-a-day scar regimen to minimize the marks on his body. Yet the emotional and mental wounds also seem deep, meaning terror and nightmares for the child and spotty attempts to return to school or be amid large groups of people.

The child known as sweet, compassionate and forgiving feels most safe when he's with his parents. He and his family are working with a therapist.



Hunter Heater accepts a kiss from his mother, Rachel, at their White Lake Township home. Hunter is recuperating from a dog attack in October that left him with facial scars and more than 200 stitches on his body. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Hunter was attacked by two large dogs when he visited a friend's house and played on a trampoline after the Oct. 13 school day.

Rachel Heater said her child has shared bits and pieces of the ordeal.

According to the police report, the dogs were supposed to be crated inside the home while Hunter and his friend played in the backyard. The boys were jumping on the trampoline when the dogs ran into the yard and attacked.

Heater said her son didn't have a chance against the muscular dogs.

"I knew we lived in a really good community, but I really wasn't expecting ev-

erything that I've been getting," she said. "Asking or accepting help is very difficult for me. I kind of had to just step back and realize this isn't just about me. This is about him."

"(The foundation) adopting us has helped in so many ways. I'm very grateful."

Those wanting to help can visit the White Lake Township Police Department, 7525 Highland Road, to purchase a \$5 construction paper beard, which they can sign and have it decorate the lobby as part of a foundation fundraiser.

They also can donate through to the foundation's PayPal account, www.paypal.com/paypalme/wlpfoundation, or a GoFundMe account, www.gofundme.com/f/exhsde-hunters-recovery.

There are many opportunities for those wishing to help others during the holidays. Many churches orgahize giving tree-type programs. Organizations like Community Sharing and Active Faith serve those needing help in west Oakland County. Community endeavors like the Village Elves offers a chance to adopt-a-family, as well.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

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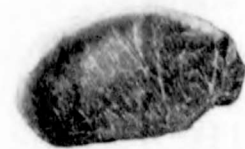
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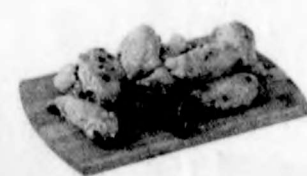
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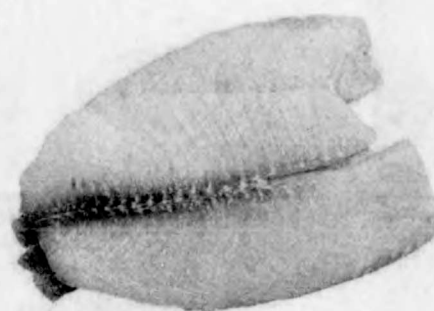
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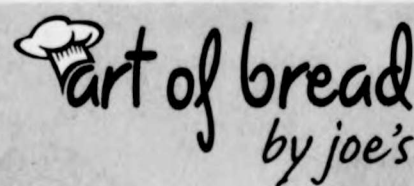
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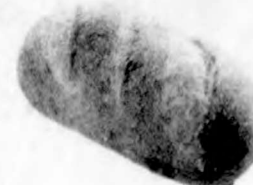
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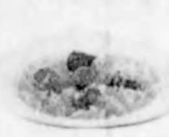


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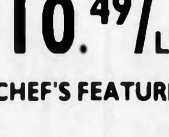
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Canton beats Franklin by mercy rule

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With both the Canton and Livonia Franklin hockey teams lined up on separate blue lines, the players couldn't do much else but giggle and smile throughout all the awkwardness.

The pre-game playing of the national anthem just wasn't going to happen. The song would not play. Nothing was coming out of the speakers overhead.

Some players had red cheeks from the embarrassment.

So the head referee skated toward center ice, signaling to both squads that the game was going to start without it.

And that hiccup was the first of many during the Chiefs' 10-2 mercy-rule victory Dec. 1 at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena.

Tyler Husted (seven points) and Danny Fletcher (six) each recorded hat tricks.

Canton scored five goals in the opening period, including four in a six-minute stretch, but it just couldn't put away the Patriots and end the game early.

"I think my guys decided to be sluggish toward the end of the game," Canton coach Justin Maedel said. "It's kind of hard to keep them up. You can't really get on the guys because of the fact that



Canton's Tyler Husted scores a goal against Franklin on Dec. 1 at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena. The Chiefs won, 10-2, in a mercy-rule victory.

TOM BEAUDOIN/
SPECIAL TO
HOMETOWN
LIFE.COM

See MERCY, Page 4B

Wayne Memorial grad beats buzzer for Purdue win

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Never has Jeanae Terry been the type to step up and take the game's final shot.

When she was a three-star recruit at Wayne Memorial, she would defer to her teammates in those moments. It didn't matter if it was to knot the score, snap a tie or hit a come-from-behind shot at the buzzer. Her lack of confidence in her own abilities was, in fact, the biggest weakness in her game. And both her former high school coach, Jarvis Mitchell, and mother, Tomilia Terry-Carpenter would agree.

Well, what a difference three years makes.

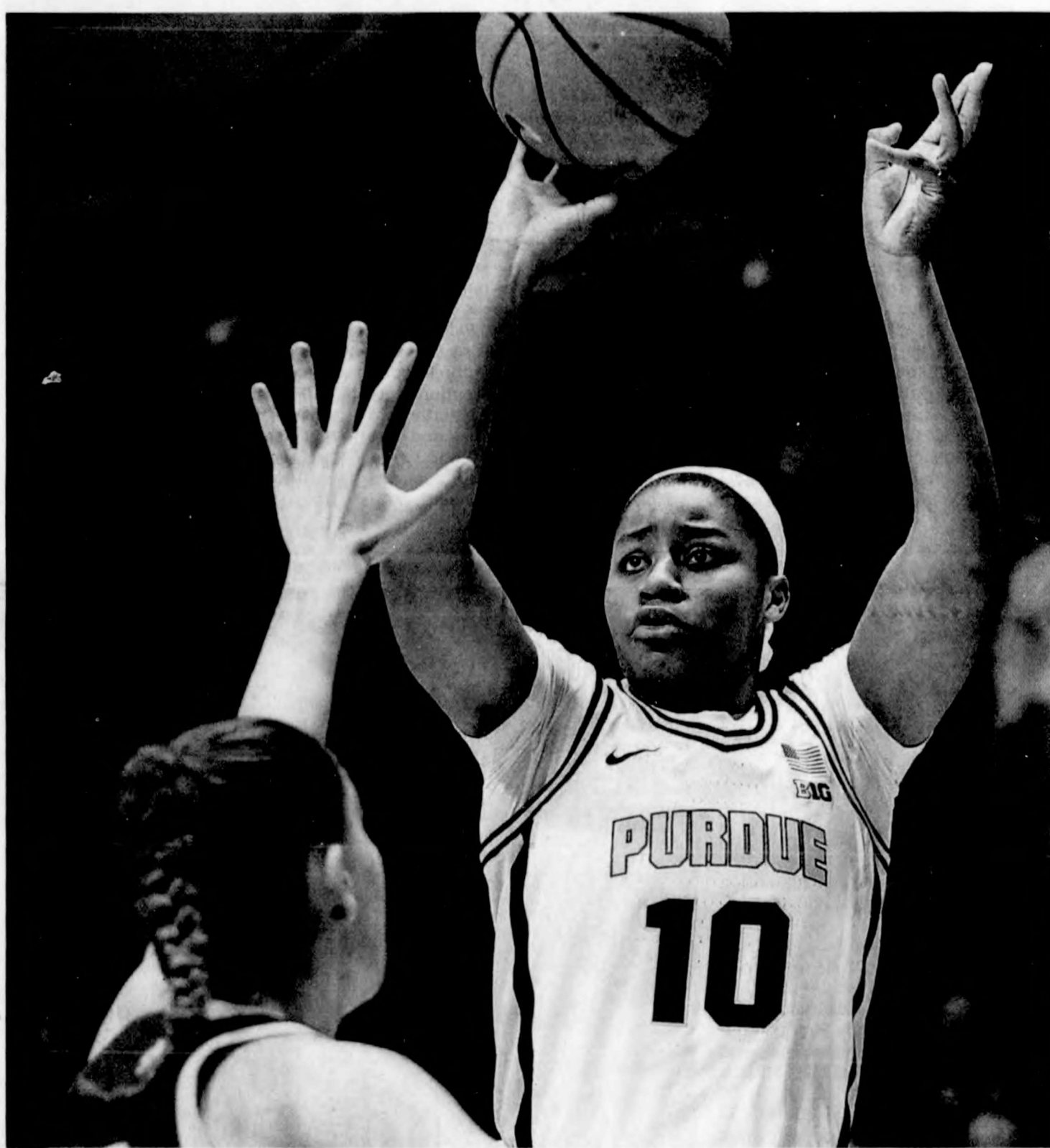
Terry, who transferred from Illinois to Purdue before this school year, buried a buzzer-beater that lifted the Boiler-makers over visiting Georgia Tech, 53-52, on Dec. 1.

That's a quick way to gain confidence in yourself.

"Being in that moment and taking that shot, how incredible," Terry told Hometown Life. "A lot of the times growing up, throughout my high school career and in college, I've always been so nervous to do that. The fact that I did it, put up that shot and stayed confident in myself, it was just a fun, fun experience, having the crowd yelling and screaming.

"It's something I'll never forget."

With three seconds left, Terry received an inbound pass near half court,



Purdue guard Jeanae Terry shoots over Georgia Tech center Nerea Hermosa during the first quarter Dec. 1 at Mackey Arena in West Lafayette. Purdue won, 53-52. NIKOS FRAZIER/LAFAYETTE JOURNAL & COURIER

See GRAD, Page 3B

Senior Dugas stepping up for Mercy girls basketball

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

MLive.com's Jared Purcell tabbed Farmington Hills Mercy's Maya White as one of the top-25 girls basketball players in metro Detroit in a pre-season article. And it's easy to see why the forward is so heralded.

During the Marlins' 50-28 opening-night victory over White Lake Lakeland, the junior used her 6-foot-1 frame to battle down low with ease.

She's the only returning starter from last year's squad, which graduated four different Division I college athletes. They lost seven players in all.

The fundamentals and mechanics

she uses to create high-percentage shots in the paint should make her one of the best players in the Catholic League. She totaled just six points against the Eagles, but scoring wasn't required from her in an early-season tune-up that saw Mercy lead 18-2 after the first quarter.

But this isn't just about White. She's a

proven commodity already. This writing is actually about Sophie Dugas, a rotational player from a year ago, who's now both a captain and starter. She showed in the opener that she'd be worthy of making Purcell's top-25 list should he ever redo it later this winter.

See SENIOR, Page 7B



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MSU, Pitt stars add Peach Bowl pizzazz

Chris Solari Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Mel Tucker knows Michigan State football's secondary — one of the nation's worst — will face one of its biggest challenges of the season in the Peach Bowl: Slowing down quarterback Kenny Pickett and the Pitt Panthers' prolific passing attack.

"I know we're going to have to do a much better job on our pass defense," Tucker said Sunday. "We've got to tighten up some areas. We've got to get some guys back healthy in order to be able to have a chance to contain him and slow him down."

Pat Narduzzi knows his Panthers have a similar test ahead: Stopping Spartans running back Kenneth Walker III. Even though his run defense is one of the best in the country.

"We haven't played Kenneth Walker yet," the Pitt coach said.

The two Maxwell Award and Walker Camp Award finalists, who also have been in the conversation for the Heisman Trophy all season may not go up against each other, but their offenses will be the centerpieces to watch when Walker and No. 10 MSU faces Pickett and No. 12 Pitt.

Though either could opt out of the postseason game before the Dec. 30 game in Atlanta, both have expressed their intentions to play — Walker after the Spartans' 30-27 win over Penn State on Nov. 27 and Pickett after Saturday's Atlantic Coast Conference championship game.

Both Tucker and MSU quarterback Payton Thorne said Sunday they believe Walker will keep that promise.

"I haven't heard from any of the guys that they've decided not to play," Tucker said. "At this point I'm assuming everyone is going to play, but if something changes, I will certainly make sure everyone knows that."

The 6-foot-3, 220-pound Pickett won ACC Player of the Year and guided the Panthers (11-2) to their first league title Saturday, a 45-21 blowout of No. 19 Wake Forest in Charlotte, North Carolina. Pickett went 20-for-33 for 253 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions, breaking Dan Marino's school record with an ACC-record 42 touch-



Michigan State running back Kenneth Walker III runs by Maryland Terrapins defensive back Jakorian Bennett in the second half Nov. 13 at Spartan Stadium. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

down passes. He also scored on a 58-yard run, utilizing a fake slide to fool stunned defenders.

Yet that proved to be one of the red-shirt senior from New Jersey's least prolific games of the season. Pickett threw for a school record 519 yards against Miami, going 39-for-55 with three touchdowns and two interceptions. He eclipsed 400 yards against North Carolina State (416, three TDs) and New Hampshire (403, five TDs) and topped 300 yards five other times this season.

Pickett ranks third in the nation this

season in touchdown passes and fifth at both 357.2 yards per game passing and 4,319 passing yards. Pitt's offense ranks fifth in FBS at 502.9 yards per game and third in scoring at 43 points. He also is a finalist for the Manning, Davey O'Brien and Johnny Unitas awards that go to top college quarterbacks.

"He definitely can put the ball where it needs to be. He's shown that all year," MSU safety Xavier Henderson said. "He's got some pretty good numbers. So we'll just have to really keep working fundamentals and technique."

The Spartans have battled injuries, inconsistency and issues in coverage all season. They have allowed 26 of their 35 opponents' touchdowns through the air and rank last in the country among 130 Football Bowl Subdivision teams in allowing 337.7 passing yards per game and 84th in passing efficiency defense (138.88).

The last five opposing quarterbacks Tucker's team has faced each passed for more than 300 yards, including 536 for Purdue's Aidan O'Connell and 432 for Ohio State's C.J. Stroud in the Spartans' two losses.

"We got to be better — not only the secondary, but the linebackers as well," Henderson said. "We have to better in playing zone coverage and kind of melding with the quarterback. And then when the quarterback's looking and he's going through his progressions, we gotta do a good job of staying in our zone and melding up the quarterback. I think that's something we struggled with throughout the year."

The Spartans have their own offensive weapon, however, with Walker.

The 5-10, 210-pound junior from Arlington, Tennessee, was named Big Ten running back of the year and first-team all-conference last week, and is a finalist for the Doak Walker Award as the nation's best at his position. He ranks second in the country with both 1,636 rushing yards and a 136.3 yards-per-game average, and his 18 rushing touchdowns rank eighth in the nation.

MSU ranks 41st in total offense at 430.9 yards — 185.6 on the ground (42nd) and 245.3 passing (56th) and is tied for 39th at 31.9 points a game.

Narduzzi's run defense ranks sixth in allowing 91.8 rushing yards. Pitt held Syracuse's Sean Tucker, who ranks fourth in the country in rushing, to 29 yards on 13 carries in a 31-14 road win on Nov. 27.

However, Narduzzi was quick to caution Walker presents a different challenge.

"He's a great running back," Narduzzi said. "He can run. He's fast. ... We know what kind of athlete he is. It'll be a big challenge, and just because you stop one at Syracuse doesn't mean you can stop one at Michigan State. It'll take a lot of work."

Georgia regroups while prepping to face U-M

Michael Cohen Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Bulldogs began their season with a smothering 10-3 win over then-No. 3 Clemson that foreshadowed their defensive prowess.

Led by coach Kirby Smart, a former defensive coordinator at Alabama, the Georgia defense developed a reputation as one of the best in the history of college football.

The Bulldogs posted shutouts against Vanderbilt (62-0), Arkansas (38-0) and Georgia Tech (45-0) while holding every regular season opponent to 17 points or fewer. Only South Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee managed more than 10 points against Smart's star-laden unit.

The Bulldogs lead the country in scoring defense (9.5 points per game), rank third in rushing defense (81.7 yards per game), third in passing defense (171.5 yards per game) and second in total defense (253.2 yards per game).

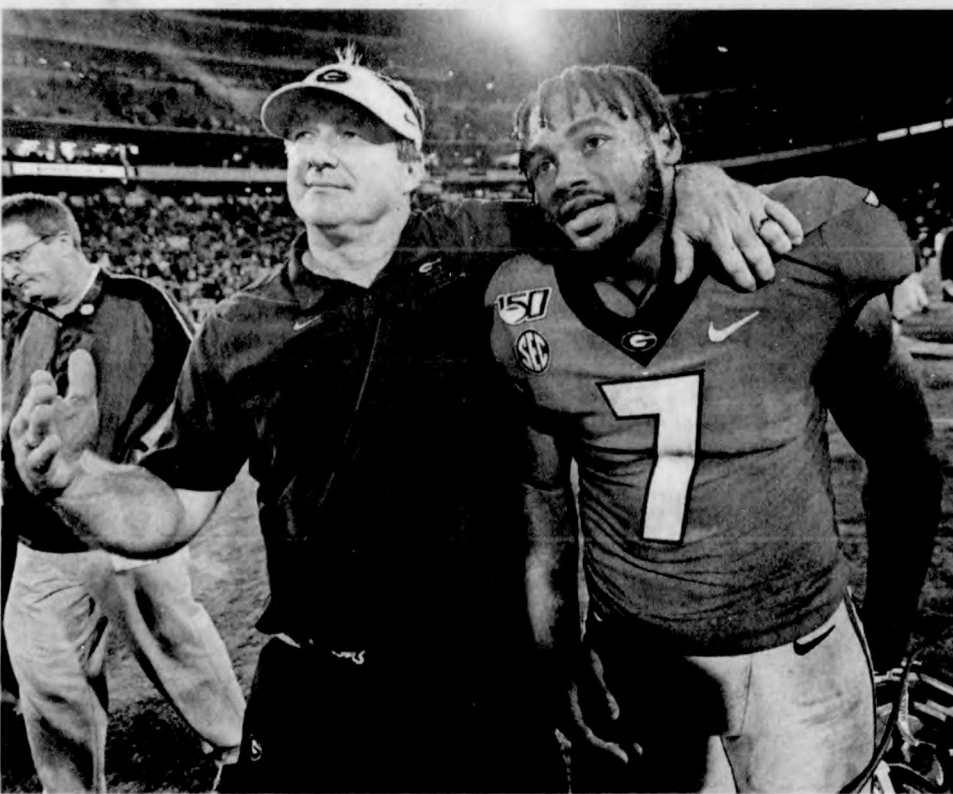
But the narrative has changed following a shocking loss to Alabama in the SEC championship game.

Not only did Georgia suffer its first defeat of the season on the biggest stage, but its trademark defense was shredded from start to finish by Alabama quarterback Bryce Young, who threw for 421 yards and three touchdowns and rushed for a score. Wide receiver Jameson Williams caught seven passes for 184 yards and two scores. The Crimson Tide racked up 536 yards of total offense and converted 50% of its third downs to stun the Bulldogs and stifle their hopes of both a perfect season and the No. 1 ranking in the College Football Playoff.

"You have to be brutally honest with yourself at a time like this," Smart said. "You have to be able to go through and say who are we? What are we doing well? Maybe we're not as good as we thought in some areas. Where can we improve that? Sometimes you only see that through a loss."

Three things to watch

Problems in the secondary: The aerial bombardment from Alabama exposed Georgia's issues in coverage on an



Georgia coach Kirby Smart and RB D'Andre Swift in 2019. USA TODAY SPORTS FILE

Fast facts

Matchup: No. 3 Georgia (12-1) vs. No. 2 Michigan (12-1).

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m., Dec. 31, Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Florida.

TV/radio: ESPN; WXYT-FM (97.1) and WWJ-AM (950).

afternoon when the pass rush didn't generate pressure.

The Bulldogs did not record a sack against the Crimson Tide and were credited with six quarterback hits by Pro Football Focus.

An absence of pressure forced the corners and safeties to hold up in coverage longer than expected, and the results were poor.

Safety Lewis Cine was charged with yielding seven receptions for 147 yards and a touchdown by PFF. Nickel back William Poole was tagged for eight catches, 97 yards and a score. The Bulldogs do not have a defensive back rated in the top 50 coverage grades in the

country among defenders with at least 200 such snaps this season.

By contrast, U-M cornerback DJ Turner ranks 28th after another terrific showing against Iowa.

"Our guys have played well at times this year, and each guy has had some poor plays where we haven't made plays on the ball downfield, and our front has really protected them a lot of the way," Smart said. "It was evident (against Alabama) when you get zero sacks and you pressure as much as we did, you're probably going to have some one-on-one situations that you don't win them all. We're going to go back to work at it, work really hard."

Managing the next three weeks: During his teleconference, Smart was asked whether he feels more prepared to tackle the preparation for a national semifinal having reached this stage in 2017. Smart gave a fascinating answer about how complicated the next few weeks are for coaching staffs trying juggle many different tasks.

"I certainly think having experience, having played in it as a coach, organiz-

ing it, knowing what's about to happen," Smart said. "You basically got three-and-a-half to four weeks that you've got to try to manage better than three other programs. We're all at square one. Nobody's really ahead of anybody else. It's like the beginning of a new season. Who manages the next three-and-a-half, four weeks best in terms of award shows, final exams, Christmas break, practices, bowl time. There's a lot that goes into that. Weight discipline. It's a competition. We want to manage that the right way."

"I think having done that one time certainly helps us from understanding what we need to get done, how we prepare, and those things."

Among the strengths exhibited by Jim Harbaugh's staff this season is the ability to effectively manage their time in seven-day segments to create, install and perfect the plan they want to run the following week. Having the better part of a month to prepare for a single opponent is a different challenge.

Smart's son admires Hutchinson: In one of the lighter moments from his teleconference, Smart was asked for any early impressions of Aidan Hutchinson, who was named MVP of the Big Ten championship game after snaring his 14th sack of the season.

Smart said he caught parts of Michigan's win over Iowa on television and admired the energy, passion and relentless nature of Hutchinson. He was also impressed by the way Hutchinson handled himself during postgame interviews.

But Smart acknowledged he doesn't yet know enough about Hutchinson and the Wolverines to make accurate statements about their personnel.

That doesn't apply to his son, though. "I got a 9-year-old son that loves college football, watches everything on YouTube," Smart said. "He started telling me about Michigan's players. That's the first guy he started telling me about. I'm like, how does my 9-year-old son know about Aidan Hutchinson? He knew everything about him, was giving me all these stats."

"I was pretty amazed because I really just started to fill myself in about Michigan last night, and he was talking about Aidan."

Grad

Continued from Page 18

did a crossover dribble in front of a defender and raced through the lane to sink a runner as time expired.

"It just came down to making a play," Terry added. "You've got to play aggressively and confidently. I just had to make a play, knowing what I can do. I saw the ball was in my hands to make the last shot.

"I wanted to do a one-dribble pull-up. I noticed my girl was still attached to me and so the runner was available. Three seconds left. Just be aggressive. That was the first time I've ever hit a shot like that, and it was a childhood dream of mine to make that type of shot. To be able to do that and execute it, wow."

The Boilermakers celebrated in the locker room by tossing water on Terry. She conducted hours of interviews with local media afterward, she said.

She was mobbed by classmates and fans as she walked to classes the next day.

Perhaps the best part of the night was being able to celebrate with Mitchell, her coach at Memorial, who made the trip to West Lafayette, Indiana, to see his former forward in action.

"I hated every minute of it," Mitchell joked about watching Terry nail the game-winner. "I wasn't surprised much about the shot. I'll always go on record and say she's by far one of the most talented players in the Big Ten. She's one of the most talented players I've coached."

"When she went out and took the shot, I stood up and ran toward the scorers table because I knew it'd be going in. When she's not thinking and her natural instinct takes over, I don't think there's another better player in the country. That's my bias, but I'm extremely proud of her. And that was a big moment for me as well because I remember when she wouldn't take that shot. She would defer. Now she's doing it on one of the biggest stages."

Terry-Carpenter, who watched the game on television from her home, said she was anxious watching her daughter take the final shot.

"I was nervous waiting for them to through it in," she said. "I was hoping she didn't get the ball. She's been nervous about being in that position of putting up the last shot. I was hoping she



Purdue head coach Katie Gearlds and Purdue guard Jeanae Terry celebrate after defeating Georgia Tech, 53-52, on Dec. 1. NIKOS FRAZIER/LAFAYETTE JOURNAL & COURIER

didn't have to put up the last shot.

"When it went in, I was literally at home screaming. Like, 'Oh my god! She's actually taking the shot! She's believing in herself!' When it went in, I can't even tell you how happy I was. I was literally running through the house and screaming at the top of my lungs. I just knew what it meant for her, and I knew the kind of anxiety she had about doing something like that. To see her take that shot and see it went in, it was amazing."

Terry-Carpenter, a club director for Boys & Girls Club, who focuses on encouraging children on a daily basis, said her daughter has always been a natural star player, even dating back to her elementary school days.

But she's had confidence issues in the past.

"When she was 5, I could see during a game that she didn't have confidence," Terry-Carpenter said. "I told the coach, 'Can I just talk to her at halftime?' I told her then, 'This is you. God gave you this

talent. You can do this. You. Can. Do. This!' That's how I've always been supporting her, by telling her He wants you to be out there. He wants to see you succeed."

Now that she has the experience of hitting such a big shot, she'll be more likely to step up during big moments for the Boilermakers as the season goes on. That's enough to make her mom proud.

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

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Canton's Danny Fletcher battles Franklin's Jake Donnelly on Dec. 1 at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mercy

Continued from Page 1B

it's just a game where what we're trying to do is use it as another practice. So they can just get another skate. It's difficult, but you try to stay with it with them. ...

"I think we had some opportunities that we gave up on because we just didn't really want to get a goal."

All the credit goes to Franklin. Instead of rolling over and dying, the

Patriots battled back.

Franklin's Luke St. Ledger scored almost eight minutes into the second period to keep the game from turning into a running clock. Almost three minutes later, the senior defenseman assisted Dustin Fretter on a power-play goal to ensure both teams would have to come back for the third period.

Husted, who assisted on all three of Fletcher's first-period goals, was huge for Canton late in the game, though. The senior assisted Cameron Kitts on a power-play goal and then scored twice himself.

"He came on as a sophomore," Maedel said of his captain. "He's been with me all three years that I've been here. He's special because he's a hard-working kid. He's very skilled and has a high hockey IQ. He's just a kid who just works hard. He wants to play juniors. He wants to advance. So I think that's a lot of motivation for him. He's been a pleasure to coach for the past three years."

"He's very smart. High, high hockey IQ. Sense of the ice. Finding the soft areas. Passing the puck. He gets assists, and he gets goals. He's a player who will forecheck, and he'll backcheck. He cre-

ates opportunities in the offensive zone."

Vince Hall banged in a rebound off a missed Luke Amos shot to activate the mercy rule with 4:20 left.

Canton goalie Jackson Saulsberry earned the win.

"We came out firing a little bit and got a couple of lucky ones," Maedel said. "Their goalie (Brenden Pedersen) is good. We played to shoot off pads for rebounds. A couple of them scored like that. A couple of nice shots, too, that he had no chance on."

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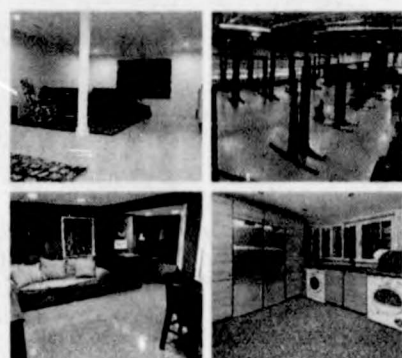
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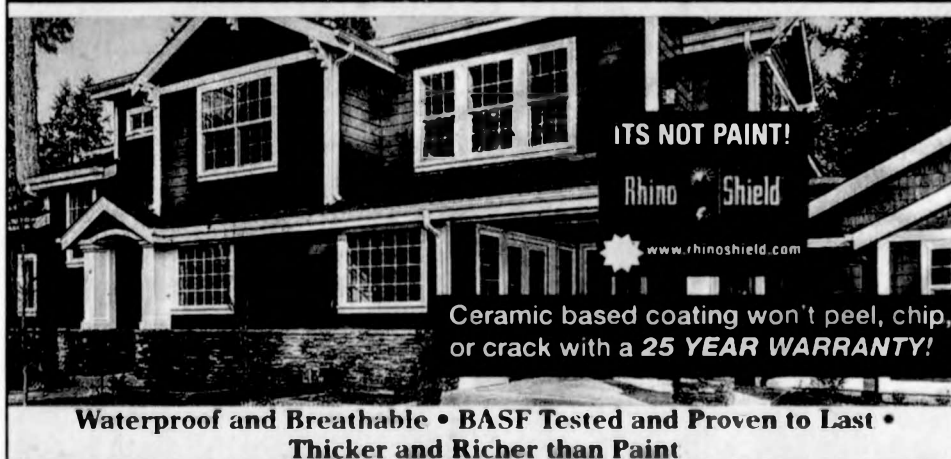
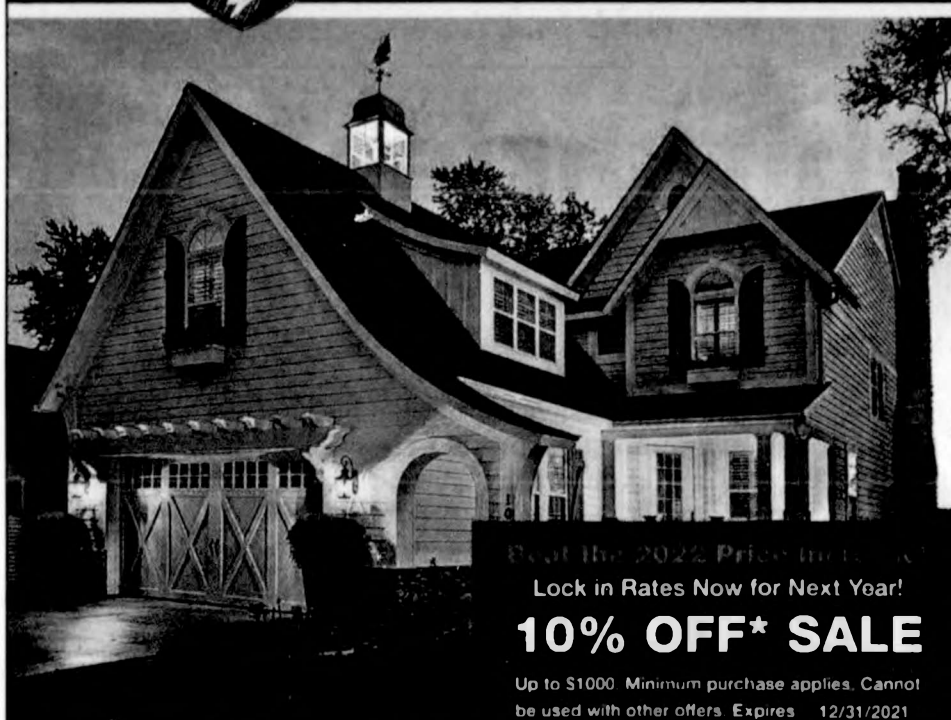
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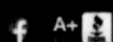
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Brian Rice, of Farmington, competes at age 13 during the Great Lakes Snow Series halfpipe competition at Boyne Highlands. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIAN RICE



Rice, who is now 16, snowboarding in the United Kingdom in February.

Teen phenom sets sights on Team USA

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

An Olympic snowboarder competing in big air will fly down a 49-meter ramp that launches him or her into open air. Humans can't fly, but this gets pretty close.

Brian Rice, a 16-year-old from Farmington with Olympic aspirations, says big air is freeing.

"It's like you get a break," he said. "Even though you're spinning as fast as possible or flipping, it's nice to just be up there for that couple seconds and just have real time to think."

"It's freeing. You don't have to worry about anything."

Brian has his eyes on the 2026 Olympics, which will primarily take place in Milan. The pandemic got in his way of Team USA's recruitment and the chance to show his face at international events that could have led to a spot on the 2022 team. Brian, who competes at the junior pro level, grabbed second place in a slopestyle competition in Colorado earlier this year and recently traveled to the Netherlands for the European Cup.

"In my perspective, I think getting on the U.S. team is really all about timing and proving your progression," he said. "Right now, I'm making a huge push in my progression and making myself the best snowboarder I can be. I'm taking risks other people aren't willing to take."

When — he says when, not if — he lands on Team USA, Brian will be the first Black American to compete in an Olympic snowboarding event. He primarily competes in slope style and big air events.

He's excited by the personal achievement competing in the Olympics holds, but knows it would also be a way to represent the Black community in a white-dominated sport.

"To me, it's not only a great achievement for myself but it's also one for the culture and people of color," Brian said. "When I make it on the U.S. team, I think it will motivate people in other communities and other cultures to try new things and winter sports."

A snowboard from Walmart on piles of snow in the yard

Brian's introduction to winter sports came in the form of skis when he was 4 years old. His family is filled with active, athletic people, and he spent many winter days outdoors as a child.

"On the weekends, we would take them out to the bunny hill at Alpine (Valley Ski Resort in White Lake)," Brian's mom, Kat Rice, said. "I just thought it was normal to teach my kids, because that's how we grew up."

But then Brian saw a snowboard, and it was game over.

"That first season I had seen some really cool dudes going down the hill on snowboards, so that next Christmas I

asked for a snowboard," he said.

His parents bought him a starter board from a grocery store that he would take into the yard to slide down ditches and snow piles with. He played other sports, but snowboarding remained the love of his young life.

Brian competed in his first tournament at age 11, during which time he was still self-taught.

"I had a great first competition and I had a lot of fun," he said. "So, I just kept doing it with regional competitions and stuff that was close to home."

Out-of-state and eventually international competitions led to Brian finding a coach in Nichole Mason, a former Team USA coach. Coaching, invites to recruitment-heavy Project Gold Camp and tougher competition led to Brian getting very good, very fast.

"We truly enjoyed having Brian join us for Project Gold Camps," Mason said. "Not only is he extremely talented on his board but he has a humble, easy-going personality to match it."

'It's his life' making snowboarding priority

Brian, who's known as Flyin' Brian by his snowboarding peers, has spent his teen years competing, gaining sponsorships and improving. He recently stuck a Backside 1,440 Triple Cork and a Triple Cork 1,620, two Olympic-level tricks and became the first Black snowboarder sponsored by a ski resort when Copper Mountain in Colorado brought him on board in November.

In other words, it's starting to happen for Brian. He lives in Colorado part-time and attends schooling online to make the sport a priority.

"It's his life," Kat said.

Brian chats with Team USA in the comments section on Instagram and has met members of the coaching staff. ESPN, NBC News and The New York Times have all come knocking to tell his story, too.

He's the only Black snowboarder competing at his level, and Brian thinks his race helps him stand out. He wants to be his own snowboarder, and his race is part of that.

"I enjoy the freedom," he said. "It's knowing I can go anywhere on the hill; I can do any trick I choose; I can think of something in my head and go perform it. Visualization is a key point in snowboarding for me — It's where most of my creativity comes from."

While he chases the 2026 Olympics, Brian plans to compete throughout Canada, establishing his name internationally. He's going to keep "flyin'" and his dreams will come true soon enough.

"It would be nice to not only compete in the U.S. or occasionally go to Europe, but to be known as a top competitor in another country," he said.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

Obituaries

John Curtis Dickey

John Curtis Dickey, born September 3, 1971, died November 5, 2021, at the age of 50, at his home in Highland, Michigan in the presence of his family, from a second bout of cancer, (his first bout was at age 19). He grew up in Milford and graduated from Milford High School in 1989 with many friends who remained dear to him to the very end.

John enjoyed his drumming hobby and studied music for a time at Central Michigan University, ultimately graduating from Hillsdale College with a B.A. in English. He later earned a Master of Divinity in Christian Ministry from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

John loved the Lord Jesus, his friends and his family. He is survived by the love of his life, his dear wife Robin, his parents Curtis and Martha Dickey, sister Barbara Dickey Davis, niece Madison Davis, Madison's father Dwayne Davis, step-son Dan Cowlin, step-daughter Lorena Hill (Dennis), and granddaughter Ashley. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, many who went out of their way to walk closely with him on his final journey to the end.

John's faith in Jesus Christ was at the core of his entire life. He accepted Jesus as his Savior when he was a young high school student. He always shared his faith openly with everyone. It was his deep desire that all would come to know the Lord Jesus Christ through simple faith in Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins, and for their personal salvation from hell and for the life to come. (John 3:16-18). He faced his death calmly and confidently, looking forward to being with his Savior.

Funeral service was held on November 12, 2021, at First Baptist Church of Milford, where many friends and family

members shared memories of their times with John. Burial followed at Milford Memorial Cemetery

Memorial Donations are encouraged to John's life-long close friends Jeff and Ghada Pribble, teachers at a Christian school in Bethlehem, Israel. Donations can be made online at <https://rceinternational.givingfuel.com/staff?staffId=65901>. Or by mail: Make checks payable to: RCE, International and write "Jeff and Ghada Pribble 65901" in the memo line. Mail to: RCE International, P.O. Box 4528, Wheaton, IL 60189.

Donations are also encouraged to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: By phone @ (800) 805-5865, online @ , or by mail - send check to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105



DIVISION 5 STATE FINAL GRAND RAPIDS CC 31, MARINE CITY 7

Grand Rapids CC captures 5th crown in 6 years

Brad Emons Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

If in doubt, put the ball in the hands of your top playmakers.

Grand Rapids Catholic Central did just that Saturday in the Division 5 football final as the Cougars completed a 14-0 season with a hard-earned 31-7 victory over Marine City at Detroit's Ford Field.

The Cougars pulled away late in a defensive battle as quarterback John Passinault connected on touchdown passes of 59 and 17 yards to Notre Dame commit Nolan Ziegler, who finished the game with seven catches for 136 yards.

The back-breaker in the defensive struggle came with 19 seconds to play in the third and Grand Rapids CC clinging to a 10-7 advantage.

Passinault, who became the starting QB when starter Joey Silveri was lost midway through the season to an injury, connected with the 6-foot-4, 210-pound Ziegler, who did the rest, splitting the Marine City defense and going 59 yards for the score.

The two hooked up again with 8:13 remaining on a 17-yarder to put the game out of reach.

Linebacker Jack Klafeta added to the



Grand Rapids Catholic Central's Jack Rellinger, right, lifts up lineman Brendan Roebr after Rellinger's touchdown against Marine City in the second quarter Nov. 27 at Ford Field in Detroit.
NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

final count when he recovered a Jeff Heaslip backward pass and raced in from 34 yards out another Cougars' TD with 6:09 to play to make it 31-7.

It was Grand Rapids CC's fifth state title in the past six years and the sixth for coach Todd Kolster, who took over the program in 2010.

Grand Rapids CC, on its first offensive possession of the game, got a 29-yard field goal from John Meyer with

6:14 left in the first quarter after getting stopped in the red zone.

Marine City fumbled on its first possession as Passinault recovered it on the Mariners' 29, but the Cougars couldn't take advantage of the field position going four and out.

On Grand Rapids CC's third possession, Passinault directed an 11-play, 62-yard drive capped by Jack Rellinger's 2-yard TD run with 8:56 to go in the half.

Passinault kept the drive going when he eluded the grasp of Marine City line-backer Jacob Hinchey and hit Ziegler for a 26-yard passing play down to the Marine City 10.

After being stymied on its first two possessions, Marine City got its offense going marching 75 yards in 10 plays capped by Heaslip's 3-yard pass to Charles Tigert.

Heaslip's 46-yard pass to Zachary Tetler helped set up the score as Marine City cut the deficit to 10-7 with 3:04 left in the second.

In the third quarter, Marine City went for it on fourth-and-1 from its own 43, but Jack Cook tackled Tetler shy of the first-down marker.

Grand Rapids CC couldn't take advantage, however, as the Mariners' Paul Muscat intercepted Passinault's pass at his own 18 with 6:33 to go in the third.

Passinault finished 15 of 28 passing for 221 yards and two TDs, while Heaslip was 14 of 22-for-138 for Marine City, which was making its third state finals appearance and gunning for its second title overall.

After a slow start, Marine City (13-1) had the edge in total yards at halftime, 124-115. For the game, it was 228-215 in favor of Grand Rapids CC.



Farmington Hills Mercy's Maya White is introduced to the home crowd Nov. 30 before the game against White Lake Lakeland. The Marlins won, 50-28.
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Senior

Continued from Page 1B

Mercy's success starts with its defense, especially its half-court 1-2-2 trap that it employs. Leading the charge with the pressure all night was Dugas, who scored a game-high 11 points. Transition basket after transition basket started with either Dugas getting a steal or the senior joining her teammates in a trap.

Both her first-quarter baskets came in transition, including one field goal off her own steal. She added another fast break bucket in the third and immediately followed it up with a 3-pointer.

She has the skill set to dribble through the paint for contested layups or catch and shoot from downtown off a screen.

Had Mercy not been so deep in 2020, she likely would've been a bigger contributor. Now she's getting her chance to show just how talented she is as a third-year varsity player.

"Sophie is very good defensively," coach Gary Morris said. "The fact that she's a senior (makes her a captain), and we only have two seniors (6-footer Sarah Cunningham is the other). I think she's looking to lead in terms of doing things on the floor. She's a good offensive player. She's got the ability to shoot from the outside, but she can also take the ball to the basket. She's a hard worker. She comes to practice every day ready to work and get better."

Dugas' offensive and defensive efforts might not even be the best thing she brings to the team.

She prides herself on how upbeat she is. She can recognize when the team is in a lull and needs a pep talk.

"I'm just more of the positive (type of) person," said Dugas, who believes she gets her kindness from her parents. "I want to be the positive person around the team, especially if we are really down or if we're having a bad practice. I want to lift everyone up or give high fives. I just like to turn things around."

That attribute wasn't required from her in the opener, as Mercy never trailed. Lakeland didn't score its first basket until 4:01 remained in the first quarter. It didn't score again until 35

seconds into the next period. The Eagles finally cracked double digits on the scoreboard with 3:51 left in the third thanks to Molly Libby (10 points) draining a pair of threes.

But Dugas' inspiration will be needed in the coming weeks. There's a chance the team will trail in future games with how tough its schedule is. Mercy faces Grosse Pointe North on Sunday at Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall and also has tough matchups against Brighton and Shrine to close out December.

She says the Marlins have what it takes to have a successful year, though.

"Our first goal is to (solidify) our defense, which will set up our offense," Dugas said. "We're a smaller team this year. We have Maya White, who is a junior, and she's our best post. We're really focusing on working it into the post more because she's one of our assets. ... We've always been a really good defensive team. But it's really hard this year because seven people left (to graduation), so it's a lot of rebuilding this year."

School records fall in Wildcats' opening-night win

Plymouth had plenty to celebrate following its season opener.

Not only did the Wildcats beat Dearborn Crestwood, 44-15, but Morgan Miller broke two school records.

The senior made 15 fields goals and scored 35 points, both totals are all-time highs for the program.

"Mo is a great example of earned success," coach Ryan Ballard said of his star small forward. "She put the work in all summer and fall to have success like that in the game. I'm so proud of her because she's not only a great player but a great teammate."

Patriots win opener on the road

Erin Young totaled 17 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks as Livonia Franklin downed host Trenton on Tuesday, 40-27. Also contributing were Kalin Bates with 12 points, Leah Kuhn with seven points, five rebounds and five steals.

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



Mercy's Sophie Dugas (right) defends Lakeland's Molly Libby.

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Job News Roundup

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

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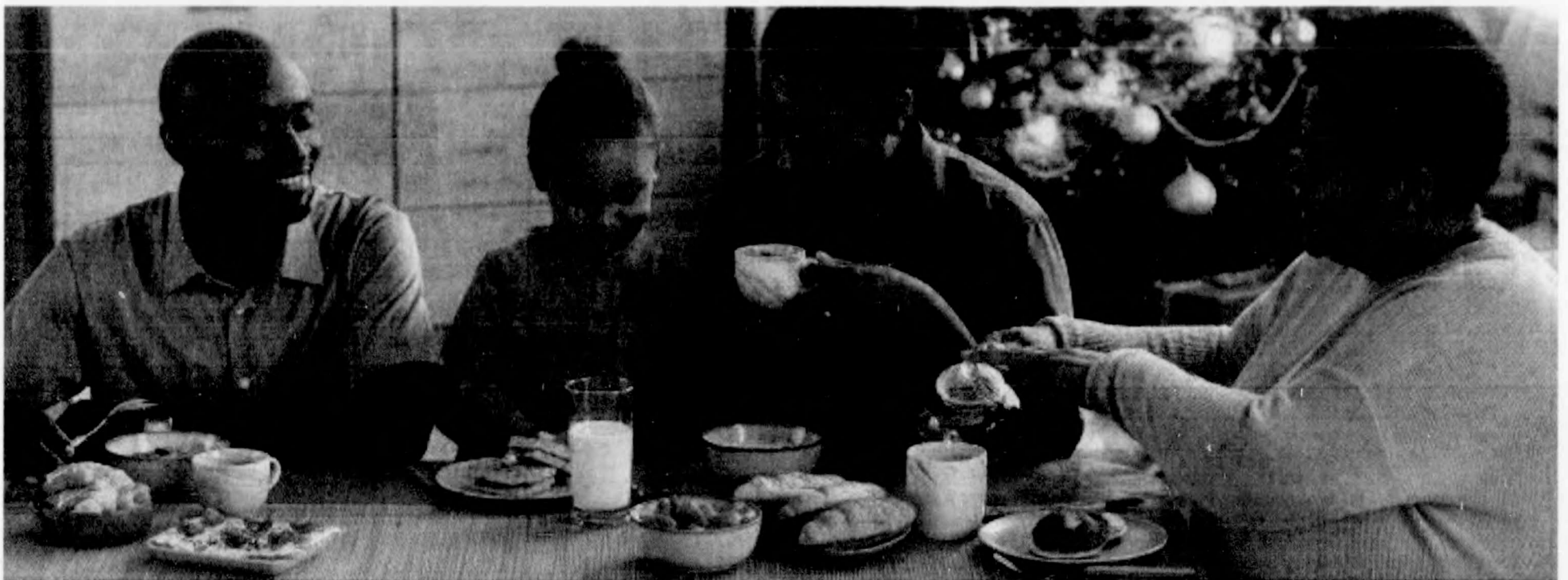
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