



# NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## South Lyon grad named brigadier general in US Marines

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kevin Collins remembers vividly a life-changing phone call this year.

The 1987 South Lyon High School graduate and U.S. Marine colonel was at home in Virginia after a January snowstorm, discussing dinner plans with his wife Susan when the phone rang. He was preparing to leave for the United Kingdom the next day for four months.

It was Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps and Four-Star General David Berger, who immediately asked Collins if his wife was there. After he answered, "Yes sir," Collins was instructed to switch the phone to speaker.

"He said, 'I want you to know the President has nominated you to be

See GRAD, Page 7A

## Enjoy the view at Northville's 1st rooftop dining patio

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

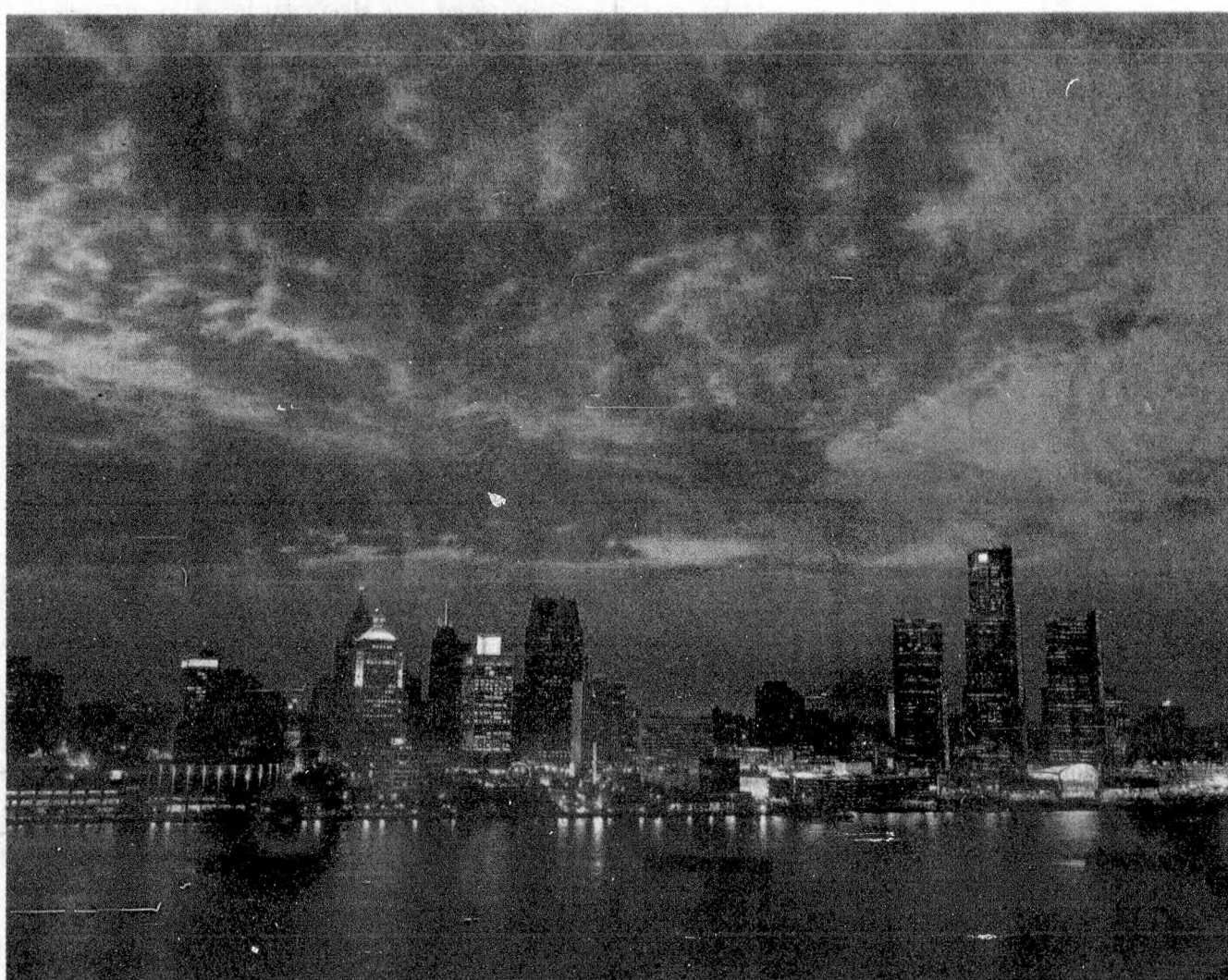
Exchange Bar and Grill's transformation is complete. Owner Grant Baidas still can't believe it's happened.

"It's kind of like a surreal feeling to finally be here," Baidas said. "I think ultimately, at the end of the day, it's more excitement than anything to see a vision come to life and a plan that you put in place."

The downtown Northville restaurant at 157 E. Main St. reopened June 20 after being closed for nearly six months for construction of its new rooftop patio.

See ROOFTOP, Page 6A

## PICTURE PERFECT



The Detroit skyline photographed from the roof of the Windsor Hilton. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

### Top places to take photos across the state

From Staff Reports Hometown Life | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan is a photographer's dream. There are so many great opportunities for truly stunning photos, from Great Lakes sunsets to vibrant fall colors to the Upper Peninsula ice caves and spring wildflowers. • There are the iconic shots that scream Michigan: Mackinac Bridge, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and the city of Detroit skyline. And there are hidden gems just waiting to be captured by a discerning eye and an iPhone. • Professionals and amateurs alike can have great fun making memorable photos across the state. Here are some of our favorite spots.

See PHOTOS, Page 3A



A pine tree's reflection competes with Japanese cherry trees at Cranbrook's Japanese Garden in Bloomfield Hills.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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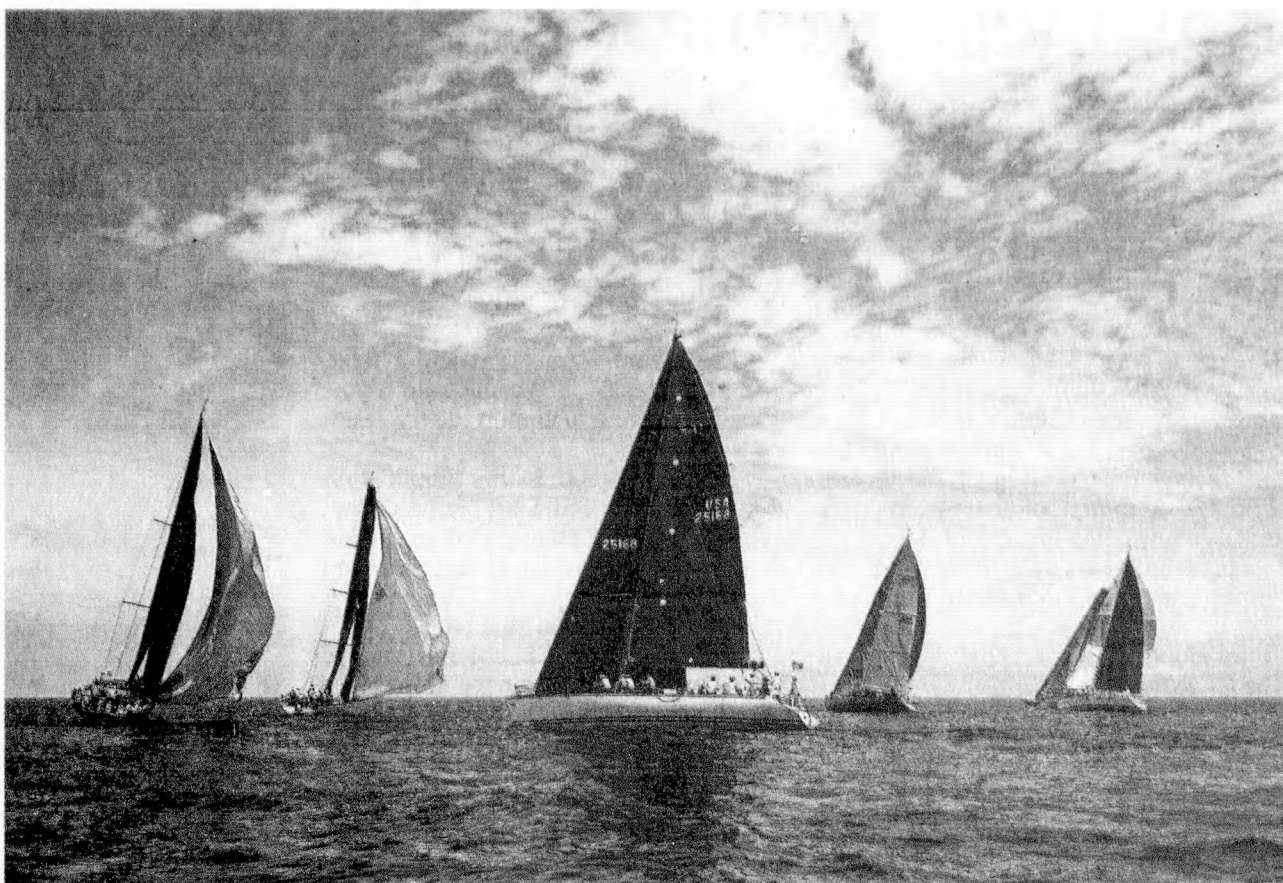








A child stands in front of the Scott Memorial Fountain on Belle Isle. MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS



Boats take off at the start of the Port Huron-to-Mackinac race on Lake Huron. BRIAN WELLS/TIMES HERALD

## Photos

Continued from Page 1A

### Isle Royale

This remote island in Lake Superior is the second-least visited national park in the country. Its beauty is rugged, raw and expansive. It will take effort to get to the island, accessible by ferry or plane, but you're guaranteed to make great photos and memories.

### Sleeping Bear Dunes

There are so many great shots to be captured at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. A favorite spot is from the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive. The gradients of the sand and water will give your photos depth and texture. The other iconic shot is your loved ones hurtling downhill after an exhausting Dune Hill climb.

### Mackinac Bridge

The bridge is an architectural and engineering masterpiece. The bridge's expanse – about five miles – can make it difficult to photograph. That means photographers have to be creative while acknowledging they aren't going to get the whole bridge in the frame. Sunrise and sunset are prime times to photograph the bridge.

### Lake Michigan coastline

With over 3,200 miles of shoreline in Michigan, there are countless places from which to take breathtaking photos of the Great Lakes. Try to get up high on a sand dune, cliffs or lookout areas to get a panoramic shot.

### Port Huron to Mackinac Boat Race

The best photos of this annual race are taken from the water. So that excludes most of us. But there are still great photos to be made. The parade of boats down the Black River before heading up the St. Clair River to the start in Lake Huron can be dramatic, minus the colorful sails. If you happen to be at Mackinac Island at the end of the race, you might be able to get some shots there.

### Bond Falls, Ontonagon River

A short hike from the parking area provides vantage points to make beautiful images. Fall is an ideal time to shoot there, but wear shoes that can navigate wet rocks because you might encounter a wet trail.

### Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Some of the best shots of these iconic sandstone cliffs come from the water. You can take a boat ride or kayak. The colors are caused by layers and seepage of copper, iron and manganese in the ancient rock. At sunset, the cliff takes on an orange glow.

### View from Crystal Mountain

Because Michigan has some of the most vibrant fall colors, it's not hard to find good photography spots. If you want to capture a wide view of the changing landscape, head to Crystal Mountain.

### Lake Superior sunset

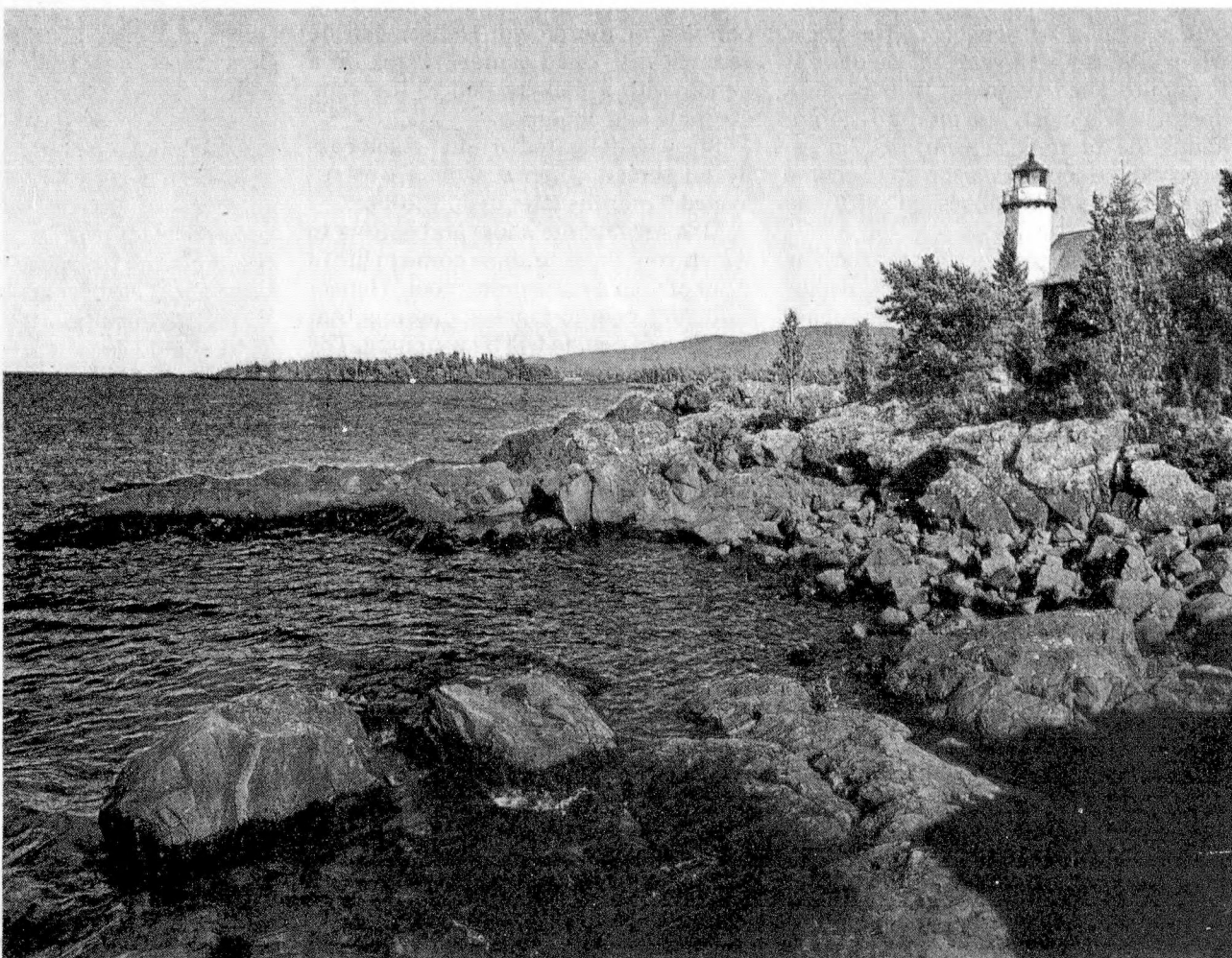
Superior has a diverse personality, at times big and bold, at other times peaceful and awe-inspiring. The beach at Au Train is a popular spot to watch the sunset.

### Eben Ice Caves

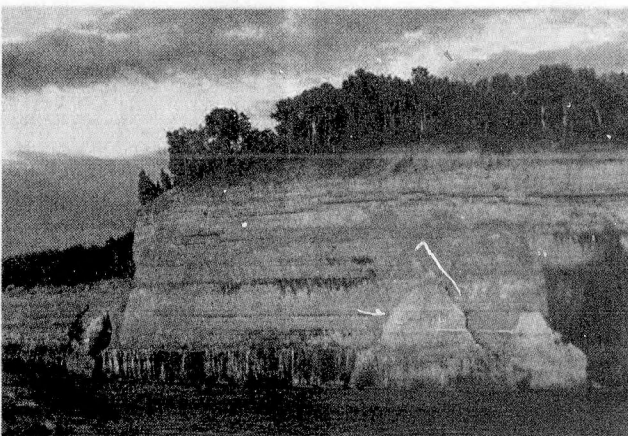
The mere words "ice cave" conjure images of intrigue and grandeur. The Eben Ice Caves outside Marquette are a sight to behold – and photograph. You'll have to hike less than a mile to get there. It's worth the effort.

### Tulips in Holland

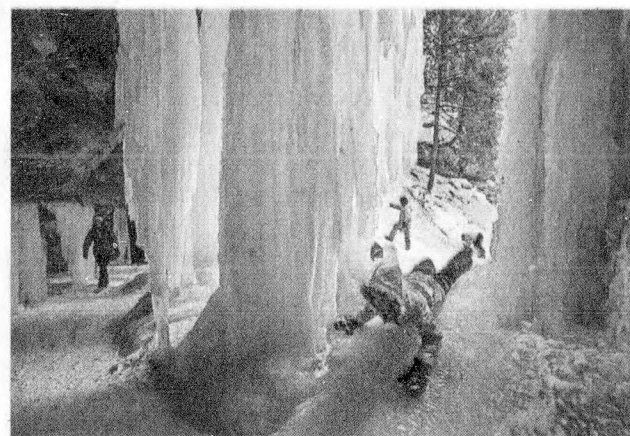
You have to plan ahead for this one because the tulips are in full bloom for only a few weeks in the spring. Find the colors that resonate with you and then play with your camera angles. Get low and shoot long. Fo-



The rocky shore near the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Visitors to Isle Royale National Park in far northern Lake Superior take a ferry from nearby Copper Harbor to the island. ROD SANFORD/LANSING STATE JOURNAL



Beautiful colors can be seen on the sandstone cliffs of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Munising. ELLEN CREAGER/DETROIT FREE PRESS



A child slides down an ice mound behind ice formed at the Eben Ice Caves in Eben Junction. RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

cus on the detail of a single tulip. Or frame your flowers with Holland's iconic windmill as a backdrop.

### The Ledges

The Ledges in Grand Ledge near Lansing are beautiful in any season. It's an easy hike along the trail to the sandstone formations believed to be about 3 million years old. Photographers will see different colors and textures depending on the sunlight and season.

### Cranbrook Japanese Garden

You don't have to travel Up North to make stunning photographs. There are stellar gardens across Michigan, including Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. Check it out when the Japanese cherry trees are in bloom.

### Belle Isle

At nearly 1,000 acres, the park has an aquarium and a conservatory. There are hiking trails, too. Scott Memorial Fountain is a great backdrop for a photo.

### Detroit skyline

You'll have to leave the country to get this iconic photo. The Detroit skyline is inspiring at all times of day, but the night sky provides a special dimension. Head to the roof of the Windsor, Ontario, Hilton to try to replicate this beauty.

### Basic tips for beautiful photos

**Choose the right time of day.** Usually, photos look

better when the sun is low on the horizon. When the sun is overhead, the light tends to be pretty harsh but when the sun is low, a warm, golden glow can light up the scene.

**Don't limit yourself to sunny days.** Overcast, or even stormy weather, can make for a dramatic shot.

**Use a tripod.** Even if you are using a smartphone, a tripod will help steady and line up the shot so that the camera movement will be kept to a minimum as well as maximizing depth of field by using a smaller f-stop like f11 or f16.

**Look for a different point of view.** It's easy to pull out a wide-angle lens and get the entire scene into view, but don't be afraid to use a telephoto to bring that scene closer.

**Do some research on the area first.** Find out when a place is likely to be less crowded, and any restrictions on when and where you can take photographs (like in some national parks).





# Northville woman cast as extra in 'Stranger Things'

**Susan Bromley** [HometownLife.com](https://www.hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

June Hauser and several friends gathered around a television at 3 a.m. when the fourth season of the popular Netflix show "Stranger Things" dropped, watching in rapt attention and screaming periodically.

The 2020 Plymouth High School graduate and her buddies are more than super fans — they were looking for themselves on screen as extras, actors who are unnamed ancillary characters on the show.

Hauser appears in both season 3 and 4 multiple times, not only in the background or as part of a crowd, but sometimes alongside a main character or as a focus, however momentarily.

"Surprisingly, I've got a decent amount of screen time," Hauser said. "It's cool and very exciting."

"Stranger Things," the hit science fiction 1980s throwback thriller centered on a small town and the extremely odd, supernatural happenings there, has led to a bizarre turn of events for Hauser in real life.

Now 20 and a Northville resident, she watched the first season of the show when she was a 15-year-old student at Plymouth High planning to become a doctor or zoologist. She promptly forgot about the premier season, but binge-watched the second season and became more than a little obsessed with the teen-centric show.

She reconsidered her career path as she watched the kids on screen establish themselves as actors. She subsequently took a few acting classes herself and found a passion, while being realistic.

"I realized I loved it, but knew acting was a stretch," Hauser said.

Still, she was determined to get on the show, the stars of which include Winona Ryder (Joyce), Millie Bobby Brown (Eleven), David Harbour (Hopper), and found the casting company that selects extras for the show. She submitted her headshot into a database for Season 3 casting.

A year went by before her mom received an email saying they wanted June to be in "Stranger Things" and she needed to come to Atlanta, Georgia,

where the show is filmed, for a costume fitting and haircut.

Hauser was ecstatic to be one of about 2,000 extras chosen out of a pool of 300,000 applicants.

## Entering alternate universe

"They want a very particular look, just very classic '80s," she said. "Like you don't belong in modern day, you belong in the '80s."

She had agreed in her application that the stylists could cut her hair however they saw fit. They ended up cutting in a lot of layers, which Hauser recalled was not her favorite, but "fun when it was styled and classic big hair."

On Halloween 2018, she returned to the Atlanta set of "Stranger Things" for shooting of a Season 3 episode in which there is a carnival and she is one of the many attendees.

Filming took a week, and the scene in which Hauser was in took about 3 hours to shoot overnight in cold 30-degree October weather dressed in a maroon t-shirt and gray gym shorts.

In the episode, Hawkins Mayor Klein is giving a speech at the carnival and in a panning of the crowd, Hauser can be seen clearly "dead center" sitting on a bench with a balloon tied to her arm, clapping and cheering.

She was delighted to find herself easily on screen when season 3 was released 9 months later in July 2019.

"It's my favorite show and getting to watch your favorite show come to life in front of your eyes is pretty cool," Hauser said. "It's cool to make something that millions of people will be watching. The experience changed my mind that maybe I don't want to do zoology or medicine. Maybe not acting, but I want to go into filming."

Season 4 filming began in January 2020, but when the pandemic hit two months later, so did a large hiatus. Meanwhile, Hauser would graduate from her real high school and wonder if she was going to be old to be a student at her fictional one in Hawkins by the time filming resumed. Fortunately, the casting directors expanded the age limit for Hawkins High School student actors be-

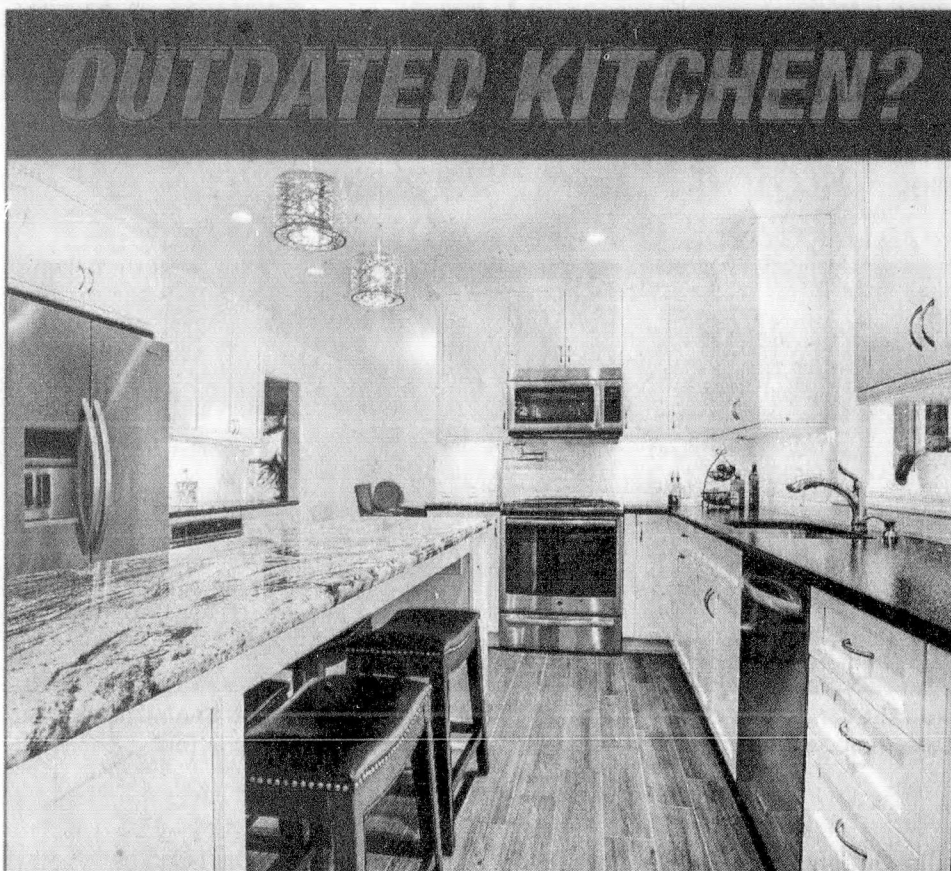
See EXTRA, Page 5A



June Hauser wearing her Hawkins ribbon and '80s attire as an extra in "Stranger Things," the hit Netflix show. She appears in several episodes in the fourth season, airing now. COURTESY OF JUNE HAUSER

"It's cool to make something that millions of people will be watching. The experience changed my mind that maybe ... I want to go into filming."

June Hauser



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June Hauser in the first episode of season four of the Netflix show "Stranger Things" in the Hawkins High School newspaper staff room. COURTESY OF JUNE HAUSER

## Extra

Continued from Page 4A

yond 18. She applied again in September 2020.

"I was contacted about being a fea-

tured nerdy kid," Hauser recalls and adds with a self-deprecating laugh, "I was like, 'Um, that's interesting.'"

**Hair styles like Molly Ringwald, Winona Ryder**

She wasn't picked for that role, but

was told they liked her look and to apply again. This time, she was cast as an elite, preppy journalism student on the school's newspaper staff, along with one of the main characters, Nancy Wheeler (played by Natalia Dyer).

Filming for season 4 required Hauser to get a new, more drastic hair cut. She recalls the set stylist putting a hair reference board in front of her with '80s actresses, including Allie Mills from "Karate Kid" and Molly Ringwald from "Pretty in Pink" and "The Breakfast Club."

Hauser ended up with hair that she said looked good professionally styled, but "an awful shag" when she did it herself.

She also had to endure "probably 30 to 50 COVID tests" during the new pandemic filming era with one for every scene filmed and every costume fitting. She never tested positive.

The tests and hair cuts were all well worth it.

Hauser appears in several scenes in the first few episodes of part one of Season 4, and also appears to have been a favorite extra of the Duffer brothers, creators of the show.

She recalls in a scene filmed for the first episode of season 4, she was in the newspaper classroom with roughly 10 extras that were directed to look annoyed at having their work interrupted as Mike Wheeler, one of the main characters, bursts into the room.

The directors instructed Hauser to replace an extra at the typewriter and glare as the camera panned once again. She obliged, and her glare inspired laughter from the Duffers.

"They were laughing really hard," Hauser recalled. "I knew they were laughing at me, but I had to stay in character. And they were like, 'Who's that girl?' I had to do it over and over again, and they came up to me said it was hilarious... It's really cool to have the creators of the show come up and say it was funny."

The scene, in which Hauser is wearing a black and yellow striped sweater, was kept.

### Standing in for stars

Hauser's other season 4 appearances include a featured hallway scene and basketball game in episode 1, an episode 2 scene in which she stands next to "nerdy" character Fred in the newsroom as they see some shocking news, as well

as a town hall meeting in episode 6. But she also did "behind the scenes" work as a stand-in for Nancy Wheeler and Karen Wheeler, while the actresses who play those roles were taking a break.

Being a stand-in, placed in a scene with lighting fixed and doing walk-throughs as directors ensure everything works visually for a scene, is exhausting, Hauser learned.

She learned many other things about the creation of a show as well, getting an education in hair, make-up, direction, productions and much more.

While many people complained about the lengthy hours for filming, Hauser had no complaints.

"When you care, you want to take time," she said. "Good filmmaking takes time and I also learned where passion about a project gets you. When you care, you can make something truly amazing, like 'Stranger Things.' It's obviously one of the most popular shows."

One thing Hauser did not know going in to filming this season was how dark the supernatural show would become, and so fast. Despite that, she still finds "Stranger Things" the perfect balance of dark and comedic and heartwarming.

Hauser is not in as much suspense about her next move.

While she will also appear as an extra in "Strangers" a Netflix movie about girls in Miami who are bullied, and in "Beanie Bubble," the true story of how Beanie Babies achieved their popularity, Hauser plans to retire from acting unless she can work as a background extra on season 5 of "Stranger Things."

Instead, she will focus on school this fall at the Savannah College of Art & Design, where she hopes to continue on her path to become a casting agent, one that began with binging "Stranger Things" and turned her own life upside down.

"The show was just a wonderful experience," Hauser said. "I met lifelong friends, got to experience the '80s without living in them, and something as small as being a background extra is how I found SCAD in Atlanta, and that is why I am here right now."

"Something small can have a big influence on your life, and as cheesy as it sounds, 'Stranger Things' changed my life."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com) or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

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## Rooftop

Continued from Page 1A

With the addition of nearly 50 seats, the rooftop seating area is the first of its kind in Northville.

The restaurant closed at the end of 2021, allowing construction crews months to develop the patio and add staircases. The reopening was delayed a bit with waiting on approvals from Wayne County, as well as getting employees on board.

"It took a good 4-5 months and then we were just waiting on the county for a good 4-6 weeks to come out here," said Baidas, who bought the restaurant formerly known as Poole's Tavern. "That kind of pushed our opening a little bit."

In addition to the seating, a bar was added upstairs, serving beer, wine and spirits.

Baidas said he has increased the restaurant's staff by 20%.

The restaurant opened under its current name in May 2021 after work in the kitchen, dining room and more was completed. The city's planning commission recommended approval of the rooftop patio last summer.

The menu has essentially stayed the same, with some small adjustments to the menu. More vegetarian options were added.

"Mainly, we just wanted to focus on consistency and quality and customer service, those were our three main goals this year," Baidas said.

Baidas said he's heard some talk of other spots looking at adding rooftop patios. Other restaurants in other communities in the region have explored such an option, with at least one under construction: Dua Vino, the new Italian restaurant to open sometime this year in downtown South Lyon.

Baidas said the concerns some city officials had at the onset of the project will hopefully be set aside after they see how everything turned out.

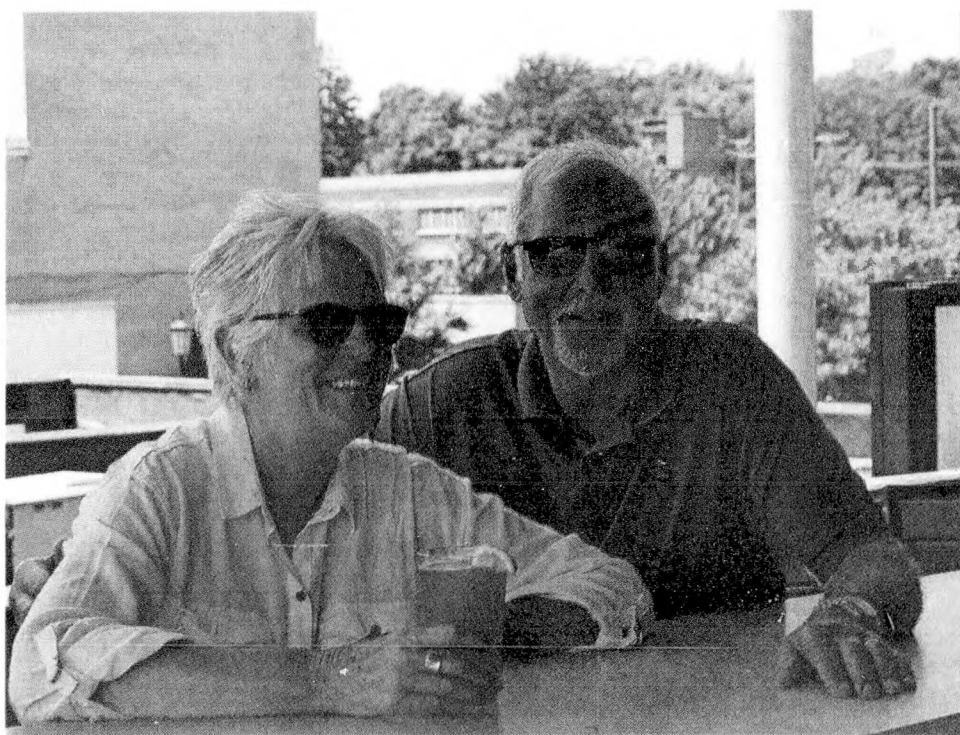
"I think everybody is very happy with the way it turned out and that it stuck to plan," he said. "I haven't heard anybody that initially had concerns, I think they've all been put to bed and put at ease with how everything turned out."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



Bartender Laurie Heidtman stands at the new bar on the rooftop patio at Exchange Bar and Grill in downtown Northville.

PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Linda Lewicki enjoys a glass of beer with her husband, Bob Lewicki.



Heidtman pours a glass of Summer Shandy for a customer.



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## Grad

Continued from Page 1A

brigadier general," Collins recalled. "I was stunned."

Achieving such a rank is a rare honor in the Marines and requires the approval of the President and the U.S. Senate. Collins was confirmed by the Senate as brigadier general in late May.

While there were indicators he might be moving up in the ranks, Collins said it was the first time he had been considered for brigadier general and he had no expectation of being selected. He had even begun to prepare for retirement. After all, he has served for 32 years, eight times longer than the average commitment.

Collins did not foresee a career in the military. He went to Kalamazoo College but dropped out after two years. His father died when he was still in high school, and his mother moved to Florida. The youngest of four siblings, he said he didn't have a lot of financial help with college and no place to live in the summer.

He enlisted in the Marines, not for vocational training or to learn a skill, but because he wanted to be a part of something special.

"It's a mystique that transcends logic in some ways," Collins explained. "But the Marines is a great way to measure yourself, to challenge yourself, to be part of something much bigger than yourself and to serve your country and get a start on life."

A week after his 21st birthday, he went into recruit training as an infantryman, thinking he had signed up for four years of a pretty challenging lifestyle as a grunt. He also had a plan B — to become a police officer or return to college on his own. His plan B never materialized.

Instead, soon after joining the Marines, he married Susan Garrett, a South Lyon High classmate, and the couple moved to Washington, D.C., where he was stationed.

"I certainly didn't have a vision of what has become 32 years and running," he said.

Collins' service to the Marines includes seven deployments and 14 moves, all while visiting 40 different countries.

Before Sept. 11, he had two deploy-



Brigadier General Kevin Collins, a 1987 graduate of South Lyon High School, receives frocking that signifies his new rank June 3 in Quantico, Virginia.

COURTESY OF KEVIN COLLINS

ments aboard U.S. Naval warships in the Caribbean, South America and western Africa. During these months-long deployments, he was part of an air-ground taskforce that conducted training exercises with military forces including, for example, the Venezuelan Marine Corps.

Post Sept. 11, "when the war started and things got crazy," he had multiple deployments to Afghanistan, the first in 2004. He was based in Kabul and responsible for logistics operations and providing support to the Afghan national army.

Collins explained his role as "going around the country with pockets full of U.S. cash to pay the bills and make sure the Afghan army could support itself in the field and feed themselves" as well as conduct operations with NATO coalition forces.

He and Susan have four children who

were very young during those lengthy deployments and multiple moves.

"I think there was a lot of pride in my kids about my service," Collins said. "They understood they served in a unique role as military kids and their lives were different and they appreciated that and all the adventure associated with it."

He always kept the family together during the moves and created a measure of stability in spite of the chaos of moving across the world. All of his children attended at least two high schools, and two of them attended three.

The kids all have left home now on their own quests — eldest son Chad attended Michigan State and now serves in the Army, deployed to Europe as part of NATO's response to the war in Ukraine; eldest daughter Emily is a graduate of North Carolina State and engaged

to an Army soldier; youngest son John will be a senior at North Carolina State this fall; and youngest daughter, Jenna, will be a junior at the University of Michigan.

Meanwhile, Dad and Mom are moving to New Orleans as Collins continues his move up the ranks from colonel and logistics officer to brigadier general and deputy commander for the Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces South.

The new role is similar to what he did in South America as a younger officer with oversight in contributing forces and engagement responsibility in the theater of operations in the western hemisphere, south of Mexico in the event of conflict in that area of the world.

"It's a great opportunity to learn and reengage with the southern command," Collins said. "It's a very active and important theater for our country."

Collins added that he has been fortunate to get good assignments and work with certain people who were part of his formative experience. He compares it to his days playing football at South Lyon High School, where he was a decent player on a really good team.

"Some nights I was a great player, but most of the time I was just one of a number of decent players," Collins said. "You have to work hard and prepare and live up to the standards and what makes you more than a mediocre player is the team you're on. Being in the Marine Corps, the guys and gals around me have always made me better."

He will now serve as deputy for a three-star lieutenant general, now only two ranks above him and one below the highest rank achievable: a four-star general.

Will the three-decade Marine who was on the brink of retirement continue to climb the ladder?

Collins said he will serve as long as the Marine Corps needs him more than he needs them. He said he never worried about the next promotion, only about doing his best and the duties assigned.

"The Marine Corps has a way of signaling who and what they need," Collins said. "They wanted to keep me around. I am grateful for the opportunity to stay a little longer."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com) or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.



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# Filing deadline nears for local elections

Philip Allmen Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The filing deadline for several local elected races is approaching.

In many cases, there are far more available seats than interested candidates, based on who has already filed for office.

There is, however, time to get your name on the ballot for a chance to serve in a public office.

The filing deadline is 4 p.m. July 26. Candidates can find information online on the requirements to file. Oakland County residents can visit oakgov.com/clerkrod/elections and Wayne County residents can go to www.waynecounty.com/elected/clerk/elections.aspx for more information. Candidates can submit filing petitions or pay a filing fee to get on the ballot. Residents must also fill out a campaign finance disclosure stating they do not have any outstanding fees owed to the county.

Candidates can remove their name before it appears on the ballot by rescinding their candidacy by 4 p.m. July 29.

As of July 1, here are the people seeking public office in local races.

**Beverly Hills** has four opening for village council. Each position is a 4-year term. No one has filed.

**Bingham Farms** has one opening for village president, a 4-year term. Lisa Blackburn filed petitions to run. There are three open trustee position, which also carry 4-year terms. No one filed for those seats.

**Franklin Village** has three openings for trustee spots. David Goldberg is the only one to file. Two 6-year terms on the library board are up for election, as well, though no one has yet filed to run.

In **Milford**, the village president position is available, as well as three council seats. No one filed yet. The president term runs 2 years and the council seats are 4-year positions.

**Birmingham Public Schools** have a contested race this fall with two 6-year terms on the school board up for grabs. Samuel Oh, Kimberly Whitman and Colleen Zammit all paid the filing fee to appear on the ballot.

**Bloomfield Hills Schools** also has a lot of interest for the school board. Four 4-year terms are available. Seven candidates paid filing fees to appear on the ballot: Lindsay Baker, Tareq Falah, Meagan Hill, Paul Kolin, Harris Ng, Carolyn Noble and Lauren Wilson.

For the **Clarenceville School District**, no one has filed for any of the three available 4-year terms.

**Farmington Public Schools** has three 6-year terms on the ballot. So far Angie Smith is the only person to file.

**Huron Valley Schools** has three 6-year school board seats on the ballot. Jacob Dimick and Denise Forrest filed to run. Lindsay Cotter is the only one to file for a seat with a term ending at the end of 2024.

**Northville Public Schools** has three 4-year terms up for grabs. No one has filed in Oakland County for a board seat. Wayne County information was unavailable.

**Novi Community School District** has two 6-year terms on the ballot. Chris Hollman paid a filing fee and Jason Michener filed nominating petitions to appear on the ballot.

**South Lyon Community Schools** has two 6-year terms available. Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce filed to run. There is also a term expiring at the end of 2024 available, though no one filed to run for that position yet.

Bloomfield Township Library Board has two positions on the November ballot. Both terms end Nov. 20, 2024. So far Dani Gillman, Christine Miller Kinal and Shane Spradkin filed to run.

**Salem-South Lyon District Library** has four 4-year terms on the ballot. Erin Petricca is the only candidate so far to file.

# Keeping a family balance sheet saves money



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

Now that 2022 is half over, it is a good time to have a check-in with your family balance sheet and cash flow statements.

At the beginning of every year, I encourage people to establish a family balance sheet - a listing of assets and liabilities. Assets less liabilities equal net worth. By monitoring your net worth, you have a good idea of how you are doing.

For many of us, because of the downturn in the stock market, our net worth has recently declined.

Even with the stock market's recent downturn, many investors will find that they are in significantly better shape than they were five years ago. The bottom line, a family balance sheet is important to see how you have done over time.

There is no doubt that over the last year or so our cost of living has risen. We all see it at the gas pumps and the grocery stores; higher prices have become a fact of life. Understanding your cost of living is critical in any financial planning exercise. Thus, this is a great time of year to look back over the last six months and account for where you have spent your money. In fact, you should be able to account for nearly every dollar.

The bottom line is you want to know what it costs you to live so you can compare it with your past numbers to determine what the increase in your cost of living is. If your cost of living is increasing at a higher rate than expected, you will know about it in a timely manner and be able to adjust your spending and resolve the issue.

As far as I'm concerned, it really doesn't matter what the inflation rate is in the country or what the inflation rate in Michigan is. What is important is your own individual rate of inflation. Yes, the price of used cars has increased substantially recently and that's certainly one of the reasons why the inflation rate in the country has risen. However, if you're not buying a car, that type of inflation doesn't affect you. We all spend our money differently, and as a result, we each have our own individual inflation rate. I recognize that it is a hassle to keep track of expenses; however,

it is becoming easier with technology. We might as well let technology work for us and make our lives a little easier.

We live in an ever-changing world and it is important that we stay current on our financial affairs. Completing a family balance sheet and cash flow statement will allow you to stay in touch with your finances and make better decisions with your money. I believe the more you stay in touch with your finances, the more money will stay in your pocket; and I believe money looks better in your pocket than it does anywhere else.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is [www.bloomadvisors.com](http://www.bloomadvisors.com). If you would like him to respond to your questions, email [rick@bloomadvisors.com](mailto:rick@bloomadvisors.com).

## FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

Ants	Fish	Knife	Route
Beach	Files	Lilly pilli	Scrub
Bees	Flora	Look	Sleet
Blites	Frog	Mist	Slop
Bogby	Galah	Nests	Soli
Bush	Glade	Oaks	Spider
Canoe	Grid	Owls	Spur
Care	reference	Park	Streams
Cheap	Growth	Path	Tent
Creeks	Gums	Quiet	Umbrella
Dingo	Hats	Rains	Uncomfortable
Edge	Hike	Rivers	Walk
Esky	Idle	Rock	Water

## TODAY'S ANSWER

Sunshine and fresh air

## In the Aussie bush

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

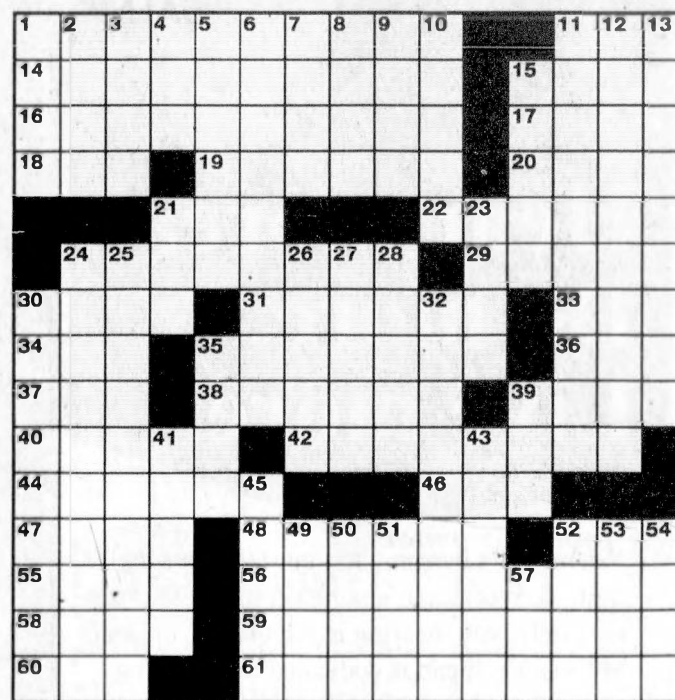
## NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes, recently
- Call the Midwife
- Stellar saga
- Shed thing
- Seven-foot construction
- What some call a torpedo
- Pitches caught by looking
- Mentor in uniform
- Goes off
- Give a nudge to
- What masks may cover
- Obstetrical adjective
- Put up
- Southeast Asian money
- Vegas neighbor of Caesars
- Culinary go-between
- Archaeology estimation
- African omnivore
- Many a rodeo spectator
- Park it
- Jacob, after his angel-wrestling
- Be a street singer, say
- Pug nose
- There's no doubt about them
- Great distance
- Stoked
- Keep
- Name close to Washington's in reference books
- DC medical group
- Essence of some cakes

### DOWN

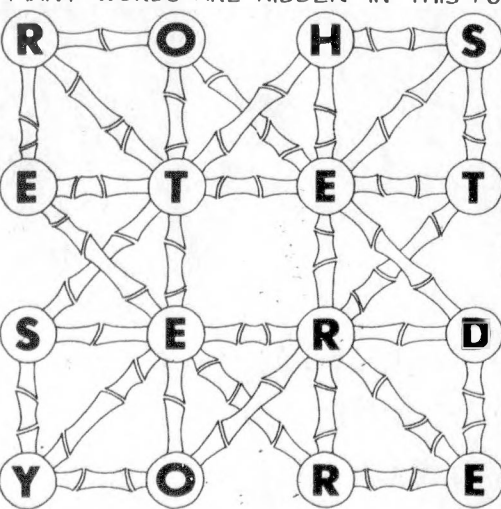
- Exit sign
- Ripped
- What NORAD and NCIS both have
- Stop stalling
- Brainpower
- They're in your field
- Without restriction
- Performance composition
- Fruit
- Many wedding dresses
- Amateur group for many a sport
- Ballet-inspired workout
- Not a formal discussion
- "Few know own strength": Swift
- fuel
- Come across
- Novel numbers
- Not to be answered
- Galleries, for instance
- Much-honored Chilean pianist
- Pro athlete first from Minneapolis
- Choral conductor's concerns
- Apt to blow you away
- Flyspeck
- Don't pass
- What nearly half a billion call you
- Bodily tightener
- Pharmacy figure
- It fell in 476
- Sources for pecorino
- Exemplar of refinement
- Small square
- Retail's "Big Blue Box"
- What to call Konrad
- Ask too much



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## PUZZLES & POSERS

MANY WORDS ARE HIDDEN IN THIS PUZZLE. HOWEVER, YOUR TASK IS ONLY TO TRAVEL ALONG THE BAMBOO FRAMEWORK AND FIND TWO WORDS OF OPPOSITE MEANING. BOTH WORDS MAY START AND END ANYWHERE, BUT EACH LETTER AND



## BAMBOOZZLE

BAMBOO CONNECTOR MAY ONLY BE UTILIZED ONCE. BOTH WORDS MUST CONTAIN EXACTLY "7" LETTERS. CRISSCROSSING BAMBOO CONNECTORS DO NOT INTERSECT.

## SUDOKU | CREATORS

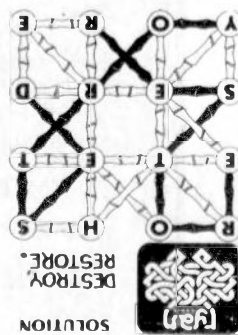
Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) RATING: SILVER

### TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

### TODAY'S ANSWER





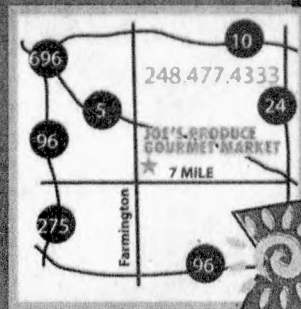


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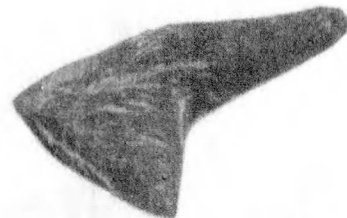
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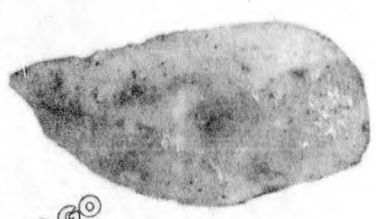
  
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FEATURED  
ITEM

  
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\$8.99 / LB.

  
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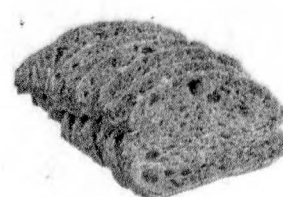
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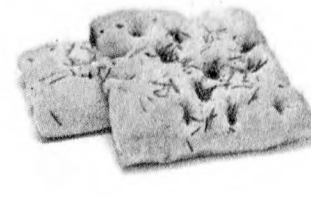
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BEAR CLAW  
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BREAD  
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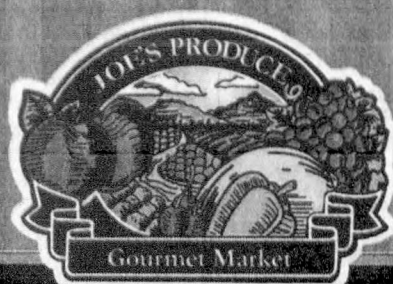
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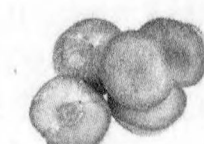
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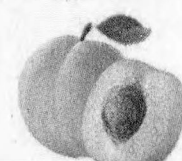
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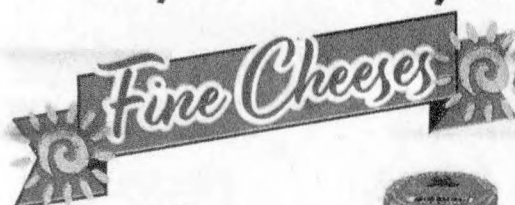
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DALMATIA  
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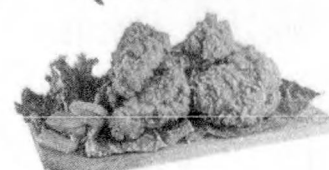
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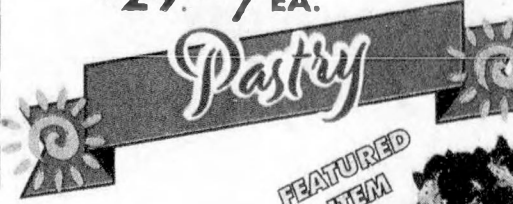


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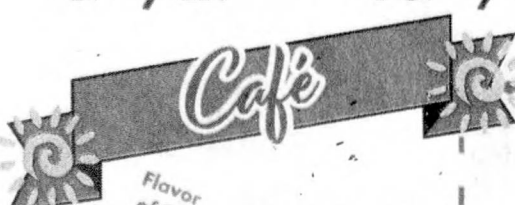
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# SPORTS

## Northville senior to continue 3-sport career



Northville senior Noah Eckenroth prepares to swim during a meet this past school year. COURTESY OF KARA ADKINS

Noah Eckenroth in cross country, swimming and track at Kalamazoo College

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Noah Eckenroth cannot remember the last time he's played video games let alone picked up a gaming controller. Which makes total sense.

He rarely has time for his favorite hobbies.

So how would he have time for frivolous activities like playing "Fortnite,"

"Overwatch 2" or "PUBG?"

While lots of his schoolmates at Northville are glued to their screens, Eckenroth is training. Training in the morning. Training after school. Training at night. And if it's summer break, he's probably sneaking in training during the day.

That's the typical schedule of a three-sport athlete.

But Eckenroth isn't your typical

three-sport athlete. He's about to be a three-sport college athlete.

That's right. The senior has signed with Kalamazoo College. He'll run cross-country, compete as a swimmer and be a distance runner on the track and field team.

"I've done three sports for all four years of high school, and it's given me

See THREE, Page 2B

## Catholic Central senior stepping up

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As Josh Ross walked off the court at Macomb Community College, the Detroit Catholic Central senior looked behind him toward his left, and then he looked to his right.

"Yeah, I'm lonely out here," the 6-foot-5, 225-pound power forward said with a smile.

That can happen when you graduate seven seniors from a boys basketball team that not only was the Catholic League tournament runner-up but also a Division 1 state quarterfinalist.

Ross is the lone remaining big man with considerable experience from last year's squad. He was usually the first or second guy off the bench, depending on a game's scenario. But he deserved to be out there.

The Shamrocks have some up-and-comers in the post. And judging by 6-foot-10 center Joey Naasko's hustle during The D Zone Shootout showcase, the senior will also offer some help.

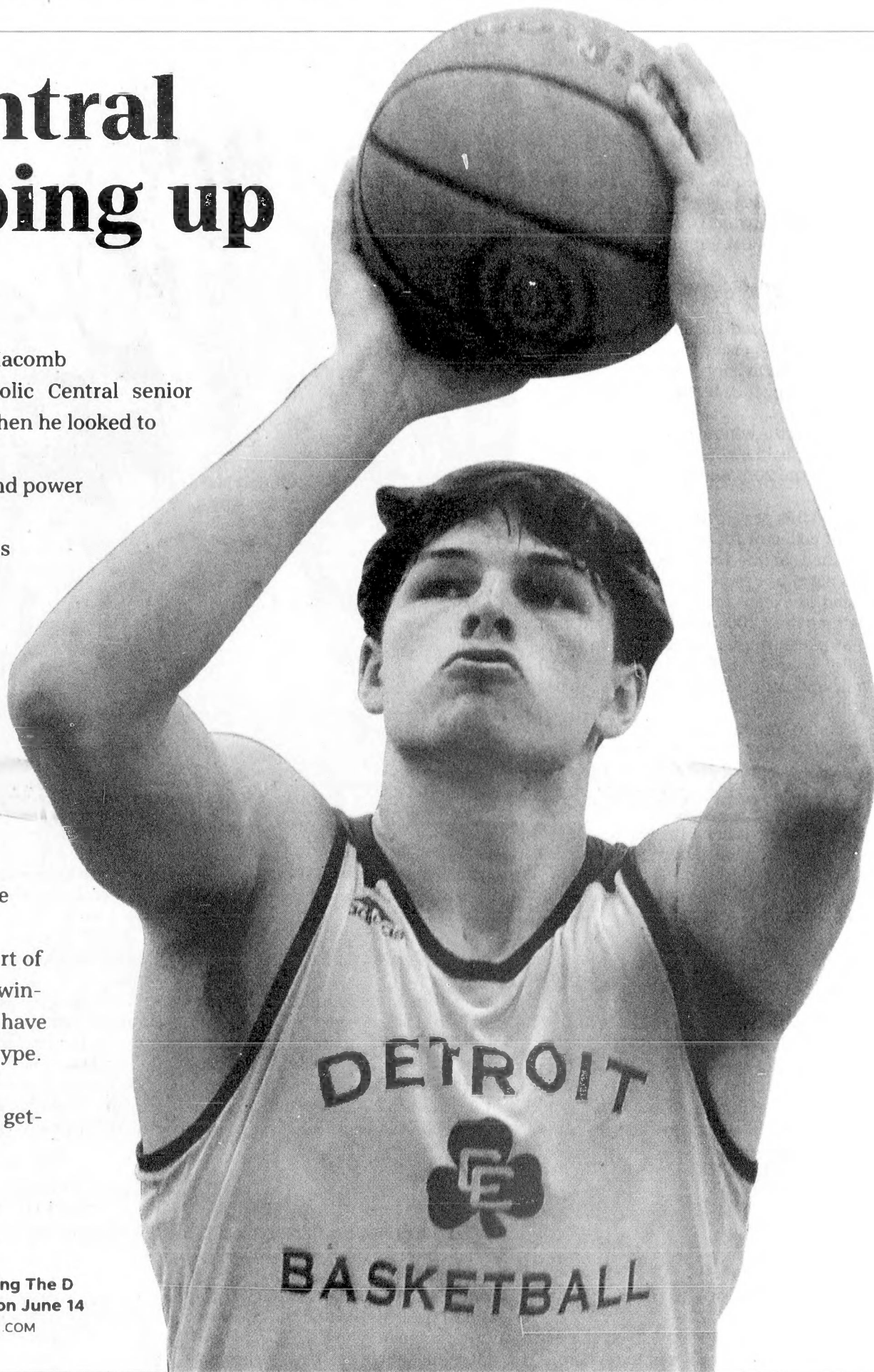
But, for right now, it's Ross who is No. 1 on that part of any opposing team's scouting report. The "keys to winning the rebound battle" portion of the report will have Ross' name double underlined and in boldface type. Teams will want to stop him.

Keep Ross off the boards, and you'll keep him from getting put-backs and and-ones.

If you can, that is.

See SENIOR, Page 2B

Detroit Catholic Central's Josh Ross shoots a free throw during The D Zone boys basketball showcase against Ferndale University on June 14 at Macomb Community College. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



### MHSFCA ALL-STAR GAME

## Franklin senior quarterback leads East past West, 14-7

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Only a handful of coaches get to participate in high school all-star games.

It's a rare occurrence to even get asked to help out at one.

And what's rarer is how many coaches Livonia Franklin had on the East squad for Saturday's Michigan High

School Football Coaches Association's fourth annual all-star game at Lawrence Tech.

There was Franklin head coach Chris Kelbert acting as the East's offensive coordinator, calling plays on behalf of Belleville coach Jermain Crowell, who was the true head coach of the East.

And then there was assistant Aaron Moran organizing the defense and as-

sistant Kevin Biga acting in a support role.

Yeah, three Patriots on one all-star staff.

But, wait. There was actually one more.

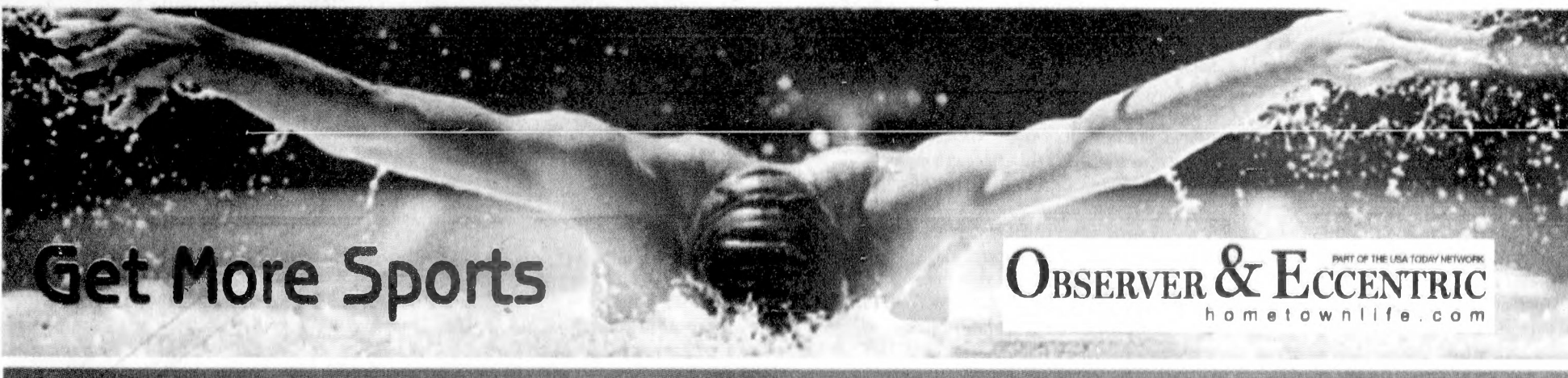
The starting quarterback was Franklin senior Zac Olesuk, who threw for one touchdown and led the East to a 14-7 victory over the West.

When it came to installing Kelbert's offense during practice throughout the week, the East leaned on Olesuk as an on-field coach to get players lined up in the right spots.

And it paid dividends during the one-score win.

"It was easier for me because I didn't

See ALL-STAR GAME, Page 7B



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# U-M target, West Bloomfield OL a film junkie

**Tony Garcia** Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Amir Herring will leave practice at West Bloomfield High School and sometimes won't even make it all the way home before he starts watching film.

The No. 4 player in the state and the top offensive lineman according to the 247Sports Composite rankings, Herring already studies the game as if he's at the next level.

"I pride myself with being a student of the game ... watching extra film, making sure my teammates all know their assignments so we can be on the same page," Herring said.

Herring keeps a notebook for every team the Lakers play. He tracks the opposition's stunts, how frequently they run them and on which specific down and distances before he logs them.

Beyond his football IQ, schools have noticed what the 6-foot-3, 280-pounder is physically capable of. Herring has 24 Division I offers.

Long considered a U-M lean, Herring took an unofficial visit to Michigan in May. He said he worked with co-offensive coordinator/offensive line coach Sherrone Moore, who he has had "weekly contact" with for years.

However, recent momentum has looked more like he's considering Nebraska. Herring took an official visit to Lincoln earlier this month and has officials set up to Boston College and Missouri as well. He's still deciding where he will spend his final two, but has a general plan for the rest of his summer.

"My recruitment process started early getting my first offer from the University of Kentucky as a freshman," he said. "It's been a long process but it's

getting down to the crucial part, which is why my family and I are taking it one day at a time. My timeline on my recruitment is making a decision this summer. That's the plan so I can focus on my team goals and really give them my full attention and full efforts."

At the top of those goals is to win another state championship, as the Lakers did in the 2020 season. Herring, a captain last season, will return as one of the program's leaders.

He plays left tackle in high school out of necessity, but is convinced he could play anywhere he's needed.

"I'm probably going to be projected as an interior guy, but I feel like I'm a guy a the next level who can play all across the line," he said. "That's what separates me from guys around the country, is I really do have that versatility to play all the way across."

Herring turns 18 in December. And even though he plans to be committed before the season begins, he called this probably the most important year yet. Not just because of his desire to win, but his drive to show whichever school gets his services what they have to be excited about.

"The schools that have offered me know my value and my worth, the winning I can bring to the program and the type of attitude I will bring day in and day out," he said. "... I'm very fortunate and blessed for the offers that I have, but I feel like some guys get a little more praise than I do because I'm a Michigan guy from the Midwest where some of the guys (are) from down south or west coast. But I feel like I can outwork those guys. ... I'm one of if not the best offensive lineman in the country because of that."

## Three

Continued from Page 1B

many opportunities to meet new people, work with new coaches and be around cool people," he said. "I feel like doing it in college is a great opportunity to keep doing what I love."

Eckenroth just wrapped up quite the senior year.

He recorded 10 top-25 finishes in cross country, including four top-10 times. He ended the fall by running 16 minutes, 43.8 seconds in the 5 kilometers at the Division 1 state championship, helping the Mustangs finish fourth as a team.

During the winter, he qualified for the state finals in swimming. He competed in both the 200- and 500-yard freestyle events.

And this past spring, he was quite the point collector for the Mustangs, as he finished, at the bare minimum, in the top eight in every track event he competed in except for two. That included helping the 3,200-meter relay team take first place, runner-up finishes in the 2 mile, several top-four finishes in the 1 mile and a third-place effort once in the 800.

You're probably reading that like, "What, really? The 5 kilometers? The 500? The 2 mile? What kind of person would subject themselves to so many distance events?"

"I just like pacing myself through a race. It's not about gunning it," Eckenroth said.

Being successful in three sports as well as taking care of business at school requires time management.

When it's not swimming season, he still tries to get in the swimming pool for at least 90 minutes a day.

And when it is swimming season, he tries to run five or six days a week.

He's either swimming at Lifetime Fitness or Farmington Family YMCA (where he's also part of the Farmington Stingrays' club team when he's not



Northville's Peyton McCaslin, Brady Heron and Noah Eckenroth compete at Howell High School on Saturday morning. COURTESY OF MARK MCCASLIN

swimming for Northville), or he's running outside.

Sometimes he mountain bikes at Mayberry Park to get in his cardio, which he said is actually his favorite hobby. And, truly, the only video game that interests him right now is "Rust." But he'd rather be fishing at his grandparents' place in the Jackson area than

playing an online multiplayer survival game.

"I'm never bored or burned out on a sport because I've always got another sport on the backburner about to start up," he said. "Though, I definitely find myself always trying to get to the pool to stay in shape with swimming."

"I'm basically just always moving."

But it's also always fun trying to manage what I need to get done."

Eckenroth gets his inspiration to compete from his family.

His mother, Amy, battles rheumatoid arthritis, but she still manages the Eckenroth household. Noah said she's always keeping him on task, whether it's having him get enough sleep before meets or remembering to do homework. Noah wants to take advantage of his physical gifts because that's something his mother cannot always do.

He also is inspired by his older sister, Cayla, who ran cross country and track and field at both Ball State and Southern Methodist University. She was a four-year letter winner in both sports at Northville.

"She always talked about how much she loved running and that always wore off on me, so I knew I'd always enjoy it, too," Noah said. "But I also like to swim just as much as I like to run, so I decided that I wasn't going to just focus on one sport."

"I've been able to manage both training schedules and still throw down good times for both sports. I knew I'd be able to keep up doing multiple sports in college and still be able to compete at a high level."

Getting days off or extra free time is rare for Noah, who enjoys watching streamers on YouTube, binging random topics on the History Channel and listening to *The Joe Rogan Experience* podcast, anything that keeps his "mind engaged."

And he's not about to get any more free time this summer. On top of his training, he'll be working as a lifeguard at Northville Swim Club as well as a camp counselor/lifeguard with the City of Novi.

Shocking, right? A multi-sport athlete who holds down multiple jobs.

That's the only way Noah knows how to do it.

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

## Senior

Continued from Page 1B

The Shamrocks went 3-0 on the day at Macomb CC Sports and Expo Center.

Their final game, a 58-38 runaway win, saw Ferndale University sometimes double- and triple-team Ross from getting rebounds. He still got the boards. He still got to the line. And he still kept plays alive for the Shamrocks.

"It's his turn," coach Brandon Sinawi said. "He's definitely earned it, and he's got every single opportunity to be great. He'll be a captain for us next year, and he's excited about that. ..."

"His bread and butter is going to be in the painted area, but his athleticism is going to surprise people on the wing, and we're definitely looking to get him more acclimated when it comes to playing on the outside. ..."

Ross transferred to CC from Berkley as a freshman and spent half a season on the JV. But he's been on the varsity ever since.

And he actually saw his minutes go down a year ago because of how talented CC was.

Oakland University signee Cooper Craggs brought both an inside and outside presence at power forward, while small forward Kam Mayes had a breakout year as a ball-handler, shooter and, at times, a scorer down low.

Sprinkle in heads-up play from the other seniors as well as shooting guard TJ Nadeau and former CC point guard Chas Lewless, and that recipe makes for

fewer minutes for your stereotypical Tyler Hansbrough type of forward that Ross plays as.

But that's OK. Ross loved learning under Craggs, Mayes and the other two starting seniors.

"It's rough (being alone now) because I love those guys," Ross said. "But we're gonna have to shift how we play this year. I grew up looking up to those guys as my mentors, and now it's kind of my turn to take that role, and I'm excited. I've always wanted this chance. Personally, I knew I've had it in me, so I'm ready to go."

"I'm fired up for this year."

The Shamrocks, who were 16-9 overall last winter, return Nadeau, who was their leading scorer, and they welcome in junior Uchenna Amene, a junior point guard who transferred in from D-4 powerhouse Southfield Christian.

Many around the CHSL will look at CC as a team in a rebuild.

If Ross can be the double-double machine that Sinawi predicts him to be, the Shamrocks will upset some teams. And Sinawi expects another district title with this younger squad.

"It's going to be an effort thing," Ross added. "I think we definitely can compete against those kinds of guys. It'll be really interesting to see how we play them and how are team does."

Ross didn't lack the effort at The D Zone Shootout. Just ask Williamston, Clarkston and Ferndale University. He was all over the boards.

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



Detroit Catholic Central's Josh Ross (center) rebounds during The D Zone boys basketball showcase against Ferndale University on June 14 at Macomb Community College. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



# Detroit Polo Club is Hartland's 'hidden gem'

Patricia Alvord Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Hartland Polo Classic returned June 18 to the Detroit Polo Club, bringing together people who love the sport and horses, and those just looking for an entertaining afternoon.

"This is our big event of the season," club Director Emmalyn Wheaton said.

The Hartland Polo Classic began in 2017, Wheaton said, when former Hartland Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Katie Chuba stepped into the position looking for a unique event in Hartland.

"A mutual friend of ours started talking polo and Katie said, 'You know, let's have an event out there, let's do something.' As we started to talk about it and share it with other people, it just grew into this big thing that all the community and the business community really love," Wheaton said.

Wheaton said the club partners with Derby Hats by Rachelle. People can go to Tony's Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza in early May and pick out a hat that matches the outfit they plan to wear to the event.

"It's something kind of different. We don't have a lot of that in Livingston County," Wheaton said.

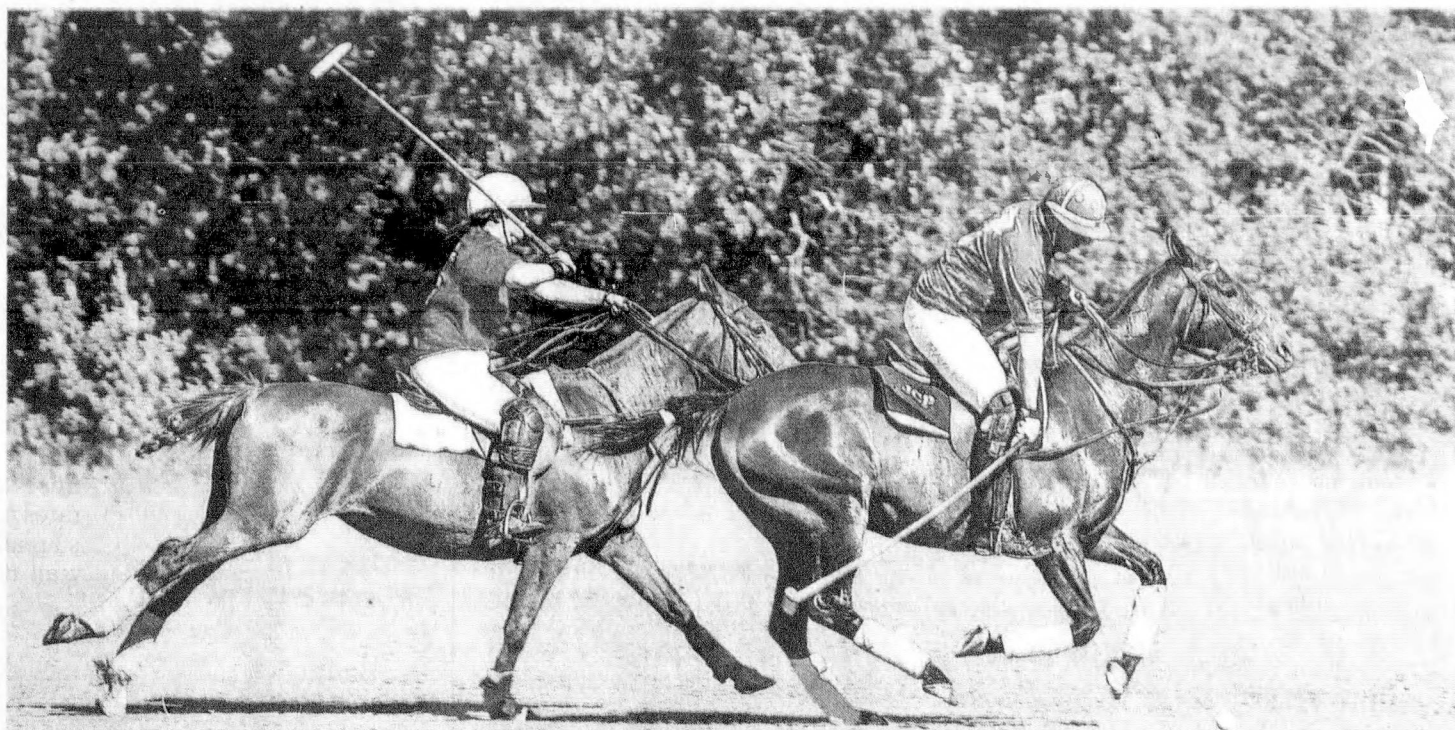
The Hartland Polo Classic, in partnership with the Chamber, is a fundraiser to support the chamber's scholarship and community giveback programs. This year, the funds collected will benefit Warrior Path Home, a nonprofit that serves veterans in Livingston County by providing life coaching, education and equine guided learning.

## The game of polo

According to Wheaton, polo can be played indoors or outside. Typically there are four players on each side. Additionally, there are two umpires on horseback.

The game is played in periods called chukkers. A chukker is typically 7½ minutes and there may be four to six chukkers. Players ride horseback with a mallet to hit the ball. Depending on the temperature, players may change their horses multiple times.

"If we're playing, say, a four-chukker game, you can expect each player is go-



Justin Powers, chased by daughter Juliette Powers, competes in the first-ever Hartland Area Chamber of Commerce Polo Classic in 2017 at the Detroit Polo Club in Hartland Township. COURTESY OF RICHARD LIM PHOTOGRAPHY

ing to be playing three or four horses, four players on a team, so that's quite a few horses on the field at a time. It's a very horse-intensive sport," Wheaton said.

## Club history

The Detroit Polo Club was established in 1962 by Merle Jenkins. In 1972, the club found its first official home in Milford, directly behind the high school.

With its growing success, the club made its way to Hartland, at 500 Chukker Cove, where it has been based since 1999. The property has 160 acres with two regulation fields and a practice field, 60 stalls and more than 50 acres of pasture.

"We're sort of like a hidden gem back here," Wheaton said.

Wheaton said she discovered polo in college. She grew up with horses, and when she went to Michigan State University, she was looking for something she could do to work with them.

Her friend suggested polo tryouts and she was willing to try it even though

she had never watched or played polo before.

"That was sort of the beginning of the end for me," Wheaton said.

She said she played polo throughout college and, after she graduated, she started working for Jenkins. She said he mentored her and she started managing a polo team and a group of horses.

"From there, I just kept going with it. It's how I met my husband and now that's what our life is," Wheaton said. "Our kids are around with us for the ride."

In addition to the Hartland Polo Classic, the club also hosts a number of events throughout the season, which runs from April to October. Wheaton said the club hosts tailgate events at which attendees can park along the sidelines, have a picnic, bring their dogs on leashes and watch.

In the fall, they conduct the Detroit Gold Cup, which was played in Southfield for many years, according to Wheaton.

"We decided to bring that back in 2017 as a way to honor some of the old

traditions of the club as it was when it was in Milford," she said.

She said the event is casual, true to the kind of polo they play.

"We try to make it very family-friendly and easy to watch," she said.

Aside from events, the club conducts a Detroit Polo School, where beginners can learn how to play. They also host the University of Michigan Polo Team in the fall and spring. Additionally, they work with Detroit Horse Power, a nonprofit that brings children from downtown Detroit to teach them how to ride and care for horses as part of their curriculum.

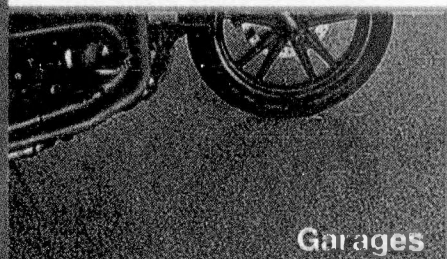
The Hartland club is relatively small, with about 20 members. Wheaton said the members are primarily "weekend warriors," participating in polo as a hobby while working a regular 9-5 job.

"We're so happy to be out here in Livingston County. The community loves us and we love being here. We're growing which is a great thing and we're able to share the sport with a lot of people which is also a really great thing," Wheaton said.

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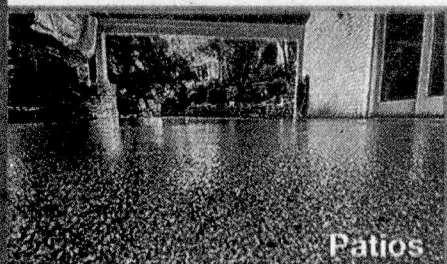
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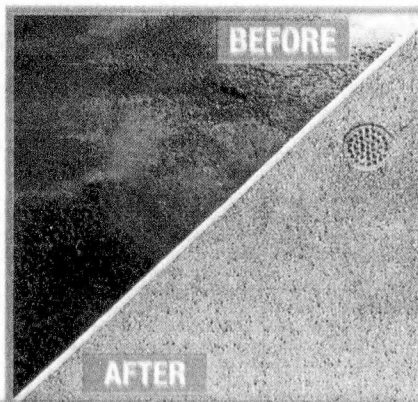
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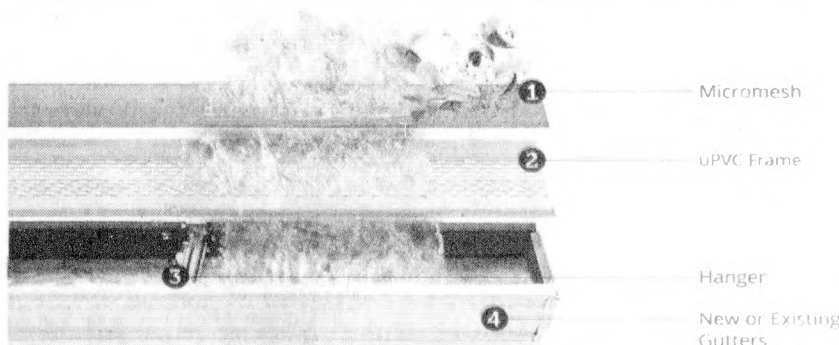
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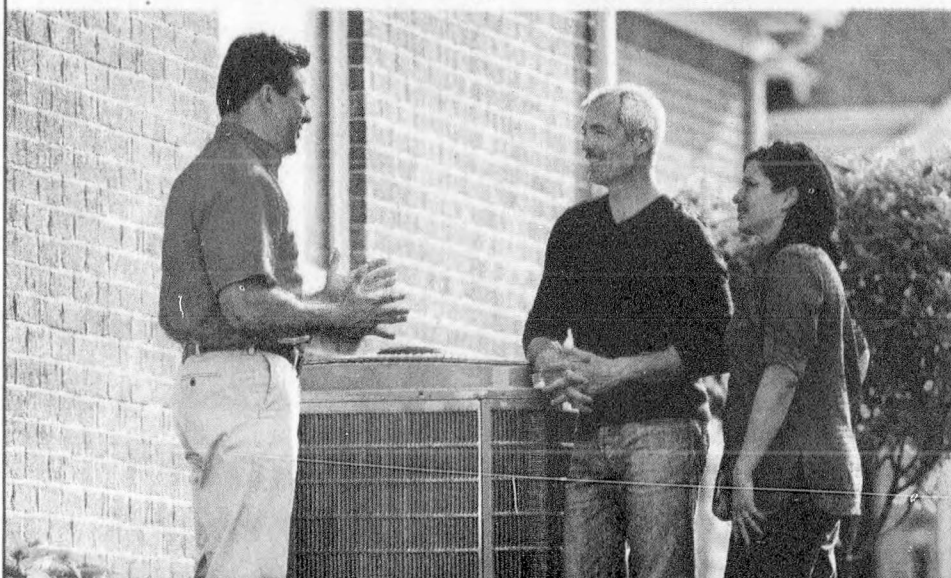
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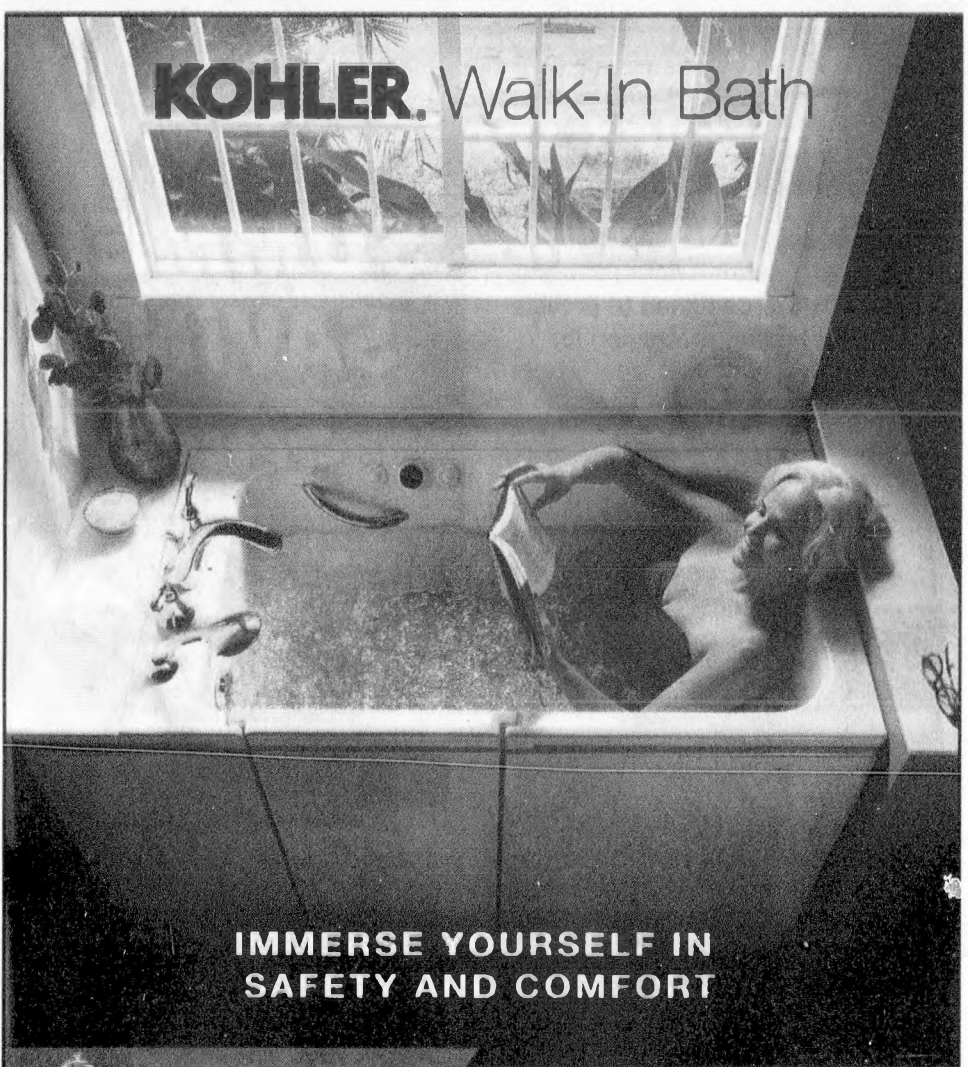
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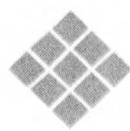


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# Marian girls soccer falls in state final

Despite senior's gutsy effort, Mustangs' reign ends, 2-1

Brandon Folsom [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

She gave up a chance to defend her national championship with her club program.

And it was worth it.

She joined a high school team with a brand new coach, a squad that had just graduated four all-state players and was about to defend a state title with an incredibly young roster.

And it was worth it.

She gave everything she had to help the team advance to their fifth-straight championship, despite losing one of her best friends and her "partner in crime" to an ACL injury two games earlier.

And it was worth it.

The ball sailed along the far sideline.

Isa Agrusso got a foot on it, and one final breakaway was started.

The senior sprinted past Grand Rapids Forest Hill Central's bench.

The public-address announcer counted down the final seconds.

"3... 2..."

At the last second, Agrusso fired a shot toward the net. Not only was it nowhere on frame, but she also wasn't even in a good position to score.

The Rangers had taken down Bloomfield Hills Marian. No. 4 had upset No. 2. It was the first time in six years the Mustangs wouldn't hoist the wooden mitten.

The June 18 state final score at Michigan State University's DeMartin Soccer Complex: FHC 2, Marian 1.

Agrusso dropped her hands to her knees and bent over. And there she stayed until first-year coach Reid Friedrichs walked 40 yards out of his way to console the future MSU Spartan striker.

Friedrichs pulled her in for a hug as the two walked past the Rangers' bench area and back to Marian's sideline.

In March, Friedrichs didn't know if Agrusso was going to be part of the program. She hadn't decided if she'd give up playing club to join her high school team. But she was signed with MSU already, and playing one final spring with her schoolmates sounded like something she'd never regret, even if that meant not defending her national title.

So she signed up.

The Mustangs benefited from having one of the best players in the nation on their team. She helped them win the Catholic League and CHSL tournament championships. They repeated as district and regional champions. She gutted them through a state semifinal without one of their best players. And she got them back to MSU for a state title defense.

"This team has definitely impacted my life in an amazing way," Agrusso said. "I found a new family in all these new people I've gotten to talk to and play soccer with. Now they're some of my best friends, or they were already some of my best friends from class that I might not have had a chance to play with...."

"It was just an amazing atmosphere to play in, and I don't regret playing high school soccer, even if it had to end this way. We gave everything we had."

You couldn't have asked for a better match to conclude the 2022 season. But it was determined, quite literally, from the get-go.

In the 4th minute, Theryn Hallock headed in a goal to put Forest Hill Central ahead. Marian responded almost immediately, as Agrusso dribbled about 30 yards and outraced three Rangers, slipping a tough shot past goalie Ava Wilberding to knot the score 4 minutes later.

And 90 seconds after that, Forest Hill Central got the game-winner once Lauren Koczenasz sailed a corner kick into the penalty box for Stella Sutton to push in.

The Mustangs (17-2) had their chances for the equalizer, but Wilberding was just too strong in the net.

Their last real chance to tie it came with 3 minutes remaining.

Agrusso raced toward the right post, hoping to beat Wilberding to a shot. Instead, Wilberding leveled Agrusso with her tackle. So badly, in fact, Agrusso briefly left the match to get checked out by trainers. It looked as if Agrusso had gotten concussed, but she didn't, and no foul was called on the play.

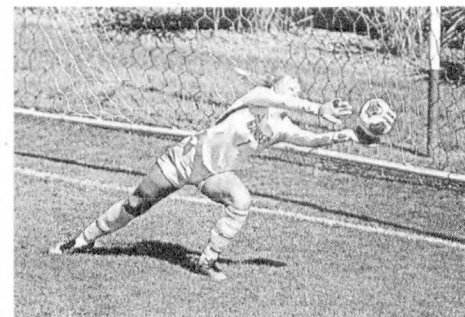
She reentered the match during the next stoppage, but that was the final chance Marian had to force overtime.

Part of the problem was because Forest Hill Central is just a great program, which won its fifth state title. The other part was Marian was without (soon-to-be two-time all-stater) Elle Ervin.

The sophomore tore her right ACL during the regional championship against New Boston Huron. Not only is



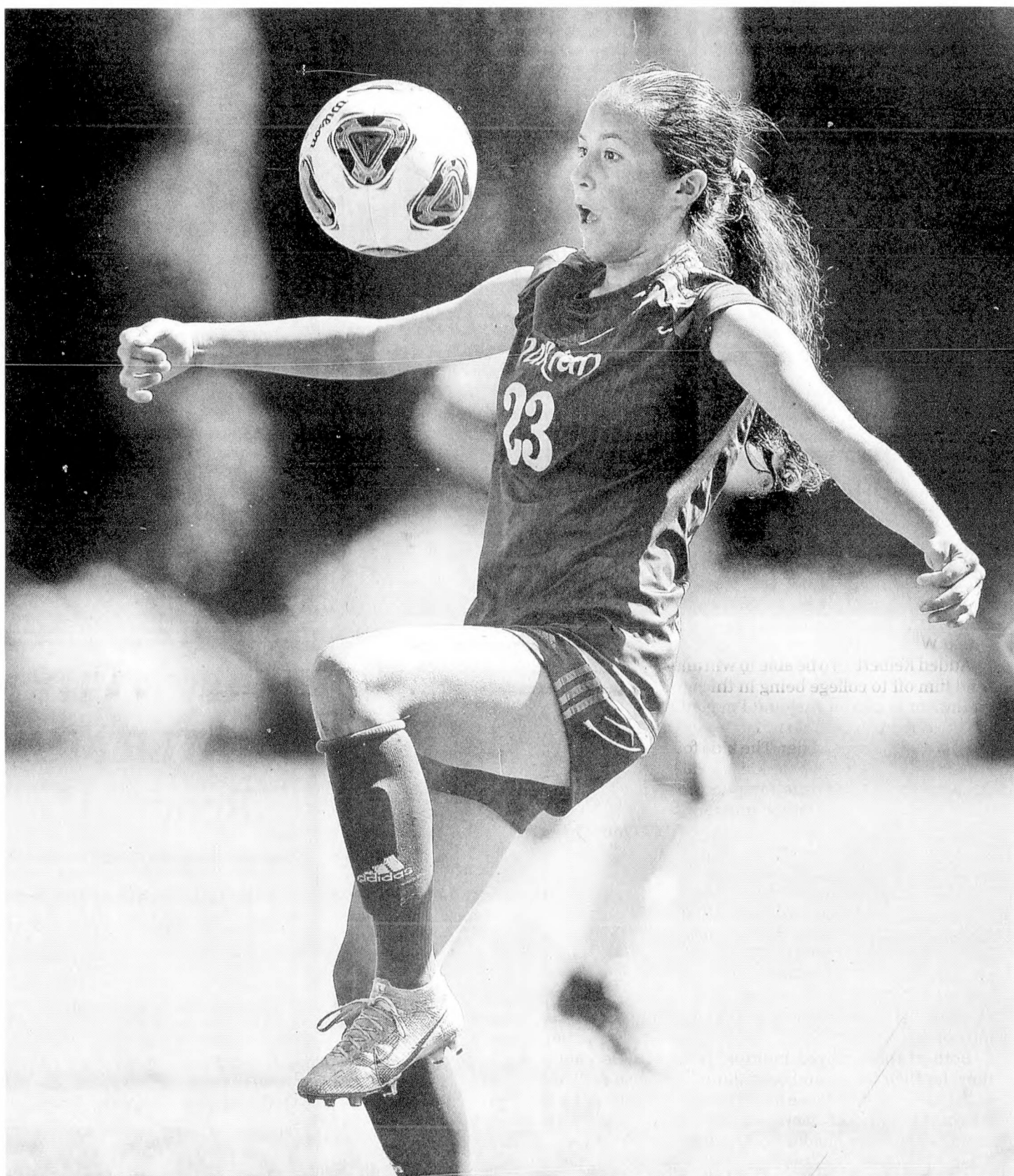
Bloomfield Hills Marian's Ella Doerr (left) and Caroline Flynn react after their 2-1 loss to Forest Hills Central.



Forest Hills Central goalkeeper Ava Wilberding makes a stop.



Bloomfield Hills Marian goalkeeper Dani Merz makes a stop.



Bloomfield Hills Marian's Isa Agrusso controls the ball during the Division 2 MHSAA soccer championship against Forest Hills Central on June 18 in East Lansing. PHOTOS BY AL GOLDIS/FOR THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL

she one of Marian's best goal scorers, but she is also one of the best goal scorers in Michigan. Period.

She's a highly-touted recruit who will have her pick of several Division I colleges when she's a senior.

She's scheduled to have surgery July 5, and she'll miss the next seven months while she rehabilitates her knee. And she'll be back in time for next spring's high school season.

But not having her on the pitch for the state final was too much for Marian to overcome.

"It's heartbreaking not being able to be out there with these girls who literally have made such an impact on my life," the sophomore said. "But I've been able to be Coach Elle, as I like to say, and do as much as I could to help them. I wish I could've been able to be out there. I wish I could've put my body on the line for them like I know they would've done for me — like they did today."

The Mustangs certainly did.

And it wasn't only Agrusso taking bumps and bruises.

It was Sabrina Yaldoo. It was Ange Briggs. It was Abby Lucchesi, and Dani Mertz, and Caroline Flynn and so many others.

But they were definitely missing Ervin, who dressed for the game and was

even introduced during the pre-game festivities. Except she didn't wear her signature black headband.

And when the headband is on, you know Ervin is going to be on, too.

"It's hard, for sure. I love playing with her. I like to say that we're partners in crime. It's definitely hard," Agrusso said. "We've tried to make adjustments, but, obviously, there's no replacing Elle. We made adjustments in our last game, and it worked out, but we just didn't get the win today, and it happens."

Added Friedrichs: "It was really difficult. We handled it as well as we could, I think. When you have somebody who is such a foundation on the field, it's very hard not having her. We handled it for a game and a half, but we weren't able to handle it once again today."

Following the handshake line, Agrusso limped toward the trophy presentation ceremony near midfield. About halfway there, she was stopped by Wilberding, the clear-cut MVP for the Rangers, who made three pivotal saves throughout the match to end the Mustangs' reign as the best team in Division 2.

Wilberding briefly consoled Agrusso. And then she tapped Agrusso on the head before she walked away to rejoin her team on their side of the ceremony.

"This is your field," Agrusso said was the message Wilberding gave her. "You're going to kill it here next year."

One by one, each Mustang received a medal for participating in the state final. And one by one, each player received cheers from the fans and family members present.

When the public-address announcer said, "No. 23, senior, Isa Agrusso," she received the loudest cheers from the Marian faithful still hanging around in the stands.

"It meant the world to play with her," Ervin said. "Without her, there's no way we would've been here, obviously. She had countless game-winners. You couldn't ask for a better forward to work with. From the moment she stepped on the field, we clicked. We had a connection. I couldn't ask for a better partner in a crime."

Tears were still trickling down Agrusso's face when athletic director Mike Watson handed her the medal.

After the ceremony, she sat alone behind Marian's bench. She was solemn but still sniffling.

Then she tore off her shin guards and got ready to say farewell to her teammates.

And with a bright smile, she said it. "It was worth it."



## All-star game

Continued from Page 1B

have to learn as many plays," said Olesuk, who is signed with Alma College to play baseball and football. "Just the new ones that they just put in this off-season I had to learn. It was basically just all of our plays from last year. I just took that as a good thing. I was able to teach a lot of the offensive players where to line up and how to run certain plays. It was an advantage to have him (Kelbert) as a coach and for him to have his quarterback be here because it's easier for him to teach all the guys."

It sure was.

On the game's opening drive, Olesuk and the East quickly moved the chains with a handful of plays, and then the senior tossed a 23-yard touchdown pass to Warren Fitzgerald receiver Trey West.

After Auburn Hills Avondale running back D'Angelo Harris punched in a 6-yard rushing TD with 10:57 left, Kelbert relied on Olesuk to manage the game and eat as much clock as possible down the stretch.

"It was great because Zac and I have been together for two years," Kelbert said. "You build that relationship where I can say something and he knows exactly what I'm saying. And what I'm seeing is the same thing that he sees. ... It took a while (for the offense) to adapt to the other kids, but having a guy that talented here as the quarterback helped."

Perhaps the best part of Kelbert and Olesuk reuniting is the victory eases some of their previous pain together.

At 6-foot-1, 185 pounds, Olesuk was one of the top QBs in metro Detroit during the second half of Franklin's season in 2021. And he even finished with 1,226 yards and 11 TDs through the air and another 686 yards and 15 TDs rushing.

As the team found momentum entering the playoffs, it rode that all the way to the Division 2 state semifinal where its season finally ended, 49-14, to eventual state champion Warren DeLaSalle.

Losing one game away from making it to Ford Field was tough. But a close-call win in an exhibition game is a much better memory for both to have as Olesuk's playing days come to an end at Franklin.

"100%, it feels great," Olesuk said. "This will be my last time putting on a Franklin uniform, and it's surreal. It kind of sucks that the Franklin career is over. But it feels good to finally end it with a W."

Added Kelbert: "To be able to win and send him off to college being in this environment is a lot of fun, and I'm glad I got the opportunity to do it. ..."

"He's been a true leader. The kids follow him. He's a coachable kid. ... He's meant a lot to our entire athletic program, especially the football program."

### Two future Cardinals flock together at LTU

On signing day, Saginaw Valley State nabbed two of the best athletes in metro Detroit in Warren Fitzgerald's Trey West and Livonia Churchill's Joshua Brown.

And they're almost identical, both as playmakers and physically at 5-10 and 180 pounds.

Both of them played multiple positions for their teams and contributed in each phase, from defense to offense and special teams. Both were usually the fastest kids on the field in each game.

And the duo got to play together for the East squad during Saturday's all-star game, giving Cardinals fans a sneak peek of what's to come from the pair of Mr. Do-Everything's headed this fall to University Center.

West played receiver (and caught a 23-yard TD pass) and defensive back. Brown played cornerback. And both stood next to each other when it came time to field punts and kickoffs.

"It was good. He's a speedster. He's just a freak athlete, man, and I love him," Brown said.

Probably the best part of the week for the two was they got to go against each other in the practices leading up to the all-star game.

And sometimes West got the best of Brown, the Chargers' two-time all-star.

"He's fast, so you definitely got to stay on your Ps and Qs," Brown added. "But we battled. But it's just fun being back out here, too. I didn't end my season on a win, so it's just great to end one on a win."

### Homecoming for Cole Lacanaria

It's unlikely any of the players competing were as familiar with Blue Devils Stadium as Cole Lacanaria.

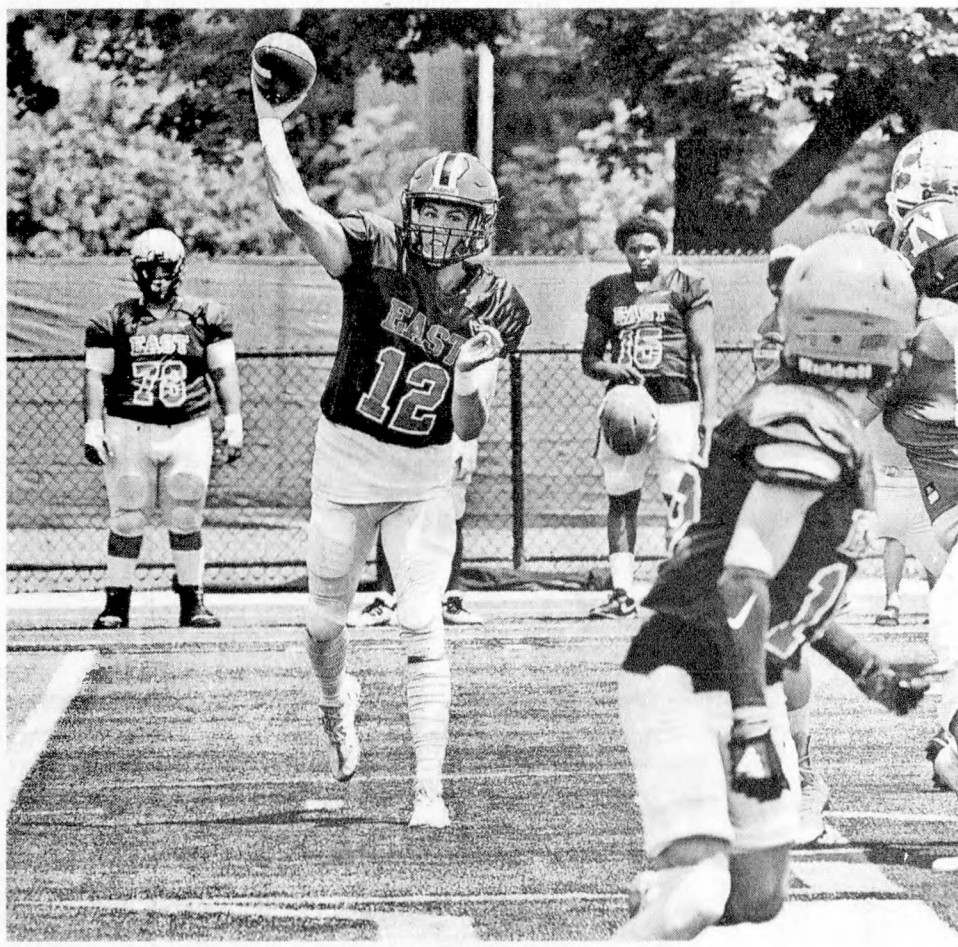
For one, that's where Brother Rice plays many of its home games. If the Warriors aren't playing at Wisner Stadium in Pontiac, they're welcoming opponents to Lawrence Tech's campus.

And, of course, the senior receiver



Livonia Churchill's Joshua Brown and Warren Fitzgerald's Trey West chat during warm-ups before the fourth annual Michigan High School Football Coaches Association's all-star game June 25 at Lawrence Tech University.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Livonia Franklin's Zac Olesuk passes the ball.

will be playing college football this fall at LTU.

So that turf field that runs alongside M-10 and is nestled among several skyscrapers feels like home for him. And he showed that by snaring a bubble pass from Olesuk on the game's very first play and racing for a first down.

He caught a few more passes and also rushed once on a reverse play.

Leaving Blue Devils Stadium with a win for the East was a much better feeling for Lacanaria than when he and the Warriors saw their season end with a 20-17 upset loss to Mason in the D-3 regional last November at LTU.

"It was a really big upset, and it hurt, but it's good to get out here and get a win again," he said. "I treat this like every other game. ... I'm very happy we came out with a win, so it means a lot."

At only 5-7 and 170 pounds, Lacanaria punches well above his weight.

And he had no trouble outracing some of the West's defensive backs for most of the evening.

"There's so much talent here, honestly," he added. "It's crazy to see how much talent each player has, and there's not a single person that's bad. You're going against good competition at every position on every play and every down. It's really fun to play against good competition and see how you stack up against them."

### Two-sport star Boike represents Black Hawks in baseball showcase

Bloomfield Hills kicker Jack Boike also competed in an all-star game this week.

Only it wasn't for football. The senior represented the Oakland Activities Association during Tuesday's second annual Macomb Area Conference vs. OAA all-star game at Jimmy John's Field.

The MAC won, 12-7, but Boike recorded a game-best four stolen bases and got to showcase the athleticism he'll be taking to Adrian College as a kicker on

the football team and a shortstop and outfielder on the baseball team.

"Yeah, I was all baseball in the recruiting process," he said. "And when I knew I found a home in (Adrian), I decided to send over my game film to the football coach. And he told me I have what it takes to kick at this level."

Boike graduates as one of the best baseball players in program history. That includes him setting two school

records for most career steals (50) and most plate appearances in a single season (129).

As a senior on the gridiron, he recorded 15 touchbacks on kickoffs, was 4 of 4 kicking field goals and went 41 of 44 on extra points while helping Bloomfield Hills win the OAA-Blue championship.

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



Brother Rice's Cole Lacanaria rushes.



Bloomfield Hills' Jack Boike gets ready on defense during the MAC vs. OAA all-star baseball game June 21 at Jimmy John's Field.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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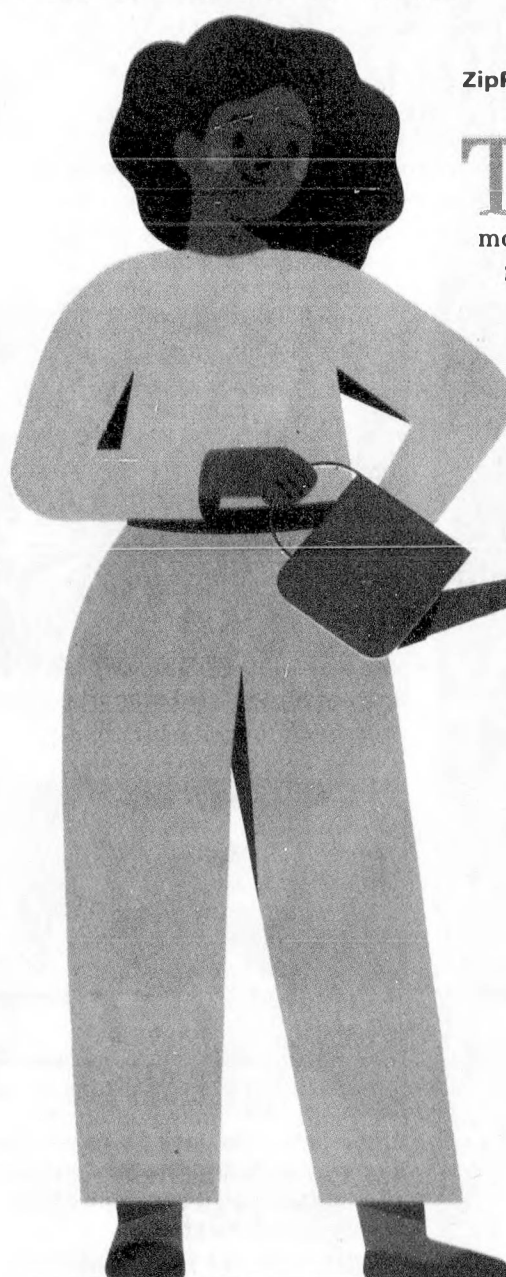
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## A Goldilocks Jobs Report: Solid Job Gains, Cooling Wage Growth



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The May jobs report was yet another blockbuster with huge job gains: 390k jobs added—almost double the monthly average job gain before Covid. And job gains would have been even higher were they not restrained by tight labor supply. Job postings on ZipRecruiter rose 3% in May, with busi-

nesses hiring both to replace turnover and expand headcount, but held back by high turnover and persistent labor shortages. The report showed exactly what the Fed wants to see and contained plenty of good news for job seekers, too, who have received a confidence boost in recent months thanks to attractive hiring conditions.

Here are key takeaways from the report:

### Huge, broad job gains

- The labor market continued to add jobs at a breakneck speed. Before the pandemic, the economy only needed to add 110k-140k jobs per month to keep pace with population growth, but it consistently added more than 200k. Over the past year, it has sustained a pace of growth about double that, on average.
- The majority of industries contributed gains, with the diffusion index (a measure of the breadth of gains) coming in hot at 69.3.
- The private sector has now recovered 99% of the jobs lost in the pandemic; the public sector only 58%.

### Easing labor supply constraints

- Job gains would have been even higher were it not for the decline in labor force participation caused by the pandemic. Labor force participation rates have recovered for teenagers and the prime-age population, but are still almost 3.5 percentage points lower than before the pandemic for workers aged 20-24 and those over age 55.
- Labor force participation ticked upwards in May with improvements among prime-age workers and older workers.

- One reason for the improvement may be the resumption of legal immigration, now that embassies and consulates are coming back online and international travel is rebounding.

### Easing wage growth

- Overall wages grew 5.2% over the year, and wages for nonsupervisory workers grew 6.5%. 12-month wage growth slowed slightly, but accelerated for construction (5.6%), transportation (7.8%), utilities (5.9%), and information (3.4%).
- Coming in at 10.3%, year-over-year wage growth in leisure and hospitality has now been over 10% for 10 straight months. Nonsupervisory workers in that industry are experiencing particularly rapid growth of 11.8%.
- Further recovery in labor force participation is likely to take the boil off wage growth.

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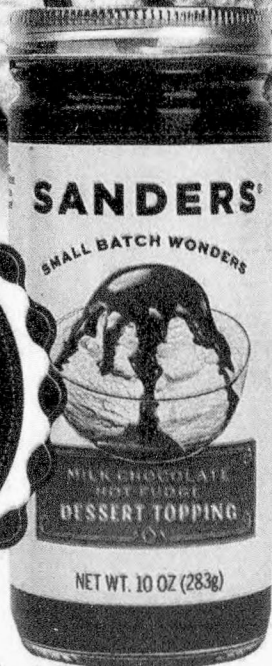
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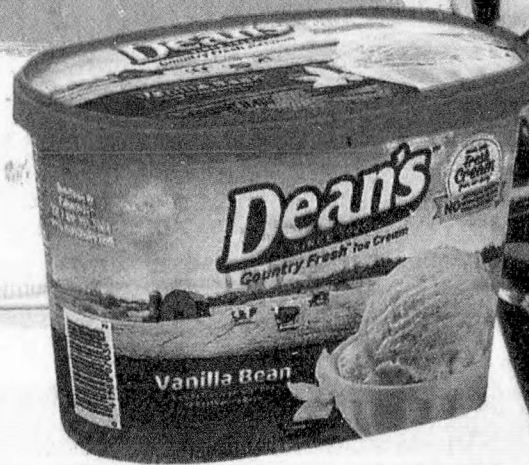


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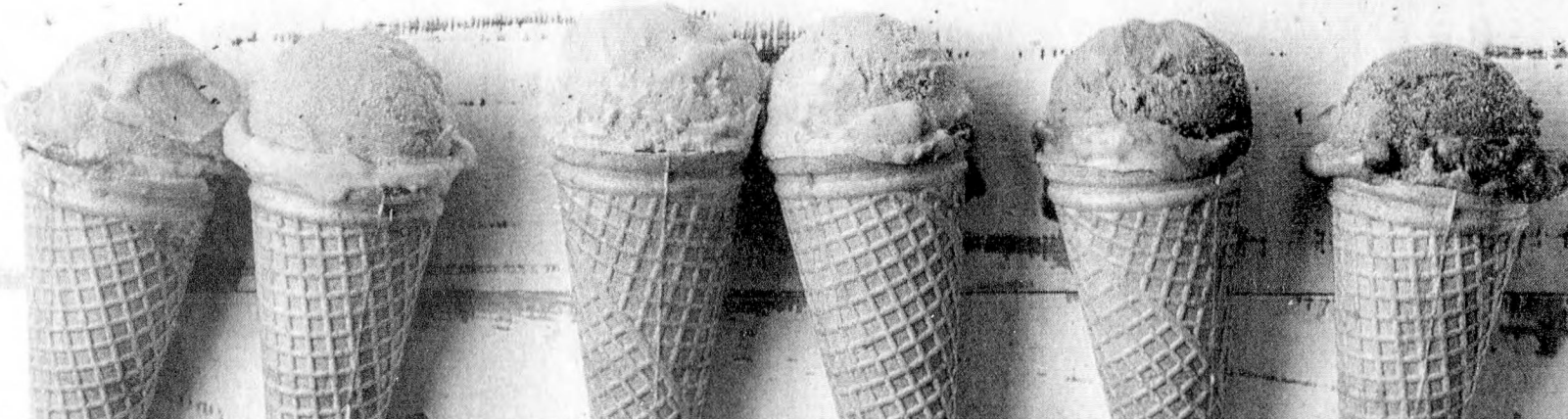
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