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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Westland hires new trash-hauling company

### Previous city contract continued for 52 years

**Shelby Tankersley** [Hometownlife.com](#)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Next year, a new company will pick up Westland's trash for the first time in more than 50 years.

The city recently approved a 10-year refuse contract beginning Jan. 1 with

Priority Waste, based in Clinton Township.

The decision signifies a break with Midwestern Sanitation. Though the company has changed its name over the years, it has serviced the city since 1968.

Priority had the lowest of three bids at \$38,449,174 for 10 years. Priority also

offered the highest bid to purchase Westland's existing fleet of garbage trucks at \$1.6 million, which will also eliminate any outstanding debt the city has in regard to the trucks.

Officials say residents will not notice any changes to their garbage pickup.

"Nothing will change," Mayor Bill Wild said. "People will still use the same garbage cans that they have, the gar-

bage will still go to the landfill in Van Buren Township, recycling will still get picked up on the same days and routes still aren't going to change. People shouldn't see any difference."

Wild said though the city still had about four years left in its contract with Midwestern, the company offered to

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Kyle Bostick tests the animated light show he created set to holiday tunes at his Sheridan Street home in Garden City. Bostick can control the light show and accompanying music from his laptop. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Family's light show keeps holidays merry and bright

**Susan Vela** [Hometownlife.com](#)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kyle Bostick always wanted to put on a holiday light show, and his wife Christina did not let the techie forget his potential when the coronavirus pandemic struck.

She lost work as a waitress. He lost a friend.

As a result, their Garden City home may never be the same, which anyone can see if they drive down Sheridan Street about 5:30 p.m. That's when the holiday hoopla decorating their home "dances" to music on 95.1 FM.

"My wife was off work and kind of bugging me, (saying) 'We've got to do something for everyone,'" said Bostick, 32. "I just started Googling. The software is called xLights. I found a Facebook group (and) there's a ton of

See SHOW, Page 3A

## Two join sexual abuse suit against former teacher

**Susan Vela** [Hometownlife.com](#)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Two more women have added their names to a federal lawsuit against their former Clarenceville choir and theater arts teacher.

An amended complaint filed last month stated that they both were "sexually assaulted, abused, molested and/or harassed" by Jason Debandt while they attended Clarenceville High School in Livonia.

Debandt, who could not be reached for comment, is supposed to respond to the complaint later this month. His attorneys declined to comment.

Debandt was last known to be on paid administrative leave from Farmington schools pending an investigation regarding accusations made against him.

The additional plaintiffs could mean a total of 10 former students versus their former teacher. A former Troy Athens High School student whose allegations go back to 2005 does not appear in the Nov. 12 amended complaint list of plaintiffs. Troy School District does not appear as a defendant.

Lisa Esser-Weidenfeller, an attorney representing the women, said the Troy student's allegations had been removed from the case because of the state's statute of limitations.

"What happened to her and the sexual assaults perpetrated upon her are still facts in the case and certainly help to paint the picture of Mr. Debandt's long-standing pattern of sexual predatory behavior," Esser-Weidenfeller wrote in an email. "There are bills that have been introduced in the Michigan House to expand the statute of limitations in civil actions for sexual assault survivors.

"If and when those bills get passed and open up the window for (the former student), we would bring her claim against Mr. Debandt and the Troy School District."

See LAWSUIT, Page 5A

## PCCS examines transgender policy proposal

**Ed Wright** [Hometownlife.com](#)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth-Canton Board of Education members were scheduled to vote Tuesday on a proposal that, if passed, would allow students, employees and visitors to use male and female rest-

rooms and locker rooms in the district's buildings, regardless of gender.

The proposal — titled Policy 5517.03 transgender and gender nonconforming students — would also give students the green light to compete on district-sponsored boys and/or girls athletic teams, depending on their gender identity.

The prospect of the policy change, which was recommended to the board of education by the district's policy advisory committee, has irked some Plymouth-Canton parents and pleased others.

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# Schoolcraft levies tax on winter tax bills

David Veselenak [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Residents in the Schoolcraft College taxing district will find an unusual line item on their property taxes this winter.

The college levied a 0.0177 mill tax on winter tax bills this year, a one-time levy the college says was done to make up for a mistake made in 2019.

Jon Lamb, the college's chief financial officer, said there were issues in 2019 dealing with adding the tax to the rolls across the three counties within the taxing district. That issue led to Schoolcraft only levying 2.2516 mills on the summer 2019 tax bills, slightly less than the 2.27 mills approved by voters in 2018.

After discussions and meetings, it was determined the rollback was not applicable, so the college added the small, one-time tax levy to the tax bill this winter to

Lamb said the decision to add the tax to the winter bills this year instead of the summer was done to be transparent and not make it look like the college was trying to collect more than the amount it advertised during the millage campaign.

"We didn't want to lump it into the summer one, because it would then be above 2.27," Lamb said.

The Schoolcraft College taxing district includes those who live within the boundaries of Clarenceville School District, Livonia Public Schools, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Northville Public Schools and Garden City Schools.

The Headlee override approved by voters will run through 2028, allowing the college to levy 2.27 mills until then.

The Headlee Amendment, approved by voters in 1978, limits how much taxes can increase annually because of increases to property values, as well as requiring voter approval on local tax increases.



Schoolcraft College levied a 0.0177 mill tax on winter tax bills this year, a one-time levy the college says was done to make up for a mistake made in 2019. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

While tax bills are posted online and beginning to arrive in the mail across the region, area municipalities are prepared for any questions eagle-eye taxpayers may have in regards to the millage.

Wendy Hillman, the finance director for Northville Township, said they were provided information by Schoolcraft to pass along to taxpayers.

"If we did get phone calls, we would have a reference. We have not received any phone calls yet," Hillman said. "It's definitely out of the normal."

Lamb said the full millage rate that could have ap-

plied was not levied: had the college wanted to make up the difference completely, it would have levied 0.0184 mills, not 0.0177 mills. That calculation factored in rising property values from 2019 to 2020, Lamb said. Factoring those in allowed the college to collect what it would have collected last year.

"We're not trying to collect a single penny more than we should have," he said. "We had to effectively decrease the differential."

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

## Pandemic reveals importance of family disaster plan



### Money Matters

Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us now believe that anything is possible. It is important we prepare for the unexpected.

If you were told that you had to immediately vacate your home because of a winter storm, would you be prepared?

Whether it is a pandemic, a major storm or another type of disaster, it is important to have a plan for critical financial information.

It is critical to consider what financial informa-

tion is needed in case of a disaster where home access is either limited or prohibited. Think about how difficult it might be if you didn't have access to your online accounts to manage your financial affairs.

Everyone needs some sort of disaster plan and the time to do it is now.

In developing a disas-

ter plan, first decide what information you would need if you had to evacuate from your home. Here are some things that I think should be in most people's disaster plan.

First off, you should organize all insurance-related information. This includes the name, account number and phone number of your homeowner and automobile insurance company as well as contact information for your agent. After all, if for some reason you were evacuated from your home, there are benefits you are entitled to; however, as we all know with insurance companies, the burden is on you to submit a claim.

Secondly, your disaster plan should also have all the account information including passwords and login information for your bank accounts and

other financial institutions. This would also include your investment accounts. Include copies of your important documents, such as medical and durable powers of attorney, driver's license and passports.

Finally, you should also make copies of your health insurance information, including account numbers and contact information.

The aforementioned are just some suggestions of things you should have. The key is to ask yourself what financial and legal information you need to protect yourself and manage your affairs.


The next question is where you should keep this information. In today's world there are more options than ever before. You can keep this information off location such as in your office, or

even store it online. Just be sure that in the unlikely event that a disaster does occur, you will have immediate access to your information.

Disasters happen unexpectedly and can be very destructive. However, setting up a disaster plan will make handling the crisis much easier.

One last note, once you do set up a disaster plan, it is important that you periodically review and update it. After all, we all know how fast things change and our disaster plan is not something to do once and forget about.

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



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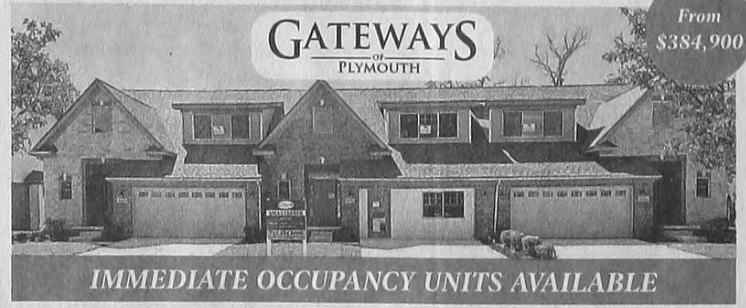
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### Wayne police investigating drive-by shooting

#### Susan Vela

[HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Wayne police are investigating a Dec. 2 drive-by shooting near Forest and Third streets.

Chief Ryan Strong confirmed that no one was injured.

Officers said in a Facebook post they found several spent shell casings when they were dispatched to the area at 6 p.m. because of a report of gunshots.

They determined that an occupied Third Street home was shot at multiple times, and the drive-by shooter's vehicle fled after the shooting.

"This was an isolated incident and there is no immediate threat to the public at this time," police said in their report.

Anyone with information is asked to call 734-721-1414 or write to [jarndt@cityofwayne.com](mailto:jarndt@cityofwayne.com).



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Kyle Bostick created an animated light show set to holiday tunes at his Sheridan Street home in Garden City. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Show

Continued from Page 1A

really helpful supportive people in there.

“They basically kind of took me under their wing and showed me kind of the ins and outs of what I should or shouldn’t do.”

Because of Bostick’s electronics background, the Bostick Family Light Show is a 35-minute holiday extravaganza of props, music, and dancing lights.

Cars have lined both sides of the street and walked up to the property to

get a better view. Sometimes, the Bosticks share season’s greetings, thank their supporters and field questions.

“Some people ask me how I did it or how they would get started,” Bostick said. “Once I start telling them what’s all involved, usually that makes them go, ‘Never mind.’”

Bostick warned that there were a lot of learning curves and trial-and-error experiences that accompanied the display he began building in July, but he said his experience with software and electrical work helped.

The show involves four miles of wiring and 10,000 lights at his 29195 Sheridan St. address.

They began working on their Christ-

mas show because of the reception they received for their Halloween productions, which can be found on YouTube.

That show used about 4,000 bulbs.

“We ramped up significantly from then,” said Bostick.

He said the controllers behave like a bridge between the lights and his computer. The computer software tells the controllers what to do and the controllers send the signals to the lights.

The investment that required late nights and early mornings of prep work and programming.

The Bosticks have invested thousands of dollars in their Halloween and Christmas shows, spending a total of about \$10,000. Any donations they re-

ceive go to the Detroit Animal Welfare Group (DAWG), which is dedicated to helping animals in need.

“I like seeing people happy,” Christina Bostick said.

Kyle Bostick elaborated: “Everyone has been excited to see it, especially this year with all the lockdowns and people being out of work and losing family members and all of that. I definitely think this brings some hope and joy.”

The Bosticks keep their light show going until 10 p.m. on weeknights and until 10:30 p.m. on weekends. The show’s last day is Jan. 2.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

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For more holiday safety tips, visit [oakgov.com/covid](http://oakgov.com/covid).

Paid for by Oakland County Health Division.

# Greenmead's holiday offerings to be bigger than ever in 2020

**Shelby Tankersley** [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan has a number of holiday fan favorites: The lights in Downtown Rochester, Wayne County Lightfest, picking out a new ornament at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and ice skating at Campus Martius Park are some traditions that come to mind.

Better add spending a wintery night at Greenmead Historical Park to that list.

As part of a larger effort by the City of Livonia to make better use of the historical village, the city's park's department and Chamber of Commerce are partnering to run a light display at Greenmead this Christmas.

"This really is a first step into a larger goal we have," Parks Superintendent Ted Davis said. "The idea, and it's been said, is we wish Greenmead to be during the holiday season like a mini Campus Martius. That's what we're really interested in doing there. It's going to be a process to get there, so this is kind of the first phase."

The display opened Saturday and is available the next two weekends. On Dec. 12, 13, 19 and 20, families will be welcome to visit the park in the evening for free and visit with Santa Claus from a distance. Santa will greet kids on the porch of the Alexander Blue House and have a special light display of his own.

Greenmead's display will also be a stop on the map for entries of Light Up Livonia, a holiday light contest for businesses and residents the city is putting on this year. Of course, Greenmead will not actually be entered in the contest.

"We're gearing this toward families," Davis said. "That's what we're gearing it toward - people with children. This is just another thing, in a pandemic year, a year that has been anything but ordinary, it's another way to bring a sense of normalcy to the holidays."

Though the event is free, Davis stressed people should pre-register on-



Maureen Casey, recreation supervisor for the City of Livonia, places holiday decorations on the porch of Greenmead's Alexander Blue House on Dec. 4. Greenmead will host some pandemic-safe holiday gatherings in the coming weekends.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

line at the parks department website. Due to state health guidelines, the park will have capacity limits and some people may be turned away.

Once weather allows, the city will also install a temporary outdoor ice skating rink. Like the rink at Riley Park in downtown Farmington, Greenmead's rink will be available for public use as long as weather allows.

"We're so weather dependent," Davis said. "When it gets cold enough, we'll set it up, we'll flood it and we're going to hope for the best. But the idea is to have skating out there."

Davis is one of many who consider Greenmead the city's "hidden gem." He can't wait to see people discover the slice of local history for the first time this winter.

"I can't wait to see Greenmead lit up," Davis said. "I can't wait to see people discover or rediscover Greenmead. I can't wait for future years when we continue to grow this. I think there's a lot of potential on that site ... We hope this is going to be a holiday tradition for years to come."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com).

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# Gunman robs Family Dollar store in Redford

Susan Vela [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

An armed robber stole an undisclosed amount of money last week from a Family Dollar store in Redford Township.

According to online records, the incident happened at about 8:15 p.m. Dec. 2 at a store in the 15100 block of Telegraph Road.

Police said in a redacted report they arrived to learn from a customer that the gunman fled on foot, escaping along nearby Woodbine.

They heard from a witness that the robber, in his 50s and with a noticeable limp, had entered the store inquiring about the availability of Ambi skin products.

When he approached the counter with skin cream and soap, he asked for

two packs of Newport 100 cigarettes.

He then reached into a jacket pocket, pulled out a handgun and placed it on the counter pointed toward an employee.

He demanded and received money from the cash drawer. He left with the beauty products, cigarettes and money.

Police described the suspect as an older man standing at least 6 feet tall and wearing a face mask.

He also wore a dark jacket, black pants and dark shoes and hat, and had a white bandage or glove on his right hand. His right knee did not seem to bend as he walked.

Anyone with information is asked to call Redford police, 313-387-2500.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susan-vela.

# Farmington Hills man charged in child porn sting

Susan Vela [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Farmington Hills man faces the possibility of decades in prison if convicted on charges alleging he possessed sexually abusive material involving children and committing computer crimes.

Steven Price, 55, turned himself in

Nov. 16 and has been arraigned on a total of 11 felony counts in 47th District Court.

Five charges allege possessing the material, five allege using a computer to commit crimes, and another count is for alleged possession of methamphetamines.

Michigan State Police said the arrest was prompted by an MSP task force in-



Price

vestigation pertaining to internet crimes against children. A tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children prompted the investigation, which led to Price's residence.

A search warrant and tour through the home "netted multiple internet ca-

pable devices and evidence," according to a statement.

Price turned himself in after an arrest warrant was issued.

He is scheduled for another court hearing later this month.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susan-vela.

# Redford man pleads no contest in fatal crash

Susan Vela [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Redford Township man pleaded no contest Friday to a charge of driving drunk before a July 23 fatal wreck happened along Interstate 275 in Canton Township.

James Everett Hatcher, 53, is scheduled for a February sentencing and faces years in prison.

His no contest plea means he is neither admitting nor denying the charge of operating a vehicle under the influence, causing death.

A charge of reckless driving causing



Hatcher

death has been dismissed, according to Third Circuit Court's online records.

Troopers have said Hatcher was speeding on northbound I-275 when he rear-ended a

vehicle, causing it to roll over and kill the driver.

Hatcher failed field sobriety tests, according to troopers.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susan-vela.

# Canton police investigate armed robbery

Susan Vela [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A woman brandished a gun and shot a person when recently robbing an alcohol- and drug-testing facility, according to Canton Township police.

The shooting victim was taken to a local hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Police are asking for help in identifying the suspect, described as being in her 20s or 30s.

She apparently was wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and a red mask when she entered an ADAM, Inc. office in the 5800 block of North Lilley Road Nov. 16 and demanded cash.

Tipsters are asked to contact the police department at 734-394-5400.



Canton Township police are trying to identify a woman who brandished a gun while apparently committing a Nov. 16 robbery.

COURTESY OF CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Proposal

Continued from Page 1A

Several people sounded off on the topic during the citizens' comments segment of the Nov. 24 board of education meeting.

Kristy Eldredge, who asserted she holds no ill will against gender-nonconforming students, is the parent of a 10th grade daughter and middle-school son, both of whom attend Plymouth-Canton schools.

"The part of the policy that concerns me the most is the safety aspect," Eldredge said. "When a male student can go into the the same restroom or locker room as my daughter, no questions asked, that's a problem."

"And when someone opposes this policy change, like I do, they're labeled as small-minded or bigoted. I'm at the point where I don't really care what people who oppose my point of view think of me."

George Belvitch, president of the Plymouth-Canton chapter of Parents For Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), said a policy change is long overdue.

"This policy affords students and their families a sense of security and hope," Belvitch said in a statement read during the meeting. "It's the right policy, at the right time, for the right students."

The purpose of the policy, according to a memo delivered from Plymouth-Canton Schools Executive Director of Student Services Kurt Tyszkiewicz to Superintendent Monica Merritt and the board of education, is threefold:

1. Foster an educational environment for all students that is safe, welcoming and free from stigma and discrimination, regardless of sex, sexual orienta-

tion, gender identity or gender expression.

2. Facilitate compliance with local, state and federal laws concerning bullying, harassment, privacy and discrimination.

3. Ensure that all students have the opportunity to express themselves and live authentically.

The policy states that, "With respect to all restrooms, locker rooms or changing facilities, students shall have access to facilities that correspond to their gender identity. Schools may maintain separate restroom, locker room or changing facilities for male and female students, provided that they allow all students equal access to facilities that are consistent with their gender identity."

Schools can designate facilities designed for use by one person at a time as accessible to all students regardless of gender, the policy adds.

"However, under no circumstances may a student be required to use separate facilities because they are transgender or gender nonconforming," the policy continues. "The district is encouraged to incorporate single-user facilities and greater privacy into new construction or renovation, and to assess ways to increase privacy for all students in existing facilities. ..."

"Furthermore, all students shall be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics in a manner consistent with their gender identity, under the guidelines established by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)," the policy reads.

There is no reference on the MHSAA website that explains the association's stance on transgender-identifying student-athletes' eligibility. However, minutes from a 2012 representative council meeting include the following state-

ment: "A motion ... to approve policies and procedures by which the MHSAA executive director will determine the eligibility of transgender students in MHSAA tournaments. Adopted. The document is to be provided to schools when requested on a case-by-case basis."

In 2016, the state provided guidance instructing schools to allow transgender athletes to participate in accordance to their gender identity, in an article posted on [transathlete.com](http://transathlete.com).

Approximately 2 percent of high school students in the United States identify as transgender, according to data published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Washington Post reported in 2019.

"This policy is to the detriment of thousands of students in favor of a minority group," Eldredge said.

Members of the policy advisory committee who approved the recommendation included Aamina Ahmed, Patti McCain, Kate Borninski, Merritt, Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Tyszkiewicz and Chris Allan.

Ann Arbor, East Lansing, Ferndale, Grass Lake and Spring Arbor are among the Michigan school districts that already have adopted similar transgender policies.

Eldredge said her children will be continuing their education in new schools beginning in January.

"They will be starting school at Plymouth Christian Academy beginning in January," said Eldredge, who added that the move was instigated partly by the policy proposal and partly because PCA offers in-person instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.

# Lawsuit

Continued from Page 1A

A line from the original Oct. 7 complaint - "Upon information and belief, Defendant Debandt started grooming female students at North Farmington High School in 2019-2020" - does not appear in the amended complaint either.

The women alleged in the amended complaint that Debandt's abuse happened while he taught at Troy, Madison Heights, and Clarenceville schools.

They said he groomed them as vulnerable students, and his extra attention led to sexual misconduct beginning about 15 years ago.

The women are demanding compensatory and punitive damages, along with attorney fees and other costs and relief.

Debandt's co-defenders in the amended complaint are Clarenceville School District, along with some of the district's top administrators, because of the mental, physical and emotional distress the women said they suffered.

They alleged that school administrators should have known about Debandt's misconduct and prevented what they said happened.

Clarenceville School District Superintendent Paul Shepich did not respond to a request for comment.

District officials released a statement over the summer after the women began a social media campaign against Debandt.

"Understandably, some members of our school community have inquired about the post, eager to understand how the district responded when the concerns were initially raised some years ago," the statement said. "The district wants to make it clear that it followed its established policies, worked with the appropriate authorities and sought to respond both compassionately and in a fashion that reflected due process for everyone concerned when the concerns were originally raised and fully investigated."

They also invited school community members to contact law enforcement or the district to share concerns about the teacher.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

# Westland

Continued from Page 1A

step back if it would benefit the city, Midwestern Sanitation President Paul Ruthenberg, who has a longstanding relationship with the city and many of its officials, will continue to manage the city's account.

"It looks like there's going to be a working relationship where Paul would

still be able to manage the Westland account," Wild said. "So, at the end of the day, Paul will be part of Priority and will still be managing the Westland account. That made everybody comfortable with the arrangement."

Ruthenberg said because of that longstanding relationship, Midwestern thought it best to "bow out gracefully."

"When you have a 52-year relationship, there's a loyalty to that community," he said. "The city has supported the Ruthenberg family for many, many

years. So, the loyalty aspect of it is very strong with my family. What ultimately happened is what's in the best interest for the city of Westland and its residents."

According to its website, Priority Waste handles municipal trash service for Grosse Ile, Hamtramck, Utica and New Baltimore.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## Americans can finally grow hair so thick "It will cover up your bald spots," says top US Doctor

Clinical trials show a new hair loss breakthrough can both help men and women naturally regrow a thick, full head of hair – without drugs, surgery, or side effects

Thousands are rushing to get a new hair restoration method based on surprising new studies from the University of California.

It is the world's first and only hair loss solution that revives dead hair follicles. And studies confirm it helps men and women regrow a thick, full head of hair, even after years of balding.

Now, with news of this breakthrough spreading like wildfire – the manufacturers are struggling to keep up with overwhelming demand.

That's because, unlike other methods, it is prescription-free, drug-free, and has no side effects. And while hair transplants can cost \$4,000 or more, this new approach costs pennies on the dollar and doesn't involve going to the doctor's office.

Instead, it leverages cutting-edge technology to prevent hair loss, fill-in embarrassing bald spots, and renourish thinning hair – with results you can see and feel in 30 days or less.

As Jeanne F. from San Diego, CA reports: "When my husband began to use this product, all he had on top of his head was fuzz. His hair began to grow after 30 days and now it is about 2 to 3 inches long!"

### Surprising Truth About Hair Loss

It is commonly believed that hair loss is hereditary.

Unfortunately, most people think there is nothing they can do to stop it. However, while many doctors will tell you that thinning hair, a receding hairline, and bald spots are due to your genetics, this is not the whole story.

"While genetics play a role, it's not the main reason you lose hair," says Dr. Al Sears, the nation's top anti-aging doctor. "And surprisingly it's not just your age, thyroid, hormones, stress, or a vitamin deficiency, either."

The latest scientific research reveals that hair loss is primarily caused by the stem cells in your hair follicles dying.

"This discovery is a true breakthrough because by reviving these stem cells on your scalp, you can stop hair loss dead in its tracks and trigger new hair growth, even in areas that have been thinning for years," explains Dr. Sears.

Now, at his world-famous clinic, the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, Florida, Dr. Sears and his team have used this game-changing discovery to develop a brand-new hair restoration formula that is taking the country by storm.

Sold under the name *Re-Nourish*, it is flying off the shelves with men and women of all ages raving about the results it delivers.

"I have seen a significant improvement in hair growth. Previously, you could see thinning areas at the back of my head and now hair has grown over it," says Peter W. from Ontario, Canada.

And Susan D. from Fort



**Breakthrough** research proves this discovery helps fill-in bald spots, re-nourishes thinning hair, and leads to noticeable growth in as little as 30 days.

Pierce, Florida reports, "My hair was thinning. So, I began to use *Re-Nourish* every day on the front part of my scalp. Now I have thicker hair."

**Dr. Al Sears, M.D.**, is America's leading anti-aging expert. He's authored more than 500 scientific papers, and his discoveries have appeared on more than 50 media outlets including, ABC News, CNN, ESPN, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, Lifetime, and many more.

### Regrows Hair In Just 30 Days

Scientists now know that stem cells are the lifeblood of your hair follicles.

Research from the University of California shows they're the reason you're able to grow hair. However, these stem cells aren't always active. In fact, studies reveal they're only active during certain phases of the hair growth cycle.

"Your hair grows in three phases," explains Dr. Sears. "First, you have the anagen phase, the hair growing phase. Then the catagen phase, when hair gets ready to shed. And finally, the telogen phase, where your hair is pushed from the follicle and falls out."

As you get older it becomes harder for your hair follicles to complete this three-phase cycle. The results? Your hairs get stuck in the telogen phase. This is when they start falling out and stop regrowing, no matter what you try.

This process doesn't happen overnight, says Dr. Sears.

"At first, your hair dries out, becoming brittle, thin, and harder to style. Then, you start finding hairs on your pillow and down the drain. Finally, you're left with bald spots that age you prematurely."

Fortunately, *Re-Nourish* puts a stop to this. It revives the dead stem cells in your hair follicles and reactivates your hair's three-phase cycle, triggering new growth in as little as 30 days – even in areas that've been balding for years.

### Reawakens Dead Hair Follicles

For years, scientists couldn't figure out why hair follicle stem cells died.

However, a study from the University of California finally found the answer.

It has to do with T-cells – an important immune cell in your body. The researchers discovered these T-cells are the only way to command hair follicles to grow new hair.

More importantly, they showed that T-cells helped revive the stem cells in your hair follicles – spurring new growth, filling in bald spots and natural hairline.

*Re-Nourish* uses a unique blend of all-natural ingredients. By spraying it on your hair once per day, scientific studies show you can revive dead stem cells and improve the appearance of thicker, fuller hair.

For example, the key nutrient of *Re-Nourish* was tested on a group of severely balding women.

After 6 months, nearly 70% of the women saw significant improvement in hair growth. Their hair was noticeably fuller, thicker, and healthier looking. Most exciting of all, they grew new hair on parts of their scalp that had been bald for years.

In another study, Italian researchers gathered a group of both men and women with thinning hair and applied the core ingredient of *Re-Nourish*. After 12 weeks, they reported a staggering 74% increase in hair growth.

"It's really mind-boggling that my hair started growing back," says Zan R., another *Re-Nourish* customer.

With results like this, it's no surprise that demand for *Re-Nourish* is soaring. Thousands of men and women are scrambling to get their hands on the limited-supply available.

*Re-Nourish* is not currently available in any store at any price. But we've secured a small batch for our readers.

### Try Re-Nourish 100% Risk-Free

For the next 48-hours, Dr. Sears is offering readers a risk-free trial of *Re-Nourish*.

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product that he is backing every order with a risk-free, 100% money-back guarantee. To take advantage of this special offer, simply call the Sears Toll-Free Health Hotline at 1-800-447-6604 now. Use Promo Code NP1120RN914 when you call in.

**[EDITOR'S NOTE]:** Due to recent media exposure for *Re-Nourish*, the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine is experiencing unprecedented demand. If the phone line is busy when you call, please try again to avoid missing this special one-time-only offer.

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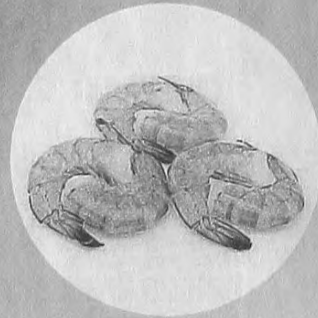
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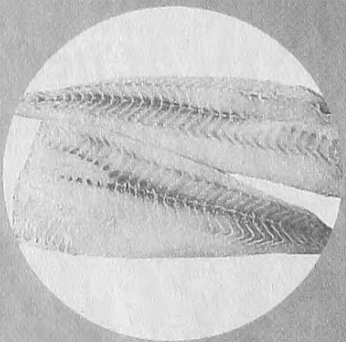
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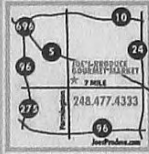


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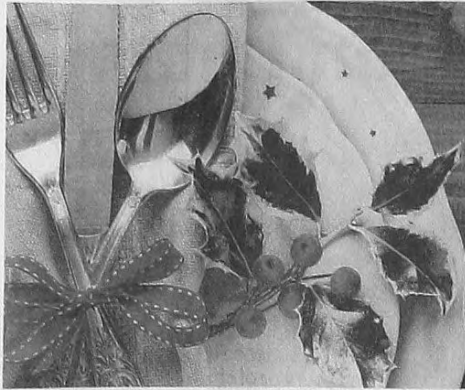
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# SPORTS



Senior RB Justin Whitehorn made his presence known in the backfield in his first season with North Farmington.

## Whitehorn finds stride in North Farmington's offense

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Justin Whitehorn has always been a running back.

Ever since he was a part of the Macomb Mustangs Pop Warner team as a kid, Whitehorn was taking handoffs from the backfield, finding holes through the line and finding his way to the end zone.

It was the position he found himself in joining the Detroit Renaissance varsity football team freshman year. He found a comfort and a knack for the position.

"I feel like ever since I scored my first varsity touchdown, I felt like it was going to be... not super easy, but it would be something that I could do with no problems if I put in the extra work for it," Whitehorn said.

Moving to Farmington Hills prior to the start of his senior year, after three years with the Phoenix, Whitehorn found himself in a place to show what he could do again for a new team: North Farmington.

And once he became comfortable the senior shined, recording 1,020 yards and 12 touchdowns in nine games for the Raiders. In the Raiders' two playoff games — not including a forfeit win against South Lyon in the district final



In two playoff games Whitehorn has rushed for 470 yards and scored six touchdowns. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JUSTIN WHITEHORN

See OFFENSE, Page 2B

## Mercy lacrosse star aims to continue success at Michigan

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Jill Smith first took the lacrosse field in fifth grade, she was a natural.

She played every sport under the sun — softball, soccer and basketball — when she was younger. And with her athleticism and physicality in those sports, she was seen as a perfect fit for the newly-formed Triumph Lacrosse club team.

Smith arrived at her first practice, never having touched a lacrosse stick before, but showed off that same physicality and athleticism she put into the other sports. Club manager Chris Merucci was impressed, pitting her against competitors in eighth grade and even in high school.

"He was asking where I played before and I was telling him I never played," Smith said. "Apparently I just had natural talent, raw talent at the beginning."

In her years with the team Merucci placed Smith higher and higher in terms of talent that had come through the club, realizing what set her apart.

"She is not accustomed to losing, not OK with losing," Merucci said. "She's a fierce competitor from the day I met her."

"Yes she's fast, yes she's strong. Is she the fastest or the strongest on every field? No, but what separates her is an intense tenacity, a drive and passion to win and be the best."

Playing lacrosse — an East Coast dominated sport — in a midwestern state at both the club and in three years high school level at Mercy, Smith, a senior, focused her determination on making a name for herself in a way that not many Michigan lacrosse players have in the past. That drive led to a commitment to play at the University of Michigan.

When playing for Triumph, along with the Lakeshore Lacrosse club in Chicago, Smith was named to the Under Armour All-American Midwest team along with a National Lacrosse Classic All-American and All-Star team selection.

Smith also dominated for the Marlins, setting 16 state records as a freshman and 12 as a sophomore, including the most points in a single game — 15 on 12 goals and three assists. She

See LACROSSE, Page 3B

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# Milford swim standouts find Division 1 homes

Colin Gay [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ella Glaspie and Rylie Kennedy first met each other swimming for the Huron Valley Penguins Swim Club.

Both raced the same speed when they were younger — swimming from the same lane — and were in the same classes in elementary school. They separated in middle school, going off to separate clubs, separate paths for the same goal: swim at the college level.

But their paths converged again in their senior years at Milford High School. Glaspie, a full-time club swimmer at Kingfish Aquatics, decided to join the Mavericks swim team, which Kennedy had been on for three years.

And while both helped lead Milford to a second-place finish in the Lakes Valley conference, both had their goals secured, earning Division 1 college scholarships: Glaspie will race at Illinois State, while Kennedy will swim at Bowling Green.

## Milford's erasers

Prior to the start of his first season at Milford, head coach James Schuler did his homework.

The former Rochester swim and dive coach knew coming in what Kennedy had done in her three years at Milford: an All-State placer as a junior and three-time letterman for the Mavericks who had previously earned LVC All-Conference honors. Glaspie, he saw, was of the same build, already having committed to the Redbirds before joining the team.

But Schuler still had to see it for himself.

"Times on paper don't exactly paint the entire picture of what someone is capable of or not," Schuler said. "You can read a time and be like, 'All right, is this person just as fast as they ever are going to be, or is there a lot we can clean up and we can get faster?'"

"Being able to see them in practice, it's like, 'Yeah, it's real.'"

Glaspie joined the Mavericks longing for something different, using different perspectives from a new coach to help her swim faster.

And with her history with Kennedy and both being at a high level, Glaspie found a teammate who could push her, as well.

"When we worked together, I realized that if we raced each other and pushed each other we would get better at both distance and sprinting," Glaspie said. "We helped each other improve over the course of this season."

Glaspie and Kennedy each earned their state qualifying times relatively early in the 2020 season. While teaming up in the 400-free relay, Glaspie specialized in distance, qualifying in the 200 IM, 100 fly, 200 free, 500 free and the 100 back, while Kennedy was more of a sprinter, earning a qualifying time in the 200 free.

To Schuler, both Kennedy and Glaspie were "erasers" on his roster.

"When you have your normal varsity athlete or better-end varsity athlete on a team, on any team, and then you have someone who is All State, college-



Milford High swimmers Ella Glaspie, left, (Illinois State) and Rylie Kennedy (Bowling Green) have accepted scholarships to pool their talents elsewhere when they move on from their senior year as Mavericks. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**"Times on paper don't exactly paint the entire picture of what someone is capable of or not. You can read a time and be like, 'All right, is this person just as fast as they ever are going to be, or is there a lot we can clean up and we can get faster?' (Seeing) them in practice, it's like, 'Yeah, it's real.'"**

James Schuler Head coach, Milford swimming

bound competitor on your team, that person helps everyone around them because, to a certain extent, there's a little bit of a safety net," Schuler said.

The first-year head coach also said just having Kennedy and Glaspie at practices raised the level for the rest of the team, allowing them to get a taste of what had become normal for the state-qualifying pair.

That ability brought both Kennedy and Glaspie college aspirations early on in their swim careers.

## Finding a home

Kennedy grew up in a competitive family, always looking for the next goal, the next challenge.

When collegiate swimming came on her radar, she knew she had found it.

"When my dad brought up swimming in college, I was like, 'Yes, this is going to be my new goal,'" Kennedy said. "I want to see if I can get fast enough and train hard enough to get into a program I want to go to."

Kennedy visited Bowling Green before even talking with the swim program

and fell in love with the campus. After the coaching staff reached out and said that she would be a good fit for the team, the Milford swimmer knew it was meant to be.

She knew it would be a challenge. She knew the caliber of swimmers the Falcons had on the roster. Kennedy was just excited to be a part of it.

"They are still climbing, so me coming in as a new freshman will put me in a position to be able to push myself and try and help contribute to the teams over the years," she said.

Glaspie's recruitment ended a lot earlier.

After visiting over 30 schools, the Milford senior committed to Illinois State in 2019, seeing the team that she would best fit into.

With making her decision prior to the start of her senior season, Glaspie said Illinois State has been able to walk through her final year with her every step of the way: contacting coaches about what happened each meet, getting tips on what she had to work on and building a relationship with one program instead of multiple.

While what's next has been determined for two of Milford's eight senior swimmers on the 2020 roster, both Glaspie and Kennedy still want a state meet.

For Kennedy, she wants a chance to build off that eighth-place appearance from 2019, taking advantage of another year of strength, along with a new coach and style of practice.

When the announcement was first made that the meet had been postponed, the four-year member of the Mavericks was devastated.

"I was very frustrated, I was mad," Kennedy said. "I tried to not let it get to me. I tried to push it out of my head because Coach James kept saying, 'Don't worry about it. We might still have it. We might still have it.'"

Glaspie was in the same boat. She said this, along with the quarantine period starting in March, was the longest break period in her swimming career.

"For swimming, you have to be consistent," Glaspie said. "You have to practice to get better, and it's really hard to do that when you only have an hour a day to swim even if you can."

"I'm a little nervous because I don't know if I will do as great as I hoped, but if I just keep my mind in place then maybe I'll have a chance."

But both still want the chance to show themselves and show their future schools why they are joining a Division 1 swim team in the fall.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

## Offense

Continued from Page 1B

— Whitehorn scored six touchdowns and rushed for 470 yards.

As North Farmington waits for its regional final matchup against Traverse City Central, Whitehorn is hoping for another opportunity to show his comfortability, to show what he can do when he is handed the football.

## Growing confidence

North Farmington running backs coach Doug Lemberg remembers seeing Whitehorn on film in 2019, preparing for an upcoming opponent. He remembers being impressed with the Renaissance back's vision, the way he ran downhill and his cutting ability, but it was no more than a passing observation to his fellow coaches.

"I think all of us made the comment that the kid was pretty good," Lemberg said. "I didn't put one-and-one together probably until this summer."

When Whitehorn got into the weight room, Lemberg saw an athlete who knew what he was doing. He saw strength and good form.

When Whitehorn took the practice field, Lemberg saw what he saw on film: the vision, the downhill ability, the strength, the cuts.

It did not take long for the senior to get noticed. Watching the newcomer for

the first time in practice drills, John Herrington, the former Harrison head coach who won 13 state titles in his 48 years, turned to Lemberg and said, "He's a running back."

"He saw what needed to be seen," Lemberg recalls. "You could tell right away."

But it still took a bit for Whitehorn to become comfortable in the offense.

He said North Farmington was more intense, more serious and more organized than Renaissance: coming into each practice, game and season with a specific plan and goal for the team.

On offense, he knew he was joining a program clicking at a high level for a long time, dating back to Herrington's time at Harrison. Along with different schemes up front, Whitehorn had to get used to running with a full back, something he had not seen in his high school career.

Due to the lack of 7-on-7 leagues and summer workouts because of COVID-19, North Farmington head coach Jon Herstein said it took awhile for the offensive line and Whitehorn to gel.

"Over the course of the season, he's understood how the linemen are going to block stuff and where the hole might open," Herstein said. "I think his anticipation has grown. He's had good vision and that probably carried him early in the year."

"His anticipation of what's going to happen plus his vision and just natural abilities have really catapulted him to another level."

But Lemberg said Whitehorn never wavered.

As the offensive line figured out what it needed to do to give the running back room to work with, Whitehorn's confidence only grew as the season continued.

"Justin, he has great ability, but if he doesn't have much of a hole, he didn't have much of a hole," Lemberg said. "But when he has a little hole, he makes the most of it."

## Goals still within reach

Prior to his arrival at North Farmington, Whitehorn had never made the playoffs.

While every team in the 2020 season had at least one playoff game, the senior running back knew he was going to get one chance. But he knew he would have to put in the work to make a run.

"I always wanted to make the playoffs and probably make a good run, get a state championship," Whitehorn said. "I already knew that I was going to do good for myself because I was going to put in the work for it, so I just wanted us to win and have fun while doing it."

But his football goals do not stop there.

Whitehorn wants to play college football, holding offers from schools including Quincy University, Lake Erie College and Davenport.

But COVID-19 has definitely affected his recruiting, not being able to go on visits and see schools in person. White-

horn said he's still waiting on a few schools before he makes a decision of what's next.

"It's very stressful, waiting on schools and all that," Whitehorn said. "I want to have this done by at least by the end of December or the beginning of January."

While many describe the senior running back as quiet, he says he likes to bring a spark with his play on the football team, that he is a leading factor in what North Farmington does on offense.

Lemberg said there are things that Whitehorn does on a football field that really can't be taught. But it's what the senior does off the field that separates him.

"He's a great person," Lemberg said. "That's the biggest thing. If I'm a college coach, in a perfect world you want great people. You would just be a better program. So he fits that bill."

Whitehorn has the chance to play three more games in a North Farmington uniform if the team makes it to the state finals. His goal is to do what he has done since he was 8 years old: take the handoff from the backfield, find a hole through the offensive line and make his way into the end zone.

"I just want to keep showing that I can play, that I can play ball at an elite level and keep showing them that what I did, it wasn't a fluke," Whitehorn said.

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# Lacrosse

Continued from Page 1B

earned All-Americans in each of her two full seasons at Mercy, but had her junior season cut short due to COVID-19.

No matter what she did, Smith was told from Day 1 that East Coast lacrosse players would have better stick skills, come into colleges much more developed based on the level of the game in the area.

This forced her to use her determination, to work harder than those other girls, something Merucci saw her prove each time she took the field.

"We have to put them out there on the stage and say 'Yes. It's not a zip code thing. It's an athlete thing and a DNA thing and a training thing,'" Merucci said. "This girl can play."

On the 2021 roster, the Wolverines have one Michigan resident on their roster: Maggie Kane, a senior who graduated from Grand Rapids Catholic Central in 2017. To Smith, Kane was the underdog, having to prove herself to become one of the top players on the roster.

Merucci sees deems Smith as "The next Maggie Kane" with the position she is in, having worked and trained with her over the summer. But it's a position the Mercy senior never thought she would be in.

"If you asked me when I was in fifth grade if I would ever play lacrosse at one of the top lacrosse schools in the country and academic schools, I would laugh because lacrosse, all the east coast players are the ones who play in college," Smith said.

"D1 schools usually overlook you because you are from the Midwest, so that's why you really have to show you can play against the east coast teams and beat them out."

After coming into high school with aspirations of playing collegiate lacrosse on the East Coast, Smith turned her focus more on her home state, watching as head coach Hannah Nielson and the Michigan women's lacrosse team made it to the second round of the 2019 NCAA Tournament.

Attending camps in Ann Arbor before she was in high school, Michigan proved to be a perfect fit for Smith, with hopes to continue what Kane had done in the program in her four years.

With one more season at Mercy



Jillian Smith was a finalist for Lacrosse Player of the Year as a sophomore, earning team MVP honors in her two seasons with the Marlins. COURTESY OF JILLIAN SMITH

ahead of her, Smith doesn't have to worry about recruiting or picking a college. But she is still determined.

She may be from the Midwest, but Smith aims to be taken seriously in the lacrosse world.

"I just want to prove to them that Michigan players can do just as well as East Coast," Smith said. "No matter where you are from, there is so much potential and so many different people."

"I kind of just want to show them what Michigan lacrosse is about, what we can do."

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Smith signed to continue her lacrosse career at Michigan. COURTESY OF BRIAN SMITH

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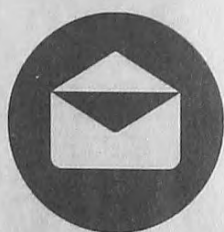
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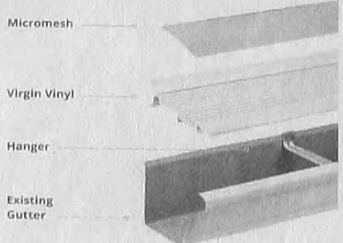
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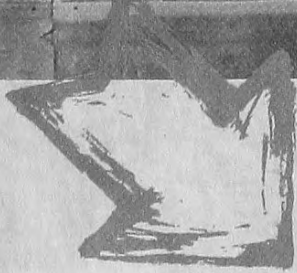
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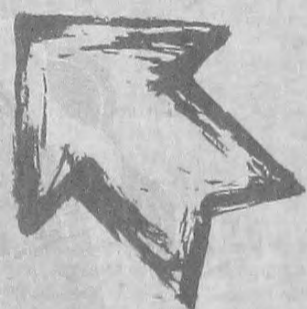
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