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Plymouth Ice Festival promises winter fun

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Predicted spring-like temperatures this week shouldn't melt the excitement for this weekend's 2020 Plymouth Ice Festival.

The annual winter extravaganza that features many of the world's top ice sculptors will be open from 5-10 p.m.

Friday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, but the sculptures will be available for viewing 24 hours a day during the festival.

Early weather reports project rain and a high of 52 degrees Friday with temperatures dipping down into the low 40s on Saturday and Sunday.

The festival is advertised as an optimal cold-weather event that attracts

shoppers to Plymouth businesses.

Among the many highlights:

■ **Opening ceremony and ribbon-cutting on Friday at 7 p.m.** Join City of Plymouth commission members, Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise and State Rep. Jeff Noble.

■ **Interactive ice sculptures:** Get a photo taken throughout the festival with the most eye-popping ice cre-

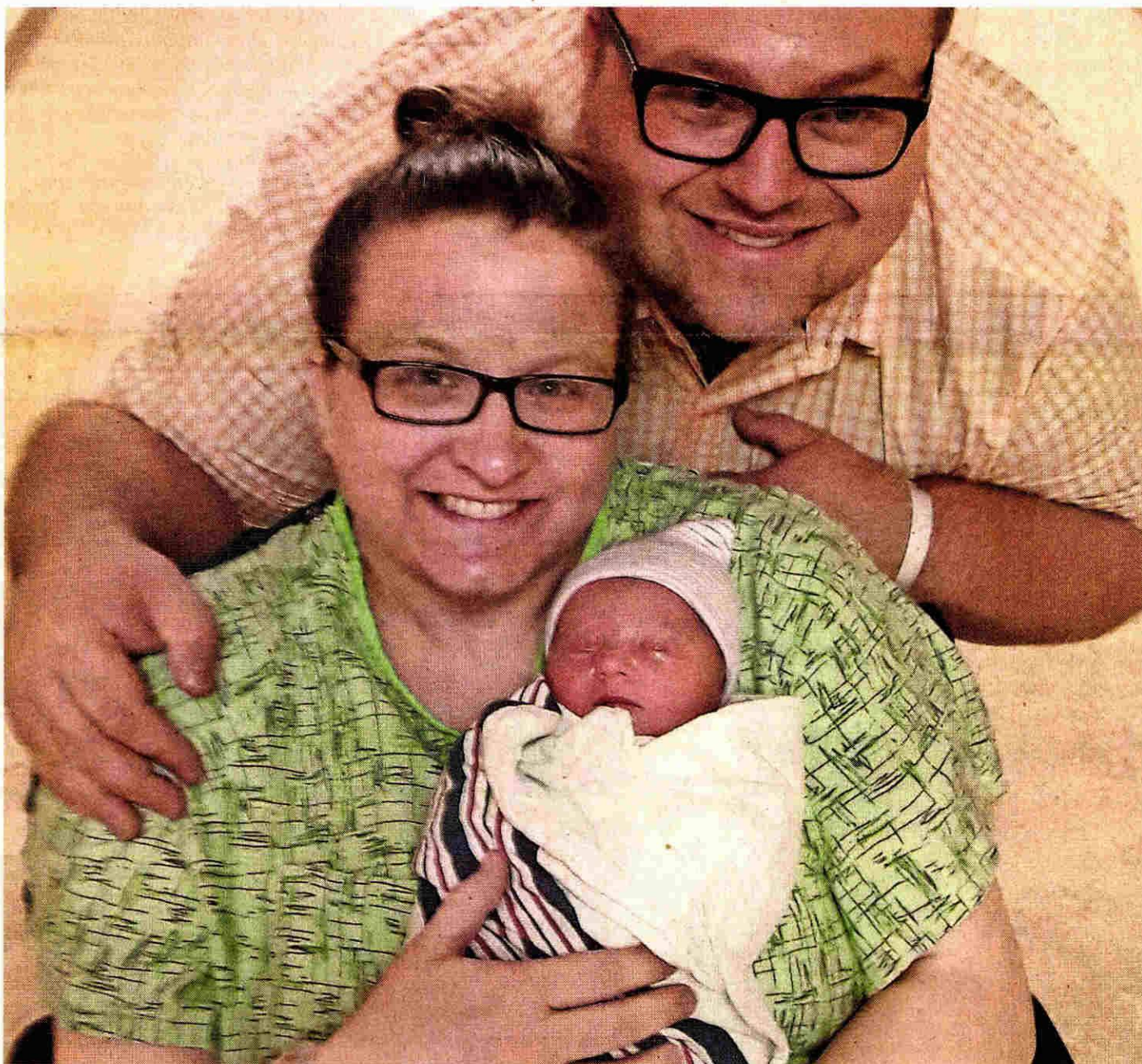
ations. Selfies are encouraged.

■ **Dueling chainsaw competition:** Artists are given 15 minutes and one block of ice to create a blue-ribbon sculpture.

For more information on available hotels, restaurants and shopping deals, visit the Downtown Plymouth website.

Contact Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

FIRST BABY OF 2020



Tony and Emily Paris, of Livonia rang in the new year with the birth of their first child and Livonia's first new resident of the year. Eloise Paris was born shortly after midnight Jan. 1 at the St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Family Birth Center, weighing six pounds and nine ounces. She is 19.5 inches tall. COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH MERCY

Westland council names new president

Jim Hart appointed; pro tem not yet chosen

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For the first time since 2008, Westland City Council has a new president.

After Jim Godbout declined another term leading the council, Councilwoman Andrea Rutkowski nominated Jim Hart. He was appointed by his colleagues in a 5-2 vote. Council members Tasha Green and Peter Herzberg voted in dissent.

Hart has been on council since 2018. He is a veteran, a former Westland Area Jaycees president, and has previously been on the board of directors for the city's Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm going to do my best and I'm going to work hard," Hart said.

The meeting also welcomed two new members: Rutkowski and Mike McDermott.

But there was one person council couldn't welcome. When it came to the president pro tem position, council could not agree. Its members, who often have turbulent discussion, cast 3-4 votes for the two nominated candidates.

Councilmen Mike Londeau and Herzberg both accepted nominations but did not get enough support to step into the role.

Green voted against each candidate. Green said later in the meeting that she would not vote in favor of any colleague she felt had voted against the interest of the residents.

Council will have to vote on the issue at every regular meeting until someone is chosen to fill the position. The next scheduled meeting is Jan. 21.

At the end of the meeting, Mayor Bill Wild recognized Godbout for his many years of service to the city. Godbout has been on council since 2001 and has been its president since 2008.

"I believe Councilman Godbout was our longest-serving president in city history," Wild said. "He's done a lot of things for this city."

Godbout is stepping back, but said he's not done quite yet.

"It's been truly an honor to serve as council president ... and I look forward to more years on council and supporting President Hart," he said.

Farmington Hills church robbed over the holidays

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A third metro Detroit church - Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington - has reported a holiday break-in.

Church officials recently sent congregation members an alert that said two people broke into the Halsted Road church around 8 a.m. Dec. 30.

A church official was inside. The van-

dals apparently broke a window to enter a downstairs room.

"No one was hurt, and at this time it appears very little of hard monetary value was taken. ... However, our churches had been clearly searched," the email states.

Police were called and a church official shared information from a surveillance camera and a description of the vandals' white truck.

Church officials said police made an arrest related to the break-in. They also said in the email they are considering an upgrade of security features.

Two other nearby churches were hit around the holidays.

Pastor Craig Thompson was visiting family when he learned someone had broken into Alpha Baptist Church

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Church

Continued from Page 1A

in Livonia soon after Christmas.

The guilty party apparently broke through a basement window and stole a safe filled with blueprints. The church avoids keeping cash on its property near West Chicago and Inkster Road.

"There was no money lost," Thompson said. "More importantly ... no one was hurt."

He said that the church is considering purchasing some motion-sensor lights to help prevent future robberies.

Forest Park Baptist Church, 26805 Farmington Road, in Farmington Hills was also targeted.

Deacon Drew Sayer said somebody smashed the glass on the sanctuary's back door to break in. The guilty party then ransacked several rooms. They took a safe filled with blank checks, endorsement stamps and log books.

"We just lost a few items as far as we can tell," Sayer said.



A new Planet Fitness location is tentatively set to open in March at 250 N. Main in Plymouth. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Those looking to stay in Plymouth to fulfill that New Year's resolution to go to the gym more will have to wait a couple months.

Northville-based PF Michigan Group plans to open a new Planet Fitness gym by spring in the Plymouth Plaza at 250 N. Main St. The company, which operates several Planet Fitness locations in Livonia and Farmington Hills, hopes to open the gym by early March.

Bryan Reif, owner of the franchise group, said they have looked at adding a gym in the Plymouth area for a while. They looked at several locations, including the former Kmart on Ann Arbor Road that now will be developed

into a medical center for Henry Ford, but stumbled onto the Plymouth Plaza location.

The gym will occupy several storefronts in the plaza.

"We've been looking in Plymouth for a long time," he said. "... Plymouth has always been on our radar."

The gym will be 24,000 square feet - smaller than several of the franchise's other area clubs but larger than the national average - and contain the same amenities to which Planet Fitness users are accustomed. That includes the traditional exercise machines, as well as tanning beds and an upgraded look for the Black Card lounge, using glass walls instead of open entrances for that area.

A presale office has been set up next to the gym's location. Interested patrons can sign up for one of Planet Fitness's

tiers from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends.

The gym continues to look for employees as well; inquire at the presale office.

In addition to the Plymouth gym, the franchise is opening several other area gyms, one at the new Adell Center in Novi off Interstate 96, and in Bloomfield Township off of Telegraph north of Square Lake Road.

"We're constantly looking for areas with good demographics and good traffic counts and good availability of space," Reif said. "It was just a matter of time before we found something in Plymouth."

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

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Police say man faked stabbing at synagogue

Bisma Parvez
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK



Samitt

A 26-year-old man faked his own stabbing at the West Bloomfield synagogue where he worked and then reported he was attacked because of his Jewish faith, authorities say.

Now Sean Samitt is facing a felony charge of filing a false police report, according to West Bloomfield Police.

Police said Samitt's Apple Watch helped them solve the case.

Samitt was arrested on Dec. 20 and arraigned the same day before Magistrate Julie Nelson-Klein at the 48th District Court in Oakland County on one count of falsely reporting a felony, a crime punishable up to four years. According to authorities, his \$7,500 bond was posted by Samitt's mother.

He appeared Jan. 2 at the 48th District Court for a probable cause hearing. He is expected to appear for the preliminary examination on Jan. 14.

Samitt reported he was attacked and stabbed in the abdomen by an unknown man in the parking lot at the Temple Kol Ami, where he worked as a cantorial soloist, which is a music director.

He reported the crime on Dec. 15, telling police that he was confronted about 7 p.m. as he was leaving work by a white male in his late 30s to early 40s.

Samitt said that the alleged attacker shouted, "You Jews!" and said "too many immigrants are here," according to the police report obtained by the Free Press through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Samitt told officers that he was punched in the chest and abdomen during the encounter and he feared for his life, the report said. He said he escaped by kneeing the attacker in the groin and pushing him away, then drove himself to Henry Ford Hospital where a security staff called local authorities about the attack.

Police said officers searched the parking lot for a weapon, blood or any other piece of evidence but came back negative. K-9 officers were not able to locate a scent on the suspect.

Officers were able to obtain information from Samitt's cellphone health application that was synced to his Apple Watch, confirming he did not lose consciousness. Samitt then admitted to intentionally stabbing himself, police said.

While searching Temple Kol Ami, detectives found bloody tissues in Samitt's office and the men's bathroom. They also located a knife in the kitchen area with blood on the tip of the blade.

Suspecting Samitt's wounds were self-inflicted, officers obtained surveillance footage from a house across the street and confirmed that no assault took place.

Police said Samitt admitted to making up the attack and said he lost consciousness and accidentally stabbed himself while he was washing dishes at the synagogue. He said he lied about the incident because he was being harassed at work about his medical condition.

The second story also turned out to be fabricated, police said.

Officers were able to obtain information from Samitt's cellphone health application that was synced to his Apple Watch, confirming he did not lose consciousness. Samitt then admitted to intentionally stabbing himself.

"I put the knife in to see like just how deep it went because I wasn't really sure then in the process I probably dug it in a little more."

He told police he wanted out of his contract with Temple Kol Ami and this was his way out.

Temple Kol Ami Executive Director Cheryl Friendman told police that Samitt had been an employee for about 1 1/2 years.

A member of the synagogue told the Free Press, "Sean resigned on Dec. 16 and there is no other information."

When contacted by the Free Press, the Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit would only say it takes these matters very seriously.

"We are so very grateful for our law enforcement in Detroit who takes every hate crime seriously," Assistant Executive Director Heidi Budaj said. "We are fortunate to have a partnership with West Bloomfield Township Police who acts to keep our community safe."

The Anti Defamation League states on its website that a false case "could have a detrimental impact on those actual victims of bias crimes who seek justice in the future."

"Bias crimes are message crimes. They are intended to intimidate the victim and the victim's entire community, leaving them feeling fearful, isolated and vulnerable."

A false case "could have a detrimental impact on those actual victims of bias crimes who seek justice in the future."

Samitt's false report occurred in the same month of two major anti-Semitic attacks in the U.S. In Jersey City, New Jersey, a shooting at a kosher market on Dec. 10 left six dead including two Hasidic Jews. The city's mayor, Steven Fulop, said on Twitter that officials believed that the gunmen had "targeted the location they attacked."

Then last Saturday in Monsey, New York, five people were stabbed at the home of a rabbi during a Hanukkah party.

Canton man pleads guilty to voyeurism at swim school

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Canton man pleaded guilty last month to three felony charges associated with illegal voyeurism at an Aqua-Tots swim school in his hometown.

Futa Sakamoto, 44, is scheduled for a Valentine's Day sentencing in Third Circuit Court on charges of video voyeurism of an unclothed person, surveilling an unclothed person and eavesdropping. He could spend years in prison.

Police said they were dispatched to the Canton Aqua-Tots swim school for children on Joy Road in August because a woman saw a recording device targeting her changing stall. She reported her suspicions to staff.

Sakamoto, an Aqua-Tots parent, was arrested on allegations he used a hidden camera in the facility's changing areas.

Aqua-Tots representatives said afterward the company's schools are committed to safety and security for its families.

Canton man banished from Lover's Lane in court case

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kenneth Jerome Jasin, 60, of Canton was sentenced last month to probation and community service because he exposed himself indecently at a Lover's Lane store in Plymouth.

According to online 35th District Court records, he has been banned from the Ann Arbor Road store while serving his two years of probation. Other punishments include work detail and alcohol and drug testing.

Jasin pleaded guilty. Plymouth police arrested him because he apparently bared himself while trying on underwear March 24 at the Lover's Lane store.

Jasin allegedly asked for a different size of underwear. He then exposed himself outside the changing room when the employee came back.

Cameras captured an image at the store specializing in lingerie and sex-themed apparel and toys. Police then were able to identify Jasin.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

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Recordings show confusion over fake college

Niraj Warikoo Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

In February 2018, a foreign student from India called a university in metro Detroit to ask when classes would start.

"University of Farmington, office of admissions," answered a woman who posed as a university official. The woman was actually an undercover agent with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

"Is there any chance to get me ... to know about my class schedule?" the student asked the university official, according to court records.

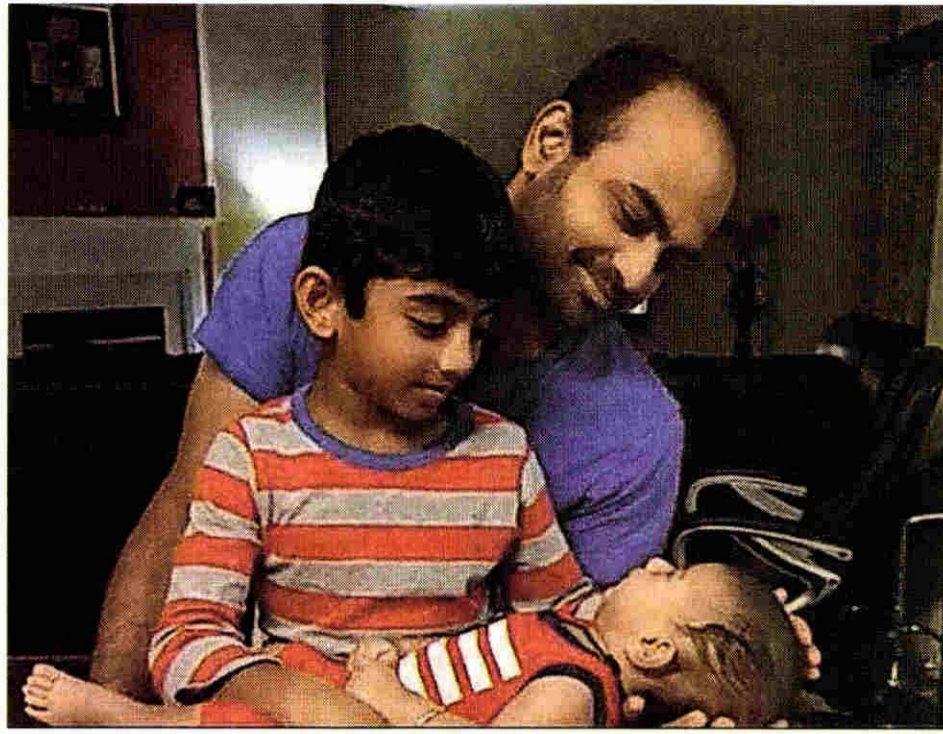
"Can we do what?" the undercover agent posing as a university official replied. "We're completely full. We don't have any normal classes to put you in. We are just helping you maintain your status by allowing you to enroll here, but you won't be taking any online classes, nor will you be going to any classes. Are you aware of this?"

Sounding confused, the student replied: "I don't know that actually. ... I don't know what to do now."

The undercover recording by ICE, reviewed by the Free Press and partly transcribed in a sentencing memo, offers a peek into a four-year undercover operation by the Department of Homeland Security that set up a fake university in Farmington Hills, luring more than 600 foreign students to enroll. The students had immigrated legally to the U.S., but since the university they enrolled in was created by ICE, unknown to them, they lost their immigration status.

About 250 of them were arrested and detained last year on administrative violations, with 80% of them already deported from the U.S. through voluntary departure, said ICE officials. The Free Press listened to two separate recordings of students, one male, one female, cited in court records in which they can be heard talking with the undercover ICE agent they thought was a university admissions official. Attorney Anjali Prasad said the recordings show that the students were duped by the undercover agents and were not at fault.

Seven of eight student recruiters who were charged criminally in the case have been sentenced and the one re-



Phanideep Karnati sits with his two sons. Karnati pleaded guilty to visa fraud for his role as a recruiter at the University of Farmington, a fake university in Farmington Hills, set up by ICE. He was not aware it was a fake university that was part of a sting operation. COURTESY PHANIDEEP KARNATI

cruiter remaining, Phanideep Karnati, 35, of Kentucky, is to be sentenced this month in U.S. District Court in Detroit by Judge Gershwin Drain. All are expected to be deported to India after serving their sentences, said attorneys.

The Free Press also reviewed transcripts of a phone conversation between an undercover agent and Karnati, and the interrogation in January 2019 of Karnati by federal agents with ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

From December 2017 to March 2018, Karnati recruited 39 students for the University of Farmington, including the student who called the university in February 2018 to inquire about his classes, according to his plea deal. He worked in information technology for a health insurance company in Kentucky, and did university recruiting as a side job, court records show.

Karnati pleaded guilty in September to conspiracy to commit visa fraud and harbor aliens for profit, saying he believed that the university had online

classes, but later realized that a foreign student can't maintain their immigration status by just online classes. There has to be some classes on-site for foreign students to maintain their status, according to U.S. immigration law.

Karnati's defense lawyer, Prasad, argues that he should not receive any prison time so he can be deported to India along with his wife and two children, whom she said will face hardships in India without his support.

Prasad said he's less culpable than the other seven recruiters because he was in the U.S. on an H1-B visa and was not dependent for his immigration status by being enrolled at the University of Farmington. Federal prosecutors have said the recruiters were involved in what they call a "pay-to-stay" scheme where students pay tuition to remain legally in the U.S.

Prasad and other defense attorneys have questioned the sting operation, saying it targeted unsuspecting students who were in the U.S. legally. A Free Press report in November sparked

widespread interest in the case, with Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts, and Kamala Harris, D-California, among the elected officials raising questions about the operation.

"I think my government's resources would be better spent protecting me from violent criminals and drug dealers," Prasad said. "I'm not sitting around worrying about what highly skilled, well-educated people are doing unless it affects my life and liberty, and it doesn't here. I'm no safer because of the sting operation. There are plenty of ways the government can make me feel safer and this isn't one of them."

Feds say recruiter abused system

The Department of Justice and ICE strongly defend their undercover operation, and have released transcripts and a video they say shows Karnati and the students are to blame. Prosecutors are asking for a sentence of 24 to 30 months.

In their sentencing memo, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit wrote that "Karnati, like his fellow conspirators, abused the United States student visa system to line his own pockets."

Yet, Karnati is markedly different from his conspirators. Karnati chose to engage in criminal conduct even though he had already achieved what others desired; the ability to live and work in the United States with the possibility of a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

"Obviously, for Karnati, that was not enough," said the memo signed by U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Matthew Schneider.

"Despite the fact Karnati was lawfully earning nearly \$100,000.00 per year, he decided to knowingly recruit foreign students to the University of Farmington and several other schools, so that he could make more money and that the students could fraudulently remain and work in the United States."

In his guilty plea, Karnati said he had thought that the University of Farmington had online classes.

But in their memo, prosecutors wrote: "the evidence ... unequivocally demonstrates that Karnati knew that

See ICE RECORDINGS, Page 5A

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ICE recordings

Continued from Page 4A

The University of Farmington had no classes."

Prosecutors said that another recruiter had "told Karnati there were no classes, the (ICE) undercover agent told Karnati there were no classes, Karnati acknowledged there were no classes and Karnati told his own students there were no classes."

In their memo, prosecutors gave transcripts of undercover recordings of phone calls and WhatsApp chats for their claims.

In a WhatsApp chat in January 2018 cited in the memo, a student writes to Karnati: "No need to go college and no assignments is it true?"

Karnati replies: "S."

Prosecutors said that "S" is shorthand for "Yes."

In their memo, Justice Department attorneys also cited an undercover video made by ICE of a meeting in June 2018 at the University of Farmington with Karnati, another recruiter, and an undercover agent named Ali Milani, who acted as the president of the University of Farmington.

Prosecutors said that the video shows Karnati saying at one point: "Farmington has one plan of ... without classes..."

But Prasad, Karnati's defense attorney, said the video of the June 2018 meeting in Farmington Hills at the university shows that Karnati thought it had online classes.

In a discussion about online classes for citizens, Karnati asks Milani: "the citizens, online classes they are all going on still?"

Milani answers: "Ya of course..."

Prasad wrote in her sentencing memo that "Karnati was hardly the mastermind behind a scheme to send international students to a fake university. He was already referring international students to American universities when unfortunately for him he decided to add FU (University of Farmington) to that list."

A transcript of the June 2018 meeting shows Milani, the undercover agent, posing as an Iranian American when discussing the types of students at the University of Farmington.

"I am an Iranian so I have lot of con-

nection with like Middle Eastern people," he said, adding that the university also had Indian and Chinese students.

Most of the students arrested were from India.

ICE released a separate video last month in a news release that it said showed students interacting with an undercover agent posing as an official at the fake university. The clip shows four groups of people talking with the official about the university.

In one of the clips, a man whom ICE says is a student asks about transferring.

The undercover agent posing as a university official says: "But I don't have any classes to offer you. Do you care about that?"

The student replies: "Anything is fine. But my (immigration) status should be maintained."

Prasad said the video is unclear and that the students are not related to her client.

In a statement to the Free Press, Acting Deputy Director of ICE Derek Benner said: "Farmington is a clear example of a pay-to-stay scheme, which is against the law and, not only creates a dangerous lack of accountability, but also diminishes the quality and integrity of the U.S. student visa system."

Benner said that "each prospective enrollee was informed that there were no classes, curriculum or teachers at Farmington. ... Evidence, including video footage, audio recordings, and correspondence collected during the investigation supports that each prospective enrollee knowingly and willfully violated their nonimmigrant status."

Entrepreneur dreams turn into nightmare

Before his arrest in January 2019, Karnati had it all: a nearly six-figure salary in an industry with growth opportunities, and a wife with two bright boys, the older one excelling in martial arts and chess, court records show.

But his interaction with a fake university set up by ICE would lead to his downfall.

Karnati was born in 1983 in southern India into a Telugu-speaking family. He got his bachelor's degree in electrical and electronics engineering at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University in Hyderabad, according to his sentencing memo filed by Prasad.

Like many immigrants from India of his generation interested in information technology, he decided to pursue opportunities in the U.S., arriving in 2011 on an H-1B visa.

His wife and child are on H-4 visas, which are issued to dependents of H-1B recipients, said the memo. In 2016, they had a second child, who is a U.S. citizen.

Prasad is arguing for no prison time for Karnati because she says his family would suffer in India without any economic means to support them while he is serving his sentence.

In the U.S., Karnati worked for GE, Syntel, and for five years at Humana, a health insurance company in Louisville, Kentucky, according to his LinkedIn profile, sentencing memo, and his statement to the probation department.

After he was criminally charged in January, he lost his job, but earned this year a master's degree in business analytics at the University of Louisville and enrolled in their PhD program in computer engineering and computer science. He's now working as a lead data scientist at Traveler's Insurance in Connecticut.

In his probation statement, Karnati said he became interested in becoming an entrepreneur, "watching all the Shark Tank episodes."

He said that after attending an entrepreneur's workshop in Louisville by Daymond John, the founder and CEO of the clothing company FUBU, he became "very much motivated and fired up with excitement."

That led him to become a university recruiter, he said. He recruited 39 students for the University of Farmington, being paid \$300 per student, according to his plea deal.

University recruiting is a normal practice, but since Karnati was recruiting for a fake university, he was committing visa fraud, said prosecutors.

Karnati says that the university seemed legitimate.

He notes in his probation statement that the university had a professional website, logo, and was listed on the website of the Department of Homeland Security as an approved university for foreign students.

Also, an accreditation agency had listed the university.

The Free Press reported last year that an official with the accreditation agency said they secretly worked with the Department of Homeland Security, which

oversees ICE, to list the fake university as being accredited.

"My mind intuitively believed that there couldn't be a fake organization on this land which is communicating with government agencies like USCIS/DHS all the time and working with accreditation agencies ensuring standards," Karnati said in his probation statement.

Prasad, his defense attorney, cites WhatsApp messages to show that Karnati was not just recruiting for Farmington, but other universities.

Prasad also cites recordings of a female student who called the University of Farmington in January 2018.

The student called the university "to ask when classes begin," said the sentencing memo.

The woman answering the phone at the admissions office of the University of Farmington replied: "We are currently full. We don't have any classes to offer you, not even online ... what we can do for you to help you maintain your status, we can enroll you as if you are a student here ... but you wouldn't be coming to class nor taking any online classes. ..."

Sounding confused, the student said: "But they didn't tell me about all this? Because I am supposed to enroll ... in order to maintain my status. ... Why was I not told about this?"

Arrest and interrogation

In December 2018, Karnati returned a call from 'Ali Milani,' the fictional name of the undercover ICE agent posing as the president of the University of Farmington.

"We have investors, we are trying to expand to California and other states," Milani told Karnati, according to a transcript of the phone conversation in court records.

"Would (you) be able to come here on (Jan.) 30?" the undercover agent asked Karnati.

Karnati replied: "That's perfectly fine then. I will come."

But when Karnati arrived that day at Detroit Metro Airport, he was instead greeted by federal agents.

At "the Detroit airport, I was put to the wall, searched, shackled in front of everybody and paraded me all across the airport while everyone is watching," Karnati said in his probation statement.

"That was the most embarrassing and shameful moment I ever had in my life."



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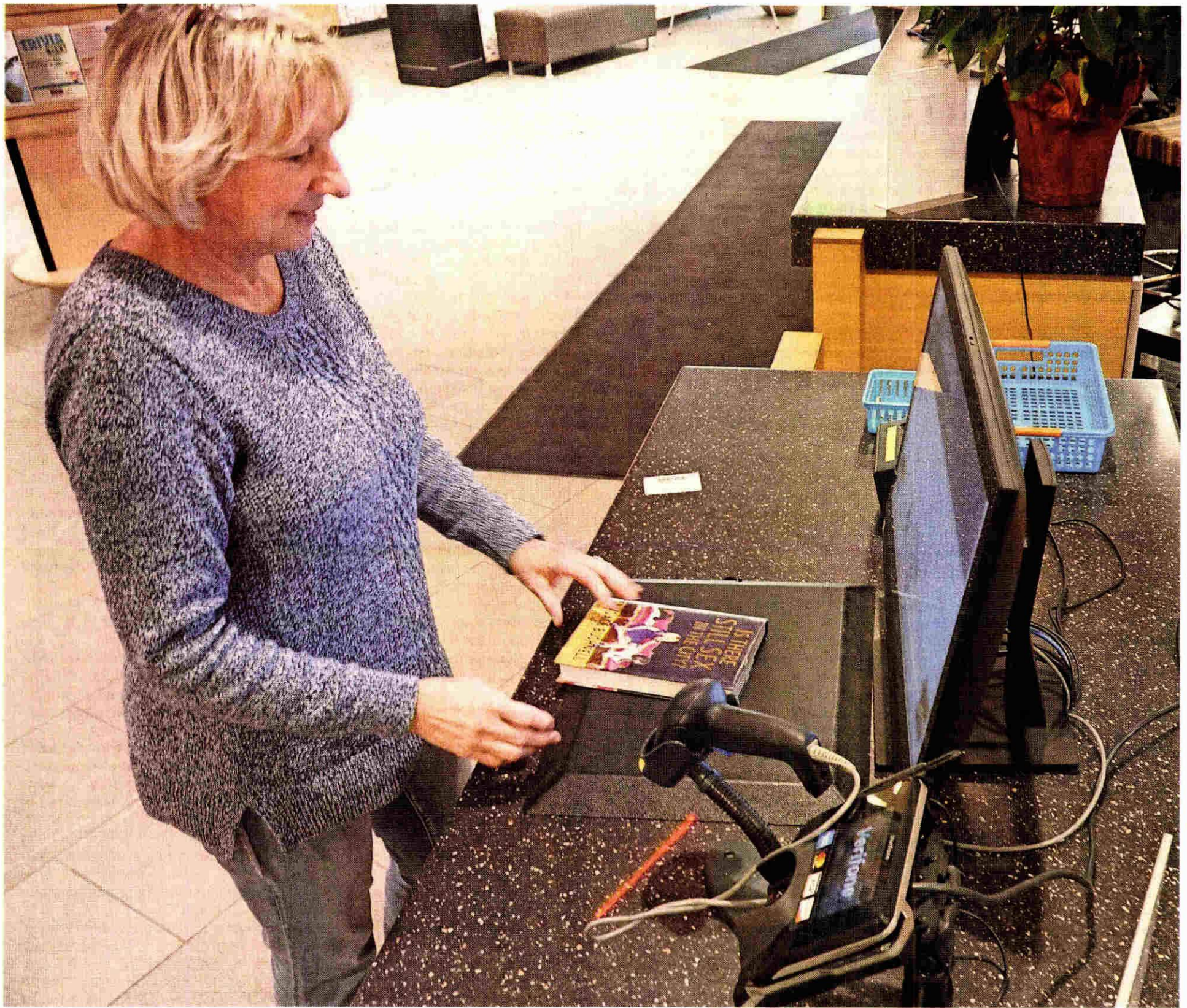
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Novi Public Library employee Jean Aldrich checks out a book using the library's self-checkout kiosk. In Novi, children's television shows and thriller and superhero films were the most popularly circulated items of 2019. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

What library patrons watched, read in 2019

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At the start of the 2020s and in a digital age, area libraries are thriving.

Some local libraries released 2019 reports that show not only an increase in circulation numbers despite some challenges, but also reveal an interesting snapshot of what patrons are reading and watching in these communities.

In Novi, children's television shows and thriller and superhero films were the most popularly circulated items.

In Milford, novels in the mystery and thriller genres ruled.

At the Baldwin Library in Birmingham, and at the Salem-South Lyon District Library, "Where the Crawdads Sing," a crime drama novel set in North Carolina topped the list for most checked out item, followed by memoirs from a former first lady and an Idaho woman who received no formal education until she was 17.

The Novi Public Library led the four libraries we queried for 2019 circulation numbers, with nearly one million items checked out.

"We are very excited to see that our numbers have steadily increased over the past three years," Dana Brataniec, NPL communications director, wrote in an email. "With the introduction of downloadable materials, we have seen a huge jump in the number of items circulated throughout the library."

This past year's circulation number of 937,715 represents an increase of more than 100,000 items over 2018's final haul of 820,900 items. In 2016-17, the library recorded 787,063.

The top 10 most circulated items from the Novi Library in 2019:

- 1 "PAW Patrol: Summer Rescues" (DVD)
- 2 "Hotel Artemis" (Blu-ray)
- 3 "Olaf's Frozen Adventure" (DVD)
- 4 "Avengers: Infinity War" (DVD)
- 5 "PAW Patrol: Halloween Heroes" (DVD)
- 6 "Mule" (DVD)
- 7 "PAW Patrol: The Great Pirate Rescue!" (DVD)
- 8 "Novi Storytime Backpack #32 Construction" (Kit)
- 9 "Peppermint" (DVD)
- 10 "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (DVD)

Novi's top five non-fiction in 2019:

- 1 "Becoming" by Michelle Obama
- 2 "Educated" by Tara Westover
- 3 "Girl, Wash Your Face" by Rachel Hollis
- 4 "Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup" by John Carreyrou
- 5 "The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business" by Charles Duhigg

Trending in Birmingham

At Baldwin Library in Birmingham, roughly 555,000 items were checked out in 2019, representing significant increases over the 510,801 items in 2018,

See **LIBRARY**, Page 7A

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The Novi Public Library led the four libraries Hometown Life queried for 2019 circulation, with nearly one million items checked out. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Library

Continued from Page 6A

and 481,799 items in 2017.

Associate Director Rebekah Craft cites multiple reasons for the increase, including a recovery from a renovation of adult services at the facility and a return to the shelves of 45,000 items that had been kept in storage and a new library catalog system that gives automatic renewals.

She also anticipates a rise in circulation numbers this year and next with completion of a youth room expansion and another 40,000 items returned to the shelves.

Digital items being checked out have also increased significantly, making up more than a quarter of all items circulated at Baldwin.

Top 10 circulated items in 2019 at Baldwin Library in Birmingham:

- 1 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens (novel)
- 2 "Becoming" by Michelle Obama (memoir)
- 3 "Mary Poppins Returns" (film)
- 4 "A Star is Born" (film)
- 5 "Science" (magazine)
- 6 "People" (magazine)
- 7 "Nine Perfect Strangers" by Liane Moriarty (novel)
- 8 "Aladdin" (film)
- 9 "Bohemian Rhapsody" (film)
- 10 "Vice" (film)

Top 5 fiction in Birmingham:

- 1 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens
- 2 "Nine Perfect Strangers" by Liane Moriarty
- 3 "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng
- 4 "Mrs. Everything" by Jennifer Weiner
- 5 "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelid

Top 5 non-fiction in Birmingham

- 1 "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean
- 2 "The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers who Brought the American Ideal West" by David McCullough
- 3 "Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup" by John Carreyrou
- 4 "Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Company That Addicted America" by Beth Macy
- 5 "Girl, Wash Your Face" by Rachel Hollis Digital demand

in Salem-South Lyon

At the Salem-South Lyon District Library, circulation of physical items has been on the decrease, while check out of digital books and eMagazines are on the uptick.

In 2019, 202,116 physical items were checked out from SSLDL, compared to 230,883 in 2018, and 266,186 in 2017. However, the number of eBooks jumped from 30,908 in 2017, to 40,189 in 2018 and peaked in 2019 at 48,722. Likewise, eMagazine checkouts have more than doubled from 3,370 in 2017 to 6,877 in 2019.

Director Donna Olson said she believes this year's circulation of physical items saw a decrease because of expan-

sions to the children's area at the library.

The top 10 physical items circulated in 2019 at the Salem-South Lyon Library were:

- 1 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens
- 2 "Educated" by Tara Westover
- 3 "Fairy Tail" (Teen graphic novel)
- 4 "Past Tense" by Lee Child
- 5 "Aquaman" (DVD)
- 6 "Disney Princess" (magazine)
- 7 "Bohemian Rhapsody" (DVD)
- 8 "Look Alive Twenty-Five" a Stephanie Plum novel by Janet Evanovich
- 9 "Pokemon Adventures Diamond and Pearl Platinum" (juvenile graphic novel)
- 10 "Beautiful Music" by Michael Zadorian

Milford likes a good mystery

In Milford, Library Director Tina Hatch noted that circulation is often cyclical. Through November, the library had 180,732 checked out items, up from the previous year's total of 176,875. Year-end totals were not available.

She attributes the change to increased hours, including on Sundays from September through May, as well as additional budgeting for materials, including e-content and the library eliminating overdue fines in January 2019.

In Milford, the top 10 circulated items were all novels:

- 1 "Look Alive Twenty Five" by Janet Evanovich
- 2 "Long Road to Mercy" by David Baldacci
- 3 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens
- 4 "Past Tense" by Lee Child
- 5 "Run Away" by Harlan Coben
- 6 "Reckoning" by John Grisham
- 7 "Spark of Light" by Jodi Picoult
- 8 "Connections in Death" by JD Robb
- 9 "Ambush" by James Patterson
- 10 "Liar Liar" by James Patterson

Top 5 biographies/memoirs in Milford:

- 1 "Becoming" by Michelle Obama
 - 2 "Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love" by Dani Shapiro
 - 3 "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive" by Stephanie Land
 - 4 "Educated" by Tara Westover
 - 5 "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance
- Top 5 non-fiction in Milford:
- 1 "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean
 - 2 "Killing the SS: The Hunt for the Worst War Criminals in History" by Bill O'Reilly
 - 3 "Hero Dogs: How a Pack of Rescues, Rejects, and Strays Became America's Greatest Disaster-Search Partners" by Wilma Melville
 - 4 "The Plant Paradox Quick and Easy: The 30-Day Plan to Lose Weight, Feel Great, and Live Lectin-Free" by Dr. Steven Gundry
 - 5 "Instant Pot Fast and Easy: 100 Simple and Delicious Recipes for Your Instant Pot" by Urvashi Pitre

Baldwin bonus: Past decade top picks

Baldwin Library staff released their

top picks for the past decade. Looking for your next read? Here are some recommendations:

- "City of Thieves" by David Benioff
- "The Dog Stars" by Peter Heller
- "The Dovekeepers" by Alice Hoffman
- "Exit West" by Mohsin Hamid
- "The First Conspiracy" by Brad Meltzer and John Mensch
- "A Little Life" by Hanya Yanagihara
- "Maybe You Should Talk to Someone" by Lori Gottlieb

- "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" by Arundhati Roy
 - "The Nature of Crops" by John Warren
 - "The Space Between Us" by Thrity Umrigar
 - "Tiny Beautiful Things" by Cheryl Strayed
 - "The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet" by David Mitchell
 - "Vinegar Girl" by Anne Tyler
- Check out your library in the new year and happy reading!

Obituaries

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A No'el Martin

Ms. A No'el Martin, 80 years old born in Windsor Canada on March 2nd, 1939 passed away on December 24, 2019 at 10:30am in Ennis Texas. She was a shining star who touched the hearts and lives of all who knew her. She was full of energy and life and loved the water.



Being born under the sign of Pisces explains her love for water and always wanting to be near it. She is with God now and is one of God's newest angels. She is a free spirit and can now spread her wings. She leaves behind her ex-husband Fred J. Martin. A son, Christopher Michael Martin, a daughter Wendy Lynn Hofrichter, five grandchildren Nicholas William Hofrichter, Tiffany Lynn Robin, Shanice Maureen Martin, Alexander Christopher Martin, Edgardo Eliecer DeGracia, and one great grandchild in Quincy William Hofrichter. My mother was a Christian woman who was very spiritual and believed in God and Heaven so I know that she will be watching over us all as she spreads her wings.

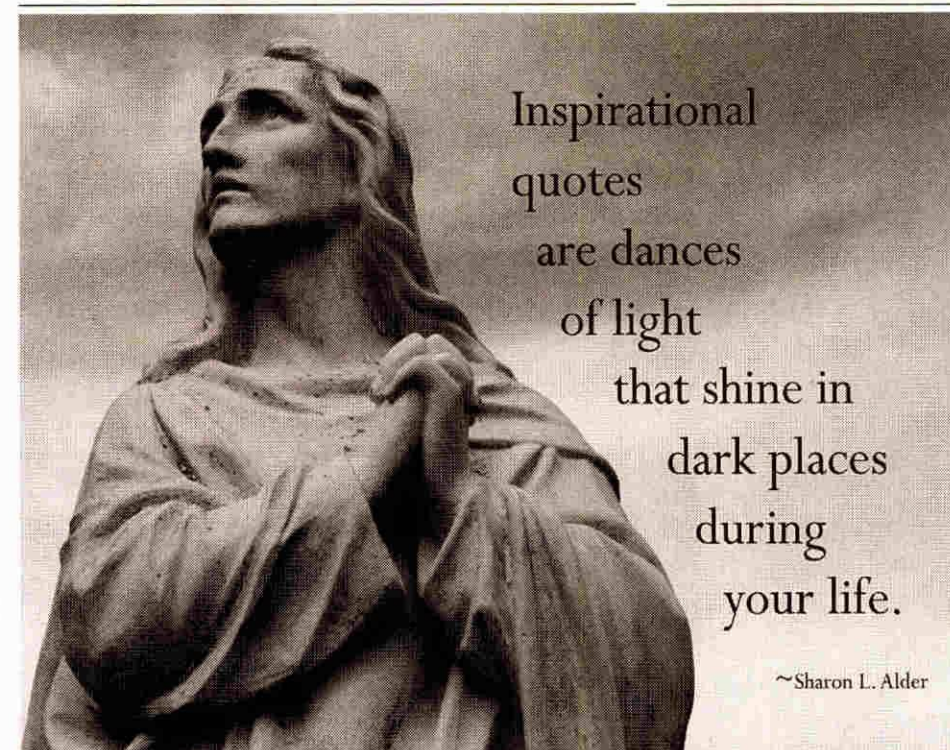
Jeanette K. Westover

1/18/1943 - 12/6/2019 - Jeanette passed away peacefully after a hard fought battle with cancer.

She is survived by her two Daughters, Sherry (Joe) Monforton of Canton, Stacy Moore of Holly and brother, Martin Redilla of Brighton.

Memorial will be Jan 11th, 2020 VFW 438 S. Main St. Northville, MI Service at 12:00 Lunch at 2:00

May you find
comfort in family
and friends



Inspirational
quotes
are dances
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that shine in
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~Sharon L. Alder

Citizens group fights back against Northville Downs plan

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A grassroots organization called Citizens For Northville has a message for developers who are salivating at the idea of adding another 1,500 people to the city's quaint downtown: Not so fast, my friends!

Spearheaded by longtime Northville resident and retired General Motors executive Bill Poulos, a mid-November meeting held at the Marquis Theater attracted close to 200 residents who share Poulos's concern that a huge influx in residential housing on the current Northville Downs site will "kill the city."

The Carlos family, which owns Northville Downs, entered into a tentative sale of the 50-acre property just south of downtown Northville in 2018. Horse-racing has continued at the facility and will for the foreseeable future.

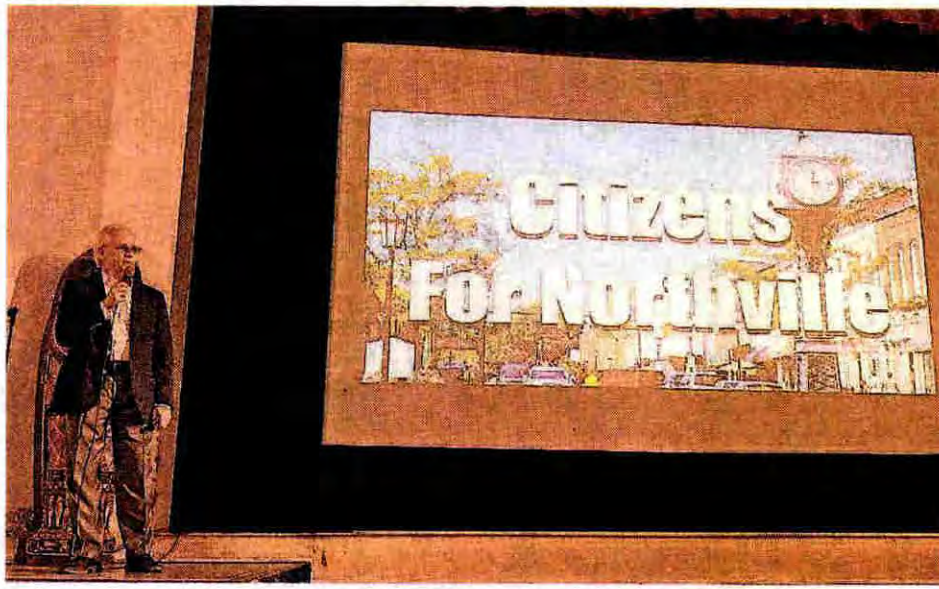
"If the developers' plans go through as they hope they do, it will ruin are charming downtown," said Poulos. "It will also pave the way for a traffic problem that we may never find an answer for."

Citizens For Northville means business, too. It recently hired a professional consultant, Michael Stampfer, who the group says has ample experience in helping cities like Northville handle landscape-changing development plans.

"I have nothing but respect for the members of our planning commission," Poulos emphasized. "But no one on the commission has any experience with a development that will change the city as much as this will. Michael has that experience, which is why we brought him on board."

CFN isn't against development: just development to the scale of which Hunter Pasteur Homes and Watermark Residential has brought to the table.

"Ideally, we'd like to see housing for a maximum of around 500 residents — a reasonable mix of high-end single-family homes, condominiums and maybe



Retired General Motors executive and longtime Northville resident Bill Poulos addresses the close to 200 attendees at a recent Citizens For Northville meeting at the Marquis Theater. COURTESY OF CITIZENS FOR NORTHVILLE

some townhouses for the northern two-thirds of property," Poulos said. "We'd also like to see the (Rouge River) daylighted and land committed to parks and green space."

"This way, the developers could still make the revenue they're looking for while making the property more acceptable to Northville's standards."

CFN attended several meetings orchestrated by Watermark Residential last week to get a firmer understanding on what the developer plans for the Downs site.

After discussion, CFN members came up with a list its common themes/concerns of the plans, and the list was forwarded to several local government officials.

The list

■ **Impact on traffic/roads:** This is the primary constraint to any development for which a well-studied solution must be found to overcome current traffic issues as well as the exacerbation of

added density to the downtown area. This solution will then be a key limiter as to what degree of added density in The Downs 49 acres can be tolerated. Such a study and solution, of necessity, must precede any development project. The limited suggestions to date such as making Hutton street a through street which would interfere with the Church 120 student pre-school or a roundabout at 7 mile and Center St. are wholly inadequate.

■ **Parking:** The current WM concept has insufficient underground parking by a wide margin, some feel as much as 100 parking spots short. Furthermore, current parking available to the First Presbyterian Church would no longer be available, which could put the viability of the church at risk.

■ **Proper consideration for the Watermark proposal** of some 300 apartments and townhomes and commercial units on nine acres along Cady Street without having a well developed concept for the balance (39 acres) of the Downs Property is impossible or at a

minimum unwise. Watermark, in association with Hunter Pasteur, appears to be presenting an improved version of a portion of the same high-density HP June proposal but only for the Cady Street nine acres. Again, approving The Downs projects in a piecemeal fashion puts the City at risk for unintended outcomes far worse than the Watermark density build-up.

■ **What is the best use of the Cady St. property?** There is no data supporting the Watermark apartment-centric concept as the best use of the Cady Street property. The rationale presented thus far states that Northville empty-nesters want to downsize to an apartment and that young people want affordable apartments in downtown Northville (Is \$1,500-\$2,500/month affordable?). We know of no empty-nesters that wish to do so and young people have plenty of apartment opportunities within a mile or two of downtown. Watermark has stated that they do have data regarding housing trends. But even if there is a demand for additional apartment units in and around Northville, such units should be built elsewhere, not on the Cady Street property. Further, additional well thought-out proposals that might include one or more of the following: a limited number of apartments, condos, single family homes and/or commercial should be considered before a determination can be made regarding the best use of this property.

■ **Watermark is apparently a fine company, but with only one product — apartments.** However, there are many other fine companies that offer a wide array of potential concepts. Watermark is not the only game in town. We should not be looking at this proposal as the only way to achieve an adequate revenue stream to the City.

■ **If the Watermark proposal were to move forward, who would own and operate the apartment complex?** Watermark stated that they do own and operate only some of their developments.

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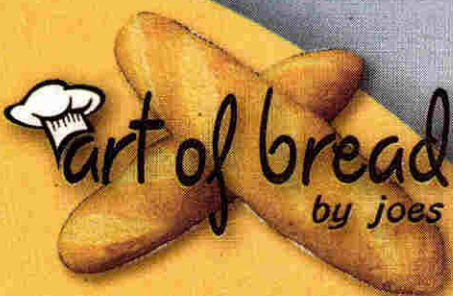


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CC wrestling continues dominant streak

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The reigning Division 1 state champions have not let up. Starting the season with two wins and two first-place finishes at the Oakland County Tournament and the Brecksville Invitational, the Detroit Catholic Central wrestling team con-

tinued its dominance in its first event in 2020, taking first place at the Catholic Central Invitational. The Shamrocks recorded a tournament-leading 284 points, above Davison (225) and Brighton (195), both of which are top-20 wrestling teams in the country. With eight Shamrocks remaining as the tournament headed into the final

round, four Catholic Central wrestlers finished in first place: senior Josh Edmond (140), sophomore Manuel Rojas (171), Brandin Yatooma (215) and Steven Kolcheff (285). Catholic Central has won three-straight MHSAA state team titles and came into the invitational as the No. 3 wrestling team in the country according to InterMat Wrestling.

Edmond explodes to first place
Edmond calls his first move a little funky. He gets extremely low to the ground, bursting toward the lower body of his opponent, putting himself in attack mode from the first whistle.
See WRESTLING, Page 2B



North Farmington's Eddie Lenton III, background, Farmington's Siddiq Abulmajeed, and a potential rebound all go flying. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

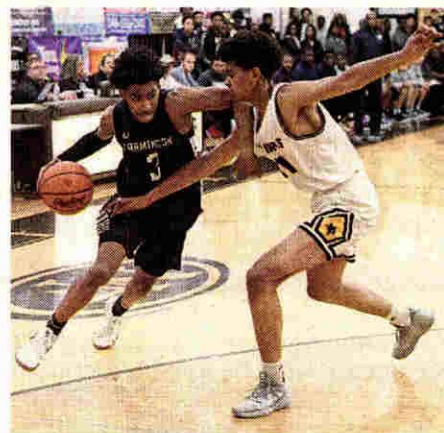
North Farmington carries on hot start

Takes down rival Farmington, 56-48

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

"Just like football." The chant echoed through the at-capacity North Farmington gym, as the Raiders boys basketball team (6-0) came back from an eight-point deficit in the third quarter, outscoring Farmington (1-4) 18-6 in the final eight minutes, to continue its win streak and to secure the 56-48 victory in the only matchup between the cross-town rivals during the regular season. Here are three takeaways from the North Farmington win.

Fourth-quarter comeback
North Farmington head coach Todd Negoshian had a number in mind: 50. For the Raiders, it was the make-or-break number. "If they get to 50, we're going to be in trouble," Negoshian said to his team before the start of the fourth quarter. North Farmington had allowed 42 points through the first 24 minutes, failing to stop Farmington junior guard Jaden Akins, who scored 18 points in the first three quarters.
See BASKETBALL, Page 3B



Farmington's Jaden Akins, an MSU recruit, dribbles to the basket guarded by North Farmington's Prince Jackson.

Stevenson senior's rare hat trick sinks Hartland's hockey team

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was a performance that had on-lookers racking their brains afterward, trying to recall if they'd ever seen it happen before. The consensus: Nobody could remember another hockey player doing what Livonia Stevenson senior Seth Lause achieved Saturday night. Lause scored three shorthanded goals for the second-ranked Spartans in a 5-2 victory over third-ranked Hartland at Hartland Sports Center. There are no MHSAA records listed for most shorthanded goals in a game. In the 102-year history of the National Hockey League, a player has scored three shorthanded goals only once (Calgary's Theo Fleury on March 9, 1991). Lause's first goal gave Stevenson a 2-1 lead with 6:44 left in the second period. With Hartland in a position to tie the game on a power play, Lause scored two goals 1 minute and 29 seconds apart to put the game out of reach in the third period. "It's all up to the guys who found me in those places," Lause said. "(Adam Heard) gave me that pass up through the middle in the third is one example. (Ian) Kimble set me up down low from the board. Without my other teammates setting me up, there's no way I would be able to execute, so I'm grateful for that." On his first goal, Lause carried the puck out of the Stevenson zone to lead a two-on-one break. He took a shot coming down the right side and knocked in his own rebound. On his second goal, Lause took a pass behind the goal line from Kimble and banked in a shot from the side of the net with 7:52 left in the game to give the Spartans a 4-2 lead. He completed the hat trick when he took a long outlet pass from Heard and scored on a breakaway with 6:23 remaining. "He works on his penalty kill, he works on his game tirelessly," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "He's always on the ice, always trying to do extra. He was rewarded today. It's nice to see players rewarded like that." Lause's performance put Hartland on the wrong side of a historic performance. "That stuff can't happen," Hartland coach Rick Gadwa said. "We haven't had three shorties on us I don't think ever in my time here. It's just one of those things that happens. It's one of those things that happens. It's one of those things that happens."
See HOCKEY, Page 3B

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Different team, same standard for CC wrestling

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In 12 years as the Detroit Catholic Central wrestling coach, Mitch Hancock has earned seven state championship rings, including one in each of the past three seasons.

Once he earns them, he said, each one goes to the same place.

"They are in my junk drawer at home, to be honest with you," Hancock said.

It is not that Hancock is dismissive of the things he has accomplished during his tenure — leading a team with a Division 1 record seven individual state champions in 2019. To him, it's more about defining the future.

It's about never being satisfied.

It's starting from scratch each season, moving forward, setting and attaining new goals, but always approaching the new team with the same expectation that history has set.

"You walk around here, the halls speak to you," Hancock said. "People want to be successful because they want to leave a legacy. There's a little bit of pressure for our guys to do that."

To start the 2019-20 season, Catholic Central has continued that expectation.

With four returning state champions, the Shamrocks are undefeated, earning first-place finishes at the Oakland Country tournament, the Brecksville Invitational and the CC Invitational, earning four individual first-place finishes in their latest tournament.

According to Intermat Wrestling, Catholic Central is the No. 3 wrestling team in the country, one of three Michigan teams in the top 20.

To reigning heavyweight state champion Steven Kolcheff, who has been with Catholic Central for four years, it comes



Catholic Central celebrates its CC Invitational victory. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

down to two sayings: keep climbing and "the standard is the standard."

"Our standard is winning championships here. We apply that every day. We repeat it every day," Kolcheff said. "We say keep climbing, keep getting better. Our standard is our standard. Our standard is way above everyone else."

Senior Brendin Yatooma, who is coming off an individual state title at 215, has known the standard from when he was a kid. The South Lyon native's father went to Catholic Central, saying he grew up around the culture of the Shamrocks.

But in his freshman season, he saw what separated Catholic Central apart

from other programs across the state and country.

"When I saw the upperclassmen doing every little thing right and doing everything they needed to do to be successful, I realized that's really what's going on here," Yatooma said. "This place is here to breed men, breed people to be successful people in a sport or in life."

One of the key words ingrained into Catholic Central athletes is brotherhood.

To sophomore Manuel Rojas, brotherhood represents bringing each member of the team up to the standard of the overall program.

"We look out for each other and we know that the only way to be a good brother is to push each other," Rojas said.

Much like the saying "the standard is the standard," Yatooma approaches success as a gap. Every day, he is either closing or widening the gap, separating yourself from the rest of the competition.

This past season, the gap was 34-19, defeating previously unbeaten Brighton in the Division 1 state finals by winning nine of the 14 head-to-head bouts.

While domination was on the minds of many Catholic Central wrestlers as the calendar flipped to 2020, it was not in the aspect of individual wins and losses. For Hancock, it's much bigger than that.

"He says, 'Forget that year. We have a new year, new team,'" Kolcheff said. "Our team really applies that to us. This isn't last year."

Instead of looking at the macro approach, aiming to win his second-straight individual state title and the fourth-consecutive team state title, Yatooma dumbs it down, focusing on scoring points, dominating when it's his turn to be on the mat.

That's Catholic Central in a nutshell.

Instead of focusing on the big picture, it's focusing on each of the steps to get to that place, individually, and expecting another ring to be the outcome.

Kolcheff bluntly stated Catholic Central is not there yet. But he did not say it with worry.

The senior heavyweight said it with a hint of excitement, like the process is still in front of them.

"We may not be there right now, but I promise you we will get there by post-season," Kolcheff said.

Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

"I just want to get out there, score, get ahead, make him come to me, finish clean," Edmond said. "That was the game plan."

When asked about the first move of his senior reigning state champion, Catholic Central head coach Mitch Hancock did not use the word funky. He simply called it explosive.

"When he is wrestling with the right pace and intensity, he is hard to stop," Hancock said. "There are not a lot of guys that have the ability he has."

In the final against Brighton's Zach Johnson, Edmond launched his body when the first whistle blew, earning two takedowns in the first 15 seconds to develop a quick lead he would not give up, recording a fall 91 seconds into the match for the victory.

It's the first move that granted the Catholic Central senior the most outstanding wrestler award in the lower weight class for the tournament. It's the first move that granted Edmond a full-ride scholarship to wrestle at Missouri.

It's the first move that grants Edmond the confidence to say no opponent can wrestle with him on their feet.

"I just want to leave a legacy: to try and dominate everybody," Edmond said.

State champs shine

Hancock called Yatooma and Kolcheff "consistent." However, both wrestlers, who are coming off individual state championships, had the chance to overcome adversity.

For Yatooma, it was in the middle of his match.

The 215-pound senior was matched pound-for-pound with Brighton's Grayson Stevens, a matchup of the No. 1 and No. 2 in the 215 weight class in Division 1, earning the only overtime game of the tournament, tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation.

However, Yatooma stepped up early, earning the takedown 10 seconds into the period for the win.

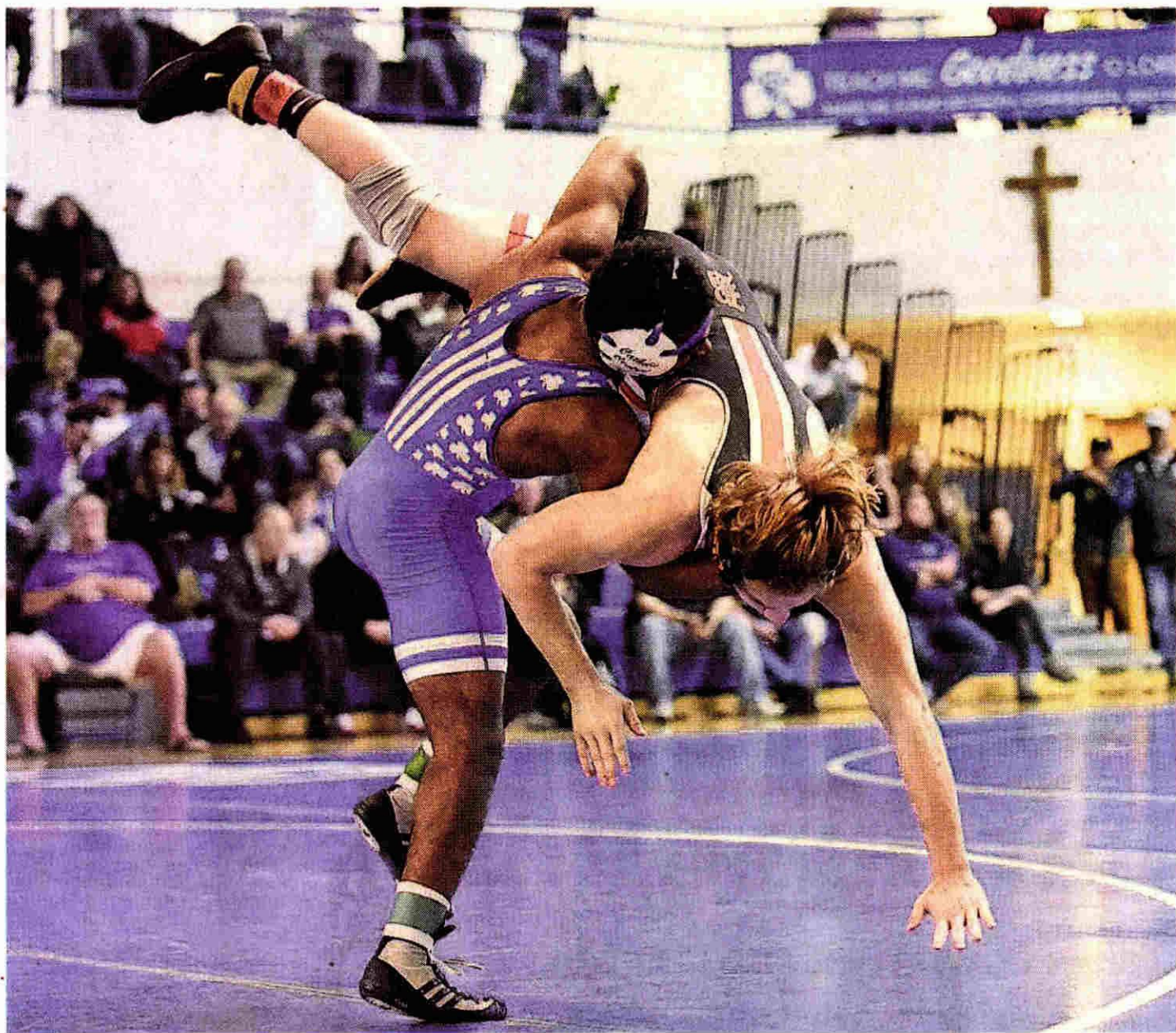
"I knew I had to go in there and be confident, not have to worry, don't stress out, stay calm under pressure," Yatooma said. "I knew I was going to win the match."

For Kolcheff, he had to bounce back from something he had been sitting on since Dec. 29.

The No. 1 ranked heavyweight in Division 1 lost in the final at the Brecksville Invitational, the last event in 2019.

He came back in a big way Saturday, earning an 11-1 win and the fall 5:22 into the match.

"This team, man, we're learners," Kolcheff said. "We learn from our mistakes, we learn from our success and we are extremely proud of that."



Catholic Central senior Josh Edmond flips Brighton's Zach Johnson. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Rojas steps up

With the senior-heavy and state champion-filled lineup, Hancock was most impressed with the only underclassman to win a final at the invitational for Catholic Central: Rojas.

Ranked as the No. 4 wrestler in the 171-pound weight class in Division 1, Rojas earned the 6-3 win against La Salle's Dillon Walker, the No. 7 wrestler in the state of Ohio.

After an even start to the match, Rojas exploded in the third period, earning a takedown to earn the three-point victory, using endurance as a key part to his game.

"I know they can't keep up with me, so I try and break them then," Rojas said. "That's when I do most of my scoring."

Team results

1. Detroit Catholic Central 284
2. Davison 225
3. Brighton 195
4. Lowell 155
5. La Salle (OH) 112

6. Rockford 98
7. Whitehall 86
8. DeWitt 68
9. Westland John Glenn 67
10. Hudson 66

Individual results

103: Drew Heethuis (CC) falls to Aden Williams (Davison), 4-2, in the first-place match.

112: Anthony Walker (CC) defeats Auggie Anderson (Clarkston) after a fall five minutes into the match in the third-place match.

119: Dylan Glicher (CC) defeats Caleb Youngblood (Romeo), 3-1, in the third-place match.

130: Dru Willson (Warren Woods-Tower) earns the sudden-victory win against Tatum Bunn (CC) in the fifth-place game with an 8-6 decision.

135: Camden Trupp (CC) defeats Camden Natale (Hudson) on a fall 42 seconds into the third-place match.

140: Josh Edmond (CC) defeats Zach Johnson (Brighton) with a fall 1:31 into the first-place match.

145: Marc Shaeffer (CC) falls to Austin

Boone (Lowell) after a fall 5:28 into the match.

152: Logan Sanom (CC) loses to Josh Barr (Davison), 15-8, in the first-place match.

Shawn Brown (John Glenn) falls to James Fotis (Lowell) in a forfeit.

160: Alex Facundo (Davison), awarded as the most outstanding wrestler in the higher weight class, defeats Derek Glicher, 9-3, in the first-place match.

171: Manuel Rojas (CC) defeats Dillon Walker (La Salle), 6-3, in the first-place match.

189: John Browning (CC) falls to Harley Berne (Brighton), 4-2, in the fifth-place match.

215: Brendin Yatooma (CC) earns the 3-1 overtime victory against Greyson Stevens (Brighton) in the first-place match.

285: Steven Kolcheff (CC) earns the first-place victory with a fall 5:22 into the match against Luke Stanton (Brighton).

Mike McVay (John Glenn) defeats Ben Blevins (La Salle) with a fall 20 seconds into the fifth-place match.
cgay@hometownlife.com

Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

those quirky games. I'm not making a joke, it felt like a circus. Sometimes that happens. There's a lot of yelling going on between the benches and the referees and the coaches and the players and all that. We have to be able to check ourselves, check our emotions and take care of business."

Stevenson once again won the special teams battle to beat Hartland for the fourth straight time. In addition to three shorthanded goals, the Spartans scored a power play goal while holding a two-man advantage.

Hartland's Gabe Pietila scored the only goal of the first period before Stevenson got second-period goals from Nick Justice, Lause and Brenden Heard.

Seth Ferguson got Hartland within 3-2 with 9:43 left in the game. The Eagles had a chance to tie it when Stevenson's Danny White was penalized for cross checking with 8:10 to go, but Lause scored two shorthanded goals to put the game out of reach.

Hartland, the two-time defending



Stevenson's Seth Lause, right, celebrates one of his three shorthanded goals with teammate Adam Heard in a 5-2 victory over Hartland.



Hartland's Jack Schaecher, center, and Stevenson's Adam Heard chase a loose puck during game action Jan. 4. PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

Division 2 champion, fell to 7-2-1. Its two losses have come against the top two teams in Division 2, Birmingham Brother Rice and Stevenson.

"You always learn from losses," Gad-

wa said. "I don't want to go undefeated. I like losing in the regular season. Why? Because we learn from them. Every team makes the playoffs."

Stevenson is 9-1-1, winning eight straight games since tying top-ranked Brother Rice.

"There's a long way to go," Mitchell said. "They're always there at the end. You can see they put a lot of pieces together. They will get better, they will do the right things, they will be heard from again. They're two-time state champions for a reason."

Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

The Raiders came out in the final quarter with a four-point deficit and slowly chipped it away with a focus on defense.

North Farmington did not allow Farmington to record a field goal until 6.6 seconds left in the game, when Akins was awarded a basket on a goaltend. Other than that, the Falcons only converted on four free throws.

"We had a lot of open looks. We just didn't knock them down," Farmington head coach Terrance Porter said. "Those are usually shots that we work on every day that we normally knock down."

Seemingly by himself, junior Basheer Jihad used his 6-foot-8 frame to get inside the post and become a familiar face at the free-throw line. He hit five-of-eight attempts from the line, adding a three-point make and a layup to score 10 of the team's 18 fourth-quarter points.

Negoshian praised North Farmington's approach, forcing the Falcons to speed up and play at the pace the Raiders dictated, allowing them to come back and earn their sixth-straight win.

"We got to get them to go with it and get them out of their comfort zone," Negoshian said.

High emotions

In his four trips to the line in the fourth quarter, Jihad did not only go because of his physicality in the paint.

Farmington forward Demarkco Coakley and Jihad were forced to be separated after trading words after a physical play, leading to Coakley being removed from the game and two free throws for the North Farmington junior.

For Porter, this level of intensity and emotion was something he expected from his players.

"It's always going to be a physical game," Porter said. "It's a lot at stake when we play."

It was not only on the court, but in the

stands as well.

Both Farmington and North Farmington had sections overflowing with students. While Farmington started the game with a "Little Brother" chant, North Farmington students carried signs, including one that said "Izzo is pulling your scholarship," directed toward Akins, who holds a Michigan State offer.

With the closing of Harrison High School, the rivalry between Farmington and North Farmington has been heightened, selling out not only football and volleyball games, but volleyball matches when the two schools face off.

While it was to be expected for Negoshian, it was still something he considered to be unbelievable.

"I just told them, 'When you come out for warm ups, you are not going to believe the atmosphere that you created in our district,'" Negoshian said.

Hot start

Negoshian did not think his team

would start this strong at the beginning of the 2019-20 season.

Many of the members of the North Farmington basketball team were also members of the Raiders football team that won nine of its 10 games in 2019.

"Guys were tired," Negoshian said. "We figured it might take us to the first of the year ... to get going."

It turned out to be the exact opposite. The Raiders boys basketball team has won each of its first six games, only two of which came within single digits.

When asked about the reason behind the early-season success, the players and coaching staff agreed. It was the amount the Raiders retained from this past season's team.

"We took time in the offseason — lifting hard and training hard. That team bond, we have shown it in every six games, including this game," senior Eddie Lenton said. "Even when times got tough, we came up."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Twitter @ColinGay17.

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**CITY OF WESTLAND
INVITATION TO BID**

The City of Westland requests sealed proposals for administration of the **First Time Homebuyer Program**, due **January 17, 2020 3:00 p.m.** Proposals should be submitted to the Department of Housing & Community Development, 32150 Dorsey Road, Westland, Michigan 48186, on or before the due date.

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Department of Housing and Community Development, 32150 Dorsey Road, or at www.cityofwestland.com. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Joanne Campbell, Director at (734) 713.3711 or jcampbell@cityofwestland.com. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Joanne Campbell, Director
Westland Observer
January 2, 2020

Publish January 9, 2019

LO-0000354637 3x2.5

**CITY OF WESTLAND
INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185, **on January 15th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

EQUIPMENT UPGRADE AND WINDOWS 10 CONVERSION

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids

Devin J. Adams
City Controller

Publish January 9, 2019

LO-0000354638 3x2.5

WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN AMENDED AND RESTATED BROWNFIELD PLAN FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6800 N. WAYNE ROAD, 6510-6594 N. WAYNE ROAD AND 35000 HUNTER AVENUE, CITY OF WESTLAND, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF WESTLAND:

The Westland City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers located at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan to consider the adoption of a resolution approving an Amended and Restated Brownfield Plan ("Brownfield Plan") for the property located at 6800 N. Wayne Road, 6510-6594 N. Wayne Road and 35000 Hunter Avenue, Westland, Michigan, parcel IDs 034-99-0003-705, 034-99-0001-002 and 034-99-0001-703 (the "Property"), pursuant to and in accordance with Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended. The Property is located on Wayne Road at and north of Hunter Avenue, south of Warren Road and is currently operated as a movie theater, commercial property and a former church and residential structure.

All maps, plats and a copy of the proposed Brownfield Plan are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the City of Westland Clerk's Office, Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan.

All aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing. All interested persons desiring to address the City Council shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in regard to the approval of the Brownfield Plan.

This communication serves as notice of the City's intent to consider approval of the Amended Brownfield Plan for the Property.

Publish January 9 & 12, 2019

LO-0000354624 3x4

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

On January 21st, 2020 the Westland Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin promptly at 11:00 am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

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*All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction. **The below listed vehicle's ownership is unknown and will be sold at a public auction no sooner than 30 days from the notification if ownership is not determined**

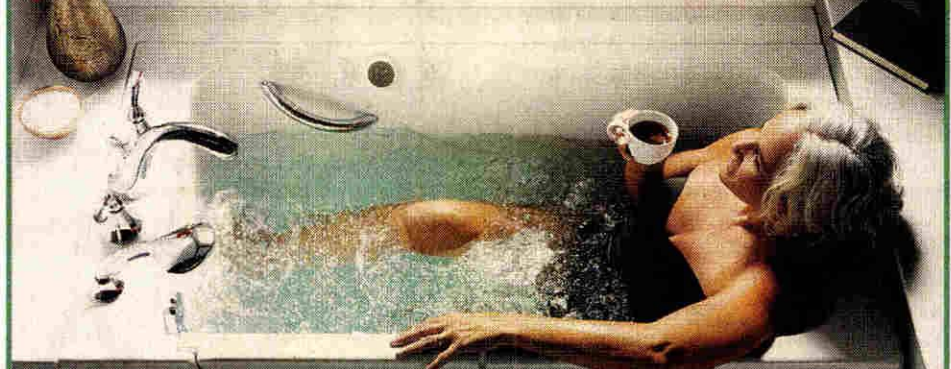
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Publish: January 9, 2020

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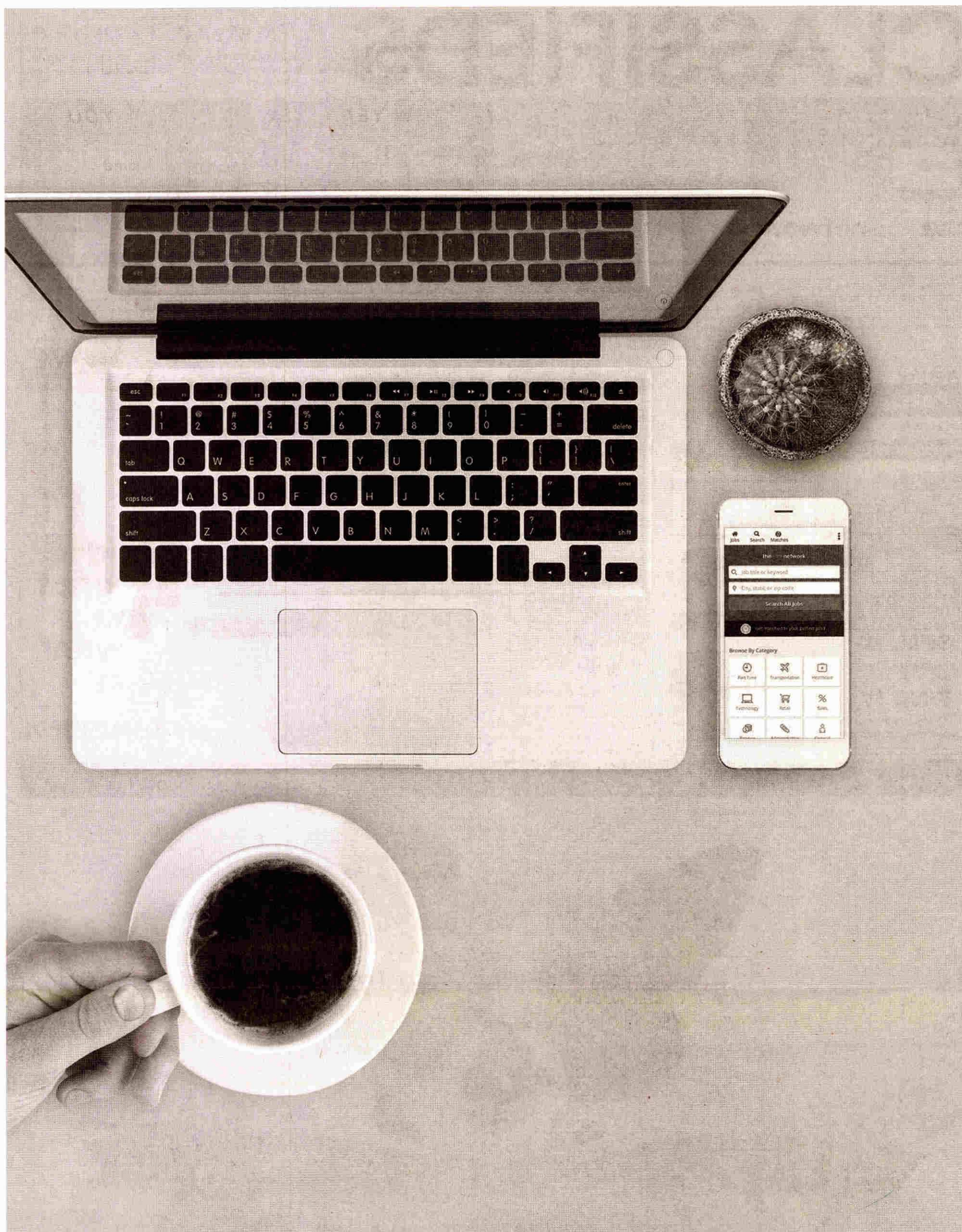
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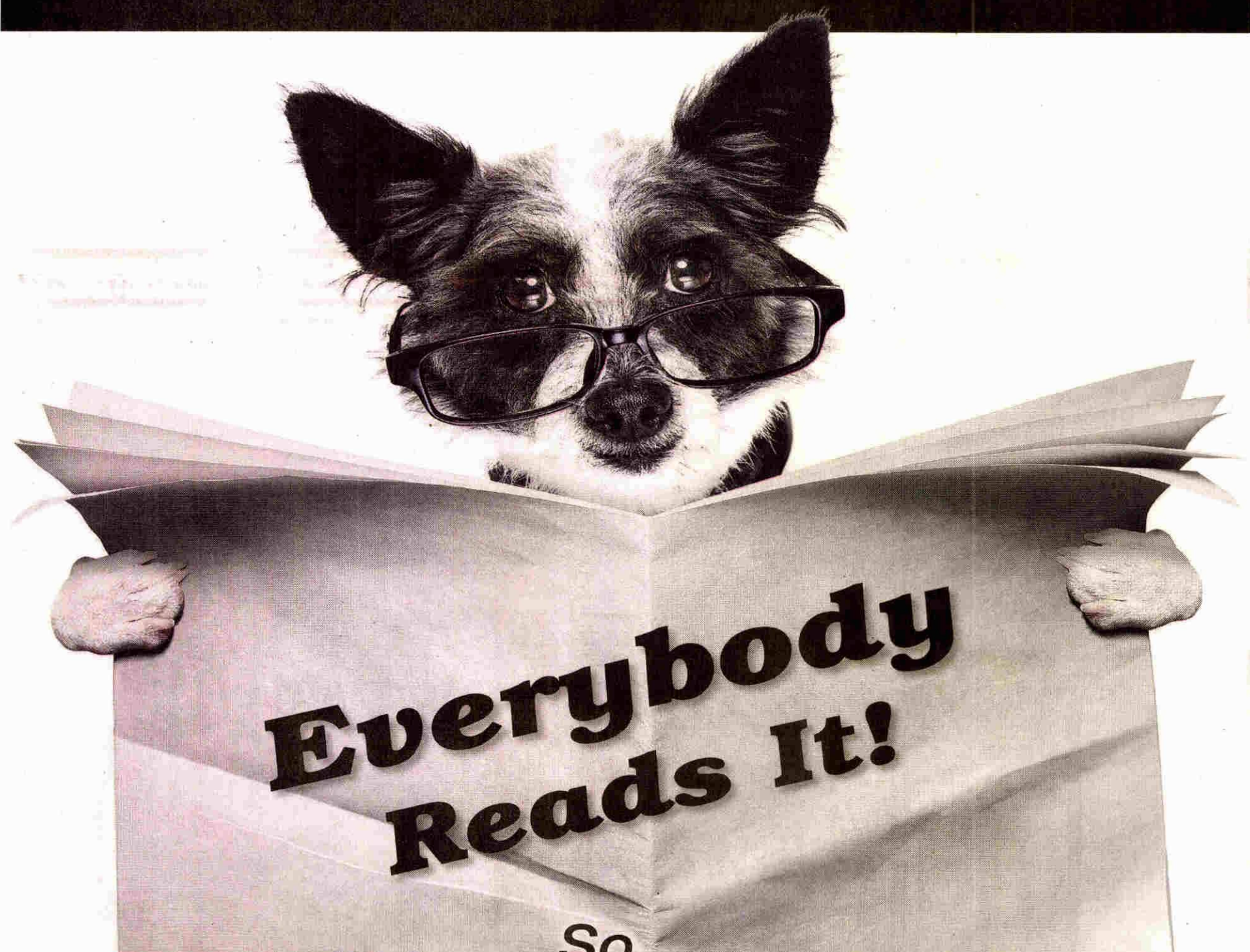
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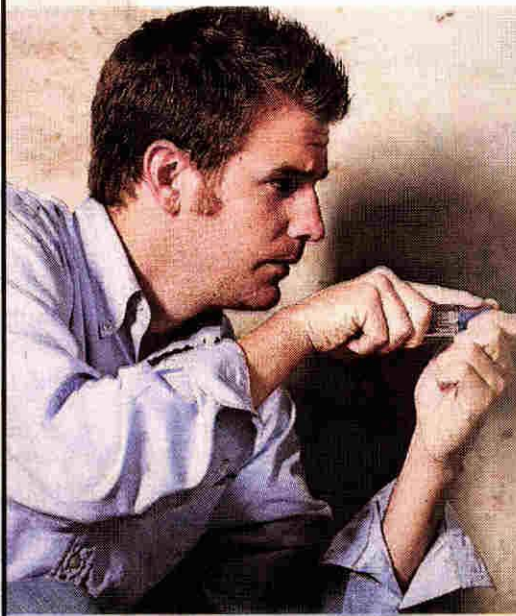
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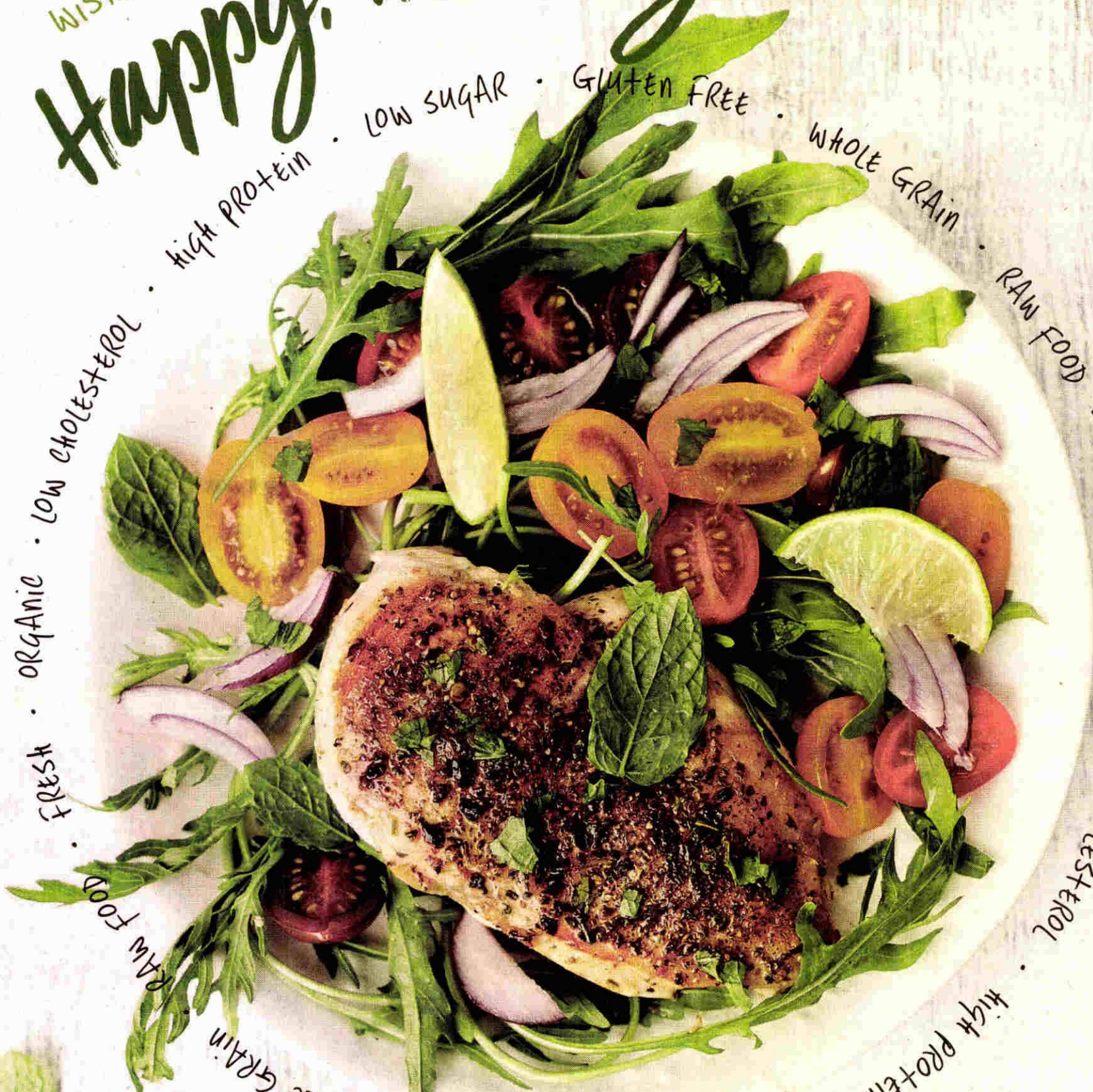
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