

# OBSERVER CANTON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Saxtons site plan gets preliminary approval

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Could another plan for the former Saxtons building on Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth see the light of day? A recent vote by the city's planning commission could be an indicator of new life at the site.

The commission approved a preliminary site plan and planned unit development for the site. Those plans include a restoration of the Jewell building, the removal of the modern Saxtons building and the addition of 10 town homes along Maple Street.

"We hope that you have a sense of what we're trying to develop here and the various pieces of the development," said Leo Gonzalez, a representative of the developer looking to build on the site, Ann Arbor-based Jewell Maple Development, during the Oct. 9 meeting. "The Jewell building has been deteriorating for a number of years and is in need of preservation.

"It's important to the community. We

feel it's very important to this project."

The plans came to the planning commission less than a year after a previous developer pulled out of the project. That previous plan would have included a parking garage and other renovations to the historic building.

See SITE PLAN, Page 2A



Dr. Betz King's research focuses on the potential correlation between health, happiness and regular visits to a dog park. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Are dog park-goers happier? Probably.

## Study claims people 60 and older benefit most

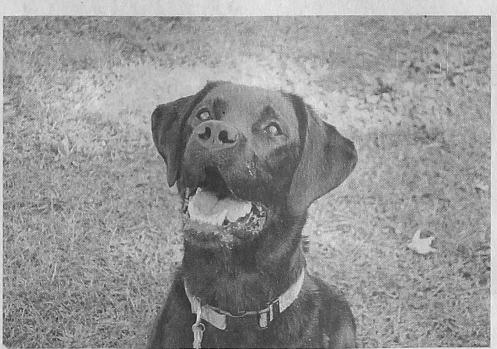
**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Dr. Betz King loves taking her three dogs to the William Grace Dog Park before she heads to work every day.

Those morning visits to the park make her, and the friends she's made there, happy. King, a psychologist and owner of King and Associates in Farmington Hills, started wondering if she could prove that dog parks are likely to increase someone's quality of life.

"I come here every day in the morning to get my dogs tired before I go to work," King said. "So I was witnessing the community and a lot of the benefits

See DOG PARKS, Page 4A



Three-year-old Bodhi, King's youngest dog, loves to play at the dog park.

#### State budget vetoes affect students at Madonna U

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

As part of the budget struggles between Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan legislature, Whitmer vetoed 147 line items Oct. 7. One of those items was \$38 million worth of funding that goes toward private colleges like Madonna University in Livonia.

The money, part of which is called the Michigan Tuition Grant, is a needbased grant used by about 700 Madonna students.

"That can be the difference for them in attending college or not," said Madonna President Michael Grandillo.

Grandillo argued the state actually spends less money per college student if that student is attending a private college versus a public institution. Among those schools, he said Madonna ranks as the least expensive.

"We're a third of the price of public universities and less than a quarter of community colleges," he said.

The 700 Madonna students get about \$1.6 million every year from the state, or \$2,400 per student per academic year, through the grant.

Grandillo said it keeps students from having to take out more loans.

"If we did not have this grant, they would have to increase their loans by about \$10,000 and that would be, over a lifetime, almost \$7,000 of interest on top of that," he said.

Alaa Jaber, a junior double majoring in psychology and computer science while holding a senator position in student government, said any scholarship or grant money takes away stress.

"It's feels good to have money and not be so stressed about it," she said. "Especially, I'm a double major, so I'm taking a lot of classes. When I found out they're going to cut back ... I don't know how that's going to work now. From semester to semester, that adds up."

Junior Tony Floyd is a student-athlete majoring in sports management. With several younger siblings, he said the grant money he gets is helpful because his parents have more than one child to put through school.

"For me personally, it's pretty helpful. ... I work right now a little bit, but if I didn't have that scholarship I would probably have to work more," he said.

There are chances for the vetoed items to be restored at the state level, but that has yet to happen.

## Is taking a buyout from your pension a good idea?



The other day, GE announced that it will be offering many of its retirees a buyout of their pension. This is not unusual and we've seen more and more of this over the last number of years. Not too long ago, Ford offered buyouts of its pension and, more recently, General Motors did as well.

If you receive an offer from GE or, in fact, from any company that you have a pension with, you need to take the offer seriously and not decide one way or the other without some investigation. This is an important decision for your future, and you need to take your time in order to make the right decision.

When a buyout is offered, generally the amount offered is substantial. All too often people are enticed by the number, which can be a mistake.

Obviously, the amount offered in a buyout is important, if nothing more than to determine whether the offer is fair. In fact, one of the first things you should do when you receive a buyout is to determine if the offer is fair. You should not assume the buyout number is fair because, unfortunately, in many situations it is not.

In looking at an offer, keep in mind that the company is not doing this for your benefit, but for theirs.

There are many times that it pays to accept the offer; however, in the majority of situations, an individual would be better off financially keeping their pension.

The key if you do get a pension buyout offer is to focus on your individual situation, not what your next-door neighbor or your best friend is doing.

Ask yourself what you plan to do with the money. For example, if you're going to need income on a regular basis from In fact, one of the first things you should do when you receive a buyout is to determine if the offer is fair. You should not assume the buyout number is fair because, unfortunately, in many situations it is not.

that money, the question is, how you are going to invest it? In my view, if you're planning to invest it in CDs, government bonds or an annuity, you're probably much better off to keep your pension. On the other hand, if you don't need the income from the buyout, and you will invest the money in equities, and you are looking long term, it probably is best to accept the buyout.

Whether someone accepts the buyout or not is a difficult decision, and many people don't have the knowledge or skill to make that decision themselves. Therefore, they may have to retain the services of a professional. In that regard, make sure you hire a profes-

sional as opposed to a salesperson.

The worst person to talk to about a buyout is a salesperson who is trying to sell you a product. The key is to make sure that you deal with a professional: someone who has your best interest, and only your interest, at heart. When you deal with a salesperson, you don't know if they're operating in your best interest or theirs.

Whether it is the GE buyout, a buyout from one of the automotive companies or, in fact, any company, you need to take time to analyze the proposal to determine if it's in your best interest.

My advice: if you're not sure what best works for you, probably the safe way of going is to keep your pension.

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

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#### Site plan

Continued from Page 1A

Saxtons closed in 2012, with the city purchasing the building afterward.

The project has been before the planning commission earlier this year, with commissioners delaying it to have a few things worked out, including issues surrounding trees in the current parking lot, garbage collection for the town homes and height of the town homes.

Another issue discussed was the front porches. Commission Chair Karen Sisolak said having porches fits with the vision the commission has had for downtown.

"We've been working very hard on this commission to encourage front porches," she said.

Gonzalez said the town homes will fit the atmosphere of downtown Plymouth, attracting empty-nesters and others.

"I think it's uniquely different than anything else that's been built in the



The former Saxtons property sits at 587 Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

city," he said. "If you want to walk to the park and live in a town house, you don't have a lot of options."

Final approval would still be needed from the planning and the city commissions before work could begin.

The plan was met with praise from

several of neighbors.

Bill Lincoln, who lives on Maple, said the plan was a marked improvement over the current situation.

"It's 1,000 times better than what we have, and it's well done," he said. "It allows us to have neighbors again."





The Westland Fire Department recently received a federal SAFER grant in the amount of \$2.4 million that it is hoping to use to hire 13 firefighters. SUBMITTED

## WFD receives \$2.4M grant to hire firefighters

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Westland hopes to hire 13 firefighters with a \$2.4 million federal SAFER grant the city fire department recently received.

SAFER stands for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, and the grants are managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The grants are intended to help firefighting agencies increase or maintain their number of trained "frontline" firefighters in their communities.

Westland officials say the city will contribute to the hiring with matching funds over a three-year period amounting to about \$323,000 in years one and two and about \$839,000 in the third year.

"There is no doubt that the additional manpower awarded through the SAFER

grant will play a vital role in increasing the efficiency of the fire department to continue to provide the excellent service. Westland residents deserve," Westland Fire Chief Michael Stradtner said in a press release. "It is our intention to begin hiring as soon as possible and take full advantage of this 'big win' for the City of Westland."

Mayor William Wild said securing a SAFER grant is competitive process.

"Communities across the county are faced with difficulties adequately staffing their public safety departments," Wild said in the press release. "Westland is fortunate for this opportunity to ensure the fire department can continue to deliver the service residents have to come to expect and deserve."

Contact Susan Vela at svela@ hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

## Man charged with criminal sexual conduct after Tinder meetup

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Tinder date turned sour recently in Canton Township with a man now facing a charge of third-degree criminal sexual conduct.

According to a heavily-redacted report, a police officer spotted a female pacing a parking lot near Michigan Avenue and Lotz Road during the early morning hours of Sept. 17. He learned she was on the phone reporting a possible rape.

The woman was crying and having a difficult time speaking, but she told the officer she had met someone on Tinder, the popular dating app, a few days prior. They began communicating with each other via text messages and Snapchat.

He picked her up between 10:30 and 11 p.m., and they headed to a Mexican restaurant

They drove around after their date before going to a hotel in Canton around midnight. They talked and watched TV. She told officers he became increasingly aggressive, from grabbing her butt and breasts to hitting her face and pushing her onto a bed. Sex happened. She said she went with him to a bar afterward out of fear. Soon after they entered the bar, she lost track of him. He texted saying that her belongings were deposited on the curb. She found her bag on the side of the road but not a blue jean jacket that contained approximately \$160.

She told police she called, texted and sent Snapchat messages to get back her coat. He said that he would return it if she didn't talk to police.

When he did not return, she took a Lyft drive to the hotel in Canton. Her room key no longer worked because her date had checked out.

Police talked to hotel employees, who reported that the man told them he was checking out because he no longer wanted to be around a crazy person he met on Tinder, the report stated.

The next day, the police drove to the suspect's address to start making requests for statements. The suspect said the woman called about 100 times the morning he left her at the bar.

He told police they had talked about money and threats were made about domestic violence. He said their sexual contact was consensual and did not involve hitting in the face.

## Driver killed in I-275 crash in Farmington Hills

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Nissan veered off the northbound lanes of Interstate 275 in Farmington Hills on Saturday evening, catching fire and trapping the driver inside, according to Michigan State Police.

The driver was pronounced dead at

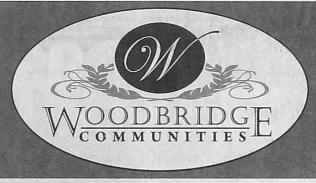
In a series of Tweets, troopers re-

ported that the Nissan broke from the northbound I-275 lanes – just south of the interchanges with Interstate 96, Interstate 696 and M-5 – around 5 p.m.

It drove into a ditch and then over a hill before going airborne.

The Nissan was on the grounds of an apartment complex when it burst into flames with the driver inside.

Troopers have not identified the driver. The investigation continues.



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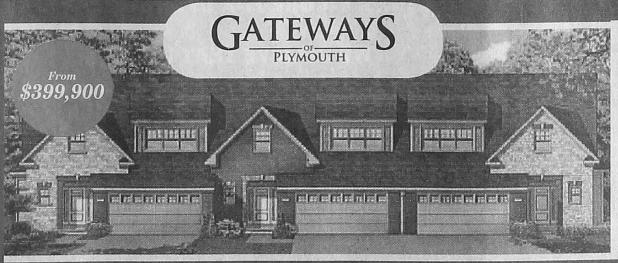


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Dr. Betz King said spending time with her dogs before work at the William Grace Dog Park is a cherished part of her mornings. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

#### Dog parks

Continued from Page 1A

that, indeed, showed up in the research. I knew it made me happy and seemed to make other people happy."

In the mornings and after dinner, William Grace Dog Park, 29040 Shiawassee Road in Farmington Hills, is full of dogs and owners soaking in fresh air and enjoying some exercise. So, King and a graduate assistant named Adam Duberstein conducted a study on those people to see if they were, indeed, happier.

The mixed method study, done through the Michigan School of Professional Psychology in Farmington Hills, surveyed over 40 people and interviewed about a dozen others to determine their satisfaction of life and if that satisfaction could be tied to frequent dog park visits.

"We found that our respondents are highly satisfied with life," King said, noting that respondents 60 years and older were especially happy. "So, more satisfied than the general population."

People, though they originally came to the dog park for the well-being of their dogs, reported finding a sense of community as well as having better mental and physical health.

"The sense of belonging, obviously, we know is good for mental health," King said. "People said they felt better when they left, so their mood was improved by being here... Some people lost weight, some people quit smoking."

The only downers King found were the injuries and dog fights that can happen as well as the desire for a little shade at the dog park.

"There are some dog fights, and

they're scary when they happen," she said. "It's not very often, but when they happen they're scary. There are (also) human injuries. So there have been multiple broken bones here, including me. I broke my ankle here."

Because of the smaller sample size, the research isn't statistically significant. But, it's left King wanting to know more.

"I would love to try to tease out how much is dog, how much is being outside, how much is community and all of those variables just because they're happening at the same time," she said. "We don't know what the relationship of those variables is."

King suspects she could conduct between six and eight more studies on the topic and expand it to include all of Oakland County's dog parks, but she doesn't have plans to do so yet as the initial research just wrapped up in August. Dogs, exercise and being outside are all positive for someone's health and mood. King wants to know if those three thing put together are somehow more positive than just owning a dog or exercising alone.

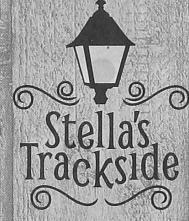
"If somebody went out and walked two miles without a dog, would they be highly-satisfied with life? We don't know," she said.

A larger study would also incorporate different races and economic backgrounds than King's small pilot study did, which she said could alter the results

Farmington Hills isn't the only community locally to have a dog park. Similar ones can be found in Wixom, Livonia, Novi, Birmingham, Northville and Canton. Milford is expected to open a dog park before the end of the year.

Contact Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.





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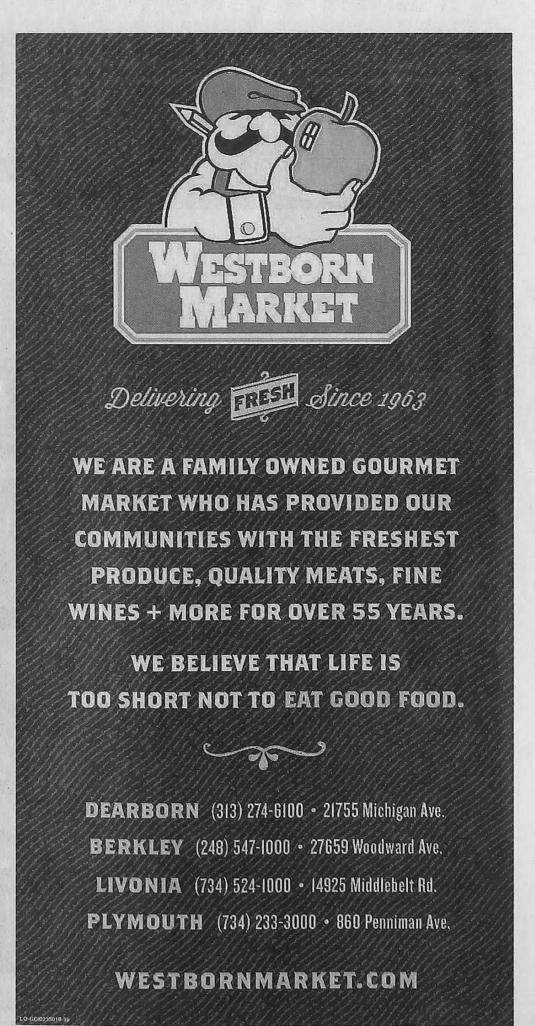
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"If you are in the market for a new home, you don't want to miss this event. It's a perfect opportunity to sample the lifestyle of a Toll Brothers community," says Nadia Mekled, Regional Sales Manager for Toll Brothers.

Each community will provide treats and festive activities such as free pumpkin picking from the community 'pumpkin patch' to seasonal treats like cider, donuts, and caramel apples plus goodies for the kids.

In addition to the activities, visitors will have the opportunity to tour several model homes and homes at various stages of construction, providing the opportunity to see the builder's quality standards first-hand.

"We also have homes available for quicker occupancy for those that need to move right away," says Mekled. "You can visit and tour today and be in for the holiday season!" she adds. For more information on the builder's quick delivery homes, visit QuickDeliveryHomes.com/MI.

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Hamlet Pointe and Hamlet Meadows are located within the existing community of The Hamlet offering an exceptional location close to Plymouth-Canton schools, the Ford Road Shopping District, expressways, parks and the quaint Cherry Hill Village.

At Hamlet Meadows, pricing starts in the upper \$300,000s. Two-story home designs range from 2,411 sq. ft. to more than 2,842 sq. ft. Brand new, open-concept designs are now available. Hamlet Pointe features large home sites and side-entry garages. Homes are priced from the upper \$400,000s. Three stunning model homes are now available to tour and quick move in homes are available. For details, visit The-Hamlet.com or call (734) 398-5939.

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to The Sports Club of Novi, a dog park, and Novi Ice Arena. Pricing begins in the mid-\$400,000s. Final home sites have been released so buyers should hurry in for best selection. For details, call (248) 904-8515 or visit RidgeviewVillas.com.

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Located on the north side of Scio Church Road, just west of Maple Road, the lowmaintenance luxury villas offer an exceptional list of included features in a stunning setting with pricing from the upper \$400,000s. The final opportunity with a firstfloor master suite is now available for immediate move-in. For details, call (734) 224-6686 or visit Kensington-woods.com.

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The Villas range from 2,041 to 2,631+ square feet and offer first- or second-floor master suites, island kitchens, open layouts, loft space, and more. The Townhomes just released new exterior styles and range from 1,861 to 1,890+ sq. ft. and include a 2-car garage, finished lower level, and the option to add a rooftop deck.

A clubhouse with a fitness center, yoga room, billiards, great room with fireplace, verandas overlooking the lap and wading pools, locker rooms and a play park is now open. North Oaks is located minutes from the University of Michigan's north campus, the VA Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, and downtown Ann Arbor. Children attend acclaimed Ann Arbor Schools with the elementary and middle schools just 3 minutes away. For details, call (734) 224-6686 or visit North-Oaks.com.

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## Ten spooky events to catch before Halloween

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

It's spooky season again, and local communities aren't waiting until Oct. 31 to enjoy Halloween.

Here's a roundup of some of the community kid-friendly events happening on or before Halloween.

#### Trick or treat in the Novi Town Center

Novi Parks will host some early trick or treating 1-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Novi Town Center.

All of the businesses in the town center will give away candy and kids can enjoy the "Freaky Fun Room" along with free balloon characters, a photo booth, face painting and more.

The pink Novi Police vehicle will also be on-scene for kids to check out. People can sign the SUV after giving a \$5 donation to Providence Hospital's Believe in Miracles fund.

#### **Greenmead Halloween walk**

Livonia's Greenmead Historical Park hosts a Halloween walk every year, giving folks a taste of history along with their treats. This year's event, happening 5-7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, will be no different.

Trick or treaters will find sweets and other goodies at the village's structures and will be welcome to the Friends Meeting House for some refreshments when they're done. Greenmead volunteers will also host guided tours of the village throughout the night.

Tickets are \$6 a person and must be purchased ahead of time. To buy a ticket or get more information, call 248-477-7475.

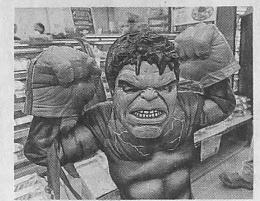
#### Farmington story time and trick or treating

Before downtown Farmington begins some daytime trick or treating at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19, the Farmington Community Library is inviting families to enjoy a few Halloween stories.

The free event, taking place II a.m. to noon at the 23500 Liberty Street location, will let kids enjoy some what the



The Governor Warner Mansion will become haunted for a night Oct. 19. SUBMITTED



Child-friendly Halloween events will be plentiful this year. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

library calls "not-so-spooky" stories as well as some crafts and other festive activities

#### Ghost Night at Gov. Warner Mansion

Running 7-9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19, the Governor Warner Mansion in Farmington will become haunted for "Ghost Night at the Mansion." The night will include ghost stories, witches, ghost hunters, palm readings, a haunted Ford Model T as well as cider and doughnuts.

Advance tickets are \$10, and tickets bought at the door will cost \$12. For

more information or to purchase tickets, call 248-474-5510.

#### Milford's Boo Bash

The Milford Business Association is bringing an hour of trick or treating for kids to downtown Milford the Saturday before Halloween called the Boo Bash.

On Oct. 26, kids and families can trick or treat around the businesses on Main Street in downtown Milford from 5-6 p.m. People can begin at any location downtown.

#### Parmenter's trick or treating

Northville's Parmenter's Cider Mill as well as the Northville Winery and Brewing Company will give kids under the age of of 13 a different kind of treat on Halloween.

Kids in costume will be able to stop by the cider mill for a free doughnut and cup of cider on Halloween, which is Thursday, Oct. 31. The giveaway will take place 6-8 p.m.

#### Westland's Mall-O-Ween

For the third year in a row, the Westland Shopping Center will host the Mall-O-Ween Spooktacular 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19. The free event is sponsored

by the City of Westland and Parkside Credit Union.

Kids ages 12 and younger are welcome to come in costume and enjoy trick or treating throughout the mall as well as inflatables, face painting, a photo booth, music and more. All activities, other than the trick or treating, will take place in the mall's East Court.

#### Plymouth's Pumpkin Palooza

An annual Plymouth favorite, Pumpkin Palooza, is back this year and will be held noon to 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 20.

The free event, hosted in downtown Plymouth, serves up treats and lets families enjoy performers, music, dancing, costume contests, a petting zoo and more. Pets are even welcome to join in the fun.

#### **Treats in South Lyon**

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, the South Lyon Farmers and Artisans Market will host trick or treating for kids. The day will also be the market's last of the season.

Every vendor at the market will have some kind of treat or prize for trick or treaters. D & W Street Eatery food truck will also be on scene making tacos for anyone hungry for a bite.

South Lyon is also hosting a downtown trick or treating event 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24.

#### **Farmington Band Spooktacular**

For the opening of its 54th season, the Farmington Community Band is carrying on a longtime tradition, it's Spooktacular XXXIV. The free event will take place 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27 at North Farmington High School.

The event's theme is "At the Movies" and is friendly to all ages. Attendees will enjoy music from some of their favorite movies like "Black Panther" and receive a bag of treats. Everyone is encouraged to come in costume, and kids can appear on stage with the band during a parade.

Contact Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter at @shelby\_tankk.



Endorsed by:

Mayor Dennis Wright
Former Mayor Jack Kirksey
Former Mayor Jack Engebretson

"There is no one as prepared as Laura to take over the reins as Mayor of Livonia. Please join me and vote for Council President Laura Toy for Mayor,"

**Dennis Wright**Mayor of Livonia

"I believe our choice in a Mayor is really about deciding between two very different paths. I'm satisfied that I've made the right decision about who I think is the best choice as a leader for Livonia right now...I am endorsing Laura Toy for Mayor."

#### **Bruce Tenniswood**

Retired Firefighter & Deputy Fire Chief Livonia Community Activist & Former Candidate for Mayor City Council President

## LAURA TOY

for Livonia Mayor

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Maintain strong services for seniors and the disabled

Partner with our schools and universities in Livonia

Support small businesses and job providers



#### Police: Trio stole ATM cash box from Canton theater

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

They broke into Canton's Emagine movie theater but didn't stick around to catch a show.

Canton Township public safety officials say they were dispatched to the Ford Road institution around 3:30 a.m. Oct. 9 because a vehicle had crashed into the building.

Officers found significant damage to the movie house's front doors and an ATM inside the lobby.

Their investigation gleaned that three males had managed to remove the cash box from the ATM before fleeing the scene in a Dodge Ram truck stolen earlier from a nearby apartment complex.

The vehicle was recovered soon afterward at a business near the theater.

The case remains under investigation. Anyone with possible information on this incident is asked to contact the Canton Police Department at 734-394-



A Dodge Ram crashed into Canton's Emagine movie theater around 3:30 a.m. Oct. 9. According to police, three men managed to remove an ATM cash box before fleeing in the pickup. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

#### Lawsuit accuses former Metroparks chief of sexual harassment

Christina Hall Detroit Free Press **USA TODAY NETWORK** 

A former Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority employee alleges in a federal lawsuit that the authority's ex-director sexually harassed her and that the authority created a hostile work environment at the agency which operates the regional Metropark system.

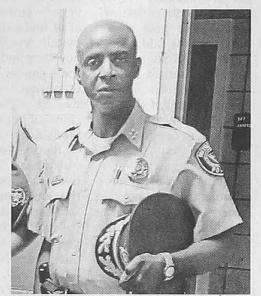
Carla McAfee is suing the authority and former director George Phifer in a complaint filed last week in U.S. District Court in Detroit. Phifer resigned in 2017 amid an internal investigation of which the nature was not publicly disclosed.

McAfee is seeking a jury trial and a judgment in excess of \$75,000 plus costs and attorney fees, according to the

It states that McAfee, of Farmington Hills, started working at the authority in February 2016 as a multimedia graphic design specialist, and Phifer was her immediate supervisor.

On her first day of work, she says she was called to his office, given a pay raise and told that he wanted "to see if she was management material," according to the complaint.

Less than two weeks later, she alleges Phifer called her into his office, said he liked her attire and made an OK sign with his hands, making her uncomfortable. That same month, the complaint states, he asked her to meet with



Former Metroparks director George Phifer has been accused of sexual harassment in a federal lawsuit filed by a former employee. FILE

him in his office, where the door was locked.

In April 2016, she was promoted to multimedia design supervisor. That same month, McAfee said Phifer took her to lunch, at which time she believed he was trying to "make a pass at her." When she started talking about her husband and church, Phifer "abruptly said he had to leave and left immediately," according to the complaint.

In May 2016, it states, Phifer told her co-workers that McAfee was not to eat lunch with them anymore because she was a supervisor; and he began calling her desk phone during her lunch hour to verify she was at work. She alleges that he also yelled and berated her and called her after work and on weekends.

In the complaint, McAfee said Phifer extended her probation period for another year. When her extended probation ended in February 2017, she said the sexual harassment began again.

During an April 2017 event at Stony Creek Metropark, McAfee said Phifer tried to touch her arm and back. Her complaint states that she was "concerned that Phifer would again try to sexually harass her, and she was worried that he wanted sexual favors in exchange for taking (her) off probation."

McAfee said that Phifer looked her body up and down during a June 2017 meeting during lunch, made an OK gesture with his hands, and said it was okay for her to eat because "she looks good."

McAfee's lawsuit states the authority was "well aware" that her complaints "were not the first time that anyone complained" that Phifer sexually harassed them. Complaints about him "went back to at least 2010, with no corrective action taken whatsoever" until he resigned Aug. 14, 2017, according to the lawsuit.

It states that in July 2017, McAfee

was informed that her position had been demoted. In October 2017, it states, she informed the authority that she would be going to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

EMAG/NE

When Plaintiff did report the situation to the EEOC, her work environment immediately became hostile," according to the complaint. "Plaintiff was subject of jokes, comments, and outright hostility from her supervisors at the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority."

McAfee alleges in the lawsuit that in November 2017 she was asked to withdraw her EEOC complaint to help the deputy director get the open director job; she refused.

In June 2018, McAfee was placed on administrative leave for 14 business days. Her leave was extended the next month on the recommendation of the company psychologist, according to her complaint. It states her leave ended in August 2018, and she requested a severance package in September 2018.

Her medical insurance and other benefits were terminated in April of this year. Although she was advised that she was terminated, McAfee alleges in her complaint that she has yet to receive a termination letter from the authority.

The authority oversees 13 Metroparks in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and Washtenaw counties. Taxpayers in each county pay a millage to fund the parks.

## **Obituaries**

#### Alice Ross McCarthy, PhD

EVANSTON, IL - Alice Ross McCarthy, PhD, 95 years old, passed away in her sleep on September 18, 2019 in Evanston, Illinois after a long illness.

She had moved to live in the Presbyterian Home in Evanston in 2011 to be closer to her family. However, for most of her adult life Dr. McCarthy lived in Birmingham, Michigan where she raised her five children.

She was born April 23, 1924 in Cooperstown, New York to Nelson and Amanda Ross. As the eldest in a farm family, she began her education in a one room school house for grades one through six. She often

commented on the excellence of that experience, with older students assisting the teacher to teach the younger students. She was active in 4-H, and made many of her own clothes, including a prize-winning pair of tailored pajamas. As part of her 4-H experience she visited Cornell University, where she later received her B.S. in Human Ecology. Due to the war, she completed college childraising. She authored and published several books including the book in three years, and immediately enlisted in the United States Army, Women's Army Corps (WAC), where she served until the end of hostilities in 1945. She worked conducting neuropsychotherapeutic interviews with blinded soldiers under the direction of a psychiatrist, Major Bernard Diamond, at Dibble General Hospital in San Francisco.

When she was discharged she returned to Cornell for graduate school and received her Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling. While there she met her future husband, Walter J. McCarthy Jr., who was an engineering student. They married in 1949, and eventually moved to Birmingham, Michigan where her husband served as CEO of the Detroit Edison Company.

In Birmingham, besides devoting herself to raising her five children, Dr. McCarthy was involved with numerous educational and civic leadership endeavors. These included conceptualizing and leading the Birmingham Environmental Center, working for Common Ground and Art in the Park, and serving as President of the Board of the Merrill Palmer Institute in Detroit. She served on the Board of Regents of Lake Superior State University (Marina) McCarthy of Fort Myers, Florida and nine beloved grandchildren, in Michigan and eventually became Chairman of the Board of Regents at Mike McCarthy, Christy McCarthy, Caroline (Ian) Murphy, Steve (Chelsey) the college.

Dr. McCarthy was an avid gardener, and for many years her gardens were McCarthy and William McCarthy. part of garden tours for the National Garden Conservancy. She developed exceptional collections of tree peonies, hellebores, and miniature evergreens. Methodist Church in Westfield, NY. Burial will follow at Westfield Cemetery. She was very fond of entertaining in her home with her husband, and was

known as an exceptional cook who prepared food for days before formal dinners. Dr. McCarthy was a collector with a natural eye, and in addition to her

love of antique furniture, she had special expertise in three areas. She was an early collector of Inuit sculpture and traveled often with her son, Jim, to Canada to acquire work in Windsor and Toronto. Her collection was displayed at regional presentations. Her knowledge of oriental rug history and design was extensive and she owned several dozen beautiful rugs. Her third collection was of pottery from the American Southwest. She went on multiple driving trips throughout the southwest with her sons David and Jim to acquire additions to her collection and to visit the Indian pueblos where they were made.

Always interested in learning, she returned to academia and received her PhD in Adult Education and the Family from Wayne State University in 1986. This allowed her to form her own publishing company, Bridge Communications, which focused on educational material aimed at parenting and Healthy Teens, subsequently used by numerous colleges to teach adolescent development and health. She authored and edited a weekly column for the Detroit Free Press for the "Parent Talk" page with advice on parenting from an advisory panel of 45 professionals. For many years Dr. McCarthy produced a newsletter on parenting for the State of Michigan with a readership of 1.5 million at its peak.

Dr. McCarthy was a dedicated proponent of the importance of parenting in children's lives, the advancement and equality of women in society and

the importance of community service. She was preceded in death by her ex-husband of 39 years, Walter J. Mc-Carthy Jr. and her brothers David (Mary Ellen) Ross and Albert Ross. She is survived by her brother, Howard (Ivone) Ross, her sister-in-law Joyce Ross, her five children, Walter (Mary) McCarthy of Kenilworth, Illinois, David McCarthy of Kingston, New York, Sharon McCarthy (David Krackhardt) of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, James McCarthy of Chicago, Illinois and William Krackhardt, Katie Krackhardt, Dan Krackhardt, Alexa McCarthy, Caline

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, October 26 at 1 p.m. at the United

## US Supreme Court struggling with case on transgender issues

**Todd Spangler Detroit Free Press** USA TODAY NETWORK

WASHINGTON

Hearing the case of a transgender woman from Redford Township last week, several U.S. Supreme Court justices seemed to struggle to find a way to balance precedents against using sex stereotypes while maintaining separate genderbased rules for bathrooms, dress codes and programs meant to ensure equality.

"There are other women ... who would feel intruded upon if someone who still had male characteristics walked into their bathroom," Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, questioning how rights of non-transgender women could be balanced with those of transgender women. "The hard question is, how do we deal with that?'

The justices heard the case of Aimee Stephens, a 58-year-old transgender woman who was born as a biologically assigned male. In 2013, she told her boss at the Garden City funeral home where she had worked for nearly six years that she intended to begin dressing as a woman in accordance with the company's dress code.

Owner Thomas Rost told her it wouldn't work and when she turned down a severance package, he fired her.

David Cole, legal direc-



Aimee Stephens' transgender rights case was heard at the U.S. Supreme Court recently. Stephens was fired from her job when she said she wanted to dress as a woman. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

tor for the American Civil Liberties Union, argued on Stephens' behalf that the case came down to Stephens' sex and stereotypes about gender. While the 1964 Civil Rights Act doesn't specifically mention transgender rights, Stephens and the ACLU argue that it and court precedents namely one in which the court found it was wrong to deny a woman a promotion because she was too aggressive and not sufficiently feminine prohibit making an employment action based on

And while companies may have gender-based dress codes, Cole argued that Rost saying Stephens had to dress as a

sex stereotypes.

man "is saving I object to you because you fail to conform to this stereotype: The stereotype that if you are assigned a male sex at birth, you must live and identify for your entire life as a man."

'That is a true generalization for most of us, but it is not true for 1.5 million transgender Americans," he added.

Cole made clear he wasn't trying to require the court to declare transgender people a protected class but making the legal argument that firing Stephens for not dressing according to the sex Rost considered her to be violated the law. "She's not seeking any special protection. She is seeking and all transgender people are seeking - the same protection that everyone else gets under the law," Cole said.

But as Michigan lawyer John Bursch argued for Rost and the funeral home, several of the justices — who also that day heard from lawyers on a pair of consolidated cases asking whether it was lawful to fire people because they were gay clearly struggled to understand what test they might apply to determine what is a violation and what is not.

Under the law, genderbased differences — such as dress codes - are generally allowed as long as they don't give an advantage to one gender over another. In the case of

that means as long as there are bathrooms for each gender, it's not discriminatory.

And even members of the liberal wing of the court, including Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, acknowledged that most members of the public want separate bathrooms. Sotomayor, too, noted that Bursch's argument that employing women who had formerly been men or who were transitioning at a shelter for abused women was a "powerful" one.

But they also argued that there are clear legal rules that prohibit discriminating against someone because of their sex and that making a transgender woman dress as a man — or vice versa - could well be one of of them since it's ultimately wrapped up with how they and others view their gender. "Here, Ms. Stephens was being treated differently because of her sex," Justice Elena Kagan said.

Justice Neil Gorsuch was among the most active questioners during the hour-long hearing on Stephens' case and the consolidated one that preceded it, taking up the question of harm.

gender-Generally, based requirements are allowed as long as they are viewed as innocuous. But he noted that requiring people to use one bathroom or another or to dress a certain way based

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bathrooms, for example, on their biologically assigned-at-birth sex may be innocuous to one group while being offensive to another.

Cole agreed, telling Gorsuch that while a dress code may typically be a trivial concern, "if you asked you or me to dress as a woman, that would be significant harm."

"And when you ask a transgender person to dress in a way that is contrary to their sense of gender identity, you have imposed a significant harm," Cole said.

Gorsuch, however, who is a member of the court's conservative wing, also asked whether it wasn't the court's duty to take into consideration the "massive social upheaval" that a decision in Stephens' favor might spark. Bursch suggested that allowing transgender women the same status as women assigned that gender at birth could have far-reaching impact on abuse shelters, sports programs for women and affirmative action efforts.

Cole disagreed that any such upheaval would be forthcoming.

Bursch also insisted that the ruling he is asking to be overturned one in which the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati found in Stephens' favor changes the law, saying that "sex itself is a stereotype," and will inevitably result in programs intended to help women specifically having to be opened to transgender women, too.

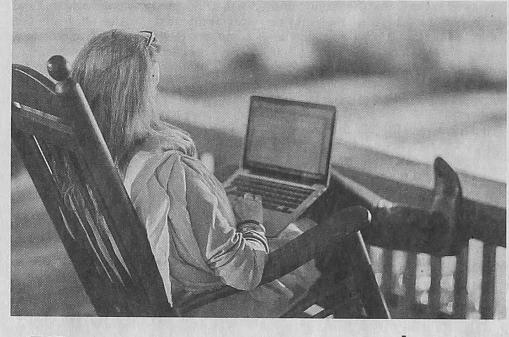
"When you do that, there is no sex discrimination standard under (the law) anymore. It's been completely blown up," Bursch said.

"You could have a male employee who identifies as a woman but doesn't dress as a woman, looks like a man, showing up in the shower and the locker room, and, again, the employer wouldn't be able to do anything about that because under Mr. Cole's theory, but for the fact he was a man, he could be there," Bursch said. "And it's stereotyping to say men cannot be in the women's bathroom."

Justice Samuel Alito appeared to agree with the argument about Congress' intent, saying that the U.S. House and Senate have had numerous chances to rewrite the law to specifically add sexual orientation and transgender status to the law and have not done so. "We will be acting as a legislature (if we do)," he said.

Several justices, however, appeared to say there was no reason that rules couldn't be put in place that could determine when and if genderbased programs should be barred to transgender individuals without denying protections to transgender individuals in employment cases, especially where the person had been doing the job and was clearly qualified.

At present, it's legal in some cases to require someone to meet a certain characteristic such as being a certain gender or religion - to be qualified for a specific job, as long as it's linked directly to the performance of the job, such as only hiring men to act as models for men's clothing.



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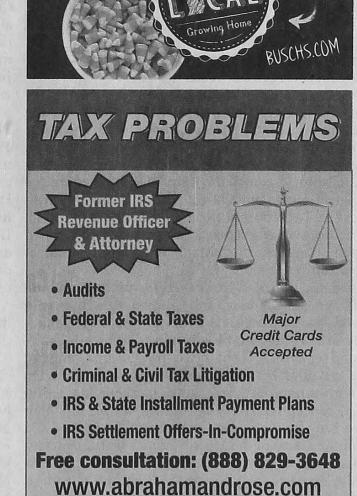
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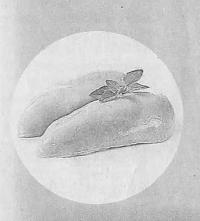
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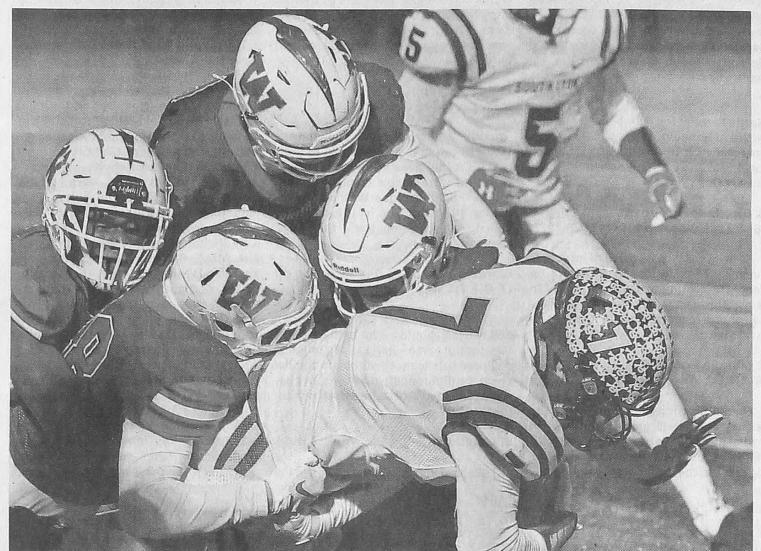
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## Sports





South Lyon's Mitch Komorous is tackled by several Walled Lake players Oct. 11. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Walled Lake Western upends South Lyon in LVC showdown

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

This game had been circled on the calendar since the summer for South Lyon, but it wasn't enough.

The Lions were unable to avenge last year's playoff loss to Walled Lake Western Friday night, falling 40-10 to the Warriors at Walled Lake Western High School

The win gives Walled Lake Western control of the Lakes Valley Conference and drops South Lyon to second place in the league. Both teams are now 6-1 overall, but Western's loss came in non-conference play to Orchard Lake St.

"Every facet of the game was disappointing for us tonight," South Lyon coach Jeff Henson said. "It's like we came out with great intentions and we had opportunities right there in the first quarter to really get on them, and it just didn't hap-

Here are three takeaways from the game:

#### Mistakes put Lions in early hole

South Lyon had its chances, but wasn't able to take advantage

It started on the first play off the game, when Walled Lake Western's return man stepped out of bounds with the ball at its own four-yard line. A couple plays later, the Warriors fumbled the ball and the Lions recovered, setting them up inside the 10. South Lyon was unable to score after being stopped on a fake field goal. Western then drove down the field and saw quarterback Zach Trainor connect with star wide receiver Abdur-Rahmaan Yaseen for a 38-yard touchdown.

'We get the ball right in the beginning of the game and don't get in on that fourth down play. We score there, who knows what happens," Henson said. "Give them credit, they're a good team and they did their job tonight, especially on the defensive side. Our offense struggled. I'm not making any excuses, we did not do our jobs tonight."

See SHOWDOWN, Page 4B

#### **Redford Thurston** hosting celebration of undefeated season

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

This Friday, Redford Thurston High School will be holding a special celebration during this week's football game against rival Redford Union.

Thurston, which is enjoying a great season with an overall record of 6-1 (5-1 in conference), will have its hands full with Redford Union (5-2 overall and 5-1 in conference).

The program is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the only undefeated team in school history. That team featured more than 10 players that won all-conference recognition in what at that point was the Northwest Suburban League.

Many players from the team will be in attendance, including captain Craig Mutch, who was an all-state running back and went on to play for Bo Schembechler at Michigan. Jim Johnson, who is now working at 104.3 WOMC, was also on the team and plans to be at the game.



Thurston High School's football team poses with the Supervisors Cup trophy after a come-from-behind win against Redford Union, 42-40 in overtime.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Attendees will meet at 4 p.m. where classmates will be able to catch up and go on school tours. They will then be honored at halftime of the football game.

It figures to be an exciting night for both current players and former players, especially with a highly anticipated matchup between Thurston and Union with playoff position on the line. The game will kick off at 7 p.m.

Contact Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

### Fifer's save boosts Stevenson past North Farmington

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With 30 minutes left in the game and no score, North Farmington started to put pressure offensively on Livonia Stevenson.

Off a free kick, Raiders sophomore midfielder Bryce Flynn saw a prime opportunity: pushing a header toward the top of the goal in an attempt for the first goal for either side, what could be a momentum-deciding goal.

Stevenson sophomore goalkeeper Eric Fifer punched the ball up and over the football goalpost, thwarting any chance at a North Farmington goal, as Stevenson defeated the Raiders 2-0 in the first round of the district playoffs in the MHSAA tournament.

'That was excellent in an absolute game-changing moment," Stevenson head coach Ken Shingledecker said. "It looked like it was going in, and Eric, so athletic, got up and got it. That was huge for us."

In the minutes after Fifer's save, Stevenson came around offensively.

Senior forward John Evangelista found the back of the net after finding a slim amount of daylight in the middle of the field. Junior forward Nick Lema put the nail in the coffin for North Farmington on a fastbreak, beating the one-on-one with a Raider defender from the right side.

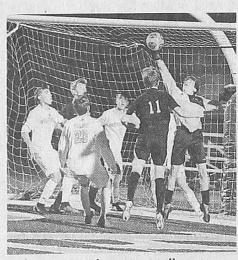
Fifer, watching the offense come to life, said he felt he had a part in igniting Stevenson's momentum.

"Everyone started to play harder. We were like 'Oh, we are still in this," Fifer said. "We realized they could score at any moment, and it could end

North Farmington head coach Erika Rust credited Fifer, but said the major factor for Stevenson was its ability in the counter-attack, taking advantage in transition. She said her offense brought too much pressure, allowing the Spartans to have space to work offensively.

Shingledecker said Stevenson changed its offensive formation in the second half, moving junior defender Adrian Rakipi to left back, leading to him setting up both Evangelista's and Lema's goals.

See SOCCER, Page 4B



Stevenson sophomore goalkeeper Eric Fifer records a save against North Farmington on Oct. 10. TOM BEAUDOIN/ SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM





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## HTL top 10 high school football teams: Week 8

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Week 7 of the high school football season is complete, and Hometown Life Sports is back with its weekly top-10 teams in the area. Each week, we rank the top 10 teams in our coverage area based on record, strength of schedule, experience and of course, the game results. The ranking will be decided on by our two sports reporters: Andrew Vailliencourt and Colin Gay.

Here is the top 10 for week 8:

#### 1. Plymouth (7-0, Last Week: No. 3)

Coming off a 42-7 win at Northville, Plymouth seems to be well on its way to an 8-0 record ahead of the KLAA crossover in Week 9 with a game against Salem this week. In the past three weeks, the Wildcats have defeated opponents by an average of 26 points.

#### 2. Farmington (7-0, Last Week: No. 5)

Heading into its meeting with North Farmington, Farmington continues to roll through its schedule, not scoring less than 30 points in a game this season and not allowing more than 24.

#### 3. North Farmington (7-0, Last Week: No. 6)

Other than a five-point season-opening victory against Waterford Kettering,



**Catholic Central's Jonathan Brewer** escapes Orchard Lake St. Mary's defenders to run down the field.

SCOTT CONFER/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

North Farmington has been dominant with Jon Herstein at the helm. The Raiders come off a 48-0 win against Okemos looking to end Farmington's undefeated season this week.

#### 4. Birmingham Groves (6-1, Last Week: No. 4)

Groves has won all three of its games since its 12-point loss to Oak Park on Sept. 20, scoring at least 40 points in two of those wins. The Falcons will face a Seaholm team that has lost two of its last three games.

#### 5. Livonia Franklin (6-1, Last Week: No. 1)

Franklin suffered its first loss of the season against Dearborn Fordson on Friday after the Patriots struggled with offensive inconsistency and allowing big plays to the Tractors offense. Things

do not get easier for Franklin, as it will take on Belleville at home on Friday.

#### 6. Detroit Catholic Central (4-3, Last Week: No. 8)

The Shamrocks did their best to solidify themselves as one of the better teams in the region last week by defeating a very good Orchard Lake St. Mary's team. They take on River Rouge this week as they march closer to a playoff berth.

#### 7. South Lyon (6-1, Last Week: No. 2)

Friday's game against Walled Lake Western can only be described as a disaster for the Lions. They had chances early, but were unable to capitalize before several fourth quarter touchdowns in their 40-10 loss. South Lyon should be able to get back on track this week against Milford.

#### 8. Detroit Country Day (7-0, Last Week: No. 7)

The Yellowjackets continue to win and will likely hold a spot in these rankings for the rest of the year. It's tough to compare this team to others on the list given the difference in divisions, but being undefeated is certainly worth some-

#### 9. Lakeland (5-2, Last Week: No. 9)

Lakeland picked up its fifth win of the

season Friday against Waterford Kettering. It was a tight game, but the Eagles will take it. They get Walled Lake Cen-

#### 10. Birmingham Seaholm (5-2, Last Week: NR)

Seaholm is back in the rankings this week after a 50-22 win over Troy Athens. To stay in the rankings, however, it'll require a huge rivalry win against Groves this week.

■ The Hometown Life sports area consists of 28 teams representing Catholic League (Novi Detroit Catholic Central, Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood), Independent (Detroit Country Day), the Oakland Activities Association (Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham Groves, Birmingham Seaholm, Farmington, North Farmington), the Western Wayne Athletic Conference (Garden City, Redford Thurston, Redford Union), the MIAC (Livonia Clarenceville, Lutheran Westland), the Kensington Lakes Activities Association (Canton, Livonia Stevenson, Salem, Novi, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Plymouth, Northville, Westland John Glenn, Wayne Memorial) and the Lakes Valley Conference (White Lake Lakeland, South Lyon East, South Lyon, Mil-

Contact Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

HTL GAME OF THE WEEK

#### North Farmington at Farmington tops list of must-see matchups

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan high school football season rolls into Week 8 after an eventful seventh week of the season. Here are six games to watch this week, including Hometown Life's Game of the Week: North Farmington at Farmington.

#### North Farmington at Farmington, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.

Ever since Harrison High School closed before the 2019-20 school year, this game has been circled on the calendar of Farmington and North Farmington fans alike.

Members of the now-defunct Harrison football team had to choose between Farmington and North Farmington to continue their high school career.

While many players, including senior quarterback Max Martin and linebacker Jireh Alexander, chose Farmington, the Harrison coaching staff - John Herrington, Michigan's all-time winningest high school football coach, serving under head coach Jon Herstein - chose to revive North Farmington football

Heading into the rivalry, both teams have seen ample amounts of success, with both Farmington and North Farmington coming into the game undefeated. Between the two teams, only the Raiders' season opening win against Waterford Kettering was by less than a three-touchdown scoring deficit.

In the first meeting between Herstein and Farmington head coach Kory Cioroch, an undefeated season is on the

Here are five other games to watch this week:

#### **Birmingham Groves** at Birmingham Seaholm, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.

Groves and Seaholm may be Birmingham-area rivals, but they have the same common enemy: Oak Park. The Knights defeated both Groves and Seaholm, handing the Falcons their first loss and the Maples their second loss of the season.

Coming off a 28-23 win against Rochester Hills Stoney Creek, Groves seems to be back on track after its only loss, winning each of its past three games.

Seaholm came roaring back as well, beating Troy Athens 50-22 on the road this past weekend. However, in the Maples' two-game losing streak, Seaholm was outscored 58-27.

Groves has won each of the past five meetings against Seaholm, with the Maples last defeating the Falcons 28-20 in 2013.

#### Livonia Franklin vs. Belleville, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.

In its first game against a five-win

team in 2019, Franklin struggled mightily. The Patriots offense could not find consistency, while the defense allowed multiple big plays to the Fordson offense, leading to Franklin's first loss of the season.

Things don't get easier for the Patriots in Week 8.

Franklin faces an undefeated Belleville team at home, a team that narrowly beat Fordson two weeks ago, but has defeated every other opponent by at least three touchdowns.

#### **Detroit Catholic Central** at River Rouge, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.

Last week, Catholic Central did what was thought to be impossible: beat Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

The Shamrocks came out with a close 20-14 win, handing the Eaglets their first loss of the season. Now Catholic Central remains locked in second place, tied with St. Mary's with a 2-1 division rec-

Catholic Central will next take on a River Rouge team that has not lost since the season opener —a 17-14 loss to Grand Rapids Catholic Central — and that has only allowed 26 points in its past five full games, including three shutouts.

#### Livonia Churchill at Livonia Stevenson, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.

Since its 49-48 triple-overtime loss to Franklin, Churchill has found winning football again. The Chargers have recorded two wins in its past two weeks, beating Dearborn 16-14 and Wayne Memorial 41-0.

Stevenson, on the other hand, is on the other end of the spectrum in terms of momentum. The Spartans have lost four of their past five games, falling to Belleville 56-7 this past Friday night.

While both teams remain at 3-4, Churchill seems to be looking up, and Stevenson seems to be the opposite.

#### Northville at Novi, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.

Neither Northville nor Novi have seen success in 2019.

The Mustangs have lost five of its past six games after their season-opening win against Westland John Glenn, losing the past two games by a combined score of 76-7.

Novi is currently on a four-game losing streak, but the Wildcats have lost its past two games by a margin of 14 points.

Northville has won against Novi in six of the past seven meetings.

Contact Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

#### Hometown Life Staff Football Picks: Week 8

Sports reporters Andrew Vailliencourt and Colin Gay, news reporters Ed Wright and David Vesalenak and aditor Phil Allmen make their weekly picks

ames nome Andrew eam Vailliencour sted rst):		Colin Gay	Ed Wright	David Veselenak	Phil Allmen (coin flip)	
Birmingham Seaholm vs, Birmingham Groves	Groves	Graves .	Groves	Groves	Groves	
Farmington vs. North Farmington	Farmington	Farmington	Farmington Farmington		North Farmington	
Milford vs. South Lyon	South Lyon	South Lyon	South Lyon	South Lyon	Milford	
Waterford Kettering vs. South Lyon East	South Lyon East	South Lyon East	South Lyon East	Kettering	South Lyon East	
Walled Lake Central vs. Lakeland	Lakeland	Lakeland	Lakeland	Lakeland	Lakeland	
River Rouge vs. Catholic Central	. Catholic Central		Catholic Central	Catholic Central	River Rouge	
Lapeer vs. Brother Rice	Lapeer	Lapeer	Brother Rice	Lapeer	Brother Rice	
Livonia Stevenson vs. Livonia Churchill	Churchill	Churchill	Churchill	Churchill	Livonia Churchill	
Livonia Franklin vs. Belleville	Belleville	Belleville	Belleville	Belleville	Belleville	
Novi vs. Northville	Novi	Northville	Novi	Northville	Novi	
Canton vs. Hartland	Hartland	Hartland	Hartland	Hartland	Hartland	
Salem vs. Plymouth	Plymouth	Plymouth	Plymouth	Plymouth	Plymouth	
Wayne Memorial vs. John Glenn	John Glenn	John Glenn	John Glenn	John Glenn	John Glenr	
Penn State vs. Michigan	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Michigan	
Eastern Michigan vs. Western Michigan	Western Michigan	Western Michigan	Western Michigan	Western Michigan	Eastern Michigan	
Utah vs. Arizona State	Utah	Útah	Utah	Arizona State	Arizona State	
Maryland vs. Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Maryland	Maryland	Indiana	
Washington vs. Oregon	Washington	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	
Virginia vs. Duke	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Duke	
Lions vs. Vikings	Lions	Lions	Lions	Lions	Lions	
Last Week's Record:	14-6	17-3	16-4	14-6	10-10	
Season	104-35-1	111-28-1	104-35-1	101-38-1	68-71-1	

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC STATODAY

## Novi knocks off Northville to advance in boys soccer playoffs

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

From the opening kick, it was clear that the Novi boys soccer team was superior to its Northville counterpart, but that didn't stop the Mustangs from hanging tough against a team that had already beaten them twice this season.

The Wildcats scored early and often Oct. 10 to defeat the Mustangs, 2-0, at Northville High School to advance to the district semifinals.

The Wildcats improved to 15-1-2 overall, while the Mustangs end their season at 4-11-3.

"It's hard to play a team three times, especially on their home turf and the guys came out, we had a game plan, we knew we wanted to push and attack and counter," Novi coach Todd Pheiffer said.

Novi got the scoring started quickly. About five minutes into the first half, Novi junior forward Shion Soga passed it in to senior forward James Ashworth who was able to turn and shoot it past Northville senior goalie Robert Damron from nearly point-blank range.

"They key was getting that first goal early," Pheiffer said. "We always talk about how we're such a better team if we score that first goal in the first five minutes. We play with more confidence.

"That happened the other night when we played Stevenson in the conference championship game. We got two goals early and that confidence comes out and we play better."

Later in the opening half, Novi struck again. This time instead of assisting, Soga took the shot himself from the far right side. It was a rocket and soared past Damron and into the net to make it 2-0 with just over three minutes remaining in the half. It was his 15th goal of the season.

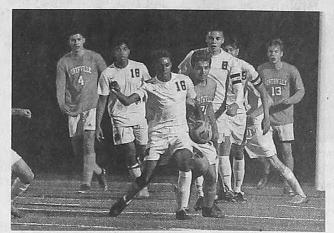
"It was good that we were able to score two goals, but we should've had more," Soga said. "We still have things to work on in practice."

Soga, who said after the game that he appreciated all the support the team had in the stands, has been a key part of the Novi attack throughout the season, earning him some high praise from his coach.

"He to me, is one of the best players in the state," Pheiffer said. "He's got that smoothness to him. He sees the field so well, he knows when to attack, when to make that pass, when to pick up speed and attack the goal. He's got great field awareness."

The Wildcats would take that two-goal lead into halftime

The second half was much more competitive, with both teams struggling to break through for a score. Both teams had a chance or two, but there weren't as many scoring opportunities as there were in the opening 40 minutes.



A bunch of Wildcats and Mustangs go after the ball near Novi's net. JOHN HEIDER/HOMERTOWNLIFE.COM

"They have a very good goalie," Pheiffer said.
"Robert's an amazing goalie, he has been for the four years he's been here, so we knew it'd be hard to get a ball by him. We wanted to make sure we took advantage of our opportunities."

Pheiffer knows a thing or two about winning state titles, having just done so in the spring with the Novi girls soccer team. After making in through the regular season with just one loss, there's hope that the boys team can bring home more hardware.

"The state tournament has a totally different feel. We cannot create the kind of pressure in practice that you're going to feel in these games," Pheiffer said. "Knowing that every time you step on the field could be your last opportunity, it's all about surviving and advancing."

advancing."

Contact Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

#### South Lyon East names Robinson as baseball coach

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The South Lyon East baseball team has named Rich Robinson as its new varsity baseball coach after former head coach Ryan Hilton announced his resignation in August.

Robinson has served as the junior varsity baseball coach and junior varsity assistant coach for South Lyon East, while also working as a 8u-13u travel baseball coach.

This past season, Robinson led the Cougars junior varsity baseball team to an 18-5-2 record.



Robinson

Robinson played college baseball at the University of California, Irvine, and at in high school at Perris High School in Perris, California.

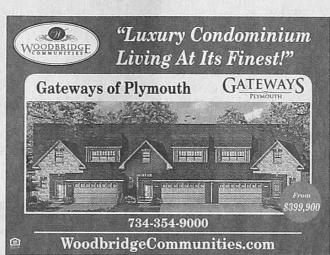
Robinson said he looks to "hit the ground running" in the South Lyon East baseball program, having previously coaches every player on the varsity baseball roster.

He said he has a committed coaching staff ready to compete at a high level in the Lakes Valley Conference.

According to the press release, Robinson has certifications through the National Pitching Association, which will encourage the development of the South Lyon pitching staff throughout the program for years to come.

In the 2019 season, South Lyon East finished eighth in the LVC with a 7-19 overall record, winning five of its 23 conference games.

Contact Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.







#### Showdown

Continued from Page 1B

Later in the first half, South Lyon had a punt blocked in its own territory. Western scored a touchdown a few plays later, another score for Yaseen, this time from 23-yards out. Trainor exited with an injury, so it was backup quarterback Jonathan Abele that came in and threw the touchdown pass.

'Their backup quarterback, you have to give him credit, he came in and did a nice job," Henson said. "They converted on four fourth downs, four damn fourth downs. We're extremely disappointed in how we performed."

Abele completed 9-of-13 passes for 127 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran the ball 13 times for 77 yards and a

South Lyon turned the ball over on downs on fourth and one from its own 27. The Lions ran a QB run up the middle, but lined up in shotgun. Western added to its lead soon after on a 14-yard run by Abele. That made it 21-0 Warriors with 4:37 to go in the second quarter.

"It's a big win, they were undefeated," Walled Lake Western coach Alex Grignon said. "We're three points from being undefeated too, we lost to one of the best teams in the state. We're not focused on who we're playing as much as how good can we be when we're dialed



South Lyon quarterback Connor Fracassi is brought down by some Walled Lake players Oct. 11.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

#### Can't capitalize

Late in the second quarter, the Lions got a huge kickoff return (65 yards) by Brenden Lach, setting them up inside the Western 30. That led to a Connor Fracassi two-yard touchdown run. After forcing a quick punt, the Lions got the ball back in Warrior territory with a chance to make it a one-score game heading into halftime. South Lyon was also set to receive the ball in the third quarter, increasing the importance of the drive.

South Lyon was unable to capitalize on the great field position and turned the ball over after taking a big sack on fourth down. That set the Warriors up with the ball in Lions territory, who moved down the field until throwing an interception in the half's final seconds.

To start the second half, South Lyon put together a solid drive. However, it ultimately stalled inside the 10, forcing the Lions to settle for a short field goal.

On Western's next drive, South Lyon jumped offside in fourth and two near midfield. The Warriors would miss a field goal, but after that, things went south for the Lions.

#### Late game collapse

Down 21-10 with 11 minutes left in regulation, South Lyon got the ball back but was quickly forced to punt. That's when the Warriors took off.

It started with a 34-yard touchdown catch by CJ Brown from Abele to make it 28-10. On the ensuing kickoff, South Lyon fumbled and Western recovered. Yaseen, a Northwestern commit, then did something he's never done before in his high school career - threw a touchdown pass.

He found MacKenzie Elebra for a 29yard strike to make it 34-10 after the extra point was blocked.

(Yaseen) is a hell of a player," Henson said. "He's a handful for anybody and you know, I thought we had a good game plan and we had guys there, we just didn't make plays and he did."

Yaseen's coach echoed Henson's sen-

**Not Just** 

timent, going a step further to praise the three-star recruit

"He's a freak athlete," Grignon said. "He'll probably be in the NFL one day for a reason. He's probably going to start at Northwestern next year for a reason. We're happy we have him. He's a phenomenal football player and he's smart. It's pretty easy to say hey, take the snap and throw or run, make something happen and make me look good."

Yaseen finished the night with nine catches for 107 yards and two touchdowns, in addition to his passing score.

With a dash of deja vue, South Lyon fumbled the kickoff return again, Western's Robert Bethel turned it into a 15yard touchdown run, and the extra point was blocked, making the score 40-10, where it would stay.

"It kind of snowballed on us at the end which was disappointing," Henson said. "Embarrassed a little bit with how we performed, especially with this group of kids who have been so rock solid for us for the last two years. To come out and do what we did tonight, I don't have an answer for it."

It was a difficult loss for the Lions to stomach, but there's a good chance these two teams will meet once more in the playoffs, so they'll have to be ready.

"We can't hang our heads, we got two more games to go out and finish strong," Henson said. "We're 6-1 and have a chance to finish out the season on a high note and who knows what happens from there."

#### Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

In what proved to be its final game of the season, Rust was pleased with her team's progress over the entire year.

"They look like a different team now," Rust said. "We started off the year 0-3, and they have been progressing. We have a young team, I started a lot of kids, who aren't seniors, so they have a lot to look forward to."

Shingledecker and the Spartans, on the other hand, have another game to play, as Stevenson will take on Birmingham Seaholm, a team that defeated Southfield A&T in the first round of district play 8-0.

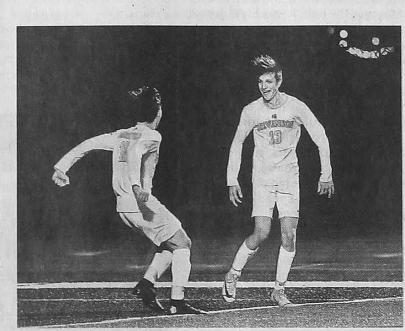
However, the Stevenson head coach is pleased with how his team played on the playoff stage.

"Winning games in playoff atmospheres is not easy," Shingledecker said. "Anyone will tell you that."

#### Brown returns, exits game

Stevenson senior Griffin Brown had not seen the field much this season. However, after taking a cortisone shot in the afternoon, Shingledecker said he tried to "give it a go" against North Far-

After his first tackle, Brown came up limping, exiting the game and not returning. Brown had been dealing with a right ankle injury, limiting his playing time for the majority of the season.



Stevenson junior forward Nick Lema celebrates after recording a goal.

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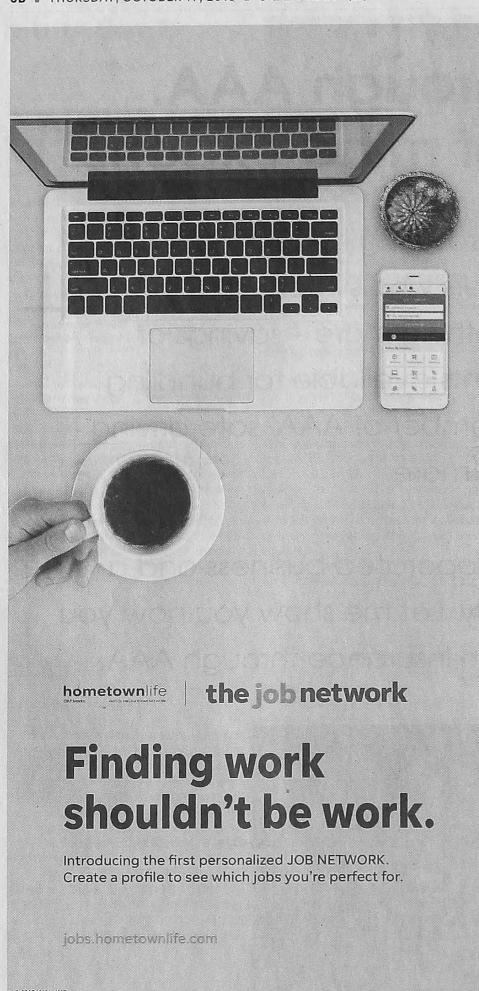
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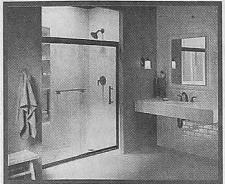
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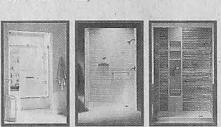
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Garage-Tag Sale

BIRMINGHAM First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Rd. btwn Southfield/Cranbrook. Wed Oct 16th, 6-9 pm. Price +30%. Fantastic Finds, Snack Bar. Thurs Oct 17th, 10-3 pm. Regular Price, Snack Bar. Fri Oct 18th, 9-11am, \$10 per 13 gallon bag or 1/2 price. (248) 646-1200

Farmington: Garage/Moving Sale. 38180 Lantern Hill Ct. 10/24-10/26, 9-5 TV's, Xmas decor, golf equip, misc.

L'IVONIA- Fri/Sat Oct 18 & 19. 10-6pm. 9332 Texas St. Estate Sale. H/H items. Lvg rm, Kit., BR. some clothes

Assorted Items all kinds of things...

Furniture &



Careers Jobs

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Engineering & IT

Design Engineer for P&C Group I, Inc. in Farmington Hills, MI. Duties: Plan & execute compleney's designs for auto seating prod's & proi's, from initial des'n concept to prod'n rel & post-prod'n support, in acc w/budgets & proi milestones. Prov alt des'n solutions, analyses & recs at concept stage & facilitate sel of des'ns that achieve best trade-off of cost, timing, innovation, & perf. Interface w/ des'n team & supply base to resolve issues & dev solutions. Supp team in resolving CATIA VS CAD, ENVIA, Team-center & PLEX-rel issues. Rea's: Bach Deg in Mech Eng'g or for'gn squiv & 2 yrs exp in auto seating sys des'n pos'n. 2 yrs exp w/ each of: compl auto seating sys des'n pos'n. 2 yrs exp willizing CAD tools for compl packaging, installation, kinematic, & layout studies for complex mechanisms; reducing seat struct mass & costs through dev methods of utilizing common features across seat variants & perform'g root cause analy of prod issues & cont'n through physical testing; support supplier mgmt, prod'n launch & dev through APQP phases, incl'g DFMEA & PFMEA & post-launch service ops for auto seating sys; CAD-based component-level testing & volidat'n for auto seating sys & components, in acc W/FMVSS & ECE specs; creating RFGs & assoc BOMs for auto seating sys (and producesses & plastic & coble components for auto seating & velecoly'g virtual mfg op's plans & perform'g prod database mgmt for auto seating systs; design'g & develop'g virtual mfg op's plans & perform'g prod database mgmt for auto seating systs; design'g & develop'g sheet metal stamping & inter or systs, incl'g sheet metal & plastic tool'g considerations. Exp can be acc'd concurrently. Resumes: h-recruiting@camacollc.com, w/ job title in subject. EOE.

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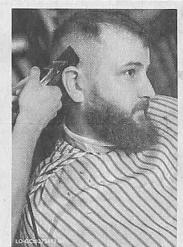
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## **CROSSWORD PUZZLER**

ACROSS 1 Spot's threat 4 Bacteriagrowing gel 8 Crevices 13 Having the most wisdom 19 Glasgow refusal 20 "Space Ghost"

cartoonist Alex 21 Actress Kemper of "The Office" 22 Swollen and distended

23 Central North Carolina city 25 747, say 26 Often-used expressions 27 Start of a

riddle 30 "Three Times -" (1978 hit song) 31 Hay unit 32 Be in great anguish

36 Trainee, e.g. 37 Riddle, part 2 42 Diplomat's skill 44 Former

**NBAer Ming** 45 Gets wrinkles out of 46 See 71-Down

19

23

27

49 1930s-'40s prez 50 Church

vestibule 53 Classical. intro? 54 Riddle, part 3 59 It may take the cake

61 "- Sexy" (1992 #1 hit song) 62 Clapton of rock 63 Bernstein's

"Candide," for one winner **Jannings** 68 Riddle, part 4

72 Fought (for) 73 Look for a 75 Poi base 76 River mouth deposit

82 "- culpa!" **85** How a winding path

87 Part of RBI or ERA 88 Dir. from Ariz. to Ky. 89 Dazzling

success 92 Gives a hand

20

77 Go via boat 123 Possessed 78 Riddle, part 5 124 GI's "lullaby"

proceeds

91 Despot Amin

96 End of the riddle 100 "Woe is me!"

104 "The Mummers' Dance' singer McKennitt

105 No longer relevant 106 Classic arcade name 107 Riddle's answer

113 All-terrain military vehicle 67 Early Oscar 116 Clipped, as a sheep 117 Many a

magic trick 118 Give support 119 Sizable therapist, say 120 Sulky state 121 Malt product 122 Some online greetings

125 Longest river of Scotland DOWN

1 Chew on persistently 2 In an overly hasty way 3 Hold a new trial for

4 Up a tree

28

5 Silly mistake

21

25

6 Razor option 7 Certain parallelogram

8 Drive back 9 "Maybe" 10 Shortcoming 11 Ex-Yankee

Martinez 12 Appear 13 Miserly 14 Sound engineer's

console 15 Smiling one 16 Swelled head 17 Resident of a gaming "City" 18 NFL scores

24 "It's the - an era" 28 Rowboat pair 29 Satisfied sigh 33 Victor's gloat 34 "Titanic" actor 69 Pot for

35 Petro-Canada rival 37 Time — half 38 Square type 39 Meg of "I.Q." 40 Three feet

41 "Poppycock!" 43 "Should that be true ..." 46 Brown, Penn and Harvard

47 "The Silence of the Lambs" director Jonathan 10 11 12

48 Shaw of swing 50 "Valiant

attempt!" 51 Aspiration 52 Just-prior periods **55** Egg

middles 56 Work fill-in 57 Goya's gold 58 Cedar cousin 60 "Fat chance!"

— about (close to) 64 Mark in "piñata" 65 "Grand" **Rockies** 

peak

66 Wise saying 68 Herr's "no" arroz con pollo 70 "Poppycock!"

71 With 46-Across, brand of frozen fries 74 Is in first place

76 "- be shy" 78 Bona -(real) 79 Lena of "Havana" 80 Grand -(auto race)

81 Drive out

13

22

26

29

82 Whine like a baby 83 Yodeling

comeback 84 Banned orchard spray 86 Currency of

Laos

90 Dined at someone else's place 92 Embellished 93 Haughty sort 94 Band's lineup

of gig songs

95 Fills up 97 "Gas Food Lodging" director Allison 98 Tennis player

Shriver 99 Appear 101 Lasso 102 Colorful ring

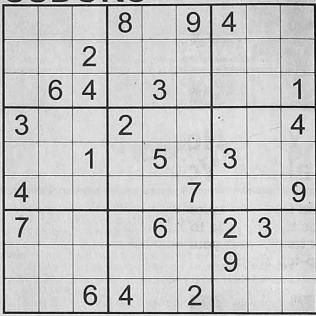
of anatomy 103 Writer Sheldon 106 Lies against 108 Port of Norway

109 Turn to liquid 110 Trumpet, e.g. 111 Forearm part 112 Radar image 113 Color tone

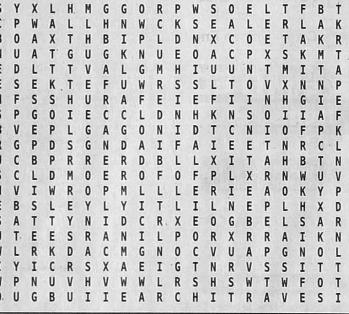
114 Scanned market ID 115 Deg. for

many an exec 15 16 17 118





Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to

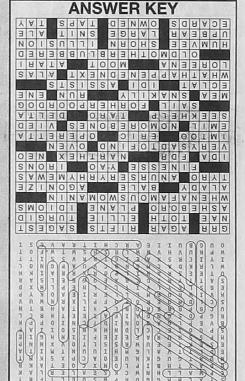


#### WORDS

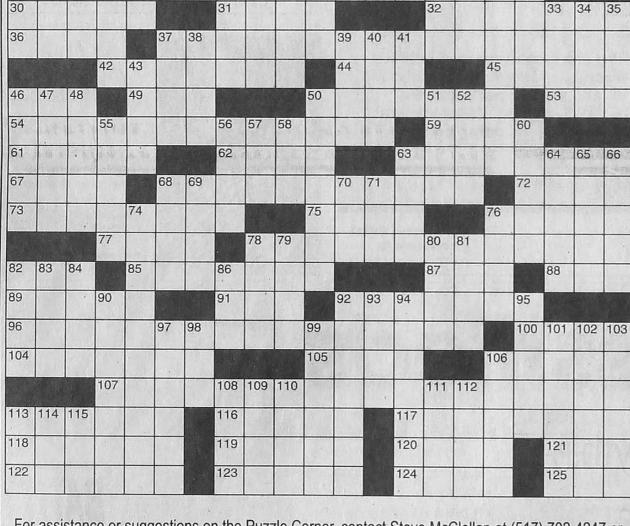
ACRYLIC **ADHESION ARCHITRAVE** BINDER BLISTERING BRUSHES BUCKET BULKHEAD CAULKING CEILING COAT CLOTH CUT IN DESIGN DROP DRYING **ENAMEL** EXTENSION POLE FINISH FLAKING FLAT GALLON **GLOSS** LOAD MOLDING OIL **PAINT PREPARATION** PRIMER ROLLER RUNS SEALER

> SHEEN **SPATTER**

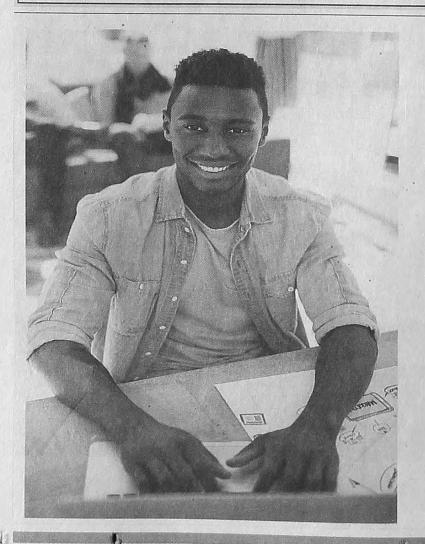
TAPE WALL



8	L	1	2	6	Þ	9	3	9
9	Þ	6	3	1	G	8	L	7
9	3	7	8	9	L	6	Þ	1
6	8	9	1	L	3	9	7	Þ
7	1	3	Þ	G	6	L	8	9
Þ	9	1	9	8	2	1	6	3
L	7	8	9	3	7	Þ	9	6
3	6	9	i	Þ	9	2	1	8
1	9	t	6	7	8	3	G	1



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



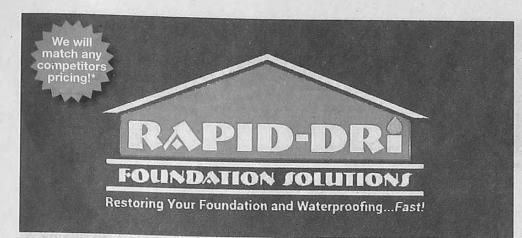
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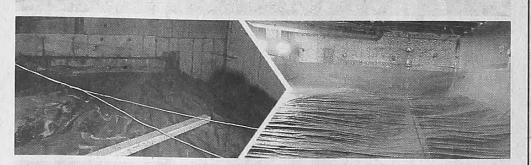
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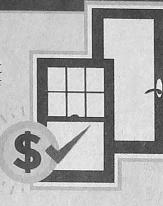


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