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# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Nankin Mills unveils first-floor renovation

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

The first floor of Westland's Nankin Mills looks like a brand new place after the county's nine-month, \$772,000 renovation of it. The space is brighter and more open than it was in the past.

"We wanted more open space; we wanted it to be more interactive," said

Beverly Watts, director of the Wayne County Department of Public Services. "We really wanted to bring some of the outside environment inside."

The county's other parks, as well as the other two floors on Nankin Mills, will eventually see updates as time and funding allow.

David Ries, project manager for the renovation, said Nankin Mills was a pri-

ority because it is a high-traffic spot.

"We just got done branding ourselves about two years ago, so we wanted this to reflect our brand," he said. "Nankin Mills, this first floor, this is sort of your handshake to all of Wayne County Parks."

Ries' team and other county officials spent about two years designing and securing funding for the renovation. The

most noticeable additions are a large indoor turtle pond - Ries' personal favorite - and more kid-friendly ways to view the fish, snakes and turtles housed at the mill.

"There's some little things I like, like the double-stacked nature of the tanks," said Matt Noble-Richardson, an

See **RENOVATION**, Page 5A



A 200,000-pound compressor is hauled along Haggerty Road on the way to Lansing from the Port of Detroit.  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROAD COMMISSION FOR OAKLAND COUNTY

## Mysterious caravans pique drivers' interest

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The science-fiction-esque scene has unfolded close to a dozen times over the past few weeks throughout western Wayne and Oakland counties all the way out to Lansing.

Suburban intersections along Haggerty Road and Grand River Avenue have been shut down temporarily by Michigan State Police escorts who are guiding massive vehicles hauling ominous-looking, tarp-covered objects.

What's under the mystery-cloaking tarp? Nuclear weapons? Toxic waste headed to Michigan from Ohio? Defense-focused torpedoes?

Actually, none of the above.

The larger-than-life objects that have piqued drivers' interest on the morning commute are actually giant compressors headed to Lansing from the Port of Detroit.

Made in China, the compressors are

See **CARAVANS**, Page 3A



The flatbed trailer carrying the compressors is 170 feet long.

"There are 14 in total and there are, I believe, two more still to be transported. It's quite an operation."

**Craig Bryson** Spokesman, Road Commission for Oakland County, talking about the giant compressors headed via semitrailer to Lansing

## Independent pharmacy celebrates 60 years

**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Taking a step inside Professional Village Pharmacy is like going back in time.

The Livonia pharmacy doesn't have aisles of snack goods, groceries or seasonal supplies one would find in a chain pharmacy. Instead, family photos and antique pharmaceutical items are hung on the walls.

This personal touch, owners Joe and Barb Lanzon say, has kept Professional Village Pharmacy in business for decades.

"I don't want it to be a sterile environment," said Joe Lanzon about the pharmacy's ambiance. "I want it to be homey. I want to be able to talk to you."

The pharmacy, at 11589 Farmington in Livonia just south of Plymouth Road, will celebrate its 60th anniversary later this month, a testament to the loyal customers and its business strategy, especially as various chain pharmacies across town close their doors.

After moving to Livonia from Warren when he was young, Joe Lanzon began working in area pharmacies. After earning his degree from Wayne State University, he worked for some smaller chains, including Sav-On Drugs, but then began his own relief pharmacy company. There, for the next 10 years, he worked in a number of

See **PHARMACY**, Page 4A

## Find election results online

Election Day results were not available in time for today's print edition.

Results from Tuesday's local elections can be found online at **HometownLife.com** or on our various Facebook pages.

Information from the elections will also appear in our next print edition.



GETTY IMAGES





# Northville parking deck damaged hours after reopening

**Ed Wright** [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Less than 24 hours after downtown Northville businesses started celebrating the ultra-early end of construction on the Cady Street parking deck, a party-crasher interrupted the festivities — literally!

No huge worries, though: The mess caused when a way-too-tall truck smashed into the upper-deck entrance sign only shut down the vital parking structure for a few hours and there were no injuries.

Projected to last eight weeks, structural fixes to the decades-old two-story structure were completed in less than a month by Ram Construction, which also managed to squeeze in several cosmetic improvements — painting of railings, staircases, etc. — much to the delight of Northville's Downtown Development Authority, which paid for the \$250,000 project.

The construction was spurred by a

summer walk-through by engineers that revealed structural instability on the second level of the deck.

The loss of parking spaces during the deck's shutdown was compensated by the opening of a temporary parking lot directly across the street from the Cady Street facility.

"The most important work was the safety-related repair of the concrete on the second level," said Ram Construction estimator Peter Brady, who oversaw the project. "When you have a structure that's over 20 years old like this, the materials start to deteriorate, which could cause materials to fall onto the lower deck."

"We brought a lot of personnel out here to get it done as thoroughly and as quickly as possible. When we finished early, (Northville DDA Director) Lori (Ward) asked us if we could complete a few other projects, like the painting, which we were more than happy to do."

One logistic that made the work

go faster than originally anticipated was the layout of the parking deck, Brady added.

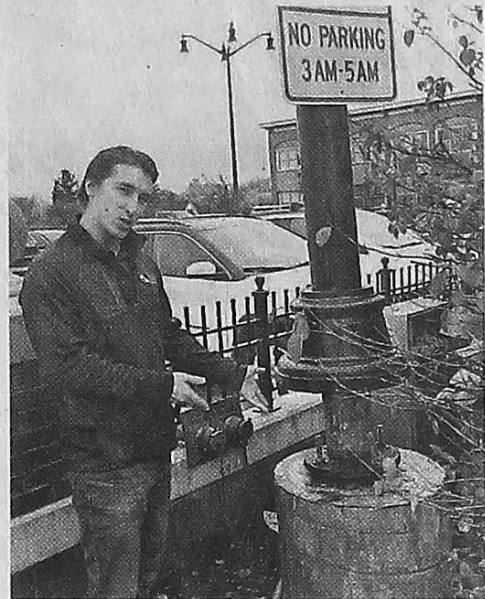
"The beautiful thing about a deck like this is that there are only two floors and it's very expansive, so we could, for instance, have painters working over here and welders over there ... and they could kind of chase one another around the deck."

"If you have a taller, more cramped structure, we have to have one crew working on one deck at a time."

"We know they hold a lot of festivals downtown, so we wanted to get it done as quickly as possible. We actually opened it up to parking for the Heritage Festival and the Halloween festival they had."

Brady said the damage caused by the truck crashing into the entrance sign was significant, but did not create a long-term closure of the upper level.

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



Ram Construction estimator Peter Brady points to part of the damage caused to the entry ramp at the Northville parking deck when an oversized truck hit it.

ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Less than 24 hours after the parking deck renovation was completed, a truck that was too tall jolted the signs above the entry ramp. No one was injured in the incident, and the parking deck reopened after a few hours. COURTESY OF NORTHVILLE DDA



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# Businesses to offer Veterans Day deals

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Veterans Day is the perfect time to celebrate those who have put aside their own lives and given themselves in service of the United States.

Plenty of businesses plan to offer discounts or freebies for veterans Nov. 11 as a "thank you" for serving the nation.

Here's a list of just a few:

## Applebee's

Applebee's will give veterans and active-duty military members a free entree from a list of the restaurant's signature dishes when they dine in, including the Oriental Chicken Salad, Fiesta Lime Chicken and Three-Cheese Chicken Penne. Applebee's can be found locally at 13301 Middlebelt in Livonia, 36475 Warren in Westland, 17101 Haggerty in Northville Township, 43500 Ford Road in Canton, and 47900 Grand River in Novi.

## BJ's Brewhouse

All current and former military mem-

bers can receive a free entree (up to \$14.95 in value) and a free Dr. Pepper. Diners must provide military ID or other proof of service to receive the free meal. BJ's is at 19470 Haggerty in Livonia.

## Beerhead Bar and Eatery

Veterans and active-duty military members in uniform or with a military ID can receive a free entree. Beerhead Bar and Eatery is located at 44375 W. 12 Mile in Novi.

## California Pizza Kitchen

Those veterans or active-duty members in uniform or with a military ID can receive a free entree and drink. Entrees that are offered to veterans include several styles of pizza, salads and pastas. California Pizza Kitchen is at 37546 W. Six Mile at Laurel Park Place in Livonia, 27500 Novi at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and 31005 Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills.

## Chili's

Veterans and active-duty members

can select a free meal from a list of seven entrees. Chili's can be found locally at 29563 Plymouth in Livonia, 41680 Ford Road in Canton and 20901 Haggerty in Novi.

## Famous Dave's BBQ

Veterans can receive a free two-meat lunch combo with one side and cornbread. Ribs may be excluded depending on location. Active-duty members must show proof of service. Famous Dave's is at 36601 Warren in Westland and 43350 Crescent Blvd. in Novi.

## Little Caesars

Detroit's very own Little Caesars Pizza will give all veterans and active-duty military members a free \$5 lunch combo, which includes four slices of deep-dish pepperoni pizza and a 20-ounce pop. The offer is good from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Veterans Day at participating Little Caesars.

## Mission BBQ

Known for its commitment to public

safety officials, Mission BBQ is offering veterans a free sandwich and some cake. Mission BBQ is at 20420 Haggerty in Northville Township.

## Red Robin

The restaurant will give veterans and military members a free Tavern Double Burger with unlimited steak fries when they dine in with proof of service. Red Robin can be found locally at 37701 Six Mile in Livonia, 36350 Warren in Westland, 43250 Crescent Blvd. in Novi and 3003 Commerce Crossing in Commerce Township.

## Target

The superstore is offering veterans and active-duty military members 10% off one purchase made Nov. 3-11. Those who want to have access to the discount must sign up at [target.com/military](http://target.com/military) to receive the coupon. Target is at 29451 Plymouth and 2100 Haggerty in Livonia, 30020 M-5 in Farmington Hills, 35401 Warren in Westland, 43670 Ford Road in Canton, 27100 Wixom in Novi, and 2400 S. Telegraph in Bloomfield Township.

## Caravans

Continued from Page 1A

so huge that their route to the Lansing Board of Water & Light's new Delta Energy Park site is restricted to surface streets — a logistical challenge that required the moving company to attain permits from each of the counties through which they travel.

"They're too tall and too wide to go on the highways, so they travel along Haggerty and then, once they get to I-96, they turn west on Grand River and take that to Lansing, from what I understand," Road Commission for Oakland County spokesman Craig Bryson said last week. "There are 14 in total and there are, I believe, two more still to be transported. It's quite an operation."

The flatbed truck hauling the 200,000-pound compressors is 18 feet

wide and 170 feet long — large enough to cause modest-at-minimum delays for people headed to work.

The convoy is slow moving, taking almost two days to get from Detroit to Lansing, BWL General Manager Dick Peffley said.

"They're not in danger of getting a speeding ticket," Peffley quipped.

Peffley said he's not aware of any major tie ups when the latest two other compressors were moved but the utility did get a lot of questions about what was in the boxes.

"It's a large jet engine similar what's on an aircraft," Peffley said. "Just a little bit bigger."

The last of the compressors are expected to be transported Nov. 7 and arrive in Lansing Nov. 8.

Bryson said he can't remember a similar case of a larger-than-life scenario during his tenure with the road commission.



A flatbed carrying a compressor carefully maneuvers around a curve in the road. COURTESY OF ROAD COMMISSION FOR OAKLAND COUNTY

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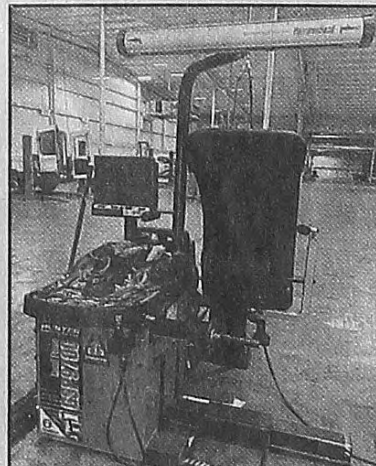
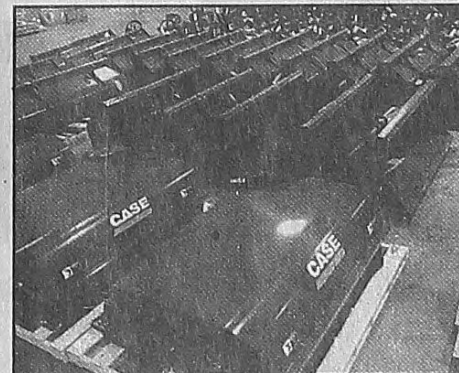
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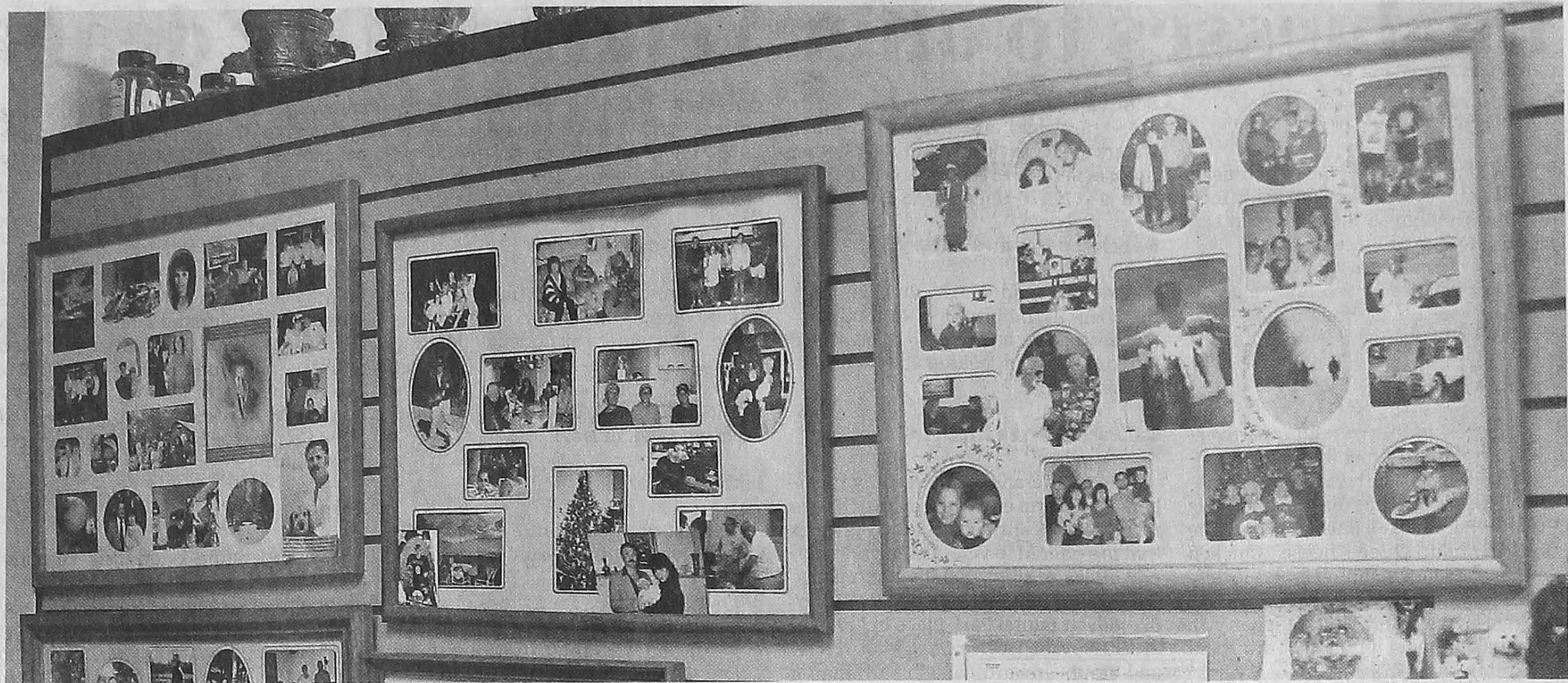


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Family photos line the back wall of Professional Village Pharmacy, which celebrates 60 years in business this month. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Pharmacy

Continued from Page 1A

pharmacies whenever they needed help. He then waited for the opportunity to purchase Professional Village Pharmacy, which came in 1989.

Customers looking for convenience store items like chips and pop won't find it at Village Professional Pharmacy. There, the couple focuses strictly on getting people healthy, from prescription drugs to some over-the-counter drugs and a section dedicated to serving the health of diabetic patients.

"If you're going to be a pharmacist, you want to help people," he said. "You should practice pharmacy and not handing out alcohol and cigarettes."

"I didn't want any of that other stuff. I wanted to concentrate on people's medicine."

After buying the business, Lanson decided it needed to grow. Working within a 600-square-foot building just south of where the pharmacy is now, Lanson decided to purchase land to the north and build a new structure.

He now leases the original space out to other medical businesses.

"We moved over here in October of 1992 and we've been here ever since," he said.

The Plymouth Township couple has kept Professional Village Pharmacy open despite several challenges, including competing with larger, big-box pharmacies and massive changes made to the United Auto Workers prescription plan more than 15 years ago that required workers to receive drugs through mail orders for certain conditions.

That change to the UAW's plan, Lanson said, "really put a cramp, not just on the independent pharmacies but the chains, too."

"It took away about 35%-40% of our core business," he said.

That led to expanding the offerings for diabetic patients.

To celebrate the anniversary, balloons and an inflatable Sky Dancer will be set up outside the pharmacy, with some goodies given out to customers in the middle of November.

The couple says they have no plans to retire and expect to keep the pharmacy running for customers who stop by from



Joe and Barbara Lanson have owned Professional Village Pharmacy since 1989.

communities such as Livonia, Westland, Plymouth and Redford.

he said. "We try to help people."

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

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## Renovation

Continued from Page 1A

environmentalist with the county. "They used to be in the hallway and sort of in the way. So it's more open to move around and when we have a school group here, it makes a big difference."

Watts said the county hopes the kid-centered elements, along with the bright, open design, will make Nankin Mills a destination for young families and outdoor enthusiasts.

Watts hopes it can be an indoor option for people to get their nature fix.

"Our vision is really just to make this a true destination," she said.

According to Noble-Richardson, it's been a hit so far with the kids.

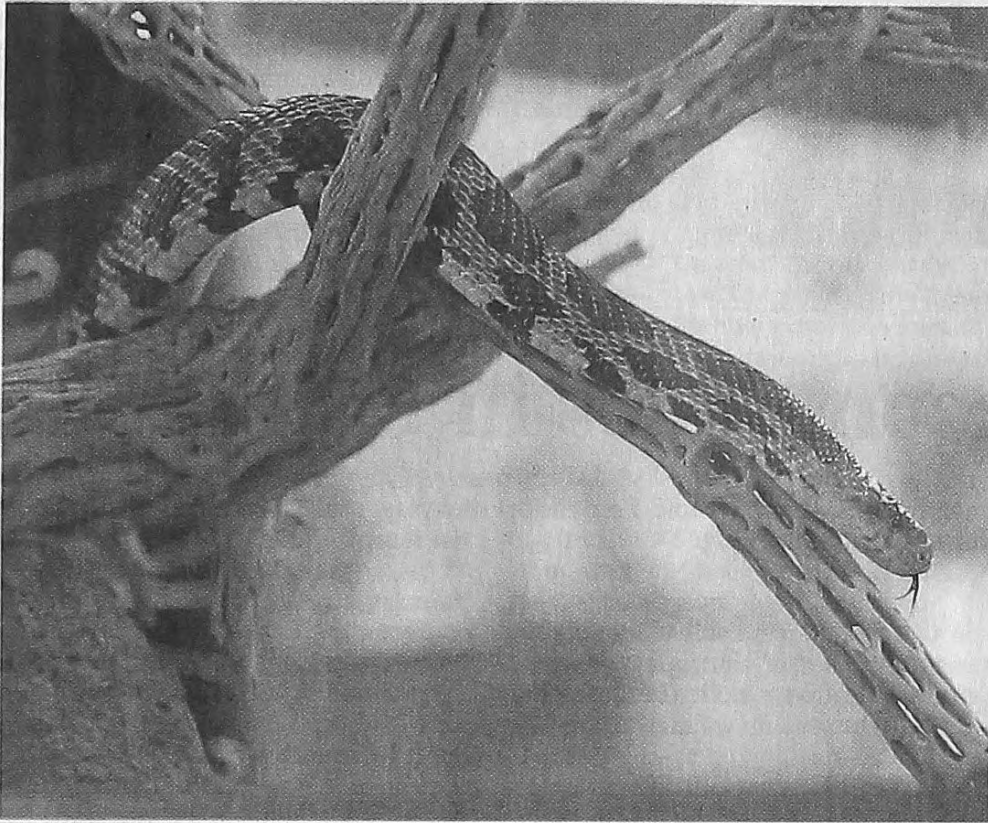
"The kids were over here watching the turtles on the glass," he said. "That was precious."

"They really enjoyed that a lot."

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



A large turtle pond is the centerpiece of the newly updated first floor of Nankin Mills. PHOTOS COURTESY OF WAYNE COUNTY PARKS



The new animal displays at Nankin Mills make it easier for kids to get face-to-face with wildlife, and provide an indoor option for people looking to get their nature fix when the weather isn't suitable for outdoor adventures.



Nankin Mills, along Ann Arbor Trail in Westland, is reminiscent of the days when present-day Westland, Garden City, Livonia and other neighboring cities were called Nankin Township. The site, home to a grist mill as far back as 1842, is now a nature and educational center. PAMELA A. ZINKOSKY/FOR HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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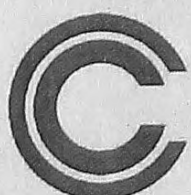
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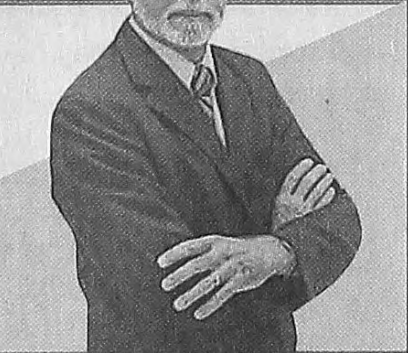
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# Former commander of Westland Jail cleared of misconduct charge

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A jury has cleared Westland Jail's former watch commander of misconduct in office charges related to the late 2017 death of inmate William Marshall.

Former Westland Police Sgt. Ronald Buckley, 55, was found not guilty, concluding his Third Circuit Court trial on Friday.

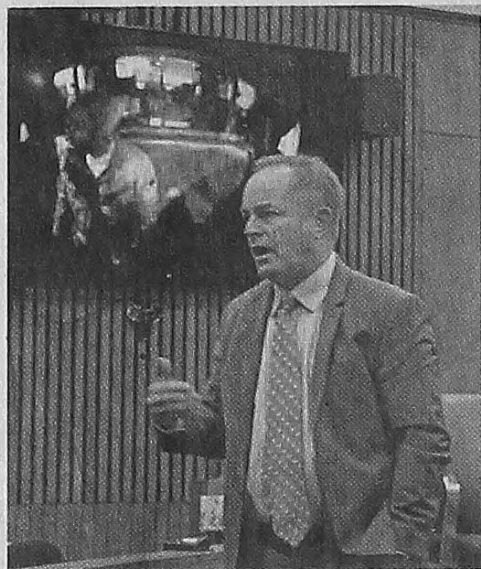
He was one of three charged, initially with felony manslaughter and then with felony misconduct in office, when Marshall, 35, of Inkster died after a Dec. 10, 2017, jail stay.

Prosecutors alleged Buckley, as watch commander, was responsible for Marshall being mistreated at the jail with unlawful use of force.

Marshall was in custody because police caught him driving with a suspended license and in possession of marijuana and cocaine.

While at the jail, Marshall experienced four stages of "full body tremors" that lasted a total of about 40 minutes without receiving proper medical attention. He was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The Wayne County medical examiner's office later determined Marshall



**Attorney Todd Flood, representing former Westland Jail Commander Ronald Buckley, speaks to the jury in Third Circuit Court on Oct. 28.**

SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

died of cocaine toxicity.

Attorney Todd Flood, representing Buckley, said during last week's trial that his client's intent was not corrupt.

"He didn't have the information," Flood said during opening statements.

"(In the booking room), Mr. Marshall denies and denies and denies and denies. 'I did not take cocaine. I do not have any ingesting problems. I don't have any problems with epileptic seizures. I do not have any medical issues. I'm not going to withdraw from anything.' That's what Mr. Marshall says."

Flood has said Buckley was a scapegoat for other public safety workers more to blame for Marshall not getting the medical care he needed.

The former police sergeant lost his job because city officials said he failed to follow department policies with Marshall. Also, the city agreed to a \$3.75 million settlement with Marshall's estate because of the jail stay.

Two former Westland paramedics, Leah Maynard, 37, and Matt Dicosola, 33, saw Marshall during his jail stay and also were charged after his death.

Maynard's misconduct in office trial was declared a mistrial, and she is scheduled for another court appearance in December.

Dicosola was sentenced to a year of probation.

He pleaded guilty to intentionally placing false information on medical records, a misdemeanor.

# Westland woman, 22, killed in crash on I-275

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A 22-year-old Westland woman died early Sunday morning after her vehicle apparently rear-ended another vehicle in the southbound lanes of Interstate 275 in Canton.

Michigan State Police troopers said on Twitter they were dispatched to I-275 near Michigan Avenue around 3:40 a.m. because of the crash.

The Westland woman's vehicle ran off the highway after the collision, rolling over and ejecting her, then coming to rest on top of her.

She died at the scene. The other driver did not sustain any injuries.

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

# Students identified as accomplices in CC threats

**Susan Bromley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Five suspects have been identified in two separate incidents at Detroit Catholic Central High School in Novi.

Four of the suspects are Catholic Central students.

The Novi Police Department announced they are presenting the results of their investigation to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office for charges in both cases.

The investigation began Oct. 25 after a child informed a parent that an indi-

vidual wearing a "Guy Fawkes" mask from the movie "V for Vendetta" was making unsettling statements via social media to students at the high school.

The Novi Police, with support of school administrators and assistance from federal law enforcement, identified the original poster as an individual who lives with his parents in Ohio. They also identified three accomplices, all Catholic Central students.

Six days later, on Oct. 31, another picture of "Guy Fawkes" was circulated among Catholic Central students, with the claim that during Friday Mass the

next day, "everyone would be wearing masks and start killing."

School was canceled Nov. 1.

Additional Novi investigators were brought in and were able to identify the original poster of that latest image, a student from Catholic Central High School who was not related to the first incident.

Law enforcement officials have spoken to all five suspects.

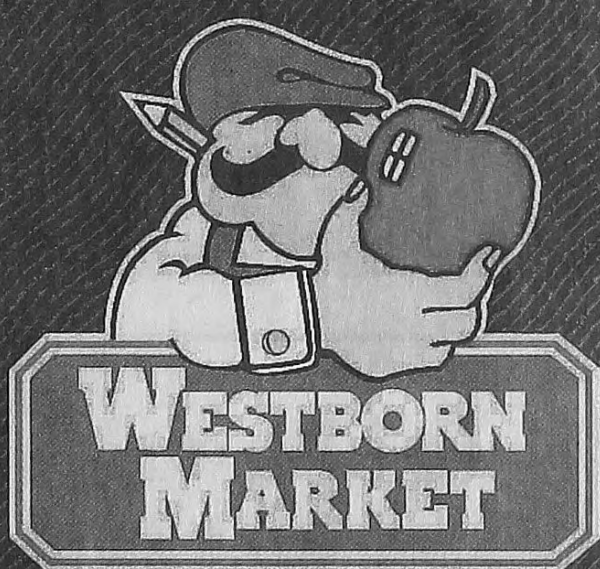
The criminal acts involved are punishable by a charge up to a 20-year felony for making terroristic threats. Detroit Catholic Central High School will be

levying applicable school discipline to the four students involved.

Classes resumed normal activity on Tuesday.

According to the release, "The Novi Police Department and Detroit Catholic Central remain steadfast in providing a safe learning environment for all students. Any and all threats made against the schools, students, and staff will be fully investigated by all means necessary."

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.



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# Walgreens pharmacy in Livonia closes

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Walgreens at 29370 Plymouth, across the street from the Wonderland Village shopping center in Livonia, was scheduled to close its doors Monday, according to a sign outside the business.

The sign refers customers to the Walgreens at 7210 N. Middlebelt in Westland as a location for their prescriptions in the future, though it also notes their records are available at any other Walgreens location.

"Thank you for the opportunity to continue serving you," the sign reads.

Inside, as of last Thursday afternoon, many shelves were empty as the store prepared to close, with some items on clearance, especially in the freezer section.

The closure of the pharmacy is part of the company's plan to close about 200 locations nationwide, said Phil Caruso, a company spokesman, in a statement. That announcement came earlier this year.

Prescriptions will automatically transfer to the Walgreens in Westland after the pharmacy closes, Caruso

said.

"Patients do not need to take any action and will receive a letter in the mail with more detail on their prescriptions," he wrote in an email.

Customers still looking to go to a Livonia Walgreens have several options. Stores continue to operate at 33239 Eight Mile, 17001 Newburgh, 33333 Six Mile and 29200 Six Mile.

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

## Coulter to run for Oakland County executive

Democratic appointee will join heated contest in 2020

Bill Laitner Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oakland County Executive David Coulter — appointed in August by a slender Democratic majority of just one vote of the county commissioners — announced Thursday morning inside a bustling Ferndale metal-fabricating factory that he will run for the job in 2020.

"In just a few short months, I have seen the bright possibilities we can create for our county," Coulter said, before reporters and about 100 employees of Brass Aluminum Forging Enterprises.

Coulter's decision sets in motion what's sure to be a heated primary season next year, as both Republicans and Democrats in Michigan's richest county vie to elect a successor to the late L. Brooks Patterson, a legendary Republican who held the county executive's office for nearly three decades.

With the announcement, Coulter has decided to take on at least one prominent Democrat who has already declared his intention to run next year for the executive's job — Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner of Huntington Woods. Also declared as a candidate had been Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chairman Dave Woodward of Royal Oak, but Woodward stood beside Coulter at the announcement to endorse Coulter's candidacy, saying, "Together we're going to do incredible things."

Of Meisner, Coulter said, "I respect the county treasurer very much." He acknowledged that the two, and other Democrats, might square off in next year's primary.

Meisner responded to Coulter's announcement with a statement Thursday.

"I'm running for Oakland County Executive with real plans to protect what we love about Oakland County while making our county stronger by building regional transit, embracing diversity, and moving forward on a 9-point equity agenda tackling health care, education and the environment," Meisner said. "My candidacy offers a proven track record on the job and at the ballot box, and I trust the voters to do the right thing."

"I respect Dave Coulter, but think he got it right when he endorsed my campaign for Oakland County Executive, and when he said he was too busy doing the job he was given to run for State Representative," said Meisner. "I can't help but wonder if Oakland County wouldn't be better served by Dave doing the job he was given. We've already been through so much."

Coulter endorsed Meisner in June when Meisner declared his candidacy for Oakland County's top job. But now, Coulter explained his change of heart by saying he'd become excited "to see all the possibilities" if he stayed in the executive's seat.



**Oakland County Executive David Coulter, standing last Thursday inside a metal-working factory in Ferndale that was vacant a decade ago, declares his intention to run for the county executive job in 2020.**  
BILL LAITNER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Coulter made the announcement inside what he calls one of Ferndale's biggest success stories, the sprawling factory of Brass Aluminum Forging Enterprises, which in 2006 was the gutted shell of a defunct steel firm.

Introducing Coulter was Jeff Denha, chief operations officer and co-owner of the industrial site's current occupants, who used brownfield redevelopment aid and other assistance from Ferndale City Hall to clean up the site and create more than 150 jobs.

"Dave's policy was: We're a team — city and business," Denha said.

Denha, a member of the Mayor's Business Council in Ferndale that Coulter formed, was on Coulter's transition team when he took over the reins of county government. The Council helped drive down the city's vacancy rate for industrial property, which, in turn, led to boosting the city's bond rating by three tiers, Denha has said in previous Free Press reports.

Coulter was appointed to the job Aug. 16 by an 11-10 vote of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, along straight party lines, 13 days after Patterson's death.

At the time, Coulter had been the mayor of Ferndale since 2011, although before that he'd served four terms as an Oakland County commissioner, becoming well-liked and respected in county government by members of both parties, insiders said in August. Coulter left the county post to make an unsuccessful run for the state Senate in 2010, then became Ferndale's mayor, ultimately introducing to the liberal town several budgeting and business-promotion strategies that he has said he learned from the conservative Patterson.

In August, as Democrats and Republicans wrestled over how to fill Patterson's shoes, at least until next year's primary and general elections, Coulter's name surfaced late in the process as a consensus candidate

among the Democratic majority. He was seen as competent, congenial and familiar with county management, said Commissioner Helaine Zack, a Huntington Woods Democrat who made the motion to appoint Coulter. Zack stood nearby Thursday morning as Coulter made public his plan to run.

As an openly gay politician, Coulter, 59, was viewed, his early supporters said, as a strong advocate for adding diversity to county staffing, including the choices of residents for volunteer boards and commissions. He is known as the first mayor in Michigan to perform same-sex marriages.

On Thursday, Coulter cited adding diversity to the county work force as among his top priorities, along with public health, regional cooperation and more employment opportunities for residents.

On the day of his appointment in August to the county's top job, Coulter told the commissioners' Democratic caucus that, if he were appointed, he was unsure whether he would run for the executive post in 2020, and unsure even if he would drop his campaign for state representative — an office he'd announced he was seeking in July.

Yet, not long after his appointment to succeed Patterson, Coulter dropped out of the running for the seat in Lansing. On Thursday, he settled the remaining mystery about his political goals.

Still unknown is the outcome of a lawsuit pending in Oakland County Circuit Court, which challenged the slender 11-10 margin of commissioners who appointed Coulter. The lawsuit was filed in August, on the very day of the board's vote to appoint Coulter. It was filed by the Oakland County Republican Party on behalf of the board's Republican commissioners.

Legal experts have said that the case could take months to resolve, and that the longer it drags on, the more likely the judge is to decide simply to defer action until county voters choose who will succeed Patterson as the elected county executive.

The Oakland County executive's job pays \$198,000 a year. At the time he was appointed, Coulter earned \$20,148 year as mayor of Ferndale, a part-time position. He also was a program officer for the Children's Foundation, formerly the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation. Before that job, he served as the executive director of the Michigan AIDS Fund. Even earlier, he was employed for 13 years by Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. in public affairs.

The choice of Coulter in August as appointee to the county's top elected position was originally billed by some supporters as a placeholder, someone who likely would step aside in 2020, so that an heir apparent — such as Meisner — could begin a Democratic dynasty that Democrats hoped would be as dominant and long-lasting as the one begun by Patterson in 1992.

Coulter's announcement on Thursday belies that original characterization of his role as a placeholder. It inevitably casts a new light on the appointments and decisions he has made and will make while serving out his appointed term for the next 12 months.

## Obituaries

### John Kenneth Sterling Jr.

WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA - John Kenneth Sterling, Jr., age 95, formerly of Canton, Michigan, passed away peacefully at his home at Sunrise Senior Living of Westlake Village in California on October 26, 2019, where he had resided since August 2018. John was the beloved husband of the late Julia Sterling and dear father of Victoria. John is survived by his daughter Victoria Sterling and husband Bruce Young of Malibu, California, his brother W. Patrick and wife Maria Sterling of Davenport, Florida, and his brother and sister-in-law Robert and Sara Toth of Dexter, Michigan, as well as many loving nieces and nephews. John was born January 30, 1924 in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, the son of John and Pearl (McGinnis) Sterling. He was preceded in death by his wife, Julia Harpootian Sterling and older twin sister, Catherine E. (Sterling) Rimas. He lived in Rochester, Michigan and Mt. Clemens, and graduated from St. Mary Catholic High School in 1942. He enrolled at Michigan State University (MSU) that year, but enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force during WWII. After being honorably discharged in December 1945 he returned to MSU and earned his B.A. in Journalism, graduating in June 1949. Following graduation John worked for the South Haven Daily Tribune, the South Macomb News weekly and at Rogers Publishing Company in Detroit. He later taught as an intern at Mt. Clemens High School and became a journalism teacher at Saginaw High School. He began a 36-year career with the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) as a seasonal recreation employee at Metro Beach Metropark (now Lake St. Clair Metropark) in summer 1955. He continued in that post, while continuing to teach, until June 1959, when he was appointed as the first Information Officer for the HCMA Metroparks, serving the counties of Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw and Wayne. John met his wife Julia while working at Rogers



Publishing. They married on August 10, 1957 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Detroit and were married for 57 years until her death in 2014. They lived in Saginaw and then Detroit, where their daughter Victoria was born in 1963. The family moved to Canton Township in July 1972 where they lived for 46 years. John greatly enjoyed his work and was given several awards including HCMA Outstanding Employee in 1989. During his time at HCMA he was also active in professional organizations including the Detroit Press Club, Sigma Delta Chi/SPJ, the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), and Michigan Outdoor Writers. He received a commendation for 60 Years of Service with Sigma Delta Chi/SPJ in 2008. John retired from the Metroparks on October 11, 1991. He had a passion for tennis and was an avid fan, attending and watching professional matches and collecting more than 300 tennis books. In retirement John kept busy with hobbies and activities including reading several newspapers daily, corresponding and talking by phone with friends and family, and caring for his home & lawn and several pet cats. He and Julia traveled frequently to Florida, Arizona and California where they visited Victoria annually. He moved to California to be near her in 2018 at the age of 94, where he made many new friends. Visitation is Thursday, November 7 from 3-9 p.m. at the L.J. Griffin Funeral home, 42600 Ford Road (west of Lilley) in Canton. The funeral service is Friday, November 8 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Canton. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the International Tennis Hall of Fame, the Society of Professional Journalists, the United States Tennis Association or the USO (United Service Organizations) in support of the U.S. Armed Forces. See website [www.griffinfuneralhome.com](http://www.griffinfuneralhome.com) for a detailed obituary and more information.

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## Mercy High presents 'You're Only Young Once'

The Mercy High School performing arts department will take to the stage this weekend for its fall production is "You're Only Young Once."

This light and charming comedy is about the sheer insanity of high school life and its societies. The plot is a simple one of life's little complications, romantic entanglements and academic pressures. The real delights are the almost allegorical types the characters portray. There's the principal, the coach, the English teacher, the athletic star, the honors student, the ladies' man, the president of the PTA and many others.

The setting is the principal's office on the morning of the big game, and all kinds of confusion ensue.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the box office or online at [www.mhsmi.org](http://www.mhsmi.org).



Students rehearse a scene from Mercy High's upcoming production of "You're Only Young Once."

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Village Arts Factory in Canton nearly complete

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Art lovers' patience is about to be rewarded as the long-awaited opening of Canton Township's Village Arts Factory is just around the corner – well, at least part of it.

Facing permit delays, unforeseen hikes in costs and other behind-the-scenes obstacles, the multi-faceted 13-acre project near the intersection of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads is primed for the opening-night spotlight.

"Just because there wasn't visual work being done at the site, doesn't mean there wasn't a lot of work being done away from the site to make it a reality," said Partnership for the Arts and Humanities Executive Director Jill Engel. "We faced some huge challenges. ... Not only do we have to have permits with the township but with the Department of Environmental Quality because the river runs through our property."

"For instance, it took seven months just to get approval from the DEQ. Also, after 18 months of back and forth with Wayne County, we decided to reconfigure the original design we had for a parking lot. ...

"It took time, but it was the most fiscally responsible thing for us to do."

### A place for everyone

Once operational, the multi-dimensional attraction will become a tourist magnet, said Engel.

"Our goal is to make this a regional destination," said Engel. "It's a perfect location, given that it's located between Ann Arbor and Detroit. While it's not just for Canton residents, it's a perfect place where they can spend quality time with their family."

"Tom Yack, who is on our executive board, wants it to be comparable to the Torpedo Factory Arts Center in Alexandria, Virginia."

Of the four primary attractions planned for the site of Henry Ford's 18th and final industrial village, a veterans dormitory that will house veterans to independent living is completed and waiting on a contract.

"The building is big enough for four veterans and a house manager," said Engel. "As part of a program that helps veterans who are in the process of getting a new home and a job, the building will serve as transitional housing and offer them benefits, programming and art therapy."

Engel said the plan is designed for the transitioning veterans to reside at the site for "a couple of weeks" before they are moved to permanent housing.

"The house manager would live there permanently," she added. "It's a great program to help veterans get back on their feet."

The building has been restored to its original layout and is tentatively set to house Canton Leisure Services art programs.

"We are talking to Canton Leisure Services about holding arts education programs for youths and adults in that building," Engel explained.

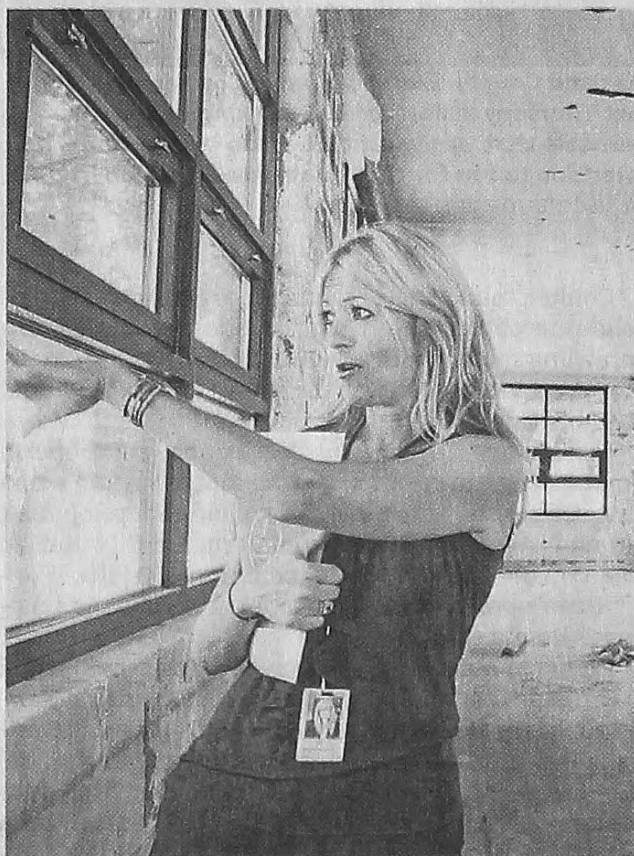
The factory's opening will probably be delayed until mid-2020, revealed Engel, so that its new tenant can design the 3,200-square-foot structure's interior.

Both of the buildings are included on the National Historic Register.

"We still don't know the complete history of this property because there was no media allowed on this property when it was developed by Henry Ford," said Engel. "We do know that it was used for residence of disabled WWII veterans."

"Henry Ford wanted a place where the vets could rehabilitate and learn a trade that could help that ease back into society."

Given the historic nature of the buildings, Engel and



Standing inside the main building of the Village Arts Factory complex, Jill Engel points to its visibility from nearby Cherry Hill Road and how its windows have been restored to their original size.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

her team has worked with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and the Canton Township Historic District Commission to make sure any work done on the structures honors their historic preservation.

"There were some limitations about things we could and couldn't do," Engel said. "Also, there were things we weren't required to do, but we did anyway, because we wanted the structures to resemble the original site as much as possible."

Arguably the most compelling attraction at the complex will be the sprawling arts warehouse, which will host several tenants.

The Cherry Hill Pottery Guild has already got dibs on one-quarter of the space in the 16,000-square-foot structure thanks to a 10-year lease it recently signed.

While many of the smaller studios have been snatched up by vendors, there are still spaces available, Engel said.

"Ideally, we want to see the warehouse being occupied by a range of artists, from glassblowers to painters to photographers," she said. "We've also had culinary people come to us and furniture crafters. It's first-come, first-served, but we'd like to have a variety."

The smaller studios range from 100 to 400 square feet, with three larger-scale rooms with approximately 1,500 square feet.

Eight acres of the site will feature a nature area, equipped with hiking and biking trails and benches for bird watching and quiet reflection.

The project is still in full fund-raising mode due to the cost significantly swelling from its original budget of \$1 million.

Those interested in making a financial donation to the project can contact Engel at 734-765-7-61 or [jengel@partnershipforarts.org](mailto:jengel@partnershipforarts.org).

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

## Livonia theater honors women in wartime with Veterans Day production

Livonia Community Theatre's 2019-20 season will honor and explore the historical experience of women in wartime, beginning Veterans Day weekend with a production of "Women and War," a one-act play by Jack Hilton Cunningham. The show runs 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8 and 9, and 2 p.m. Nov. 10.

The play, told in the style of readers-theater, is a collection of letters and monologues based on historical fact. They tell the stories of generations of women who have been impacted by their experience in wartime, from The Great War to the War in Afghanistan.

"The characters in Women and War are based on real life people and their circumstances," said Laurie Smalis, director. "For those lucky enough to never have had their lives touched by war or conflict, this provocative one-act play will help you sympathize with those who have, and help you learn more about the ways women have had to deal with war over the years and in modern times."

All performances are held at Livonia Community Theatre's performance home in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Tickets are available at the door, \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for students 18 and younger.

Continuing in the season honoring women in service, the group has scheduled the play "A Piece of My Heart," by Shirley Lauro, a true drama that follows six women who serve in the Vietnam War. This show runs April 25-26 and May 1-2.

For more information, visit the group's website at [livoniacommunitytheatre.org](http://livoniacommunitytheatre.org), or contact them at [livoniacommunitytheatre@gmail.com](mailto:livoniacommunitytheatre@gmail.com).

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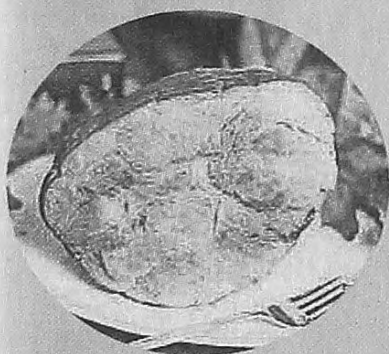
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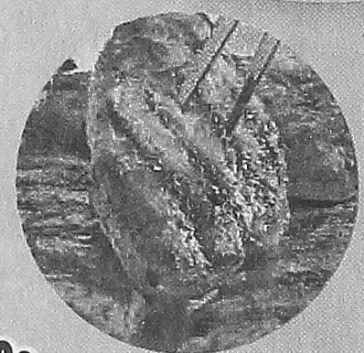
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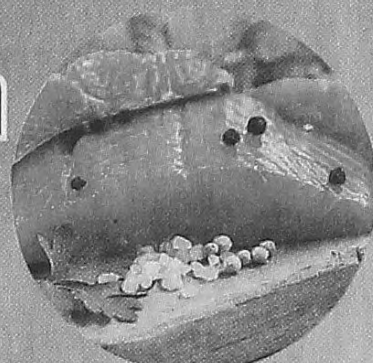
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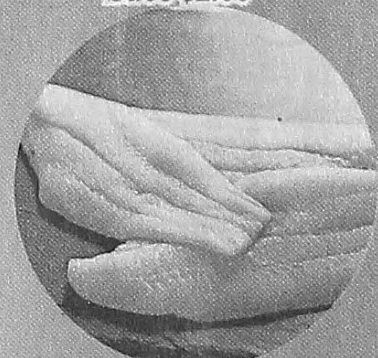
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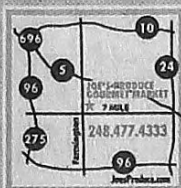
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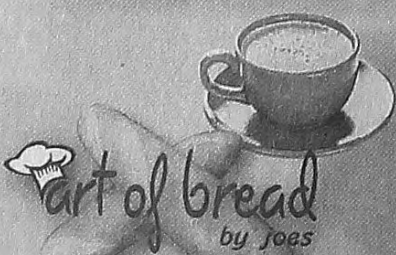
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CROSS COUNTRY

## Plymouth's Solomon caps career with state title

Bill Khan Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Carter Solomon took a quick peek to his left to verify he was in the clear. With a few steps remaining before he secured his spot in Michigan high school cross country history, Solomon raised his arms, then rested his hands on his head.

He could finally exhale. His mission was accomplished. The only missing item from Solomon's glittering resume in four years of running for Plymouth was an individual state championship, a box checked off Saturday at Michigan International Speedway. Solomon won a three-way duel for the Division 1 championship by posting

a time of 15:01.2 on a muddy course, the fastest in any division Saturday and the sixth-fastest since the cross country finals were moved to MIS in 1996. Solomon completed an undefeated senior season and posted the state's fastest time in five years, a 14:42.7 performance at regionals. "I think I came in as the favorite, but coming away with it still means a whole

lot," Solomon said. "In my head, I was the third guy coming into this race. These guys are legit. I raced how I wanted to race, and it worked out." While Solomon was the state's dominant runner all fall, Clarkston senior Brendan Favazza and Brighton senior Jack Spamer conceded nothing to him.

See CROSS COUNTRY, Page 4B



South Lyon High varsity golfer Gabriella Tapp scored two 75s in the state final to secure the individual championship.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Tapp shines in first season at South Lyon

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the golf world, Gabriella Tapp was book smart. For five years, she worked with her father, learning how to swing a club, becoming fundamentally sound before ever playing a round. The plan was to take the course for the first time in the summer between her seventh- and eighth-grade year. Until it wasn't anymore. While playing soccer during gym class, Tapp felt a pop in her knee, planting her foot awkwardly in the turf. That pop, a torn ACL, led to four months of physical therapy, four months off the golf course.

See TAPP, Page 4B



Tapp celebrates after securing the first individual state title in school history.

COURTESY OF DAN SKATZKA

## Churchill stuns Dexter in football playoff opener

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With seven seconds on the clock, trailing 20-6, Churchill head coach Bill DeFilippo knew three points was not going to cut it. Coming out of a time out, facing a 1st-and-goal from the Dexter 5-yard line, junior quarterback Gavin Brooks targeted junior wide receiver Shane Morelli on a quick slant. Incomplete. Whistle blown. One second left. Dexter head coach Phil Jacobs was furious, stomping down the sideline toward the middle of the field, turning toward the press box and screaming as if he were addressing the clock operator personally, "This is our home field. How is there one second left on the clock?" "No, not at all," Dexter head coach Phil Jacobs said when asked if he thought Churchill had enough time to run two plays. "Apparently our clock operator did." The Chargers obliged. Brooks connected with Morelli for the score, igniting a stagnant offense into a second-half surge, scoring 28 points and leading Churchill (6-4) to a, 41-39, first-round victory against Dexter (8-2) on the road. Churchill will take on Battle Creek Lakeview in the district round of the MHSAA high school football playoffs. Here are three takeaways from Churchill's two-point victory against the Dreadnaughts.

### Trading scores

After the Chargers brought their deficit down to one touchdown right before halftime, junior wide receiver Shane Morelli said the team left for the locker room confident, knowing that the offense had its mojo heading into the second half. "We came out there knowing they wanted the ball to start the game," Morelli said. "So we got the ball coming out of halftime and just punched it in." After two runs for 31 total yards by senior Mitchell Regan, Brooks found senior receiver Brendan Lowry for the first of three second-half touchdown passes to tie the game at 20. But the Dexter offense continued to answer. After Brooks' touchdown pass to Lowry, Dreadnaughts junior Colin Parachek found Brendan Parachek on a 9-yard right shoulder fade in the end zone 10 plays later.

See FOOTBALL, Page 3B

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HOMETOWN LIFE STAFF FOOTBALL PICKS: WEEK 11

Games (home team listed first):	Andrew Vaillencourt	Colin Gay	Ed Wright	David Veselenak	Phil Allmen (coin flip)
West Bloomfield vs. Plymouth	West Bloomfield	West Bloomfield	Plymouth	West Bloomfield	Plymouth
Brighton vs. East Kentwood	Brighton	Brighton	East Kentwood	Brighton	Brighton
Brownstown Woodhaven vs. Belleville	Belleville	Belleville	Belleville	Belleville	Brownstown Woodhaven
Battle Creek Lakeview vs. Livonia Churchill	Battle Creek Lakeview	Battle Creek Lakeview	Battle Creek Lakeview	Battle Creek Lakeview	Livonia Churchill
Walled Lake Western vs. Fenton	Walled Lake Western	Walled Lake Western	Walled Lake Western	Walled Lake Western	Fenton
Farmington vs. U-D Jesuit	Farmington	Farmington	Farmington	Farmington	U-D Jesuit
Detroit Martin Luther King vs. Livonia Franklin	Franklin	King	King	King	Livonia Franklin
Birmingham Groves vs. Birmingham Seaholm	Groves	Groves	Groves	Groves	Groves
River Rouge vs. Redford Thurston	River Rouge	River Rouge	River Rouge	River Rouge	River Rouge
Detroit Country Day vs. Harper Woods	Country Day	Country Day	Country Day	Country Day	Detroit Country Day
Michigan State vs. Illinois	Michigan State	Michigan State	Illinois	Michigan State	Michigan State
Minnesota vs. Penn State	Penn State	Minnesota (Row the boat!)	Minnesota	Penn State	Penn State
Alabama vs. LSU	LSU	Alabama	LSU	Alabama	LSU
Wisconsin vs. Iowa	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
Chicago Bears vs. Detroit Lions	Lions	Lions	Bears	Bears	Bears
Last Week's Record:	13-7	11-9	10-10	14-6	8-12
Season Record:	145-54-1	152-47-1	137-62-1	142-57-1	95-104-1



HTL top 10 high school football teams: Week 11

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

We're one round into the playoffs, and Hometown Life Sports is back with its weekly top 10. 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 by our two sports reporters: Andrew Vaillencourt and Colin Gay. Here is the top 10 for week 10:

**1. Livonia Franklin (8-2, Last Week: No. 2)**

The Patriots move up to the top spot in this week's rankings. They pounded Wyandotte Roosevelt thanks to a stout defensive performance and will face King in the district final. It should be a close, entertaining game and if we're lucky, we could see our top two teams face off in the regional finals.

**2. Farmington (8-1, Last Week: No. 5)**

Farmington pulled off one of the most impressive upsets of the post-season Friday, beating Oak Park 12-6. Oak Park was a team many thought would challenge for a state title. The Falcons will play U-D Jesuit this week.

**3. Birmingham Groves (8-2, Last Week: No. 3)**

Groves lucked out this week and received an automatic pass to the district finals after De La Salle forfeited its opening round game due to a hazing scandal. Now, Groves will face a familiar foe: Seaholm. The rivalry showdown will determine which team advances to the regional finals.

**4. Plymouth (9-1, Last Week: No. 4)**

Plymouth, despite being short a few key players due to injury, took care of business against a strong Lakeland team on Friday. Now, the Wildcats will face a significantly tougher opponent in West Bloomfield, which clobbered Canton in its opening game.

**5. North Farmington (9-1, Last Week: No. 1)**

After an outstanding regular season, the Raiders failed to advance to the next round, falling to U-D Jesuit. It was a great improvement from a year ago, but an early exit in the playoffs certainly puts a damper on some of the excitement.

**6. Detroit Country Day (10-0, Last Week: No. 7)**

Detroit Country Day has been rolling through its schedule. In the pre-district round of the postseason, the Yellowjackets pounded Harper Woods Chandler Park, 42-0, and will face Harper Woods for a chance at regionals.

**7. Livonia Churchill (6-4, Last Week: No. 9)**

Churchill's momentum brought the Chargers to a first-round win against Dexter in the pre-district round. Churchill will have to match undefeated Battle Creek Lakeview on the road.

**8. Birmingham Seaholm (7-3, Last Week: No. NR)**

Looking for its first regional appearance since 2000, Seaholm will have to get past Groves, a team it lost to in Week 8 of the regular season. In losses this season, the Maples have averaged just under 14 points of offense, while in wins, Seaholm has scored 45 points per game.

**9. South Lyon (8-2, Last Week: 6)**

After taking a 21-0 lead, South Lyon allowed Fenton to come all the way back for its second pre-district loss in the Lions' last three playoff appearances. The Lions end the season scoring the most points in a single season since 2004.

**10. Redford Thurston (8-2, Last Week: NR)**

Redford Thurston will have a tall task in front of them with a district final game against River Rouge. But it has been impressive as of late, earning a 35-8 victory against Eastpointe in the first round of the playoffs.

■ The Hometown Life sports (HTL 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, Milford).

GAME OF THE WEEK

Groves, Seaholm to face off in OAA White rivalry rematch

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

After starting with 15 in the pre-district round, eight Hometown Life-area teams remain in the hunt for a state title heading into the district finals. Here are the seven games featuring area teams, including an OAA White rivalry rematch as the Hometown Life's game of the week.

**Birmingham Groves vs. Birmingham Seaholm: 7 p.m., Nov. 8**

Birmingham Groves and Birmingham Seaholm have seen each other already this season. Trailing 14-7 near the end of the first half, the Falcons scored 28 unanswered points in the final 25 minutes, leading to a 35-14 victory against the Maples on Oct. 18.

But Seaholm's offense has stepped up in the past two weeks. Running back Chaz Strecker and quarterback Caleb Knoer have led the Maples to score 118 points in the past two weeks against Auburn Hills Avondale and Sterling Heights, outscoring their four previous weeks combined.

While the Maples lit up the scoreboard with a first-round win against Avondale, Groves stayed at home after its pre-district opponent, Warren De La Salle, forfeited the game, automatically advancing the Falcons to the second round.

In its three losses this season, Seaholm averages just under 14 points per game, which Groves saw in Week 8. Groves faced Seaholm in the pre-dis-

trict round in 2018, beating the Maples 35-14, which helped the Falcons to their second semifinal bid since 2016.

Here are six other games to watch in the district finals of the MHSAA high school football playoff tournament:

**Livonia Franklin at Detroit Martin Luther King; 6 p.m., Nov. 8**

Livonia Franklin head coach Chris Kelbert was there when the Patriots last faced Detroit Martin Luther King in 2015.

Coming off a 2-7 regular season in 2014, Franklin had a resurgence, advancing to the semifinal round of the playoffs. But the Patriots faced a rude awakening, as the Crusaders beat them 40-6 on their way to the first of three state titles in the past four years.

In 2019, Franklin looks a lot like the team it did in 2015: recording its first season since 2015 with over 400 points scored. It has a better defense than that semifinal Patriots team, allowing an average of 22.1 points per game.

However, Franklin will go to King with the Crusaders on a roll. After losing its first two games to Detroit Catholic Central and Muskegon, King has won eight straight, outscoring opponents 333-43, including three shutouts.

**Plymouth at West Bloomfield: 7 p.m., Nov. 8**

After a 41-14 loss to Belleville in the KLAA championship, Plymouth got back on track with a pre-district win against White Lake Lakeland.

But the Wildcats will face the team

that led to their exit in 2018: West Bloomfield.

The Lakers beat Plymouth 49-14 in the first round a season ago in the only meeting between the two schools. West Bloomfield has allowed only 28 points in the past five weeks, holding onto an eight-game win streak after its Week 2 loss to Groves.

**Redford Thurston at River Rouge: 7 p.m., Nov. 8**

Redford Thurston has found success against River Rouge in the past. As former division rivals, the Eagles have defeated the Panthers in five of seven total meetings, the first of which came in 2001.

However, Thurston has not seen River Rouge since 2006, and the Panthers have changed a lot since then.

The Panthers have made the playoffs for 10 straight years, advancing as far as the state final in 2015, where River Rouge lost to Grand Rapids West Catholic.

Even though Thurston has scored 327 points this season through 10 games, its highest since 2011, the Eagles will face a River Rouge defense that has stifled opponents to 70 points in 10 games, 41 of which came in two games.

Farmington vs. Detroit U-D Jesuit: 7 p.m., Nov. 8

After defeating the previously undefeated North Farmington in the pre-district round, University of Detroit Jesuit will try and end the season of the Raiders' city rival Farmington in the district final.

The Falcons have not played the Cubs

since 1999, when U-D Jesuit beat Farmington, 28-23, in the regional final.

Coming off the first-round upset of Oak Park, Farmington will try and advance to its second regional in two years with a win against U-D Jesuit.

**Detroit Country Day vs. Harper Woods: 7 p.m., Nov. 8**

Through 10 games, Detroit Country Day has been rolling through its schedule.

The Yellowjackets are averaging 39 points per game, the most in the school's history, while allowing a total of 49 points in 10 games, the lowest since 1969, when Detroit Country Day played in nine total games.

The Yellowjackets will take on Harper Woods, a team looking to get to its first regional since 2007.

**Livonia Churchill at Battle Creek Lakeview: 1 p.m., Nov. 9**

Livonia Churchill is seemingly getting better as the weeks continue. The Chargers upset Dexter in the first round of the playoffs, recording their third 40-point game of the season.

However, the match ups get harder for Churchill. The Chargers will take on Battle Creek Lakeview on the road.

The Spartans are undefeated, and have allowed 22 points in their past four games, including two shutouts. It will be the first meeting between the two teams.

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



# Football

Continued from Page 1B

And when a 58-yard pass from Brooks to Lowry set up a 1-yard touchdown run by sophomore Davieon Pitchford, Parachek found senior wide receiver Rhett Jacobs for a 46-yard score to keep the one-score lead five plays later.

For DeFilippo, knowing the quality of the Dexter offense coming in — having scored more than 40 points in each game since its 22-17 season-opening loss to Chelsea — he knew touchdowns were the only thing that would keep the Churchill offense in the game.

This may have not been something that seemed feasible in September with a team that lost four of its first five games. But the Churchill head coach said the Franklin loss was the turning point, scoring 48 points against the Patriot defense in a triple-overtime loss.

A performance like that, Brooks said, allowed the offense to perform the way it did against Dexter in the playoffs.

"We started off the year so slow, and I think we have been putting things little by little together every week, and here we are putting up 41 points," Brooks said. "It shows how much work we have been putting in."

## Defense shows up late

After a 17-yard touchdown from Brooks to sophomore receiver Bailey Brooks to bring the Chargers up by one point at the end of the third quarter, the defense started to click.

Junior free safety Jimmy Targosz came up with Parachek's only interception of the day. On the next Dexter offensive drive, the Chargers forced a three-and-out, sacking Parachek for a 1-yard loss on third down.

While the Churchill offense failed to convert on either of those opportunities, the defense continued to show up. The Chargers recovered a backwards-pass fumble at the Dexter 42-yard line, leading to the final touchdown of the day: a Gavin Brooks floater to Morelli for the 45-yard score.

But the defense was not done.

Dexter marched down the field, with Parachek finding Jacobs in the end zone to bring the Dreadnaughts to within two. However, with junior defensive end Khalil Ford leading the charge, Churchill rushed the quarterback on the two-point try, forcing him to rush a floater and secure the victory with an incompleteness.

"This one's going to hurt and we've earned the right to mourn this loss," Phil Jacobs said. "This one stings."

## Momentum continues

DeFilippo does not know what the ceiling for Churchill is. But he knows one thing for sure: the Chargers are playing the best football now than they have all season.

The head coach said winning is contagious, feeding



Churchill coach Bill DeFilippo congratulates his team after its win against Dexter. Churchill won, 41-39, in the pre-district round of the MHSAA high school football playoffs. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

into the energy used in practices during the week and into preparation for the next opponent.

As a leader of an offense that used momentum to its favor in the win against Dexter, Gavin Brooks said that same momentum has been used for the past five weeks for the team as a whole.

"I feel like we just keep playing better every week," Brooks said. "Who knows how good we can be."

Churchill faces Battle Creek Lakeview in the second round, a team DeFilippo does not know much about, but that he knows is undefeated after a 47-8 win against Jackson in the first round of the postseason.

But that's now what he's worried about. The Chargers have played Belleville, and Brighton, and Fordson, and Franklin, and Dexter.

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## Tapp

Continued from Page 1B

It was four months that was not a part of Tapp's plan.

But Tapp got her swing back, becoming the first golfer in South Lyon girls golf history to become an individual state champion in her freshman season, leading the Lions to a second-place finish in the Division 2 state finals, the program's best finish since 2014.

"It was just really crazy to me at first," Tapp said. "Literally a year ago, I was scared to even pick up a club and swing. It's so crazy how far I have come in a year."

Tapp called the rehab process to repair her ACL "stressful and painful," saying it was incredibly difficult to gain her range of motion back.

And even after she was cleared to swing again, it was still a process for Tapp.

"I was very scared that I was going to hurt myself somehow again," Tapp said. "It took a little bit of time to trust myself again."

Tapp eventually returned to the golf course, playing in her first tournaments a year later than she expected to. In her first tournament, she finished with a 91, which she called encouraging, expecting much more out of herself at that

point.

The timeline was not exactly where she wanted it to be. What she did not realize at that point was how much of an impact the physical therapy would have on her development.

"I think I came out of physical therapy much stronger than I was before," Tapp said.

### The 'safety net'

Tapp is a kind of golfer head coach Dan Skatzka does not have very often.

Most of his golfers come in like junior Katherine Potter: the fifth-place individual Division 2 state finisher who had never played golf before high school.

That is what Skatzka bases his year-round training off of: starting in the winter in the indoor batting cages to the two-a-day training sessions he holds in August before the season starts.

As a former football coach, Skatzka aims to revolve his players' lives around golf.

But even in those early camps, Tapp seemed to separate herself early.

"Even the first couple times I saw her swing, I just knew she had something great," junior Bella Campbell said.

But like her rehab, Tapp's initiation into the team was a process.

At South Lyon, the majority of the freshmen are separated from the upper-classmen into the beginner group. Tapp

joined the varsity team right away, with many juniors and seniors looking at her at or exceeding their level.

"We already knew a couple of her scores," senior Emma Mackey said. "She just skipped right along."

Tapp describes herself as shy, saying that everyone on the team was extremely welcoming, but it took time for her to adjust mentally.

And while Tapp knew that her skills matched her teammates, she did not think her ceiling would be so high.

"I didn't think I had it in me to do that well," Tapp said.

Throughout Tapp's first season with the Lions, Potter viewed her as the "safety net" for the team, saying that no matter how the team performed as a whole, that the freshman would always put up a good score.

At the state final, it all clicked for the freshman. The two 75's that Tapp scored in the state final to secure the individual championship were the best two scores that she had scored all season.

### Great expectations

Skatzka knew that South Lyon was going to get its first individual state champion.

Both Potter and Tapp were neck-and-neck in the final, with the freshman securing the victory after Potter, who had

a better overall season score than Tapp, triple-bogeyed.

The South Lyon head coach knows, no matter what year a player is, that it's extremely difficult to repeat as a state champion. For Tapp, she is going to have to pass a state-final contender on her very same roster.

"She is going to have to work extremely hard to be in the same position in another year," Skatzka said. "She is going to have to work extremely hard to beat Katie."

Potter said she likes being the underdog, not only individually, but as a team.

South Lyon finished second to Forest Hills Northern in the Division 2 state final, a girls golf powerhouse that has won three-straight state titles.

Potter said next season, with the roster the Lions have, it will be "any given day" which team will come out on top, what she calls a "50 percent" shot.

For Tapp, she is not thinking about next season, about how hard it will be to repeat.

She is still remembering seeing her father break down in tears just off the green at the state championship.

"He reminded me, 'You've been doing this your whole life,'" Tapp said. "You are stronger than you ever have been. You are going to be OK."

She is still remembering the painful process it took to get to where she is now.

## Cross country

Continued from Page 1B

They stuck right with Solomon through a 4:44 opening mile and a 9:43 two-mile split.

As Spamer began to drop back in the final mile, Favazza clung to Solomon and even had a brief exchange of words.

"It helps when you're best friends with him," Favazza said. "He pulled up right beside me when I took the lead and he said, 'Let's go one and two together; this is it.' I'm like, 'This is the guy. I'm sticking with him the whole way.'"

Solomon went into another gear as the two sprinted down the long straightaway at MIS to hold off Favazza, who was second in 15:06.0. Spamer, whose Brighton team won the championship,

was third in 15:17.1.

"Something we worked on this year was that closing speed," Solomon said. "In workouts, the last couple reps we worked on that closing speed. I was confident with it. I know these guys can close, too."

Solomon will go down as one of the greatest cross country runners in Michigan history after becoming only the second boy to crack the top 18 four times in the state's largest classification in 24 years of racing at MIS. The other is Rockford legend Dathan Ritzenhein, who made the top five four years in a row from 1997-2000 and holds the course record of 14:10.4.

Solomon led Plymouth to a team championship as a junior when he was the individual runner up, then went on to earn All-America by finishing fourth in the Foot Locker National Cross Coun-

try Championship.

A possible successor to Solomon's throne is junior teammate Patrick Byrnes, who finished fifth behind four seniors in 15:33.3. Plymouth senior Tyler Mussen grabbed the final all-state berth, taking 30th in 16:04.8.

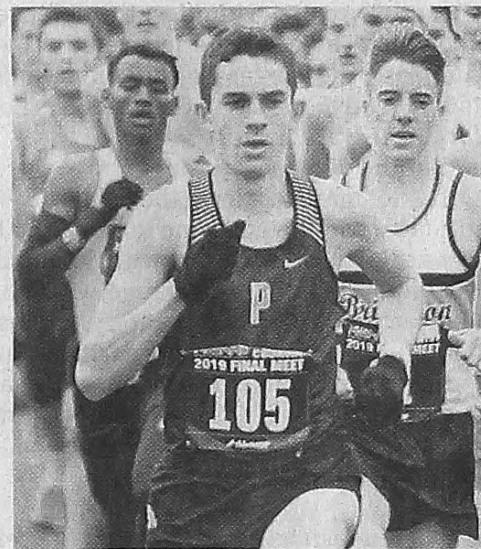
The Wildcats weren't able to defend their championship because of a drop-off after their No. 3 runner. They finished 12th with 309 points.

Also scoring for Plymouth were junior Conner Davis (139th in 17:20.7) and senior Matthew Biros (144th in 17:22.9).

Plymouth had two all-staters in the girls race, with sophomore Lauren Kiley placing 11th in 18:14.8 and junior Londyn Swenson taking 18th in 18:24.6.

Salem was 14th as a team with 399 points and Plymouth was 18th with 407.

Junior Olivia Millen led Salem, finishing 44th in 19:12.0.



Plymouth's Carter Solomon leads the pack about 700 meters into the state Division 1 cross country meet.

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2001	Chevy Cavalier	1G1JC524X17148599
2003	Ford Taurus	1FAFP55S63G114776
2010	Honda CRV	5J6RE4H59AL048333

Dated: 10/14/2019

Plymouth Township PO Box 15996  
Plymouth Township Police Department

Publish: November 7, 2019

LO-0000353823

3x2.5

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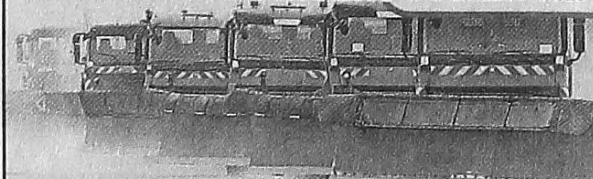
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## THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

## ACROSS

1 Costco rival  
9 Machine arranging sheets  
17 "That's icky!"  
20 Short, amusing tale  
21 Made a rustling sound  
22 Debate side  
23 "Beverly Hills 90210" actress competing in a bee?  
25 Capitol Hill VIP  
26 Suffix with propyl  
27 Fish eggs  
28 Beate bride of 1969  
29 —"Pea"  
30 "V for Vendetta" star doing wickerwork?  
38 Later time of life  
41 Kind of PC screen  
42 Most reserved  
43 "Lullaby of Birdland" composer clipping rams?

50 Actress — Dawn Chong  
51 Yarn coils  
52 Ontario border lake  
53 The "E" of QED  
55 Manhattan sch.  
56 Bridal gown material  
58 Hindu sage  
63 "Charlotte's Web" star using fireplace bellows?  
68 Tarzan, e.g.  
70 Was inactive  
71 Minnesota port  
72 "A Brief History of Time" author peddling goods?  
79 Transparent kitchen wrap  
80 Actor Haim or Feldman  
81 Fair-hiring inits.  
82 Batting avg., e.g.  
85 Rocket org.  
86 See 109-Across  
89 Lead-in to mo or pitch

90 "Paracelsus" poet making toast?  
96 Dazed state  
98 Atty.'s gp.  
99 Epic poem by Virgil  
100 "Tom Jones" novelist catching pop flies?  
107 Nothing but  
108 Week unit  
109 With 86-Across, "You bet!"  
110 Discontinuity  
113 Actress Gasteyer  
114 "Family Huddle" co-author rowing?  
122 Kindled  
123 Legendary lost island  
124 Employees' clip-ons  
125 Milwaukee-to-Miami dir.  
126 Soda jerk's workplace  
127 Locale of Iraq and Israel

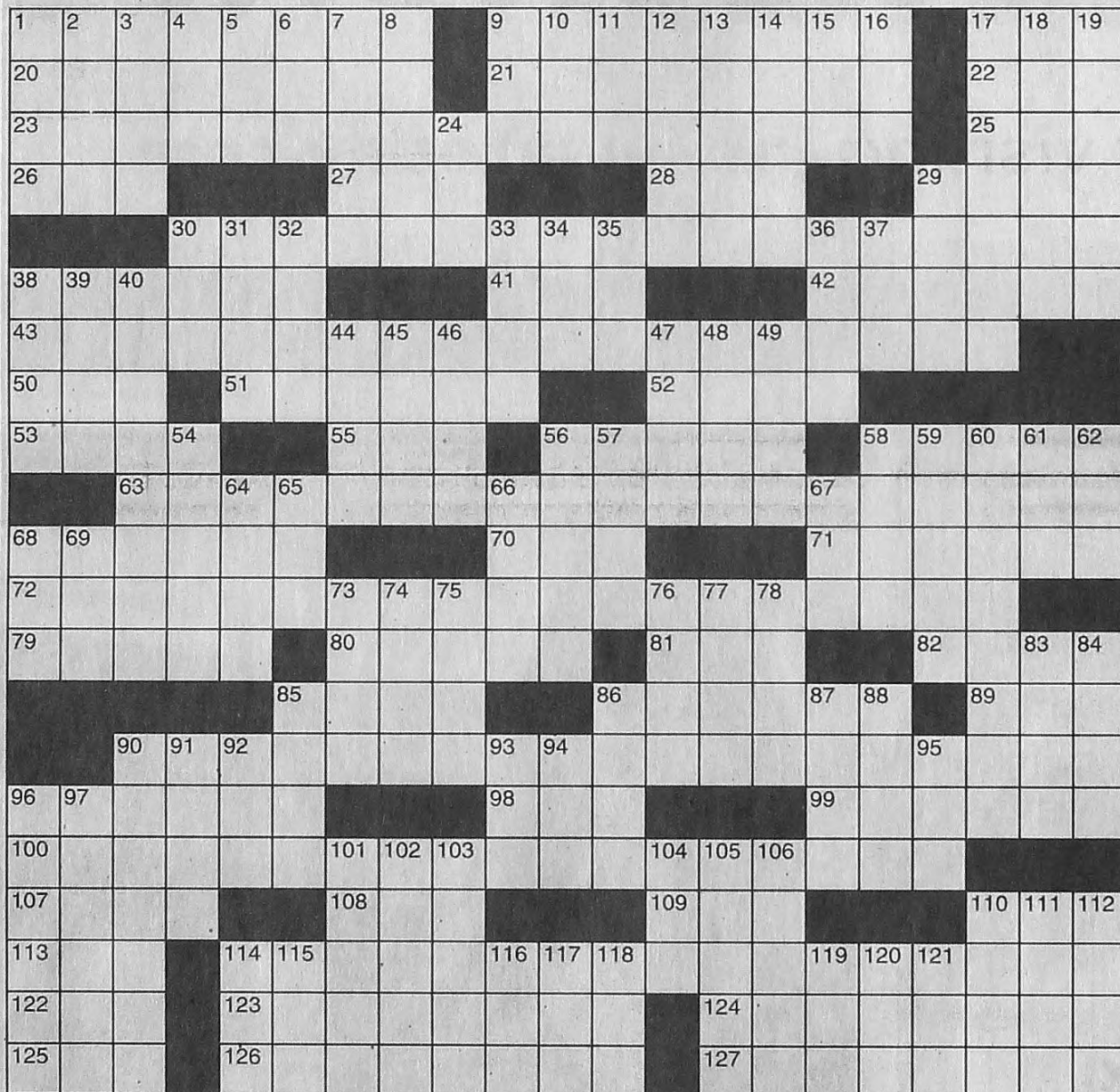
## DOWN

1 Fill fully  
2 In a while  
3 Nothing but  
4 — -fi film

5 Successors of LPs  
6 Cut (off)  
7 In — surgery  
8 Less than  
9 15-season CBS show  
10 Have sight  
11 Sawmill  
12 In need of a refill of  
13 See 49-Down  
14 Pound  
15 20-volume ref. work  
16 Tpk., e.g.  
17 High hairdo  
18 Welcomes  
19 Sincere  
24 Director Ang  
29 — terrier  
30 Laugh sound  
31 Trendy Aussie boots  
32 Techie type  
33 "Oh, wo!"  
34 Pre-TiVo device  
35 Cruel Amin  
36 Court legend Arthur  
37 That gal  
38 Shrek, e.g.  
39 Name in jets  
40 "The Sound of Music" refrain starter  
44 Shipped out  
45 "Hey there"

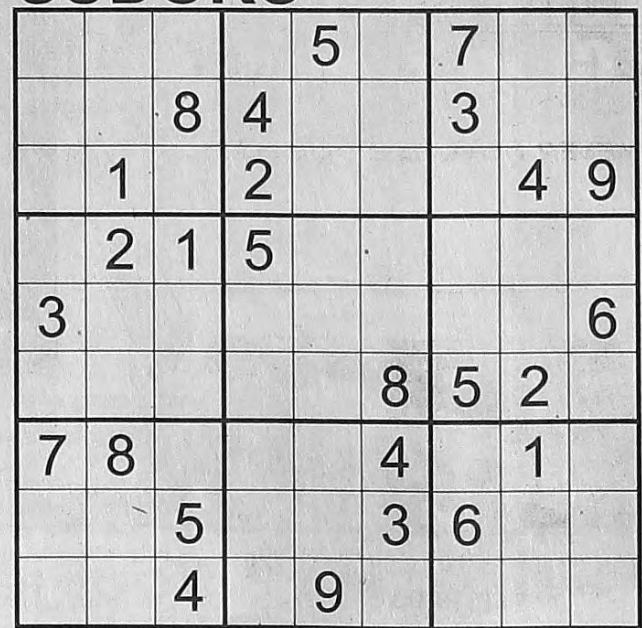
46 Ample, in dialect  
47 — pot (nasal cavity rinses)  
48 Big smile  
49 With 13-Down, do some karaoke, e.g.  
54 Florida city  
56 Serpentine  
57 Debate side  
58 Ugly remark  
59 Cardiff locale  
60 Not-to-be-missed thing  
61 Gathered  
62 "Sorta"  
64 Madeline of "First Family"  
65 Single bill  
66 "... even — speak"  
67 Rx safety org.  
68 Burro  
69 Sch. org.  
73 Va. neighbor  
74 Emcee  
75 Sheik, e.g.  
76 Frau's "no"  
77 Former Spice Girl Halliwell  
78 Frayed  
83 Jai follower  
84 Sondheim's Sweeney  
85 Brand of spongy toys  
86 Goose's kin

87 The same, in French  
88 Brand of luxury Swiss watches  
90 Be behind schedule  
91 Grand Ole —  
92 Male tyke  
93 "Cool!", '90s-style  
94 Honshu sash  
95 ICU staffers  
96 Sandbanks  
97 Nadal's sport  
101 Rustic verse  
102 Bother badly  
103 City northwest of Grenoble  
104 OB- — (med. specialist)  
105 West African nation  
106 Tangential remark  
110 Ardently fond  
111 Son of Hera  
112 Furtive "Hey there!"  
114 Dawber of "Mork & Mindy"  
115 Platonic "H"  
116 Utmost  
117 "O Sole —"  
118 Deadly cobra  
119 Rockets' org.  
120 Long-snouted fish  
121 Poem variety



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

## SUDOKU



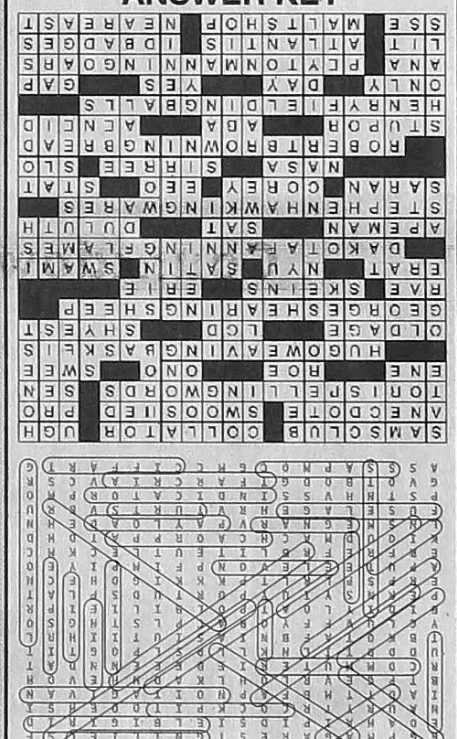
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I A D T T M B F A P N O I T A G I V A N  
B T P G E V R L O H L K A D N H E V O H  
R C O M M U T E R I E B E E E N N D A T  
U D D D T I L N K L L P S L P O G T I T  
T B K O T A F B N I A S I U T I H R L  
Y G L U V F F Y O R A C P L S T N G S O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

## ANSWER KEY



## WORDS

AILERON  
AIRCRAFT  
AIRFOIL  
AIRSPACE  
ALTIMETER  
ALTITUDE  
APPROACH  
ARRIVAL  
CEILING  
COCKPIT  
COMMUTER  
COMPASS  
DEPARTURE  
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PASSENGERS  
PAYLOAD  
PILOT  
POSITION  
RANGE  
ROUTE  
SPEED  
STRUT  
TRAFFIC  
TURBINE

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

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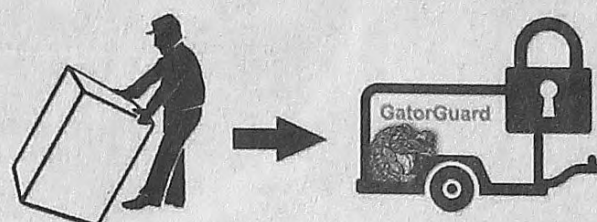
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Minimum purchase of four.

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every window and  
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No minimum purchase required.

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**FOR 2 YEARS<sup>1</sup>**

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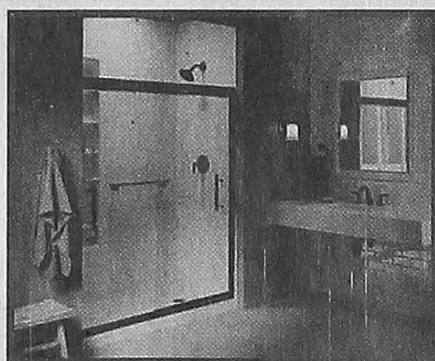
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**KOHLER LuxStone Showers**  
Safe and Beautiful Walk-In Systems

**SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY  
FEATURES AVAILABLE**



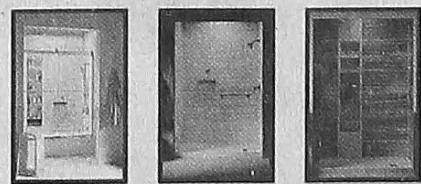
Choosing between a new walk-in bath or shower for your home depends greatly on your needs and accessibility. While both offer the safety benefit of a low step-in for easy entry, the comfort and aesthetic advantages vary.

The **KOHLER® Walk-In Bath** allows you to bathe in a comfortably seated position while enjoying the therapeutic benefits of hydrotherapy whirlpool jets. It also allows you to recline as you bathe. However, those who feel comfortable standing for a longer period of time may find that the **KOHLER® LuxStone™ Shower**, which provides a more traditional shower experience, better meets their needs.

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- **Durable Materials** for Long-Lasting Beauty
- **Low-Maintenance** Shower Walls
- **Quality You Expect From Kohler**
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- **Safety-Focused** Design Features
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**KOHLER LuxStone Showers**  
**32" x 60" WALK-IN SHOWER**

**FOR ONLY \$98 / mo.**  
**PLUS \$1500**  
**INSTANT REBATE**

\*Cannot be combined with any other offer. Previous sales excluded. Good at initial presentation only. \$1,500 off installed shower system. Financing available for qualified buyers only and based on a purchase price of \$825 with \$1500 cash deposit and financed for 120mo at 6.99% APR with \$1500 discount included in purchase price.

**NEW BATH  
TODAY**  
KOHLER Walk-In Bath Authorized Dealer

**SET-UP YOUR FREE DESIGN-CONSULTATION TODAY!**  
CALL NOW **313-241-9145**

DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 12/7/2019. You must set your appointment by 11/29/2019 and purchase by 12/7/2019. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or patio door, get one (1) window or patio door 40% off, and 24 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 10/27/2019 and 12/7/2019. 40% off windows and patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or patio door in the project. Additional \$75 off each window or patio door, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you set your appointment by 11/29/2019 and purchase by 12/7/2019. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2019 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2019 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

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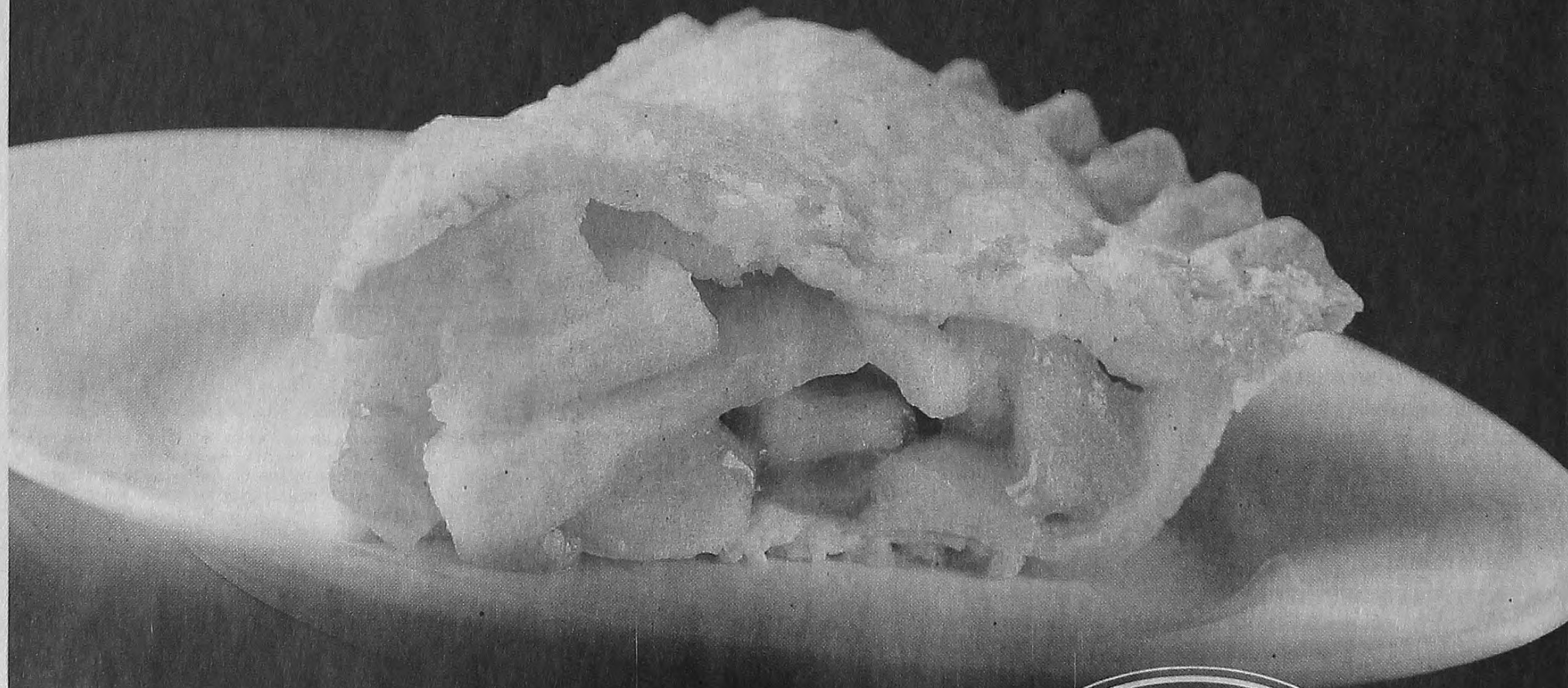
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