

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019 HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Machine helped save Election Day in Livonia

BSERVER

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

What happens when a polling precinct runs out of ballots on Election Day?

Officials in Livonia found themselves having to answer that question Nov. 5 when Grant Elementary and Frost Middle schools each ran out of ballots.

"Statistically, they were all set up the same," Livonia Clerk Susan Nash said of the voting precincts. "Based on voter turnout, absentees, everything. The same math was used for these two places as everywhere else.

"So why these two?"

Nash was proud to say a little-used Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant machine the city received in 2017 made sure everyone got to vote.

Called a Voter Assisted Terminal, each polling place in Livonia has one of these touchscreen machines. A controller with braille and a set of headphones allow sight-challenged citizens to vote,

See MACHINE, Page 8A



City of Livonia Elections Coordinator Janet Douglas demonstrates how the Voter Assisted Terminals work. The stations, normally reserved for sightchallenged voters, came in handy Nov. 5 when precincts ran out of ballots due to high voter turnout. JOHN HEIDER/ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Never too cold to honor vets



Farmington Hills woman, stepson facing murder trial

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A mother and her son lost their District Court battle Nov. 7 when a judge ruled there was enough evidence to support the charges of

open murder, tampering with evidence and disinterment and mutilation of a body.

The decision concluded a preliminary

Marine Corps Lt. Col. Krista McKinley leads the Veterans Day ceremony at Plymouth Veterans Memorial Park on Monday. Most speakers noted that the steady snowfall was nothing compared to what those who fought at the Chosin Resevoir in Korea or the Battle of the Bulge in World War II had to contend with. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

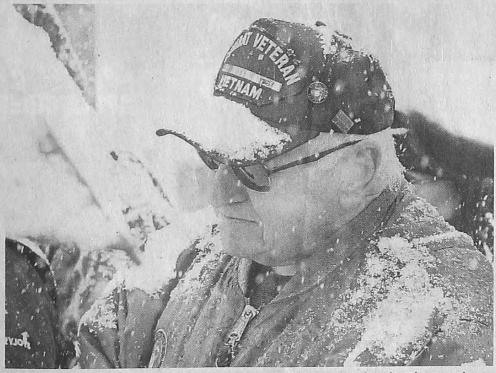
Memorial ceremony continues in snowfall

Weather couldn't deter the chance to honor those who have served in the military, protecting the United States of America.

American Legion Post #391, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6695 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #528 hosted a Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday morning at Plymouth Veterans Memorial Park.

Veterans Day commemorates the courage and patriotism of all the men and women who have served in the United States armed services. It is celebrated on Nov. 11 – to remind Americans of the tragedies of war. Originally called Armistice Day, it was created to celebrate the end of fighting in World War I.

In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day – a day to honor and recognize all veterans.



Many veterans from the Vietnam War attended the event despite the weather.

Co-

8

examination that began Flintin May. Tennyson

Beatrice Flint-Tennyson, 68, of Farmington Hills, and her son Delbert Flint, 47, of St. Joseph, Missouri, now will face a Third Circuit Court judge and potential jury.

Flint-Tennyson's husband was discovered dead in the trunk of a burned vehicle almost four years ago.

Defense attorneys Cyril Hall and Amir Makled are anticipating going to trial and their clients having their day in court.

"The whole case is entirely circumstantial," Makled said during a phone interview. "They have zero hard evidence that can link our clients to this murder."

Detroit firefighters found Darvin Tennyson, 60, of Farmington Hills, in a vehicle on fire they had responded to March 20, 2016. Prosecutors officially charged Flint-Tennyson and her son in April.

During the preliminary exam, Tennyson's friends and coworkers from Chrysler's Trenton Engine Plant testified that they knew Tennyson and his wife fought over things such as bank accounts and Flint moving into their home.

A self-employed handyman testified that Tennyson had told him that if something happened to Tennyson, his wife and stepson should be considered suspicious.

Detroit police officers testified that the burned car – a Ford Fusion – was registered to a Farmington Hills address where it seemed Flint-Tennyson was living. She also had a Mercedes-Benz registered in her name.

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

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Dog goes rogue in GM Proving Ground

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A pug is on the loose in the GM Proving Ground in Milford.

Rex the renegade has gone rogue for more than a week now, escaping on Halloween night from the home he shares with Annette Jones near Commerce and Hickory Ridge roads.

He has been spotted several times inside the Proving Ground, GM's massive vehicle testing facility in Milford and Brighton townships.

"I've been here 30 years and have never seen anything like this," said Frank Taverna, operations manager. "We are pretty thoroughly fenced in, with an 8-foot-high fence that goes around the property and is carefully maintained. It keeps most things out."

While deer can jump the fence topped with barbed wire at the high-security facility, and other wildlife roam parts of the campus that contains for-



Rex, a rogue pug from Milford, is on the run in the GM Proving Ground. COURTESY OF ANNETTE JONES

est, four large lakes and smaller ponds, this is the first time Taverna knows of that someone's pet has been inside.

The 25-pound dog is believed to have squeezed under a gate that lets in trucks.

Getting security clearance for the

Proving Ground isn't easy, but Jones was allowed in twice last weekend, accompanied by guards, to search for Rex.

"It's very frustrating, but they understand and they let me into 'Fort Knox' – I couldn't believe it," she said. "There are tons of tracks in there, it's pretty highly secretive; Rex is a corporate spy."

The pug didn't stay undercover while Jones was on a mission to bring him home. She said he came within 20 feet of her at one point, but then ran into the woods again. Jones said she wonders if Rex is hunting a few of his favorite things: grasshoppers and rabbits.

Rex left home when a gate was accidentally left open. He and Jones have been staying with a family at the Milford home since May, but have lived in the area for years. She keeps the dog for her son, Ted, who can only have one dog at his condo in Northville.

This is not the first time Rex, 7, has escaped. Four years ago, he ran away and spent two days in Kensington Metropark. Jones thinks he may be feeling a little put out about Chewy, his sibling, who has been seeking more attention than usual from Jones after her son, Ben, died a year ago.

Security is keeping a lookout and the GM staff and Jones are hoping Rex will get hungry or cold enough to finally give up the game.

Jones has left Rex a McDonald's Happy Meal, beef jerky, and his favorite dog food. Two live traps have been set up, but they remain empty.

Taverna, who once owned a beagle who also liked to run, said he understands.

"This little pug might be one of those dogs on a mission," he said. "We are heartbroken about it, a lot of us have dogs and pets of our own and we understand how painful it is, but we can't think of what else to do."

Anyone who sees Rex, inside or outside of the Proving Grounds, should call Jones at 313-461-4302 or 248-880-5541.

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Police increase patrols after report of home invasion

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Farmington Hills resident heard a sound early Sunday morning and realized a man was standing in the front entrance of the home.

Police said in a report the home invasion happened at 1:10 a.m. at an Oxford Avenue residence near Shiawassee Street.

The homeowner said the stranger fled the home and escaped in a gray SUV southbound on Oxford Avenue.

The suspect was described as a black man, between 20 and 25 years of age, wearing a white hooded sweatshirt and dark baseball cap.

In response, police officers have increased patrols in the area.

Anyone with information regarding this incident should contact Farmington Hills Police at 248-871-2610.

Deputies: Weather was cause of fatal crash in Westland

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A man died after his vehicle slid off Edward N. Hines Drive in Westland on Monday afternoon and struck a guardrail, according to Wayne County Sheriff's deputies.

Pageant Atterberry, the agency's spokeswoman, said the man was eastbound near the Middlebelt Road intersection when he veered off the road at 3:47 p.m. An ambulance transported the man to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, where he was pronounced dead.

Westland police also were dispatched to the scene. Police directed media to the Wayne County Sheriff's Office.

The man is not being identified. Deputies have said weather conditions led to the crash.

Shooting case from Wayne heads to circuit court

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Wayne man accused of an Brush Street shooting in October waived a preliminary exam, moving his case to Third Circuit Court in Detroit.

Patrick K. Walsh Jr., 33, is scheduled for a March 3 trial related to three felonious assault charges and three weapons-felony firearms charges. A final conference is set for Jan. 13.

Police have said they were dispatched to the 35000 block of Brush Street the evening of Oct. 14 because someone was shooting a gun.

Police spoke to witnesses and found Walsh at a nearby home. They took him into custody and retrieved his handgun.

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



North Center Brewing relocating in Northville

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

After nearly five years, North Center Brewing Co. is getting an upgrade.

The brewery at 410 N. Center St., which has operated in Northville since 2015, will relocate to a larger space in the former Village Workshop at 455 E. Cady.

Kevin DeGrood, the brewery's owner, said the decision to move will allow for the brewery to add more offerings to its customers, such as a wider food menu.

"The biggest thing for us was the ability for expansion," he said. "Our current space is really tight.

"We have a kitchen crammed in there with a brew house."

The move from the current location will result in a space nearly quadruple the size, giving more room for customers and employees and allowing for other types of brewing, including a barrelaging program.

North Center Brewing will have its brewing tanks located in the garage of the space, and its taproom will take over the current cafe area at the former Village Workshop.

It's a space, DeGrood said, he's always had his eye on.

"This building was a building that I originally looked at before it was the Village Workshop," he said. "From a layout building perspective, it was exactly what I wanted."

The Village Workshop closed earlier this year and is currently in the process of being revamped into more of a coworking space.

The plan for the new center, which does not have a new name yet, has always included talks of adding a local brewery.

Carter Guider, the space's general manager, said they looked at a few options and decided North Center Brewing was the best choice to occupy the space.

"The good news is, we had some very positive options," he said. "This just really fits well for them and for us and we think the community."

DeGrood said he hopes to begin operations in the brewery's new space by the end of January.



Kevin DeGrood, owner of North Center Brewing Co., said the brewery plans to move from North Center Street to a space in the former Village Workshop on East Cady, which is nearly four times the size of the current space. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

In the meantime, the brewery continues to gather the proper approvals – it received approval on the move from Northville City Council at its meeting Nov. 4 – and prepare to leave its current space.

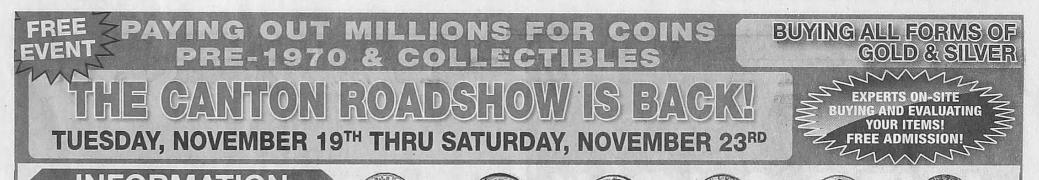
It's expected the pub will close for a short amount of time to transfer the supplies across Northville, but DeGrood is hoping it won't be closed for long.

The move comes as several Metro Detroit breweries have shut their doors in the past year, including Axle Brewing in Ferndale, Black Lotus Brewing in Clawson and Falling Down Brewery in Warren.

Degrood said while it it's scary to see so many breweries close down, he said North Center is currently in a position to make the move for expansion.

"We're in a position where we can make a maneuver where this new space puts us in a good spot in the market," he said.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak. "The biggest thing for us was the ability for expansion. Our current space is really tight. We have a kitchen crammed in there with a brew house." Kevn DeGrood Owner, North Center Brewing Company





Veterans among leaders at St. Mary Mercy

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Nick Nickolopoulos and Dr. Matthew Griffin weren't taking part in any freebies this Veterans Day, although they started their careers in the military.

Instead, they were working at St. Mary Mercy Livonia hospital.

Nickolopoulos enlisted in the Army around the same time Griffin served in the Navy in the 1990s.

Griffin had a scholarship through the Navy to get him through medical school, and Nickolopoulos was trying to jumpstart his life.

"My parents couldn't afford to send me to college and I was working at a full service gas station in Lapeer," said Nickolopoulos, now chief nursing officer and vice president of patient care for the hospital. "Honestly, one day I was there working with one of my best friends and the recruiter called us both on the same day. So we were talking while we were working. ...

"The next day, we met with him and that's all she wrote. We were off."

Nickolopoulos served 1992-97 at the border of North Korea and South Korea and then at Fort Hood in Texas. He said that time working as a specialist gave him knowledge he still uses now.

"I would not be as successful as I am, I don't think, without the Army," he said. "One, it really provided me with the confidence to advance in my career. It also taught me what it is to be a team.

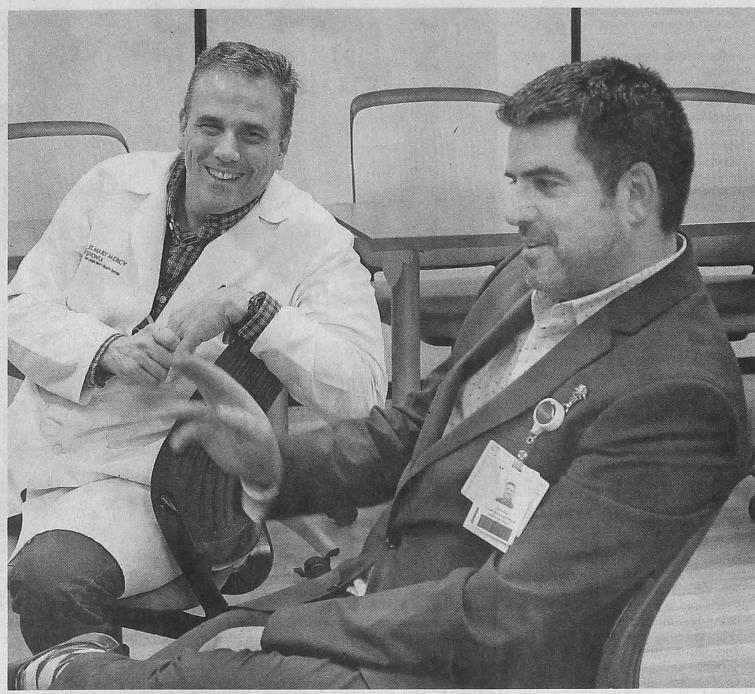
"Throughout the service, you don't do anything without each other. You can't succeed without each other."

At St. Mary Mercy Livonia, Nickolopoulos manages about 1,000 people. The team-building lessons he learned in the Army are how he tries to lead his team today.

"I think bringing the whole team together, you have your medics, your infantry, your cooks, and it takes everyone coming together to survive and be successful. ... It's really guided me throughout my life," he said.

As chief medical officer, Griffin often works hand-in-hand with Nickolopoulos.

"It's learning to put others before yourself and not just saying you're part of a team, but immersing yourself as



Veterans and St. Mary Mercy Hospital Livonia Chief Medical Officer Dr. Matthew Griffin, M.D., left, and Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Nick Nickolopolos talk about how their time in the military helped their careers. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

part of the team," he said

While on active duty between 1991 and 1995, Griffin worked in combat circumstances in Okinawa, and then in peace at Winter Harbor, Maine, as an emergency resident.

"I couldn't get a residency because, really everywhere at the time, emergency medicine residencies were really competitive," he said. "So I ended up to going to Winter Harbor, Maine, where I took care of the sailors and their families."

He agreed that his time in service gave him opportunities he probably wouldn't have had otherwise. "I didn't worry about nearly the same things my classmates did because by comparison, I had been trying to provide medical control to a ship 2,000 miles away in the ocean and trying to figure out how to help them," said

See VETERANS, Page 5A





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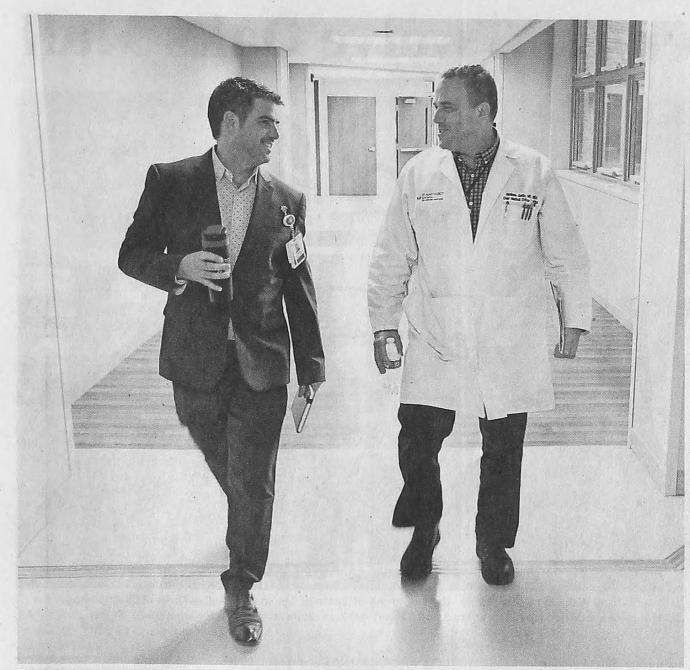
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Though they both had their challenges in the service, Nick Nickolopoulos, left, and Dr. Matthew Griffin say they try to stay out of the spotlight on Veterans Day and recognize people who lost something in service. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Veterans

Continued from Page 4A

Griffin, who left the service as a lieutenant commander, said.

Though they both had their challenges in the service, the men say they try to stay out of the spotlight on Veterans Day and recognize people who lost something in service.

"I had it much easier than a lot of the guys now, and their combat circumstances are a lot different than mine," Griffin said. "I don't ever pretend I had it like others have."

"They saw way much more than I did, things you can't imagine," Nickolopoulos added. "Even though I'm proud of what I did, they really sacrificed."

So on Veterans Day, they paid tribute to the World War II, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan service men and women they know.

"I try to recognize those who maybe didn't have as much of a positive experience or had a much more harrowing experience, like our combat veterans," Griffin said. "They're truly the heroes."

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



Nurse Nick Nickolopoulos while he was serving in the Army in the 1990s. COURTESY OF NICK NICKOLOPOULOS



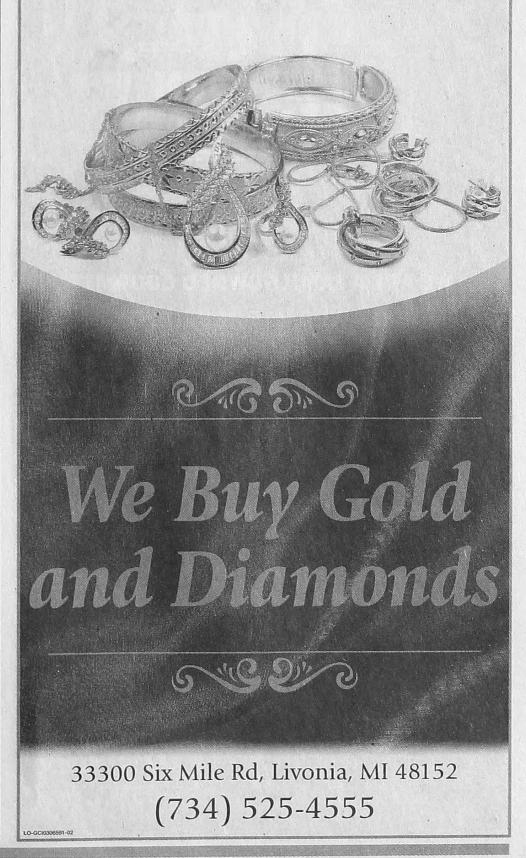
Dr. Matthew Griffin while he was serving in the Navy in the 1990s. COURTESY OF DR. MATTHEW GRIFFIN











\$2

Tea shop opens in Twelve Oaks Mall

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Those who miss going in and smelling the tea at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi can thank Cody Wallace and Noah Cannon for bringing back those aromas.

The graduates of Chippewa Valley High School just opened their business, Taste of Tea, in the former Teavana store at the mall at 27500 Novi.

The duo went into business together last year and expanded into brick-andmortar locations earlier this year in Clinton Township.

"We raised the money to jump-start the business for that," said Wallace, a Clinton Township resident. "Then after that, we kind of got away from the online subscription box business and we opened up the first store at Partridge Creek Mall."

Wallace said he's been into tea since he was a child, and using the business sense he began developing in high school, he joined forces with Cannon.

"My mom, she's from Poland, so tea's kind of the whole Polish culture," Wallace said. "I grew up with it. I drank it every day."

The shop boasts all kinds of teas, from black tea to herbal to white teas. In addition to loose tea, the shop sells several accessories, including infusers, and other items vital to enjoying a cup of tea.

The two said they received a lot of attention opening in the space formerly occupied by Teavana, which closed all its shops across the country last year due to under-performance. Starbucks, which owns the Teavana brand, made the announcement of the closures in 2017.

Having a physical presence in a mall allows for customers to experience their products more fully, something not easily achieved through a computer screen.

"Starting off online, coming in is a whole other experience for the customer," Cannon said. "You come in and get an experience. You smell the tea, you taste the tea."

The two decided they wanted to expand into a new area to serve a different clientele. Novi made perfect sense, and the reputation Twelve Oaks has helped



Noah Cannon, left, and Cody Wallace raise a mug to their opening of Taste of Tea in the Twelve Oaks Mall. The shop, specializing in all things tea, opened Nov. 5 near Lord and Taylor. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

make their decision that much easier.

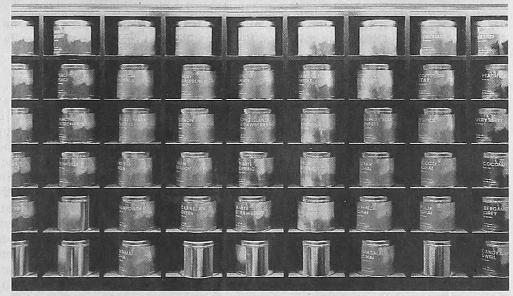
"It seems like a close community," Cannon said. "This mall is second to Somerset (Collection). This is still close, but in a different area."

The two said that despite their youth – Cannon is 21 and Wallace is 20 – they know they've got the smarts to navigate the business landscape and be successful.

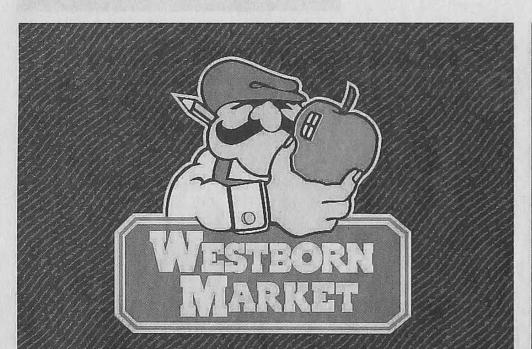
They're hoping the holidays will give customers a chance to try out their product.

"I feel that if you go into business, it's not something you can learn," Cannon said. "You've either got it or you don't."

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



Taste of Tea displays its tea selections in a colorful array behind the counter.







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Have the time of your life as CAPA presents 'Mamma Mia!'

The Creative and Performing Arts program at Churchill High School presents the fun-loving classic musical "Mamma Mia!" on stage at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15 and Saturday, Nov. 16, and at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 17.

Set in the Greek Isles, "Mamma Mia!" features all of the songs that you know and love by ABBA.

Sophie Sheridan is about to be married, but she makes an interesting discovery while reading her mom's diary. She realizes that she has three possible dads.

Sophie invites them all to her wedding and her mom, Donna, who was once the lead singer of a girl group called Donna and the Dynamos, is left to navigate her past while finding a future of her own.

Donna has her backup singer best friends to help her through the ordeal.

Come and dance, jive and have the time of your life at CAPA's production of "Mamma Mia!"

Cast includes Natalie Wilson, as Sophie; Reagan Marinucci as Donna Sheridan; Kyle Matanzas as Sky; Nicholas Alessandrini as Harry Bright; Morgan Vick as Tanya; Mila Vucelic as Rosie; Audrey Turnage as Allie and Angela Calleja as Lisa.

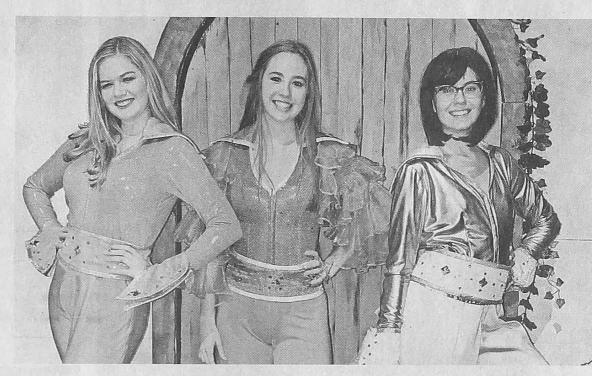
The show is directed by Angie Hillman.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Guests may select and purchase their seats online.

Call 734-744-2650 for more information. Churchill High School is located at 8900 Newburgh Road in Livonia.





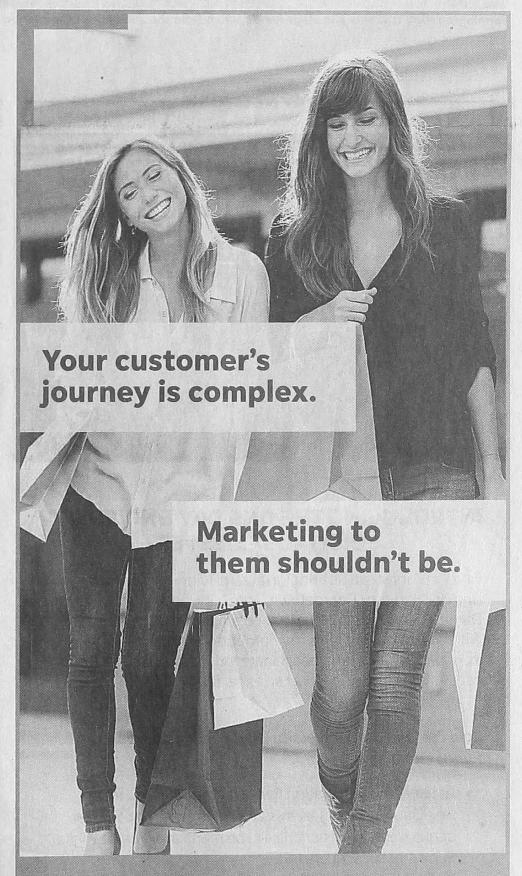
Above, having the time of their lives, students Audrey Turnage as Allie, Angela Calleja as Lisa, and Natalie Wilson as Sophie rehearse a song from "Mamma Mia!" The Creative and **Performing Arts** program at Churchill High will present the musical this weekend. At left, Donna and the **Dynamos are Morgan** Vick as Tanya, Reagan Marinucci as Donna, and Mila Vucelic as Rosie. PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

When should I consider a Roth IRA conversion?



Money Matters Rick Bloom Guest columnist

It is important to remember that for anyone thinking about doing a Roth



Dear Rick

I got divorced in 2018. In the settlement, I received the house, our IRAs of about \$75,000 and a monthly income for 10 years when I turn 65.

Ever since I got divorced, I have not filed a tax return because I have no income. The money I receive from my exhusband, I was told was a property settlement and thus, I did not have to pay taxes on it. After reading your column about Roth IRA conversions, it seems to me that I should take advantage of it.

My first question is: Am I eligible for a Roth IRA conversion even though I have no income? My second question is: If I do a Roth conversion, will I have to file a tax return? My third question is: How much do you think I should convert? You should know that I have no intention to go back to work.

Eventually, I will be able to collect Social Security, and when I turn 65, I will get a pension. My pension and Social Security will more than cover my needs, and I figure my IRA would act as a supplement.

Thank you.

Amy

Dear Amy,

Yes, you are eligible to do a Roth conversion and it is definitely something you should take advantage of. After all, at a very low cost, if any, you can convert taxable money into tax-free money.

With regard to how much you should convert, my thought is that each year you should convert enough so you don't pay any taxes.

For this year, since you have no taxable income, you should be able to convert up to \$12,200 and stay in a zero-tax bracket. My recommendation is that you do this every year so that hopefully, by the time you have to draw down on the money, it will all be within the Roth IRA, allowing you to withdraw the money without paying taxes.

There probably will be some Michigan taxes you owe; however, that number should be nominal at best. By following this strategy, in a few years you will be able to convert your entire IRA

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conversion this year, the transaction must be completed before the end of the year.

virtually tax free.

Because you are converting existing IRA money into a Roth, you would have to file tax returns on a year-by-year basis. However, your tax return would be relatively simple.

It is important to remember that for anyone thinking about doing a Roth conversion this year, the transaction must be completed before the end of the year. IRA custodians get busy near the end of the year; you do not want to wait until the last minute to do a Roth conversion. In addition, the sooner you do a Roth conversion, the sooner your money will convert from growing tax deferred to tax free. Therefore, there is no reason to delay.

In the situation at hand, it is the perfect scenario where someone should take advantage of a Roth conversion. That being said, it still makes sense for people to convert even if they would have to pay taxes, as long as by converting it doesn't throw them into a higher tax bracket. Therefore, everyone should be looking at their tax situation; and if you can take advantage of converting some of your existing IRAs into a Roth IRA, and it keeps you in the same tax bracket, why not.

One last note regarding the conversion: Don't forget that you don't have to wait until the end of year to do your 2020 Roth conversion. You can do it right after the first of the year. The advantage of doing a conversion early is that it would give your money more time to grow on a tax-free basis.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, email Rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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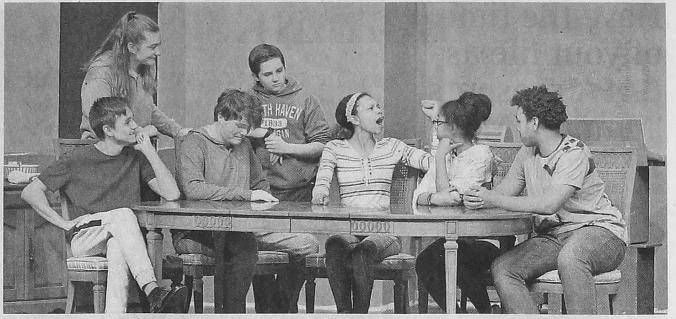
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Farmington High students rehearse for 'You Can't Take it with You'

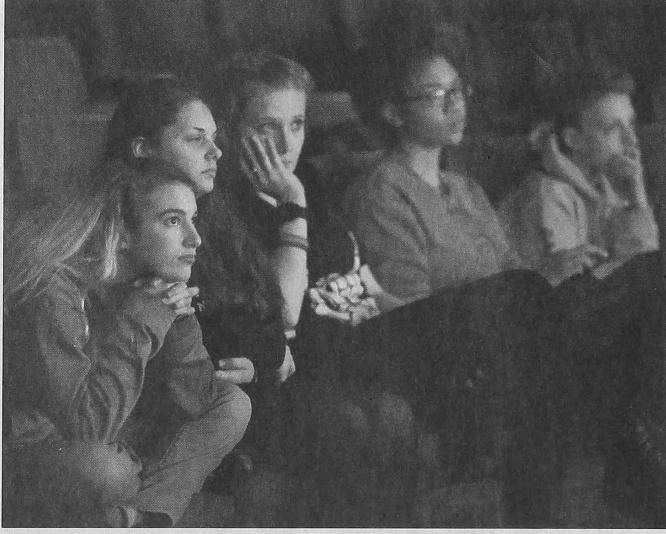
The Farmington High School Theatre Department proudly presents "You Can't Take It with You" with performances at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14-15. Dean and Sue Cobb from Harrison High have joined Farmington High's Lauren Keur to bring this delightful Moss Hart and George Kaufman comedy to the stage.

All tickets are \$10, general seating. Ticket sales began Nov. 11 during all lunch hours. Tickets can also be purchased by calling the box office at 248-888-6274, or at the door the night of each performance.

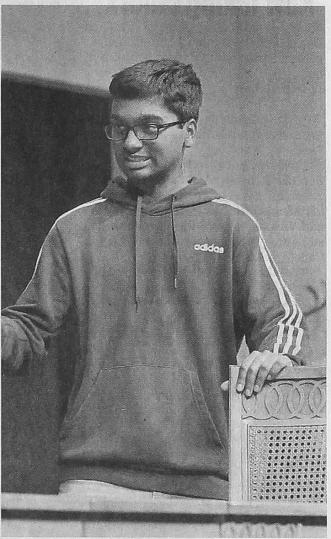
Farmington High School is located at 32000 Shiawassee.



Farmington High students rehearse a scene from their upcoming production of "You Can't Take it with You." PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Farmington High students and stage hands watch from the audience as their fellow students rehearse.



Anthony Kirby, played by Parth Nakirikanti, rehearses a scene Nov. 8. The play runs Nov. 14-15.



Continued from Page 1A

plus the touchscreen features larger print than a paper ballot.

Even though the terminals are made for ADA Leading up to Nov. 5, Livonia issued 12,201 absentee ballots. The city got 11,092 back, a return rate of about 91 percent. That's a much higher number than what the city usually sees.

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compliancy, anyone can use them. So that's exactly what voters at Grant and Frost did on Election Day.

done digitally.

ballots.

All election workers

Nash said everyone in

need is a ream of paper to

print out the completed

line got to to vote that day.

and county officials were

happy to see that the sel-

dom-used backup plan

witness the machines in

tions, city clerks often

Nash was happy to

Unlike national elec-

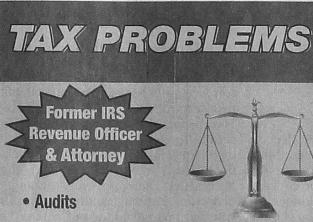
Major

actually worked.

action, too.

"It's nice. It's a very quick, touchscreen way to vote," said Janet Douglas, elections coordinator for Livonia.

Nash admitted the terminal made the entire process move a little slower because only one voter can use it at a time. But, there's little worry of running out of ballots because all the voting is



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Law Offices of Abraham & Rose, P.L.C. 30500 Northwestern Hwy., Ste. 410, Farmington Hills have to just play a guessing game on how many ballots they will need for a city election.

"By law, we have to have 100 percent for, like, the state elections," she said. "But the city elections, you don't."

Nash suspects Grant may have had such a high turnout because it's the home precinct of now Mayor-elect Maureen Miller Brosnan. But, there's no obvious explanation why so many voters showed up at Frost.

Absentee ballots had a high rate of return, too.

Leading up to Nov. 5, Livonia issued 12,201 absentee ballots. The city got 11,092 back, a return rate of about 91 percent.

That's a much higher number than what the city usually sees. But, Nash said it wasn't because of the tight mayor's race on this year's ballots.

"The number is higher not necessarily because it's a mayor election or a governor election or a presidential," she said. "It's because we have noreason absentee."

Nash said she suspects the city will continue to see a growth in absentee voters, especially with next year's presidential election on the horizon.

Contact Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@ hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Twitter: @shelby_tankk.

(CP) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019 I 9A



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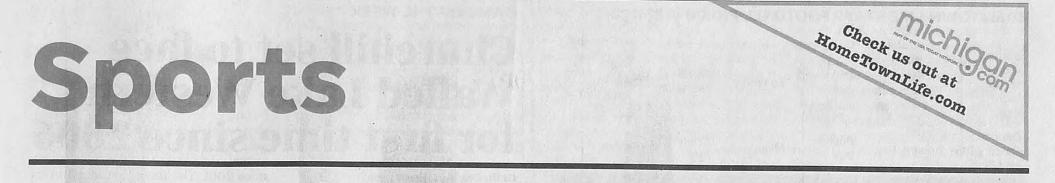
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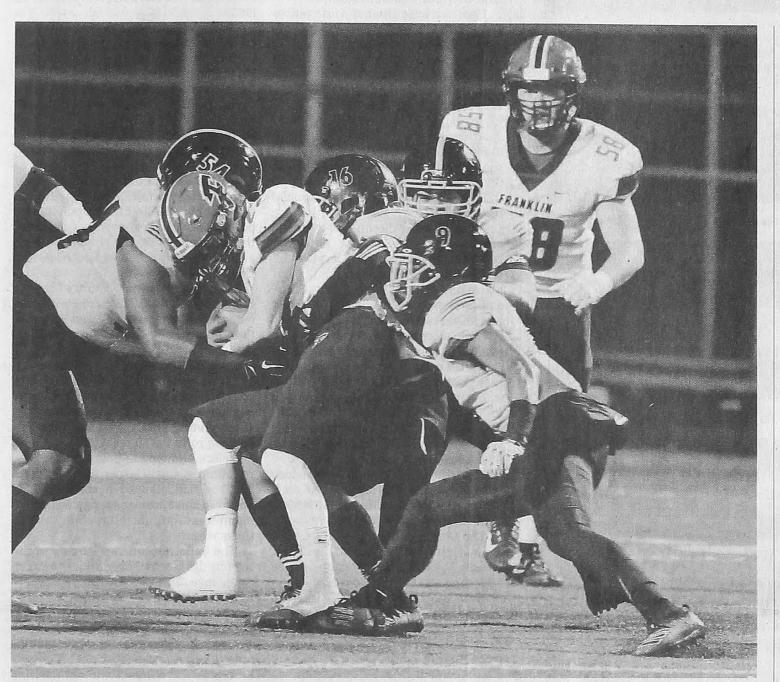
Churchill takes down Lakeview in hot start

Bill Broderick Battle Creek Enquirer USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Lakeview came in with the umblemished record, but it was Livonia Churchill that played nearly perfect football in the first half to take over this game early. Livonia Churchill defeated Lakeview, 47-7, in a Division 2 district championship contest in high school football action at Lakeview High School on Saturday.

Churchill led 28-0 before the first quarter was even over as Lakeview was never able to get started. "They are a very good football team and they got on us early and didn't let up," Lakeview coach Jerry Diorio said. "Getting one down early, OK fine, but then we try to get back in the game, get a long kickoff return, and we fumble the snap....that's kind of how the whole game went for us today." Churchill (7-4), which started the season at 1-4, has now won six in a row and is playing its best football of the season as it heads into the regional round to face Walled Lake Western next weekend. It is the first district title for

See CHURCHILL, Page 4B



Franklin's James Carpenter is tackled by a group of King players during the district final. Franklin lost, 49-15. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Lakers end Plymouth's season, 35-0

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

It took a team loaded with future Division 1 college studs to put the brakes on the Plymouth football team's magical season.

Propelled by a huge night from junior Donovan Edwards, who turned the most benign keepers into viral YouTube highlight reels, West Bloomfield throttled the visiting Wildcats, 35-0, Friday night in a Division 1 district championship game.

Plymouth's season ended with a 9-2 record, with both losses coming against the uber-talented Lakers and undefeated Belleville — both of whom will square off next Friday night in regional title encounter.

"We have to hold our head high," said second-year Plymouth coach Brian Lewis. "I'm really proud of how this team came together, how they bought into being unbreakable. I'm especially proud of the legacy the seniors left."

Lewis said it's going to be difficult for programs like Plymouth to close the gap on school-of-choice juggernauts like Belleville and West Bloomfield.

'No, you probably won't," Lewis said. "You have to hit two classes in a row, if not three. Our senior class is full of talent. You'd have to have a big junior class full of talent and a big sophomore class full of talent to catch up to the Bellevilles and West Bloomfields of the world, but that's just the reality of the situation. "We'll always have our challenges, but I love our kids, I love Plymouth and the guys we have, so we're just going to keep getting after it until we get there." Incredibly, the Lakers didn't complete a single pass, but they didn't have to with Edwards running for 171 yards and four touchdowns (three that covered 32 yards or more) on just 10 carries. The Wildcats' top producer against West Bloomfield's fast and swarming defense was senior Mike Mathias, who capped his career with 84 yards rushing on 21 carries. Mathias also registered a dazzling 40-yard kickoff return, but it was brought back due to a block-in-theback penalty. Plymouth senior quarterback Nicholas Downs, who was under pressure from the get-go, completed eight of 16 passes for 29 yards. "They were so fast up front and they have great linebackers," Downs said, when asked about the Lakers' defense. "I played seven-on-seven with Cornell (Wheeler) last winter and he can really play."

Franklin falls to King in district final

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

After a convincing opening round win, Livonia Franklin entered the district final against Detroit Martin Luther King with high hopes.

That hope was drained quickly after the Crusaders scorched the Patriots for 35 first-half points in their 49-15 victory over Franklin.

King improves to 9-2 and will take on U-D Jesuit in the regional finals, while Franklin's promising season comes to a close at 8-3.

"That's a great football team," Livonia Franklin coach Chris Kelbert said. "To beat great football teams, you have to play pretty close to perfect and mistake free and we didn't do that."

Here are three takeaways from the game:

See FRANKLIN, Page 3B



Franklin's Jake Swirple tries to take down King quarterback Dante Moore.

The Wildcats operated in the red zone for one possession in the second quarter, but couldn't find the end zone. All but 2 minutes and 32 seconds of

See LAKERS, Page 3B



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HOMETOWN LIFE STAFF FOOTBALL PICKS: WEEK 12

Games (home team listed first):	Andrew Vailliencourt	Colin Gay	Ed Wright	David Veselenak	Phil Allmen (coin flip)
Detroit Country Day vs. Milan	Country Day	Country Day	Milan	Country Day	Milan
Walled Lake Western vs. Livonia Churchill	Walled Lake Western	Walled Lake Western	Walled Lake Western	Walled Lake Western	Walled Lake Western
Birmingham Seaholm vs. Port Huron	Seaholm	Seaholm	Port Huron	Port Huron	Birmingham Seaholm
Belleville vs. West Bloomfield	Belleville	Belleville	West Bloomfield	Belleville	Belleville
Brighton vs. Hudsonville	Brighton	Brighton	Hudsonville	Hudsonville	Brighton
King vs. U-D Jesuit	King -	King	King	King	U-D Jesuit
Portage Northern vs. Muskegon	Portage Northern	Portage Northern	Mona Shores	Portage Northern	Portage Northern
Mona Shores					
Pontiac Notre Dame Prep vs. Flint Powers Catholic	Pontiac Notre Dame	Pontiac Notre Dame	Pontiac Notre Dame	Flint Powers Catholic	Flint Powers Catholic
Penn State vs. Indiana	Indiana	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Indiana
Michigan vs. Michigan State	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan State
Auburn vs. Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
lowa vs. Minnesota	lowa	Minnesota (Row the boat)	lowa	Minnesota	Minnesota
Baylor vs. Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Baylor	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
lowa State vs. Texas	lowa State	lowa State	Texas	lowa State	lowa State
Lions vs. Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Lions	Cowboys	Cowboys
Last Week's Record:	8-7	9-6	10-5	9-6	8-7
	153-61-1	161-53-1	147-67-1	151-63-1	103-111-1
Record: Season Record:		Provinsi Provinsi			

GAME OF THE WEEK

Churchill set to face Walled Lake Western for first time since 2006

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

As the MHSAA high school football playoffs move forward to the regional championship, more area teams' seasons have ended.

In the district round, five of the eight Hometown Life-area teams remaining in the postseason lost: Livonia Franklin, Farmington, Redford Thurston, Plymouth and heavy favorite Birmingham Groves. Now, with eight teams left in each division, Livonia Churchill, Birmingham Seaholm and Detroit Country Day remain in the hunt for a state championship.

Here is a look at what those teams have in store in the next round, including our game of the week: Churchill at Walled Lake Western.

Livonia Churchill at Walled Lake Western; 7 p.m., Nov. 15

After a1-4 start to the season, losing to Brighton, Belleville, Dearborn Fordson and Livonia Franklin, Livonia Churchill head coach Bill DeFillippo thought his team had a chance to make the playoffs.

After winning the final four games of the regular season and defeating Dexter in the first round of the playoffs, DeFillippo said he did not know what his team's ceiling was, saying Churchill was playing the best football it had all season in the playoffs.

Now, after a 28-0 win on the road against previously undefeated Battle Creek Lakeview, the Chargers advance their first regional final since 2004.

In the regional, Churchill will take on Walled Lake Western, a team that has scored 35 points each game this season and has allowed over 21 points in a game only once.

Churchill and Walled Lake Western have a history, playing against each other each season from 1969-2003 while in the WLAA West.

The Chargers hold a 13-22-1 record against the Warriors, and have not faced Walled Lake Western since 2006: a 27-0 Churchill loss.

Here are the other two games to watch in the area:

Birmingham Seaholm vs. Port Huron; 7 p.m., Nov. 15

Seaholm had not been to a regional

since 2001. The team that stood in its way: Birmingham Groves, a team the Maples have not defeated since 2013.

Both happened in the district final, as Seaholm blasted the Falcons, 42-7, to advance to the regional final.

In the regional final, the Maples will take on a team with a very similar story as them. Coming into the playoffs with a 6-3 record and 62.556 playoff points, Port Huron has earned one-score wins in each of the first two rounds of the playoffs.

In 14 games over the course of the school's history, Seaholm has only four wins against the Big Reds. However, the Maples have not faced Port Huron since 1963.

With an offense that ran over the Falcons — with senior running back Chaz Strecker scoring three touchdowns with 175 rushing yards — Seaholm will face a Big Reds defense that has allowed more than 30 points three times this season.

Detroit Country Day vs. Milan; 1 p.m., Nov. 16

With a 10-0 record heading into the district final, Detroit Country Day faced adversity for the first time against Harper Woods. The Yellowjackets defeated the Pioneers, 17-12, the smallest deficit an opponent has had against Country Day this season.

In the regional final, Country Day will face another team with an unblemished record in Milan, who defeated Romulus Summit, 56-22, in the district title game.

Even though they are undefeated, the Big Reds have had some close calls this season, including a one-point win against New Boston Huron and a onepoint win against Carleton Airport in the first round of the playoffs.

Before allowing 12 points in the district final against Harper Woods, Country Day had allowed a combined 20 points in their previous six games, scoring at least four touchdowns in each of those wins.

The Yellowjackets are looking to return to the semifinal round for the first time since 2016, when Country Day advanced to the state title game, losing to Grand Rapids Catholic Central in the final.

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

HTL top 10 high school football teams: Week 12

USA TODAY

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

We're deep into the playoffs, 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 12:

1. Livonia Churchill (7-4, Last Week: No. 7)

After surging into the playoffs at 5-4, the Chargers have now beaten Dexter and Battle Creek Lakeview, teams that were a combined 18-1 and were No. 1 seeds. The toughest challenge will come this week against Walled Lake Western.

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

Seaholm has been the other surprise this postseason, dominating rival Groves just weeks after Groves beat the Maples. Seaholm has a very winnable regional final against Port Huron.

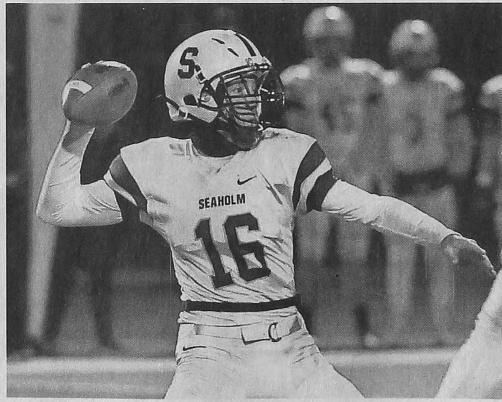
3. Livonia Franklin (8-3, Last Week: No. 1)

Our top team from last week suffered a devastating loss to Detroit Martin Luther King in the district final.

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

A week after being knocked out of the playoffs, rival Farmington got knocked out as well by the same team, meaning

¥



Seaholm quarterback Caleb Knoer steps into a pass. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the Raiders jump back ahead of the Falcons thanks to their head-to-head win.

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

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

The Falcons were upset by U-D Jesuit in a close, low-scoring contest. Farmington proved it was an elite team by beating Oak Park, but wasn't able to advance past the district finals.

6. Detroit Country Day (11-0, Last Week: No. 6)

After a five-point win against Harper Woods in the district final, the closest any opponent has come to defeating the Yellowjackets all season, Detroit Country Day will try to end Milan's perfect season in the regional final on Saturday.

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

Birmingham Groves had not lost to Seaholm since 2013, but the Maples found holes in the running game and stopped quarterback Markis Alexander and the Falcon offense defensively, ending Groves' season in the district final.

8. Plymouth (9-2, Last Week: No. 4)

4

In its first district final since 2012,

Plymouth could not pass West Bloomfield, who handed the Wildcats their first shutout since Sept. 19, 2014.

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

Despite losing in the first round to Fenton, South Lyon had its most successful season offensively since 2004, scoring an average of 35.1 points per game, recording under 30 points in four games, two of which were losses.

10. Lakeland (7-3, Last Week: NR)

Lakeland continued its playoff streak in 2019, losing, 29-13, in the first round to Plymouth. The Eagles recorded its best defensive season since 1983, allowing an average of 13 points per game to opposing offenses.

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).

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

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Franklin

Continued from Page 1B

The Dante Moore show

Despite facing a defense that played its best game of the season last week against Wyandotte Roosevelt, King quarterback Dante Moore — just a freshman — put on a show.

He finished the night 16-for-19 passing for 260 yards and five touchdowns. He threw all five touchdown passes in the first half alone and only had one first half incompletion.

"Who do you defend? They have so many weapons," Kelbert said. "You load the box to stop the run, they throw it. You play lots of defensive backs to stop the pass and they'll just gash you with the run. They're so talented and have so many weapons. You have to pick your battles."

After Franklin drove down the field for a touchdown on the opening possession of the game, Moore led the Crusaders down the field and found senior Marshawn Lee for a 20-yard touchdown. Following an interception by senior Antoine Evans, Moore again led his team down the field.

On the first play of the second quarter, he hit Indiana University wide receiver commit Rashawn Williams for a 23-yard score, but it was called back on a penalty. The very next play, he found junior Rahiim Mersier for a 28-yard touchdown. That made it 14-7.

Later in the quarter, Moore fired touchdown passes to junior Justin Whyte, Lee again and a dagger to sophomore Lynn Wyche-El from 46-yards out with two seconds left to play in the half.

That score came after Franklin's second interception of the night gave King the ball at its own 40-yard line with 19 seconds left. Two plays later, it was 35-7.

Running clock

For roughly the final five minutes of the third quarter, King held a 35-point lead of greater to force a running clock. Franklin was able to get the game back within 35 after senior running back Grant Gibson scored a touchdown with 31 seconds left in the third.

Franklin then recovered an onside kick, giving the team life. However, on the next play, the Patriots fumbled it away and King's Rishad Hence returned it 65-yards for a touchdown. The running clock did not go back into effect though, because Franklin successfully went for two after Gibson's touchdown.

The two teams traded fumbles, but the score held at 49-15.

End of an era

Franklin senior Jake Kelbert has been the Patriots starting quarterback since his sophomore year. He led the team to the state championship game in 2017 and playoff berths in both 2018 and 2019.

"It's the end of a long road," Jake Kelbert said. "Where this program came from, everything we've done in the recent past, it's all for good measure. Every group of kids that come in here are going to work their tails off. We put this place on the map and it's going to stay there for a really long time." His high school career ends with the loss to King, as it does for a number of prominent Franklin seniors, including James Carpenter, Gibson, Jake Swirple, Tim Sayers and Erik Reaves.

"We've won a lot of football games while these kids have been a part of our football program," Chris Kelbert said. "That's our goal, to leave the program better than when they got there, to continue the success we've been experiencing here as of late. This group definitely did that."

Kelbert is coached by his father, Chris, and both were very emotional after the game.

"We've accomplished a lot," Jake Kelbert said. "The biggest accomplishment of all was that we grew into men. We're going to walk away from high school football and we're going to be a lot better at facing adversity than most kids will. That's the biggest accomplishment of all."

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.

Lakers

Continued from Page 1B

the second half was played with a running clock, the result of the hosts bolting to a 35-0 lead on an electric 35-yard scoring run by Edwards.

Jake Ward was perfect on all five of his extra-point attempts.

West Bloomfield jumped ahead 7-0 on its opening drive when Anthony May plunged in from the 1.

The Lakers doubled their advantage to 14-0 with 4:50 left in the first quarter when Edwards dashed 32 yards to paydirt.

West Bloomfield secured a 28-0 halftime lead thanks to two more TD runs from Edwards (1 and 47 yards).

May, who was the early catalyst for the Lakers, rushed for 91 yards on 10 hauls.

Senior Logan Walkley spearheaded Plymouth defense by notching a teamhigh six tackles.

Alec Beshears caught three Downs aerials for eight yards.

"I'm really proud of how this team came together, how they bought into being unbreakable. I'm especially proud of the legacy the seniors left."

Brian Lewis Coach, Plymouth football

"They're really good," Lewis said of West Bloomfield. "You have six, seven, eight Division 1 kids so, at a point, it doesn't matter how well you block, their guys are just going to run around you and do their thing. Give them credit, though. They have a lot of good players."

Downs said he'll carry incredible memories of his senior season "for the rest of my life.

"The bond this team had was something special," he said. "Our coach brought a family aspect to the program that made us unbreakable."

eawright@hometownlife.com



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Churchill

Continued from Page 1B

Churchill since 2004.

"We told our guys that when we were 1-4 that this was possible," Churchill coach Bill DeFilippo said. "We knew at the 1-4 mark that the rest of the games were winnable and then we said, let's see what happens with our draw in the playoffs.

"Our guys showed great resiliency and character and we knew if we stuck together we had a chance to get to this point. It's been a long time since this program won a trophy and now this team has created a great legacy for itself."

Churchill set the tone early with a 75yard scoring pass from Gavin Brooks to Shane Morelli to go up 7-0 in the first two minutes of the game.

Lakeview looked to match the Chargers as it came up with its own big play as Jaris McIntosh took the kickoff all the way back to the 27. However, the Spartans couldn't take advantage of the good field position as the Churchill defense stiffened. It would go on to hold Lakeview to just one first down the entire first half and a total of 63 yards of offense for the game.

Lakeview would turn the ball over on a fumble and later mishandled a squib kick on a kickoff to end two other early possessions.

Churchill took advantage as Brooks threw three more touchdown passes in the opening quarter. Brendan Lowry caught two of those scores with Morelli getting the other.

Another Lakeview turnover on an interception by the Chargers' Dylan Curran midway through the second set up a short touchdown run by Lowry as the visitors went up 35-0 with 4:08 in the half.

The Spartans tried to turn things around as they blocked a late punt, and was scooped up by Tayvon Hughes who ran to inside the 20. But Lakeview couldn't turn that into points as it ran out time before half.

Lakeview looked to jumpstart its offense to start the second half with a long pass on the first play in the third quarter, but it was intercepted by Jimmy Targosz as the mercy-rule running clock went into play.

Churchill scored two add-on touch-



Lakeview running back Frank Tatum, left, rushes the ball as Churchill safety Brendan Lowry covers him at the Division 2 district championship Nov. 9 at Lakeview High School in Battle Creek. PHOTOS BY ALYSSA KEOWN/THE BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

downs after getting the big lead on a pass from Brooks to Jordan Gracia and a short touchdown run by Garcia.

The Spartans' lone score came on a 12-yard touchdown run by Frank Tatum late in the fourth quarter.

Lakeview (10-1), which went 2-7 last year, suffers its first loss of the season after going 10-0 for the first time since 2013 and playing in the second round for the first time since 2014.

"I told the seniors that they are the foundation of the program," Diorio said. "What they did is more than just a 10-0 season. They laid the foundation for our program here at Lakeview and set the tone for how things are supposed to be done. And I hope our young guys took note."



Lakeview linebacker Jack Goodman, left, and teammates bring down Churchill quarterback Taj Williams. Churchill won, 47-7.





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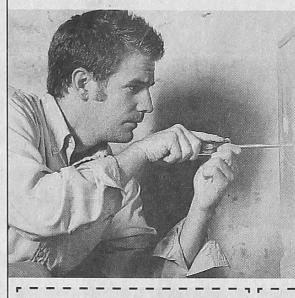
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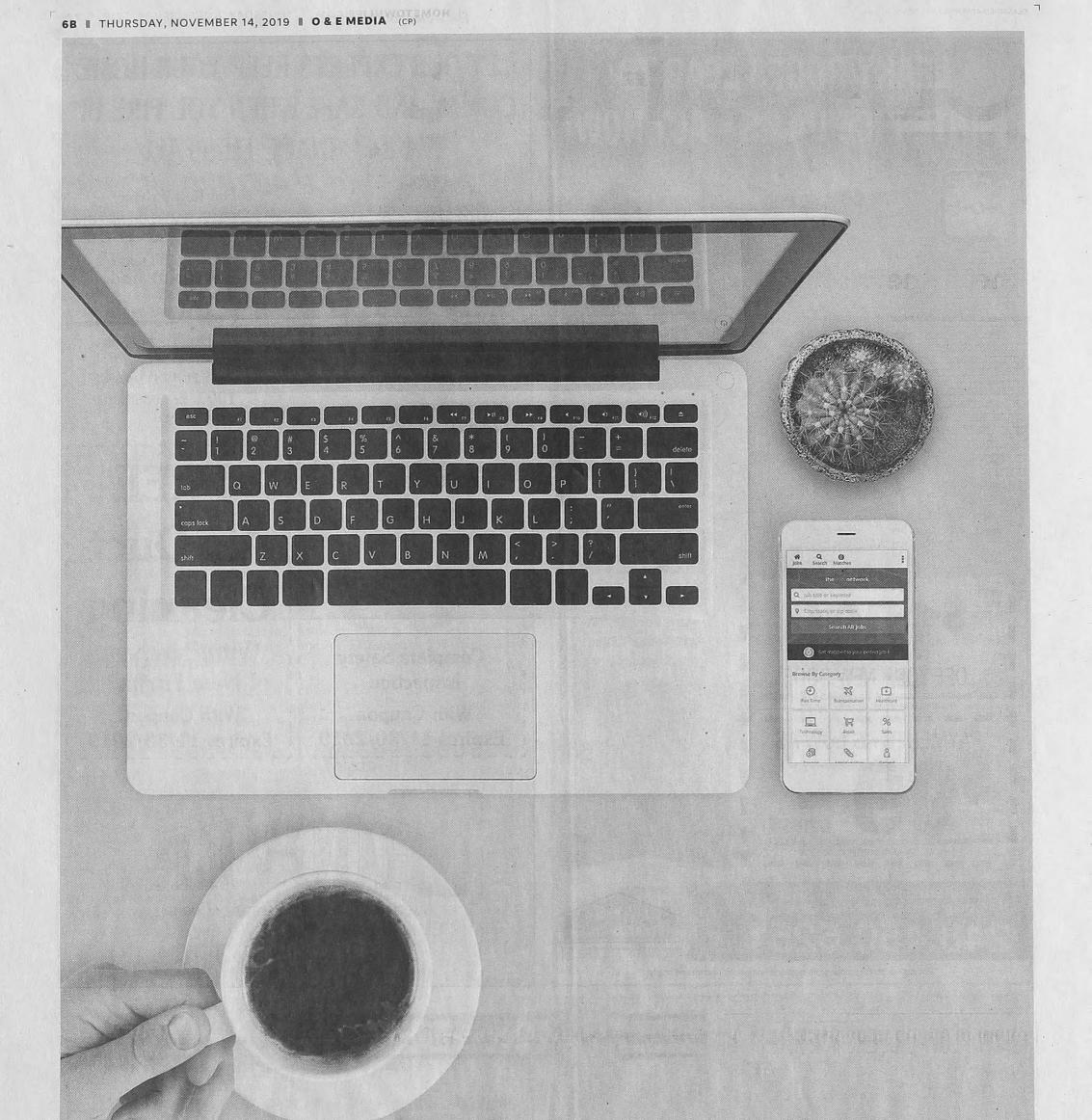
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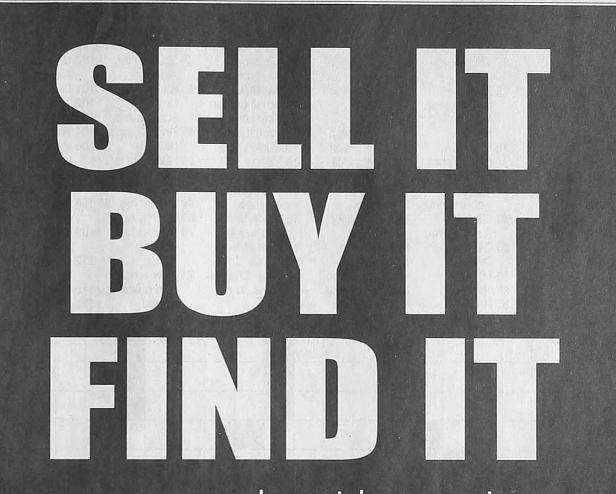
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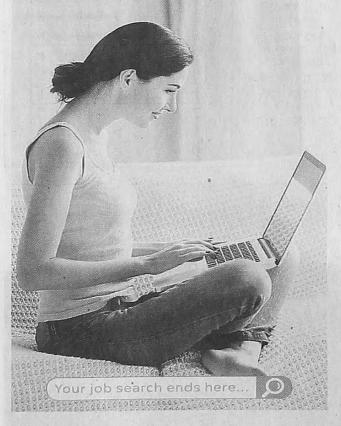
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