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# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Search for new school superintendent begins

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

Nearly two months after the Wayne-Westland school district's superintendent, Shelley Holt, resigned following a months-long scandal, the district is getting ready to find a new leader.

"While every superintendent search is important — and I would say very important — we need to get this one right," Trustee Frederick Weaver said.

During a Nov. 19 study session, the school board heard from Jay Bennett of the Michigan Association of School Boards, which helps districts with execu-

utive searches. MASB assisted with the search that brought Holt to the community.

The board didn't vote on a search firm or deadline to find a permanent replacement, but members talked about qualities they want in the district's next leader. Board President David Cox did

said he would like the help of a search firm and that he wants to hear from several companies.

Cox said he would ideally like to see a local face in the role. Holt had come from California.

See **SUPERINTENDENT**, Page 5A



Santa has taken up residence in Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall, where he will be available for visits daily through Christmas.  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Area malls list hours for Thanksgiving, Black Friday

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

Several area malls will open their doors early this holiday season to handle the bevy of shoppers looking for that perfect gift. Here's what to expect as you prepare to put down that pumpkin pie and pick up that shopping bag.

### Twelve Oaks Mall

The lone mall in the Hometown Life area that will be open Thanksgiving Day is Twelve Oaks Mall, 27500 Novi Road, Novi.

The mall will be open from 6 p.m. to midnight.

"We found that a lot of people, after

they eat, they come to the mall and do their shopping," said Kelsey Kiefer, a marketing specialist with the mall.

There are some changes to Black Friday at Twelve Oaks: Kiefer said the mall will be open at 8 a.m. instead of 7 a.m.

See **HOURS**, Page 4A

## Farmington Schools hoping for \$98M bond approval

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

Voters in the Farmington Public Schools district will have a decision to make in March.

Alongside the Democratic presidential primary decision, Farmington schools are asking voters to approve a \$98 million bond during the March 10 election. The school board unanimously approved the proposal and ballot language at its Nov. 19 meeting.

A tax renewal request for the Detroit Institute of Arts also will be on the March ballot.

Bonds are used by school districts to fund large undertakings like building projects or security upgrades and cannot be used to pay for things like

See **BOND**, Page 5A

## Restaurant inspections for October released

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

Moldy food in the refrigerator. Food at unsafe temperatures. Employees not properly washing their hands when handling food.

These are a few of the issues found by health inspectors during restaurant inspections last month in western Wayne and Oakland counties.

In October, third-party inspectors visited hundreds of restaurants, churches, schools, senior living facilities and other commercial kitchens throughout Wayne County to make sure food safety is a top priority. In Oakland County, the health department conducts the health inspections in house.

See **INSPECTIONS**, Page 5A





# Legislature unveils new path for regional transit

## Wayne, Washtenaw, Oakland leaders in; Macomb is out

Omar Abdel-Baqi and Kathleen Gray  
Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

Regional cooperation in southeast Michigan took a detour when a group of local and state political leaders unveiled the latest plans to kick-start a regional transit plan, but left Macomb County out of the mix.

Instead, officials from Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw counties, along with the city of Detroit and sev-

eral state lawmakers, announced their plan to amend the Municipal Partnership Act of 2011 in the state legislature, with the goal of having a proposal expanding regional transit in several southeast Michigan counties on the November 2020 ballot.

The plan came together after the August death of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, a vocal opponent of previous efforts to get a transit proposal on ballots in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties.

Former Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter, an avid supporter of public transit, was appointed to fill out the rest of Patterson's term and said within days of being appointed that he wanted to see transit on the 2020 ballot.

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, who also opposed previous transit proposals, decided to opt out of the latest plan.

He said he has no problem with the other communities going forward with the latest plan and figures it's a way to involve all the communities in each of the counties. Currently, Wayne and Oakland counties have allowed communities to opt out of transit plans, leaving wide swaths of territory with little to no public transportation. When Macomb County residents have approved suburban bus millages, including in 2018, it has included the entire county.

"I don't disagree that there is a need to connect communities, but how do you do that?" Hackel said. "It's going to be a remarkable change in the transit system if all of the communities opt in because there's a tremendous amount of funding that they're not getting that money from those communities."

He's still opposed to a regional transit millage on top of a suburban bus millage that's already being levied.

The latest plan allows for Macomb County and others to join in the future, unlike the original Regional Transit Authority bill.

The reason the Regional Transit Authority hasn't worked as intended, Duggan said, is it calls for all jurisdictions involved — Detroit and Wayne, Macomb, Oakland and Washtenaw counties — to be on board, and if any of those jurisdictions didn't support part of the plan, "the whole region got zero."

The remainder of the so-called Big Four — Coulter, Wayne County Executive Warren Evans and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan — once again enlisted Washtenaw County leaders into the ballot proposal plan.

The local leaders, along with several state lawmakers, announced the new proposal at a news conference at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

The latest plan is one of many that have been floated to try and improve public transit in the region, which has been plagued by slow or nonexistent service, a lack of coordination between the city and suburban bus systems and insufficient equipment.

Previous attempts have failed because someone in

political leadership didn't buy into the proposal. Former Gov. John Engler killed one plan on his last day in office in 2003, vetoing legislation that created a regional transit authority. Patterson and Hackel have put the kibosh on other plans and voters have defeated measures too.

The bill amending the Municipal Partnership Act of 2011 would allow for the approval of a municipal partnership levy by a majority vote within a participating jurisdiction, exempt participating governments from the local millage cap and ensure levied revenue is used exclusively for transit, Wayne County Executive Warren Evans said in the news conference.

"This is not a transit plan," Evans said. "This is legislation that can get us to a transit plan."

Sponsoring the proposed bill is state Rep. Jason Sheppard, R-Temperance, who said he wants "this to be a bipartisan effort." He has the support of both Speaker of the House Lee Chatfield, R-Levering, and House Minority Leader Chris Greig, D-Farmington Hills.

Sheppard aims to get the bill on the House floor when the state Legislature convenes in December.

"I don't want this talked about being Republican versus Democrat," he said. "This is a state of Michigan issue that we have to solve."

If the bill is approved in Lansing, a vote by each county's commission could place a transit millage question on the ballot, and it would be up to voters to approve the millage.

Evans said he wants a plan the involved counties can all agree upon drafted by spring 2020, and get the public involved with "significant intensity" to allow it to be placed on the ballot in November 2020.

"For over half a century, southeast Michigan has become one of the most segregated places in America. For over half a century, we've been trying to get fully connected public transportation in our area. For over half a century, we've been cutting ourselves off from a substantial portion of our own talent base because they can't access opportunity," Evans said.

Coulter said he hopes to get support for the new plan throughout Oakland County, where in 2016, a Regional Transit Authority millage was defeated.

Coulter said it was no secret that previous plans didn't have enough resources or incentives for residents in the northern parts of the county to gain enough support.

Better connections from less populous communities to main transit lines is one way of gaining support throughout Oakland County, he said, as no one is going to want to walk a mile to get to a bus stop.

On the flip side, the FAST Woodward bus service, which connects Pontiac and downtown Detroit with stops along Woodward Avenue, is "rocking it," Coulter said.

Weekly ridership of FAST Woodward buses has increased 90% since January 2018, he said.

### hometownlife.com

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# Where to find Small Business Saturday deals

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

Of course you can shop in the large stores for those presents for your family. You can head to the mall. But going small will show them you really hunted for that special gift this holiday season.

Thanks to the multitude of options across the region, shoppers can head out across most Hometown Life communities to help shop small during Small Business Saturday. The event, which has been a national initiative since 2010, has garnered a following across several communities. Some communities have special events just for Small Business Saturday, and others have other events throughout the weekend.

Here's what's happening across several communities this weekend if you're looking to celebrate the beginning of the holiday shopping season.

## Birmingham

The area around Old Woodward and Maple has long been a haven for local shopping, but can be tricky when it comes to driving and finding a place to park. That's why the Birmingham Shopping District has teamed up with ride-sharing service Lyft to provide discounts on rides to downtown.

"That's the biggest thing," said Ingrid Tighe, executive director of the Birmingham Shopping District. "People can come in and get that big discount for that ride into town."

Shoppers can type in the code BHAMDAY19 from noon to 5:59 p.m. to obtain \$7 off a ride to downtown Birmingham. Type code BHAMNIGHT19 from 6 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. to receive \$3 off a ride. The promotion runs through the end of the year or until funds for the promotion run out.

For those who do drive, parking will be free in the city's parking garages that day, and there will be free two-hour valet at two locations: North Old Woodward at Hamilton, and South Old Woodward near Merrill.

In addition to those rides, shoppers can enjoy the second Santa Walk, which kicks off at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in the parking lot near the southwest corner of

Maple and Bates. Families will be able to welcome Santa Claus to town as he sets up shop in his little house in Shain Park, where he'll hear the requests of area children for what they want for Christmas.

Complimentary carriage rides will take place through the city's streets from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day as well.

In addition, all Oakland County communities are participating in the Small Business Saturday contest, where shoppers can enter to win vouchers for Southwest Airlines. Those who shop at small businesses across the county are eligible. For more information on how to enter, visit the Oakland County website at [oakgov.com](http://oakgov.com).

## Farmington

Head to downtown Farmington to peruse several shops offering deals for Small Business Saturday.

Several stores, including Page's Food and Spirits, Clothes Encounters and more will have specials running on the day. Shoppers can pick up a special downtown Farmington passport and collect stamps to enter to win a downtown Farmington "swag bag."

"We are also encouraging additional merchants to jump on and use a passport we have available," said Kate Knight, the executive director of the Farmington DDA.

A full list of deals being offered on Small Business Saturday can be found on the downtown Farmington website, [downtownfarmington.org](http://downtownfarmington.org).

## Novi

When one thinks of shopping small, Novi might not be the first city that comes to mind. But Hillary Hentschel is hoping it can become one thanks to a new program she's heading at the Novi Public Library.

The library at 45255 W. 10 Mile will host several small businesses selling their goods from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the meeting room near the Read-a-Latte Cafe.

Hentschel, a business librarian at the library, said she had heard about this being hosted in libraries in other parts of the country and decided to bring it to

## Novi

"I had been reading about other libraries who have done similar concepts," she said. "I thought why couldn't we do that? I talked to (Library Director) Julie (Farkas) and we worked it out to try and do that this year."

She said they'll have a room full of businesses selling items such as jewelry, essential oils, home decor and more, with many of the sellers coming from the Novi area.

It's Hentschel's hope the program is one that can take place every year. She said it's a great way for those working additional "gigs" to have some exposure without needing their own shop.

"I think part of what led to this is understanding there are more and more people that are working more than one job at the same time," she said.

## Milford

While there's nothing specific organized for Small Business Saturday in Milford, the downtown area encourages shoppers to head out Friday for the annual Give Back Friday event. Come out and shop specials at several stores in downtown Milford, with businesses donating a portion of their sales to charities of their choice.

Come back Saturday to celebrate the holiday season with the annual Christmas parade, beginning at 10 a.m. through downtown Milford.

## Northville

Downtown Northville does not have an organized Small Business Saturday set of events, but Jeri Johnson of the Northville DDA said this is the time of year most businesses look forward to for sales.

"For us, it's just very charming," said Johnson, the DDA's marketing and communications director. "It's very picturesque at the holidays."

"It's very walkable and people can go from store to store."

While there aren't a lot of events this upcoming weekend, Northville will host Shop Till You Drop on Dec. 6. The event focuses on plenty of sales and shopping throughout downtown Northville and takes place 5-9 p.m.

## Plymouth

Another community without an organized event for Small Business Saturday is Plymouth. But those looking to spend time along Ann Arbor Trail and Main Street can do this on Friday when Santa Claus returns to Plymouth to kick off the holiday season.

The arrival of Kris Kringle begins at 5:15 p.m. with the P-CEP choir performing. Santa will arrive via fire truck and turn on the city's lights at 6 p.m.

"We always have a huge crowd any time Santa comes to town," said Tony Bruscato, the director of the Plymouth DDA. "It's just a festive feeling that everyone likes to start the holiday season off."

If you're looking to shop in a holiday-themed atmosphere, the annual Christmas in Plymouth event takes place 5-9 p.m. Dec. 5 downtown. There will be plenty of sales at shops, as well as horse-drawn carriage rides, live music and live reindeer with elves.

In addition, the Mistletoe Market will open from noon to 9 p.m. that day at The Gathering and sell fresh greens for the holidays and other goodies.

## Wayne

Looking for some free money to shop small? Downtown Wayne will be where you want to head on Small Business Saturday.

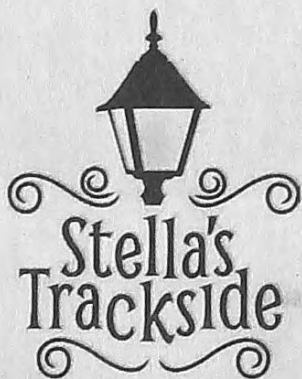
The annual celebration along Michigan Avenue kicks off at 10 a.m. Saturday at Karma Coffee, 35634 Michigan Ave., where shoppers can pick up a tote bag that contains items such as a gift card of a random amount to a random store.

"I think it's a really important time for the downtown area," said Sam Rainey, interim director of Wayne Main Street. "I don't think people realize what type of shops we have."

The first 100 guests will receive a free coffee as well.

And for those looking to visit with St. Nick, he'll be holding court from noon to 2 p.m. at the State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Ave. There, children can visit and take photos.

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



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# Hours

Continued from Page 1A

Kiefer said the mall typically gets busier later in the morning and early afternoon on Black Friday.

In addition to the mall, several anchor stores at Twelve Oaks will welcome shoppers on Thanksgiving. J.C. Penney will open at 2 p.m. and remain open until 10 p.m. Friday. Macy's will open at 5 p.m. on Thanksgiving and remain open until 10 p.m. Friday.

Lord and Taylor will open at 5 p.m. Thursday, but will close at 1 a.m. It will reopen at 5 a.m. Friday and stay open until 10 p.m.

Nordstrom will be closed for Thanksgiving but will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday.

## Westland Shopping Center

The shopping center at 35000 Warren in Westland will remain closed for Thanksgiving, but opens Friday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The mall will partner with other businesses in the Shop and Dine District for a holiday promotion to award two people \$5,000 shopping sprees good at all the stores in the mall, which will be awarded in a raffle Dec. 14. Shoppers in the mall between 10 a.m. and noon that day will have a chance to win one of the shopping sprees, among other prizes.

"We've put all of our efforts into this partnership," said Patrick Derrig, the mall's marketing director. "We want to support our city. It's a mutual reward for us."

For those looking to head out Thursday night, there are a few options.

Kohl's will open at 5 p.m. at the Westland Shopping Center and remain open until midnight the following day - 31 hours straight.

J.C. Penney will open at 4 p.m. Thursday and remain open until 10 p.m. Friday night. Sears will open at 6 p.m. Thursday and close at midnight. It will reopen from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday.

## Laurel Park Place

Dunham's, which opened Nov. 15 in the former Carson's space on the north end of the Livonia mall, will open at 3 p.m. and close at 1 a.m. It will reopen from 5 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday.



Elyse Jones, 9, visits with Santa at Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall after playing in artificial snow. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The mall will reopen at 8 a.m. Friday and remain open until 10 p.m.

"We're excited to be able to give that day back to all of our staff and our community and turn Black Friday into a big shopping (day)," said Catharine Wells, director of corporate marketing for CBL Properties, the company that owns Laurel Park Place.

Von Maur, on the south side of the mall, will be closed on Thanksgiving and open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday.

## Other malls in the region

■ Somerset Collection, 2800 Big Beaver in Troy, will close for Thanksgiving and open at 8 a.m. Friday. The mall will remain open until 9 p.m.

■ Oakland Mall, 412 W. 14 Mile in Troy, will be open 6 p.m. to midnight Thanksgiving and that will be a voluntary open, so some stores may not be open. The mall will reopen at 6 a.m. Friday and be open until 10 p.m.

■ Southland Center, 23000 Eureka in Taylor, will be open 6 p.m. to midnight on Thanksgiving and 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Black Friday.

■ Great Lakes Crossing Outlets, 4000 Baldwin in Auburn Hills, will be open 6 a.m. to midnight on Thanksgiving and 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Black Friday.

■ Briarwood Mall, 100 Briarwood Circle in Ann Arbor, will be open from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Thanksgiving and will be open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Black Friday.

## WESTLAND GOODFELLOWS

"2019 No Child Without a Christmas"

The Westland Goodfellows are holding a toy and food drive. Donations of toys, hats & gloves, and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any of the following locations. All donated items will be distributed to Westland families this Christmas. Donation boxes available November 1 to December 6, 2019.

### Participating Goodfellows' Partners

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Allstate Insurance-Hassan Farhat	956 Newburgh Rd., Westland
Applebee's	36475 Warren Rd., Westland
Better Health Clinic	8275 N. Wayne, Rd., Westland
Biggy Coffee	36640 Ford Rd., Westland
Daniel Sharpmart	5770 N. Hix Rd., Westland
Family Video	146 S. Venoy Rd., Westland
Fountain Park Apartments	37410 Fountain Park Circle, Westland
Fox & Berman DDS	7720 Middlebelt Rd., Westland
Great Lakes Ace Hardware	132 S. Merriman Rd., Westland
Hampton Court Apartments	5800 N. Christine, Westland
Jueneman Insurance Agency	33652 Ford Rd., Westland
National Block Company	39000 Ford Rd., Westland
Orchards Apartments	37140 S. Orchard Circle, Westland
Parkside Credit Union	1747 S. Newburgh, Westland
Red Robin	36350 Warren Rd., Westland
Ruth Olson Photography	34215 Ford Rd., Westland
Taylor Towers	36500 Marquette, Westland
Venoy Pine Apartments	7127 Bonnie Dr., Westland
Wayne Ford Civic League	1661 N. Wayne Rd., Westland
Wayne-Westland Fed. Credit Union	500 S. Wayne Rd., Westland
Westland Bowl	5940 N. Wayne Rd., Westland
Westland Chamber of Commerce	36900 Ford Rd., Westland
Westland City Hall	36300 Warren Rd., Westland
Westland Fire Dept. NEW	35701 Central City Parkway, Westland
Westland Police Dept.-Lobby	36701 Ford Rd., Westland
Westland Friendship Center	1119 Newburgh Rd., Westland
Westland Library	6123 Central City Parkway, Westland
Wildwood Apartments	5995 N Wildwood, Westland
Willow Creek Apartments	1673 Fairwood Drive, Westland

[www.westlandgoodfellows.org](http://www.westlandgoodfellows.org)  
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# Watch out for Black Friday-related scams



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

I first would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving. What makes any holiday special is that we get to spend time with family and friends.

Recently, I received an email from a reader who told me the trouble she encountered last year on Black Friday when she bought some holiday gifts on a bogus website. Her credit card information was stolen, and she told me all the problems she encountered.

She wanted me to remind my readers about the scams surrounding Black Friday. I agree; it's an important topic and I wanted to address it.

We all know that retailers and shoppers alike gear up for Black Friday. In fact, over the last number of years it seems Black Friday has obtained mythical status as the best day to shop. Whether that's actually true, I'm not sure, but the crooks also know Black Friday and Cyber Monday are huge shopping days.

Scammers use a variety of methods. These include fake emails and false social media posts that have

links to websites that attempt to steal our credit card information. Many of these emails and social media posts promise incredible deals on Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

Unfortunately, too many people link to these sites and that's where their problems develop. One way to protect yourself is to not follow links on emails or social media posts. At a minimum, type the web address into the browser yourself.

Another thing to be aware of is that many of the scam artists set up look-alike websites. If you're using a website you're unfamiliar with, do some research to make sure it is legit.

Another thing is to not click on pop-up ads. In many situations you see pop-up ads on legitimate sites, so you assume it's okay to link to them; unfortunately, that is not the case.

Lastly, use a charge card versus a debit card. Under our consumer protection laws, charge cards have a little more protection than debit cards.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!  
Good luck!

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

# Inspections

Continued from Page 1A

Restaurants in the following communities listed "priority" violations, the most serious of violations. Lesser violations include "core" and "priority foundation," which are not listed in these reports. Priority violations are the ones that can lead to foodborne illness.

Hometown Life reviewed the inspection reports for the month of October in western Wayne and Oakland counties and found the following priority violations at eating establishments:

■ 45 with priority violations in Farmington and Farmington Hills

■ Eight with priority violations in Plymouth and Plymouth Township

■ 16 with priority violations in Canton

■ 24 with priority violations in Wayne and Westland

■ 68 with priority violations in Livonia

A full list of violations for each community can be found by visiting [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com). Those listings include the name of the establishment, as well as details on what violations were found.

# Superintendent

Continued from Page 1A

"I don't think you have to go outside of Michigan to find the talent we're looking for," he said. "I think going too far away presents some problems. ... As we all know, Wayne-Westland is a unique district. ...

"Furthermore, I don't think what Wayne-Westland has gone through for the last six months is a secret in the educational community."

Trustee Shawna Walker later agreed.

"I personally would like to stay in state just because Michigan is unique and I learn that more and more every day," she said. "Even more unique is Westland, Wayne-Westland."

But, Cox said he doesn't know how things ultimately will play out. Bennett said districts in Lansing, Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids are all looking for superintendents. Closer to home, South Lyon Community Schools is looking for a new administrative leader.

"I don't know what's out there," Cox said.

Board members also stated they would like to find someone who works collaboratively with the staff below them, understands finance, treats others with respect, is a strong leader, can help improve the district's academic quality, is transparent, has integrity and has

commitment to the district.

"For a superintendent to be successful, that superintendent has to support the people that are working for the superintendent," Cox said.

In finding that person, Secretary Tom Buckalew said it's paramount the trustees "get our act together." When it came to the decision to investigate claims made against Holt, the board at times appeared split.

"We have to up our game as a group of seven and make sure that we present a consorted front of not only working together as a single board, but also (being) one that can support a superintendent as that superintendent attempts to carry out the needs of our school district," he said.

As the process plays out, nearly every board member said they'd like to have stakeholder, or community, input in the process. The district's last two searches have had such input.

"We probably know what we want as a superintendent, but we need to know what you have to say to kind of tweak what we're thinking because we may not have it right," Buckalew said.

Cox said he knows the weight this decision holds and that he and his colleagues take it with all seriousness.

"I know from the last six months of my life how important it is to get this right," Cox said. "This community cannot take another mistake."

# Bond

Continued from Page 1A

staff salaries. This bond would levy 0.9 mills, or 90 cents of every \$1,000 of taxable value.

"We don't want (students) going into buildings that are unsafe simply because we can't afford to fix the roof," said Farmington Schools Board of Education Vice President Terry Johnson. "I've gotten a lot of calls regarding this money and people are saying, 'Well, we just gave you some.' Yes, you did. But, again, we've got many buildings in the community."

The proposal cites several needs: remodeling buildings for safety and security, improving building features like roofing and classroom furnishing, improving athletic facilities and playgrounds, and purchasing new school buses as well as technology.

Board member Jessica Cummings compared the projects the bond would fund to the responsibilities of owning a home.

"Think about owning a home and the to-do list that you have and the things that you need fixed," she said. "We're talking about a district with ... 2 million square feet. We're going to have some upkeep there."

The Farmington Public Schools district is home to over 9,200 students, according to student count data. District voters approved a \$131.5 million bond proposal in May 2015 for building improvements, buses and technology upgrades.

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# Rooted in tradition

## Woman traces family tree to Mayflower passenger

Susan Bromley [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Novi resident Susan Choma celebrates Thanksgiving, it will be with the knowledge that she is related to one of the pilgrims to which the American holiday traces its own roots.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants recently certified Choma as a member after she submitted documentation that traces her lineage to William Bradford, an English pilgrim who sailed to America in 1620, landing at Cape Cod. Bradford helped establish the Plymouth colony in Massachusetts and became its first governor.

"I won't be wearing a costume of any sort, but I host Thanksgiving and I do look forward to it," Choma said. "It's a nice holiday to celebrate and we have a personal connection and that is fun."

It wasn't an easy task to trace 14 generations of family history to find Bradford, who was one of 102 passengers who made the voyage, the 400th anniversary of which will be celebrated next year.

The ship anchored in Cape Cod in November 1620 with English settlers who were seeking religious freedom.

Bradford was among 41 colonists to sign the Mayflower Compact.

During their first winter in America, half of the Plymouth settlers died.

Bradford, who was about 30 when he landed in America, lost his first wife, Dorothy, when she fell off the deck where the Mayflower was anchored while he was on land searching for the best place to build a settlement.

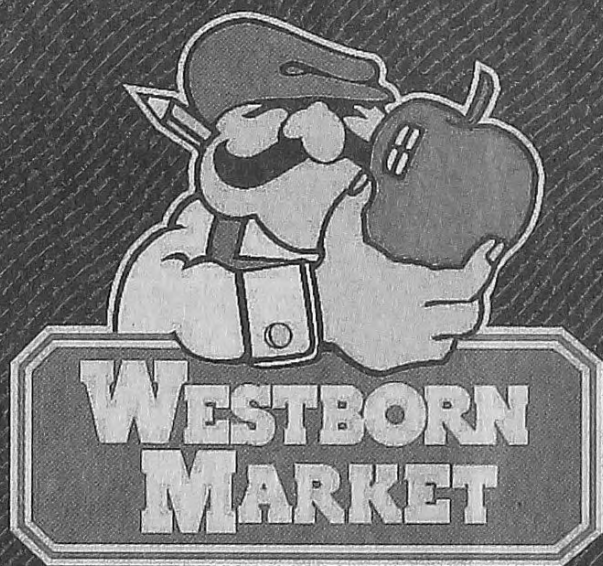
He married Alice Southworth three years later, shortly after she arrived in Plymouth. The pair had three children together, including eldest son William, from which Choma's line descends.

Choma said her aunt did most of the work tracing back these earlier genera-



Susan Choma, of Novi, shows the first page of a booklet that traces her family lineage to William Bradford, who arrived in America in 1620 on the Mayflower and later became the first governor of Massachusetts. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See MAYFLOWER, Page 7A



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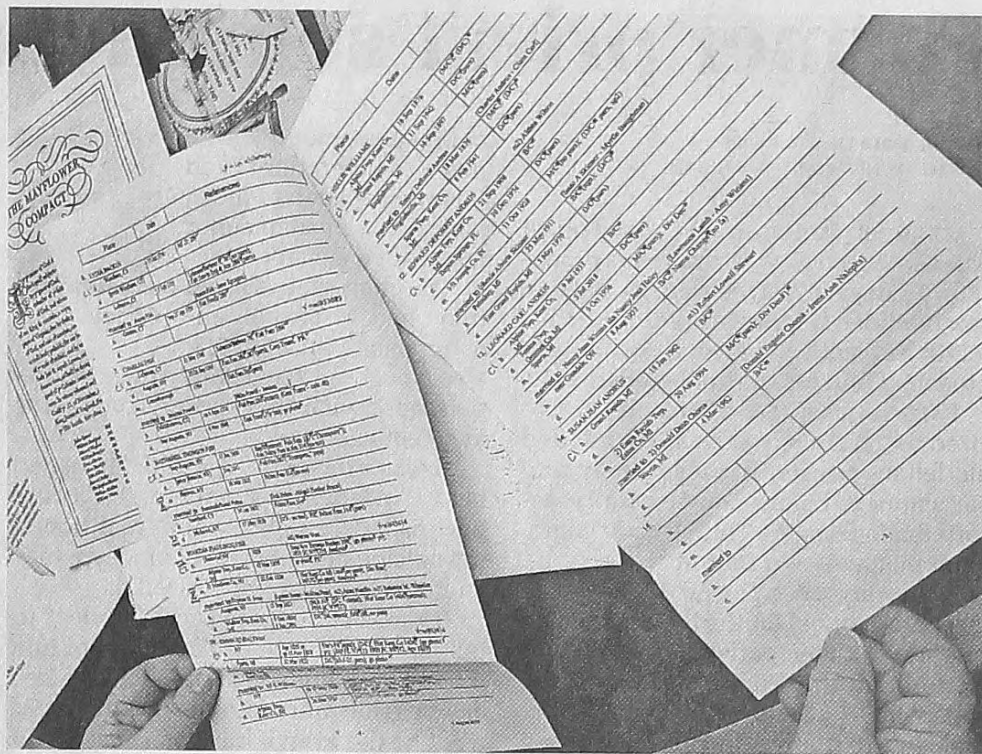




Susan Choma's paternal great-grandmother Nellie Williams, seated at left in front of husband Emory, was a descendant of Mayflower passenger William Bradford.



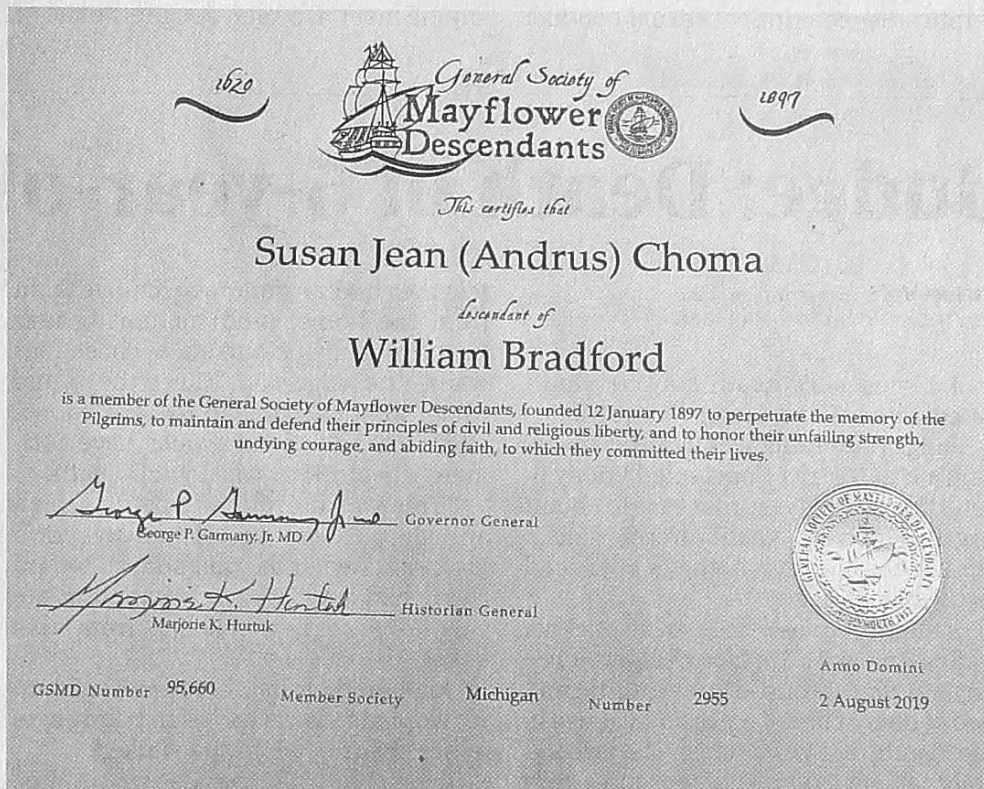
The 1897 marriage license of Nellie and Emory Williams is one of many documents associated with Choma's family tree research.



Choma holds documentation that shows she is a descendant of William Bradford. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Choma shows the massive family tree that traces her father's side of the family.



Choma was recently admitted into the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. She said it was difficult to track down all the documentation necessary to receive the distinction.

## Mayflower

Continued from Page 6A

tions, and she has handled more recent documentation.

"I knew the society was out there, and it's really hard to prove lineage to be accepted," she said.

When her father, Leonard Andrus, was nearing the end of his life a year and a half ago, Choma came across the various documents that would help her prove she was a Mayflower descendant, including birth and death certificates and marriage licenses.

"Some of it was tricky, there were a couple pieces of documentation that I had a hard time coming by when I sent in the application, but I got them at the end of the day," she said. "I waited a year and now just received verification and I am part of that special group."

Choma joked that her sister calls her a nerd, but she is thrilled to look back at her origins and see the migration from Massachusetts to New York, the Grand Rapids area and, finally, to Novi.

"If it had been on me and my aunt hadn't paved the way, we wouldn't be sitting here talking right now, but I have always been interested in history and people, and love reading biographies about people all over the world and this was a cool connection for my family," she said. "If William hadn't come over, I guess I'd be in England or Holland."

She said she feels fortunate to know where her father's family came from

and wishes it was possible on her mother's side. Tracing that family history would be a challenge, as her mother was raised in a foster family from the time she was 5.

Choma said she believes there are probably "a heck of a lot" of people who can trace their ancestry all the way back to the Mayflower pilgrims but haven't investigated or explored the possibility.

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan alone has more than 800 members.

According to their website, The General Society of Mayflower Descendants has "established a network of more than 150,000 descendants all over the world who form lifelong bonds, cherish the sacred memory of our ancestors and continue on their legacy through purpose, preservation, and education."

Choma is happy to be a part of it, and already has taken advantage of resources that allow her further examination of her history.

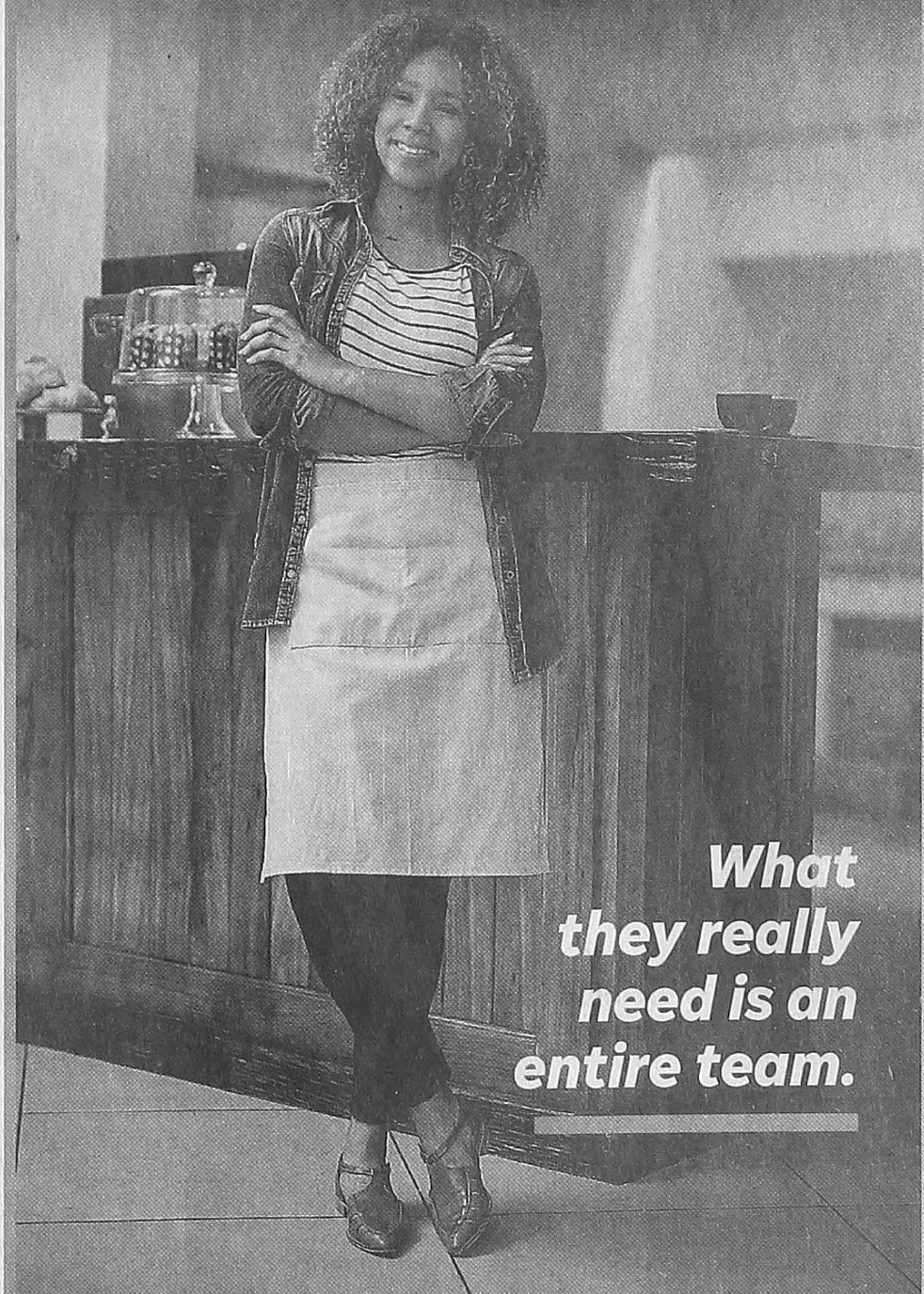
She also recently attended a luncheon for society members in Frankenmuth, at which the Mayflower Compact was read.

At the meeting, she also learned of a DNA project to help connect more people.

"I think it's really cool and I am honored to have that connection (to the Pilgrims)," she said. "It feels good to know that you know your background to that extent."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com) or 517-281-2412. Twitter: @SusanBromley10.

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# Former priest sentenced to probation, jail time

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

A former Canton and Westland priest was sentenced Nov. 20 to a year's probation, 45 days in Wayne County Jail and sex offender treatment because of his relations with someone who approached him for spiritual guidance.

Patrick Casey, 56, of Bellaire, apologized to the Archdiocese of Detroit and his fellow priests, friends, family and parishioners before court security escorted him from the Third Circuit courtroom in downtown Detroit.

"I'm truly sorry," said Casey, who served as a priest for the the St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic parish in Canton and the former St. Theodore of Canterbury parish in Westland. "Most of all, my apologies to (the victim) for not serving him as I ought to have. I am truly sorry."

Attorney General Dana Nessel announced charges against an already defrocked Casey in May. His Oct. 2 trial on a third-degree criminal sexual conduct

charge concluded with a jury's deliberations and Casey's decision to plead guilty to misdemeanor aggravated assault.

The man who alleged they had a sexual encounter on Jan. 17, 2013, also spoke at the sentencing. He expressed a wish that Casey never serve as priest again.

"I was drowning," he said. "I needed help. I needed a shepherd. He could have called the police when I mentioned my suicide attempt. He could have taken me to the hospital himself. ..."

"He didn't suggest another priest to talk to. He didn't say, 'There's a hot line if you're feeling suicidal.' I hope someday he really understands the gravity of what he did even if he doesn't care. I do pray for him. I hope he doesn't lose his faith. If anyone deserves to lose his faith from all of this, it's me."

When in his 20s and professing to be gay, he met Casey and sought the rite of



Casey

confession. According to an affidavit, the priest met with him in his office at the former St. Theodore of Canterbury Church in Westland and they engaged in sexual acts.

Catholic Church officials heard from the priest's apparent victim several years after the sexual encounter. The Archdiocese of Detroit's formal investigation included an interview with Casey. He admitted to the sexual acts, and officials recommended Casey's dismissal from the clerical state.

The Archdiocese agreed on Aug. 1, 2018. The Vatican continues to review his case, according to Nessel.

Judge Wanda Evans said during the sentencing that she was disturbed by Casey's relations with someone who considered him a spiritual guide and teacher.

"That is important to understand the severity of this," she said before issuing her sentence.

If a jury had found Casey guilty of third-degree criminal sexual conduct,

he could have faced 15 years in prison.

Nessel announced criminal sexual conduct charges against five priests in May. Casey was the first one convicted. The case against Timothy Crowley, who allegedly molested an altar boy, has been dismissed pending an appeal.

"For too long, victims of clergy abuse have suffered unimaginable pain, often in silence," Nessel said in a statement. "Mr. Casey's sentencing today provides a sense of justice for his victim and reinforces our commitment to survivors that we will use every available resource at our disposal to hold abusers accountable for their actions."

Hours after Casey's sentencing, Nessel announced another priest, Brian Stanley, 57, of Coloma had pleaded guilty to a felony count of attempted false imprisonment.

He was accused of holding a teen boy against his will in a janitor's room at St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Otsego.

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

# Judge: Death of 5-year-old girl 'horrific, shameful'

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

A 5-year-old's death may be vindicated with a Third Circuit Court trial.

Judge Karen Khalil of Redford Township's 17th District Court ruled Friday to send the mother's murder case to circuit court in Detroit. Khalil already sent a similar case for the mother's boyfriend to the higher court.

Steffani Jones, 26, and Michael DeShawn Lewis, 30, face charges of felony murder, second-degree murder and two counts of first-degree child abuse in the death of Lyric Jones. The second child abuse count is tied to Lyric's younger half-brother.

Khalil said Jones encouraged the abuse of her children. She mentioned a video taken from Jones' phone. It showed a violent encounter between Lewis and Lyric.

"Her acts included the failure to pro-

tect the children, failure to remove them from the home, (and) failure to seek help from anyone outside of those four walls," the judge said. "Given the nature of her injuries, she had to have known what the end result would have ultimately been. That was Lyric's death."

"This was horrific, shameful, selfish and despicable. We all grieve Lyric's loss. And I wish the defendant Steffani Jones had acted in a more appropriate way to save her children from this abuse."

Jones and Lewis were together for up to two years. Lewis had been taking care of her children while she worked.

Lyric died from repeated blunt force trauma June 25. Autopsy results showed multiple bruises on the girl's back, legs and head. Other injuries included internal bleeding, lacerated liver and a torn adrenal gland.

Officers were sent to the Inn America motel in the 14300 block of Telegraph



Steffani Jones, left, wipes at tears in Redford Township's 17th District Court on Nov. 22. She is accused of murdering and abusing her daughter. [SUSANVELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM](http://SUSANVELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM)

Road on a morning report that a girl there wasn't breathing.

She had signs of physical injuries and was taken to Beaumont Hospital in Far-

mington Hills, where she was pronounced dead.

Lyric and her half-brother had been staying at the motel with their mother.

The younger sibling was found with several fractured ribs in different states of healing. His injuries included multiple bruises and swelling, lacerations and a contusion to his liver, and a distended abdomen and anemia.

In court, both Jones and her mother wiped at tears.

Attorney Lillian Diallo protested the charges against her client.

"I absolutely say, because this is a poor person, she is charged differently," Diallo protested to Khalil. "I absolutely believe poverty does play a role in who is charged and how they're charged. We will address this issue further."

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

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## Man killed in train-vehicle crash

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

A 26-year-old man died after a train collided with his vehicle late Saturday morning in Wayne.

Wayne police officers said in a report they were dispatched to Winifred Street, south of Michigan Avenue, at 11:57 a.m. on a report of the wreck.

Upon investigating, they realized the crash happened about a half-mile west, at the Venoy Road tracks.

The driver was the sole occupant. His name is being withheld pending his relatives being told of the crash.

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

## Westland man, 22, shot in Inkster

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

A Westland man, 22, was shot in the leg Nov. 20 while walking west on Rosewood Street in Inkster, according to Michigan State Police troopers.

The department tweeted that troopers were dispatched to the Rosewood in-

tersection with Central Street at about 9:25 p.m.

Witnesses heard one shot and told troopers they saw the victim running toward Middlebelt Road. The victim was transported to the hospital, and troopers were able to interview him.

Anyone with information is asked to call 734-287-5000.

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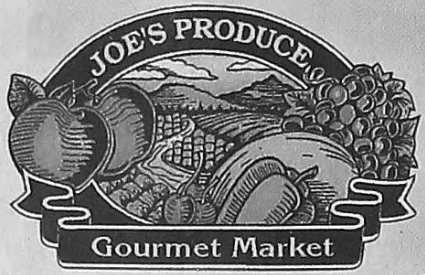
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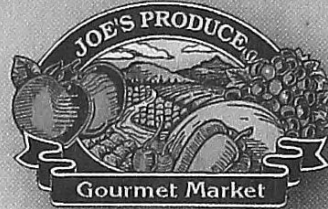
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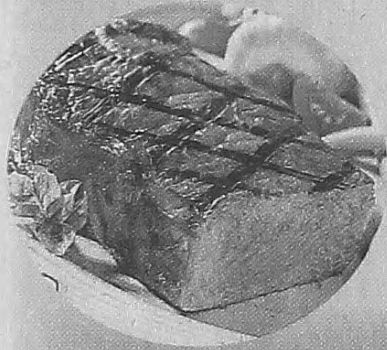


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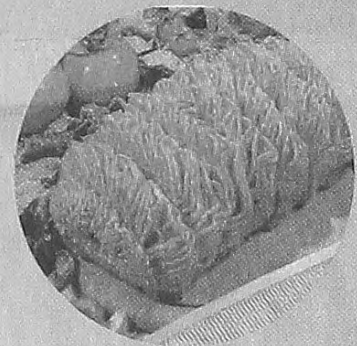
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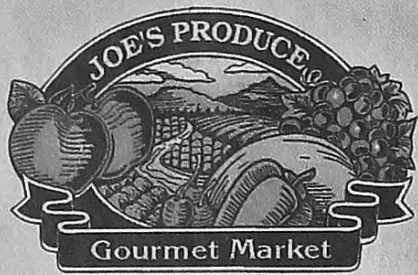
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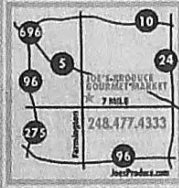
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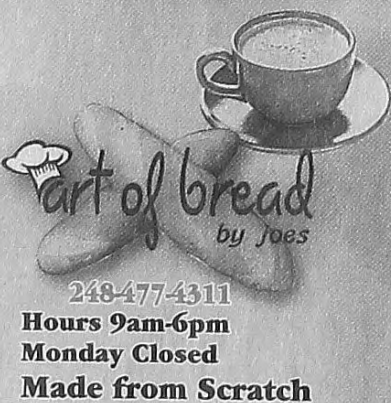
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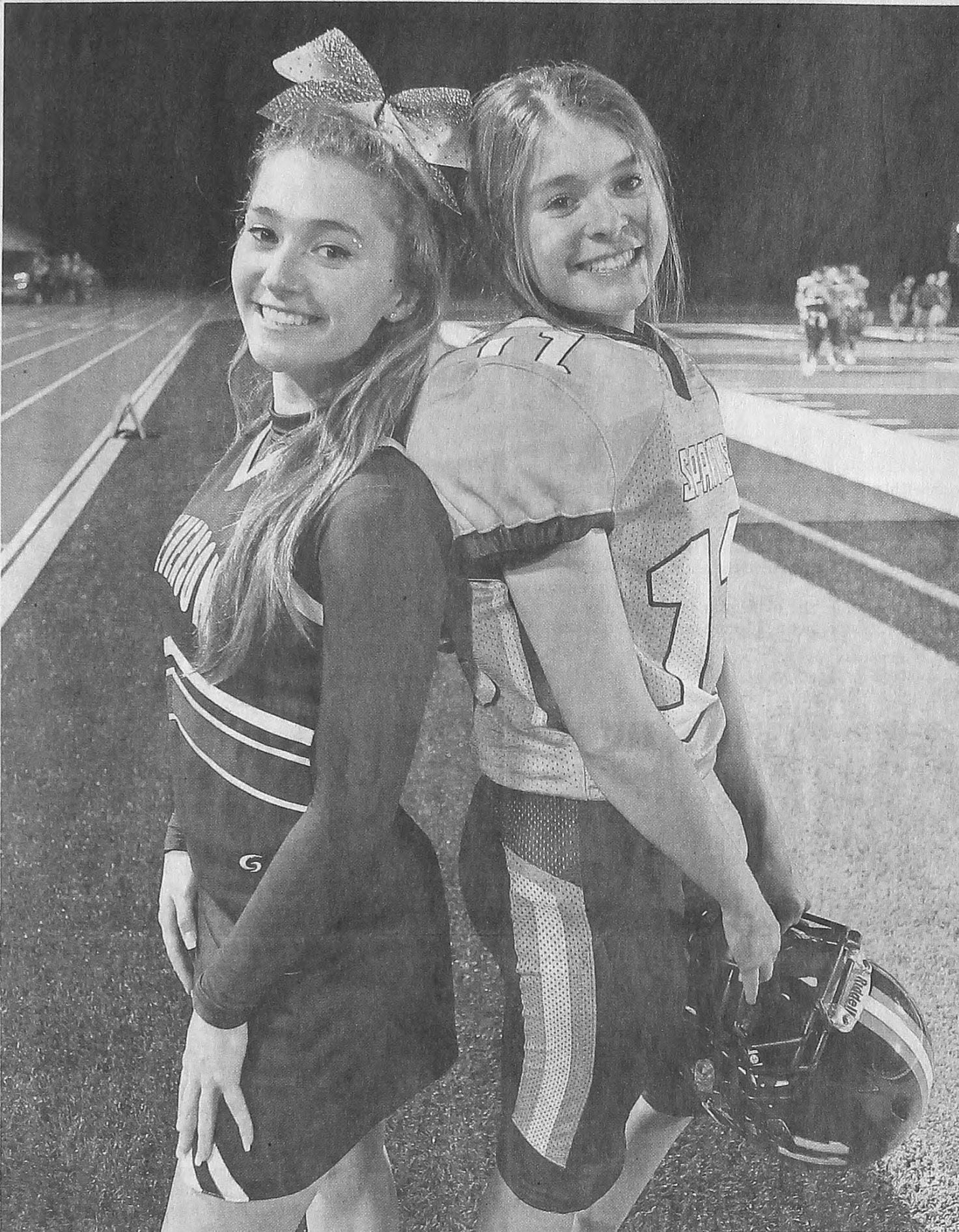




# Sports

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 michigan.com  
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## DOUBLE THREAT



Twins Jenna Millis, left, a varsity cheerleader, and Maya, extra point kicker, both contribute to Livonia Stevenson football.  
 JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### Twin sisters tackle Stevenson football as kicker, cheerleader

Andrew Vaillencourt [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Each week throughout the fall, twin sisters Maya and Jenna Millis prepared for Friday night football, hopeful for a Livonia Stevenson victory.

Maya plays on the football team, while Jenna is a varsity cheerleader.

After rising through the freshman and junior varsity ranks, this was Maya's first year on the varsity squad, making it the first season with Jenna - who has been on varsity all three years -

cheering her on. The Stevenson juniors have been looking forward to it ever since they began high school.

"We've always been waiting for the year we're both on varsity and I can

See TWINS, Page 2B

### South Lyon FC records undefeated season

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

Natalie Mac, Andrea Williams and Sophia Ohland grew up together on the soccer field. They know each other's tendencies, and each can predict what the other is going to do.

In the spring, when Mac and Williams take on Ohland as the South Lyon girls soccer team takes on South Lyon East, they joke around on the field, laughing as they have to mark each other in different jerseys.

"Both teams give 110 percent because we just want to rub it in their faces," Ohland said.

In the fall, however, Mac, Williams and Ohland are teammates, each suiting up for South Lyon FC, a local club soccer team.

While none of the players knew the exact number of years they had played together, they knew it was for the majority of their childhood.

With all three being seniors, 2019 was the last season they would suit up for South Lyon FC, so they made it something special.

South Lyon FC finished the season undefeated, winning seven of eight matches and outscoring opponents 24-11. It was the first time the girls high school open team had finished at the top of its division in its history.

Head coach Matt McGlennen, who has coached with South Lyon FC since 2011, credited the team's success to its being "senior-heavy," having 10 seniors throughout the season.

"That meant an amount of experience, an amount of leadership, an amount of experienced players being on the field for a good amount of game time," McGlennen said. "It was really helpful for us."

But while the seniors ended their club career on a high note, Mac said winning is not the main reason why this team is special to her.

"Because I have been a part of this team for so long, I have kind of like grown up with some of these girls," Mac said. "It's really cool because winning is not necessarily the main thing. It's more like us being together."

Ohland remembers the amount of time the players on the team would hang out together, coming together off the field at parties their parents would throw or at hotels during tournament trips.

That was when the players bonded most.

"You kind of build a friendship that you know won't break because you've been there with them since Day 1," Ohland said.

See UNDEFEATED, Page 2B

### Lions, Thanksgiving a decades-long tradition for fans

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

Denise Harting remembers her first Lions game. She remembers sitting in the back row of Tiger Stadium, where the Lions played from 1938-1974.

"We were up at the very top, and it was very cold, and a very gray day,"

Harting said. "The wall was behind us, so we were way at the top."

Little did the Bloomfield Hills woman know that it was the start of a tradition: It was Thanksgiving Day.

Detroit has hosted a Thanksgiving game 79 times, starting its streak in 1945. The Lions have a record of 37-40-2 on Thanksgiving Day.

For the Harting family, it has been tradition since 1951.

"The Thanksgiving game is tradition. It's more family-oriented. You get people who go to Thanksgiving game that really want to be there for the experience," Harting said "It's a different environment."

"It's family."

Originally, Harting's grandfather acquired the tickets for his now-defunct downtown Detroit business on Woodward Avenue. He distributed the tickets he owned to his employees, but decided to save the Thanksgiving Day game tickets for his family.

See LIONS, Page 2B



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## Undefeated

Continued from Page 1B

While many players have known each other for a long time, Williams said the team chemistry is what brought South Lyon FC success, working together better on the soccer field.

Early on in the season, the players knew the atmosphere was different than in years past.

"Once I started to realize we could win this, I was making sure I was encouraging people in practice to stop slacking off because we could win this and there was a high probability that we could do it if we stayed focused," Mac said.

With an undefeated season in the fall, Mac said this could bring momentum to the spring season for her teammates' respective schools, knowing what success is like and having that experience of winning.

As a senior, Ohland wants this to continue for South Lyon FC moving forward.

"At the end of the day, it's all about how much you want to win," Ohland said. "If they are kind of like 'Oh, we have a couple more years, it doesn't really matter,' they are not going to get it.

"If they want to keep the streak going, just because they want it, I believe they will get it."

In the last game of the season, what would have been the last game in her club career, Williams had to sit out due to sickness.

Because she was not contagious, Williams watched South Lyon FC from the sidelines.

"I could just tell everyone was putting their heart on the field and trying as hard as they could and giving their all for the last game," Williams said.

With a group of seniors that had played together for most of their childhood, who learned the game of soccer



Sophia Ohland is one of 10 seniors who helped South Lyon FC record an undefeated season this year. COURTESY OF JILL OHLAND

and learned to play with each other from an early age, this represented the end of an era.

After the game, the players hugged each other, taking pictures to memori-

alize what had just ended.

Williams was a part of that, but she did have one wish.

"I wish I could have been out there with them," she said.

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

## Lions

Continued from Page 1B

Each season, the schedule was the same for the Hartings: a group went to the game and the Thanksgiving meal would be waiting for them when they got home.

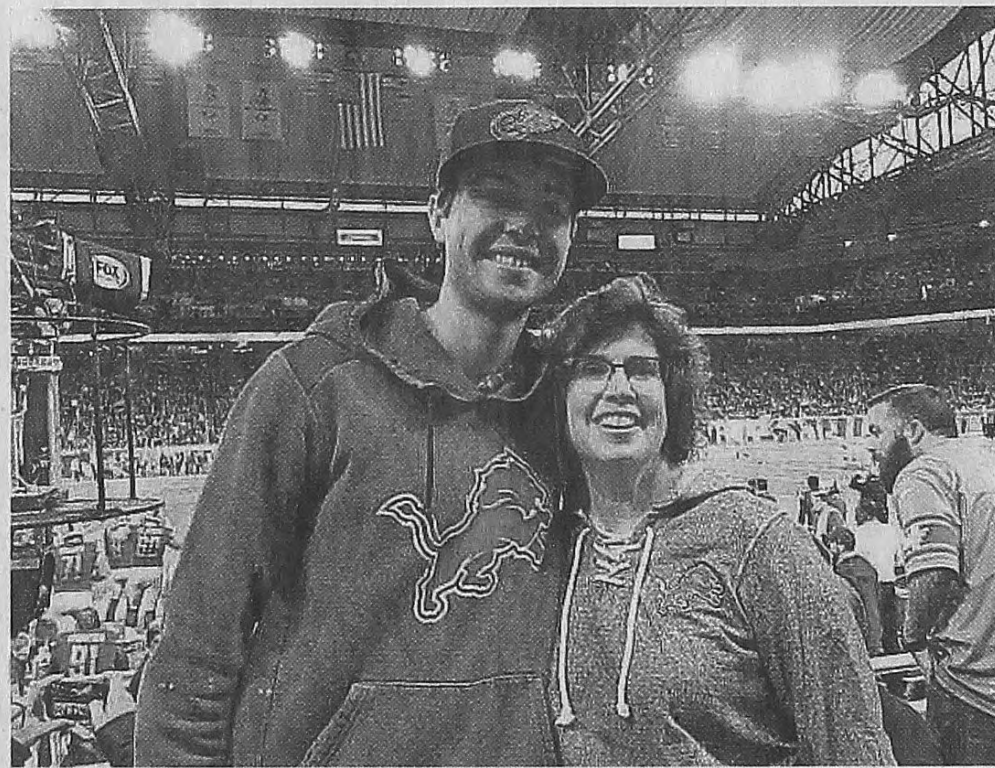
"At that point, I wasn't cooking dinner, so it didn't matter to me. I just came home and ate," Harting said.

When the Lions moved to the Silverdome in 1975, the Hartings continued to go to games, holding six tickets. But with the 2002 move to Ford Field, the family's tickets were cut down to just two. With seniority, though, the Hartings secured their two seats on the 40-yard line, just two rows back from the field.

Being so close to the field has its perks, especially as Harting's three sons grew up.

She said her sons received footballs, gloves and towels from the sideline, calling out to players, including her favorite: Jason Hanson, who kicked for the Lions from 1992-2012.

"My kids would just be there begging for that attention and (the players) would come over and give them something, acknowledge them," Harting



Denise Harting stands with her son, Jeff, in their seats on the 40-yard line two rows behind the Lions during a game at Ford Field. The Hartings have attended the Lions home game on Thanksgiving Day since 1951. COURTESY OF DENISE HARTING

said. "When you have kids, it's a cool experience to see your kids light up at this athlete just acknowledging them."

While the Lions continued their

struggles, especially in the postseason – winning only one playoff game since that 1957 championship – the tickets were not about success, but about fam-

ily.

"One year, my mom's father had never been to a Lions game. We took him to the Lions game and he passed away the next month," Harting said. "Those kind of things, it always goes back to that family."

To Harting, the tickets are priceless. The two seats at Ford Field represent the years of memories she has watching the Lions in person, enjoying the atmosphere of a devout fan base cheering for a historically stagnant football team.

She said, for her, it's not all about winning. It's more about the experience. However, she hopes to one day see the team reach the success she has been waiting for since she attended her first game in the 1960s.

"I always have the eternal hope that they are going to win," Harting said. "I'm the eternal optimist."

But if she were to sell those two seats, she said, it would break 68 years of tradition, something she is not willing to do.

"My dad sometimes says, 'They're losing. Why do you want to keep paying for that?'" Harting said. "It's a memory. It's tradition."

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

## Twins

Continued from Page 1B

cheer her on," Jenna said. "It's so cool, all of my friends know she's my sister so when she kicks we all go crazy, it's so much fun."

Maya is a kicker for the Spartans and handles all of the extra points and shorter range field goals.

She split time this season with senior Ethan Hamm, who handled kickoffs and longer field goals.

She is one of several girls playing varsity football in the area, a trend that is becoming more popular, especially among kickers.

Stevenson only attempted six field goals this season, but Maya made her opportunity count, making her lone field goal. She ended the season with 25 total points, 22 from extra points.

She has played soccer for most of her life and currently plays at the academy level for the Michigan Jaguars, based in Novi.

She plans to play soccer in college. Her freshman year, she was approached by the freshman football coach because the team was in need of a kicker. Maya was friends with the coach's son and had the talent to do the job.

She was in – after she talked with her parents.

"My dad was more for it I'd say," Maya said. "My mom was more hesitant about me being out there with a ton of giant guys."

"My first year, it was different for everyone because they'd never had a girl on their team, but throughout the years, now I'm just part of the team."

Now she's in line to be the lead kicker on the varsity team as a senior.

"It's a surreal experience," Maya said. "It's like nothing that I ever thought I'd get to experience. Obviously growing up, I never thought I'd be a part of the boys football team. But having a ton of 'brothers' all around me and them having my back is something cool."

The experience is made even better by having her sister at the stadium with her – and both parents, who can finally see their daughters in action at the same time after years of juggling separate schedules.

Friday nights in the Millis household now leave the whole family tired.

"They love this now because before we always had to split up. Now they can come here to watch me and my sister," Jenna said. "We all have such busy schedules and now there's one thing they can watch both of us at."

"They really love it." Jenna, who makes Maya's locker

poster each week, said she isn't shocked one bit that Maya has thrived at football.

"I wasn't that surprised, she's always been a tomboy, she's always been into that stuff and all her friends play football," Jenna said. "I was so excited though to have someone on the football team. I don't have any brothers."

Playing football was never a thought that crossed Jenna's mind.

Her background is in gymnastics, making becoming a cheerleader a more natural path. She prefers cheering Maya on from the sidelines.

"We're very similar in that we're both outgoing, we always have had the same type of friends, the same friend group," Jenna said. "If someone were to describe Maya, they'd say bubbly and fun. I'm more down to earth and straightforward and she's very fun. We balance each other out."

Maya has busy football and soccer schedules in the fall, but her work ethic has caught the eye of Stevenson coaches.

"She's a great kid," Stevenson head football coach Randy Micallef said. "She's friends with all these kids in school. She comes out and we know her soccer schedule with our football schedule."

"She'll come to practice for an hour, get her kicks in, do the special teams stuff and then hustles off to soccer.

She's got some insane amount of practice time with soccer as well. She's a super kid, hard worker and an awesome member of the team."

Stevenson improved greatly from 2018 to 2019, finishing this season 4-5 and one win away from a potential playoff berth.

"She's very accurate," Micallef said. "We know when we put her out there she's pretty automatic."

Maya is the second girl to play for Micallef at Stevenson.

Jenna noted that it's exciting to see girls being accepted on the football field, especially with how good many are at the game. Maya echoed her thoughts.

"I think it's really cool," Maya said. "I think it's cool that girls are getting the chance to do what traditionally they're not supposed to."

Heading into next year, Jenna, who is eight minutes younger than Maya, hopes the Spartans can reach the playoffs and end their high school careers on a high note.

Regardless of how it ends, both girls are excited they have one more year of football Fridays together.

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at [availlien@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlien@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).



# Brother Rice opens hockey season with dominant victory

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Brother Rice varsity hockey team opened its season Nov. 21 in dominant fashion, defeating Grosse Pointe North, 11-3, at Oak Park Ice Arena.

After allowing a power-play goal in the first minutes of the first period, the Warriors went on an eight-goal run, including four in the first period alone.

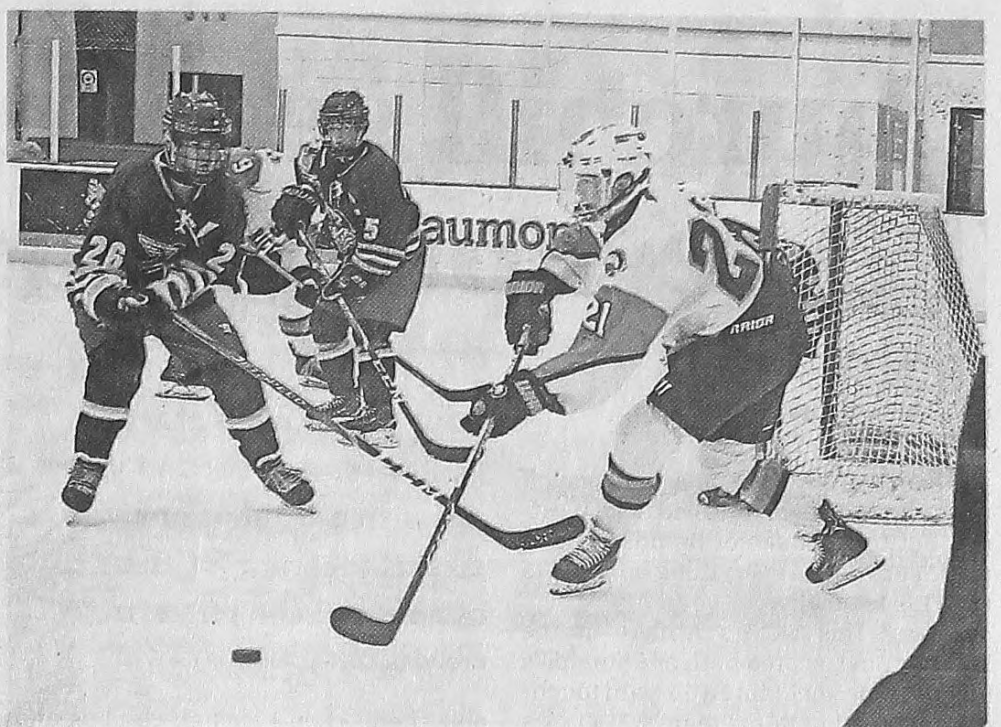
Brother Rice captain Ryan Murphy started scoring for the Warriors with a goal, assisted by Sam Yono and Alec Hamady. Murphy scored two goals in the

eight-goal win for the Warriors, adding an assist on Matt DeTar's goal in the third period, ending the 8-0 run.

Hamady was also busy, scoring two goals: one in the first period and his second in the third period, assisted by Yono that gave the Warriors the 10-3 lead.

After scoring the Warriors' third goal of the game in the first period, Ryan Marone scored a power-play goal, ending the match in a mercy rule.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Send game results and stats to [LivSports@hometownlife.com](mailto:LivSports@hometownlife.com).



Brother Rice captain Ryan Murphy faces Grosse Pointe North's William Weiss. COURTESY OF ALYSON BROWN

# Late goal lifts Howell over Novi in hockey opener

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Steven Miller was a hockey player without a defined role for Howell last season, shuffling between forward and defense.

What he provided in versatility he lacked in consistency.

"It was hard to get used to playing with everyone, because I was just bouncing back and forth, more toward the beginning and the end of the season," Miller said.

Miller had three goals and six assists in 28 games as a sophomore, but should blow past those numbers this season.

He scored two goals, including the game-winning shorthanded goal with 1:30 left in the game, in Howell's 4-3 season-opening victory over Novi Nov. 20 at 140 Ice Den, formerly known as Grand Oaks Ice Arena.

While Miller played some defense Tuesday, he was used primarily up front to take advantage of his speed. His wheels were on display on the winning goal, as he outraced a Novi player for a



Novi's Liam McCarthy, left, and Howell's Treven Pennala battle in front of the Novi net Nov. 19.

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

clearing pass to score on a short break-away.

"I just saw the puck, I saw the opportunity and I took it," Miller said. "My

speed really helps me."

Howell coach Rocky Johnson expects this to be a breakthrough season for Miller.

"He hadn't quite found his niche last year," Johnson said. "We had him at 'D' a few times, we had him at forward a few times. Now we've found a good position for him to use his speed."

Howell's other two goals were scored by senior Brent Wolf, who also had an assist. Wolf had 12 goals and seven assists in 27 games last season.

Two sophomore goalies played in their first varsity games. Howell's Ean Badgett made 31 saves, while Novi's Austin Muirhead made 39.

"Austin Muirhead, playing his first varsity game as a sophomore, was phenomenal," Novi coach Mark Vellucci said. "He made some great saves, and their goalie did, too. It was an even game overall. Both teams are pretty compatible."

It was a back-and-forth game, with neither team leading by more than one goal.

Novi's Mike Small opened the scoring

with a power-play goal at 7:24 of the first period. Miller tied it at 11:02 of the first.

Maanas Sharma gave Novi a 2-1 lead at 1:55 of the second, but Wolf scored with 48.7 seconds left in the period with a quick shot from the line after Muirhead left his crease to play the puck.

Wolf gave Howell its first lead of the game with 11:05 left in the game, only to have Novi tie it on a goal by Nate Erskine with 6:49 to go.

The Wildcats got a prime opportunity to leave with a road victory when Howell's Andrew Mitter was penalized for roughing with 2:31 left. Novi's special teams had been strong all night, killing a five-on-three power play that lasted 1:33 in the first period, but the Highlanders won by scoring shorthanded.

"A couple little mistakes here and there were the difference," Vellucci said. "The shorthanded goal at the end of the game and the goal at the end of the second. You never want to get scored on at the end of the period, the last minute of the period. We did tonight; that kind of cost us the game."



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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

# Churchill senior Lowry's 46-yard TD reception pushes him to No. 1

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Churchill's magical playoff run came to an end at Walled Lake Western, but Charger senior Brendan Lowry made sure he did everything he could to keep his team alive.

Lowry, this week's Athlete of the Week winner, scored both of Churchill's touchdowns, including a 46-yard touchdown reception in his team's 21-14 loss in the state quarterfinals.

To win the honor, Lowry received 14,567 votes (47.42 percent), edging out South Lyon golfer Katie Potter, who received 12,097 votes (39.38 percent). Birmingham Seaholm's Chaz Strecker finished third with 3,723 votes (12.12 percent), Country Day football's Saborn Campbell placed fourth and Mercy volleyball's Charlie Atiemo came in fifth.

We caught up with Lowry, who has signed to play baseball at Central Michigan University next year and asked him some questions:

**How special was this playoff run for Churchill? What was the best part?**

"This playoff run has been one of the most special things I've ever been a part of. Our senior class started their first and second years off with a total of one win so this means a lot to us to even make the playoffs. We never stopped working and always played for each other. We have a strong family here at Churchill. The best part of the playoff run was beating Dexter. It was an 'upset' game and we played well. Everybody doubted us and it really fueled our team because we love being underdogs."

**Why did you decide to play baseball at Central Michigan? Were you always set on playing baseball over football at the next level?**

"I decided to play baseball at Central Michigan because they have a good physical therapy program which is what I would like to study for now. I feel it is the best fit and I felt the most comfort-

**"Our senior class started their first and second years off with a total of one win so this means a lot to us to even make the playoffs."**

**Brendan Lowry** Athlete of the Week

able there when I was on campus and around the coaches. I feel it's the best opportunity for me there. I was always set on playing baseball over football because I always thought I was a better baseball player than football player so I never really focused on football at the next level. Baseball has always been a sport I loved since I was able to hold a baseball bat."

**What's your favorite TV show and why?**

"My favorite TV show would probably have to be Pawn Stars because some of the things on the show are interesting. Also me and my older brother used to watch the show all the time while we were little so it brings back some memories from my childhood."

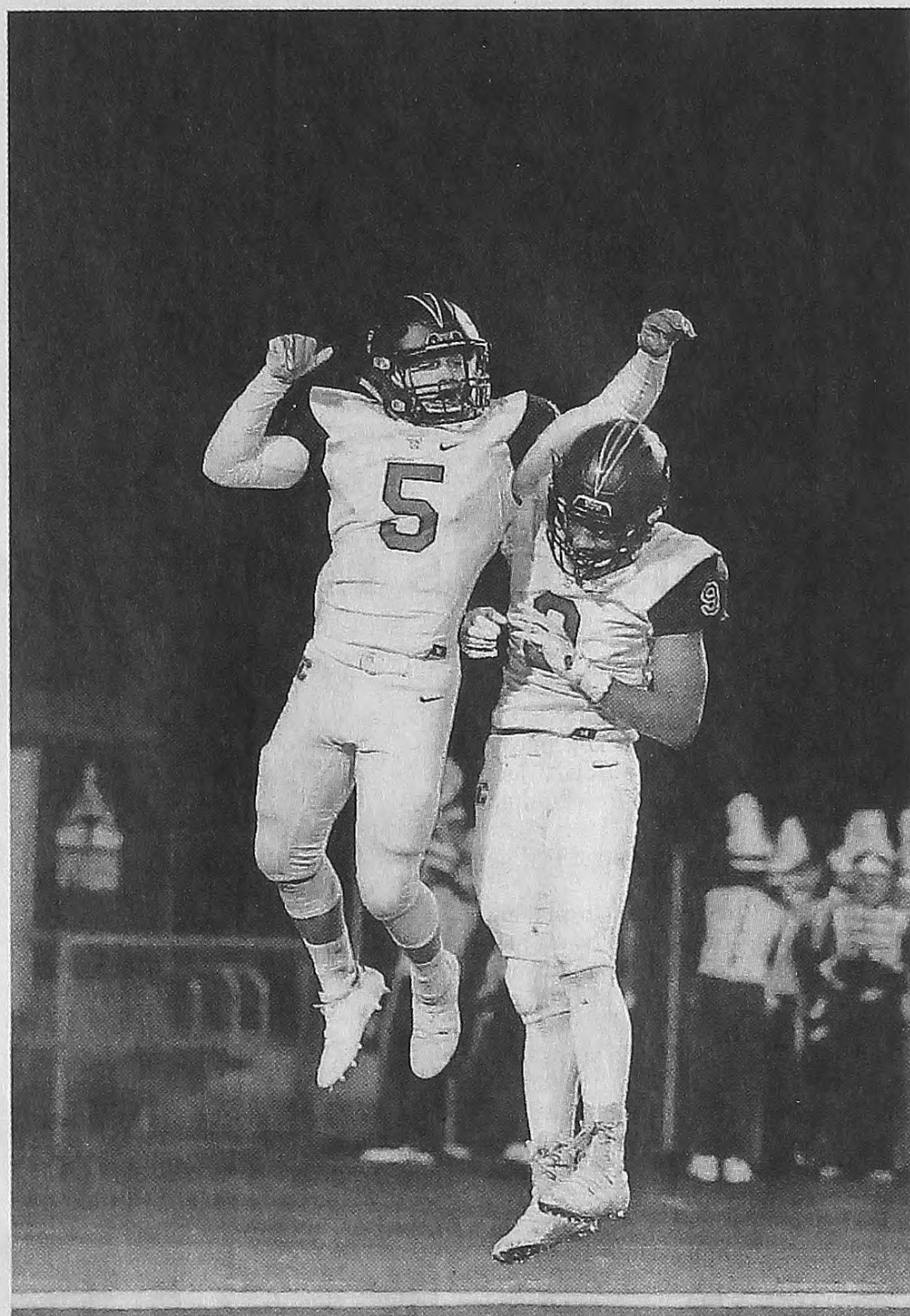
**Who is your favorite band or musical artist and why?**

"My favorite artist is J Cole because he has music for whatever type of mood you're in and he is influential about real life."

**Who is your favorite athlete to watch and why?**

"My favorite athlete to watch is Mike Trout. He's my favorite because I aspire to be as good as him. He has been the greatest player in baseball since he came to the league. He is just amazing to watch."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).



Wide receivers Brendan Lowry and Khalil Ford celebrate a touchdown during Churchill's 41-39 win over Dexter in the predistrict round of MHSAA high school football playoffs. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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# Sometimes waiting is the road to the most reliable vehicles

Nathan Bomey USA TODAY

Want a reliable car? A little patience could pay off.

It might sound counterintuitive, but the latest redesigned car model may not hold up as well on the road as versions that come out a year or two later when the early kinks have been worked out.

That's one of the takeaways from the annual Consumer Reports Auto Reliability Survey released Thursday.

Though redesigned vehicles and brand-new models often fetch headlines and social media buzz, the old stal-

warts are typically more likely to hold up well on the road.

"When you redesign a new vehicle, often you get better fuel economy, better safety, potentially better features," said Jake Fisher, senior director of auto testing for Consumer Reports. "But if you want ... reliability, your best bet is to wait a year or two until those initial growing pains have been worked out."

In the Consumer Reports reliability rankings, Toyota's luxury brand, Lexus, and its namesake brand ranked first and third, respectively. Mazda was second.

The Lexus GX was ranked as one of the 10 most reliable cars.

DAVID DEWHURST PHOTOGRAPHY/LEXUS



## 10 most reliable models of 2020, according to Consumer Reports

- Mazda MX-5 Miata
- Mazda CX-3
- Toyota Prius Prime
- Lexus NX
- Toyota Prius
- Toyota 4-Runner
- Lexus GX
- Mazda CX-9
- Hyundai Kona
- Lexus GS

## 10 least reliable models of 2020, according to Consumer Reports

- Chevrolet Colorado/GMC Canyon (same body style, different badging)
- Volkswagen Atlas
- Chevrolet Camaro
- Volkswagen Tiguan
- Jeep Wrangler
- Acura MDX
- Alfa Romeo Giulia
- Tesla Model X
- Chrysler Pacifica
- Chevrolet Traverse

## How automotive brands ranked for reliability

- 1 Lexus
- 2 Mazda
- 3 Toyota
- 4 Porsche
- 5 Genesis
- 6 Hyundai
- 7 Subaru
- 8 Dodge
- 9 Kia
- 10 Mini
- 11 Nissan
- 12 Honda
- 13 Infiniti
- 14 Audi
- 15 Lincoln

# Doorbell security may not ring true

Ken Colburn

Special for The Republic | azcentral.com

**Question:** How can I tell if my Ring doorbell has the update that protects me from the latest vulnerability?

**Answer:** The Ring doorbell is an extremely popular device that millions of households around the world have installed for security purposes and because it's so popular, it's also the constant focus of security researchers.

In the most recent vulnerability, it was discovered to be possible for your Ring doorbell to broadcast the password for your Wi-Fi network in plain text (http:// instead of https://), which could technically allow anyone nearby to capture it and access your home network.

Once a malicious user has access to your home network, they can potentially access sensitive information or other devices connected to your network.

This vulnerability was only possible during the initial setup process, but researchers pointed out that fake messages to the user could trick them into thinking that they needed to reconfigure their Ring device and it's not hard to figure out which homes have the doorbell.

While from a technical standpoint this could have been a major issue, the likelihood that anyone that had the knowledge of how to exploit this hole would bother with such a random set of variables is pretty low.

This type of vulnerability is generally referred to as "proof of concept" when reported by researchers that can demonstrate it in a controlled laboratory setting that often has very little resemblance to real-world scenarios.

### The patch

Despite the low likelihood of it being exploited, the researchers reported the issue to Ring before publicly disclosing the issue so the company could create and distribute a patch for the hole.

Updates to hardware are generally



It was discovered a Ring doorbell can broadcast the password for a home Wi-Fi network REVIEWED.COM

done through "firmware," which is software specifically designed to control hardware devices.

### Is my doorbell updated?

Ring doorbells are set up to automatically install updates, so your device should already be protected, but here's how to check for yourself:

- Open the Ring app and select your Ring device.
- Click on "Device Health" near the bottom of the app.
- Under Device Details, find Firmware.
- If your firmware is up-to-date, it will say "Up to date." If there is a number, your firmware needs to be updated.

When Ring devices are in the process of updating, the light surrounding the button on the device will generally be flashing, so when this is happening, make sure not to press the button.

### What's connected to my Wi-Fi?

This points out how any device you connect to your network can potentially be exploited to allow unauthorized users to access your entire network. Routinely checking to see what devices are connected to your network can be done easily with an app called Fing.

Ken Colburn is the founder and CEO of Data Doctors Computer Services. Ask any tech question at: facebook.com/DataDoctors.

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# Motorola Razr needs more than nostalgia

It will be a pricey sell to finicky younger buyers



## Personal Tech

Edward C. Baig  
USA TODAY

People of a certain age fondly remember Razr, the Motorola clamshell phone that became a status symbol among high-tech fashionistas circa the mid-2000s. I'm tempted to say these are the same people who still remember Motorola itself, given how far the once leading brand has fallen since its heyday. Its single-digit U.S. market share pales next to market champs Apple and Samsung.

Motorola (these days owned by China's Lenovo) is pinning its hopes on the Razr again, having showcased a fresh bendable-screen Android version of the flip phone at a media event in Los Angeles. Moto's partner Verizon will start taking preorders after Christmas, and the new Razr is set to hit stores Jan. 9.

It won't be an easy sell. Younger buyers don't have the same attachment to the Razr that, say, their parents have. Trips down memory lane haven't exactly worked out for other once-dominant phone brands BlackBerry and Nokia.

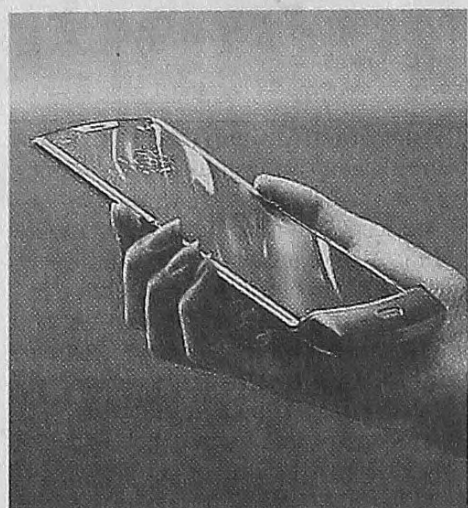
Motorola has tried the back-to-the-future route before, without a lot of success. In 2011, it teamed with Verizon on a Droid Razr Android phone that shared little in common with the original Razr.

Putting nostalgia aside, the new Razr comes with another very modern challenge: a humongous price tag. It costs \$1,499.99 outright, or \$62.49 monthly over two years.

It wasn't lost on my colleague Michelle Maltais who attended the loud LA launch party that most everyone snapping pictures did so with their iPhones and Galaxy devices.

## Foldable screens: Intriguing but unproven

Looked at generously, you might



The new Razr. MOTOROLA

even call the new Razr cheap, at least compared with the \$2,000 Samsung asks for its Galaxy Fold phone.

Samsung, like Motorola, is trying to ignite the nascent market for bendable or foldable-screen phones, a category featuring intriguing if unproven designs. Samsung is trying to sell a single device that morphs between a large-screen phone and small-screen tablet.

Motorola's device comes off like a large phone/smaller phone combo.

## Hands-on first impressions

The main 6.2-inch internal display seamlessly bends completely in half, revealing a 2.7-inch touchscreen outer display on which you can view notifications, control music or snap high-quality selfies. It has a 16-megapixel camera and night vision mode for capturing images in dim light, an in-vogue feature among premium smartphones.

Michelle found the phone easy to flip open and close and was impressed that the hinge practically melts into the main display.

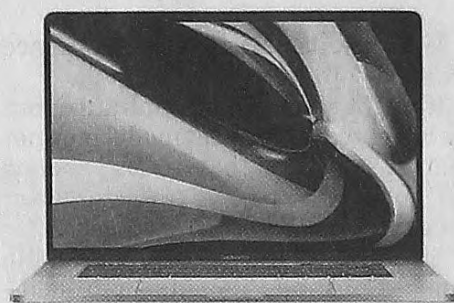
There's been a fair amount of interest surrounding this modern throwback. In the end, though, retro goes only so far. What will ultimately make or break the Razr is how easy and fun it is to use. And dropping the price wouldn't hurt.

# New MacBook Pro boasts a big screen, better keyboard



## Personal Tech

Edward C. Baig  
USA TODAY



Apple's 16-inch MacBook Pro APPLE

Laptop buyers considering the new 16-inch MacBook Pro that Apple started selling Tuesday should take that *pro* designation seriously. These pricey (\$2,399 on up) and muscular machines are indeed aimed at pro-type customers – video editors, game developers, scientists, Hollywood creators, and the like.

But consumers seeking more power than they get from Apple's MacBook Airs buy them, too, even as some Pro features have trickled down to the Airs of recent vintage.

The first thing you'll likely notice is the brilliant-looking 16-inch Retina display (nearly 6 million pixels) which thanks to narrower bezels fits into an 4.3-pound overall package that's roughly the same size as the 15-inch MacBook Pro that this new model replaces.

## Apple fixes the keyboard

But likely the first thing you'll want to try is the newly designed "Magic Keyboard," modeled from the keyboard on the iMac Pro.

If you've been following the saga around MacBook keyboards, you know that the "butterfly" type mechanism on previous MacBook Pros generated so-so reviews at best, and at worse resulted in class-action filings around defective or faulty keyboards.

Apple acknowledged the problems and issued an apology this year, while working to remedy butterfly keyboards.

The butterfly flew away on the new Pros. Apple says it focused on "human factors" in coming up with a refined "scissor mechanism" that delivers 1mm of key travel and results in more stable and responsive keys.

It sure felt that way to me, at least judging by my limited time banging away on the new keyboard. I compared it, quite favorably, to the butterfly keyboard on a 13-inch MacBook

Pro I bought only a few weeks ago.

While on the subject, users also will appreciate the return of a physical escape key on the MacBook Pro that had disappeared on models with a virtual Touch Bar above the physical keys. And the new models have a Touch Bar, along with a Touch ID fingerprint sensor.

## Powerful comes with a high price

Harder to gauge without running benchmark tests or putting the new computer through its paces over time is the (up to) 80% performance boost Apple is claiming, but there seems little doubt these laptops can handle heavy lifting.

Apple plugs the computer's thermal design, 6- and 8-core 9th-generation processors, next-generation graphics with up to 8GB of VRAM and memory that maxes out at 64GB. You also can get it with a whopping 8TB of storage. (The base model comes with 512GB of storage and 16GB of RAM.)

Keep in mind that fully configured, the price exceeds, ouch, \$6,000.

The new laptop has got a bigger battery too, with Apple claiming 11 hours of wireless web browsing between charges, or about an hour longer than its predecessor.

If you are into podcasting, or creating music, you'll appreciate the minimal hiss built in microphone array.

Let me also praise the 6-speaker high-fidelity sound system with what Apple describes as "force-canceling" woofers. In a test, they sounded great. Or put another way, very professional.

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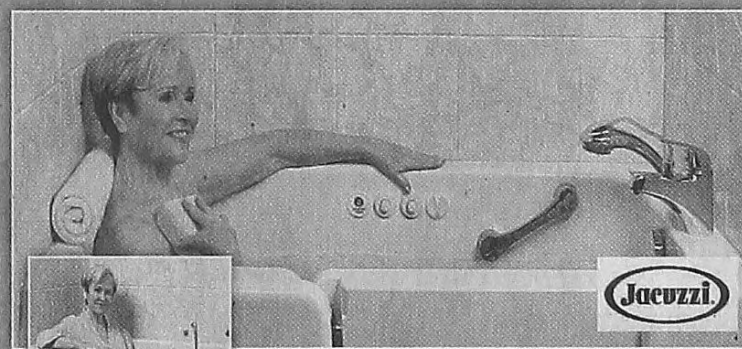
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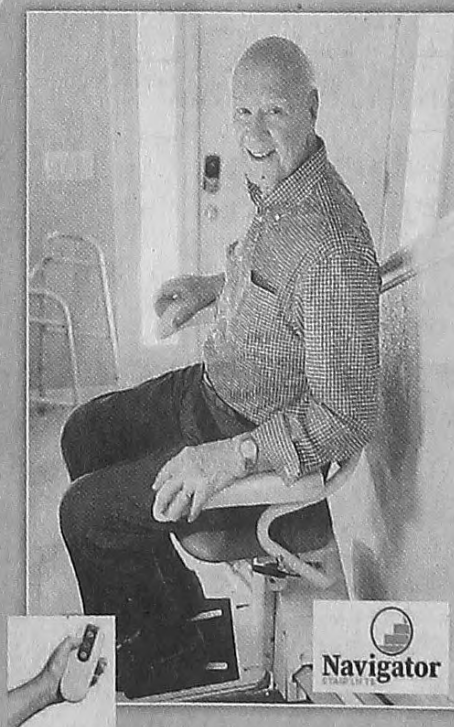
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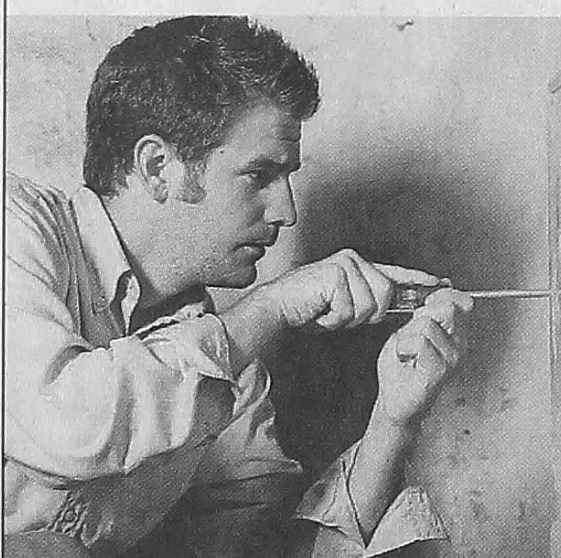
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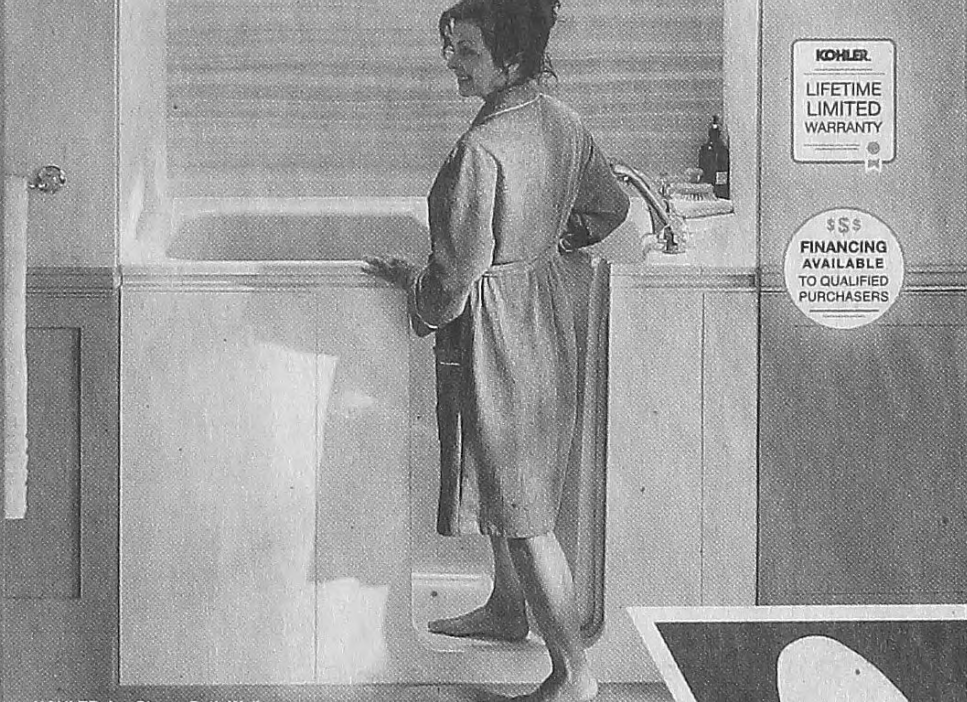
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0 minutes: Transfer turkey with foil. Internal about 107 upon standing. 20 minutes: Drain turkey, with spoon, skin, and strain through a small bowl. Heat milk on low heat. Add oil. Cook 3 minutes, stirring frequently. Add serrano peppers, stirring frequently. Add 1 tablespoon corn. Stir in 1/2 strained dripping chocolate, cook 3 minutes. Transfer chocolate to smoothie. Serve with mole sauce per serving: 200-220 calories, 4g fat.

Inside:  
Game-Day Greats, Christmas Brunch, Savory Seafood, 5 Ingredient Recipes: Jump Start Your Healthy Resolutions and more!

## Giving Thanks

Elevate your traditional turkey with a classic sauce. Initially, use a cuisine that generally uses chili pepper and nutmeg. Add chocolate. Round out with fresh Brussels sprouts and caramel tart, topped with a boozy caramel.



1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
6 garlic cloves, chopped  
2 medium serrano peppers, seeded and chopped  
1 cup chopped walnuts

Base: turkey, with butter, cook 30 minutes. Base: turkey, tent with foil. Roast turkey 1 hour longer or until juices run clear and internal temperature reaches 160° in thickest part of thigh, making sure thermometer doesn't touch.

### Roasted Apple & Brussels Sprouts Salad

Prep: 10 minutes  
Roast: 20 minutes - Serve

- 1/2 cup chopped unsalted walnuts
- 1 large Granny Smith apple, cored and chopped
- 1 pound Brussels sprouts, halved
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon chopped sage
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon honey

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Roast walnuts over medium heat or until lightly browned, transfer to a large bowl. 2. In large bowl, toss apple, Brussels sprouts, olive oil, sage, nutmeg, salt, and honey. 3. Roast in a large baking pan. Roast until browned and tender, about 20 minutes. 4. Toss with dressing. 5. Serve.

Approximate nutrition: 164 Calories, 9g Fat, 172mg Sodium.

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