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Livonia delays social worker decision

Approval would add 2 to police force

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia council has hit the pause button on a big decision regarding its police department.

In a 5-2 vote Monday, Livonia City Council decided to hold off making a final decision to authorize a contract with Hegira Health that would add two social workers to the city's police force. The matter will be discussed in council's

committee of the whole "as soon as possible" before going back before council for a vote.

Council Vice President Scott Bahr made the motion to delay the decision during a presentation by a panel of experts. Bahr, along with several other council members, said he'd like to get more information and ask questions be-

fore voting. Committee of the whole meetings are generally used for members to discuss items in-depth and are open to the public.

However, every council member expressed support for adding social workers to the police force at the meeting.

See **DECISION**, Page 6A



Mionna Johnson, right, steps outside her Canton home Jan. 21 with the help of her father, Justin Johnson. The Canton teen was hospitalized for over 100 days after suffering an arteriovenous malformation that caused a bleed in her brain.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Canton teen's recovery from brain injury astounds doctors

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As the sun rose above the horizon Sept. 19, 2020, Canton teenager Mionna Johnson awoke, ready to write another chapter in her already remarkable life.

An honor roll student and aspiring artist working on learning her third language, the 14-year-old was joyfully singing and dancing to her favorite K-Pop group, BTS, with her mom, Tiffany Ber-

nard, when tragedy struck.

An undetected arteriovenous malformation (AVM) ruptured near Johnson's brain stem, causing her to faint and setting off a chain reaction that left the once-vibrant high school freshman fighting for her life.

An AVM is an abnormal tangle of blood vessels connecting arteries and veins, which disrupts normal blood flow and oxygen circulation, according to mayoclinic.org. If an AVM ruptures, as

in Johnson's case, it can cause bleeding in the brain, a stroke or brain damage, according to the website.

"Doctors call it a ticking time bomb because there are usually no symptoms before it ruptures," Bernard said. "Even if they know it's there, they can't remove it because the procedure would cause the same kind of rupture that happened to Mionna."

See **TEEN**, Page 6A

Westland Mall shooter claims act of self-defense

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Last year's Westland Shopping Center shooter is claiming self defense as his assault and weapons case moves toward trial.

Gregory Travis Jones, 24, of Detroit, is facing 15 felonies because he shot at others while visiting a perfume store at the mall the evening of July 9.



Jones

During a Jan. 20 hearing via Zoom, Jones' attorney Regina Triplett shared surveillance camera footage that she said showed Jones had been defending himself against another gunman in the store.

"Mr. Jones is there to shop," Triplett said before indicating two men who entered the store in an aggressive manner and noting that one of them had a gun in his pocket. "It appears they had been looking for Mr. Jones. They spot him."

See **SELF-DEFENSE**, Page 6A

Farmington students bring back radio play

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, during which students in the Farmington Public Schools district have gone without in-person learning until this month, Sue and Dean Cobb found a way to make a winter play happen.

The result is a radio production of "It's A Wonderful Life," recorded live by student actors and crew. The play, based on the 1946 film of the same name, follows George Bailey as he contemplates death by suicide. According to producer Sue Cobb, the play lends itself to radio in a lot of ways.

"Actually, at Harrison, we did do this once before," she said. "It's written as a radio performance that a live audience sees."

See **RADIO PLAY**, Page 6A



CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Precautions remain as teachers vaccinated

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi teacher Lisa Rice expected her COVID-19 vaccination to go smoothly Jan. 21.

Her plan was to drive to Novi Fire Station No. 4, stick her arm out the car window, and get injected with her first round of protection against COVID-19.

"I've never been so excited to get a shot in the arm," Rice joked.

Rice said she already dodged a bullet in the fall when her son, a Grand Valley State University student, contracted the illness and they both had to quarantine.

Many teachers set appointments earlier this month after the vaccinations were opened to educational personnel, but only a small percentage were able to secure the first dose.

"I feel very fortunate, a lot of teachers weren't able to get an appointment right away," said Nick Peruski, who teaches math and business at Lakeland High School. "I don't think it's a magic bullet, but it's a step in the right direction.

"This is the evolution of returning to normalcy."

Novi Superintendent Steve Matthews said he is excited about the vaccine and feels it will give teachers more confidence in the classroom.

His preference, he said, would be to have a clinic in the district and all 900 staff vaccinated at once. However, the vaccine rollout neither equates to an immediate return to in-person learning nor a normal-looking classroom.

The district has had in-person learning two days per week since September.

"This is not a silver bullet to all the struggles we've been through over the last 10 months," Matthews said. "... The reality is every one of our employees need to be vaccinated. Right now there is not a lot of vaccine around. Our hope is that Oakland County gets more vaccine so our staff can do their job."

Heather Burnside, Novi Education Association president, said most teachers she had spoken with were excited about getting the vaccine.

She conducted a survey of staff. Of 244 respondents, 89 were able to schedule a vaccine appointment, and 151 had tried to schedule but were unable to get an appointment.

"Most are really excited to get it and hopefully it gets us back to normal," she said. "... The big discussion at the school board level, is let's get kids back in. Every teacher wants that, it's just the argu-



Village Oaks Elementary teacher Lisa Rice works with students in her classroom Jan. 20. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ment of when it is safe to do so. We know this isn't ideal."

An increase in vaccinations likely will lead to an increase in class sizes, if not necessarily full-time face-to-face instruction, Matthews said. But the rollout is expected to take some time and he anticipates current safety measures to be around at least through June.

Matthews said the larger impact will be felt in the fall when he expects the vast majority of staff would be vaccinated and school could return to five days per week, although he would not be surprised if the use of hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes continues to be part of daily protocol.

"One thing the pandemic has taught us is we need to be mindful of the health things in our buildings, to make sure they are clean so we don't spread this virus or any other virus," he said.

South Lyon Superintendent Steve Archibald

senses a great deal of optimism. Archibald had no target for percentage of staff that would need to be vaccinated to have an impact on future spread, leaving that to epidemiologists who have said between 70-80 percent of the population needs vaccination in order to achieve herd immunity.

"Every significant advancement like this moves us closer to what we are operating and what we remember as a normal school setting," he said. "This is a significant development overall, bigger than just school."

He, like Matthews, also doesn't anticipate cleaning protocols, or masks, to go away anytime soon.

"I don't think masks are a hang-up or roadblock for us anymore, we're wearing them and moving on," he said. "The

big things that are challenging for us are the number of students and staff that had to go into quarantine had huge impact, and what constitutes close contact. Those are areas that I hope those guidelines can be loosened."

Peruski is doing his part in getting the vaccine. He hopes the community will join in the effort when the vaccines are widely available.

"If you asked all the teachers, they want to be in classroom with kids, their worry is safety, making sure they are protected," he said. "My worry is we are face-to-face for two weeks, a month, and outbreaks force us to go remote. The more that get vaccinated, the more likely we can stay face-to-face."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

Winning \$1.05B Mega Millions ticket sold in Novi

Miriam Marini DetroitFreePress.com
USA TODAY NETWORK

One lucky Michigander managed to beat the odds and snag the third-largest lottery jackpot ever won in the United States of \$1.05 billion, Michigan Lottery announced Saturday.

"Lucky person," Marcia Owens, of Novi, said as she loaded soda into her car's trunk with her husband Saturday afternoon. That's putting it lightly, as the chances of winning the Mega Millions jackpot are one in 302.5 million.

Friday's winning numbers were 4, 26, 42, 50, 60 and Mega Ball 24.

Since a winning ticket was sold in Wisconsin on Sept. 15, the top prize has

kept growing. Until one player happened to buy a ticket at the Kroger located at 47650 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

"Kroger congratulates the individual who purchased a winning Mega Millions lottery ticket at our location in Novi, Michigan," a Kroger spokesperson said in a statement.

For selling the winning ticket, the store will receive a \$50,000 flat-rate commission once the prize has been claimed, said Jake Harris with the Michigan Lottery. It is unclear whether the commission will go directly to the local retailer or to the Kroger company.

Still, as the Owenses stood feet away from where history was made at their usual grocer, the couple - who don't buy

lottery tickets - contemplated the risk associated with partaking in the lottery.

"Somebody's gotta win, but somebody's gotta pay for it," said Owens' husband, who works for a casino and did not want his name published. "You gotta lose more than you win."

Marcia Owens said in more frank terms: "I think it's stupid. People are already hurting, between unemployment and everything else, and they're going to make it easier to lose more money."

The earliest the prize could be claimed was Monday, but big prizes usually take a while to be claimed as winners wrap their heads around the money they're about to step into, Harris said.

"What I would tell the winner is that they're gonna want to make sure to sign the back of the ticket and keep it in a very safe place," Harris said. "A lottery ticket is a bearer instrument. So, in order to claim the prize, they have to have that original ticket in their hand."

Winners have a choice between accepting the prize as a graduated annuity or as a lump sum. In this case, the annuity option would begin with a payment of \$15.8 million and end with \$65 million before tax, and the lump sum would amount to \$776.6 million before tax.

As Mega Millions is a multi-state jackpot, there's no easy way to tell how many tickets were purchased in Michigan for this pot.

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Whitmer: Indoor dining to resume Feb. 1

Dave Boucher and
Kristen Jordan Shamus

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan will allow indoor dining on a limited basis starting Monday, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said at a news conference.

While the announced order did not change the timeline in place for the last two weeks, it does offer some relief to restaurant and bar owners crying out for the chance to let people eat inside.

"I know this pandemic has hurt restaurant owners or restaurant workers, and all of their families," Whitmer said. "I want to thank those that made incredible sacrifices and did their part, on behalf of protecting our communities from COVID. ... I know that it has not been easy. I want you to know that I will continue to do everything in my power to support you and your family."

In November, Whitmer and state

health officials enacted what she described as a temporary ban on indoor dining, in-person classes and any operations at venues such as movie theaters or bowling alleys.

While the state has rolled back many of these restrictions, restaurants and bars have not yet been allowed to offer indoor dining. That has garnered pushback from industry associations and Republicans.

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, the state's chief medical executive, said it's still safest for elderly people or people with underlying medical conditions to avoid dining out indoors. The state will also implement restrictions on indoor dining: businesses can't be above 25% capacity, and they have to close by 10 p.m.

Other restrictions include:

- No more than six people to a table, with tables set at least 6 feet apart
- No more than 100 people or 25% capacity, whichever is smaller
- No mingling with other patrons outside your diner group or in common

areas or other places

• All restaurants must obtain contact information for every person who eats indoors. This is crucial for contact tracing in the event someone who ate at a restaurant gets COVID-19.

• If an employee contracts COVID-19 or shows symptoms at work, the venue must shut down until a deep cleaning is conducted.

These changes give residents a choice, Khaldun said.

"We want people to have the choice to go to a restaurant, and we are doing what we can to make it safer," she said.

The order takes effect Feb. 1 and runs through Feb. 21. Whitmer said the state will monitor case rates during the three-week period - improvements could mean fewer restrictions, but backsliding could mean another ban.

"Our goal is to make sure that we don't have to take another pause in the state and that's why we're encouraging

See INDOOR DINING, Page 4A

Indoor dining

Continued from Page 2A

and supporting the restaurant industry to ensure that they follow the protocols that we know work," Whitmer said.

For weeks, restaurants and similar businesses have argued they can operate safely and the state must give patrons the choice to eat inside.

Blake George, co-owner of Adachi in downtown Birmingham and Zao Jun in Bloomfield Hills, said his businesses will do what they can.

"It's a start. We were hoping, obviously, for better results," George said. "But we have to be optimistic and it is what it is."

Justin Winslow, president and CEO of the Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association, said the news was welcome but overdue.

"It is now time for this administration to move aggressively toward a more comprehensive reintegration strategy, which includes prioritizing vaccination for the broader hospitality industry and establishing clear metrics for phased reopening to 100% capacity of indoor dining," Winslow said.

Whitmer also called on the Legislature to work with her to pass the recovery plan she unveiled this week, as a way to help small businesses and the economy rebound through broader vaccination efforts.

Ensuring vaccines are injected remains a problem, although the lag between delivering and administering doses is improving. And while Whitmer proposed a \$5.6 billion recovery plan — largely funded through federal dollars — her critics have blasted her for not moving faster to restore some form of indoor dining.

State Republicans have threatened to not distribute hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid intended to accelerate vaccinations and improve testing unless Whitmer lets residents eat inside restaurants.

Whitmer frequently says the state and nation need to put aside partisan differences and work together to defeat COVID-19. But she has also repeatedly pointed the finger at the Trump administration's ineptitude while arguing state lawmakers aren't taking the pandemic seriously enough.

Biden unleashed a litany of executive orders aimed at ramping up vaccinations, slowing down the spread of the virus and a return to normalcy. That includes broad guidelines for reopening schools and businesses, which Whitmer is under pressure to accelerate as well.

As reported by USA Today, Biden's executive orders include:

- Telling federal departments to use the Defense Production Act so the country has more personal protective equipment, needles and other supplies
- Requiring masks to be worn on airplanes, trains and federal property
- Issuing new federal safety guidelines for schools and workplaces
- Expanding testing capacity and publishing uniform data

Biden was later expected to sign another two executive orders that will make it easier for those in need to get food through federal programs and start requiring federal contractors to pay workers at least \$15 an hour.

Whitmer said these decisions will have a clear and immediate impact in Michigan.

"I'm happy that President Biden recognizes the importance (of the Defense Production Act) and knows we cannot end this pandemic unless we work together," Whitmer said.

However, she said there aren't enough vaccines for everyone who wants a COVID-19 shot right now.

"That's the frustration that you can feel coming from me. ... That's our universal frustration," Whitmer said. "We have the capacity and the plan to do a lot more vaccinations quicker, but the federal government has been hard. They have not gotten us what we need."

The state says it can put shots into the arms of 50,000 people a day, but the supply so far has only been enough to vaccinate 60,000 people a week. Whitmer said she's hopeful that by enacting the Defense Production Act and with new coronavirus vaccines in the pipeline from Johnson and Johnson and AstraZeneca, the supply problems could improve.

"We will get to everyone," she said, urging patience. "That is my solemn vow is that everyone who wants a vaccine is going to get one."

New variant real threat to Michigan

Since the start of the pandemic, the virus has infected 544,311 people and has killed 14,053, according to state data.

But this week, a new and more contagious mutation of the virus, known as B.1.1.7 or the United Kingdom variant, was detected in Michigan. At least three women with ties to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor have the strain, which is about 50% more transmissible than others. The results of five more genetic sequencing tests of close contacts of the women are pending.

This strain of the virus is not more deadly and isn't known to make people more severely ill than other previously identified variants. However, state health officials are concerned that if the variant begins to cir-

culate widely in the state, this fast-spreading form of the virus could drive up case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths.

"We are watching this situation as closely as possible," said Dr. Juan Luis Marquez, medical director of the Washtenaw County Health Department. "And we ask everyone to continue to do everything they can to prevent transmission — mask, distance, avoid crowds or gatherings, clean your hands frequently, and follow isolation or quarantine guidance carefully."

First detected in the U.K. in September, the B.1.1.7 variant has driven case rates, hospitalizations and deaths so high, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are in lockdown. Prime Minister Boris Johnson told journalists Thursday that it's unclear when restrictions might be lifted, the Guardian reported.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 144 known cases nationally in 20 states as of Wednesday, and warned that based on transmission models, the U.K. variant could become the predominant strain circulating in the U.S. in March.

The vaccines on the market now are believed to be effective against the U.K. variant of the virus. Research is ongoing, but Pfizer released new data Wednesday to support that claim.

If the variant becomes the dominant strain in Michigan, it could trigger new public health orders and restrictions, Robert Gordon, director of the state Department of Health and Human Services, said at a news conference Wednesday.

"We have always said that we look at multiple factors. I think we will continue to do that. ... There's no cookbook for identifying when to move" to enforce tighter public health restrictions, Gordon said. "I will say, obviously, we are very concerned about the variant, and so we will be observing trends as we move forward."

Whitmer said Friday that she is trying to ensure there won't have to be any more shutdowns.

Michigan's economic recovery

There can be no economic recovery without mass vaccinations, Whitmer and other officials have argued. In response to her recovery package though, Republicans in the state Legislature appear skeptical and hesitant to commit to the proposal.

While acknowledging the plan includes some favorable components — there are hundreds of millions of dollars intended for small businesses, economic development and making it easier for schools to allow in-person classes — Republicans in the House and Senate did not miss a chance to criticize the governor.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Thomas Albert, R-Lowell, said he was still reviewing the plan yet pledged he would not give the governor "a blank check to continue mismanaging our state's response to COVID-19."

Whitmer's administration sent the outline of her request to lawmakers this week; bills formally detailing her proposal are expected to be filed next week, when legislators return to Lansing.



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homes

Toll Brothers Michigan Model Home Wins National Award in NAHB Competition

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The Michigan division of Toll Brothers, the nation's leading builder of luxury homes, has won a Silver Award in the National Association of Home Builders' most prestigious awards competition, The Nationals. The Silver Award was given to Toll Brothers in the category of Best Single-Family Detached Model Home (under 2,000 sq. ft.) for its Berks model home in the company's Reserve at West Bloomfield community. Home buyers can tour this award-winning model home and many others during the Toll Brothers National Sales Event running January 30 to February 15, 2021.

The Nationals 2020 Silver Awards salute and honor the best in the building industry for their determination, integrity, creativity and endurance. During a four-day judging process, a panel of industry professionals from across the country determine the award winners from a field of over 900 entries.

"The Nationals are the most prestigious awards of their kind, setting the benchmark for innovation in new home design, marketing and sales," said Alex Martin, Toll Brothers Midwest Division President. "We're honored to be recognized nationally with this Silver Award, and we encourage home shoppers to tour our award-winning model homes for themselves during our National Sales Event launching this Saturday, January 30."

The Toll Brothers fully-decorated Berks model home in the Reserve at West Bloomfield community features a ranch-style, open-concept design complete with a home office, and must-see finished basement. Other highlights of the Toll Brothers Berks model include: a gorgeous kitchen with large center island open to casual dining area, great room, and formal dining room area; a luxurious first-floor primary bedroom suite with lavish primary bath; a spacious secondary bedroom with adjacent full bath; and luxe appointments throughout.

Reserve at West Bloomfield is an amazing new community featuring spacious ranch-style homes with an easy, low-maintenance lifestyle and resort-style amenities. All in a convenient location just steps to the West Bloomfield Trail and the beauty of the West Bloomfield Nature Preserve. Tour our gorgeous Berks ranch model home and our new Waltham two-story model home today. Priced from the upper \$400,000s. Call (248) 654-8555 or visit ReserveatWestBloomfield.com for more information.

Toll Brothers also has an outstanding selection of homes at the following Metro-Detroit communities:

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Toll Brothers newest community Lyon Preserve is now open and selling out of our West Bloomfield location offering the same ranch-

style homes and luxury, low maintenance living. Lyon Preserve is nestled in a private wooded enclave in Lyon Township just minutes from historic downtown South Lyon and every convenience priced from the upper \$400,000s. Call (866) 267-0537 or visit LyonPreserve.com to learn more.

Resort-class Amenities in Canton

Westridge Estates is the only new community in Canton offering resort-style amenities, including a clubhouse with fitness room, gathering room, kitchenette, locker rooms, pools, sand volleyball court, children's play park and walking paths. Westridge Estates is located just south of Ford Road, west of Ridge Road, and home prices start in the low \$600,000s. For more information, visit WestridgeofCanton.com or call (734) 844-0279.

Selling Fast in Canton

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

At Hamlet Meadows, pricing starts in the mid-\$400,000s and two-story home designs range from



Visit the award-winning Berks model home at the Toll Brothers Reserve at West Bloomfield community and learn about limited-time savings offered during the company's National Sales Event.

2,411 sq. ft. to more than 2,842 sq. ft. Brand new, open-concept designs are now available. Hamlet Pointe features large home sites and side-entry garages. Homes are priced from the mid-\$500,000s. Three stunning model homes are now available to tour and quick move-in homes are available. For details, visit The-Hamlet.com or call (734) 398-5939.

Luxurious Living in Northville

Final opportunities are now available in Northville! Toll Brothers at Dunhill Park is on the corner of Beck Road and 8 Mile Road across from Maybury State Park and offers a range of home designs with an exceptional list of features on grand oversized home sites. Prices start from the upper \$700,000s. Call (248) 924-2601 or visit LiveAtDunhillPark.com for details.

Popular Villas in Ann Arbor

North Oaks of Ann Arbor is the region's premier resort-class community situated in a stunning 109-acre setting. Two collections of homes are available: Townhomes from the low \$400,000s and Villas from the low \$500,000s.

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

A clubhouse with a fitness center, yoga room, billiards, great room with fireplace, verandas overlooking the lap and wading pools, locker rooms and a play park is now open. North Oaks is located minutes from the University of Michigan's north campus, the

VA Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, and downtown Ann Arbor. Children attend acclaimed Ann Arbor Schools with the elementary and middle schools just 3 minutes away. For details, call (734) 224-6686 or visit North-Oaks.com.

Final Opportunities for Single-Family Homes from low \$400,000s in Ann Arbor

Trailwoods of Ann Arbor, a new community of single-family homes tucked into a gorgeous setting with Ann Arbor schools and low Scio Twp taxes is now available. Two collections of homes offer all new open-concept designs with an impressive list of included features. The Village Collection is priced from the low \$400,000s and The Parkside Collection is priced from the upper \$400,000s. Two gorgeous models are available to tour and quick move-in homes are available. For more information, visit TrailwoodsOfAnnArbor.com or call (734) 995-5503.

Toll Brothers is set to kick off its National Sales Event "Discover the Difference" on Saturday, January 30. The event will run through Monday, February 15, featuring limited-time incentives at Toll Brothers communities throughout Michigan. To learn more about Toll Brothers and the National Sales Event, please call 866-267-0537 or visit TollBrothers.com/MI.

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From left, Farmington High School students Ben Corsi, Aidan Fetterman and Maggie Kramer perform for a radio-play recording of "It's A Wonderful Life." PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREG KRAMER

Radio play

Continued from Page 1A

"So this time, we just decided to do it as a true radio performance. Our audience will just be at home."

The Cobbs have been doing theater with Farmington schools for years. They've worked with students at Farmington, North Farmington and the now-closed Harrison High School over the years and were happy to bring some element of theater to this unorthodox school year.

"Having theater in my life, and the Cobbs, is really special," said Elena Nicholson, a senior portraying Violet Bick.

The cast held all its rehearsals virtually via Zoom. But for the live recording, the cast and crew got together for the first time to record the play.

"It was as if they were on stage performing things," Cobb said. "It is a live recording and it doesn't have editing in that respect at all. We started at the beginning as if it was opening night. ..."

"Putting them in the auditorium and doing it straight through as though they were performing allowed them to get the theater experience in that way."

According to the Cobbs, the virtual rehearsal process was challenging for



The cast of "It's A Wonderful Life," produced by Sue Cobb.

many of the students, and the familial bond casts normally form as they prepare for a performance was lacking. Instead, the experience gave the actors a new set of skills.

"We say that acting is reacting, and so they still had to react as another character to what was going on even though, visually, you couldn't see what was going on," said director Dean Cobb. "It gave them a real challenge in that way."

The cast hopes the audio experience will allow the audience to play a bigger creative role in the production. In many ways, it will be like listening to a podcast.

"It allows you to use your imagination in a way," said Joe Smentowski, a senior portraying Henry Potter. "Even though you're not seeing these characters, you can picture them in your head, and everyone will have their own interpretation of it."

Listeners can tune in to "It's A Wonderful Life" at midnight Jan. 30 through 10 p.m. Jan. 31. The free 90-minute stream of the performance can be found at bit.ly/FHSWonderfulLife.

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

Self-defense

Continued from Page 1A

Triplett said Jones moved to get a better look at everyone in the store. But then it seemed the other gunman blocked his path, as well as that of his brother and a childhood friend. Jones fired into the air as a warning.

"There's no option to retreat here," Triplett said. "The guy clearly is not letting him out the store. Self-defense is exactly what we're claiming. There was no attempt to kill. We believe that Mr. Jones acted reasonable based on these circumstances."

According to Triplett, Jones is a high school graduate who worked for Chrysler and has no prior criminal record.

Prosecutors have said he fired more shots at those who ran from the store.

"Unsurprisingly, I disagree on multiple levels," prosecuting attorney Ryan Elsey said. "There's nothing in that video that in any way suggests that the defendant's conduct was justified. He was the first person to draw a weapon. He drew that weapon and opened fire in the middle of a crowded place."

"If this was a valid self-defense issue, ... we wouldn't have had to have a manhunt to go find him. We wouldn't have found that once we found him and put him under arrest that he had already

ditched the gun that was used in this incident."

Third Circuit Judge Darnella Williams refused to reduce Jones' \$1 million bond.

"To fire a gun at a mall. ... That's very serious," Williams said. "Bullets, as they say, don't have a name on them. You don't know where they're going to land, who's going to get hurt."

She asked the attorneys to present witness lists in preparation for trial. The next pre-trial conference is set for Feb. 11.

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

Teen

Continued from Page 1A

A grim prognosis

After Johnson regained consciousness, Bernard remembers her daughter describing her worsening headache as if "my brain just exploded." The teenager also started sweating profusely, a symptom of an AVM rupture.

Rushed by ambulance to Beaumont Medical Center in Westland, Johnson's condition deteriorated to such a degree that doctors declared her brain dead.

A deeply religious woman, Bernard refused to accept the devastating diagnosis.

"I was in shock when I heard how bad it was," Bernard said. "But I wasn't about to give up. I told the doctors I wanted a second opinion and they agreed to have Mionna airlifted by helicopter to Children's Hospital in Detroit.

"I wasn't allowed in the helicopter, so I drove about 100 miles an hour to Children's. The doctors warned me that Mionna's condition could deteriorate in the air. I was scared to death because I didn't know if she'd be dead or alive when I arrived at the hospital."

Although Johnson survived the helicopter ride, Bernard was greeted by a grim report from the Children's Hospital medical staff.

"The head surgeon walked up to me and said, 'It's not looking good at all, but we're going to fight for your child's life,'" Bernard said.

A three-hour brain surgery – the first of five Johnson would undergo over the next three months – helped stabilize her condition, but the outlook for a long-term return to normal health was bleak.

"They told us if she did survive, she'd probably be paralyzed from the neck down and that she may never breathe on her own again," Bernard said.

Johnson was hospitalized for 119 days, her body hooked up to a network

of wires and hoses that sustained her life.

The lifesaving effort required an extraordinary level of teamwork, both from the medical staff at Children's Hospital and from Johnson's parents. Bernard, who had recently opened a Westland salon, left her daughter's side just once during the hospitalization, and that was to get baptized.

"I had to give up the salon, which was both easy and tough," Bernard said. "It was easy because I wanted to be with my daughter during her recovery. Tough because it was a lifetime dream."

Johnson's father, Justin Johnson, had to step back from his job as deputy director of then-presidential candidate Joe Biden's Michigan campaign so he could be at his daughter's side.

One afternoon in October, during a particularly rough period in Mionna Johnson's hospitalization, Justin Johnson's cellphone buzzed. The caller was now-Vice President Kamala Harris, offering her prayers to the family.

Decision

Continued from Page 1A

"It's not to question the need for this at all," Bahr said. "I really want to reiterate that. But it's just to go through the procedure of this."

Councilmen Jim Jolly and Brandon McCullough voted against sending the issue to committee, both saying they were ready to vote.

"I would like to vote on this tonight to get the ball rolling," Jolly said. "I think there are a lot of things here to figure out, but I think those are administrative things."

The decision to send the issue to committee also drew criticism from some residents.

"Due diligence would have been coming prepared to vote on the resolution," resident Sara Overwater said.

Richard Glover, chairman of the city's human relations commission, also said he would have preferred a vote Monday night.

"I'm a little disappointed that we didn't pass this today," he said. "I guess my question is what's the difference between passing this today, now, and doing the actual work to get it done? You've all committed to that, very much so."

Others said they appreciate council's desire to get more information before voting.

"To look at something like this is great, but to vote on it without the people of the community that have to pay the bill for this brand-new position is not right," resident Penny Crider said.

According to the city, the program, a "crisis support team," would be the first in the region. The city of Birmingham also is considering creating a mental health co-responder program within its police department.

The team would accompany police officers to mental health-related calls like suicide attempts or drug addiction. The team would also provide ongoing telehealth and follow-up care, connecting people with useful community resources.

Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid said the team would allow the department to put more focus on crime.

"They're not social workers, they're not psychologists," he said of his police officers. "This program, this initiative, is an effort to help ease the burden placed on them."

The panelists who presented Monday night, as well as Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan, had all expressed support for the program. Brosnan also noted the pandemic has heightened the need for mental health care.

"This is an opportunity to the City of Livonia and Livonia Police Department to be a sort of beacon on how to deal with this," said Judge Timothy Kenny, the chief justice of the Wayne County Circuit Court. "As a Livonia resident, nothing would make me happier."

Adding the two mental health professionals, who will both hold at least master's degrees, will not cost the department more than \$190,000 annually, and is already covered by budgeted funds. While they will work with the department and be approved by the department, both individuals will be Hegira employees.

Council President Kathleen McIntyre said several times the issue will come before council again "as soon as possible."

"This isn't a delaying tactic," she said. "We're anxious to get this done and figured out."

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

"That call meant a lot to us," Bernard said. "We were in a dark place that day, sitting in the hospital room with Mionna hooked up to life-support."

"It helped lift our spirits."

Mionna's condition took a miraculous turn for the better Nov. 12.

"Mionna had to have a trachea put in because she couldn't breathe on her own," Bernard said. "They had to take her downstairs for the procedure."

"A few minutes later, a nurse approached me and said, 'Mom, you're not going to believe this, but she's awake!'"

Since that day, Mionna Johnson has showed steady signs of improvement.

"Yes, it's been an emotional roller coaster," Bernard said. "One minute we were jumping into grief, thinking we were going to lose her, then she'd bounce back, then maybe she's gone again ..."

"The entire experience has been surreal."

See TEEN, Page 7A

Michigan man denied bail on Capitol riot charges

Tresa Baldas and Gina Kaufman

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Calling him one of “the most violent” Capitol rioters, federal prosecutors said a Wixom man struck police officers who were guarding the doors at least 10 times with a hockey stick, swung at cops when they were down, hit them in the face and neck, then rallied other rioters before busting through a broken window to get inside, according to a court filing.

Prosecutors used these allegations to convince a judge Monday to deny bond to Michael Foy, 30, a former Marine who was arrested at his home on Jan. 21 for his alleged role in the unprecedented Capitol assault.

Foy’s lawyer argued that her client is suicidal, has mental health issues and needs to be home with his mom who can care for him, not in a jail cell. Public defender Colleen Fitzharris said that Foy attempted suicide in the first week of January and had no plans to harm anyone with his hockey stick, but rather only brought it to use as a makeshift flagpole.

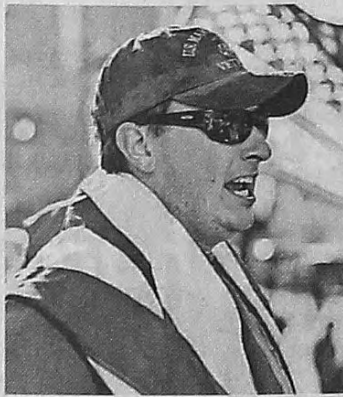
The judge, who saw graphic video of the Capitol surge, didn’t buy it.

“I think the videos belie that,” U.S. Magistrate Patricia Morris said. “That hockey stick was taken to be used as a weapon.”

Morris denied bond to Foy, concluding that he was a danger to society and himself, and couldn’t be trusted not to flee — just as prosecutors had argued.

Morris issued her decision after viewing graphic body cam footage that shows Foy approaching officers while holding a hockey stick. In the chaotic and violent scene, you can see the hockey stick swinging above the officer wearing the body cam.

“Michael Foy is among the most violent of the rioters that day,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Hank Moon ar-



Michael Foy, of Wixom, attends a rally in support of former President Donald Trump in Detroit on Nov. 6. Foy also attended the rally-turned-riot in the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, where he beat police officers with a hockey stick.

DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

gued at the hearing, which came one day after the government drafted a detailed account of Foy’s alleged actions.

“Images and video taken at the Capitol show Foy attacking officers guarding the doors. The scene is chaotic, graphic, and brutal. Rioters hurled projectiles at the officers and physically assaulted them, often using weapons like poles, bottles, and in Foy’s case, a hockey stick,” prosecutors wrote in a court filing, arguing Foy was more than a “bystander” in the violent protest, he was a leader.

“When things started to get out of hand, he took a leading role in the violence. He repeatedly used the hockey stick to beat police officers in the face, head, neck, and body area,” prosecutors argue in court documents. “And then he rallied others into entering the Capitol — through broken windows. The nature and circumstances of Foy’s offenses support his detention.”

At Monday’s detention hearing, Foy’s lawyer offered a glimpse into the life of the accused rioter, portraying him as a decorated veteran who did good by his country, suffers from depression and experienced “significant trauma” while in the military.

“He didn’t go to D.C. to cause violence,” said Fitz-

harris, who maintains that Foy got caught up in “mob mentality.”

According to Fitzharris, Foy has no criminal record or arrests, graduated from high school in 2009 and held various jobs over the years at Red Robin and Terminix. In 2014, he enlisted the Marines and received an honorable discharge in 2019 after reaching the rank of corporal and earning a “good conduct medal,” she said.

Fitzharris pleaded with the judge to release Foy to the custody of his mother and keep him on a tether, arguing jail is not the right place for people with serious mental health issues.

“A mother is a much better monitor ... than a jailer,” Fitzharris argued. “Jail is not the place to put him.”

Prosecutors, however, convinced the judge to keep Foy locked up.

“Several officers were dragged into the crowd, stripped of their protective gear, and beaten. Other rioters used crowbars and other tools to knock the windows out of the Capitol so rioters could enter,” prosecutors allege. “At one point, before the worst of the melee began, Foy threw what appears to be a sharpened pole at the officers.”

Then came an ambush.

“A few seconds later, one of the rioters rushed the officers, knocking one of them to the ground. Foy jumped at the opportunity, immediately rushing toward the officers with his hockey stick raised,” court documents state, alleging videos show “Foy violently assaulting Capitol Police Officers — including the officer on the ground, unable to fully protect himself.”

Foy was arrested on Jan. 21 at his home, where investigators “found the hockey stick he used and the hat he wore during the riot,” prosecutors wrote in a filing Sunday. He is charged with four felonies, including forcible assault upon an officer of the United States. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison.

Teen

Continued from Page 6A

Happy homecoming

On Jan. 21, with the sun making a rare mid-winter cameo, Johnson walked slowly out of her Canton home, grasping a walker and aided by her parents, seven days after an emotional release from Children’s Hospital.

Her recovery, which doctors called “a medical miracle,” was celebrated by hospital staff, who showered her with cheers and applause as she was escorted in a wheelchair toward a waiting car.

“It felt really good to get home,” Johnson said measuredly, her speech slowed by a temporarily paralyzed vocal cord, and her recovery still an ongoing journey. “I was in my (hospital) room until at about 10 (a.m.) and then there was a big party (in the hospital).”

Asked what advice she’d offer to people who are enduring similar bouts of adversity, Johnson didn’t waver.

“I’d say be strong, be brave, have courage and have faith because God will work everything out for you,” she said.

Johnson said she learned a lot about her inner strength during the ordeal.

“Most of all, I learned I can get through anything,” she said.

Johnson’s long-term prognosis is good, although it will require grueling rehabilitation and a lot of patience for her to return to her pre-AVM rupture self.

Johnson’s parents said they wanted to share their daughter’s story to inspire and educate people.

“I had no idea what AVM was until this happened to Mionna,” Justin Johnson said. “Maybe if people learn about what we’ve gone through, it may help someone down the road.”

“The biggest lesson we’ve learned through all of this is never, ever give up,” Bernard said.

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

DTE fraudsters demand money in Farmington Hills

Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Farmington Hills fraudsters are posing as DTE Energy employees threatening to cut off power unless money is

handed over.

Multiple Farmington Hills residents have received calls demanding money for their “past due bills,” according to police.

The caller directs the victims to “the nearest DTE payment center”

that actually is a Bitcoin machine.

The victim then receives a QR code that includes the DTE logo. Victims who deposit money with the code receive requests to deposit additional money.

Police are emphasizing that no legitimate business or utility would demand use of a Bitcoin machine. It’s a 2019 scam that is making a resurgence, they said.

Anyone who suspects fraud can call DTE at

800-477-4747. Ask to speak to a customer service representative.

Police advise residents to not answer calls from strange numbers and to call the companies to determine whether any such calls are legitimate.

Obituaries



Margaret Hall MacMillan Alegnani

FARMINGTON HILLS - Margaret (Peggy) Hall MacMillan Alegnani, formerly of Farmington Hills, passed away on January 7th, 2021 at the age of 95. Peggy attended Cass Tech High School and was married to William (Bill) Alegnani in 1943. After Bill’s death in 1998, Peggy moved to Boise, Idaho. In 2017, after being diagnosed with Dementia, Peggy moved into Assisted Living in Las Vegas. Beloved mother & grandmother, she is survived by: Judy (deceased 2012), Deborah Trent, Steven Alegnani and wife Diane, Pamela Alegnani, Cheryl Hawthorne and husband David. Peggy had 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family. Condolences to the family may be sent through the Neptune Society at <https://obituaries.neptunesociety.com/obituaries/las-vegas-nv/margaret-alegnani-9989148>.

Dewarld Dewaine “Bill” Hiner

CHELSEA, FORMERLY ANN ARBOR & FARMINGTON HILLS - Age 96, died Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at Chelsea Retirement Community. He was born in 1924 in Wymore, Nebraska, the son of Arthur and Althea (Beldon) Hiner. Bill was a member of the Orchard United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills.

Bill has been married to Eleanor Ann Hanley for 61 years, and she survives. He is also survived by one son, James Hiner (Melissa) of Ann Arbor; and two grandchildren, Margaret Hunt and Robert Hiner. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Margaret “Peggy” Hiner of Atlanta, Georgia, and his brother, Clyde Jr. Hiner of Wymore, Nebraska.

Bill was a graduate of The University of Nebraska, and Detroit School of Law. He served in the Army during WWII. He enjoyed a successful career with Ford Motor Company, and later with American Natural Resources. Bill enjoyed golf, bowling, and traveling with his family. He always had a great sense of humor, and witty comments at the ready.

A private graveside service was held at the North Farmington Cemetery in Farmington Hills, Michigan. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the United Methodist Retirement Communities Foundation. Bill was a long-time resident of Chelsea Retirement Community and greatly appreciated the care and love he received from his neighbors and the staff. Memorial gifts can be sent to: UMRC Foundation, 805 W. Middle St., Chelsea, MI 48118 or online at <https://umrc.com/umrc-foundation/>. Arrangements were entrusted to Cole Funeral Chapel in Chelsea.



Eleanor Ann Hiner

CHELSEA - Eleanor Ann Hiner of Chelsea, MI, formerly of Farmington Hills, age 86, died Sunday, January 17, 2021 at the Chelsea Retirement Community. She was born August 27, 1934 in Warsaw, Indiana, the daughter of Edward and Ella (Dye) Hanley. Ann was a member of the Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills where she actively volunteered in many capacities.

Ann had been married to Dewarld Dewaine “Bill” Hiner for 61 years, when he preceded her in death less than a month ago on Dec. 29, 2020. She is survived by one son, James Hiner (Melissa) of Ann Arbor; two grandchildren, Margaret Hunt and Robert Hiner; one brother, Bill Hanley (Helen) of Birmingham, Alabama; and one sister, Peggy Hodak (Jerry) of East Lansing; She was preceded in death by one daughter, Margaret (Peggy) Hiner of Atlanta, Georgia.

Ann graduated from Wayne State University where she was also a member of Delta Zeta. She was a passionate gardener at home as well as for the Cranbrook House & Gardens Auxiliary. She was very talented at growing beautiful flowers and delicious vegetables. Ann loved to cook, and was always looking for new recipes. She loved to entertain friends and family, especially on Christmas Eve.

A private graveside service was held at the North Farmington Cemetery in Farmington Hills, Michigan. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the United Methodist Retirement Communities Foundation. Ann was a long-time resident of Chelsea Retirement Community and greatly appreciated the care and love she received from her neighbors and the staff. Memorial gifts can be sent to: UMRC Foundation, 805 W. Middle St., Chelsea, MI 48118 or online at <https://umrc.com/umrc-foundation/>. Arrangements were entrusted to Cole Funeral Chapel in Chelsea.



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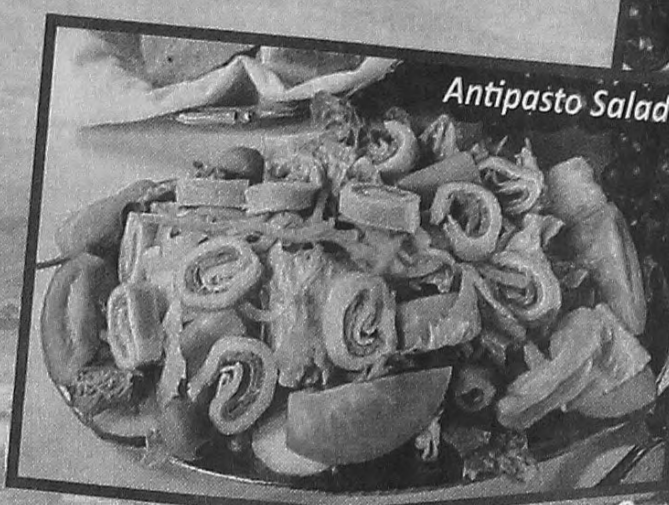


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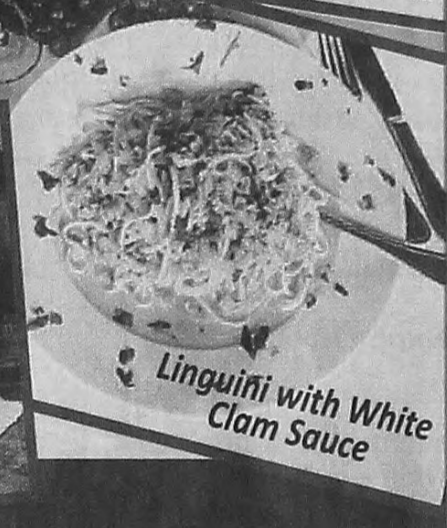
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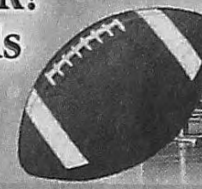
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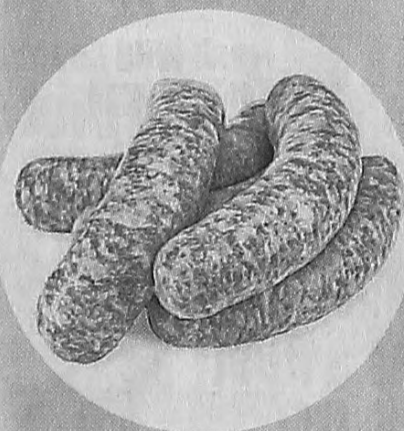
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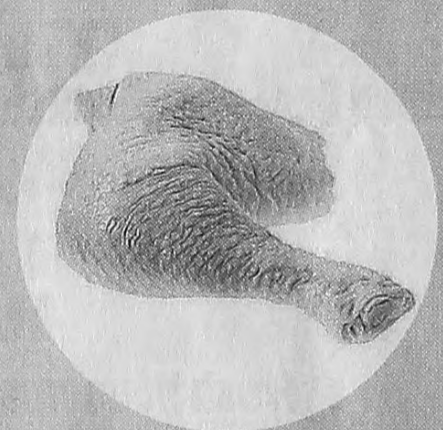
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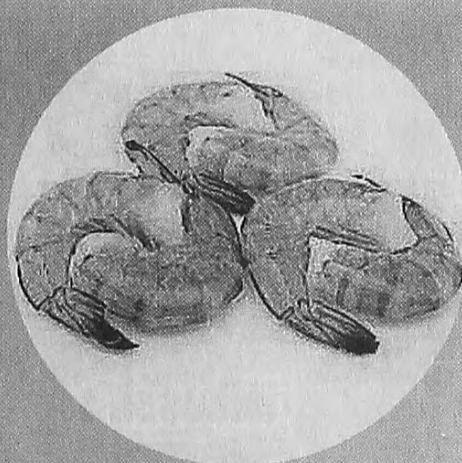


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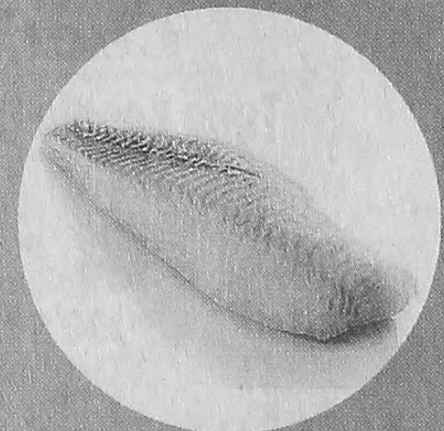


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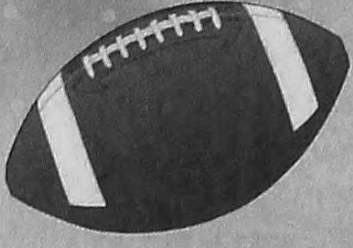
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SPORTS

WRESTLING

Farmington Public Schools cancels season

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Carson Roberts joined the North Farmington wrestling team as a junior by the recommendation of his football coaches. But in only one season with the Raiders on the mat, he learned to love the sport: the competitiveness, the fo-

cus not only on strength, but technique. Heading into 2021, he was excited for the opportunity to improve, to continue to be a leader and promoter of the sport he quickly fell in love with.

For Roberts, the two other seniors on North Farmington's team and all the wrestlers throughout Farmington Public Schools, they will not get the chance.

Farmington Public Schools announced Wednesday in an email to athletes and parents that it will not be offering wrestling in the 2021 winter season at any of its middle schools or high schools due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"This really, really sucks," Roberts said. "I really wanted to go back and

wrestle this year. It was kind of just taken right out underneath me."

Farmington Public Schools Athletic Director Jon Manier said the difference between wrestling and other sports offered is the consistent close contact in order to practice the sport itself.

See WRESTLING, Page 2B



Detroit Catholic Central basketball players practice in their gym Jan. 19. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services moved the season back again to at least Feb. 21, but granted teams the ability to hold non-contact practices ahead of that date. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

First non-contact practices define basketball

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Area basketball teams did not get everything it wanted out of the latest order from the state.

With a schedule planned out for the 2021 season already stopped multiple times due to COVID-19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services moved it back again to at least Feb. 21, but granted teams the ability to hold non-contact practices ahead of that date.

When he talked to his coaches, Detroit Catholic Central head coach Brandon Sinawi knew he had to get creative

ahead of the return to the gym, pulling out drills he had not used in years to work on individual skills, using football tackling dummies to try and replicate physical contact, watching film, hoping that something would stick when traditional five-on-five practicing was permitted again.

But despite the uncertainty, Sinawi remains confident.

"We know there is an end in sight. It's just a couple of weeks," he said. "You know what, it's not ideal, but it's what we are in control of and we are going to manage that."

Through January, area basketball teams are rolling with the punches, get-

ting their teams conditioned and as ready as they can for a sprint of a season that coaches and players hope doesn't get pushed back again.

Experience looms large

2021 is going to be the season where experience likely will define success.

For many coaches with returning players, they don't have to spend the time working on offensive and defensive schemes of a particular system — something teams really don't have the time or capability of teaching with the restrictions in place.

"Just the fact that the kids know our

system and know our program and what we are all about, having those kids that have been through that varsity experience, it's absolutely an advantage," Milford head coach Dave Gilbert, who will have 10 seniors on his roster in 2021, said.

This is an advantage that Canton doesn't have.

The Chiefs will return five players from the 2019-20 team that won 15 games, including two juniors in Cole Vickers and Lake McIntosh who played valuable minutes. Other than those two, the roster is relatively inexperienced.

See BASKETBALL, Page 2B

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DeWitt wins state title over River Rouge

Tom Lang Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

DeWitt has been close many times, finishing state runner-up five times in program history.

Saturday night at Ford Field was not meant to be the sixth.

DeWitt (12-0) broke through with a 40-30 win over the defending Division 3 champion, River Rouge.

It's the first state title for coach Rob Zimmerman, who has led the Panthers for 22 seasons.

"Yes, we've been so close so many times," Zimmerman said. "It's just unbelievable. This group of kids — we knew we had a shot with these kids. They are really motivated and driven. They played like they really won a state championship tonight. So proud of them; so happy for them."

DeWitt opened the scoring with a 15-yard touchdown pass from Tyler Holtz to Blake Beachnau early in the first quarter.

River Rouge (9-2) took the lead once, in the second quarter with a brief 8-7 edge, after a 52-yard pass reception by Jalen Holly from QB Mareyohn Hrabowski, followed by a two-point conversion

reception by Nicholas Marsh.

But Andrew Debrí scored on an 8-yard pass and Nicholas Flegler scored on a 35-yard pass along the sideline to take a 21-8 lead into halftime.

DeWitt scored again with a 25-yard touchdown pass from Holtz to Thomas McIntosh to increase the lead to 19 early in the third.

River Rouge quickly cut the lead to 27-14 less than two minutes later on a Hrabowski run. But DeWitt seemingly put the game out of reach with a follow-up touchdown. Debrí scampered 37 yards for a 33-14 advantage as time expired in the third quarter.

River Rouge began the fourth with a four-play, 51-yard drive in 1:09, capped by a 12-yard TD reception and PAT catch by Marsh, cutting the lead to 10.

DeWitt followed with a deliberate drive, going 60 yards on 12 plays and taking 6:27 off the game clock, Holtz made a 2-yard scoring run.

"Holtz was tremendous at quarterback, certainly," Zimmerman said of his junior who was 12-for-16 passing and added 118 yards rushing. "And I think we made plays, and in games like this you've got to make big plays when it's crunch time, and I think we did. Offen-

sively we played very, very well. I think we didn't score only two possessions and defensively we gave up a few plays, but did well enough."

The game was close statistically. DeWitt held the advantage in rushing yards, 226-158 yards, but River Rouge led in passing yards, 227-177.

"Obviously, River Rouge is defending state champ and is loaded with college players, so I'm so proud of our kids to be able to win this game," Zimmerman said.

River Rouge has five players headed to D-I colleges: Hrabowski is committed to Western Michigan, Armorian Smith to Cincinnati, Pius Odjugo to Central Michigan, Jalen Johnson to Ball State and Chance Moore to Morgan State.

"A loss gives you an opportunity to win again," River Rouge coach Corey Parker said. "You get so much to learn from in that moment. Seeing how we played and knowing what we've got to adjust off season. At the end of the day, we're fine looking at that scoreboard and knowing we have a chance to come back with young guys making plays and our older guys fighting to the bitter end."

Michigan prep hoops schedule will get pushed back - again

Kirkland Crawford Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

There will be yet another schedule change for Michigan high school winter sports, including boys and girls basketball.

In reaction to the latest state restrictions update from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, the Michigan High School Athletic Association will take a few days to reconfigure the schedules for basketball, hockey, wrestling and competitive cheer.

Whitmer's announcement, in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, extended the ban on contact sports until Feb. 21.

Last week, the MHSAA announced that these contact sports could run non-contact practices. The plan then was for basketball to begin full practice on Feb. 1 and start the season Feb. 4.

Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

As Bruce Warmann, one of three seniors on the roster, watched players try out for Canton, he saw a lack of familiarity but an abundance of talent. He saw something he could work with.

But the approach this season, he said, changes. Instead of trying to outsmart opponents in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, the focus will be on basically outrunning teams for four quarters.

"I feel like if we can become the best conditioned team in our league, we're going to have a good chance to blow people out of the water," Warmann said.

"Because of all the crazy circumstances, conditioning is going to probably be the biggest impact on the game. It's going to come down to the mental strength in the fourth quarter: are you going to have the mental energy to finish off the game?"

Novi head coach Chris Housey said this season will come down to energy and effort, relying on the players' intelligence and basketball IQ to make decisions in game play.

At Detroit Catholic Central, this has been a primary focus for Sinawi and his staff.

The Shamrocks head coach put together a practice schedule emphasizing quick skill work, forcing players to make decisions — offensive and defensive — as if they were in game-like situations, teaching core principles in a different way.

While he is aware that there will be a gap in development that only time can replace, Sinawi is not going to make excuses. His goal for these next few weeks is to get his players in a place where, come Feb. 21, they are revved up for the season ahead.

"We are going to do our best to let them visualize and when we can, it's kind of going to be like a chained dog ready to pounce on something," Sinawi said. "Some time you have to let the leash off and come Feb. (21), they will be

ready to go."

Taking initiative

While basketball may look different if teams are permitted to play, some things will not change.

Heading into 2021, South Lyon head coach Troy Weidman preached the importance of two ownership and taking initiative.

"I believe this year, those teams that are player-led teams that are really tight as a team — tight meaning they really like each other and hold each other accountable — are going to be the teams that are really going to be successful," Weidman said.

This is something Cooper Craggs has taken to heart.

The Detroit Catholic Central junior said he had a wake-up call last year, his first on the varsity team. He said the difference in style of play — the physicality down low, the speed of the game — hit him hard at first. But he adapted and got stronger because of the experience.

He said that is his main role heading into 2021: helping groom the underclassmen and getting them better, either verbally or physically.

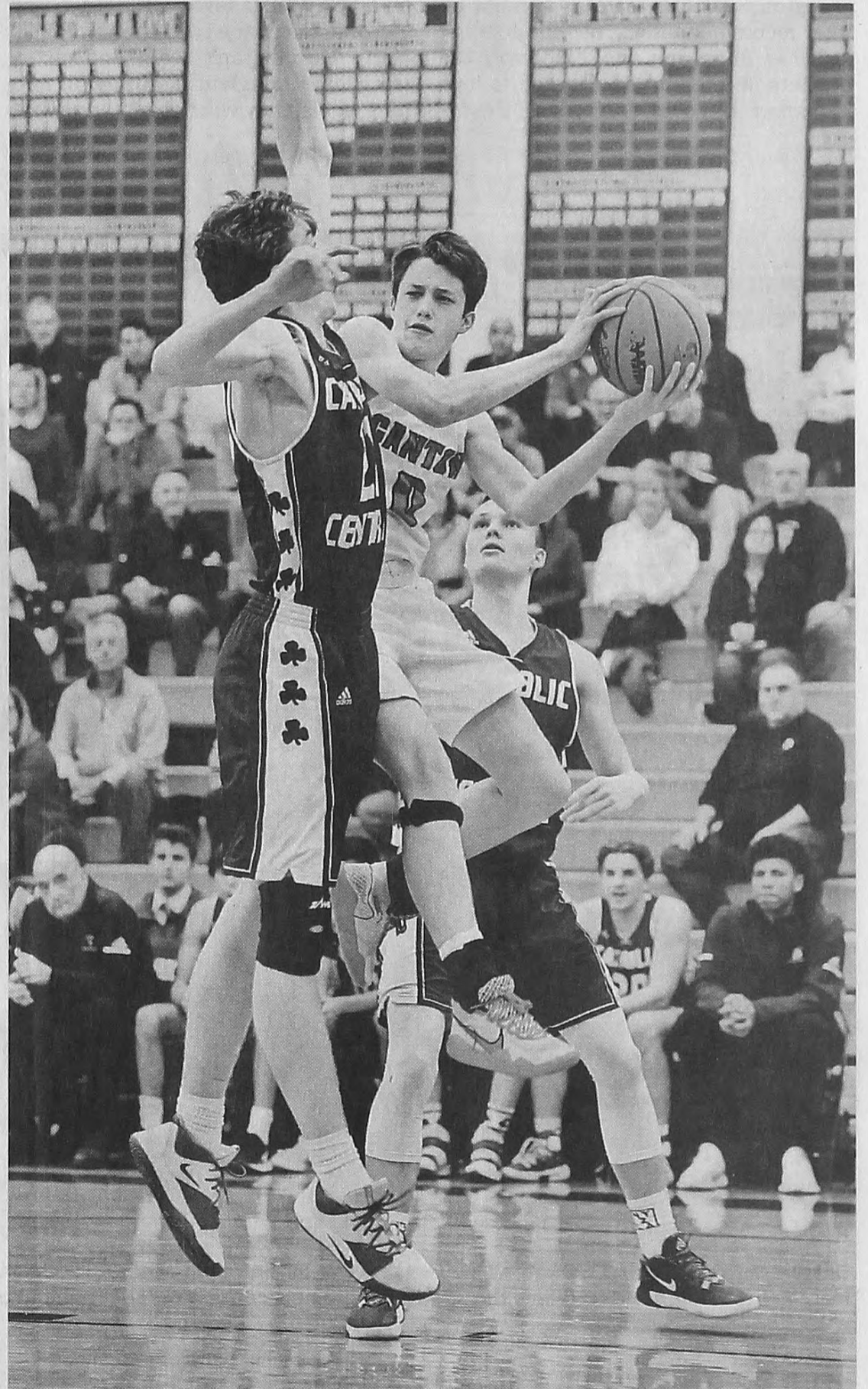
"We have a lot of young players this year — five underclassmen — so it's very important that this team bonds together so we can be stronger on the court," Craggs said.

Vickers knows that chemistry development takes time. It takes practice reps to see what Canton can actually do on the basketball court, something they don't necessarily have the luxury of.

To Warmann, that's where the flexibility comes in, the ability and necessity to roll with the punches ahead of the start of the season.

"If we can't do something, we have to find the alternative," Warmann said. "If we can't touch each other in practice, we have to find other ways to improve. We just have to be adaptive."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



Cole Vickers is one of five returners to Canton basketball in 2021.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

"One of the concerns was despite our safety measures — let's say mask-wearing as an example — it's very hard in that kind of close contact to ensure that would be consistently applied," Manier said. "Not that the athletes or the coaches wouldn't be willing to do it, it's the nature of the sport."

"I don't know if there's another sport that encourages or requires hand-to-face contact as wrestling does, or face-to-face contact even."

North Farmington head wrestling coach Robert Mathieson realizes no sport or in-person activity is entirely safe at this point. He knows the risks associated with wrestling, but he also feels those risks are no different than any other contact sport.

He said, with the guidelines put in place — only holding dual meets and wrestlers facing only three other competitors, along with face mask rules and mandates — wrestling was as safe as it could be.

Mathieson compared it to basketball,

watching as 20-plus players switch in and out of the game, bump into each other, contacting a number of players throughout the process.

"I feel perhaps it was a bit of a fear-based decision rather than a solution-based decision," Mathieson said.

Manier said there is a continued analysis of all extra-curricular activities in terms of their safety during the pandemic, conferring with building administration, departmental or athletic leadership, and the District Wellness Committee made up of a variety of representatives throughout the school district.

Prior to the announcement, Manier said he spoke personally to every wrestling head coach at the middle school level, and to every assistant and head coach at both Farmington and North Farmington about the decision.

"I can't say any of them were appreciative, all willing to consider the district's position, all very professional, but certainly disappointed for their student athletes as well as themselves because they enjoy what they do," Manier said.

While Mathieson understands the decision and does not fault the district for making it, he is still looking for rea-

soning as to why Farmington Public Schools made the decision ahead of the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

"It sounds like they just kind of said, 'Well, we think it's too risky,'" Mathieson said. "I respect the decision and that point, but I feel like the coaches were a bit left out of the conversation."

Through the uncertainty of COVID-19, Chris Roberts watched his two sons sit idle ahead of their winter seasons — the other a hockey player for Farmington United.

While he knows the severity of the pandemic and the personal risks it takes for him, Chris Roberts sees a difference between the sport his son Carson plays in the fall than his adopted winter activity.

"Having just come from football, I understand that the other sports feel that they are secondary sports," Chris Roberts said. "You are sitting there going, 'OK, is my kid ever going to get the chance to do what he loves to do?'"

Manier said he hopes to be able to open wrestling rooms in the next few months for open mats, but said he is making parents and wrestlers aware of

options outside of the high school level.

However, Mathieson knows that for some members of his team, club teams and independent tournaments may not be financially feasible. Instead, he hopes to get approval to distribute some of his personal wrestling mats to players to practice and train at home.

Manier also made clear that this is no indication of the direction the MHSAA is heading regarding wrestling.

"It's never easy to limit a student-athlete's opportunities," Manier said. "I don't think anyone feels genuinely good about it. But we have to take and consider health and safety first and foremost, not that it isn't in other times. But these are unique times and they are forcing us to consider things we have not considered before."

All Carson Roberts wants is a chance to do what he loves to do, however that may look during the pandemic.

"I hope that the three seniors, including me, get to wrestle just one more time before they have to go off to college or go to the next step of their life," he said.

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



Division 6 Player of the Year Drew Collins threw for 244 yards and three touchdowns, and ran for two TDs in Montague's 40-14 victory against Clinton in the MHSAA Division 6 championship. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Montague rolls by Clinton to win Division 6 state crown

Wright Wilson
Special to the Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two teams that know how to keep the pace of the game moving staged an entertaining Division 6 state title game Friday afternoon at Ford Field.

But with Division 6 player of the year Drew Collins, Montague's offense came up with more big plays in a 40-14 victory over Clinton.

Collins, committed to Michigan Tech, threw for 244 yards and three touchdowns while completing 15 of 19 attempts, and ran for two more scores.

Montague's up-tempo aerial attack was in contrast to Clinton's run-oriented Wing-T approach, which piled up 358 yards on 65 rushes and kept pace early.

But Clinton's only pass attempt backfired. While trailing by two touchdowns, Derek Tomalak was hurried by Tugg Nichols, and Montague's Trey Mikkelsen picked the ball off.

Four plays later, Collins scored on a 9-yard keeper to break the game open, 33-14. That came one series after Montague's defense forced Clinton to turn the ball over on downs, when Rodney Brassfield and Hayden McDonald bottled up Brayden Randolph on a fourth-and-2 near midfield.

Montague (12-0) quickly capitalized on that opportunity as well, needing only three snaps to get the ball into the end zone. Collins spotted Samuel Smith sprinting up the left sideline and threaded the needle; Smith caught the

ball at the 6 and crossed the goal line with a defender hanging on.

Montague set the pace early, mounting a 13-play, 59-yard scoring drive on its first possession which took 7:08 off the clock. Collins hit Smith on a 9-yard slant toward center to grab the lead first.

Clinton (10-2) answered by traveling 80 yards in only 5 plays, with George Ames scoring on an 8-yard run. The play was set up by Randolph's 58-yard scamper on the prior snap.

Montague came right back, with Collins hitting Smith on a 25-yard pass play up the middle and Smith didn't need to break stride to get to the end zone. The point-after kick was low, handing the Wildcats a 13-7 lead.

But Clinton kept grinding, keeping the ball on the ground for 19 plays, converting three fourth downs to keep an 11-minute scoring drive alive. Bradyn Lehman ran the ball from 2-yards in, and Jonathan Baughley's extra-point gave Clinton a 14-13 lead.

It only took the quick-strike Wildcats scored three plays to respond. Montague gained 49 on the first play of the drive, with Collins hitting Dylan Everett on a long bomb which took the ball to the 11. Collins reached the Clinton 2 on a keeper, and Everett ran it in on the next play.

Montague was unsuccessful on a trick play on the conversion, with Nichols overthrowing an open to Smith in the end zone, leaving the score 19-14.

Centreville routs Ubly for Division 8 state championship

Keith Dunlap Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Centreville is located in the southwest part of Michigan near the Indiana border, but on Friday it became the "Centre" of the state for high school football.

For the first time, Centreville won a state championship in football, riding an ball-control offense and a bruising defense to a 22-0 win over Ubly in the Division 8 final at Ford Field.

"I'd say it's pretty good for a team that was picked to finish fourth in their conference," Centreville coach Jerry Schultz said. "We had a little bit of a chip on our shoulder. That was definitely motivation today."

Centreville senior quarterback Sam Todd rushed for 70 yards on 19 carries and threw for 130 yards and two touchdowns, both to junior wideout Tyler Swanwick.

That offense was more than enough to support a Centreville defense that picked up its seventh shutout of the season.

Centreville opened the scoring with 5:25 left in the first half via a 1-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-goal by Todd, who outraced the Ubly defense to the left pylon.

On the 2-point try, Mason Lemings did the same thing, touching the pylon with the ball to give Centreville an 8-0 lead.

Centreville took a 16-0 lead just before halftime thanks to an unusual sequence of plays.

Following an unsuccessful third-down attempt by Centreville from near midfield in the final minute, Ubly decided not to call a timeout on defense to get the ball back.

But instead of letting the clock run out, Centreville called a timeout with 18 seconds left in the half.

On the fourth-down play, Todd threw a Hail Mary, which was caught on a deflection by Swanwick at the Ub-



Quarterback Sam Todd runs by Ubly's Carter Hughes during Centreville's 22-0 win in the Division 8 state title. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

ly 20 with 8 seconds left.

Following a timeout, Todd threw a jump ball into the back of the end zone, and Swanwick went up and caught it for a touchdown with 3 seconds left.

Todd then ran in the 2-point conversion.

"My route was a 5-yard route," Swanwick said of his deflected catch on fourth down. "I noticed the time and situation and decided to just go deep and see what happens. I knew the play was going to (Lemings), so I was just ready to catch it if it got tipped. Thankfully it did, and I was there to make a play."

Centreville then essentially put the game away on the first drive of the third quarter with a time-consuming scoring drive.

A 12-yard touchdown pass from Todd to Swanwick on third-and-6 capped off an 11-play, 64-yard drive that lasted 7:53 and gave Centreville a 22-0 lead with 4:07 remaining in the third quarter.

Ubly finally mounted a drive on the next possession, recording its initial first down of the game and driving all the way to the Centreville 16-yard line. But the push was stopped with 7:22 remaining in the game on an interception by Centreville's Tristan McElroy in the end zone on third-and-11.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Sparks takes step forward as new Novi head coach

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Only 19 years old and just out of high school, Jim Sparks started coaching varsity tennis at Clawson, his alma mater. It was his logical next step: his summer job has always been teaching tennis to younger kids, feeling he had an aptitude for it.

In college, he saw a different path for himself, planning to major his business. But one counseling class, one skill inventory test seemed to change Sparks' perspective.

"The lady who taught the class was like, 'You really seem to enjoy the coaching. Have you ever thought about teaching?'" Sparks recalled. "I told (her) I thought about teaching a lot, but everybody says there's no jobs and you don't make any money."

"She laid it out there: 'How do you imagine yourself? Becoming an accountant and every day you wake up in the morning dreading going to work, or maybe you go into teaching and you don't find a job right away, you don't make a ton of money, but every day, when you wake up, you are actually excited to go to work.'"

Sparks became what he referred to as "a teacher who coaches football" in 1993, taking over the head coaching job at Clawson in 2002. After 19 years in the same role, Sparks is changing things up a bit; he was hired to replace Jeff Burnside as Novi High School's fifth head football coach since 1967.

"We could not be more excited and pleased to have Coach Jim Sparks as our newest member of the Wildcat family," Novi athletic Director Brian Gordon said in a statement. "Coach Sparks brings an enormous amount of experience and knowledge in not only the game of football, but also as an educator for the past 20 years."

"Jim truly understands what educational athletics can do for student-athletes, a school and the entire community. He will continue to honor our traditions and our core values."

Sparks is a four-time Macomb Area Conference Bronze Division Coach of the Year, advancing to the playoffs 11 times — including each of the past three



Jim Sparks is the new head football coach for Novi. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"Jim (Sparks) truly understands what educational athletics can do for student-athletes, a school and the entire community."

Brian Gordon Novi athletic director

seasons — while posting a record of 99-92.

An experienced coach in many different sports, including the varsity softball team at Clawson, Sparks said football remains unique. He views football as a true team game, where one player can't define the success of an entire team. He views it as a place to develop perseverance and grit in a true physical form.

"Football is one of the last places where a kid can physically get knocked down and has to make the choice of 'Am I going to lay here or am I going to get

up?'" Sparks said.

Taking over the Clawson head coaching job from Hall-of-Fame coach Richard Moore, Sparks viewed himself as a "custodian" of the culture. He continued the mantra of belief and humility, the importance of unselfishness and servant leadership.

But the Trojans were a Division 5 program. Sparks said he never complained about the size of the team, looking forward to coaching each and every season. But when the job at Novi presented itself, it was too good of an opportunity to turn down.

"It was time for a new challenge. I perform better when I know people are watching, for what it's worth," Sparks said. "I think it's human nature to kind of get complacent. I was comfortable looking myself in the mirror at Clawson knowing I was doing the best possible thing for myself and the kids, but this is a new challenge. I have to up my game a little bit."

Ahead of his first offseason with the Wildcats, Sparks said he and the roster he's inheriting will start from the

ground floor, choosing to not watch film of his team until he has met the team, not letting him develop any preconceived notions.

However, Sparks knows what he wants his team to look like, not in terms of scheme, but in terms of mentality and approach. He said he wants his entire team to look like how he builds his defense: a run-to-the-ball, fierce, hard-nosed group that becomes its identity.

"You can line up in four, five-wide and wing the ball all over the place and the impression is going to be that you are finesse and all that. That's not necessarily the case," Sparks said. "Your receivers can knock people down, your offensive line can be ferocious out there. It just so happens that you are happier with making 15 yards a play as opposed to two."

Working with a team where a "big" group is about 25 players, Sparks knew that he had to take the strength of the team any given year and accentuate it to lead to success instead of having his players fit some sort of predetermined mold he had formed over the past 19 years.

This is the process Sparks is in now: forming a staff, meeting the players and those around the football program, getting an idea of what it will look like to run a Division 1 program inside the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

But Sparks knows one thing. He knows that whatever he chooses to do with what he's given at Novi will fit his mission statement, a mission statement that he carried at Clawson for 19 years as its head coach.

Sparks wants Novi football players to have a lifelong experience playing for the Wildcats, looking back favorably on their time with a championship-caliber team that is respected on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

"When these kids are done playing for me and they are 40, 50 years old, they look back and say, 'Man, I'm glad that I played football at Novi High School,'" Sparks said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

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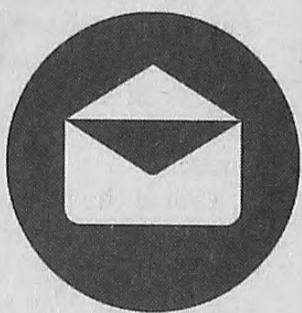
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Additions and remodeling at Eriksson, Field, Hulsing, and Dodson Elementary Schools will be received through Building Connected until 1:00 PM on Thursday, February 4th.

- 1. All proposals shall be submitted electronically through Building Connected: https://app.b0ildingconnected.com/public/5ae227ade0d395000fd24541 (McCarthy and Smith Plan Room)
2. For instructions on how to submit a bid please go to the following link: https://buidi ngconnected.ze ndes.k.com/he/en-us/ articles/360010222793-How-to-submit-yourbid-th rough-Buidi ngConnected-

Bids submitted after this time and date will not be considered or accepted.

Faxed and/or E-mail proposals will not be accepted.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened, read aloud and tabulated, beginning at approx. 1:00 PM on Thursday, February 4th. Bid Opening will be publicly conducted via a Zoom meeting. Information regarding joining the Zoom meeting will be provided in Addendum #1 for all bidders interested in participating in the bid opening.

This Bid Package will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions:

- 101: Earthwork/Site Utilities 102: Asphalt Paving/ Site Concrete
103: Selective Demolition 104: Concrete Footings & Foundations
105: Interior Concrete Flatwork 107: Steel 106: Masonry
109: Roofing / Sheetmetal 108: Carpentry / General Trades
114: Aluminum Entrances / Storefront I 112: Caulking/ Insulation
Glass & Glazing 115: Metal Stud I Drywall
116: Hard Tile 117: Acoustical Treatments
118: Carpet / Resilient Tile Flooring 119: Terrazzo
120: Painting 124: Wood Flooring
125: Toilet Partitions 128: Prefabricated Casework
130: Window Treatments 131: Gymnasium Equipment
137: Food Service Equipment 140: Plumbing
141: Fire Protection 142: HVAC
143: Electrical 149: Fencing

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture Inc. will be available for public inspection at the main office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; and the Builder's Exchange, Lansing.

Bidding Documents will be available beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2020 via Building Connected.

There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting on Wednesday, January 20 at 4:30 p.m. at Eriksson Elementary School, located at 1275 N Haggerty Rd, Canton, MI 48187. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project bid documents & schedule, and to answer any questions bidders may have. Following the meeting, the bidders will have the opportunity to visit the project site. The pre-bid meeting is not a mandatory meeting however, bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. A FACE MASK WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE WORN INSIDE OF THE BUILDING DURING THE PRE-BID MEETING.

All bids must include the Familial Disclosure Affidavit (Section 004205), the Iran Linked Business Affidavit (Section 004210), and the Criminal Background Check Affidavit (Section 004220).

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the Bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the Bid is accepted, the School District is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid or failure of the Bidder to enter a Contract for performance. Further, the Bidder will execute the Contract, provide the required insurance certificate(s) and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of Contract but prior to Work commencing.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of the contract price.

Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received, to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding, and to accept a bid other than the lowest bid.

Publish: January 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31, 2021

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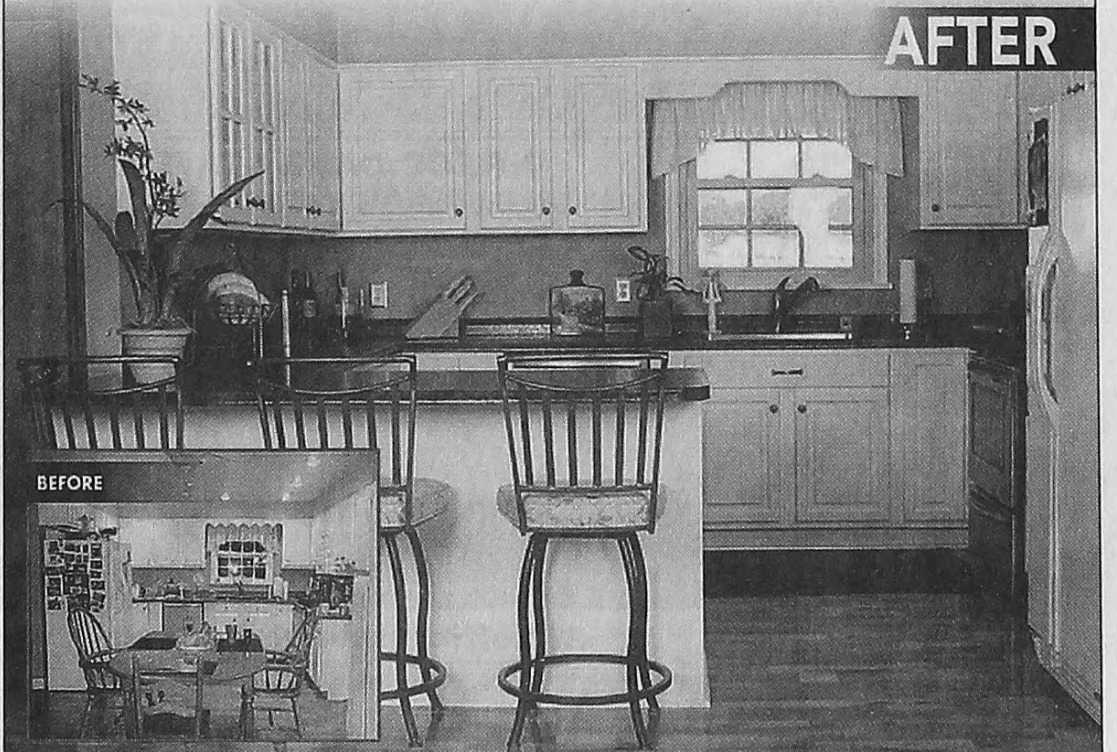
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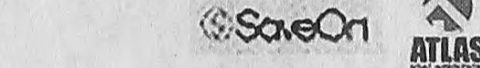
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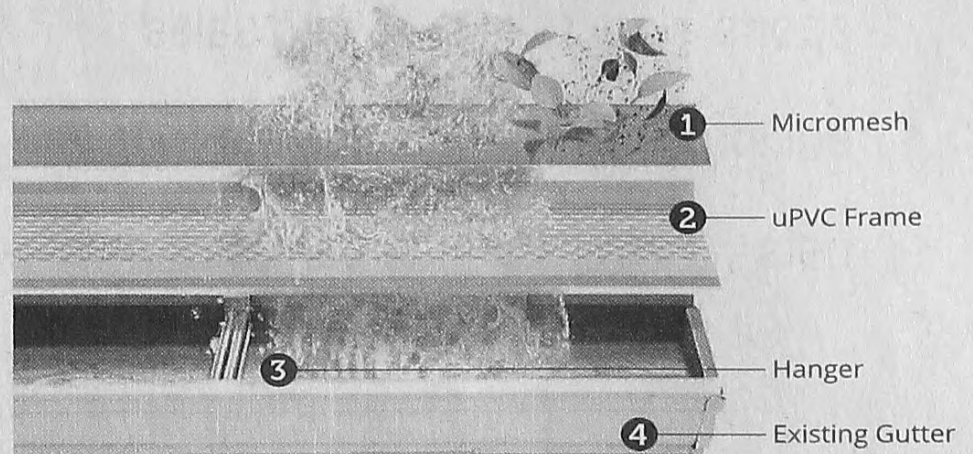
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

OBJECTS OF DEVOTION

ACROSS

- 1 Serengeti trek
- 7 Freeway exit
- 14 Calm assurance
- 20 Neighbor of Saturn
- 21 Sun porches
- 22 Deli machine
- 23 Aficionado of air ducts?
- 25 Capital of Cuba
- 26 Jean jacket material
- 27 Email chuckle
- 28 Soccer player Hamm
- 30 Citrus peels in recipes
- 31 "House" actor
- 34 Aficionado of wild, irrational talk?
- 37 Contributor
- 38 — spell over
- 40 State of fury
- 41 Fly with no co-pilot
- 42 Thus
- 43 Hail — (yell "Taxi!")
- 45 Las Vegas-to-Denver dir.
- 47 Ending for Japan
- 49 Aficionado of bellies?
- 52 Aficionado of sweet fillings?

- 58 Pet-rescuing org.
- 59 Walked very stealthily
- 62 San — (California county or city)
- 63 CIA missions, e.g.
- 66 Give the boot
- 68 River of Paris
- 69 Louisianans of French descent
- 70 Café au — (light brown)
- 72 Aficionado of confidential matters?
- 75 Shapes of parentheses
- 76 Member of a ruling family
- 78 Sank, as a putt
- 79 Writer Wiesel
- 81 Once surnamed
- 82 Cuban-born writer Calvino
- 83 Downgraded
- 85 Ward with Emmys
- 87 Aficionado of wickedness?
- 89 Aficionado of apartment managers?

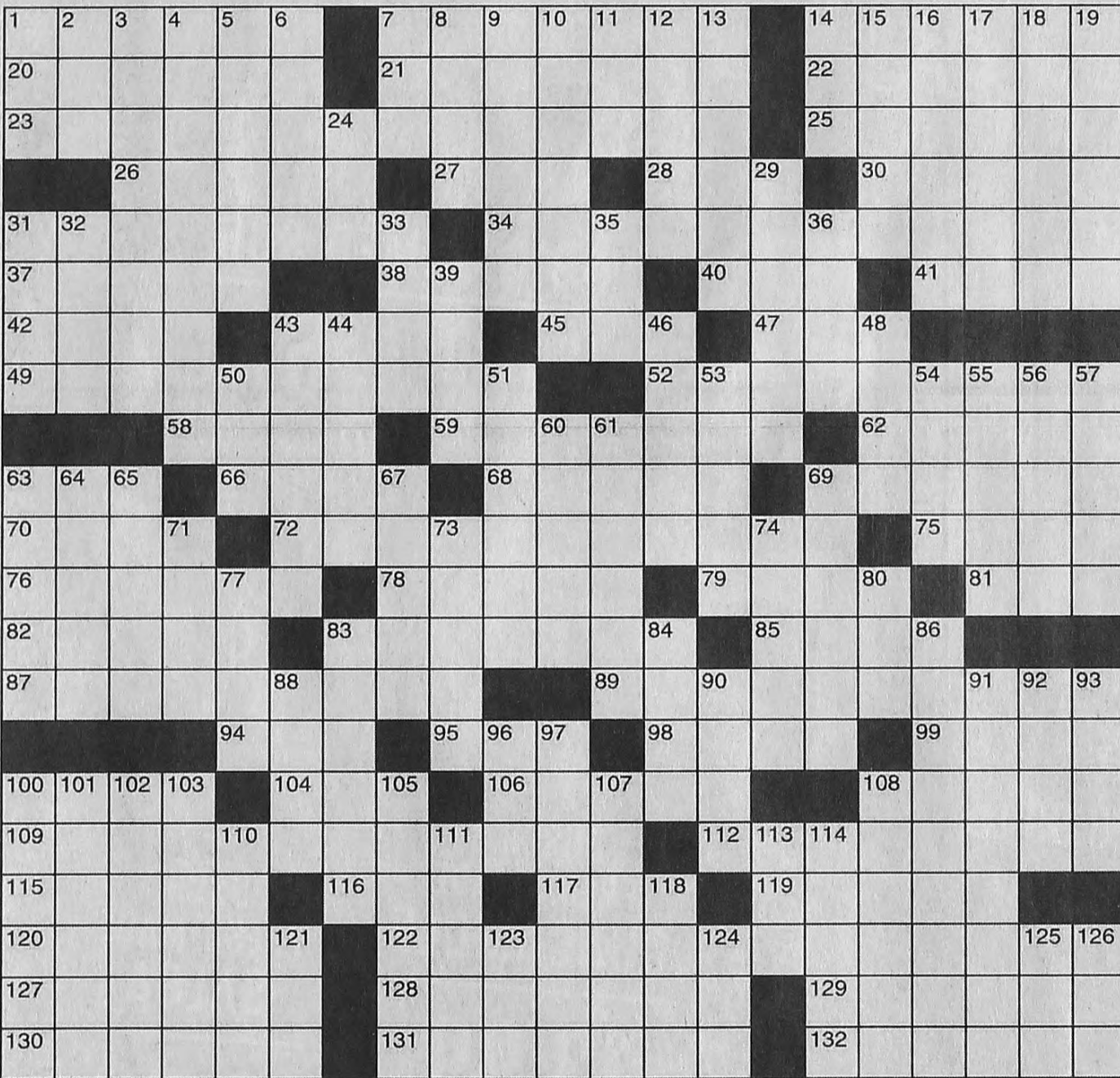
- 94 "Taking Woodstock" director Lee
- 95 NFL stats
- 98 Loch —
- 99 Jethro — (rock group)
- 100 Do pool laps
- 104 Sir, to Brits
- 106 All mixed up
- 108 High-quality black tea
- 109 Aficionado of Mauna Loa snacks?
- 112 Set free
- 115 Fetus holders
- 116 Be mistaken
- 117 "— culpa"
- 119 "Going Rogue" author
- 120 Sends in Sarah
- 122 Aficionado of customs officials?
- 127 Painting on plaster
- 128 Made even
- 129 Rocky's last name in "Rocky"
- 130 Electronic keyboards, for short
- 131 Escape artists, say
- 132 Like finger paintings

DOWN

- 1 Chevy Equinox, e.g.
- 2 "Rules — rules!"
- 3 Spanish dance in triple time
- 4 Lobbies
- 5 That which destroys
- 6 Long Island airport town
- 7 Opposite of west, in Germany
- 8 Chocolate kiss wrapper
- 9 Elevator stops
- 10 Went longer than expected
- 11 Dog noise
- 12 Florida's "Magic City"
- 13 Grilled Italian sandwiches
- 14 Silvery-gray
- 15 Town square
- 16 Energizes
- 17 Congress' Alexandria — -Cortez
- 18 Cerebral
- 19 "Donnie —" (1997 Johnny Depp film)
- 24 Current unit
- 29 Assented
- 31 Laudatory poems

- 32 Funny Sahl
- 33 Wound cover
- 35 U-Haul rental
- 36 Tableland
- 39 Be up against
- 43 Confront
- 44 Rush after
- 46 Cut-rate, in brand names
- 48 "Easy A" star
- 50 Likely
- 51 Model Bündchen
- 53 Actor Christopher
- 54 Mexican peninsula
- 55 Road reversal
- 56 Trespassing deterrent
- 57 Dancer Bob
- 60 Flying Pan
- 61 Spanish squiggles
- 63 Vintage tune
- 64 Premium channels
- 65 Mideastern peninsula
- 67 "Danke —" yellers
- 71 Like most NBA players
- 73 Boisterous
- 74 "That's somebody — problem"
- 77 Couch
- 80 Pixie

- 83 Pea or lentil
- 84 Sandy hill
- 86 Tiny blood vessel
- 88 Actress Swenson
- 90 Ring out
- 91 Big pet food brand
- 92 Mucho
- 93 Painter Paul
- 96 Aykroyd of "Soul Man"
- 97 Up a tree
- 100 Blue toons of the 1980s
- 101 Aqueous
- 102 Deliverers of frozen blocks
- 103 The Red Foxes' college
- 105 Macho
- 107 TV sleuth Remington
- 108 "The Taking of — 123" (2009 thriller)
- 110 Last — effort
- 111 Brand of cellulose fiber
- 113 NYSE debut
- 114 Fish piercers
- 118 Big PC brand
- 121 "Rescue us!"
- 123 "Law & Order: —"
- 124 NFL stats
- 125 Neither hide — hair
- 126 Week division



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

SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★★

1/28

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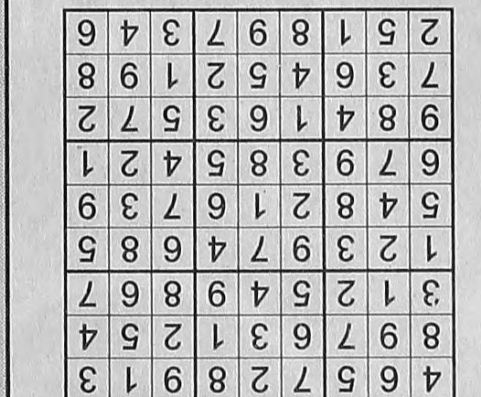
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I BEFORE E EXCEPT...

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

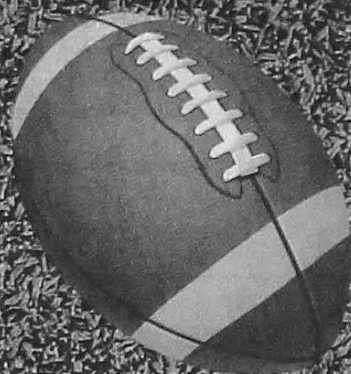


- AGEISM
- APARTHEID
- BEIGE
- BEING
- CAFFEINE
- CANOEIST
- CODEINE
- CONCEIT
- COUNTERFEIT
- DECEIT
- DECEIVED
- DEIGN
- DEITY
- EIDER
- EIGHT
- FEIGN
- FEIJOA
- FEINT
- FOREIGN
- FORFEIT
- GEISHA
- HEIFER
- HEIGHT
- HEINOUS
- HEIR
- INVEIGLED
- LEISURE
- NEIGHBOR
- PERCEIVE
- RECEIPT
- REIGN
- REINS
- REVEILLE
- SEIZE
- SKEIN
- SURFEIT
- VEILS
- VEINS
- WEIGH
- WEIRD



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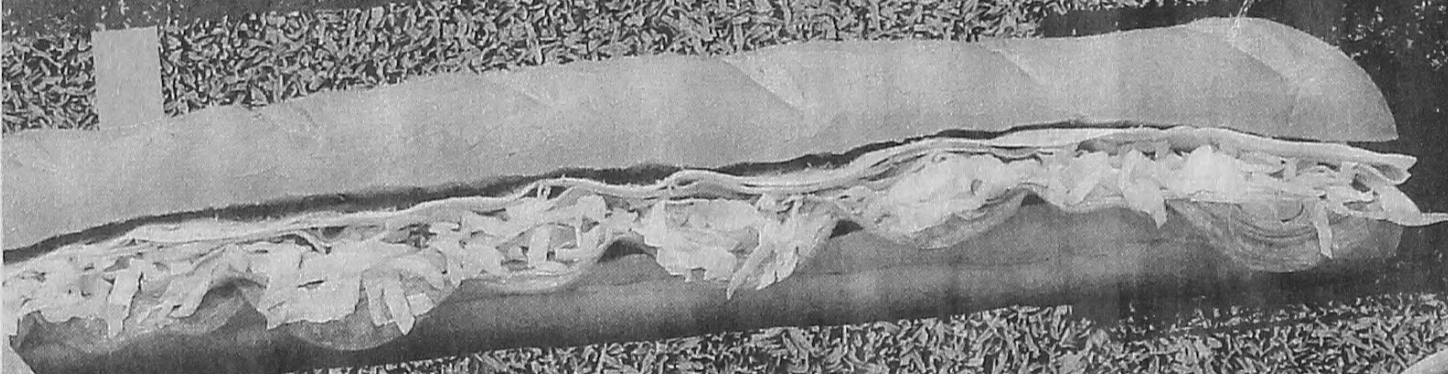
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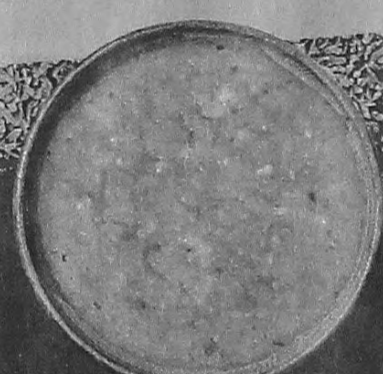


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