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THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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No mask mandates planned in schools

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Emphasizing its responsibility to follow guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Wayne County Health Department, Plymouth-Canton Community

Schools will strongly recommend — but not require — that students and staff wear masks indoors once the 2021-2022 school year starts Sept. 7.

While masks will not be required once students arrive at their respective schools, masks must be worn on school buses in accordance with the CDC's national transportation mandate.

Nearby school districts including Westland Community School District, Livonia Public Schools and Farmington Public Schools have said they are following similar policies when school reopens.

"We took a thoughtful approach (regarding the determination of protocols) instead of coming out and saying, 'This

is it,'" Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Monica Merritt said. "We're aligning our plans with the risk levels of the health departments: low, moderate, substantial and high. A shift in levels will create conversation that will focus on potentially changing

See MASKS, Page 2A



People check out different cars at the Hot Wheels Legends Tour in Livonia last weekend. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Crowds fill parking lot to spot cool cars in Livonia

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The sights and sounds of the Hot Wheels Legends Tour packed the parking lot this past weekend at the Walmart at Wonderland Village in Livonia.

The car show and competition are aimed at trying to find the next vehicle to be made into a Hot Wheels die-cast toy.

That car that will move on to the next round of the national search is a 1975 Opel Manta, owned by Garden City resi-

dents Joshua Liem and Corrine Currie.

The vehicle started off racing on the dirt track. The two purchased the car after finding it in 2019 and built it from shell to street in six months.

See CARS, Page 2A

Campaign supports Livonia native for 'Jeopardy!' guest host

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Two native metro Detroiters started chatting online, and they weren't joking about their hopes for a Jeopardy! reunion.

Steve Chism, originally from Royal Oak, is cousin to Chuck Forrest, a Livonia-born Birmingham Seaholm High School graduate and record-setting Jeopardy! champion.

Around Forrest's 60th birthday in June, Chism proposed a Facebook campaign, "America wants Chuck Forrest to guest host Jeopardy!"

The man who lasted the maximum five wins allowed back in 1985 and broke a winnings ceiling with a \$72,800 windfall was game to the idea.

According to Chism, more than 1,000 would like to see Forrest join the lineup of celebrity guest hosts now starring in the famous game show.

"He wrote to me and said that he wanted to do it. I told him to go ahead, but I said I didn't want to actively campaign for it," Forrest admitted. "I am flattered that he thinks I would be a good host, and by the fact that so many people have given their support."

A lot has changed since the cousins called Michigan home. Chism is a real estate agent in Largo, Florida. Forrest has a family and career in Rome, Italy. One is definitely famous.

Forrest was the son of two attorneys when he went off to the prestigious Yale University, known for undergraduates like the presidents Bush.

As a child, he had watched the original Jeopardy! and saw the live version during a family trip to New York.

Aware that he was smart and had a quick recall, he decided he had to try out for Alex Trebek's show while attending the University of Michigan Law School.

He went to tryouts in Detroit and

See CAMPAIGN, Page 2A

Westland fire destroys 3 buildings

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Roof repairs done earlier in the day may have sparked the fire that recently destroyed three buildings at the Westwood Village Apartments in Westland.

According to city Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers, firefighters were dispatched to the apartments near Joy and Newburgh roads at about 11:20 p.m. Aug. 4.

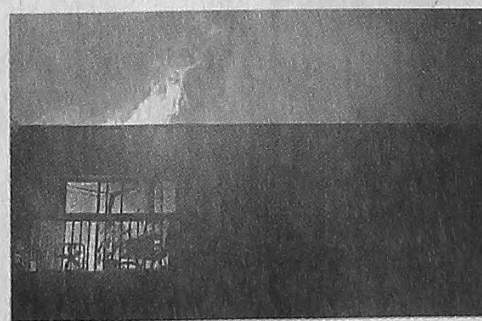
Westland police officers had already arrived.

Because they noticed smoke coming from the roof, they started going door to door to get everyone outside. Smoke alarms also were going off.

Eggers confirmed that there was smoke and "not a whole lot of flames" when they arrived. But the fire kept moving, affecting the three two-story buildings and their 36 units.

Fire moved into the second-floor apartments, and there was extensive

See FIRE, Page 2A



Fire destroyed three apartment buildings in Westland on Aug. 4.

COURTESY OF WESTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT



Masks

Continued from Page 1A

our plans.

"We will continue daily monitoring of recommendations from health professionals and pivot as new recommendations come out."

Detailed explanations of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' COVID-19 protocols can be found on the district's website.

The district used a "strongly recommended" mask-wearing stance during the recently completed summer school session, Merritt said, while distinguishing between vaccinated and unvaccinated status.

Masks required on bus

The district distributed an email Aug. 3 to families explaining its COVID mitigation guidance.

"We wanted to make sure we got the information out to the community early so people will know what is recommended and what is required — for instance, mask-wearing on school buses — so they can be prepared," Merritt said. "We also want everyone to know what could trigger a change in the recommendations within our plan."

Merritt said personal protection equipment will be stocked on every district school bus.

"Every student who rides a bus must wear a mask; if he or she forgets their mask, we will have extras available. If a student refuses to wear a mask, we will not leave them stranded at the bus stop, but they will not be allowed to ride the

"There is no blueprint to dealing with something like this. ... Taking this on, everybody came together and kept the best interests of students and staff at the center and core of every decision we made."

Monica Merritt Superintendent, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

bus without a mask."

"In most cases (during the 2020-21 school year), 9.9 out of 10 times a student who didn't want to wear a mask complied after we explained the law and asked them to wear one," Director of School Safety and Security Joshua Meier said. "I don't see it being any different for the upcoming school year."

Merritt explained that the district will attempt to localize mitigation strategies based on data it collects on a building-to-building basis.

"If we see transmissions occurring in one building, we may have to change that building's mitigation strategies until things calm down," Merritt said. "We're not going to change things up in a building that has no transmissions at all."

Merritt said she does not take opposition (at times inflammatory) — social media-fueled or otherwise — to her decisions personally.

"I respect everyone," she said. "I believe everyone is well-intentioned and

everyone wants what is best for their kids. We are in a place of leadership in education where we have to make decisions that are in the best interest of the district; we are not here to be liked. The important thing for us is to be consistent. We are experts in education and we rely on health-care experts to help us navigate this pandemic.

"It's about being transparent. Why we're making decision and who we're consulting with and what can we expect moving forward. Always making decisions based on the health and safety of our students and staff is our No. 1 priority, while recognizing that people are going to have different opinions."

Merritt revealed that approximately 900 students had applied for the district's full-time virtual academy. A second registration window — registration information can be found on the district's website — has been opened until Aug. 16.

"Interestingly, families who registered for our virtual academy are now wanting to switch to in-person, so we're honoring their ability to look at different options."

Merritt said the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools educational team has stood tall during the unpredictable days of the pandemic.

"I'm very proud of our team," Merritt said. "There is no blueprint to dealing with something like this; there hasn't been a pandemic for over 100 years. Taking this on, everybody came together and kept the best interests of students and staff at the center and core of every decision we made."

"Although people don't always agree with the decisions we make — this has been one of most divisive times in the

history of our community — I'm proud of the work we've done, we're constantly planning, we remain flexible and open to adapting."

Epidemiologist's advice

Dr. Emily Somers, a University of Michigan epidemiologist, asserted that data she reviews daily suggests public school guidelines should remain stringent at least for the outset of the 2021-22 school year.

"Universal indoor masking this fall will be one of the most important strategies for preventing outbreaks, reducing quarantines and keeping schools open — especially in settings with low vaccination coverage," Somers said. "And if you're wearing a mask, make it count by wearing it correctly over both the nose and mouth."

Somers said recent data related to the Delta variant strain of COVID-19 is daunting.

"The Delta variant is over twice as contagious as the original strain — each infected person on average spreads the virus to six to 10 others," Somers said. "There are projections that COVID will continue to surge in the United States until mid-October, and then hopefully decline swiftly."

Somers offered this advice to parents who don't think their children need to wear masks while in school:

"Masking is most effective when everyone is wearing one, so it's really a community effort," Somers said. "(Masks) are not simply for personal protection of the wearer, and in fact have a bigger impact when worn by contagious persons as 'source control' to block exhaled virus."

Cars

Continued from Page 1A

Sporting a 1.9L engine, this Hot Wheels-worthy ride is believed to be one of only six in the state, with fewer than 200 total vehicles left nationwide.

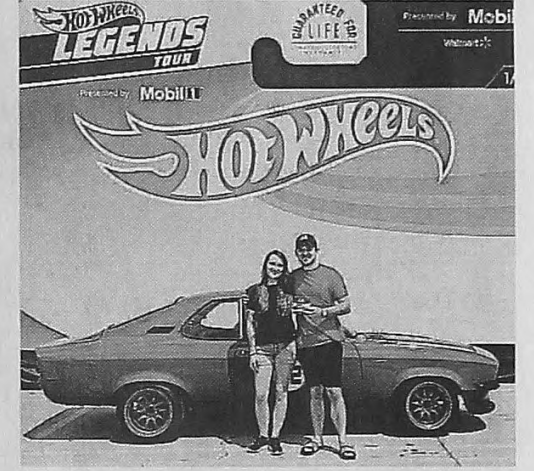
Plenty of custom cars were lined up in the parking lot with some activities for children and Hot Wheels products available.

It marked the second in-person event for the tour, which will also have in-person events in Houston and El Segundo, California.

Visit www.hotwheels.com/garage-of-legends to check out more vehicles and learn more about the competition.



A Ford Mustang in the parking lot of Walmart on Plymouth Road in Livonia during the Hot Wheels Legends Tour last weekend. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Garden City's Joshua Liem and Corrine Currie entered their 1975 Opel Manta into the Hot Wheels Legends Tour competition and won the Detroit event. COURTESY OF HOT WHEELS

Fire

Continued from Page 1A

smoke and water damage throughout the buildings.

"It's going to be a complete loss," said Eggers, who added that the owner will have to demolish the buildings and rebuild.

He said he has learned that the roof repairs done before the fire involved some heat.

While no one was hurt, firefighters remained on the scene the morning of Aug. 5, extinguishing hot spots.

Affected families were provided shelter.

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

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Campaign

Continued from Page 1A

flew out to California, where he wore a suit jacket and tie while becoming the show's all-time, non-tournament cash winner, holding that record for some years.

"It's a great experience," Forrest praised, still amazed at how young he looked and the wisp of anger that lingers from the questions he missed. "It's a lot of fun. You get the chance to get up there and show what you know and compete."

Chism remembers watching his cousin compete.

"He was fabulous," he recalled. "He was amazing. He's obviously a very smart person but he blew me away on Jeopardy!"

Forrest would follow through on traveling plans that he shared with Trebek.

He also would become known for the "Forrest Bounce," a game strategy of jumping around the Jeopardy! board to temporarily confuse opponents and to search for big money opportunities.

Over the years, he has given a law school friend credit for the strategy. He also reunited with Trebek and top Jeopardy! players for more brainiac battles on topics both erudite and quotidian.

He also wrote a book with another Jeopardy! champion, Mark Lowenthal. It's titled "Secrets of the Jeopardy! Champions."

Now handling legal and policy issues related to procurement for a United Nations agency working against rural poverty,

Forrest would cherish another brain-to-brain, buzzer-to-buzzer competition with Ken Jennings, known for a 74-game Jeopardy! victory streak worth \$2.52 million.

"I almost beat him, and I would love to have the chance to make it two out of three and find out who is the real Greatest of All Time," Forrest said. "He's a lot younger than me, so he has a big advantage on the buzzer, but I



A television screenshot of Chuck Forrest competing on "Jeopardy!" in 1985. COURTESY OF STEVE CHISM

think we are pretty much equal on the answers."

Chism is cheering for his cousin, whether that's for a Jennings re-match or getting a chance to sit in the Jeopardy! studio to watch Forrest take the stage as guest host.

"Everybody in the family is proud of him," Chism said. "He's accomplished a lot. He's a really sweet person. He's just a really good guy. He's a good man."

"He should be on the Mount Rushmore of Jeopardy! champions. To leave Chuck Forrest out of the audition — it may sound kind of corny — but it's like leaving Babe Ruth out of the baseball tryouts."

Both he and his cousin have been checking on the guest hosts filling in for Trebek, who died late last year. They include Ken Jennings, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, actress Mayim Bialik, and news personality Robin Roberts, among others.

Forrest is convinced he hasn't been invited to a tryout because the show's producers are interested in attracting a younger generation.

If his cousin's Facebook campaign leads to an invitation, Forrest said "it would be quite a challenge and require a lot of preparation, but the fact that Jeopardy! has brought back former

champions to host the show shows that you don't need to be a show business professional."

The lawyer doubts anyone can replace Trebek and his well-known voice.

"He also had an air of complete integrity and impartiality," Forrest extolled. "You can see how important he was to the viewers by the reaction people had to his death. He was one of the few people left in America that everyone respected."

"I think the new host has to strive for that kind of image, and allow the contestants to showcase their skills and personalities."

He and his cousin were both impressed with Aaron Rodgers, despite his Packers affiliation.

No matter what, Forrest is proud of being a member of the Jeopardy! family and thankful that he starred for an American institution that made him known around the globe.

"It's something which has gone on and on and on," Forrest claimed. "It has built something which is really a defining part of my life."

"It's nice to be remembered."

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

Milford Memories returns this weekend

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Milford Memories returns this weekend after nearly two years.

If you have been to the longtime event in years prior, you may well remember a fun festival, and that is what organizers have planned once again after a hiatus due to COVID-19.

The Aug. 13-15 festival opens Friday morning with nearly 300 artists opening their booths down the length of Main Street.

Art aficionados will find a variety of mediums for appreciation and/or purchase, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings, photographs, mixed media and textiles. Art in the Village opens at 10 a.m. each day and closes 8 p.m. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Music lovers will also delight in the sounds of the festival, with a variety of acts taking to various stages throughout the days and nights.

Free live entertainment with a variety of genres also can be heard throughout all three days of the festival, beginning by around 11 a.m. on both the Veteran's Memorial Stage and in the Central Park beer tent, which is open to families until about 6 p.m., when it is 21 and older only with a \$5 admission charge.

From noon to 4 p.m. Friday catch featured act the B2wins in the beer tent, described on the Milford Memories event website as "a stretch to understand without experiencing them LIVE. The violinist, Walter Caldas, sounds like Lindsey Sterling had a music baby with Carlos Santana. His vocals are as unique as a folk singer, yet strong like a pop star. His twin, Wagner Caldas, drives the group's energy with an electric ukulele (cavaquinho) while hyping the crowds and the band alike. The bassist, Riley Scheetz, is a strong presence on stage and in speaker, comparable to Flea from the Red Hot Chili Peppers with infectious grooves like Michael Jackson. RaQwon Reed sits on the throne, feeding the band with a tight Gospel-Pop pocket and ramps the music higher with well placed fills."

Other popular acts in the beer tent include Fun House, 7 p.m. to midnight Friday; Moxie Blitz, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday; Power Play, 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday; and The Icemen, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Besides taking in the sights and sounds of the festival, you can get in on the actual action, too, with a rock wall and children's activities tent open all three days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; basketball, volleyball and corn-hole tournaments on Saturday; and a 5K run and blind canoe race on Sunday.

Downtown restaurants are open and food vendors will be available throughout the festival. Shuttle buses are also running.

For a full listing of artists and entertainment schedules or to sign up for tournaments, visit www.milford-memories.com.

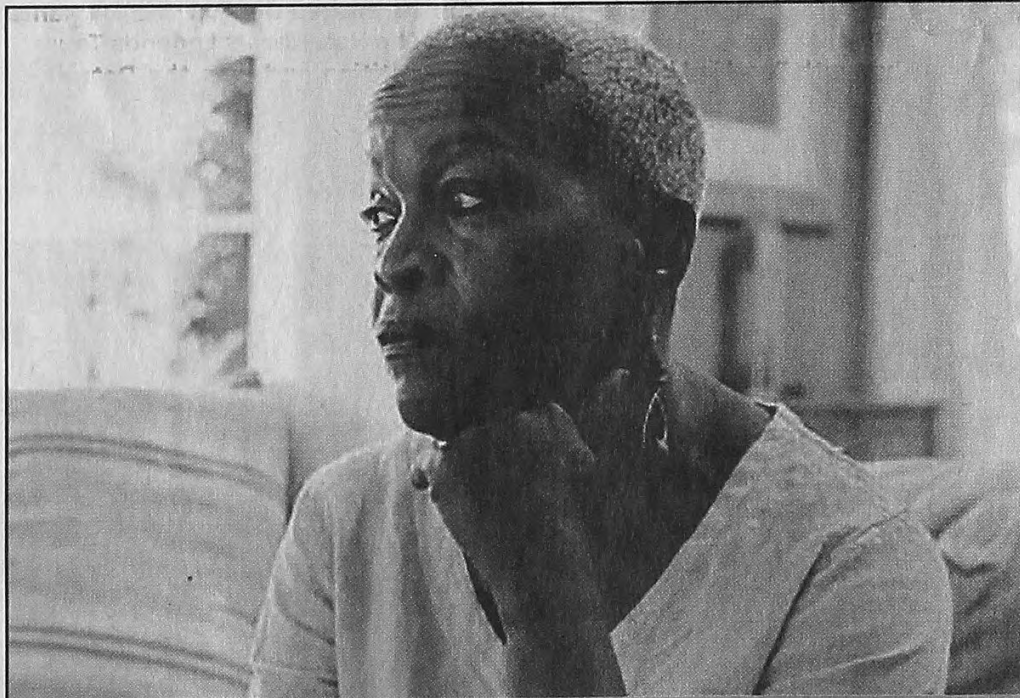


Bob Olari with Milford United Methodist Church grills some sweet corn at the 2019 Milford Memories festival. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Milford Memories opens Friday.
Art in the Village opens at 10 a.m.
each day and closes 8 p.m. Friday,
7 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m.
Sunday. Visit www.Milford-Memories.com for a full schedule.

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Commissioners support plan to develop Erwin Orchards land

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For years, developers have sought to transform the sprawling Erwin Orchards property, but most failed with massive housing proposals that outraged citizens and officials alike.

That changed when the Lyon Township Planning Commissioners unanimously moved forward the Orchard Crossing proposal in what appears to be the apple of their eyes.

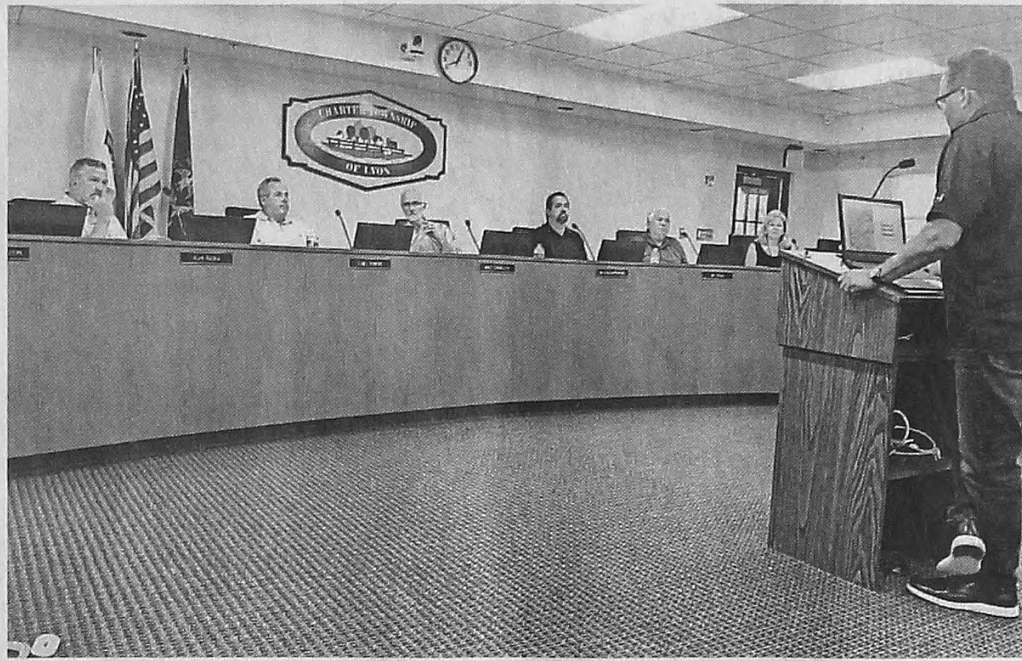
The vote is a formal recommendation for approval of the project on property north and south of Silver Lake Road and west of Pontiac Trail to the township board, scheduled for its Sept. 7 meeting.

Construction of 161 homes on 77 acres and new commercial elements including an event center and restaurant and tasting room on 104 acres, would take place over a 5-year period, starting in 2022.

The existing cider mill and a portion of the orchards would remain with some new trees planted. Lombardo Homes is partnering with Blake's Orchard to run orchard operations in Lyon Township.

Paul Blake told the commission his family is celebrating their 75th year in business in Armada and would grow apples here and retain the cider mill to control quality. The orchard will also have some year-round operations.

"We know the Erwins and wish them all the joy and happiness in their retire-



Paul Blake of Blake Farms speaks to the Lyon Township Planning Commission about plans to partner with Lombardo Homes and run orchard operations at the current Erwin Orchards property. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ment if that happens," Blake said prior to the opening of a public hearing and vote. "You're right, it's a big project and not an easy undertaking. We need things to make it successful."

During the public hearing, only about a half dozen residents spoke with concerns about the project, mainly regarding stormwater management.

Engineer Leslie Zawada assured those possible issues were addressed.

"We understand high water tables. This is always the most critical component to make sure other neighbors are not flooded," she said, adding that the water drainage from the development will head west, and the developer had spoken to those who would be impacted.

Traffic was cited by one resident, Mark O'Neill, who said a regulated roundabout is needed at Kent Lake and

Silver Lake. He took issue with the suggestion that traffic is currently being handled well in the fall, when officials said up to 15,000 cars a day can visit Erwin's, sometimes backing traffic up to the freeway.

"It's a cluster going through there. Traffic is a disaster," he said.

Still, the Road Commission for Oakland County is recommending a signalized intersection, of which the developer plans to contribute \$150,000 for traffic improvements.

Commissioner Carl Towne said he is excited about the development.

"I think it's going to work and I'm willing to work with you to make sure it's done right," he said.

Jim Chuck agreed, saying that after numerous failed proposals, the developer "finally hit the nail on the head."

"You are creating a destination point. This will be great for our community," he said.

"This is truly refreshing," Commissioner and Township Treasurer Patricia Carcone said. "I think Lombardo Homes listened to the people and not just our community. They loved the orchard, and Bill and Linda have brought a lot of pleasure to our community. I understand the Blakes have to make a living... I'm happy they are planting trees; it shows they will be here."

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

Gardner-White relocates Canton store to former Art Van building

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Perhaps the third time's the charm when it comes to one of Canton Township's newest commercial buildings.

The building constructed at 41661 Ford Road that was originally erected for Art Van Furnitureback in 2018 has a third tenant in as many years: Gardner-White Furniture, which recently relocated their store to the newer building across the street from IKEA.

Rachel Stewart, third generation owner and president of Gardner-White Furniture, said she remembers feeling some jealousy when she saw the building going up several years ago, knowing how beautiful it was. Never did she expect her family's company to occupy it just a few years later.

"In terms of moves, this is about as easy as it gets. Moved product, brought in new product. It doesn't and never will be as easy as this one," she said. "There's so much we can do with this space."

The store recently reopened as a Gardner-White, replacing Love's Furniture & Mattresses, which took over the space about a year ago after the demise of Art Van. After Love's filed for bankruptcy and closed stores, Gardner-White swooped in and decided to relocate their Canton store in the building. Their former store was on Ford Road east of Lotz near the border with Westland.

The new space is about double the size of the former Canton store, and provides several new options for customers. One offering includes the design studio, which allows guests to have more say in how their furniture looks and feels. It features brands such as Bernhardt, Vanguard, Rowe and Century.

With the studio working with builders in the United States, it allows for a quicker turnaround time for customers looking at customizing their homes with unique pieces, Stewart said.

"I think we as an industry have gotten better at customization," she said. "It's a domestic product. You're measuring the wait time in weeks, not months."

The showroom also features a sleep center with mattresses and beds, as well as a clearance center.

Guests who visited the store when it was Art Van will notice its interior look hasn't changed dramatically. The store still has plenty of windows to bring in sunlight, and the massive hanging artwork over the escalators in the middle of the store still remains.

Gardner-White first opened a furniture store in 1912 in Detroit. Since then, the company has grown across metro



Inside the showroom of Gardner-White Furniture at its new Canton location. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



An employee answers the phone at the service desk.



New signage adorns the building along Ford Road that used to hold Art Van Furniture and Love's Furniture & Mattresses.

Detroit, with stores in communities such as Novi, Brighton, Southfield, Ann Arbor and Waterford Township, among others.

With the larger store, the company has had to bring in more employees. Stewart said an additional 20 positions were created to help cover the store, with some of those jobs going to former

Art Van and Love's employees who are familiar with the building. Those looking to apply can do so online at gardner-white.com.

Stewart said she's not worried about the previous bad luck that preceded the two furniture stores that occupied the store. She said she believes Gardner-White, which remains family-owned,

has what it takes to keep a successful furniture business to that space.

"What we have learned in this industry is that private equity doesn't work," she said. "This is our neighborhood. I think you operate very differently when that's the case."

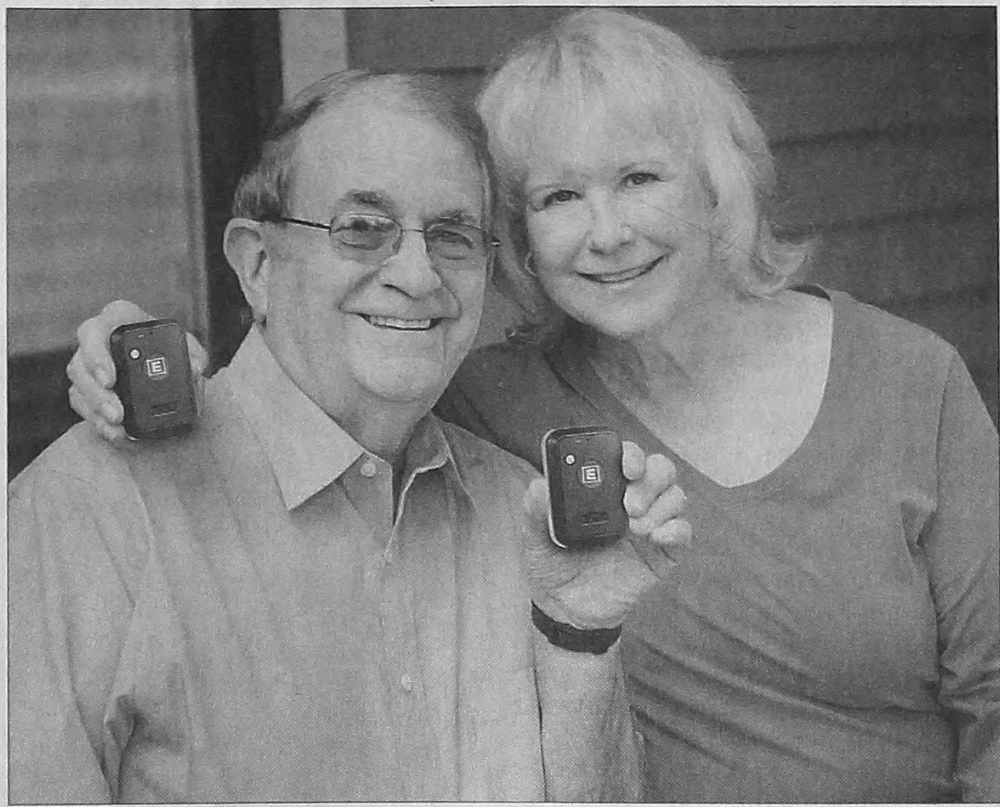
Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

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- Mark, IA

Love my unit and feel much safer

"I am a 68 year old recent widow. Standing on a chair to put my tree topper on this Christmas I thought 'What if I fell?' Saw your ad and ordered my FastHelp unit."
- Megan, CA

Unsolicited consumer feedback from satisfied customers as reported to Universal Physicians. Universal Physicians rated these customer reviews 5 stars

Doctor urges seniors to get new medical alert device

Seniors snap up new medical alert device that comes with no monthly bills

People don't always do what their doctor says, but when seasoned veteran emergency room physician, Dr. Philip B. Howren says every senior should have a medical alert device, you better listen up.

"Seniors are just one fall away from being put in a nursing home," Dr. Howren said. "With a medical alert device, seniors are never alone. So it keeps them living independently in their own home. That's why seniors and their family members are snapping up a sleek new medical alert device that comes



with no monthly bills ever," he said.

Many seniors refuse to wear old style help buttons because they make them look old. But even worse, those medical alert systems come

with monthly bills.

To solve these problems Universal Physicians, a U.S. company, went to work to develop a new, modern, state-of-the-art medical alert device. It's called "FastHelp™" and it instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

"This slick new little device is designed to look like the pagers doctors wear every day. Seniors love them, because it actually makes them look important, not old," Dr. Howren said.

FastHelp is expected to hit store shelves later this year. But special newspaper promotional giveaways are slated for seniors in select areas. ■

No contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever

FastHelp is the only Medical Alert device that won't break the bank. That's because it comes with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever - which makes FastHelp a great choice for seniors, students and professionals because it connects to one of the largest nationwide networks everywhere cell service is available for free.

And here's the best part. All those who already have an old style monitored medical alert button can immediately eliminate those monthly bills, which is why Universal Physicians is widely advertising this announcement nationwide.

So if you've ever felt a medical alert device was too complicated or expensive, you'll want to get FastHelp, the

sleek new medical alert device with no monthly bills.

The medical alert device sluffest was dominated by two main combatants who both offer old style monitored help buttons that come with a hefty bill every month. But now Universal Physicians, the U.S. based heavyweight, just delivered a knockout blow sending the top rated contenders to the mat with the unveiling of FastHelp. It's the sleek new cellular embedded medical alert device that cuts out the middleman by instantly connecting you directly to highly trained 911 operators all across the U.S. There's absolutely nothing to hook-up or install. You don't need a land line and you don't need a cell phone. Everything is done for you. ■

The only device that makes you look important, not old

The problem with medical alert devices is, nobody wants to wear them because it makes them look old. Well, that's not the case with FastHelp. That's because it's the first state of the art medical alert device designed to make you look important, not old. Old style monitored help buttons you wear around your neck, or require expensive base station equipment or a landline are the equivalent of a horse and buggy, it's just outdated.

Millions of seniors fall every year and spend hours lying on the floor helpless and all alone with no help.

But seniors who fall and get immediate help are much more likely to avoid getting sent to a nursing home and get to STAY living in their

own home independently.

Yet millions of seniors are still risking their safety by not having a medical alert device. That's because seniors just can't afford to pay the monthly bills that come with old style medical alert devices.

That's why seniors born before 1956 are rushing to cash in the whopping \$150 instant rebate before the 2 day deadline ends.

So there's no need to wait for FastHelp to hit store shelves later this year because seniors born before 1956 can get it now just by using the \$150 instant rebate coupon printed in today's newspaper before the 2-day deadline ends. If lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered. ■

HOW TO GET IT

► BORN BEFORE 1956:

Use the rebate coupon to the right and call this Toll-Free Hotline: 1-866-340-4114 EXT. HELP3358

► BORN AFTER 1956:

You cannot use the rebate coupon to the right and must pay \$299 Call: 1-866-407-2825 EXT. HELP3358

BOTTOM LINE:

You don't need to shop around. We've done all the leg work, this deal is too good to pass up. FastHelp with the instant rebate is a real steal at just \$149 and shipping and there are no monthly bills ever.

PROS: It's the sleek new medical alert device that comes with the exclusive FastHelp One-Touch E 911 Button that instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts or deposits. It connects you to the vast available network of cellular towers for free and saves seniors a ton of money because there are no monthly bills ever making this deal irresistible. Plus it's the only medical alert device that makes seniors look important, not old.

CONS: Consumers can't get FastHelp in stores until later this year. That's why it's so important for seniors born before 1956 to call the National Rebate Center Hotline within the next 2 days. For those who miss that deadline, the sleek little medical alert device will set you back over \$300 bucks.

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\$150.00 OFF

2Y | RE: HELP3358 | DLVY: ML2077R-1

1 OF 1

Rain, sweet corn, pride reign as cooking demos return to market



Walt Gajewski
Guest columnist

I woke at 3:30 a.m. Saturday, well before the 5 a.m. alarm. Mother Nature was out in full force, banging pots to beat the band. That's how hard the rain was coming down overnight Friday and into the early hours of Saturday's market.

Unable to get back to sleep, my mind raced like a motor waiting to drop into gear before leaping forward. We've had so much rain this year. It was no surprise then that I stepped into the drip-laden predawn darkness of the market wearing a hooded raincoat.

Stepping out of my truck, I was forced to look to the skies and there, waving softly in a slight breeze and towering above the Sundquist Pavilion, was the biggest American flag I have ever seen!

The Farmington Fire Department was busy at it, raising the ladder on the fire truck. The skies were clearing. I checked radar. And so began a mid-summer's day in a Michigan small town as farmers, firemen, vendors and volunteers all moved about to make ready for the Saturday market and the 14th annual Elks-Farmers Market Community Corn Roast.

As the market bell rang, Mayor Sara Bowman presented another banner for the pavilion to acknowledge five consecutive years as metro Detroit's best farmers market. The whole day that market bell kept ringing in my head – it was the pulse, the heartbeat of the community as the market took one more step to reopening after last year's COVID-19 summer. More than 5,000 people came.

I can say for myself as market manager that for the first time since the pandemic threw our world off axis, the market this past weekend felt like the market that first won Best of Metro Detroit back in 2017. So much good energy



Above, Chef Julie Selonke of Oakland Community College shops for tomatoes with help from Agnes Skrzycki at Bill Gass's farmstand on Aug. 7. Selonke will give the market's first cooking demonstration since 2019 on Aug. 14. At left, an enormous American flag flies over the market's corn roast event Aug. 7. PHOTOS COURTESY OF FARMINGTON FARMERS MARKET

makes a fella hungry. I just had to have four ears of sweet corn.

In another reopening step, this Saturday we welcome Oakland Community College to the south bricks of the Sundquist Pavilion as chef Julie Selonke takes center stage in our first cooking demo since 2019.

Chef Julie stopped by the market this past week shopping for ingredients. She teamed with farmer Bill Gass, who donated heirloom tomatoes that Selonke will use to create a flavorful Indian dish – Tandoori shrimp in tomato sauce, inspired by one of her students at the culinary school.

"We were wowed by the plethora of amazing fruits, vegetables and local artists. We met with farmer Bill from Gass Centennial Farms and were inspired to feature their incredible heirloom toma-

atoes as the major component of our dish," the chef said "This recipe was created by Chef Hari Prasad Dhatchinamoorthy, an alum of OCC. Chef Hari created this dish for a culinary competition to showcase the amazing flavor and aroma of his home country, India."

So get to the south bricks at 11 a.m. Saturday as this Oakland Community College-sponsored event will find you learning and sampling from the farm and a highly regarded culinary school.

Also on Saturday, Steve Taylor sets up in Riley Park for his brand of acoustic alchemy 10 a.m. to 2 pm.

We also will welcome the Little Princess Ballet, sponsored by the Mid-American Studio of Farmington Hills and a market mainstay going back nine years. The live performance begins at 10:45 a.m. in Riley Park.

People in park, people on the bricks, people coming to market: Oakland County can boast a high vaccination rate and a destination outdoor market place that makes downtown Farmington the place to be.

Here's special thanks to our in-town sponsors: Fresh Thyme, Essential Family Chiropractic, Farmington Insurance, the Farmington Garage, LOC Credit Union, Great Lakes ACE and Care By Design.

So, until next time, then and as always, here's saying, "See you at the market."

Walt Gajewski is manager of the Farmington Farmers Market, which runs Saturdays in downtown Farmington. For more information, visit farmingtonfarmersmarket.com.

With alimony ending, how to cover financial shortfall



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

I hope you can give me some advice about my situation. I'm in my mid-60s and have been divorced for about five years. Alimony and my part-time job cover my living expenses. My alimony will end later this year. The question is how I should cover my shortfall.

My first option is to work full time, which my employer says I can do without any problem, and that would more than cover my living expenses.

My second option is to begin to draw down on my IRA, which currently has about \$300,000. (Other than my IRA, I have very little money).

My third option is to convert my IRA into a life annuity. A life annuity, part-time income and Social Security should leave me in good shape.

Which one should I do?

Vivian

Dear Vivian:

First of all, I love the idea that you have focused on the options that are available to you. I wish more people would do that. I should also mention that it's great that you have options.

That is something I constantly tell investors – we may not know what the future will bring, but the key is to have options. Having financial resources is what gives people options.

In reviewing your options, I would suggest you continue working. I believe this will give you the greatest amount of flexibility in the future.

As I mentioned earlier, having options is one of the keys to financial success. This will allow the money in your IRA to continue to grow until you're no longer able to work.

In addition, the longer you work, the fewer years you will need to live off of your portfolio, assuring yourself that you won't run out of money.

My least favorite option is to buy a life

That is something I constantly tell investors – we may not know what the future will bring, but the key is to have options. Having financial resources is what gives people options.

annuity with your IRA money. I'm not totally against lifetime annuities, because in certain situations they fit a need.

However, I believe it is a mistake to take your entire portfolio and annuitize it. This gives you very little flexibility down the road. After all, once you take a lifetime annuity you no longer have use of the principal.

If someone was to purchase a life annuity, it should be with only a portion of their entire portfolio. I believe it is a mistake for any investor to irrevocably tie up their money. We all know that the only constant in the world is change, and having flexibility with your money allows you to adapt to changes.

If all your money is coming from Social Security and a life annuity, it gives you very little flexibility and very little opportunity to change.

As we live longer and the cost of living rises, more and more people should look for opportunities to continue their careers for as long as possible.

After all, working a few more years may be the difference between a comfortable retirement and one that leaves you struggling.

Good luck.

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

Obituaries

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php



Kathleen A. Banchemo, "Kathy"

FARMINGTON - age 80, passed away August 3, 2021. Loving mother of Laura Banchemo (Ryan Fleur) and Steven Banchemo (Shannon); beloved grandmother of Robert and Anna Fleur and Joshua and Luke Banchemo; dearest sister of the late Nann Tyler and the late Ted Yeagley. A memorial service celebrating Kathy's life will be held Saturday, August 14, 5 pm at the Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd (btw 9-10 Mile Rds, N of Grand River), Farmington, (248) 474-5200, where her family will receive friends beginning at 4 pm. Donations can be made to Farmington Area Goodfellows. Heeneys-sundquist.com

HEENEYS-SUNDQUIST



Rosetta Maddick

PLYMOUTH - Rosetta Mae Maddick, a resident of Plymouth, passed from this life on July 27, 2021, at the age of 91. Rosetta was the beloved wife of the late Ellery "James," and dear mother of Susan B. Carroll (Brian), Steven, and Evelyn Ruiz (Ralph Atencio). She was the cherished grandmother of Megan Carroll, Conrad (Betsy) Ruiz and Lauren Pienta. The family has entrusted care and services to the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Canton (734) 981-1700. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com.

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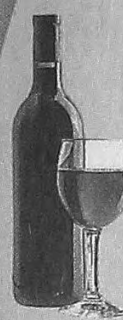
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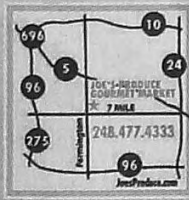
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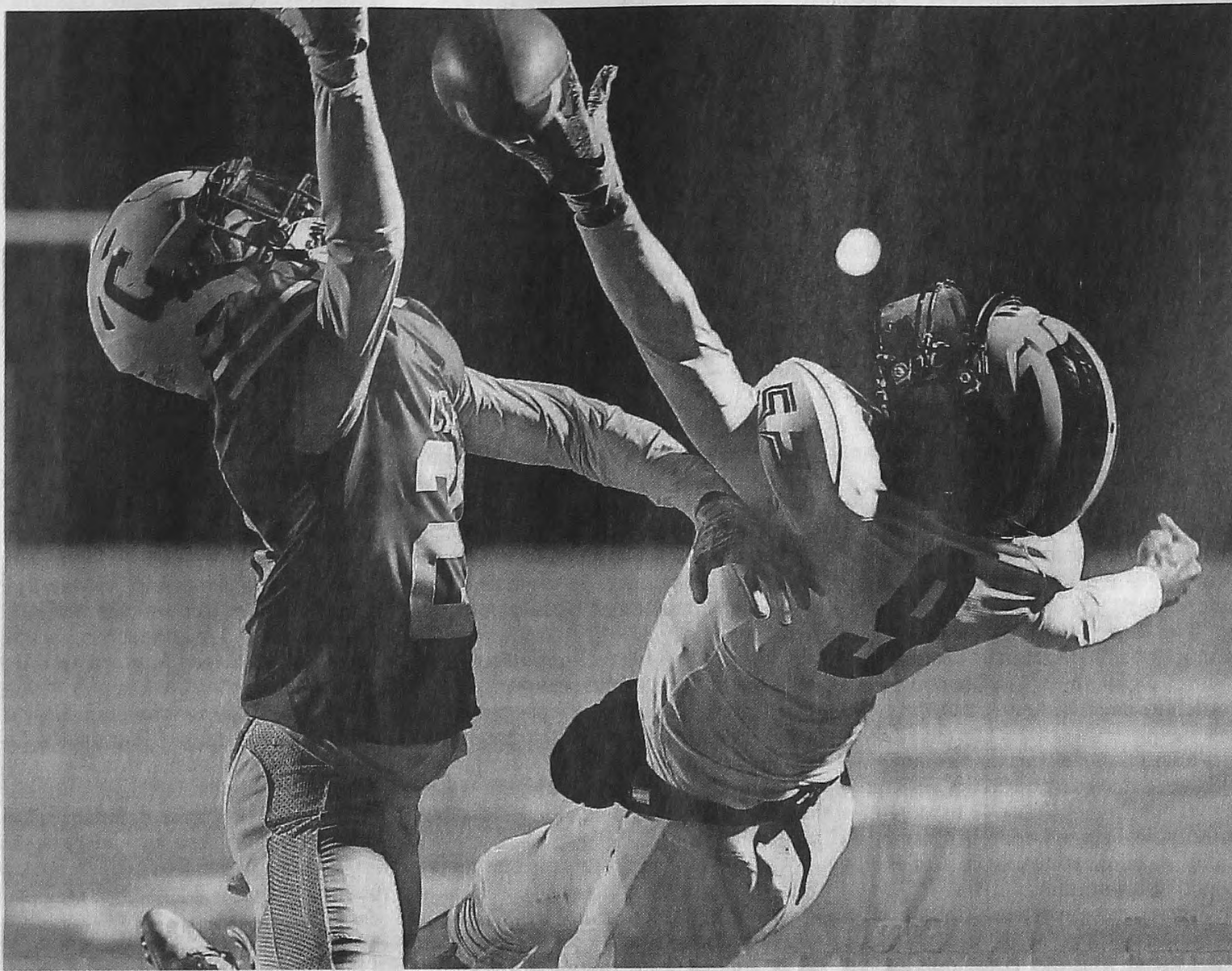
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SPORTS



Canton's Caleb Williams fights for a pass against Hartland's Brad Sollom. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Player-led SL East football preps for new era

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Jacob Topp is not looking to change the culture of South Lyon East football. If anything, the first-year head coach is trying to join the "Be East" mentality.

But Topp's not naïve. He knows the Cougars have some catching up to do as they prepare for their Week 1 match-up against Walled Lake Northern.

"As fast as I want guys to get things, everyone in the program is a first-year player," Topp said, preparing for his first season after spending the past five years as an assistant at Detroit Country Day. "It's new for everybody and just understanding and finding a way to balance between pushing and getting things in... while at the same time being patient."

While everyone may be a first-year player under Topp, returning seniors have an idea of what successful South Lyon East football looks like.

Last year, seniors like Nick O'Donohue, Ayden Oliver and Zander Desentz occupied the major positions on the field. They set the tone in 2020, leading the Cougars to win five of their eight games - the best season in school history - ending the season in the district semifinal.

Heading into his third year on varsity, senior outside linebacker and running back Khari Johnson felt those leaders set the expectation of each player knowing their responsibilities and that everyone had a role to play.

Last year, that's what senior leadership looked like. Now it's this senior class' turn to continue in that.

"I feel like what set last season apart from previous seasons... they led the team," senior left tackle and defensive tackle Grant Roslinski said. "We were more of a player-led team than a coach-led team. I just want to continue that going into this season, to continue that success and bring it into this season."

Roslinski said summer training was mostly the same, but the team was introduced to its offensive and defensive schemes much earlier. He said they're very similar concepts to what former head coach Joe Pesci led, but with different names.

No matter how different the play-book is, senior cornerback and wide receiver Bryce Lambeth said it's put everyone on equal standing no matter their age or experience on varsity.

See SL EAST, Page 2B

What to expect this season from KLAA West football

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The 2021 football season is here. Fall practices are set to open Aug. 9, while the nine-game slate is scheduled to begin Aug. 26.

In 2021, the playoffs will begin Oct. 29 with the Michigan high school football state finals scheduled for Nov. 26-27.

Here's a look at what the Kensington Lakes Activities Association West division will look like in 2021.

Canton

Head coach: Andrew LaFata, fourth season

2020 record: 8-1 (6-0 in conference play), first in the KLAA West

Season opener: Dearborn Fordson at Wayne State University, 4 p.m., Aug. 26

Players to watch: Senior running back Zack Badger, senior quarterback Arturo Trevino, senior defensive tackle and offensive guard Giulian Bodiu, senior offensive and defensive lineman Lucas Tafelski, senior running back and defensive back Wesley Faulkner

What to expect: Canton football has always been about connections.

See KLAA WEST, Page 2B



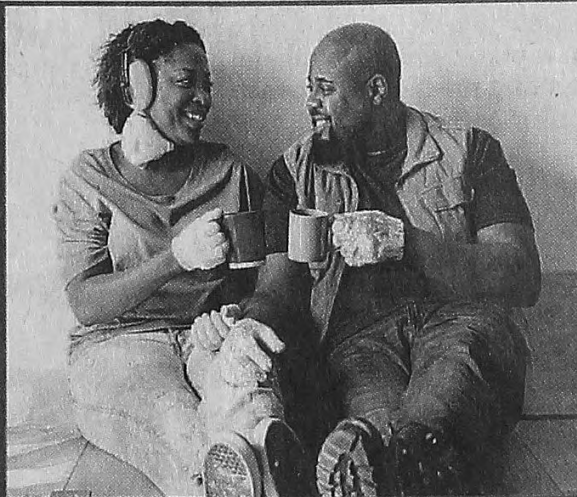
Novi quarterback Luke Aurilia fights for yardage against Catholic Central.

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KLAA West

Continued from Page 1B

Coming off an undefeated regular season, a KLAA West title and a district final loss to Belleville, Canton – returning six starters on both sides of the ball – hopes that those connections carry over into 2021.

“When you are on those winning teams, you can feel it,” LaFata said. “You can see it in the players out at practice, you can feel something’s different and you know what it’s supposed to feel like. They have kind of taken that and ran with that.”

Senior running backs Zack Badger and Wesley Faulkner will be back to run Canton’s distinct T-offense, with the help of an offensive line that includes third-year starter Giuliano Bodiu; a group that averaged 39 points per game including five games of 40 points or more.

But Canton will have a new look under center: senior Arturo Trevino. In his first season as the main guy, chemistry is something that he is still trying to master.

“It’s just chemistry and just building bonds together, learning from those guys too, since they are three-year starters,” Trevino said. “They have been talking to me, teaching me how to play and how to run every single play, just being there and supporting me until the season.”

Defensively, Canton failed to allow more than four touchdowns in a game until the district final against the Tigers, giving up 53 points in its first loss of the season.

Northville

Head coach: Matt Ladach, 14th season

2020 record: 5-3 (4-2 in conference play), second in the KLAA West

Season opener: Livonia Stevenson; 7 p.m., Aug. 27

Players to watch: Senior outside linebacker and tight end Parker Ladach, senior defensive back Tommy Mandell, senior quarterback Jack Holland, senior wide receiver and tight end Kai Saunders

What to expect: Northville ended its three-season losing skid in 2020, winning five games – the most the Mustangs have recorded since 2016 – before losing to Belleville in the second round of district play.

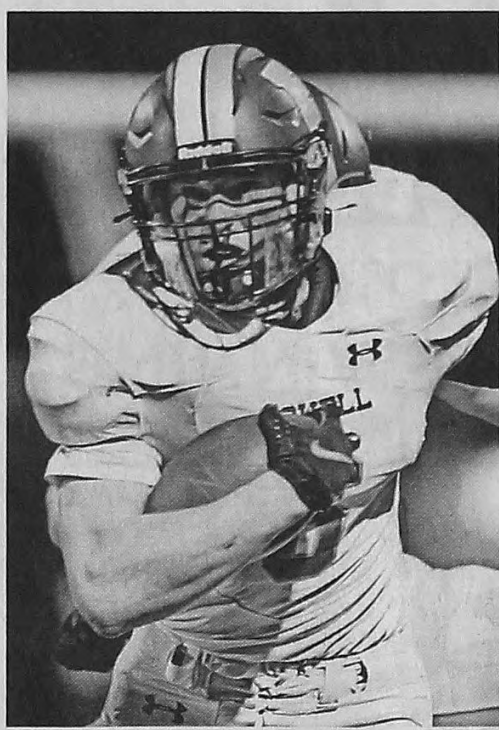
While Matt Ladach admits that he may not have the “dudes” that he’s had in the past – players that have gone on to join football rosters at Wisconsin and Florida State – the head coach in his 14th season knows the level of dedication he has, especially from senior outside linebacker and tight end Parker Ladach and senior defensive back Tommy Mandell.

“They bleed orange and black,” Ladach said. “Everything that they do is for Northville football. They are beyond committed, they are compelled to do everything for our football program.”

The Mustangs have 10 returning players in 2021, including quarterback Jack Holland and wide receiver and tight end Kai Saunders, leading a group that averaged 24 points per game; the team’s highest total since 2017.

Defensively, Northville was even better in 2020, failing to allow 26 points in each of their five wins. But when the Mustangs lost, they allowed an average of 43.7 points to Canton, Hartland and Belleville.

“They can expect us to play with tremendous effort and for us to be going a million miles per hour,” Matt Ladach said. “Our team’s very excited to get back out there and play. It’s been a really good offseason for us, and I think they are just excited to play football.”



Howell’s August Johanningsmeier will likely switch from running back to tight end or defensive end at Western Michigan University.

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

Novi

Head coach: Jim Sparks, first season

2020 record: 3-5 (2-4 in conference play), sixth in the KLAA West

Season opener: Wayne Memorial; 7 p.m., Aug. 26

Players to watch: Senior offensive lineman Tommy Phimister, senior offensive lineman Peter Swanson, senior wide receiver Bacari Scott, senior defensive back and wide receiver Tyler Patrick

What to expect: Jim Sparks is going into his first season at Novi with no preconceived notions. But he knows what he wants his team to look like.

The former Clawson head coach, taking over the Wildcats from former head coach Jeff Burnside, is attempting to lead the team to its first winning season since 2016.

“I’ve always been a guy that loves competition,” Sparks said. “And I hate failure. Sometimes I’m motivated to work hard because I really don’t want to fail.”

Those changes start immediately on offense, converting the Wildcats’ traditional mid-line option look to more of a prototypical spread approach, trying to mold each quarterback into one that would fit his system.

Through the system, Sparks said wide receivers such as seniors Tyler Patrick and Bacari Scott will become more weapons down the field instead of just at the line of scrimmage, something players are still adjusting to at the start of practices.

“Having a completely changed offense and defensive schemes, we’re definitely going to look different once the jerseys are thrown on and the chin straps are strapped up,” Patrick said. “But there’s no way really to tell until that happens.”

The Wildcats return four players on offense including offensive linemen Tommy Phimister and Peter Swanson, and six players on a defense that allowed 24.3 points per game a season ago.

Plymouth

Head coach: Greg Souldourian, second season

2020 record: 1-6 (1-5 in conference play), tied for seventh in the KLAA West

Season opener: at Brighton; 7 p.m., Aug. 26

Players to watch: Senior quarterback Connor Sherman, senior running back and linebacker Spencer Vos, senior offensive guard and defensive lineman Charlie Tams

What to expect: After it won the KLAA West in 2019, Plymouth struggled

derstand the varsity offensive playbook. Even before practice started, Tillman-Jones feels “the chemistry’s really coming together.”

That’s what Topp is hoping for with the entire team, working together to get over the hump in the Lakes Valley Conference, especially after a season in which its two conference losses to South Lyon and Lakeland were each by less than two touchdowns.

Even with a player-led atmosphere, Roslinski feels that the new head coach is the one to take South Lyon East to new heights.

“I know that we graduated a lot of guys from last year, but Coach Topp, he knows football,” Roslinski said. “He knows what’s going to work, he knows what’s not going to work. He knows how to keep this team on an upward trajectory.”

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Twitter: [@ColinGay17](https://twitter.com/ColinGay17).

in 2020.

In Greg Souldourian’s first season as head coach after being with the program in some capacity for all but one season since 2005, the Wildcats recorded its worst offensive season in the program’s history, scoring 58 points in seven games – including 15 in the final four games combined – and allowed an average of 32.6 points per game.

Heading into 2021, the head coach’s call to his team is simple: to build off the legacy of those teams before; the team that has made the playoffs 11 times since 2007.

“These guys, it’s their time,” Souldourian said. “It’s their time right now to build off the legacy of the past.”

The Wildcats will have an experienced roster to do that with, bringing back quarterback Connor Sherman, who was thrust into the starting spot as a junior due to an injury, along with Charlie Tams, a guard and defensive lineman who’s been on varsity for three seasons, along with running back and linebacker Spencer Vos.

Salem

Head coach: Patrick Ignagni, second season

2020 record: 1-6 (1-5 in conference play), tied for seventh in the KLAA West

Season opener: Livonia Churchill; 7 p.m., Aug. 26

Players to watch: Senior running back and outside linebacker Ty Wagner, senior offensive and defensive lineman Nick Barrett, junior defensive lineman Robert Jones, senior defensive back Jamaricus Jones

What to expect: Patrick Ignagni’s first season with Salem showed a bit of progress. The Rocks won a game, beating Plymouth, 19-3, something they did not do in 2019. Their scoring average increased and their points allowed per game decreased.

But there is still tremendous work to be done with a Salem program that has won only three games in the past three seasons.

“We have made every opportunity for the kids to come in and get stronger and get faster, learn the offense and defense,” Ignagni said. “They have embraced it. I really like our core group. They have been overachievers since January when we were allowed back in the weight room.”

Salem has eight returners on offense and nine returners on defense: a large group with game experience. The second-year head coach said the next step is for these players to have some “positive game experiences” moving forward.

And throughout the offseason, players like senior lineman Nick Barrett have bought in, bringing more strength and development to the practice field ahead of the start of fall practice.

“The community’s different,” Barrett said. “There’s no more bowing your heads. It’s just everyone’s confident, everyone keeps working. Everyone just wants to keep getting better.”

“With a better community, everything is ‘Want to.’ There’s no ‘Have to’ anymore.”

Brighton

Head coach: Brian Lemons, eighth season

2020 record: 4-3 (4-2 in conference play); third in the KLAA West

Season opener: Plymouth; 7 p.m., Aug. 26

Players to watch: Senior offensive lineman Aiden Webb, senior defensive tackle Nate Sadler, senior quarterback and cornerback John Aurandt, senior wide receiver and cornerback Carson Billig, senior defensive end and offensive tackle Cade Riddle

What to expect: Brighton’s success has been relatively consistent for the

past three years.

The Bulldogs have lost no more than three games in each of the past three seasons, advancing all the way to the Division 1 state final against Davison in 2019. But last season ended prematurely in the eyes of most Brighton fans, falling to Novi in the first round of the playoffs.

With only four returners on offense and three returners on defense, head coach Brian Lemons, heading into his eighth season in the role, said Brighton football is coming into 2021 differently than it has in years past.

“We have some younger guys coming in at key positions,” Lemons said. “I think what you are going to see from the Brighton football program is a team that’s much better Week 9 than it is Week 1. I think we’re going to need experience and build our success during the season.”

Hartland

Head coach: Brian Savage, 11th season

2020 record: 3-4 (3-3 in conference play), fifth in the KLAA West

Season opener: Livonia Franklin; 7 p.m., Aug. 26

Players to watch: Senior wide receiver and quarterback Brad Sollom, Senior inside linebacker and offensive guard Aiden Martino, junior running back Joey Mattord, senior kicker Nathan Dibert

What to expect: Hartland is looking to take the next step in 2021.

The Eagles have not recorded a winning season since 2015, finishing one game below .500 in the past two seasons. With five returners on each side of the ball, Hartland will try and change its luck in head coach Brian Savage’s 11th season.

“They are a group of kids that worked hard all summer, they have done a great job leading; they have shown up,” Savage said.

Senior and three-year starter Brad Sollom will lead the offense and both quarterback and wide receiver, feeding the ball to both Joey Mattord and Alec Martino at running back, a pair Savage considered a “one, two punch.” Hartland will also return four of its five starters on the offensive line.

Senior inside linebacker Aiden Martino will lead an Eagles defense that allowed over 30 points once last season, losing three of its four games by two touchdowns or less.

Howell

Head coach: Brian Lewis, second season

2020 record: 4-4 (3-3 in conference play), fourth in the KLAA West

Season opener: Westland John Glenn; 7 p.m., Aug. 26

Players to watch: Senior linebacker Noah Ramonaitis, senior quarterback Nolan Petru, senior running back August Johanningsmeier, senior outside linebacker Danny Honkala

What to expect: Howell took a step in the right direction in 2020.

The Highlanders finished .500 for the first time since their back-to-back playoff seasons in 2015 and 2016, helped by a defense that allowed 195 points in eight games: the least amount allowed since 2014.

With six returning offensive players – including senior quarterback Nolan Petru, senior running back and Western Michigan commit August Johanningsmeier and three of five starters on the offensive line – along with five defensive returners, Howell hopes to put together its first winning season since 2013.

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

SL East

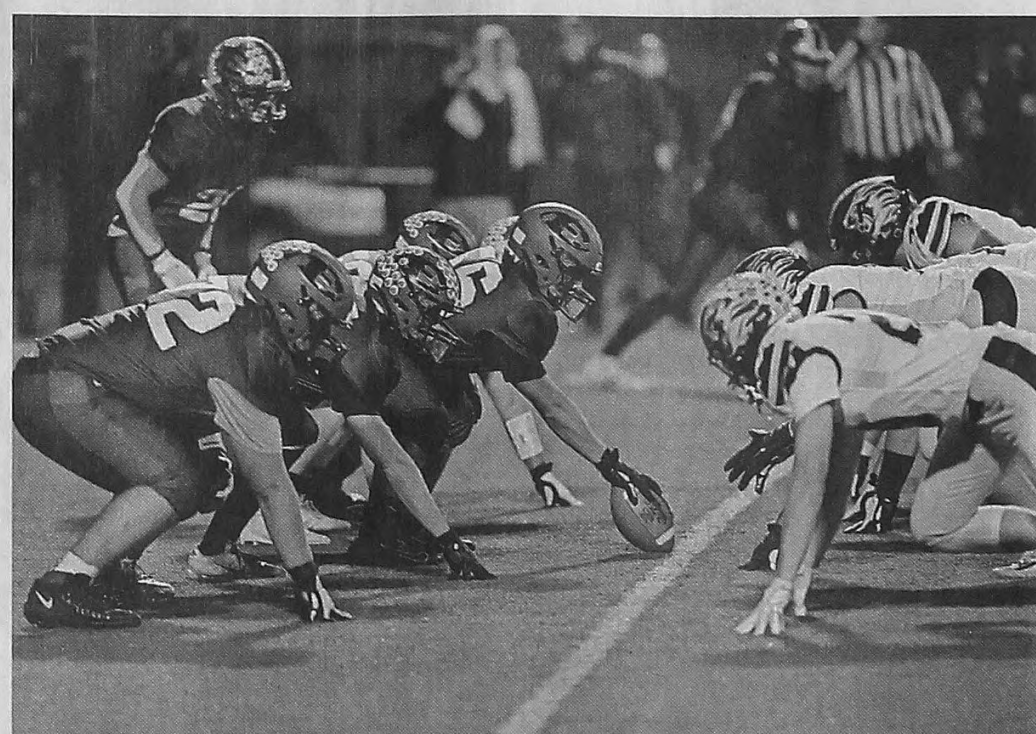
Continued from Page 1B

That helps when you have a new quarterback leading the offense.

Junior Nico Campo is expected to take snaps behind center, replacing Desentz, who graduated after throwing 21 touchdowns last season – the most in a single-season in school history.

“At first we were questioning, losing Zander, we don’t really have an established quarterback,” Lambeth said. “We were really worried about that during the offseason, and Nico showed up during the workouts and we were like, ‘Wait a minute: he’s gotten a lot better than he was last year.’ We’re not really worried about it anymore.”

Senior wide receiver and defensive back Braeden Tillman-Jones said Campo has been improving during practices; learning how to read defenses and un-



South Lyon East, left, prepares to snap the ball against rival South Lyon in 2020.
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Hartland, Brighton girls win national titles

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Eliana Bommarito of Hartland and Sabrina Nauss of Brighton have put together incredible resumes on the wrestling mat, winning titles at the state, regional and national levels.

For each, capturing championships at the junior and 16U nationals at the Fargodome in Fargo, N.D., last month top their personal lists.

Bommarito, who will be a senior at Hartland this fall, won the junior (18-and-under) national title at 225 pounds.

Nauss, entering her sophomore year at Brighton, won the 16-and-under title at 180 pounds and placed third moving up an age group at junior.

"That was probably one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had, because it was insane," Nauss said. "Having the spotlight on you, having your coaches in your corner and just to put everything I had at the end of my season into that last match, it was great."

"I've won some, but not as big as what Fargo is."

It was the first trip to Fargo for Bommarito, who is gunning for her fourth girls state championship this winter. Last year's tournament was canceled because of COVID-19 restrictions.

"It definitely felt a little more nerve-racking, because I knew there would be a lot more different competition and I knew this tournament was the most serious tournament I've been to," Bommarito said. "It was definitely something I was in disbelief about."

"It was my first year, I was super nervous. Usually I rely on my strength rather than technique for wrestling females. These girls were equally as strong, if not stronger. It was different challenges. That was super hard."

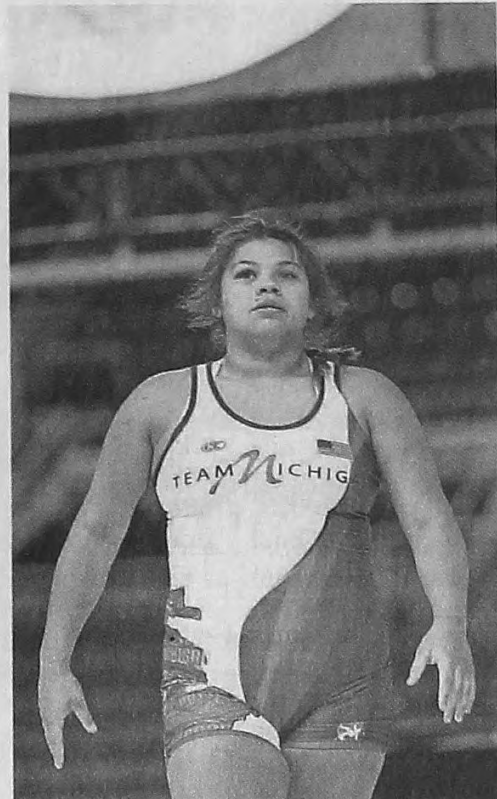
Bommarito allowed only one point in her four matches, winning two via pins, one by an 11-0 decision and one by injury default.

She pinned Lexie Cole of Missouri in 2 minutes, 34 seconds in the championship match.

"It was definitely nice to see different competition, different wrestlers," Bommarito said. "I really enjoyed my finals match, because the girl I wrestled was not about heavy hands, so I could actu-



Eliana Bommarito of Hartland won the junior 220-pound division at the national wrestling tournament in Fargo, North Dakota. COURTESY PHOTOS



Sabrina Nauss of Brighton won the 180-pound 16-and-under championship at the tournament.

"Besides Super 32, Fargo is the toughest freestyle tournament in high school to win. Winning Fargo means you're No. 1 in the country at that weight class you compete in."

Shawn Scott Wrestling coach, Brighton

ally try to attempt some leg attacks, even though I'm not the best at them. It was nice to get some different moves in."

Nauss won her first two matches at 16-and-under with first-period pins before beating Kiara Ganey of Illinois by technical fall in 3:17.

In juniors, she lost 14-13 in the quarterfinals to Alivia White of Washington before battling back to finish in third.

"It was good to see some of the girls, a lot of them who are seniors," Nauss said. "I got to see some girls who are high up in the rankings."

"I need to get my conditioning back up and get my stamina back up. I also need to get better at just defending and shooting in more on these bigger girls."

Brighton coach Shawn Scott said the

Bulldogs have had only one other wrestler reach the championship match at Fargo, that being two-time state champion Luke Ready in 2014. Ready was the runner-up that year.

"Besides Super 32, Fargo is the toughest freestyle tournament in high school to win," Scott said. "Winning Fargo means you're No. 1 in the country at that weight class you compete in."

Bommarito and Nauss are excited that the next girls high school tournament will be under the umbrella of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the first time. The MHSAA announced in May that it will add an individual girls tournament with 14 weight classes.

The first three girls high school tour-

naments have been conducted by the Michigan Wrestling Association. The first two were held at Adrian College, while Michigan Revolution Training Center in Highland hosted the event last winter.

"That's going to be crazy, just to be able to compete with them at Ford Field and be alongside the guys," Nauss said. "That's a huge step for Michigan. It'll be great. It was amazing to hear that."

The only drawback, Bommarito said, is that girls must choose to compete in either the girls or boys individual tournament. They've previously been allowed to compete in both.

"A lot of girls enjoy being able to wrestle both the male and female state tournaments," she said.

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MHSAA: No testing or mask mandates for now

Mick McCabe
Guest columnist

The 2021-22 high school athletic year officially began Aug. 9 with practices for fall sports, minus some of the aspects that made the previous athletic year the most chaotic in Michigan High School Athletic Association history.

"As it stands today," said MHSAA executive director Mark Uyl, "it's no testing; it's no requirements on masks; it's no limits on crowds and spectators, and there's no limits of social distancing." At least not yet anyway.

But we were here a year ago. Practices began with masks and were halted a couple of days later just before football players were able to put on the pads when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued Executive Order 160, which stopped contact sports and indoor sports.

"Last year was a nightmare, for sure," said Detroit King football coach Tyrone Spencer. "Last summer was like a blur. Everything was happening so fast, we'd be starting and then be stopping."

Although the delta variant has caused a recent spike in the state's COVID-19 cases, Uyl believes the MHSAA can get through the coming school year without the interruptions that plagued the fall sports calendar last year.

"The governor said last Wednesday, after the CDC recommendations came out, Whitmer basically doubled down and said there are no new orders coming, there are no mask orders coming," Uyl said.

That is good news for thousands of athletes who survived a roller-coaster fall season a year ago. The interruptions in the fall extended some sports' seasons almost two months and meant delays in the beginning of the winter seasons, which were compacted.

"I can tell you that going through all of the summer stuff, whether it was basketball camps or 7-on-7s," he said, "every summer sports activity, which included an awful lot of indoor activity and weight rooms without any masks, we just have not heard of any outbreak of any issues surrounding COVID in any of the summer stuff."

The Republican-led Legislature has

severely limited Whitmer's ability to issue executive orders that shut down schools and extracurricular activities like athletics a year ago.

Initially, the MHSAA also had difficulty dealing with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the first half of the school year.

Uyl and his staff had no access to Whitmer or the MDHHS, which can also close schools and halt athletics. But things did improve when Elizabeth Hertel became director of the MDHHS.

"With a new director, starting in February, we maybe haven't agreed with every decision, but the communication has been a lot better and that has certainly continued here during the summer," Uyl said.

The MHSAA has remained in close contact with the MDHHS leading up to the start of this fall season.

This has been a dramatically different offseason for the athletes, especially the football players. Last summer, they were prohibited from their normal summer routine of 7-on-7s and team conditioning drills.

"We quickly remind ourselves of how it was last year without being here, without having the workouts, the practices, the team camaraderie, being together," said Muskegon football coach Shane Fairfield.

Detroit Catholic Central football coach Dan Anderson said the return to normal this summer has meant the world to his players.

"They're enjoying this year so much more than always getting yelled at to pull up their masks and social distance," he said. "And the fact that we can actually do things — we played 7-on-7 this summer so we got to see the kids interacting with one another."

Orchard Lake St. Mary's football coach George Porritt said the rise in the delta variant cases has the attention of his players.

"The kids are ready to go, but there's some nervousness," he said. "You're starting to hear things pop up again about COVID. Nobody wants any interruptions, you just don't want it. We had enough of that last year."

USDA: Michigan deer exposed to coronavirus

Kyle Davidson Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A recent study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service discovered that white-tailed deer populations in Illinois, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

White-tailed deer are found in every county in Michigan, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

Researchers discovered antibodies for the virus in 33% of the 481 blood samples they collected from January 2020 through March 2021.

Of the 33% of samples with antibodies present, only three were collected in 2020. All the others were collected in 2021, said Thomas DeLiberto, assistant director at the USDA National Wildlife Research Center and a contributing author of the study.

When compared with 143 samples collected before January 2020, only one sample showed signs of exposure. Researchers determined this sample was a false positive, DeLiberto said.

Researchers do not currently know how the deer were exposed. DeLiberto said the risk of transmission from animals to people is very low.

"This is a human-adapted pathogen. In its current form, it likes to be in people and the greatest risk to people is transmission from other infected people," he said.

According to the USDA, there is no evidence people can get COVID-19 by eating or preparing meat from infected animals.

Samples were collected from deer in 32 counties across the four states. Samples for the study were obtained opportunistically as part of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's wildlife damage management activities, according to the USDA.

Of the 113 samples collected in Michigan, 76 showed signs of exposure. All 113 of these samples were collected between January and March of 2021, DeLiberto said.

On Aug. 21, 2020, the National Academy of Sciences published a study which found some animals are at greater risk of being infected with SARS-CoV-2. In October, multiple mink at a Michigan farm showed signs of illness with two testing "presumptive positive" for the virus during an autopsy.

After the department's Agricultural Research Service discovered it could experimentally infect white-tailed deer with SARS-CoV-2 in captivity, the next step was to see whether deer could be infected in the wild, DeLiberto said.

"The CDC estimates that over 114 million Americans have been infected by SARS-CoV-2," DeLiberto said. "... it raised some concern as to whether we're starting to see spillover of that virus from people to animals."

While the study was intended to see whether white-tailed deer had been exposed to SARS-CoV-2, it opened a number of questions about what this exposure means.

DeLiberto wants to further explore the extent white-tailed deer have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2, and how they are exposed to the virus.

"Is the virus circulating in white-tailed deer? We don't know that from this study because we only looked at exposure," DeLiberto said. "If it is circulating, are they transmitting it to other wildlife or domestic animals?"

While the USDA has not observed signs of illness in the wild deer surveyed and the infected deer in captivity, it noted this was not the focus of this study.

In terms of Michigan's deer population, DeLiberto said the sample is too small to tell how many deer could have been exposed in the state.

"We only tested 113 samples. ... In order to get a real good handle on how many have been infected in Michigan, you would have to get a much bigger sample size than that, than 113, and you'd have to get them from all over the state," DeLiberto said.

The samples in Michigan were taken from deer in Alpena, Alcona, Emmett, Gratiot, Ingham, Isabella, Jackson, Lenawee, Mecosta, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties.

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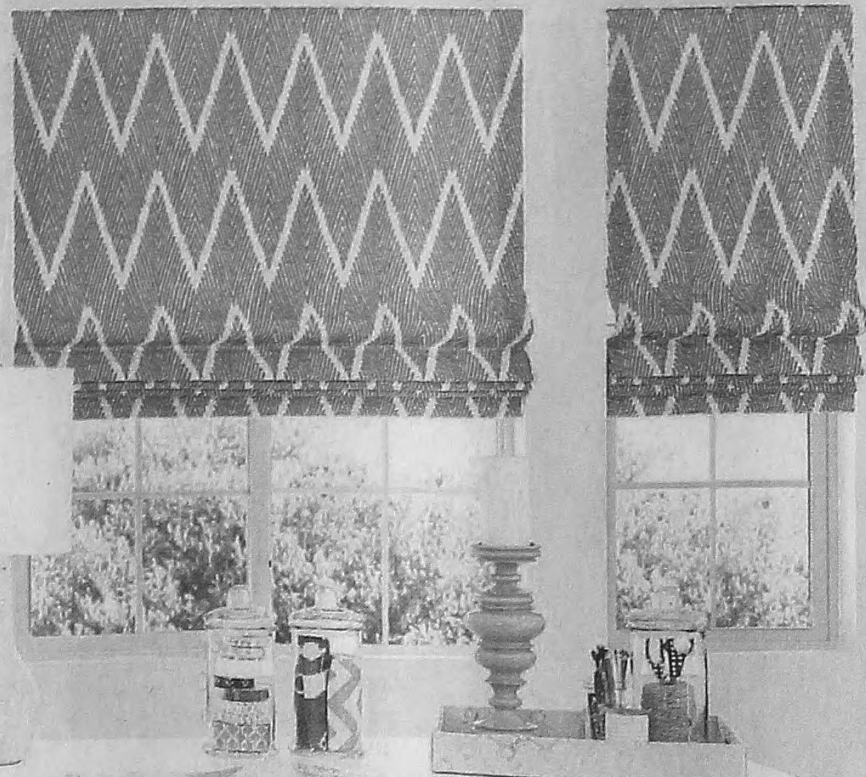
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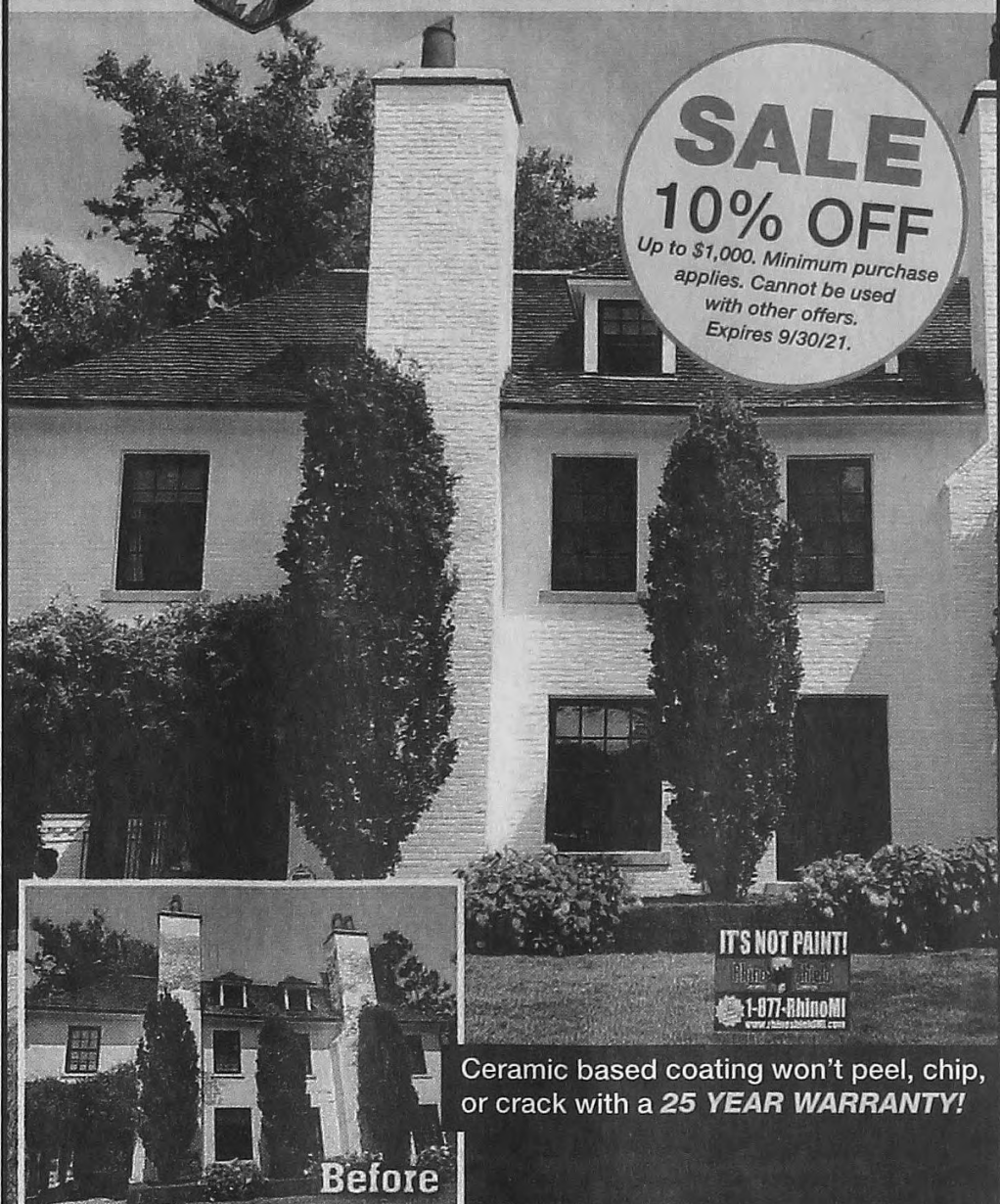


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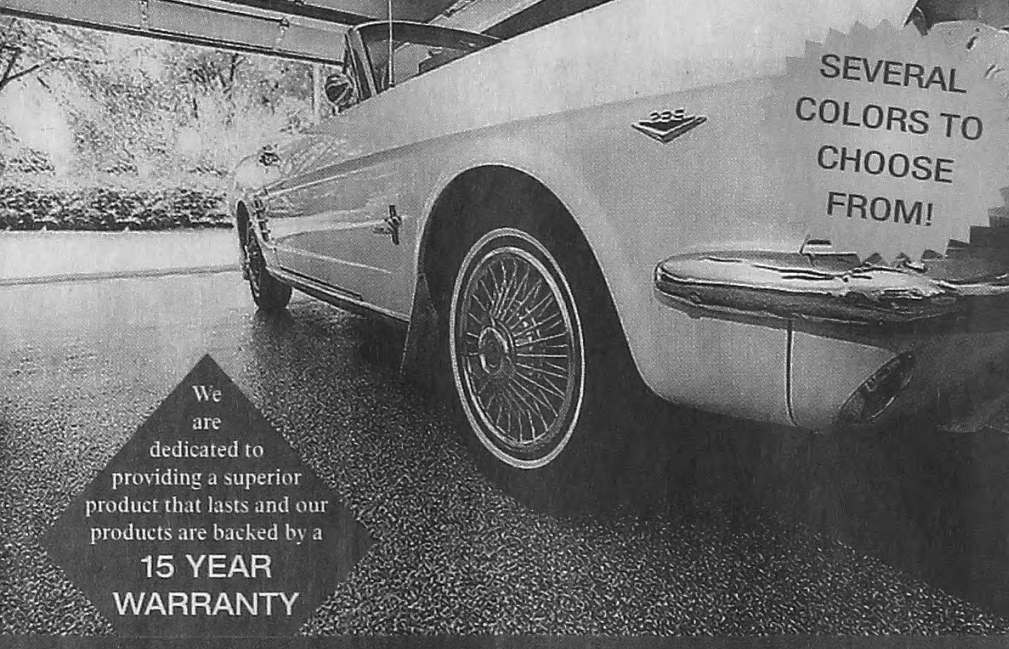
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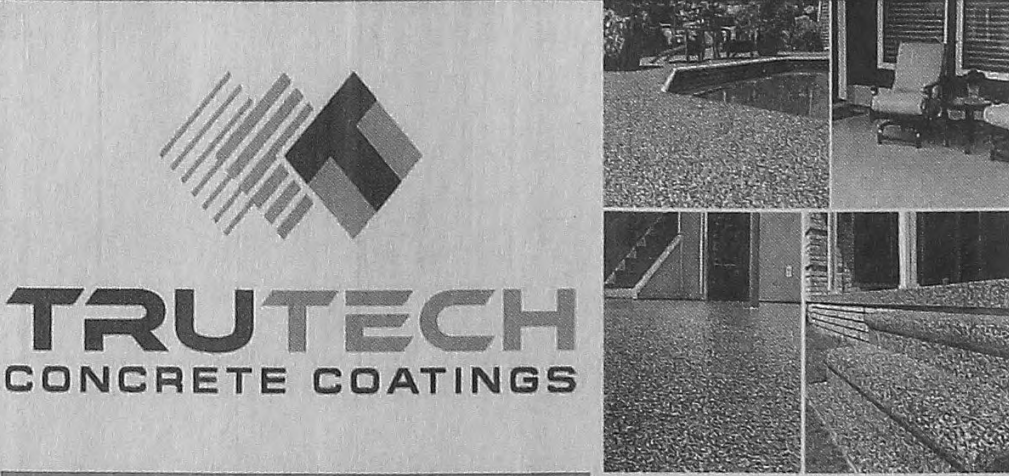
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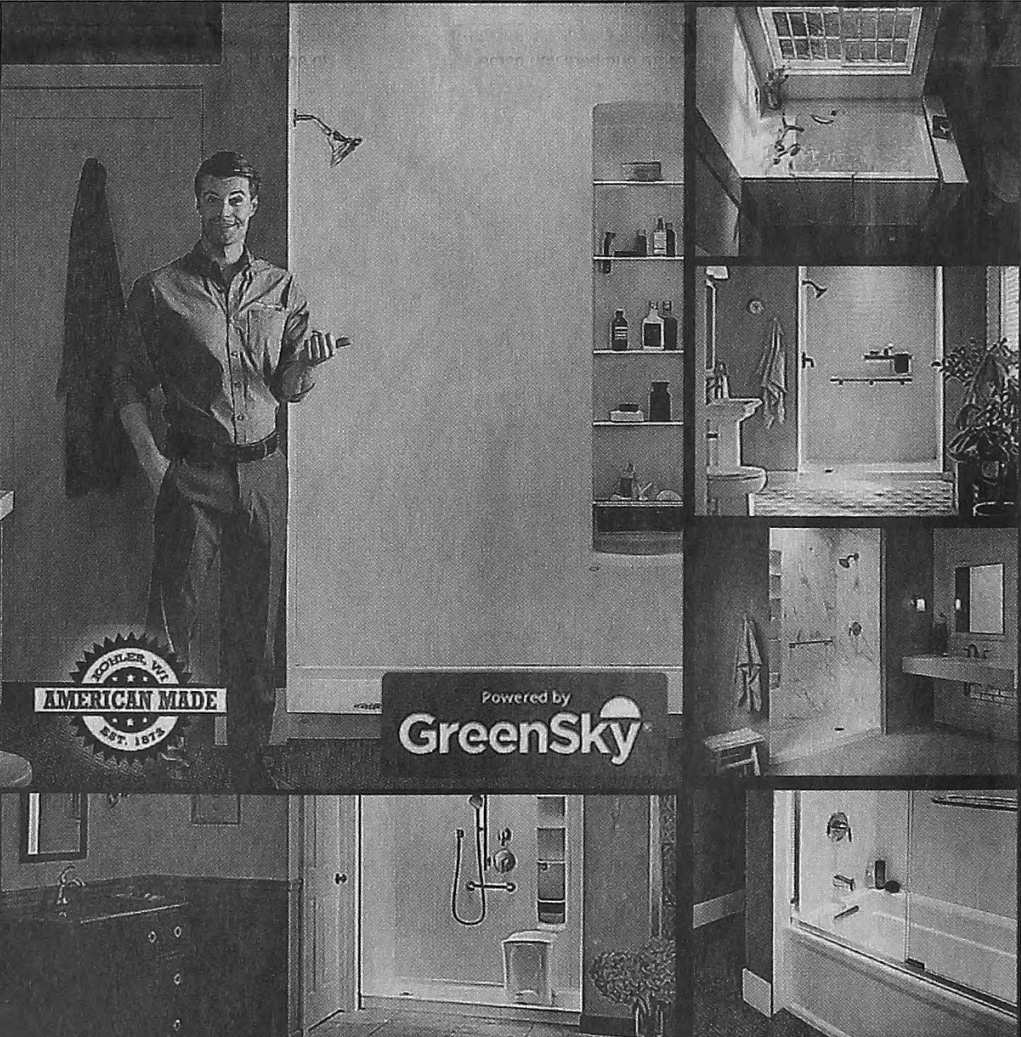


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Lost
Lost Conure Bird, Tropical colors (grey head and green feathers with yellow & red). Her name is Harley. If found, please contact Tracy (734) 748-0105, (734)748-0105

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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo IT'S MEANINGLESS

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 49 Evict | 93 Novelist Sidney | DOWN | 40 College-level H.S. courses | 80 Stinging flier |
| 1 Carter-era FBI sting | 50 Raw resource | 95 "Good Times" actor Walker | 1 James A. Garfield's "A" | 41 Some vipers | 81 Wall creeper |
| 7 "It costs — and a leg" | 52 Furniture with four sleeping units | 96 12, on some clocks | 2 — -Seltzer | 42 "Skyfall" actress Harris | 82 Hold and use |
| 12 "Likely story!" | 55 Trachea-to-lung tubes | 97 Speedskater Ohno | 3 Occupy, as a desk | 43 Writer Capote | 83 Part of many a kid's lunchbox meal, for short |
| 16 Learning inst. | 58 TV trophy | 98 Celine of pop | 4 USN VIP | 44 Holster item | 84 Shimmer, as an opal |
| 19 Spanning structure | 59 Partake of | 99 Part of many a kid's lunchbox meal | 5 Become older | 45 Invite (to) | 85 It's stuffed into an olive |
| 20 Gorme with Grammys | 60 French for "good" | 106 Cow stomach, on a menu | 6 See 72-Across | 46 Get reduced in price | 87 Potato cover |
| 21 Mag online | 61 Winfrey of "Selma" | 108 Fix, as a knot | 7 — Fables | 47 Suffix with north | 90 After point number eight |
| 22 Boxer Clay, renamed | 65 Small inlet | 109 Xbox competitor | 8 Sominex competitor | 49 Surpass in competition | 91 Bar on a car |
| 23 Withstanding decay | 66 Medieval stronghold near Cork, Ireland | 110 AOL competitor | 9 Have — with destiny | 53 Wriggly fish | 92 2016 Summer Olympics locale |
| 25 Dak., in the 1800s | 71 "— had it!" | 111 Yoo- — (chocolate drinks) | 10 — Tin Tin | 54 Sheep's cry | 93 1992 Summer Olympics locale |
| 26 Sawmill item | 72 With 6-Down, relay some information | 112 10 answers in this puzzle have one | 11 Got together | 55 Razor brand | |
| 27 Org. for drs. | 74 Rustic hotels | 116 Tenth mo. | 12 Old Mexican | 56 Stephen of films | |
| 28 Haughty type | 75 Eighth mo. | 117 Guitar relative | 13 Seven, in Seville | 57 Weeding aid | |
| 29 Reggae singer with the Wailers | 76 Like both-sex dorms | 118 Prickly shrub | 14 As to | 60 Fly- — (pilots' stunts) | |
| 31 Pureed fruit product since the mid-1800s | 77 Experienced again | 119 State of hypnosis | 15 Luxury Italian car | 62 Ran amok | |
| 36 Top-drawer | 80 Seepage in a boat's bottom | 120 Co. top dog | 16 Second-largest city in Greece | 63 Brand of bath additives | |
| 37 Is storming | 83 Exhaust conduit, e.g. | 121 Pro votes | 17 Shut entirely | 64 Actress Tippi | |
| 38 Antony. Abbr. | 86 Cavity-fighting org. | 122 Pungent salad green | 18 Tall | 66 Slangy "sweetie" | |
| 39 Maker of Tater Tots | 87 Golf great Ballesteros | 123 Gossipy meddlers | 24 With an inky implement | 67 Denver-to-Bismarck dir. | |
| 41 It induces an immune response | 88 Actress Graff | | 29 Stage after larva | 68 Call a halt to | |
| 44 Trash collection service | 89 Chef who was a judge on ABC's "The Taste" | | 30 Bicycle pedal attachment | 69 Pull sharply | |
| 48 "Our Gang" girl | | | 32 Soft felt hat | 70 Size bigger than med. | |
| | | | 33 Actress and experienced | 73 Imagine | |
| | | | Katey | 76 Young and in- | |
| | | | 34 Categorize | 78 Really weak | |
| | | | 35 PD alert | 79 First lady | |
| | | | 39 Big oil gp. | McKinley | |

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com.

SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/12

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

SHOW ME THE MONEY

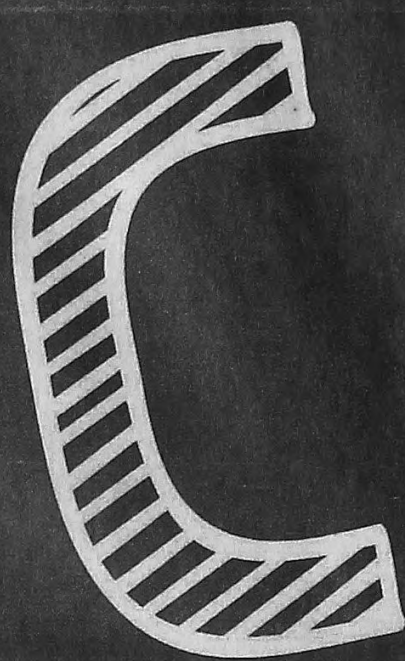
Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

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

BANKNOTE
BILL
BRASS
BREAD
BUCKS
CAPITAL
CASH
COIN
CREDIT
CURRENCY
DOLLAR
DOSH
DOUGH
FLUSH
FUNDS
GOLD
GRAVY
IN CLOVER
LAVISH
LOADED
LOAN
LOLLY
LOOT
LUCRATIVE
LUCRE
MOOLAH
NEST EGG
OPULENT
PAYMENT
PELF
POCKET
PROFIT
PURSE
READIES
RICHES
ROLLING IN IT
SALARY
SAVINGS
SILVER
SPONDULICKS
STERLING
THRIVING
TREASURE
WAD
WAGE
WALLET
WEALTH
WELL OFF

SHOW ME THE MONEY

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



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ROCHESTER HILLS | SALINE | SOUTH LYON | TECUMSEH | WEST BLOOMFIELD