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# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Plymouth's Fall Festival set to return

Event was canceled in 2020 due to pandemic

Ed Wright [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It won't be long before the mouth-watering aroma of barbecued chicken is floating through the air in downtown Plymouth.

Following a one-year COVID-19 pandemic-created hiatus, Plymouth's much-loved Fall Festival is scheduled to return Sept. 10-12, bringing back a much-anticipated sense of normalcy to its Norman Rockwell-esque downtown. "I'm excited it's back," Plymouth

Mayor Oliver Wolcott said. "I give a lot of credit to our team or organizers who have worked hard to make sure the event will go on while keeping people safe.

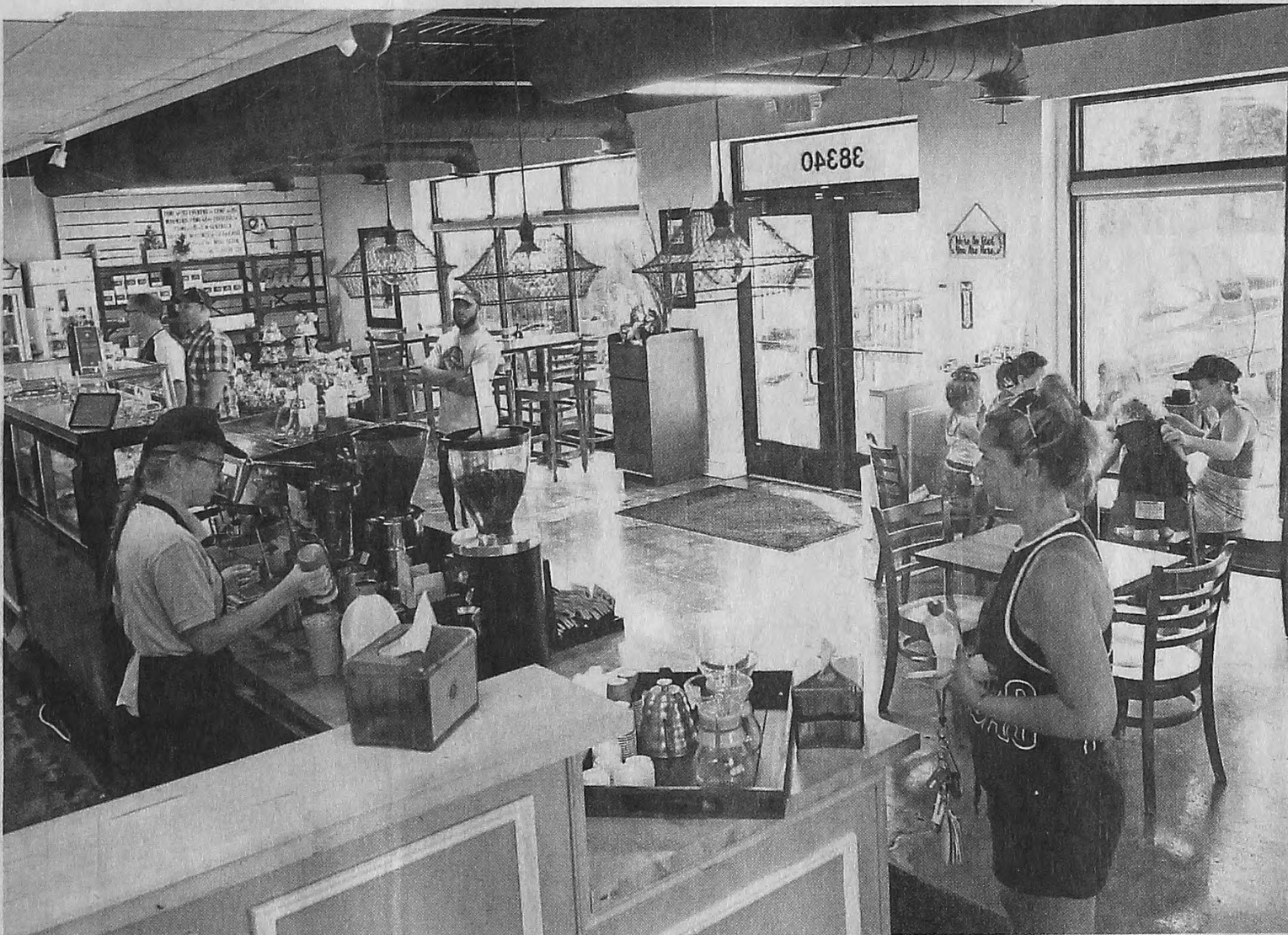
"Art in the Park was fantastic this year with a ton of visitors. I expect the same for the Fall Festival."

Before it was canceled in 2020 due to

the COVID-19 pandemic, some level of an annual fall festival was held in downtown Plymouth every year since 1960, when an estimated 2,800 chicken dinners were served.

"It's a tradition that was sorely missed in 2020," Wolcott said. "The Fall

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Coffee + Cream in Livonia begins to get busy about mid-morning Aug. 23. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Local indie coffeehouses can be perfect work, study setting



Shelby Tankersley  
[Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)

It's the little things. And for me, coffee will always be one of the little things. It's a pause; it's "Gilmore Girls;" it's catching up with friends; and it's some-

thing my sister and I have bonded over for years. All of my mornings have something to do with coffee.

Reporters do a lot of work out in the community, and for people working remotely, coffeehouses are a go-to temporary office away from home. I recently set out across Hometown Life's Observer footprint — Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Wayne and Westland — to find the best

coffeehouses western Wayne and Oakland counties have to offer.

I ordered a hot caramel latte everywhere I went made with almond milk. As someone who works remotely in coffeehouses, I also judged a place based how comfortable it is to sit in for a longer period. Things like available seating, WiFi quality, music playlist

See **COFFEE**, Page 4A

## Eateries sweeten the deal to entice new workers

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

Joe Spencer was ready to bring Cajun flavor to Farmington Hills earlier this summer.

But difficulties in finding employees has delayed the opening of his restaurant, Louisiana Creole Gumbo at 29216 Orchard Lake, by several months.

"We've been ready to open for a very long time," he said. "Ever since late May, early June, we've been ready.

"It's challenging just to try to find people ... I've never seen it like this."

Spencer, who's been with the Detroit-based restaurant for nearly 40 years, isn't alone. The labor market has seen shortages when it comes to workers, especially in customer-facing jobs such as in restaurants. Seeing those shortages has employers being more aggressive to attract workers, including increased wages, signing bonuses and other offers to lure workers out and onto the payroll.

While the unemployment rate in July dropped to 4.8%, the lowest it's been since the pandemic shutdowns last spring, many businesses have still struggled to find workers.

Spencer has advertised higher wages than he previously offered to help lure in good employees. Now, instead of offering a range of \$11-\$12.50, the longtime Detroit restaurant that's expanding into Oakland County is pushing wages between \$14-\$18. He's also looked at expanding medical in-

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## Westland police dedicate training center to 'two great legal minds'

Courtesy of Westland Police Department

The Westland Police Department recently dedicated its police community training center to two legal minds that helped Westland to become the community it is now: the retired Honorable Judge C. Charles Bokos and the late longtime City Attorney, Angelo A. Plakas.

The police department applied for and was awarded a Michigan State Police JAG grant for the newly-dedicated room to be used as a police community training center for youth academy's, citizen's academies, special needs open house, community discussions, as well as specialized CALEA training on mental health first aid, fair and impartial policing, cultural diversity, de-escalation, and many others.

C. Charles Bokos graduated from Wayne State University in 1961 with a Bachelor's Degree, and in 1964 from Wayne State School of Law with LLM and Juris Doctor degrees.

He was admitted to the Bar of the State of Michigan in 1965 and began the general practice of law.

Angelo A. Plakas, born and raised in Detroit, the son of Greek immigrants, graduated in 1960 with a bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit. Plakas went on to be a history teacher at Plymouth High School, where he was twice voted by the students as "Teacher of the Year."

While teaching, Plakas put himself through law school, taking classes during the evenings at Wayne State, and ultimately receiving his law degree in 1967.

In 1968, Bokos and Plakas formed a law partnership that was rooted in their respect for one another and spanned nearly 25 years.

In 1976, Bokos was appointed Westland City Attorney, with Plakas as the Assistant City Attorney, and the firm thereafter represented the City of Westland in all of its legal matters, including the handling of the prosecution at the 18th District Court.

In 1992, Bokos was appointed by the governor to the position of judge of the 18th District Court, where he was re-elected multiple times and served in that capacity until his retirement in 2012.

Plakas received the appointment as Westland's City Attorney in 1992, and later represented Westland in a complicated lawsuit that resulted in the city receiving significant state funding for the William P. Faust Public Library.

Plakas served as city attorney until he died from cancer in 2010.

Between the two of them, Judge Bokos and Plakas have five children, all of whom attended the same high school.

Judge Bokos is the godfather to Angelos' daughter, and five other attorneys who learned the practice of law while under the guidance of these two men have gone on to serve as judges in different communities throughout Wayne County.

## Trial set for Farmington Hills man accused of killing mother

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Oakland County trial for a Farmington Hills man accused of killing his mother in 2017 is scheduled to happen this week.

His behavior toward women could take center stage.

According to court documents, in early 2017, several months before his mother's body was found on the patio of their Farmington Hills property, Altantawi had a physical altercation with his sister.

Prosecutors said Altantawi, who was 16 when his mother Nada Huranieh, 35, died, demonstrated a propensity for using physical violence with his mother and sister to control their behavior and have them submit to his will, which culminated in Huranieh's death.

"This evidence will also aid the jury in understanding the adversarial, domineering and intimidating relationship (he) sought to impose on his sister and mother and the consequences they faced when they failed to obey - which played a significant role in (the) defendant's motive to murder his mother," prosecutors said in documents. "This evidence will also debunk any notion that the death of Nada Huranieh was an accident of any kind."

The Oakland County Circuit Court trial is scheduled Sept. 7.

Prosecutors have submitted a potential witness list that includes Mu-

hammad's sister, law enforcers, Oakland County Medical Examiner Ljubisa Dragovic and Huranieh's former attorney, Robert Zivian. Zivian has described Huranieh as a "lovely woman."

Defense attorney David Steingold plans to counter with questions over whether the prosecution has presented enough evidence to prove Altantawi's guilt.

In his mind, prosecutors didn't spend enough time investigating other sources. The teen's uneasy relationship with his mother was normal, considering his age, his upbringing as a devout Muslim and his parents' pursuit of a divorce, the attorney contended.

"Here's his mother getting tattoos and taking off her (Muslim attire) and dating other people besides his father," Steingold said. "That's going to upset anybody. It doesn't amount to a motive for murder. That's what they're trying to suggest."

Planning to call witnesses, Steingold expects the trial to last days. Altantawi will have to decide whether to take the stand.

"In the unlikely event that he is convicted, we will most certainly appeal," his attorney said. "But I don't think about appeals. I don't think about sentencing. I'm thinking about one thing and one thing only. That is beating these false charges against Muhammad Altantawi."

The prosecutor's office did not respond to a request for comment, and Hometown Life was unable to directly reach Altantawi's father, a former Can-

ton-based doctor who pleaded guilty in a medical fraud scandal.

Altantawi was supposed to start his senior year at International Academy West in White Lake Township when Farmington Hills police took him into custody because of his mother's death Aug. 21, 2017.

Dispatched first responders found Huranieh, a mother of three, on the patio. She had apparently fallen out an upstairs window but subsequent autopsy results determined she had been smothered.

Altantawi spent time in Oakland County's Children's Village as attorneys argued his case in 47th District Court, Oakland County Circuit Court, Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court. He was transferred to Oakland County Jail after his 19th birthday.

A coup came when the state's highest court determined that Altantawi's conversation with police at his Howard Road home could not, for the most part, be used as jury evidence because the teen's Miranda rights were violated.

Since then, Muhammad has been denied bond and another preliminary examination. His attorneys' attempts to keep cell phone evidence away from the jury also failed.

"We are confident in the quality of our investigation and moving forward in the criminal justice process," Farmington Hills Police Chief Jeff King said, declining further comment.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com).



Wendy Kacsmark has been welcoming Livonia students onto her bus for more than 40 years. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Bus driver in Livonia has been driving kids to school for 40 years

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The bus pulls up to the stop, and she's there with a smile and a "good morning."

There might be some 1980s music playing, and the driver has some rules. She expects kids to stay in their seats, keep their voices at a reasonable volume and not leave any trash behind. But she's aware students' school day starts with her, and she's always looking to make someone smile.

Welcome to Bus 131 — Wendy Kacsmark's school bus.

Kacsmark, who graduated from Livonia's now-closed Bentley High School in 1977, is in her 41st year as a bus driver for Livonia Public Schools and is the transportation department's most senior employee.

"I love my job," she said. "I love driving and I love children. That's what's kept me."

Kacsmark wanted to become a driver at 18 when she graduated from Bentley, but the district didn't hire divers that young at the time. She had considered becoming a teacher like her mother, but jobs weren't available due to declining enrollment.

She finally got the driving job at 21

years old and has stayed with the district ever since. In the early 1980s, the district only had nine automatic transmission buses, so Kacsmark learned to drive a stick shift school bus.

Kacsmark's base group today is students who have severe physical and cognitive disabilities. She's been working with that program for 30 years and has a bus equipped to board wheelchairs.

"I've been learning the entire time I've been here," she said. "The kids will teach us something every day."

Kacsmark says her job isn't something just anyone can do. Sometimes, drivers need to get creative to keep the peace. Kacsmark recalled one day of subbing for a friend who drove Holmes Middle School students that required a little imagination.

Apparently, this bus had an especially loud, rowdy group.

"A couple of girls get on and ask where their driver is. I say, 'They sent me because you guys are bad. I'm the enforcer,'" she remembers. "That is what I said."

"And I'll tell you — that was the best ride I ever had."

Things have, of course, changed over the years. Kacsmark says people get offended more easily by what's playing on

the radio or student disciplinary action than they did 20 years ago. She recalls one memory that she says could never happen today:

"One year, one of the radio stations was giving away a Harley at Christmas," she said. "I go, 'Boy, I would sure like to win one,' and one of the kids goes, 'Well pull over and call right now.' This is when there were pay phones. So I pull over and was like caller nine. I get back in and I tell the kids I didn't make it. The kids were all disappointed because I didn't win the Harley."

She said the bus was on time to school that day, thank you very much.

But as times have changed, Kacsmark says her goal of making those around her smile has never waned.

"Things get you down here sometimes," she said. "People aren't happy all the time when they go to work. That's been my goal here all along — to keep people happy. I try to keep the peace because we work way better when everyone is happy."

Kacsmark plans to keep it up as long as she can. Livonia heads back to school Tuesday, and she's ready to do it all over again.

"I like my job and as long as I'm healthy, there could be another 10 years," she said.

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# Eateries

Continued from Page 1A

insurance offerings and paid time off, benefits that interviewees have expressed a desire for in their place of employment. Spencer restructured his bonus program as well.

Improving the compensation is just one way he hopes to attract and grow the longtime business, which originally opened in 1970 on Detroit's east side and also operates in the northwest part of the city near Seven Mile and Schaefer Highway.

"We're really trying to raise the bar for people who may be looking at food service as a career," Spencer said. "As we expand, we're going to need people who know our food."

## Hiring hardships expected to continue

Hiring is a problem that will probably stick around for a while, said Terry Harvill, an adjunct professor at Madonna University in Livonia who teaches economics. The result comes after a combination of many factors at a macro level from the federal government and on a micro level with more people opting not to return to the traditional labor force.

"We're definitely in a time where (what) we're seeing is an outlier event," he said. "You saw that migration early last year and just accelerated when it got to last spring."

It's also a pivotal time in the American economy, said Harvill, who also works as an energy consultant in Northville. With shifts taking place in types of work — less manufacturing jobs that were more prevalent in previous decades and more service-oriented jobs — what have traditionally been seen as jobs to support families has begun to evolve.

Harvill cited the efforts being done by Amazon, which recently brought a center to nearby Toledo and advertised needing hundreds of workers. Those positions have typically begun at \$15/hour. Seeing those wages increase for those types of jobs, Harvill said, will have to be the case if they continue in their trajectory of being dominant in number across the workforce.

"People have looked at these jobs for these opportunities," he said. "If that's going to be the case, then wages need to go up to support that."

## Struggles for companies big and small

The hiring issues haven't just affected small shops. Christian Camp, vice president of awesome people at Livonia-based Team Schostak Family Restaurants employs about 5,000 people across five restaurant brands: Del Taco, Wendy's, Olga's Kitchen, MOD Pizza and Applebee's.

They've seen the same struggles others have. While the first indoor dining shutdown took the entire industry by surprise, he said Team Schostak did everything they could to transition. It was the second shutdown that began last fall that kept dining rooms closed from mid-November to February that resulted in a mass exodus of workers.

"Then as the second lockdown happened, I think that's what really created a significant impact to all businesses," he said. "We saw a lot of people migrate away from the restaurant industry."

That reality is in line with information from the Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association. A recent survey by the organization showed 88% of hospi-



Hunter House server Jay Snyder tallies up a tip received Aug. 25 at the Birmingham hamburger stand. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tality industry respondents are operating with not enough staffing to meet demand.

It lines up with what Justin Winslow, the president of the organization, told a small group at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi earlier this year: that the loss is going to sting for some time.

"The level of shuttered industry has been our reality for a long time and its impacts are felt acutely right now, and I think they're going to be something that we're going to feel as an industry as we're adapting to for a long time to come," he said in April.

Team Schostak always offered an incentive program for referrals, though those figures have increased significantly. They've even offered signing bonuses to employees who join the team, a common tool being used at businesses across the region.

He said they want to bring in the best people for the job, but it can prove to be difficult in places such as Novi. A city full of customer service businesses such as restaurants, Camp said Novi has been a difficult spot to hire.

"There's a lot of restaurants over there. Everyone is trying to be competitive with pay," he said. "That's been really one of the toughest spots."

## Is it just extra unemployment?

A common factor mentioned by business owners impacting the worker shortage is the additional \$300/week offered in unemployment on top of what the state offers, an incentive that began as more jobs saw furloughs and layoffs especially at the beginning of the pandemic.

It's one of the big reasons Camp cited for his company's worker shortage.

"Things have been very extraordinary with unemployment benefits," Camp said. "That's been very very challenging for us in light of that."

That unemployment benefit expires Sept. 4.

Spencer said he originally believed the additional money being paid in unemployment was the sole cause. After talking around the community, he came to the realization that the economy was just changing: many people, especially younger people, were making just as good money working for themselves in various areas.

Dubbed the "gig economy," many people began doing things like deliver-

ing for services like DoorDash and making money through non-traditional means. Given the control such jobs have, he realized more people were attracted to that line of work, making it tougher for employers like himself.

"The idea of being tied down to a job is not as appealing as it was before," he said.

Unlike the online chatter shared that blame the labor issue solely on the unemployment benefits or the wages currently being offered by employers, the answer to the problem lies somewhere in the middle, Harvill said. The market is in a unique place, with much more cash flowing in the forms of unemployment payments, PPP dollars and more that aren't typically there.

"There's a lot of money being injected into the economy right now," he said.

## Can't grow fast enough

For some businesses, the hiring process is a necessity for survival, especially restaurants. Several eateries across the region have closed their doors in recent months, citing a lack of workers as the reason. Those include Milford House

Bar & Grill, Hector & Jimmy's in Milford and Detroit Eatz in Farmington.

But it can stunt growth as well. Similar to Spencer and Louisiana Creole Gumbo, Hunter House Hamburgers in Birmingham is looking for employees. But the iconic hamburger stand isn't in danger of shutting down due to a lack of workers, it just wants to continue its organic growth its seen over the years. To do that, it need workers, so much so that the restaurant is advertising eye-popping pay of \$20-\$35/hour for those who work there.

Those figures factor in tips, something customers have been generous with during the pandemic.

"It's partially driven by the need to hire people," said Kelly Cobb, owner of Hunter House. "It's also just sort of the nature of what's happening now with people tipping."

The restaurant at 35075 Woodward recently expanded, opening a second location at United Shore Mortgage in Pontiac. Operating in a replica of the white hamburger hut, it's open solely for employees of the company, but it's brought in enough business to justify the increased wages for new hires.

Even with the increased wages, Cobb said it's still difficult to find the right help to find the close-knit environment. With not having all the employees needed, it's limited restaurant hours: it still hasn't reopened for breakfast in the mornings.

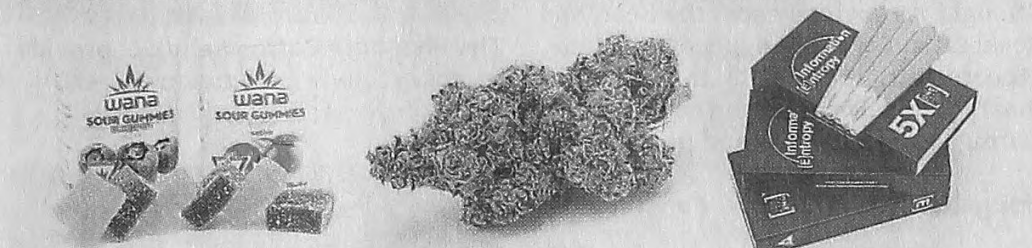
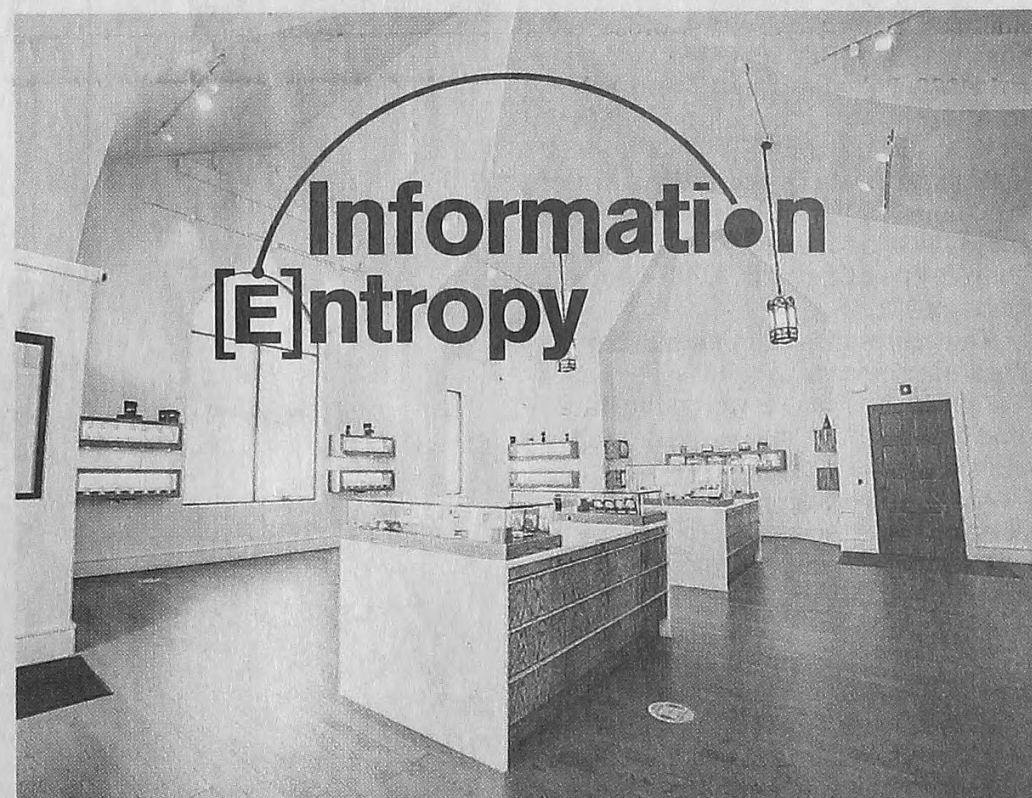
Cobb said while he wishes the circumstances were different at his shop, he'll take the problem he faces rather than having to lose employees.

"I think more people are out into the workforce again. I'm hoping that restaurants can reopen their hours," he said. "I'm just so thankful we've never had that problem."

Despite not having enough employees, Spencer said he expects Louisiana Creole Gumbo to open in Farmington Hills the week of Labor Day. While he had nearly 50 before the pandemic, he's down to less than half that between the three restaurants. Those looking to apply can do so at detroitgumbo.com.

"We are trying to get people in. We've got opportunities at all three of our stores," he said. "We're working the hell out of our people."

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



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# Sheriff, MSP report more road rage, aggressive driving

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

Rage, anxiety, frustration and other pandemic-inspired emotions are weighing on drivers, leading to a noticeable spike in road-rage incidents.

Two of the state's biggest law enforcement agencies don't have up-to-date numbers, partly because road rage doesn't fall into a single crime category.

But Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard confirmed that deputies are noticing more aggressive behavior in many different settings.

Driving in his unmarked county vehicle, the sheriff has witnessed drivers running red lights and trying to cut off other drivers. One even waved an obscene gesture in his direction.

"I've stopped a number of cars personally in the last few weeks for just outrageous driving behavior," Bouchard said. "For me to stop you, you have to do something pretty, pretty serious or pretty, pretty stupid. I've seen both."

"I had a woman fly by me and then cut me off and so I kind of moved over and came up to the next lane to look at her. Before I even got to the window, she was giving me the bird."

Michigan State Police reported another road rage incident in Livonia the night of Aug. 27. A driver reported another driver shot at him once a road-rage incident began near Interstate 96 and Telegraph Road. The suspect gave a different location of eastbound Interstate 96 and Newburgh Road in Livonia.

"They stated that they and the driver of a red car were road raging when the driver of the red car pointed a shotgun at them and fired," troopers said in their report. "Two shots were allegedly fired as reported by the suspect with one believed to have struck the victim's tire. The first caller has confirmed that his tire was struck by gunfire causing a flat tire."

Lt. Mike Shaw said incidents like this are most definitely higher than last year.

He said his agency is dealing with a handful of calls each day regarding road rage incidents. Common confrontations involve slamming on brakes, swerving toward other drivers and throwing objects out windows.

He's concerned that anti-police sentiments have drivers wrongly concluding they should take road matters into their own hands.

He advises anyone dealing with a road rager to call 911 immediately so that law enforcers get a chance to stop the aggressive driver's behavior.

"Just because somebody cut you off or didn't use their turn signal, that's not a reason to resort to violence," Shaw said.

Hometown Life has reported on a handful of road-rage incidents in recent months. In Livonia, a driver pointed a gun at a car with eight children inside. Also, in Livonia, a 47-year-old man was arrested for trying to drag another driver out of his vehicle, yanking off one of his shoes and throwing it across Plymouth Road.

There also were a few Plymouth Township M-14 incidents involving guns, albeit one was a BB gun.

Livonia Police Lt. Charles Lister and Plymouth Township Police Chief Thomas Tiderington still consider road rage confrontations rarities for their patrol regions.

The Farmington Hills Police Department is participating in Operation Brison, launched by the Detroit Police Department. The effort is named after a 2-year-old fatally shot on Interstate 75. The hope is to increase freeway patrols to prevent road rage incidents.

While increased patrols are always an option, both Shaw and Bouchard reiterated that de-escalation is key.

"Don't sweat the little things," Bouchard said. "So many of these things don't matter. Take a breath and just move on. That would be my advice."

He shared that he ended up talking to the woman who flashed him a middle finger.

She told him she was just so upset because she was concerned about being late for an appointment. He was able to calm her down by sharing some advice, for example, about stress, her family and her health. She eventually apologized and agreed that his advice was spot on. He didn't write a ticket.

"She took that breath," Bouchard said. "Understand that so many people — again, not just on the road, but in all settings — have a whole bunch of stressors in their life."

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## Festival

Continued from Page 1A

Festival is not only a fun event with great food and entertainment, it's something that goes a long way to assist local charities and service foundations."

The slate of entertainment scheduled for the three-day festival includes a Plymouth Optimist pet show, performances by the three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park pompon squads, the Plymouth Fife & Drum Corp and Polish National Alliance Centennial Dancers.

A car show hosted by VFW Post 6695 will held Sept. 11-12 with awards presented both days. Entrants must pre-register to participate.

The annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast returns to The Gathering next to the Penn Theater 7 a.m. to noon Sept. 11, while the Rotary Club's Chicken BBQ Dinner is set for 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 12, or until it is sold out.

The Rotary Club of Plymouth's spaghetti dinner has been canceled for the 2021 festival.

Carnival rides and games will be available beginning 3 p.m. Sept. 10 and 11 a.m. both Sept. 11 and 12.

September promises to be a newsworthy month in downtown Plymouth. In addition to the return of the Fall Festival, a new fountain in Kellogg Park is expected to be completed following a six-month construction project.

The first permanent piece of artwork in downtown Plymouth is also expected to be unveiled sometime in September near the Wilcox House.

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

## Coffee

Continued from Page 1A

choice and how loud it was overall were among the criteria determining how much I liked a place.

One more thing: I only went to businesses with fewer than three locations. There's no Starbucks, Sweetwaters or Biggby on this list.

Here are, in no particular order, my favorites in the area:

### Plymouth Coffee Bean Company

It would be really difficult to overstate how cool this place is. Right next to Westborn Market on Penniman Avenue, the Plymouth Coffee Bean is actually the longest-operating indie coffeehouse in the state.

The espresso is from Coffee Express Roasting Company, which is also based in Plymouth. My latte was on the pricier side at \$6.54, but it was great and the barista who took my order was friendly. The Bean also sells a variety of teas, pastries and sandwiches.

The thing I loved most about the Bean was the establishment itself. It's in a converted house, so it feels especially homey. There's a ton of seating inside and outdoors, and everyone else there was either working or catching up with a friend — a tell-tale sign of a great place.

Though it's not part my criteria, I thought it was really cool the Bean had local artists' work hanging everywhere. According to its website, the shop also hosts open mic nights and concerts featuring local musicians and poets.

### Mugs Coffee & Grub in Farmington

Mugs — which, by the way, is a fantastic name — opened in early 2020 and I'm glad to see they managed to stick out the pandemic year. It's located on Orchard Lake Road near the intersection with Grand River Avenue.

Mugs' indoor seating is pretty limited, but it's really friendly to stay for a while. There are plenty of outlets to plug in a device, and it's quiet. Mugs had the best playlist out of the places I visited, too.

The shop gets its beans from Grounds for Change, based in Washington, and Coffee Express Roasting. My drink cost \$5.75 and was great. Mugs also sells tea, breakfast items, desserts, sandwiches and soup.

The gal who made my latte also gave pretty in-depth coffee advice regarding pour overs vs. French presses to the patron who came in after me, so they know what they're doing over there.

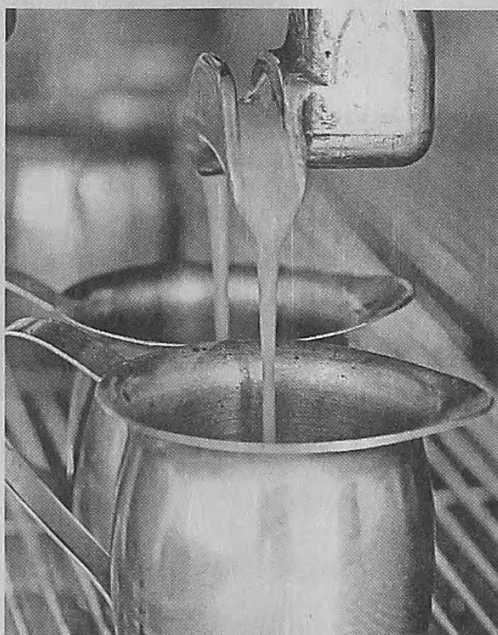
### Coffee + Cream in Livonia

I spend a lot of time in Livonia and have heard nothing but good things about this place. Turns out my sources were right: Coffee + Cream is everything a good coffeehouse should be.



The Plymouth Coffee Bean Co. provides customers with a couple rooms in their shop to spread out and enjoy their drinks.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Some liquid espresso is prepped for an iced coffee at Farmhouse Coffee shop in Farmington Hills.

This place is on the corner of Hix and Joy roads near Livonia's border with Westland. My latte cost \$4.64 and had a nutty taste, more than I can usually expect from almond milk, which I really liked. The shop also sells tea, pastries, smoothies and ice cream.

Coffee + Cream has a bunch of indoor seating along with a large outdoor patio.

Though it was busy when I stopped by, I had no problem finding somewhere to sit. This place happens to have a lot of windows, and I really enjoyed all the natural light spilling in.

My favorite thing about this place, however, was the staff knew so many customers by their orders and names. It seems since opening in 2018, Coffee + Cream has acquired a contingent of loyal regulars.

### Farmhouse Coffee & Ice Cream in Farmington Hills

Alright, look: All the places on this list make a great latte.

That said, Farmhouse Coffee's latte was my favorite. It was sweet without tasting like dessert and only put me back \$4.77. Not only was it great, it's one of the cheaper options on this list.

Farmhouse is on 12 Mile Road near the intersection with Orchard Lake. It's right across the street from The Hawk, formerly Harrison High School. Aside from coffee, Farmhouse also sells tea, ice cream, pastries and sandwiches.

Everyone else who stopped in while I was there was either studying or working, and I agree this is a good spot to do that. The music was quiet and the walls are yellow, which makes the place really bright.

Like Coffee + Cream, Farmhouse's staff knew a number of customers by their names and/or orders — always a good sign.

### Tapped Coffee and Craft Beverages in Canton

Tapped opened about a year ago at 39481 Joy Road near Canton's border with Westland.

Tapped's schtick is that all its drinks come from taps and made with nitrogen infusion, which makes for smoother coffee. They also make their own soda and baked doughnuts, which is super cool.

This was the most affordable latte at \$4.62 and was, you guessed it, great. Tapped also sells tea, sandwiches, French bread pizza and a variety of side items like potato wedges and vegan chili.

The seating in here is pretty limited, but is perfect for working or studying. Tapped's bar-style seating faces its front window and there are outlets near each seat. If your laptop is like mine and can barely hold a two-hour charge, you don't need to worry at Tapped.

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

# How are Plymouth-Canton building projects going as school year nears?

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The sparkling new ninja obstacle course installed on the Hulsing Elementary School playground in Canton is challenging, but nothing compared to the hurdles the school district's team of construction and design firms have been forced to clear this summer.

Since 2020 bond-funded major renovation work began in mid-April on four Plymouth-Canton Community Schools elementary schools, a quartet of challenges — the COVID-19 pandemic, labor and material shortages, and horrendous weather patterns — have forced construction and design teams to be nimble and flexible.

Promising news is emerging as the first day of the 2021-22 school year (Sept. 7) draws rapidly closer.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Director of Operations Tim Gruscynski said construction projects — many related to districtwide equity and safety — on Hulsing, Field, Eriksson and Dodson elementary schools are on schedule and under budget.

"It's been a collaborative effort between the district, McCarthy & Smith (the firm overseeing the construction projects) and the contractors to get the work done in the most safe and efficient manner possible," Gruscynski said.

"With the labor and materials shortages, COVID and the weather, there have been day-to-day challenges, but we've been able to battle through it all," McCarthy & Smith Project Manager Brian Gesaman said. "It's a different world now getting people to come to work compared to a couple years ago. We appreciate our contractors' commitment."

"We don't just want anybody doing this work; we want good people. Every day we're making phone calls to make sure we have the necessary staff to do the job."

Gruscynski assured Plymouth-Canton families that students will not face any major inconveniences related to the construction.



Paving on parking lot and student drop-off areas in front of Eriksson Elementary School is expected to be completed before the first day of school Sept. 7. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"I will say, though, that due to supply-chain issues, new furniture for each of the schools will probably not be delivered until October," he added. "The existing furniture will be used until the new furniture arrives."

Repaving the drop-off loops and parking lots at Field, Hulsing and Eriksson were nearing completion Aug. 26 and — barring an extended series of rainstorms — would be ready for Sept. 7, Gruscynski said. Dodson's repaving project was completed earlier this summer.

Student drop-off loops at Field and Eriksson were extended by 150 feet to help alleviate a problem that has been brewing for the past several years.

"Years ago, most elementary students would either walk to school or ride a bus," Gruscynski said. "Now, a larger

percentage of kids are being dropped off by their parents. This became problematic at Field and Eriksson because the line of cars at drop-off and pick-up times would back up onto Haggerty Road.

"As part of the parking redesign, we extended the loop so we can get more cars off Haggerty and create a safer situation. Parents will follow the same path they did the last day of school in June, it will just be a longer loop."

A major component of the summer construction projects was the addition of separate gymnasiums at Field, Hulsing and Eriksson, which have utilized one room for both a gymnasium and cafeteria since they were built in the mid-1970s.

Construction on the new gyms will not be completed until January 2022,

which is the timeline mapped out in the original plans.

The main office in each of the triplet schools has been relocated from the center of the building to the front for security reasons, Gruscynski said.

"With the old design, people would walk to the main office unaccompanied," Gruscynski said. "Moving the main office to the front of the school will be a definite security upgrade."

The schools' playground equipment has been upgraded with an emphasis on accessibility for all students.

The most significant project at Dodson is the addition of four new classrooms to meet the growing student population in southwest Canton, Gruscynski noted. Originally scheduled to be finished by Thanksgiving, the classroom additions should be ready for instruction sometime in October or early November, the construction managers said.

The school district sought input from as many stakeholders as possible when it came to prioritizing which projects would see work first, Gruscynski said.

"We've received input from parents, teachers, students, principals — the people who are going to be using the facilities on a daily basis," he said. "In normal times, we would have been able to meet in-person, but we had to shift to Zoom because of COVID. We still had up to 20 people in our meetings early on."

Gruscynski revealed that the next phase of bond projects will include the construction of a natatorium at Plymouth High School — the only one of the three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high schools without its own swimming pool — and a major upgrading of Salem High School's performing arts theater.

The natatorium is expected to be completed in late 2023 or early 2024, Gesaman said.

Detailed bond project updates can be found on the district's website.

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

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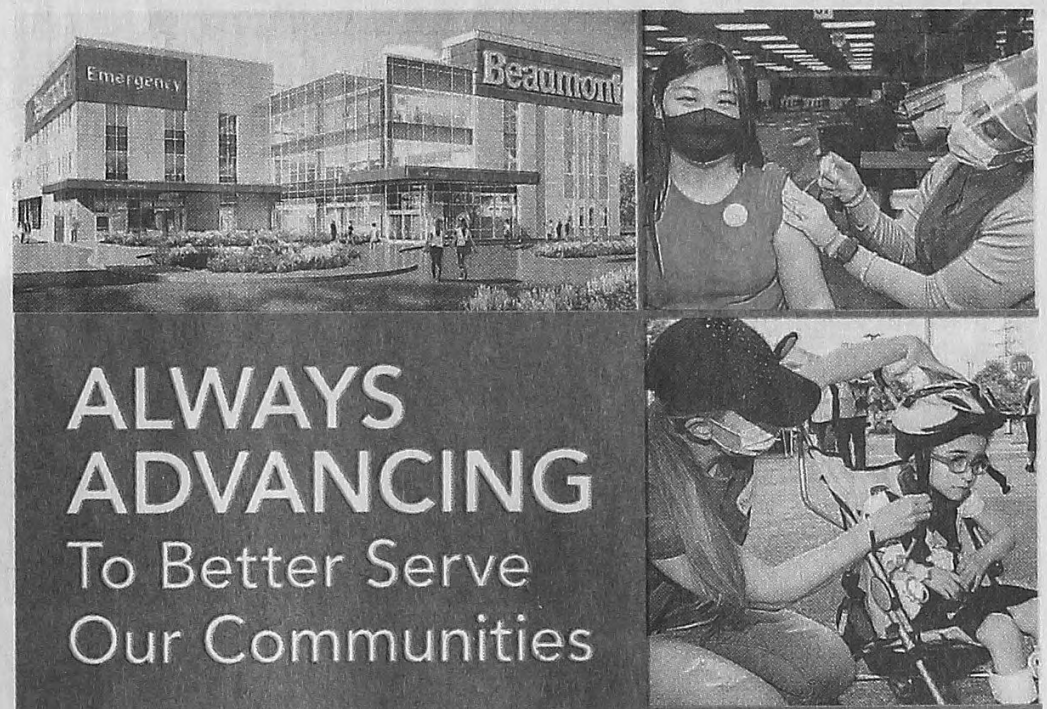


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# Beaumont

# Obituaries

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## James Robert Martin

**BELLEVILLE** - James Robert Martin, age 59 of Belleville, MI passed away 18 August 2021 at his home. Jim was born in 1962 to Glen and Theresa (Zarow) Martin. After graduating from Canton High School, Jim proudly served in the Navy before going to work in the IT department of various companies, including the University of Michigan, Lexmark, and Brother. Jim was a lifelong Michigan Wolverine fan, an avid golfer, and loved to cook.



He is preceded in death by his wife Bonnie (Sparrow), father Glen, and brother Mark. He is survived by his daughters Anjali and Meera Martin, stepson Geoffrey Landis, mother Theresa, aunts Mary Ann (George) Lazich and Barbara (Andrew) Zarow, brothers Michael, David, Patrick (Melanie), and Daniel, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim's memory will be honored during a memorial service on 17 September 2021 at 11 am held at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 701 Church Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

## David Eugene Rekuc

**LIVONIA** - David Eugene Rekuc was born June 30, 1952 and passed away on August 28, 2021 at the age of 69. Beloved husband of Sandra (Baker) Rekuc for 42 wonderful years. Loving father of Carla (Brian) Mackey, Krystyna Rekuc and Jennifer (Robert) Dixon. Cherished grandfather of Molly Mackey, Emma Mackey and Evelyn Dixon. Dear brother of Dennis (Karyn) Rekuc, Tom (Sharon) Rekuc and Tim (Treacy) Rekuc. He is preceded in death by his parents; Eugene and Eleanor (Praizner) Rekuc. Dave worked for many years at McDonald Ford in Northville, served as a past president for Council 54 the of Polish National Alliance and Northville Rotary. He has also been a long time member at St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth and Plymouth Knights of Columbus. Services were held through Harry J Will Funeral Home in Livonia.



Harry J Will Funeral Homes

Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy.

-Inuit saying

## Margaret Binder

Margaret Binder passed on August 23, 2021 at the age of 101.

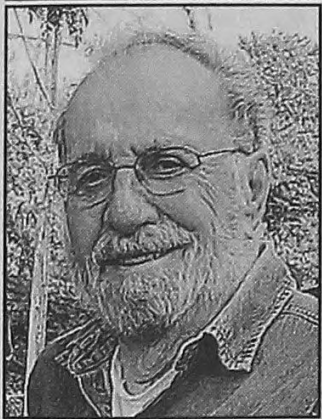
Preceded in death by her husband of 52 years John Binder, daughter Margie Chaffin, her parents Paul and Theresa Putz, brother Paul and sister Edith Walter. She is survived by her two sons John (Jackie) and Kenneth (Maria), nine grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.



Margaret was born in the Delray section of Detroit, later moved to Lincoln Park and graduated from St Henry's high school. After raising three children in Detroit she began a second career at the Wayne State University library. A fifty year resident of Farmington Hills she enjoyed family gatherings and socializing with friends throughout her life. Margaret enjoyed volunteer work, traveling and was an avid bridge player until losing some of her sight at age 97. She led a faithful, devoted and loving life. We were blessed to have her in our lives.

A memorial service will be held at Our Lady of Sorrows church, 23815 Power Rd., Farmington, Monday, September 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM with visitation starting at 09:30 AM.

Please share a memory of Margaret on her Tribute Wall at [www.cremationmichigan.com](http://www.cremationmichigan.com).



## William F. Breslin

William F. Breslin, 83, passed away on August 17, 2021. William is survived by his wife Carole Breslin, 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandson. A small family service was held on Friday, August 27, 2021 at Glen Eden Memorial Park. Memorial Donations in memory of William may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. [www.manns-funeralhome.com](http://www.manns-funeralhome.com)



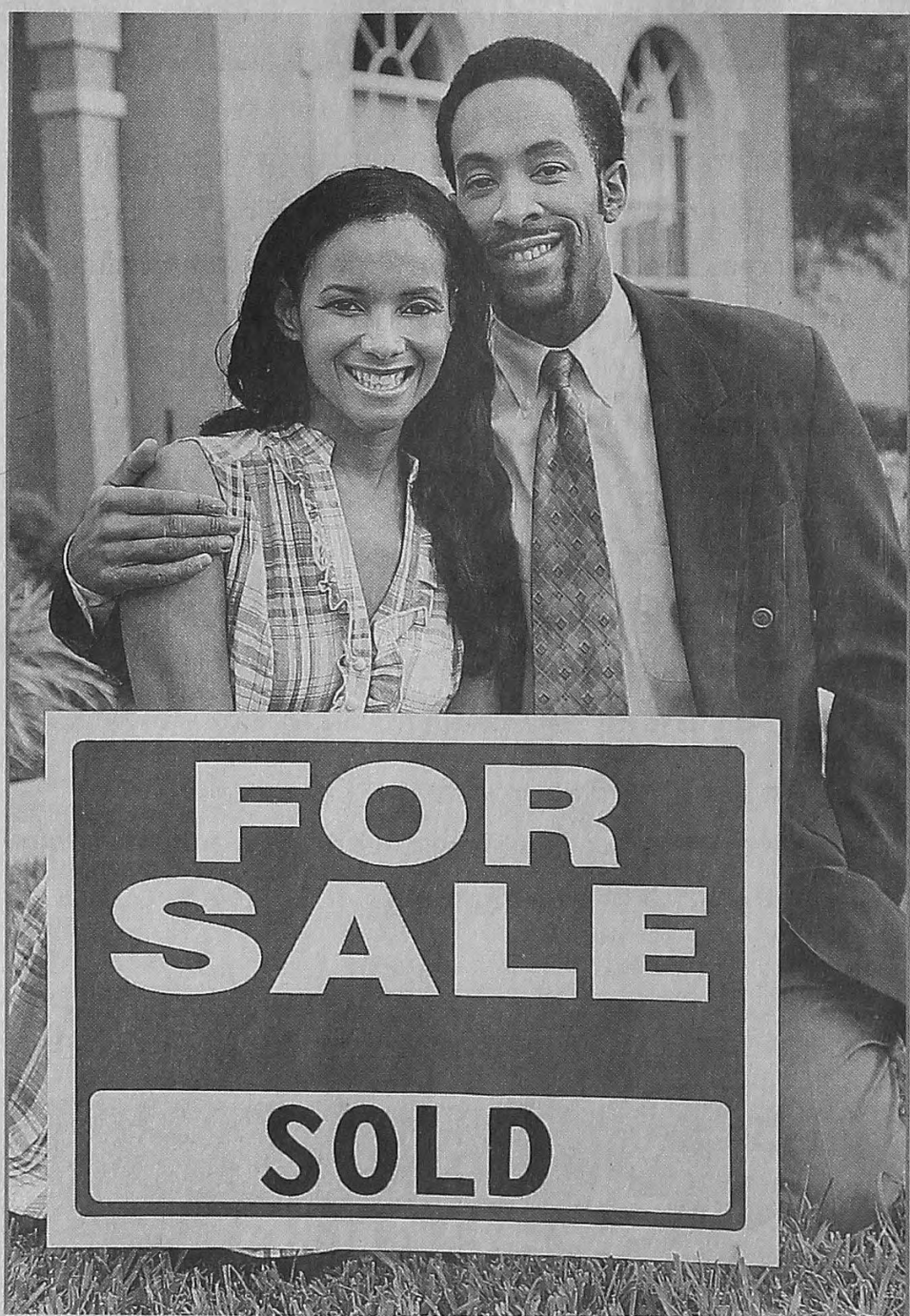
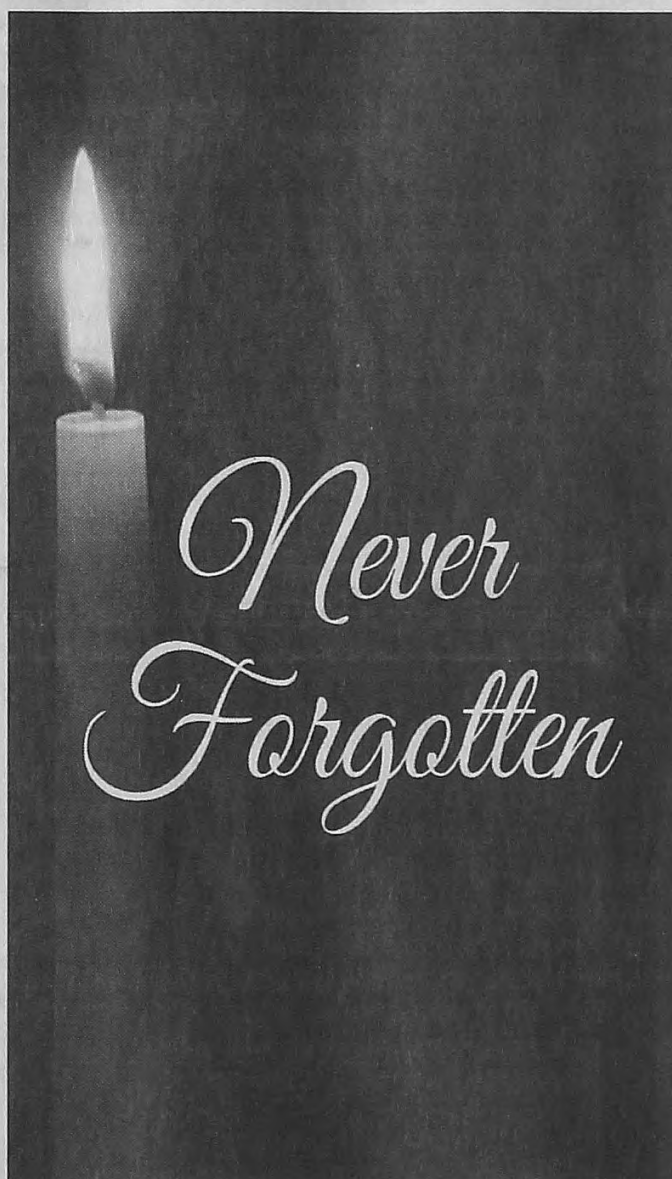
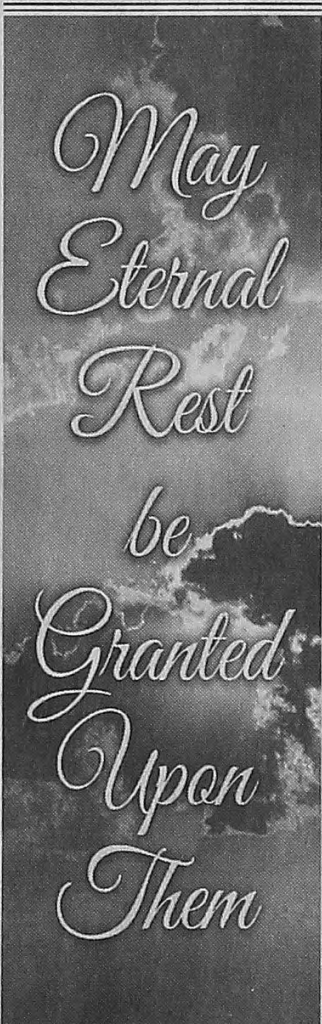
## Jean Elizabeth Smith

**REDFORD** - Jean Elizabeth Smith passed away June 14, 2021 at the age of 100 after suffering a fall. She was the beloved mother of David (Sylvia) Smith, mother-in-law of John Henkels, and is also survived by 6 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Paul Smith (1997) and daughter Elizabeth Henkels (2018).



## Don Beavis

**JACKSON** - Age 90. Beloved husband of the late Helen and the late Kathryn. Dear father of Brenda (Lennie) Kruszewski, Sandra Noonan and Steven. Devoted Grandfather of Jimmy Frye, Sarah (Josh) Kaser, Addison (Kate), Lynsey (Brian) Goodwin, Alyssa Pearce, and Kaitlyn Noonan. Treasured great grandfather of 6 and 1 on the way. Dear brother of Muriel Benson and brother-in-law of Lois Chowning, Kay Wagner, Larry Benson and the late Iola Zick. Funeral Services were held. [www.santeiufuneralhome.com](http://www.santeiufuneralhome.com)



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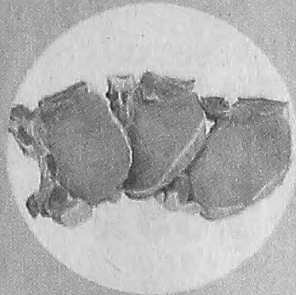
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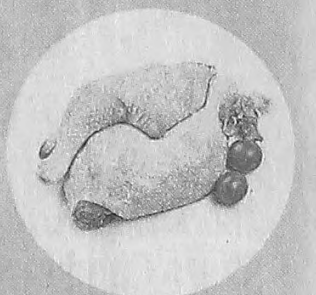
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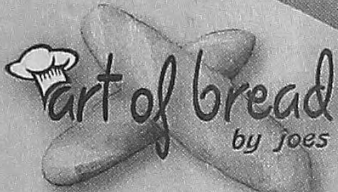
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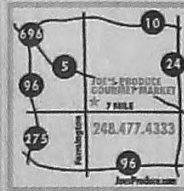
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## PASTRY

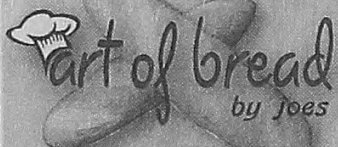
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# SPORTS

## Northville begins KLAA slate

Eyes already set on Battle Creek

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Juliana Imbuzerio's cheering section was a bit louder than usual.

As the Northville senior setter prepared for the Aug. 31 KLAA opener, a sign passed from the parents to the

small student section in the middle of the wooden bleachers at Livonia Churchill High School with the words, "Happy Birthday Jul!" written on white poster board. At the Mustangs' first set break, that section led the crowd in the "Happy Birthday" song, something Imbuzerio responded to with a bow.

But on this birthday, Imbuzerio got something that she's extremely excited about: a reason to hope.

"This is our first game — and I know we have so much room for improvement

— but we are so strong already," Imbuzerio said, helping Northville to a three-set sweep of Livonia Churchill on the road, 25-12, 25-8 and 25-7.

This excitement was what brought Sarah Lindstrom to Northville in the first place.

The first-year head coach knew some of the Mustang volleyball players from the club circuit, also knowing the expectation of the sport at Northville, having graduated from Novi.

It was the depth of talent and the

depth of potential that made Lindstrom sign on to lead the Mustangs in May, replacing Rick VanDerVeer after his two seasons in the post.

"They have definitely bought into the type of coaching that we coach, which sometimes can be hard as a coach even though some of them knew me before," Lindstrom said. "But I see this team having the highest ceiling of any team we have seen this year. We're very

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 2B



Salem junior Isabell Kulick started 2021 with a first-place finish at the Lamplighter Invite COURTESY OF TROY KULICK

## Isabell Kulick leads Salem cross country as a junior

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Dave Gerlach had to hear about Isabell Kulick from Salem cross country's captains.

The Rocks head coach leaves many of

the summer runs to his team leaders, laying everything out for them in advance. About a week or two into training ahead of the 2019 season, Gerlach heard about this freshman finding her way into the top pack.

Kulick didn't know what to expect.

With so few freshmen on the team when she joined, she convinced herself to keep up with those third- and fourth-year returners, something that became easier as the summer went on, which shocked Gerlach continually.

"(I was) a bit surprised that some-

body that young would all of a sudden be like... no fear, type of thing and just come right in," the head coach said. "I knew she was decent in middle school. She wasn't a superstar, but she was de-

See KULICK, Page 3B

## Catholic Central soccer looks to follow up 2020 state title with another

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Detroit Catholic Central head soccer coach Gene Pulice has always been focused on his team's culture.

To him, it's never been stagnant. It's always grown, evolving since he took the position 10 seasons ago. And it's not even about soccer. Pulice feels it's about the belief that players can grow together into one strong unit.

The Shamrocks are one unit that's been to the mountaintop.

"We have a bit of swag to us. And it's

OK," Pulice said, leading a team that's coming off an undefeated 2020 season and the program's second Division 1 state title in four years.

"You have to be confident in who you are and know who you are."

But while CC soccer remains at that peak heading into the 2021 season, Pulice knows that makes his team easier to spot.

Each game won, he said, leads to a bigger target, a bigger bullseye. It's something Salem and Canton have already taken advantage of in 2021, beating the Shamrocks in the final two

games of the season-opening Balconi Tournament: CC's first losses since the 2019 regional final.

And even with the goal of back-to-back state championships in mind, it's not something that has happened often. No team in the division has repeated as state champions since East Kentwood in 2007 and 2008, with seven different teams taking the last 12 championships, including Catholic Central in 2017 and 2020.

To Simon Sawyer, it's almost easier to block out what happened a season ago. But his sophomore season is al-

ready completely different than his first with the Shamrocks.

Sawyer is the first sophomore captain in program history, learning from Catholic Central's eight seniors who graduated after the 2020 season, including captains Jack Leuker and Chad Ewing.

The sophomore defender was a sponge a season ago, learning to play varsity soccer in high-leverage situations. Now he's experienced. He knows what it takes to get to that state title.

See SOCCER, Page 2B

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# Michigan high school football 2021: Week 3 schedule

**Colin Gay**

Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Week 3 of the high school football season is here.

Here's a look at what Hometown Life-area teams have in store for the second week of the regular season.

## Kensington Lakes Activities Association

Livonia Churchill vs. Belleville; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Livonia Franklin at Dearborn; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Livonia Stevenson vs. Westland John Glenn; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Wayne Memorial vs. Dearborn Fordson; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Canton vs. Plymouth; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Northville at Howell; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Novi at Salem; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Brother Rice at U-D Jesuit; 6 p.m., Sept. 10

Detroit Catholic Central vs. Naperville Central (IL); 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Cranbrook Kingswood vs. Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes; 3 p.m., Sept. 11

Milford at Walled Lake Northern; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

South Lyon vs. Walled Lake Central; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

South Lyon East at Waterford Mott; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Lakeland at Walled Lake Western; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Groves at North Farmington; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Seaholm at Rochester; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Bloomfield Hills at Waterford Kettering; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Farmington vs. Troy Athens; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Detroit Country Day vs. Detroit University Prep Science and Math; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

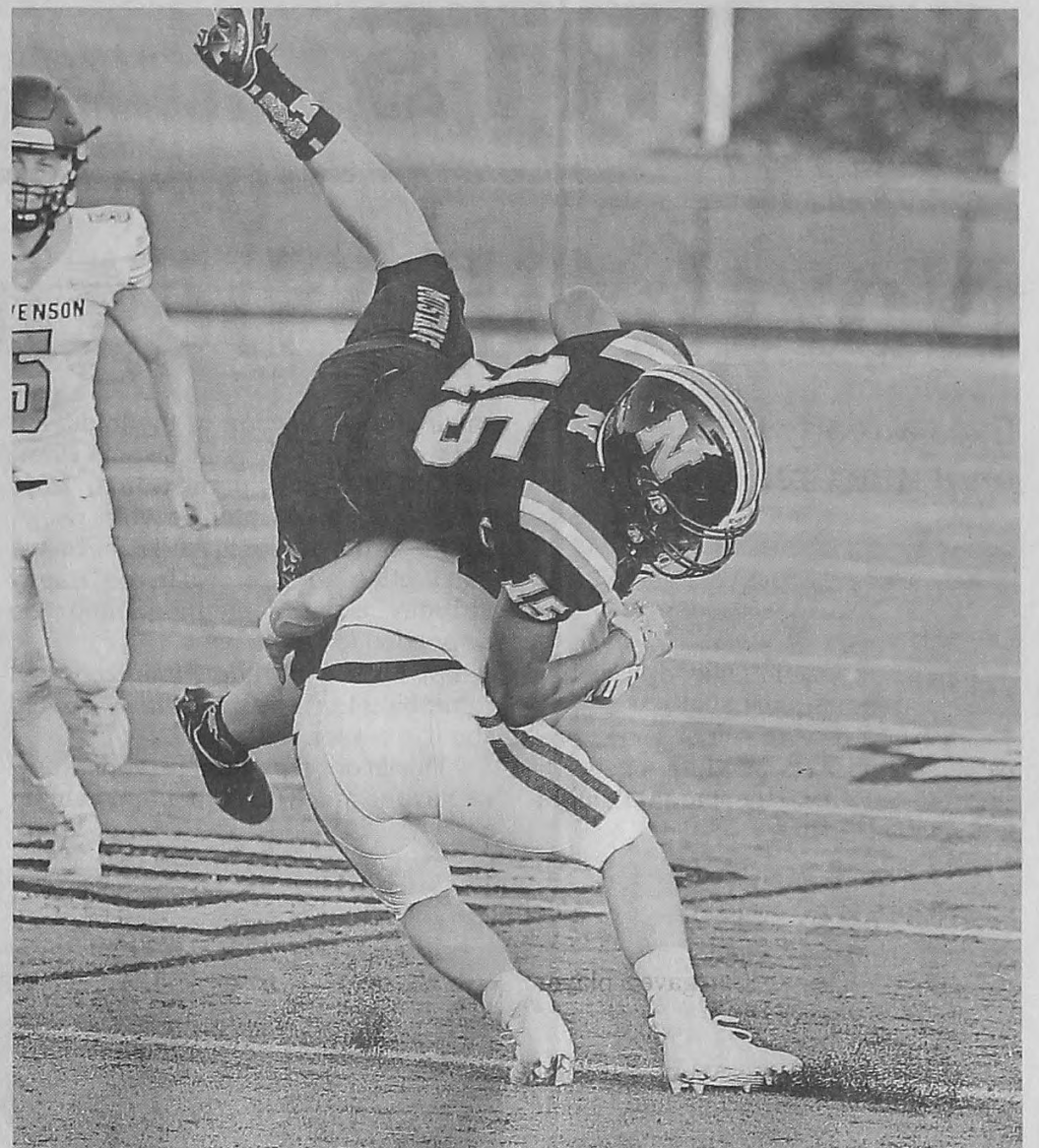
Livonia Clarenceville at Kalamazoo Loy Norrix; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Garden City vs. Dearborn Heights Robichaud; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Redford Thurston at Melvindale; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Redford Union at Romulus; 7 p.m., Sept. 10

Lutheran Westland vs. Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest; 7 p.m., Sept. 10



Northville wide receiver Kai Saunders gets tripped up by a Stevenson defender. COURTESY OF TOM BEAUDOIN

## Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

"We just make sure that they are always game ready and always in the right state of mind," Sawyer said. "When we are warming up, all we are talking about is game tactics and who's going to play where and what we are going to do differently. There's no fooling around and they all have really adapted to that and are understanding that very well."

Sawyer is one of four captains on Pulice's roster, joining senior Vincent Stockton, junior midfielder Drew Pierson — brother Ryan was a captain on the Shamrocks' first state title-winning team — and junior Henry Grybas.

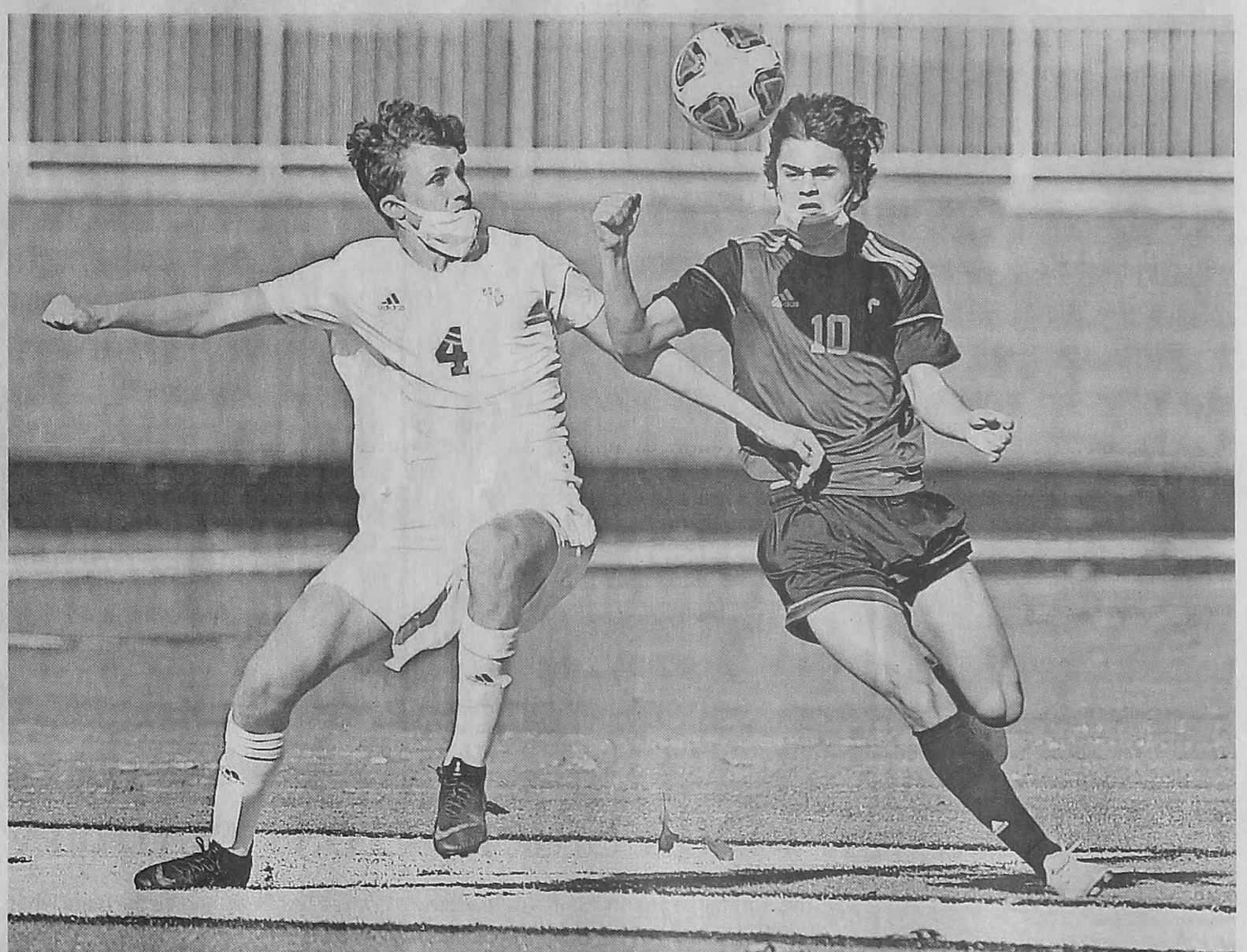
Their job is simple: to be that tangible example for Pulice of the culture he hopes to instill with the players that have only previously seen it from afar.

"They are really, really good people, first and foremost," Pulice said. "They are compassionate, they lead by example not by rule. They believe in the guys and the guys believe in them. They are my go-between."

In time, that culture will grow and engulf those first-year varsity players who are experiencing true CC soccer for the first time, just by following in the footsteps of their leaders who are following the footsteps of the leaders before them.

Pulice knows nothing is given. He remembers 2018, losing in the regional final to Grand Blanc in a quest to repeat. While it's the same atmosphere surrounding the 2021 squad, it's a different team, one that needs to focus on the day-to-day, to get to that overarching goal: that 2021 Division 1 state title.

"You never take any game for granted," Pulice said. "Today you're the hero. Tomorrow, you're not."



CC's Simon Sawyer, left, tries to play a ball in the air as Traverse City West's Colin Blackport does the same. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"This whole thing is you can't rest on last year's wins." Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710.

Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

## Volleyball

Continued from Page 1B

Depth was something that defined the Mustangs' play on the road against the Chargers, using 15 of 18 available players — including four sophomores and two freshmen — in some capacity while also not breaking its offensive momentum: recording four runs of five-straight points or more against the Chargers, including a 12-point swing in the third set.

It's an atmosphere, Lindstrom said, that her players have bought into, pointing to Imbuzerio, the Mustangs' primary setter, as one who holds the team accountable, something the head coach said she relies on.

However, the coaching change has led to a change for Abby Reck. The junior was an middle hitter for the Mustangs a year ago, earning All-American honors in the position at the club level. But Lindstrom needed Reck outside, something she said the junior's responded to well.

"A lot of people think that if you're a hitter, you can just hit in all positions, but it's so not true," Lindstrom said.



Northville volleyball circles up prior to its first KLAAs game of the season against Livonia Churchill. COLINGAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"She's taken on a lot and she was also voted captain this year. She's a huge part of it."

To Lindstrom and to the rest of the

team, it's all about getting to Battle Creek.

It's somewhere Northville felt it should have been last season, losing to

rival Novi in the first round of district play in five sets. It's somewhere Lindstrom has been before, admitting that once you go once, all you want to do is go back.

The Division 1 state semifinals and finals are not something Northville is sweeping under the rug. Instead of a jinx, it's a rallying cry, getting the Mustangs through exhaustion and keeping them from cutting corners.

"We talk about Battle Creek every single day so that when push comes to shove and we are in playoffs, it's not a 'Oh my God, what if?'" Lindstrom said.

Even though it's a long way away, Battle Creek is something Lindstrom, Imbuzerio and the rest of the Northville team speak into existence.

After a dominant road win against Churchill on her birthday, all Imbuzerio could think about is what comes next.

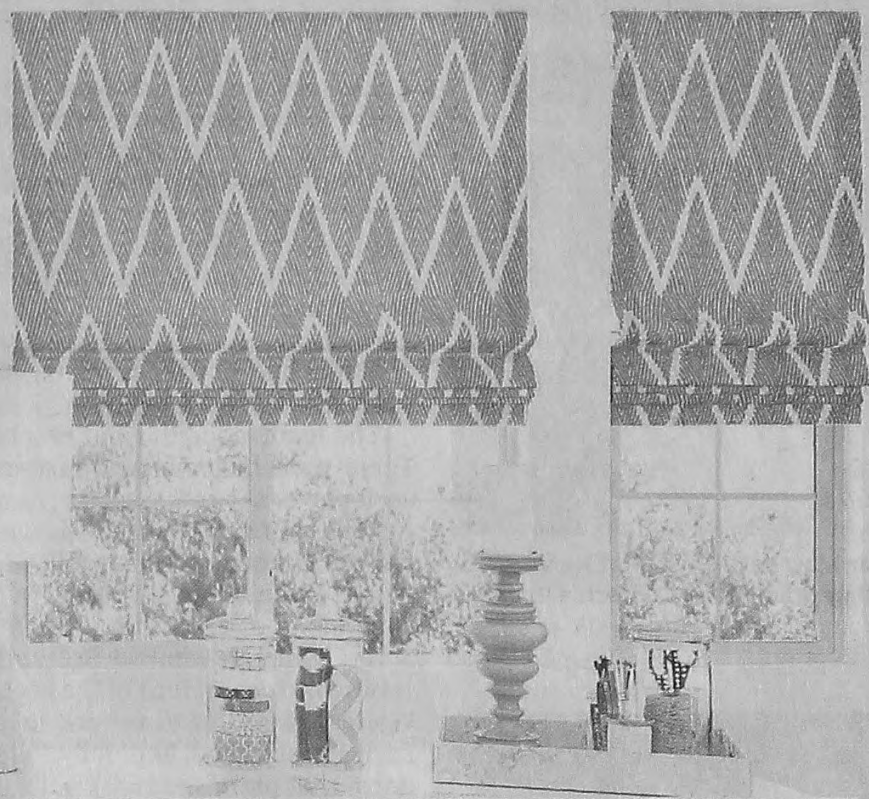
"We are just super strong and excited to improve more because we know we can," Imbuzerio said.

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





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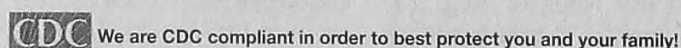
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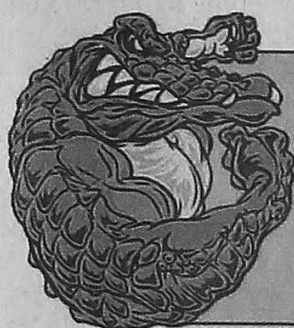
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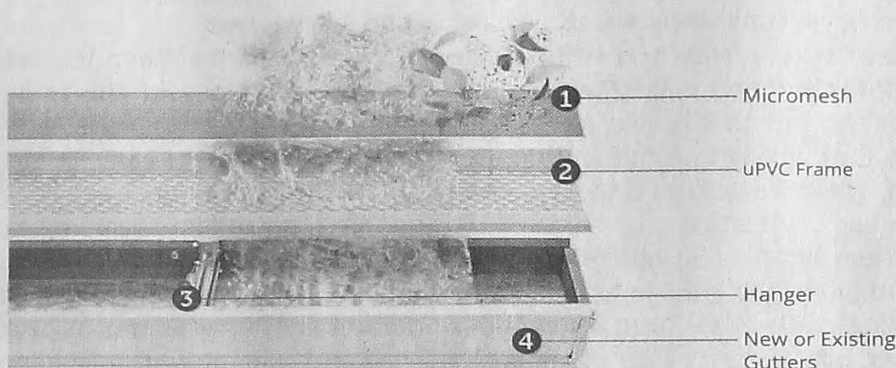
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Plymouth District Library
September 21, 2021
7:30 P.M.
2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

THE MEETING WILL BE OFFERED VIA ZOOM and CONFERENCE CALL AS OPTIONS
Interested persons may access the Conference Call by dialing: 1 651 372 8299

Or Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84949591404
Meeting ID: 849 4959 1404, Passcode: 99536543

Please see agenda on website www.plymouthlibrary.org
The agenda will be posted by September 18, 2021

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 on the following proposed 2022 budget:

Table with 2 columns: Fund Name, Amount. General Fund: \$3,824,400. TOTAL: \$3,824,400.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

The proposed 2022 budget documents are available for public examination at the Plymouth District Library on the main level at the Help Desk during regular Library hours.

Shauna Anderson, Director
Plymouth District Library

The District Library Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon (7) seven days' notice to the Plymouth District Library.

Publish: September 5, 2021

LO-000359944 3x8

Plymouth Canton Community Schools
2020 Bond
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Sealed Bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, BP# HS-1 Salem High School Auditorium Addition and Remodeling, consisting of:

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The Plymouth Canton Community Schools requests Bids for the above-referenced Project. Bids will be received through Building Connected until 10:00 AM on 9.21.21.

- 1. All Bids shall be submitted electronically on or before the Due Date through Building Connected: https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/5ae227ade0d395000fd24541 (McCarthy and Smith Plan Room)
2. For instructions on how to submit a Bid please go to the following link: https://buildingconnected.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360010222793-How-to-submit-your-Bid-through-BuildingConnected-

Bids submitted after the Due Date will not be opened, considered or accepted by the Plymouth Canton Community Schools

Faxed and/or E-mail Bids will not be accepted by the Owner or Board of Education.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud and tabulated, beginning at approx. 10:00 AM on 9.21.21. Bid opening will be publicly conducted via a Zoom meeting.

For access to the Zoom Meeting, please go to the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87652563110

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

- 102: Site Excavation/Utilities and Asphalt Paving
103: Selective Demolition
104: Concrete Footings & Foundations
105: Interior Concrete Flat Work
106: Masonry
107: Steel
108: Carpentry / General Trades
109: Roofing / Sheetmetal
110: Aluminum Entrances / Storefront / Glass & Glazing
111: Caulking
112: Metal Stud / Drywall
113: Acoustical Treatments
114: Hard Tile
115: Painting
116: Carpet / Resilient Tile Flooring
117: Toilet Partitions
118: Operable Partitions
119: Window Treatments
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126: HVAC
127: Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture 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; the Builder's Exchange, Lansing and Washtenaw Contractors Association.

Bidding Documents will be available beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2021 via Building Connected.

There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting on Wednesday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m. at Meeting Location, located at 46181 Joy Rd, Canton, MI. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the Project Bidding 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 following sworn and notarized statements:
- Familial Disclosure Affidavit (Section 004205)
- Iran Linked Business Affidavit (Section 004210)
- Criminal Background Check Affidavit (Section 004220)
The Board of Education will not accept a Bid that does not include these sworn and notarized disclosure statements.

Bids shall be submitted electronically into Building Connected. Bid security by a quality surety in the form of a Bid bond, cashier check, or certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Bid shall be submitted with each Bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the Bid is accepted, the Plymouth Canton Community School District, is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid or the failure of the Bidder to enter into a Contract for performance. All cashier's checks must be scanned and submitted electronically through Building Connected by the Due Date and be delivered to 454 South Harvey St Plymouth MI 48170 to the attention of Deborah J Piesz, within 48 hours of the Due Date. The School District will not consider a Bid that does not include a Bid security. 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.

The School District reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bids, either in whole or in part, to waive any informalities and irregularities therein, or to award the Contract to other than the Bidder (s) submitting the best financial Bid (low Bidder), in its sole and absolute discretion.

END OF SECTION

Publish: August 29 & September 5, 9, 12 & 16, 2021

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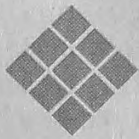






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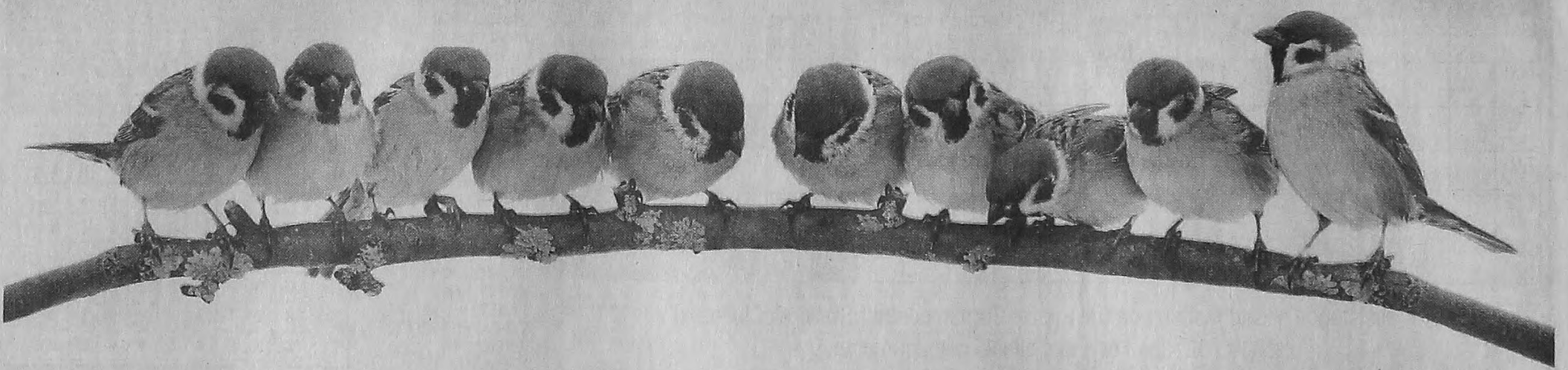
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