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'It's creepy as can be'



A mad scientist greets visitors to his examination room at the Eloise Asylum Haunted Mansion. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Haunted house opens at Eloise property in Westland

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Perhaps it was fitting it poured rain during the naming of Westland's newest street. Especially when it was named after rock star Alice Cooper. The Detroit native was on hand in western Wayne County Sept. 23 for a brief ceremony celebrating his legacy and marking the opening of a brand-new attraction at one of Westland's most iconic locations.

The roadway leading through the Eloise property along Michigan Avenue between Henry Ruff and Merriam now has a new name: Alice Cooper Court. The roadway through the property — which already comes up as Alice Cooper Courton Google Maps — was named during a ceremony on the property emceed by Jim O'Brien, morning radio show host at WCSX-FM, which also served as a preview to a new haunted attraction opening in the property's Kay Beard Building this Oc-

tober. Asked about his thoughts of the building, the rocker gave an answer most would expect. "It's creepy as can be," he said to the crowd gathered under a tent at the dedication. "I hope they have a suite in there for me, an Alice Cooper suite." The festivities at the site were perhaps the most lively the Eloise property has been in many years. The former asylum and mental hospital essential-

See HAUNTED, Page 2A

Farmington library board, director agree to \$90,000 severance deal

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Nearly five months after the Farmington Community Library board put Director Riti Grover on leave, Grover and the library have parted ways. The board unanimously approved a separation agreement with Grover's attorneys during a meeting Sept. 9. Her last day will be Sept. 30. "It took time to do everything the right way," Library Board President Jim White said. Hometown Life obtained the separation agreement through a Freedom of Information Act request. The separation agreement states Grover will receive \$90,000, \$55,000 of which will be paid by the library and \$35,000 of which will be paid by the Michigan Municipal League.

The payment is \$20,000 short of Grover's annual salary of \$110,000, according to her contract of employment. Hometown Life also obtained the contract through a FOIA request.

The agreement also states Grover cannot pursue a lawsuit against the library, no involved party may disclose any details of the separation and Grover may never work at the Farmington library again. Further, the library promised to "disavow" statements made about Grover by the "Restore the Farmington Community Library" Facebook page to any potential employers. Those affiliated with the page have been ardent advocates for Gro-

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Livonia teen heading to international roller sports competition

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Skating is all spins and speed, but he loves those three seconds he spends in the air. Everyone stops talking, time freezes and suspense takes over. "I love jumping; that's the one thing I love the most about skating," said Gene Kalamat, a roller skater from Livonia.

"Humans aren't meant to fly and that's fact. But those three seconds you're in the air are amazing." The skates hit the wood, and the audience has its answer. "You don't know what's going to happen until they land," he said. Kalamat is Michigan's lone representative on USA Roller Sports' team for the 2021 Artistic Skating World Championship in Asuncion, Paraguay. Kalamat qualified for Team USA by

earning a silver and a bronze medal at a national competition in Iowa last month. The world championship runs between Sept. 29 and Oct. 9. The competition also serves as a qualifier for the World Games, an Olympic-level competition happening next year. When he isn't competing, the 19-year-old trains at Riverside Arena in

See ROLLER, Page 2A



Kelley Siegrist, interim director of the Farmington Community Library, mans its reference desk on July 13, 2021. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Haunted

Continued from Page 1A

ly sat vacant for years until new owner John Hambrick brought forth plans last year to bring new life to the site.

Hambrick said a friend was listening to WCSX when they discussed naming a metro Detroit street after Alice Cooper, something the station has done with other classic rockers from the area, including Glenn Frey and Bob Seger. Given the future plans for the Eloise property and its history, he said he contacted the station right away.

"I called in, set it up and the rest was history," Hambrick said. "How appropriate the theme."

The haunted house

The first leg of that renovation includes a new haunted attraction. "Eloise Asylum" will take guests through several floors of the Kay Beard Building with plenty of spooks and haunts to scare visitors over the next month.

The attraction features more than 100 actors on site and plays off the asylum theme, with patients, doctors and others designed to frighten guests during their 40-minute walkthrough.

Jay Kays, the director of operations at the haunted attraction, said they used some of the original elements inside but also built much of the sets to fit the historic nature of the building.

He said the feedback he's received from area residents is that they're excited to see something new to do in the community.

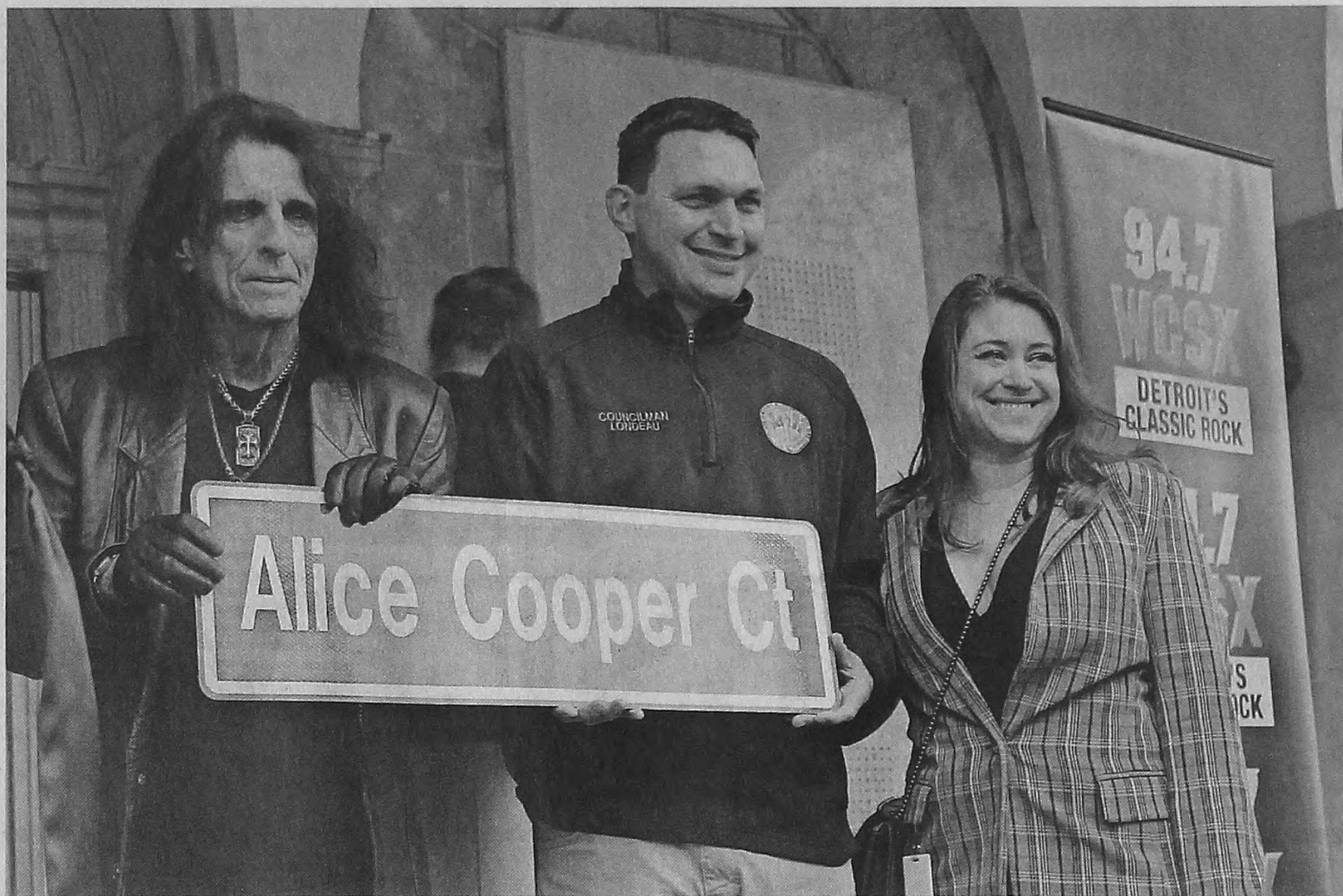
"It's great that it's bringing new entertainment and stuff to do," he said. "It is a multi-year project. Obviously we're really focusing on the haunted house this year, and that's our thing. But further down the line, you'll be back out again for us to show you all the new and innovative things."

Work took several months to complete, said Kays, a Manchester, England, native who has traveled across the United States to help set up similar attractions.

The Eloise Asylum attraction is open on weekends beginning Oct. 1 and running through Nov. 7. Ticket information can be found online at eloiseasylum.com.

Other future development

The haunted attraction is just the first step in revitalizing the property. The Kay Beard Building will also house a themed-hotel in a few years once



Alice Cooper stands on the steps of the Key Beard Building at Eloise with Westland councilman Michael Londeau and the city's economic development director Aubrey Berman. A roadway along the property is now named after the rocker, known for his spooky theatrics. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

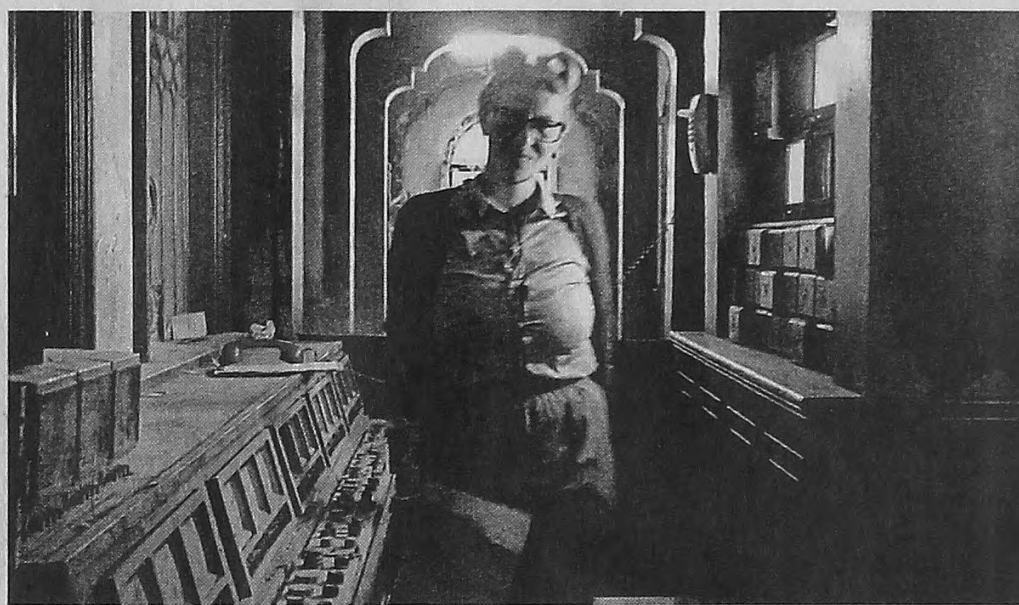
work can begin. A coffee shop and small historical museum is also expected to go in at the old fire building on the property.

The changes to the former asylum were first made public last year when Hambrick presented plans to the Westland Planning Commission.

Eloise served as a poor house when it first existed back in 1839 before it transitioned to medical care. It housed patients with mental illness as well as patients with tuberculosis. It once occupied more than 900 acres in western Wayne County with dozens of buildings and thousands of patients. The facility, which last operated at Wayne County General Hospital, halted operations in 1984. The building has seen some use since, most notably housing some Wayne County employees up until 2016.

Hambrick bought the property from the county back in 2018 for \$1. The city granted some tax credits for the redevelopment of the project earlier this year.

He said he's heard from many in the Wayne/Westland area about the property and is excited to redevelop the



An actor at the intake window for the Eloise Asylum Haunted Mansion greets visitors to the asylum with a menacing smile. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

land and keep Eloise's memory alive for years to come.

"I truly love the landmark they have and my whole idea is to keep Eloise for them," Hambrick said. "I want people to be able to enjoy this property, because I've heard so many stories of my

aunt worked here, my father was here.' "People are very passionate about this property."

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

Roller

Continued from Page 1A

Livonia, a rink on Plymouth Road that's been open for 81 years. Staff there say Kalmat has a kind heart, humble spirit and has dedicated countless hours to being at his best.

Kalmat found his love of roller skating at Riverside Arena. He was born with craniosynostosis, a condition that keeps him from playing high-contact sports, and roller skating ended up being the athletic outlet he found excitement in. The sport is similar to figure skating, but requires more balance manipulation because it's done on four wheels instead of a blade.

"My mom and I used to come to this rink on Wednesday nights just as a mom and son bonding thing," he said. "You know, you've got to spend time with your mother. It just became my thing. I skated around, ran into walls

and I had fun with it."

Kalmat eventually sought private lessons and started competing. His first international competition was the 2019 Artistic Skating World Championship in Barcelona, Spain. There was no 2020 competition because of the pandemic.

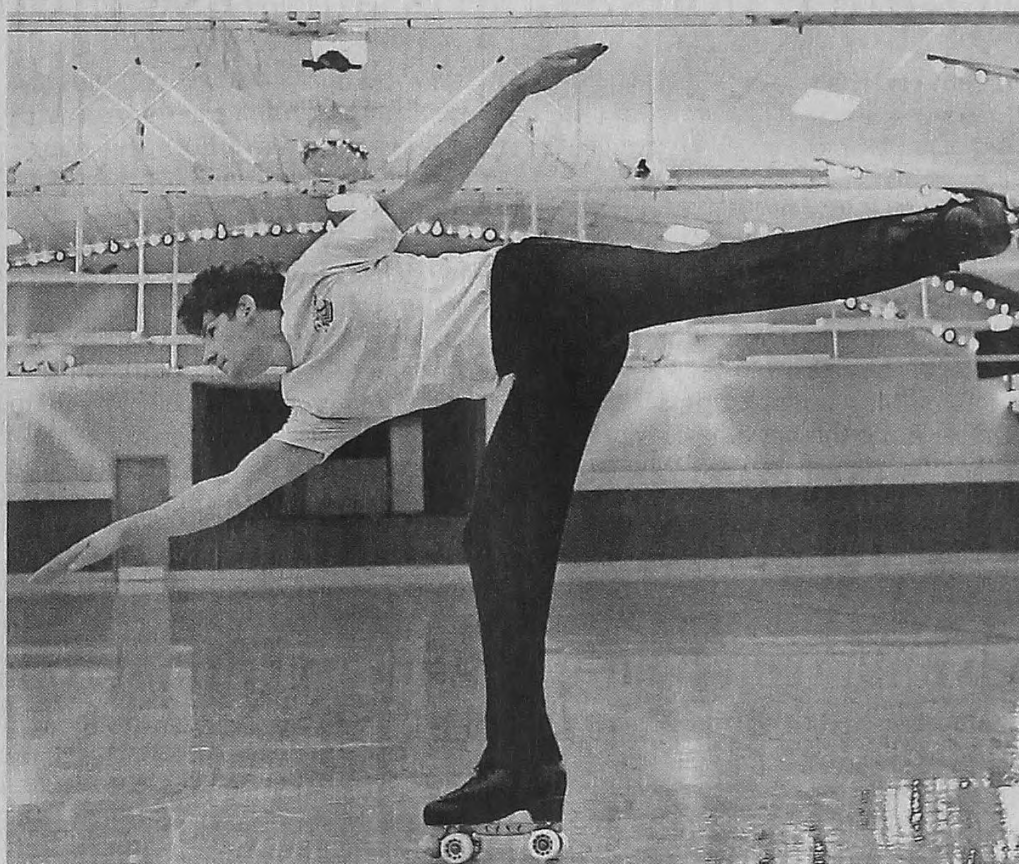
"The experience of being at the world championship was amazing," he said. "The crowd, the environment, the practices were amazing. It was my first international competition and, unfortunately, I let the nerves get to me. But that's part of learning."

Heading to Asuncion, Kalmat has more confidence in his ability to handle the mental hurdles of being on a world stage.

"I've grown a lot and I hope to do better this year," he said. "I'm much more confident because it's not my first time and I know what to expect."

Kalmat is raising money through a GoFundMe called "Help Gene to get to 2021 Worlds" to take some financial burden off his parents. Kalmat is a full-time financial economics student at the University of Detroit Mercy and has a part-time job. Days before the championships start, his GoFundMe was less than \$200 short of its \$6,000 goal.

"It's very expensive to travel internationally and pay for a lot of this stuff," he said. "My parents work really



Gene Kalmat roller skates on Sept. 21, 2021 at Livonia's at Riverside Arena. The 19 year-old will soon head off to Paraguay for the roller skating world championships. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

hard to get me to where I am, and I'm raising money so I don't have to put a major financial strain on them."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley

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

Grover

Continued from Page 1A

ver's dismissal.

The agreement later calls statements posted by the page "defamatory" of Grover's character.

Grover, who started working at the library in early 2020, drew criticism from community members for how she managed the library's staff and finances. In April, the board took a 4-3 "no confidence" vote in Grover before putting her on leave. That means she was on paid leave for six months before

officially leaving the position.

The board has no immediate plans to search for Grover's replacement. Kelly Siegrist, who has been interim director since April, will continue to lead the library until a replacement is found.

"Personally, I am happy with Kelley Siegrist and I think she's done a great job," White said. "But, a search is something we have to work on."

Between Grover's exit and former board member Bill Largent's recent resignation, White hopes the library board can earn back the trust of Farmington and Farmington Hills residents in its operation of one of the community's most beloved services.

However, White said the board's work on that front is far from over.

"There are still frustrations with the transparency of the board and other issues," he said. "We have to address that. I do believe we've crossed a major hurdle and I hope the staff feels more comfortable, the community feels more comfortable and it's a happier environment. I hope the board can begin a new era."

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

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U.S. Secretary of Education pays visit to Plymouth High School

Ed Wright

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The sharply-dressed, masked-up man working behind the counter at the Plymouth High School student-run store Friday morning wasn't your average visitor.

It was U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, who was beginning a 90-minute hands-on tour of the school to increase his understanding of how in-person learning is returning to classrooms across the country following the year-long-plus COVID-19-fueled closure of K-12 schools beginning in March 2020.

In addition to running the store cash register, Cardona participated in a fiery chemistry experiment, listened to the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park band perform a flawless rendition of the University of Michigan fight song and mingled with students and staff as if he was simply a curious visitor, not the most powerful man in United States education.

"This school is pretty amazing," Cardona said. "The excitement about being back, you could feel it. There's a sign inside that says, 'The Little Things Matter'. Whether it was stopping by the school store and giving out Otis Spunkmeyer cookies to high school students getting ready for a pep rally — kids just being teenagers ... acting silly, giggling; they're just kids thankful to be together again.

"What an awesome place. Just about everything about being a teenager was put on pause for 18 months. Now they're back along with a feeling of optimism and hope."

Cardona's visit to Plymouth High School was part of his "Return to School Road Trip," a bus tour to showcase students and communities safely returning to in-person learning. In addition to Canton, the tour stopped in places like Chicago; South Bend, Indiana; Toledo, Ohio; and Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

One 20-year administrator in the school district said Cardona's visit was the first of its kind in recent memory from a federal government cabinet position holder.

Cardona, who was sworn in as the 12th Secretary of Education on March 12, 2021, said being the father of two high school-aged children has been a



U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona poses with local lawmakers and Plymouth High School and Plymouth-Canton Schools administrators. ED WRIGHT | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

benefit as he tackles a momentous job.

"Being a father has helped me stay laser-focused on removing the barriers to schools because the way adolescents develop, socialization and peer interaction is critical to brain development and overall growth," he said.

"Having children of my own who are going through this helps give me perspective about what kids need now."

Cardona said he was especially impressed by one unique offering Plymouth-Canton students can embrace.

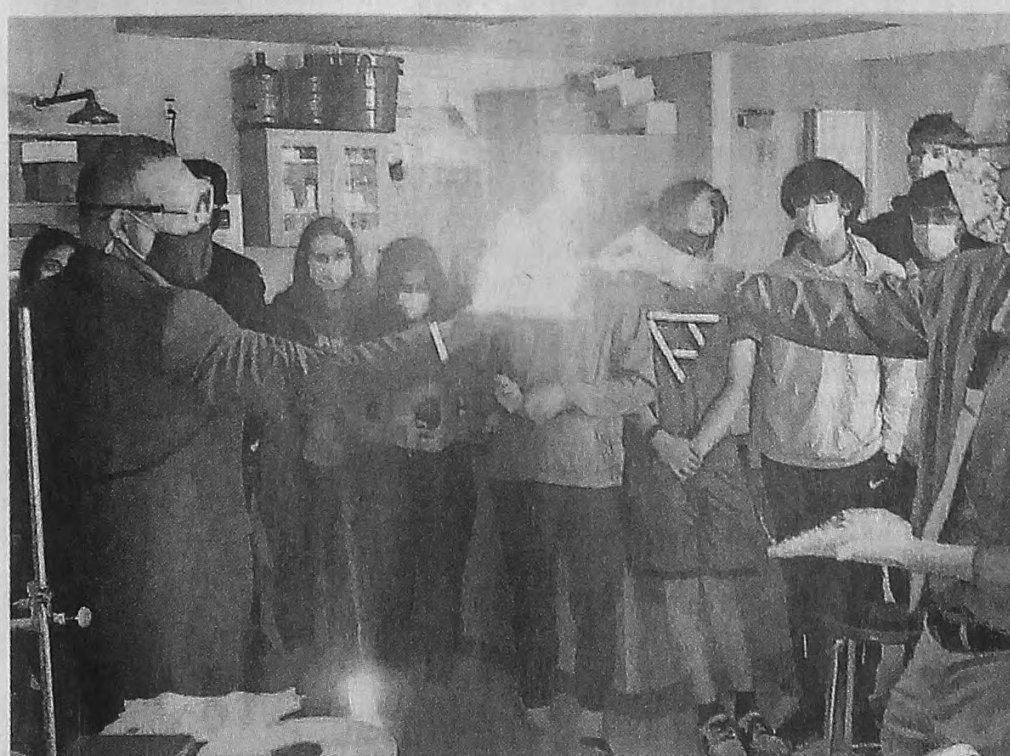
"I like that students can block off part of their schedule for social/emotional time," he said. "That's something I'd love to see other school districts across the country integrate into their planning."

Plymouth senior Luke Stepek, the manager of the school store, said Cardona's visit was a refreshing experience for him and his peers.

"I thought it was really cool that he not only wanted to meet us and talk to us, but he wanted to work at the store too for a little while," Stepek said. "It's nice to know a man with his position cares about students at Plymouth High School."

Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Monica Merritt said it was a "special day" for the school district.

"It really brings a lot of joy and inspiration to PCCS when a person of Secre-



U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona participates in a chemistry experiment with Plymouth High School teacher Scott Milam. COURTESY OF PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOLS

tary Cardona's stature takes time out to visit one of our schools and spend time with our students," Merritt said. "It gives the kids a feeling of respect and value ... and it was easy to see how much

they appreciated his visit." Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

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Wayne moves to dismiss federal lawsuits claiming favoritism, retaliation

Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

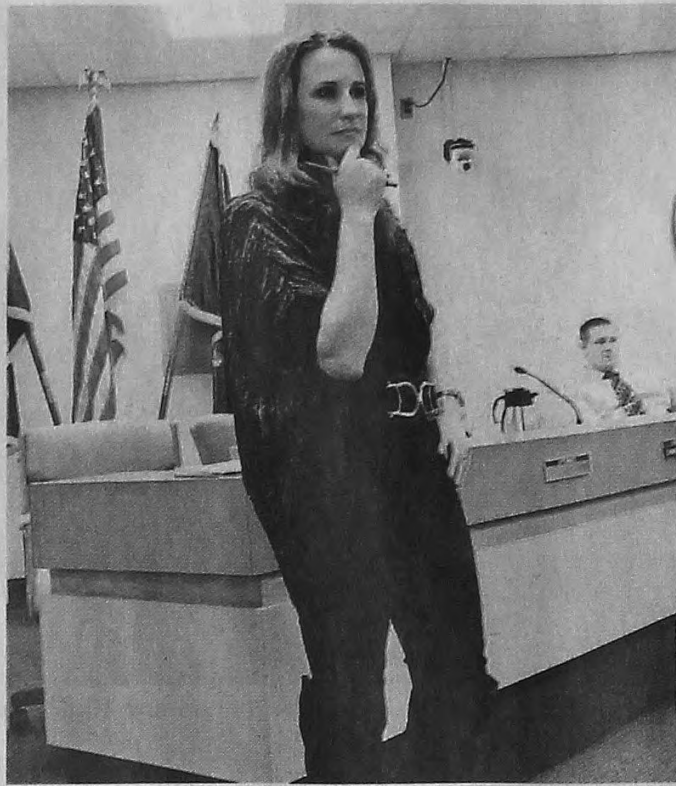
A divisive time for Wayne City Hall has resulted in two federal lawsuits that Mayor John Rhaesa is hoping to see dismissed.

"These lawsuits are completely without factual or legal merit and will be aggressively defended," Rhaesa said. "As it pertains to both cases, the city looks forward to the exoneration of the city and its hard-working employees as it relates to both matters."

Wayne Police Officer Abraham Hughes, honored for being 2015's Wayne Police of the Year, and Mark Blackwell, a City Hall critic, filed their suits because they say they were wrongly treated as the city worked to replace its departing police chief in 2018 and 2019.

Hughes said he should have been chosen as police chief over current Chief Ryan Strong.

"Plaintiff was deprived of the benefit of his having outscored Acting Chief Strong for the position of Chief of Police, was deprived of the pro-



Both lawsuits filed against the city accuse Wayne City Manager Lisa Nocerini of misconduct. LEANNE ROGERS

motion he had rightfully earned, suffered economic injury, suffered, mental stress, suffered emotional upset, and suffered outrage and indignity, each of which he continues to suffer."

Blackwell said Wayne police should never have helped get him charged with misdemeanor offenses of stalking and disturbing the peace. A

Wayne district judge found him not guilty of both.

Their lawsuits, filed over the summer and recently receiving city responses, dredge up politics that were happening as far back as 2018, when former Police Chief Alan Maciag was leaving for Northville and residents were working to recall city council members.

Defendants include the Wayne City Council, along with Rhaesa, Strong, City Manager Lisa Nocerini and others.

Allegations overlap with Blackwell appearing in Hughes' suit and Hughes appearing in Blackwell's suit. They both say Nocerini wrongfully accused Blackwell of stalking and she was trying to silence his criticism.

"The reason Blackwell



Wayne Mayor John Rhaesa speaks at the ground-breaking for a veterans' memorial on June 16, 2020. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

was charged with a crime was because of Defendants' intent to retaliate against him for the exercise of his constitutional rights to advocate for the termination of Nocerini," Blackwell's attorney said in his suit. "Defendants' adverse actions violated Blackwell's clearly established First and Fourteenth Amendment rights, and were unlawful in light of clearly established law."

Nocerini declined to comment, and Rhaesa addressed Hughes' claims by sharing an April 2021 letter from EMPCO, Inc., which assisted in the chief testing process.

According to the letter, Strong outscored Hughes. Hughes claimed in his lawsuit that someone told him he received the higher score.

"The reckless claims in



Wayne Police Department Chief Ryan Strong. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

these lawsuits impugning the city, my department, and me are entirely false and I am confident that we will be vindicated," Strong said.

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

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Work Preserving 'part of my heart'



Michigan Central construction manager Richard Bardelli, left, and project manager Gary Marshall, right, guide Joe England for a tour inside of the Michigan Central Station in Detroit on Saturday. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

WWII vet relishes tour of Michigan Central Station

Clara Hendrickson
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The last time Joe England walked the halls of Michigan Central Station, it was 1945. His train had just steamed into the station, returning him safely from World War II.

More than 75 years later, England on Saturday found himself standing in the train hall for a different kind of homecoming. Wearing a hard hat and a neon safety vest, the 97-year-old from Westland marveled at the ornate tiles and vaulted ceiling through a web of scaffolding.

Ford Motor Co. has spent the last few years restoring the century-old, once-abandoned train station, seeking to transform it into a centerpiece of its new innovation campus in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood.

For England, Michigan Central Station is his "icon," "landmark" and "old friend."

He grew up in Tre-Way Apartments, which once stood on 14th Street across from the train depot. The building caught fire in January 1989, according to a Free Press article published that year, and a parking lot now lies on the old site.

The station opened in 1913, the day after Christmas. A little more than 74 years after the first train pulled into the station, the last train departed in January 1988. During the decades that followed, the train depot sat empty and became a symbol of the city's decline.

In a letter to thank Ford ahead of Saturday's tour, England wrote that the company had the "foresight to see more in a weathering Detroit Michigan building... but rather to see the real potential it actually represents today and in the future."

"And it's falling in place as we stand here and talk about it, and that makes me happy," England said after walking around the site Saturday.

"If they'd had torn this building down, it would have been part of my heart. It sounds silly to say that about a building, but it's true," he said.

England's father, who was self-employed and a skilled electrical and plumbing worker who could build a house from the ground up, struggled to find work after the 1929 stock market crash.

England said his parents were fortunate to cross paths with the owner of Tre-Way Apartments. His father began working as a custodian, maintaining the building's 100 units, and his mother helped manage the property, collecting rent from the tenants. That's how they started living there. "It was a godsend after the Great Depression," England said.

From his family's apartment at Tre-Way, England could see Michigan Central, the tallest train station in the world when it opened.

"I loved that building," he said. "You can't ignore it."

When he was growing up, England said there was no playground in the area, so he played on the sand hills by the sides of the station.

And it was the station where England, then 18, boarded a train for the first time, heading off to serve in the U.S. Army in 1943.

Before arriving in Europe, England said he spent several months undergoing combat and medic training.

In June 1944, England worked through the aftermath of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, alongside a small team of medics. There, England said, he witnessed horrific injuries as he helped transport hundreds of bloodied soldiers to operating tents. One man had half his face missing, he said.

"I don't want to be considered a hero," England said. "I was just doing my job like any medic."

When the war ended in 1945, the private first class came home the same way he left — on a train.

He was one of many American soldiers who departed through the station. Others never made it back.

Richard Bardelli, the construction manager at Ford who led Saturday's tour, said he was moved by England's stories about WWII and the people he knew who never made it home, including his best friend.

"You get chills thinking about that," Bardelli said. "That's what this building does for people. It brings back memories of when they came and when they left."

When England returned from the war, his family had moved out of Tre-Way. Michigan Central Station was no longer a fixture of his daily life. But he still calls the station "home."

After the war, England said he took a two-year course through the GI Bill and attended an electronics school near the Fox Theatre.

"That saved my entire future," he said. "I now had a trade."

He went on to work for the University of Michigan at Willow Run, where he enjoyed an exciting career as an electronics technician.

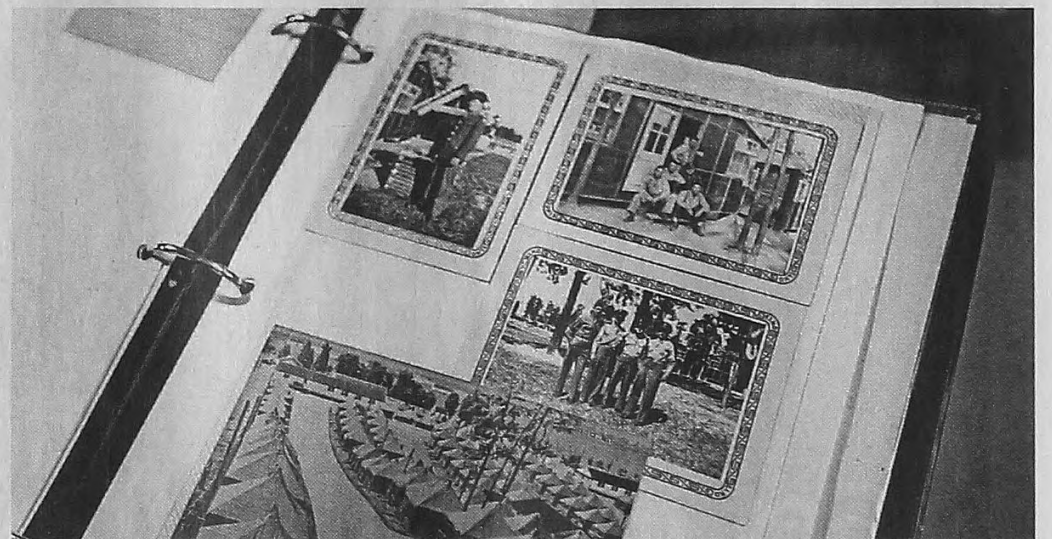
A couple of years ago, England and his wife, Lucille, who passed away in June, drove past Michigan Central Station after spending the day on Belle Isle with a friend from church, Kathy Giles, 63, of Garden City. Giles said England started talking about his dream to walk the halls of the station again.

Attempts to get England inside the building before Ford started refurbishing the building were unsuccessful. But a couple of months ago, Giles, a retired Chrysler employee, said she reached out to a former colleague who instigated the connection with Mark Truby, Ford's chief communications officer.

"In ten minutes, it was a done deal and we were on our way," Giles said.



Michigan Central construction manager Richard Bardelli, left, guides Joe England for a tour inside of the Michigan Central Station in Detroit on Sept. 25, 2021. JUNFU HAN, DETROIT FREE PRESS



Photos and documents of George England's time serving during World War II during his tour at Michigan Central Station in Detroit on Sept. 25, 2021. JUNFU HAN, DETROIT FREE PRESS

For Bardelli, Saturday's tour reinforced the sense of responsibility he feels to restore the station that houses memories for generations of Detroiters. "Never in a million years did I think I would be lucky enough to be working on restoring this," Bardelli said.

The massive project has involved the meticulous replacement of thousands of decorative pieces in the station's waiting room, ceiling repairs and replacing hundreds of limestone blocks.

The redevelopment project has also uncovered a treasure trove of historical artifacts such as an old whiskey bottle left by plasterers more than 100 years ago, shoe polish, Stroh's beer bottles, old train tickets and newspaper pages.

Ford expects to open the newly restored Michigan Central with retail, restaurants and community gathering spaces in mid-2023. It will sit within a 30-acre Mobility Innovation District. Ford is investing \$950 million in restoring historic buildings, including Michi-

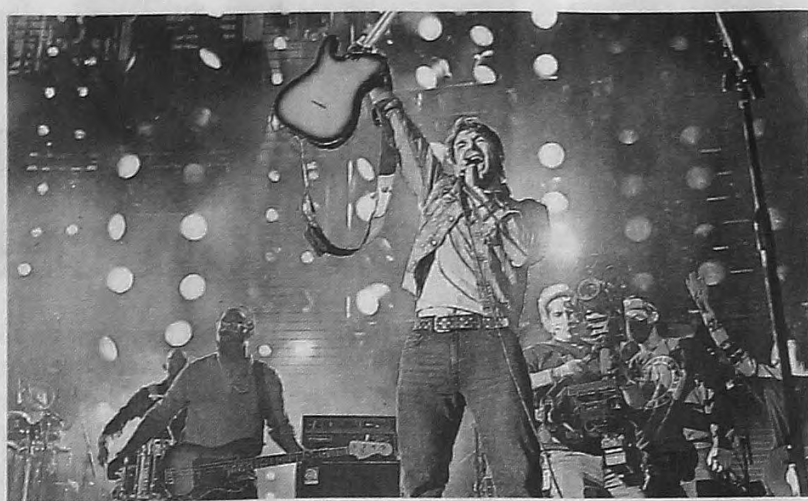
gan Central Station, that will sit on the walkable campus.

England — who has witnessed massive advancements in transportation during his lifetime, from the heyday of train travel to the rise of air travel — is excited for what the future of mobility holds.

And standing outside Michigan Central Station, he expressed gratitude that it will unfold in a monument to its past.

"It gave me the feeling that people can still have a heart for things that somebody else might kick under the rug."

Clara Hendrickson fact-checks Michigan issues and politics as a corps member with Report for America, an initiative of The GroundTruth Project. Make a tax-deductible contribution to support her work at bit.ly/freepRFA. Contact her at chendrickson@freepress.com or 313-296-5743. Follow her on Twitter @clara-janehen.



High-concept drama "Ordinary Joe" will run on NBC. It stars Farmington Hills native James Wolk. NBC

Michigan native takes key role in 'Ordinary Joe'

Mike Hughes

For the Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

James Wolk is a rock star now – albeit a pretend one – and that's ironic.

Wolk, from Farmington Hills, stars in "Ordinary Joe," which runs at 10 p.m. Mondays on NBC. In TV's splashiest role, he plays the same guy in three lives – as a cop, a nurse and a musician.

"When Jimmy got on stage, he just completely transformed into this rock star," said writer-producer Russel Friend.

Elizaeth Lail, who plays his wife (well, one of his wives) agreed. "It breaks my heart, every time he sings," she told the Television Critics Association.

Still, none of this was in his career plan. Flash back to his college years.

The University of Michigan's Department of Musical Theatre keeps turning out Broadway stars. (In one recent year, 2018, it had three Tony nominees and eight people in "Hamilton" or one of its tours.) Two of its grads, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, wrote the score of the Tony-winning "Dear Evan Hansen," which reaches movie theaters Friday.

And Wolk? "I went to the theater department, which is just kitty-corner to that," he said. "We shared the same building."

While his neighbors were making music, he wasn't. "I studied straight theater – plays and drama."

There was no time to work his way up in theater: In 2008, a year after graduating, he drew raves in "Front of the Class," the true story of a teacher

with Tourette syndrome.

Teachers have been key to his life. His mother taught art; his wife is a teacher he met while volunteering at a camp for kids with Tourette. His dad owned Sundance Shoes, in Birmingham and West Bloomfield.

Other roles followed, in support (led by "Mad Men" and "Watchmen") and starring – "Lone Star," "Zoo," "Tell Me a Story" and now "Ordinary Joe."

The first version of the story was written by Matt Reeves in 2008, said writer-producer Garrett Lerner; like most scripts, it was set aside.

"We were looking for a new project in 2018, a good decade later," Lerner said. "It was taken out of that drawer; it was among several dozen things that had been submitted to us, and it just spoke to us."

This was a notion similar to the 1998 Gwyneth Paltrow film "Sliding Doors" or the 2017 Paul Auster novel "4 3 2 1": The same person, ending up with very different lives.

In their new version, the producers added some personal touches. Friend grew up on Billy Joel turf in Long Island, so he inserted Joel music; also, he said: "Nurse Joe's son, Christopher, is in a wheelchair and he has the same disease as Garrett's son does."

The rest involves a blitz through different genres, Wolk said, "to have a little bit of a medical show, to have a little bit of a cop show" plus the music:

"I have always loved singing, whether it's in the shower or for my kids or for my wife ... I just always am singing. But this is the first time I've done it professionally." And he's starting as a rock star.

Wayne prosecutor's office in 'crisis mode'

Elisha Anderson

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy says the caseloads her staff is facing are "inhumane" and her office is in "crisis mode," so she's recruiting retired prosecutors back to the office.

Worthy wrote in an email addressed to a retiree group that the office has lost almost a third of its staff, can't fill many open positions and is backlogged with cases because of the pandemic.

Wayne County Circuit Court has more than 3,000 cases awaiting trial and 25 district and municipal courts in the county have more than 10,000 cases pending, Worthy said in the email. She called those numbers conservative.

"Our staff has been significantly reduced since 2020 during the time of the pandemic," Worthy said in a statement to the Free Press. "This has been an extremely stressful and difficult time for my entire staff. We are working to reduce the caseloads and get assistance to the staff. In keeping with that, we have expanded our search from Southeast Michigan to a nationwide search to recruit new staff members."

In the message to retired prosecutors sent late last week, Worthy said other places are throwing "big money" at their assistant prosecutors.

"Everyone's caseload is really inhumane. We have many positions that we cannot fill," Worthy wrote. "And on top of all of this, crime has spiraled out of control and the numbers are staggering."

Worthy asked retired prosecutors to consider coming back to the office on a part-time, temporary basis.

"This is a call to action," her email said.

Her statement did not say how many positions are open or what types of jobs they are.

Starting pay for an assistant prosecutor with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office is \$55,000, Worthy said. That's less than starting pay at prosecutor's offices in neighboring Oakland and Macomb counties.

"We appreciate that CEO Warren C. Evans, his staff, and the Wayne County Commission are aware of our current salary and retention issues and have been working with us to address this," Worthy said in a statement, noting she did not circulate the email to the media.



Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

An online description of the prosecutor's office says Worthy's staff includes more than 180 assistant prosecuting attorneys, 24 investigators and 70 clerical and support staff. Wayne County prosecutes about half of all felony cases in Michigan, it says.

"Our office is one of the 10th largest by case load in America and yet our staff is miniscule compared to offices like Los Angeles who enjoy a staff of over 2,200 or even Philadelphia who employ over 600 people," the website says. "I am proud of our record and the miracles that we accomplish every day."

In Macomb County, starting pay for an entry level assistant prosecutor is more than \$60,000, Macomb County Prosecutor Peter Lucido said. Some of the same issues caused by the pandemic exist with his office, too, including massive case backlogs.

Violent crime has escalated during the pandemic, Lucido said.

"I have a whole unit of domestic violence and we can't keep up," Lucido said.

He wants to add an additional 14 assistant prosecutors, saying the office was understaffed when he took office this year. Currently they have about 53.

In Oakland County, base pay for assistant prosecutors starts at \$65,000, said David Williams, chief assistant prosecutor. They have about 90 attorneys and one or two openings.

"Wayne County has a tougher time because they can't pay as much," he said.

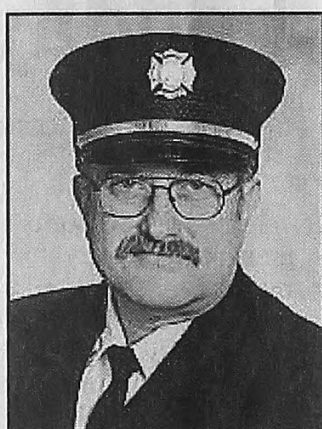
Contact Elisha Anderson: eanderson@freepress.com or 313-222-5144.

Obituaries

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

Paul Louis Pavloff

CANTON - Paul Louis Pavloff of Canton, Michigan was called home to his heavenly father on September 10, 2021, after a long battle with cancer at the age of 64. Paul was born November 9th, 1956 to Alexandra & Christ Pavloff, in Detroit MI. Paul leaves a great legacy with his family and community. After graduating from Salem High School in 1975, Paul enlisted in the United States Army, serving with the 561st MP Company in Fort Myer, VA. Soon after his service in the Army, Paul began an inspiring 42 year career as a dedicated Firefighter and EMT, serving Plymouth / Northville and Canton Michigan. Paul dedicated his life to the firefighting and emergency services community. Firefighter, Paramedic, Teacher, Mentor, HAZMAT, volunteer police officer, Fire Captain and Battalion Chief, finally retiring from the Canton Fire Department in December 2018. Paul's legacy will be his life of service and dedication to his community, which will live on for generations in the firefighting community he helped create, in those he mentored and in the lives he both touched and saved. Paul married his early childhood friend, Vickie, in October of 1986 in Plymouth, MI. Paul was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and father in law. He lovingly cared and provided for Vickie's two daughters (Devanie & JilAnn), and son Christofer, whom he raised as his own. An true "man's man", he was an excellent mechanic, carpenter and handyman who enjoyed working with his hands. He was also fond of roller coasters, grilling, good Mediterranean food and pizza. His homemade Stromboli was legendary! Paul was preceded in death by Alexandra and Christ Pavloff (parents) and JilAnn Weise-Pavloff (daughter). He is survived by his wife Vickie Pavloff, Christofer Pavloff of Westland (son), Devanie (Nicolas) Weise-Haroney of Waterloo Twp. (daughter), Charlee Pavloff (granddaughter), Connie Orr-Adkins of Livonia (sister in law), Steven (Diane) Orr of North Carolina (brother in law), David Orr of Belleville (brother in law), Jeffrey Orr of Plymouth (brother in law), Karen (Thomas) Shelton of Canton (sister in law), Jim Orr of Ypsilanti (brother in law), George and Erica Eloff (godbrother), John and Francesca Eloff (godbrother) and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. A private internment for Paul, including internment for JilAnn (daughter), will occur at a later date. Memorial contributions in Paul's name are appreciated to Canton Firefighters Charity Foundation, 1100 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188.



Alice DeMoss

GARDEN CITY - September 24, 2020. Age 80. Beloved wife of the late Gary for 60 years. Loving mother of Gregory (Lesli), Deborah (Jim) Denison, Douglas (Kim) and Elizabeth (Richard) Rowe. Cherished grandmother of 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Beloved daughter of the late Marcel and Justine Tymke. Dear sister of the late Edward Tymke and Dolores Jaskowski. She was a wonderful mother and the best grandmother in the world. She is very loved and will be deeply missed. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



Christina Rose "Chrissy" McHenry

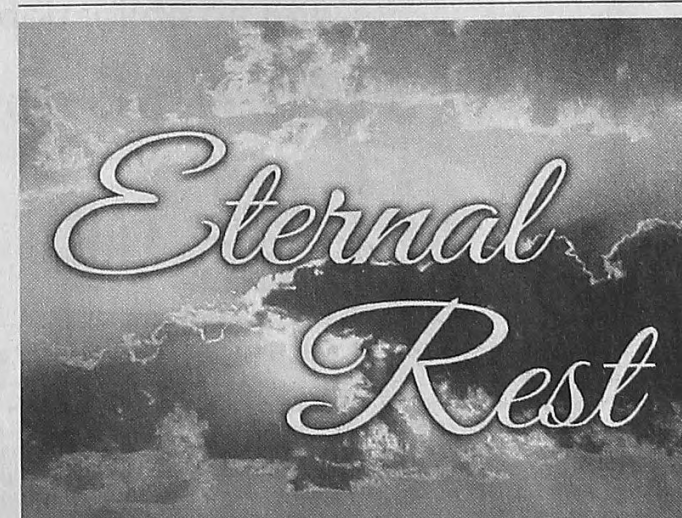
Christina Rose "Chrissy" McHenry, April 29, 1989 - Sept. 19, 2021. Passed away suddenly from natural causes. Chrissy grew up in Livonia and graduated from Stevenson High School in 2007. She will be remembered for her generosity, kindness and sense of humor.

Chrissy is survived by her father, John McHenry; mother, Carol (Robb) deBeauclair; sister Rachel McHenry of Houston, TX; brother Jonathan McHenry of Ann Arbor; grandmother Gerri Carr; many aunts, uncles, and cousins also survive.

Friends may visit Friday, October 1, 2021 from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 West Six Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan 48152. On Saturday, October 2, 2021, visitation continues from 2:00 p.m. until the time of service at 3:00 p.m.

Please share a memory of Chrissy, or condolences with her family at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com.

Harry J Will Funeral Homes



McCabe
Funeral Home

Milford cold case began 40 years ago with body found in ditch

Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Anne Doroghazi's partially-clothed body was found in a Milford Township ditch on Sept. 29, 1981.

The 20-year-old woman worked at nearby Camp Dearborn but hadn't been seen for about two days.

"We believe that she was placed there that morning," admitted Bill Petersen, a retired Detroit homicide detective who has reviewed the case for the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. "The killer wanted her to be found."

"If he had wanted to dispose of the body ... he would have chosen, certainly, a different place. The body was clearly in view from the road. I say she was placed there that morning because it rained during the night, and she was completely dry."

While 40 years cold is the apparent status of this murder mystery, Milford police say they actually suspect they know who killed Anne.

"In my opinion, this case is not a 'whodunit,'" Sgt. Ed Pilch said. "We know who is likely responsible and we have been working to establish enough evidence to proceed. We believe she knew her murderer."

"I have always said that this is a solvable case, and I still believe it today. I cannot give a timeline as to when this might come to fruition. (With Oakland County assistance), it could be a lot sooner than we ever predicted."

As with many older cold cases, challenges include potential witnesses and others possessing vital information dying, moving or vanishing.

Also, physical evidence that could help resolve the case is "somewhat limited and we have to be careful (with) what we expend as a result of further testing," Pilch said.

According to Milford police, Anne was strangled and killed at an unknown location between Sept. 27 and 28. At the time, she was living in a trailer at Camp Dearborn, where she worked with a camp maintenance crew.

Investigators doubt robbery was a motive since Anne's purse containing money was found near her body.



Anne Marie Doroghazi was found murdered in Milford in September 1981. The case remains unsolved.

SUBMITTED

Petersen and Pilch agreed that Anne most likely encountered her killer after visiting a nearby gas station where she was known to buy pop and cigarettes.

"This case has been a priority for us since the day we cracked open the old books," said Pilch, noting that he and Milford Police Lt. Scott Tarasiewicz revived the case before letting Oakland County's cold case team manage the investigation. "Within a few minutes of reading the material, we knew it could be solved."

"I met Anne's family and they are wonderful people. I hope to someday give them the news that this person is finally brought to justice. It has bothered me deeply that this person has been walking free among us with no accountability. We just have to get the break that will allow us to do that."

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

Harrison High School memorialized at new city recreation center

Courtesy of City of Farmington Hills

The new Farmington Hills Community Center, nicknamed The Hawk, opened to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in June. The occasion celebrated the inauguration of this exciting new city amenity that honors an important part of the community's history.

The Hawk has given vital new life to the former Harrison High School, which the city purchased from Farmington Public Schools in 2018. Following the design phase, input from the community and Harrison alumni and construction slowed only slightly due to the pandemic, this new state-of-the-art community center opened to rave reviews.

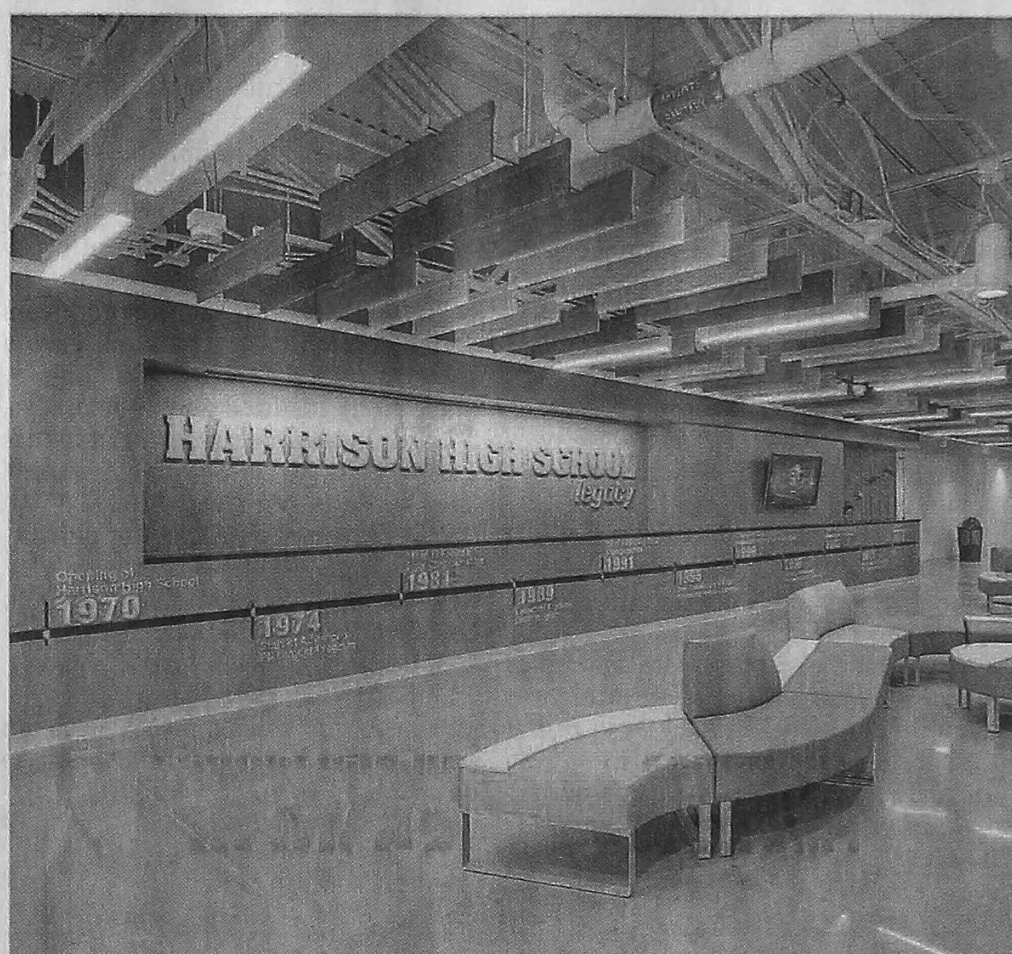
Before Harrison High School closed its doors for good in June 2019, a Legacy Committee comprised of staff, parents, students and community members raised funds to ensure that Harrison's history would remain an integral part of the building. While Harrison is no longer a high school, the Legacy Committee and Farmington Hills

worked together to permanently preserve Harrison's lasting impact.

As a result of these efforts, guests now walk through the main entrance to The Hawk and are greeted by the Harrison Legacy Wall. Visitors can learn about the heritage of Harrison High School as they view a historical timeline and admire the "Hawks in Flight" sculpture created by Farmington Public Schools art teacher Scott Brazeau.

With the touch of a finger, a special interactive screen (like a museum experience) offers the viewer access to every yearbook, composite photos for each graduating class, portraits of academic and athletic stars, photos from the school's final closing ceremony and more.

Best of all, you don't even have to be at The Hawk to stroll down memory lane. You can visit the Harrison Legacy website at harrisonhawks.touchpros.com and share the link with classmates, friends, and family so they can join in the reminiscing.



The Harrison High School legacy wall at The Hawk. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

Wayne DDA sponsoring holiday makers market

Courtesy of Wayne DDA

The City of Wayne Downtown Development Authority announced a great opportunity for the incredible makers in the community who are seeking a fun and safe one-stop-shop opportunity to connect artisans with current and future customers.

Starting on Nov. 4, the DDA will open Wayne's first ever Makers Market at 34852 W. Michigan Avenue. This 3,000-square-foot retail space is being converted into multiple 10x10-foot spaces and is being made available to individuals who are ready to expand

their growing business outside of their home for a very reasonable monthly fee.

Market hours will be 4-8 p.m. Thursdays and noon to 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Individuals will be responsible for staffing their booth during market hours. Organizers are specifically seeking businesses that design, create and sell handmade crafts or works of art.

If you have any interest in reserving a spot at the Makers Market, contact Lori Guoin, City of Wayne DDA Director at 734-722-2002 or by e-mail at lguoin@cityofwayne.com.

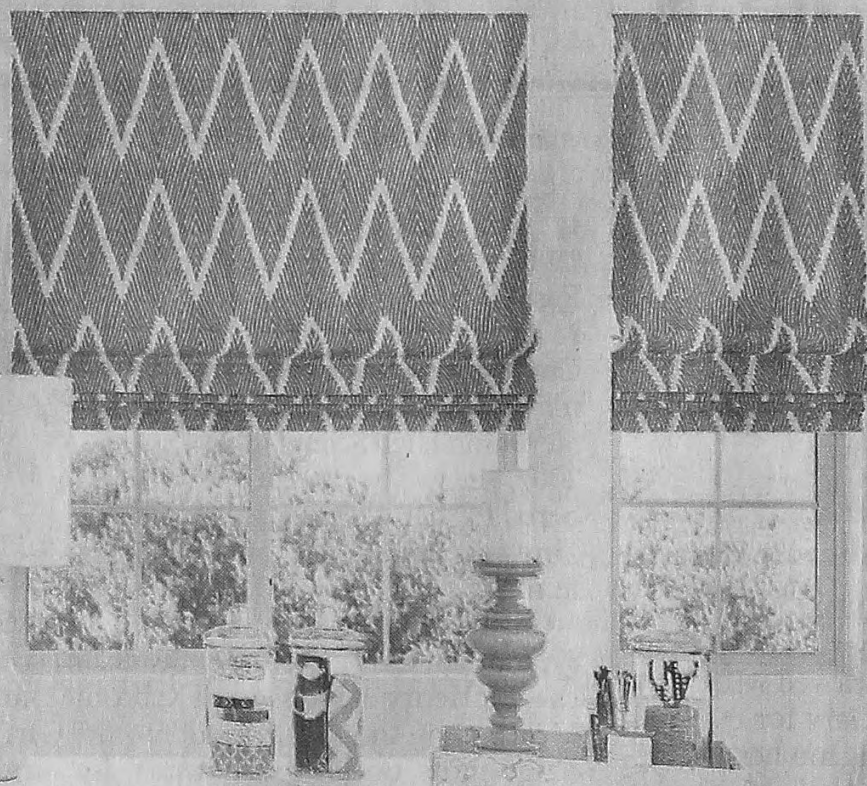


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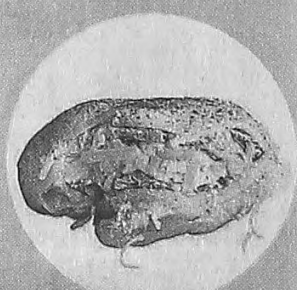
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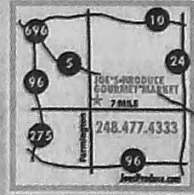


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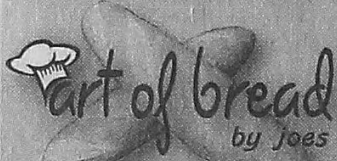
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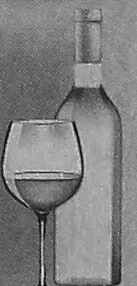
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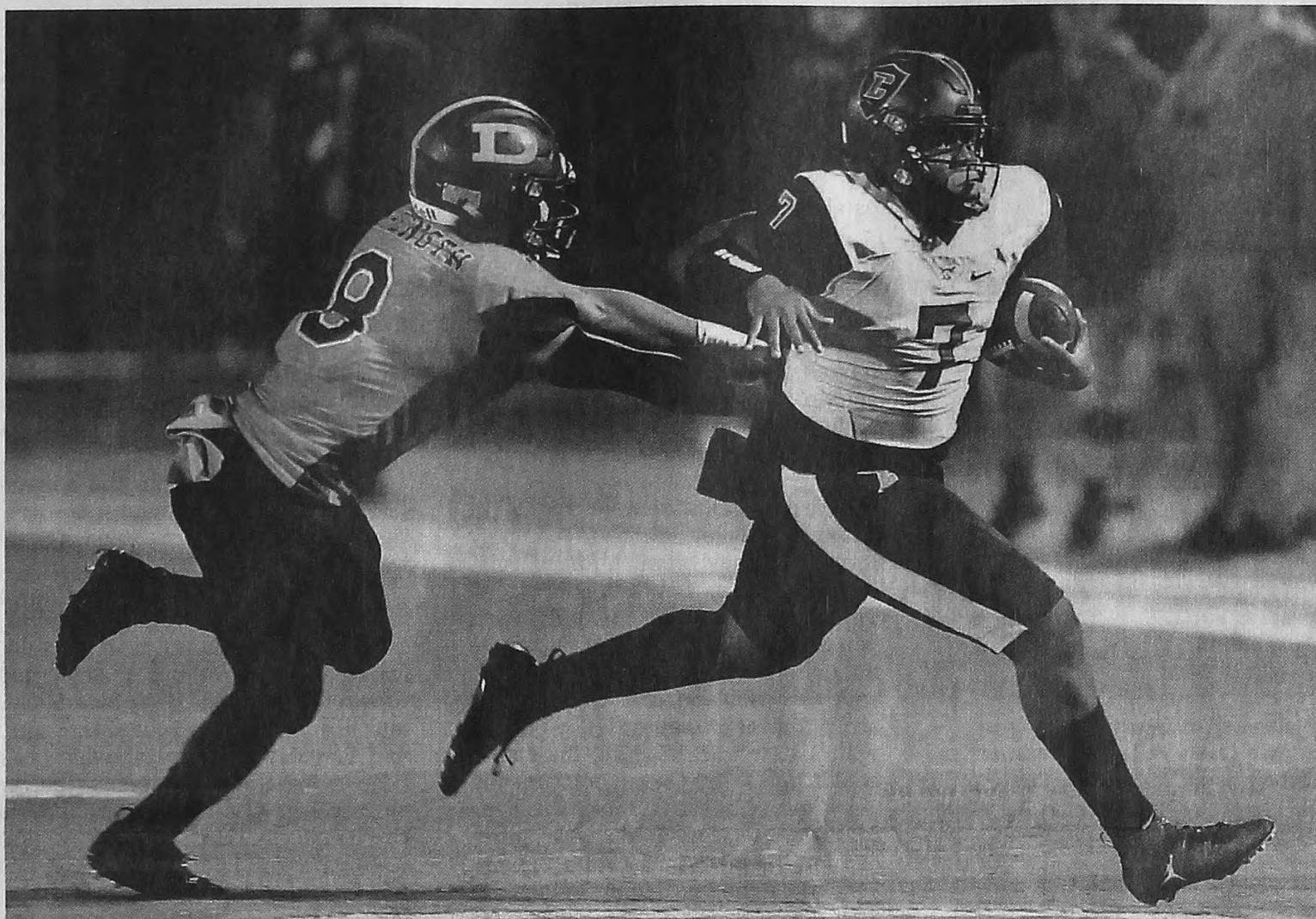
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SPORTS

Lights-out D helps Chargers down Dearborn, 56-21



Livonia Churchill High quarterback Taj Williams scrambles for some yards against Dearborn on Sept. 23, 2021. Williams ran in a touchdown early in the fourth against Dearborn. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia Churchill football team is averaging almost 45 points per game while playing in one of the toughest leagues in the state.

So it's easy to see why the Chargers are ranked No. 2 in Division 2 in this week's Associated Press poll.

Following Friday night's 56-21 win at Dearborn, however, coach Bill DeFillippo was praising his defense.

"What'd we have tonight?" the

ninth-year coach asked his players in the post-game huddle. "Four turnovers?"

In the back of the midfield scrum, safety Bailey Brooks threw up two fingers.

"And two touchdowns!" the senior shouted.

"That's a hell of a job," DeFillippo said while nodding. "That's a hell of a job."

Walking into Dearborn was no gimme game, especially with the Pioneers ranked No. 10 in D-1.

This is only the Pioneers' fourth

season in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East, but each league matchup against the Chargers (5-0, 4-0) has been a dogfight leading up to this week. Churchill won the previous three meetings by just two, three and seven points, respectively.

Plus, with how well Dearborn quarterback Ali Murray has been throwing lately, another close game was expected.

And that's what fans got early on until Churchill's defense stole the

See **CHARGERS**, Page 2B

Can Livonia Churchill keep this going?

Four sports questions ahead of Week 6

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan high school football season is officially more than half over.

But plenty of questions remain as we enter the final stretch of the regular season.

Will the Chargers go undefeated in the regular season?

Livonia Churchill's schedule is like playing in the SEC-West. That's the joke coach Bill DeFillippo made as he walked off the field following Friday's 56-21 victory at No. 10 Dearborn.

Replace Alabama, Auburn, LSU and Texas A&M with Belleville, Churchill, Dearborn and Fordson, and it's easy to see the comparison.

DeFillippo pointed out that Churchill and Belleville both appeared in Mick McCabe's Super 10 poll last week. Not to mention the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East had four of its eight teams ranked in the top 10 of the Associated Press' Division 1 and 2 polls a week ago.

The Chargers (5-0, 4-0) have already knocked off Belleville and Dearborn, but their schedule isn't getting any easier over the next four weeks. Sandwiched between crosstown rivalry games against Franklin and Stevenson is a Week 7 matchup at Fordson. Then they'll draw a tough opponent for the KLAAC crossover in Week 9.

If Churchill makes it through the regular season unscathed, they'll have earned every bit of their home-field advantage in the playoffs.

How will a week off impact the Patriots' play?

Bye weeks can be a tricky thing. Sometimes they arrive at just the right time, helping banged-up teams heal injuries and get healthy before big matchups. Other times, a week away can cool off a hot offense or make a fast defense play a step slower.

We'll see how the Patriots (2-3, 2-2) handle coming off a bye week when it visits Churchill on Friday.

They didn't want the break, but COVID-19 concerns forced Westland John Glenn to cancel its Week 5 game at Franklin early in the week. Athletic director Ron Hammye and coach Chris Kelbert worked diligently to find a replacement game but couldn't secure a new opponent on such late notice.

Kelbert didn't give his team the night off, though. Practice was still held. Extra reps were had. He wanted his players to improve.

The Chargers enter the week as the

See **WEEK 6**, Page 2B

No. 4 Lions spoil Eagles' homecoming in battle of undefeated LVC teams

Ben Szilagy
Special to Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The stage was set for a big Friday night.

Both South Lyon and Lakeland were undefeated. Both have playmakers who can break open any game at any time. And both couldn't afford a loss in a tight Lake Valley Conference race with first place on the line.

Thanks to big, timely plays, South Lyon, ranked fourth in Division 2 in this week's Associated Press poll, remained undefeated and atop the Lakes Valley Conference after beating the Eagles, 49-35.

"This whole week has been a challenge for us," South Lyon coach Jeff Henson said. "First of all, (Lakeland) is a really good football team. The coaches do a great job, and that (Tate) Farquhar kid is as advertised. We made

some plays throughout the game, but we were our own worst enemy at times."

The week didn't go as planned for South Lyon (5-0) due to the rain and a case of head colds making its way through the locker room.

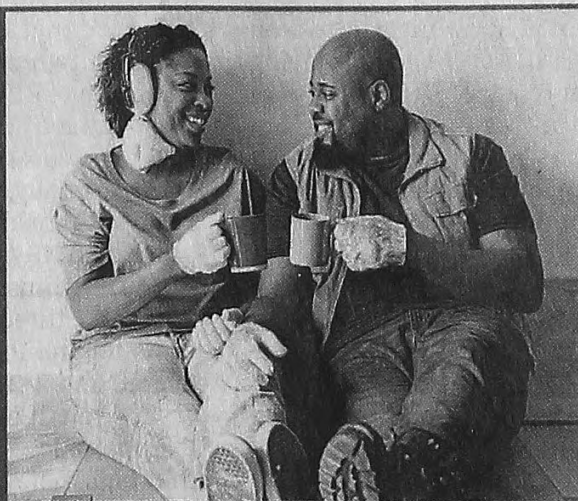
"This has been a challenging week for us, to say the least. ... Thursday was the first time we had a full team prac-

See **EAGLES**, Page 2B

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Hometown Life's Michigan high school football picks: Week 6

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hometown Life sports reporter Brandon Folsom is here to tell you which Michigan high school football teams win/lose in Week 6.

Livonia Franklin (2-3, 2-2 KLAAs-East) at Livonia Churchill (5-0, 4-0), 7 p.m. Friday

Churchill is one of the 10 best teams, regardless of division, according to both Mick McCabe's Super 10 pool and The D-Zone's top-10 rankings this week. The Chargers dominated on both offense and defense in their win at No. 10 Dearborn. Expect them to continue to do the same in their first crosstown rivalry of the season, especially with Franklin coming off a bye week.

Folsom's pick: Churchill 52, Franklin 14.

Redford Union (4-1, 4-0 WWAC) at Redford Thurston (1-4, 1-3), 7 p.m. Friday

It's also rivalry week in Redford, but this game might not even be close. Thurston finally picked up its first win after beating an 0-5 Annapolis squad by eight points a week ago. Union has been taking care of business each week, even blowing out some of its opponents.

Folsom's pick: Union 42, Thurston 18.

Detroit Country Day (3-2) vs. Warren Michigan Collegiate (4-1, 3-0 CSC-East), 7 p.m. Friday at Bishop Foley

The Yellowjackets have dropped two games in a row, albeit to two of the best teams in the state in South Lyon and Harper Woods. And Michigan Collegiate isn't a slouch either. The Cougars are one of the top teams in Division 6. However, look for Country Day to win this neutral-site matchup and end its losing streak.

Folsom's pick: Country Day 38, Michigan Collegiate 28.

Rochester (3-2, 2-1 OAA-White) at Birmingham Groves (2-3, 2-1),

7 p.m. Friday

Not only did Rochester upset North Farmington last week, but the win also marked the first time the Falcons have beaten a team that had legendary coach John Herrington on its staff. But Groves, too, is coming off a big win after beating Oak Park in overtime. This should be an interesting battle of second-place teams in the White.

Folsom's pick: Groves 31, Rochester 21.

Brighton (3-2, 3-1 KLAAs-West) at Canton (3-2, 3-1), 7 p.m. Friday

Canton impressed with its one-touchdown win over Novi a week ago. Now it's homecoming week. The Chiefs couldn't ask for a better opportunity to break up this two-way tie for second place in the West.

Folsom's pick: Canton 35, Brighton 21.

Brandon Folsom covers high school football, basketball and recruiting in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Do you have a story idea? Email him at bfolsom@gannett.com.

Week 6

Continued from Page 1B

favorites, but anything can happen in a rivalry game. So throw out the records. Churchill just played a physical game against a ranked opponent. Franklin will have fresh bodies. Perhaps that's the winning recipe to get the Patriots an upset win on the road.

Will the Eagles bounce back quickly?

There's no shame in losing to South Lyon. Especially in 2021.

The Lions (5-0, 4-0 Lakes Valley Conference) entered last week following a historical upset victory over Detroit Country Day and were ranked No. 4 in D-2. There's no doubt this season will go down as one of their best in program history.

But Lakeland still needs to pick up itself and soldier on in Week 6. Will they be able to after such a tough 49-35 loss to the Lions? Winnable games against Walled Lake Northern (2-3, 2-3) and South Lyon East (1-4, 1-3) are up next. But they round out the regular season with home games against Gibraltar Carlson (4-1) and Milford (4-1, 3-1).

Coach Jim Calhoun said the Eagles had no one but themselves to blame on homecoming night. Untimely turnovers kept them beyond an arm's length reach of a comeback against South Lyon all night. They must make sure mistakes don't keep them from finishing the season on a high note, especially with home-field advantage in the playoffs on the line.

Could North Farmington miss the playoffs?

After a 3-0 start to the year, North Farmington has dropped its past two games, losing to both Oak Park and Rochester.

And the bad news for the Raiders (3-2, 1-2 Oakland Activities Association-White) is their schedule isn't getting any easier.

It wouldn't be unrealistic for them to lose four of their final five games. Coming up are games against undefeated Rochester Adams, the favorites to win the division, West Bloomfield, and all of its Division I college recruits, and Traverse City Central, which has been a Big North Conference power since coach Eric Schugars took over the Trojans in 2015.

North Farmington's Week 7 game at Birmingham Seaholm might be its only guaranteed win to close out the regular season.

Brandon Folsom covers high school football, basketball and recruiting in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Do you have a story idea? Email him at bfolsom@gannett.com.

Eagles

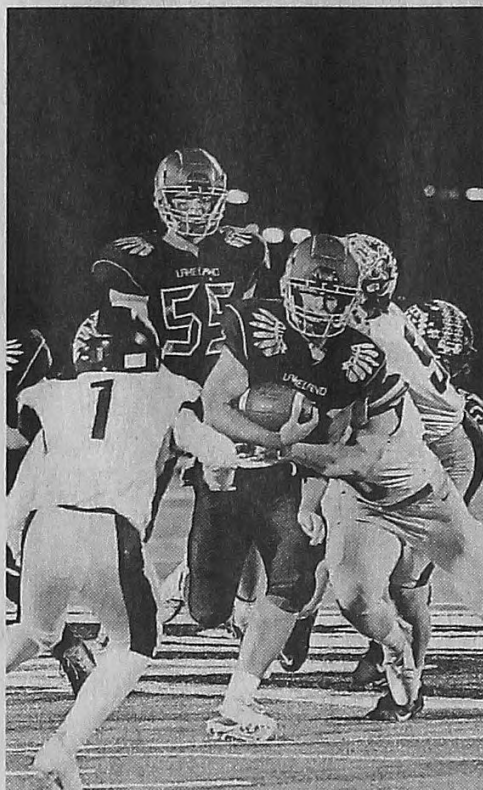
Continued from Page 1B

He's the one that makes us go," Henson said. "It's as simple as that." Added Fracassi: "This is football, and it's what I do. I wanted to provide us with energy, a spark. That play sparked us, for sure."

South Lyon played well early, but Lakeland (4-1) didn't go away.

The Eagles' newly crowned homecoming king, senior Tate Farquhar, led the comeback in the second quarter when the QB threw a 42-yard TD pass to Jackson Campbell to make it a one-score game.

On the ensuing drive, Skupin tossed an interception to Campbell, who returned the turnover 5 yards for a TD that knotted the score 21-21 with 6:21



Lakeland's Tate Farquhar rushes during a Lakes Valley Conference football game on Friday, Sept. 24, 2021. TOM BEAUDOIN, SPECIAL TO HOMETOWN LIFE

left in the first half.

"These kids deal with adversity well. They'll play hard no matter what," Lakeland coach Jim Calhoun said.

The Lions didn't back down whenever the Eagles assembled a comeback.

South Lyon took advantage of Lakeland double covering Fracassi with a safety, which left its other wide receivers open to make plays, including senior Zach Ford, who closed the half with an over-the-shoulder 27-yard TD catch that garnered a 35-21 lead.

Its defense kept the Eagles at bay with two interceptions and a fumble recovery.

"Tonight there were two good football teams, but one of them made more mistakes than the other and we couldn't capitalize," Calhoun said. "When you make mistakes against South Lyon, unfortunately, this is what you're going to get."

"We didn't execute well tonight. We didn't finish a lot. We made too many mistakes. They weren't forced mistakes, mind you. They were our errors. There is no other way to put it. When you get down in a hole like that, you're not going to come back."

After Lakeland got another TD strike from Farquhar to McCoy Biagioli with 3:48 left in the third, the Eagles couldn't get within seven points again.

Skupin, who was 20 for 25 passing for 307 yards, four TDs and an interception, found Fracassi for a 22-yard TD early in the fourth quarter for a 42-29 lead. He also hit Ford for an 18-yard score on the next drive.

The QB also had nine rushes for 97 yards and a score.

"Dawson is a competitor, a fighter and a hard worker," Henson said. "He's everything you want your QB to be."

Chargers

Continued from Page 1B

spotlight in the second quarter. In an 11-minute span, they drummed up three turnovers, all of which went for scores in some facet.

Churchill QB Taj Williams punched in a 4-yard TD run to snap a 7-7 tie 52 seconds into the second quarter.

On the first play of Dearborn's next drive, Murray fumbled a handoff exchange with his running back. Linebacker Malachi Bratton pounced on the loose ball and returned it 20 yards untouched for a scoop-and-score TD.

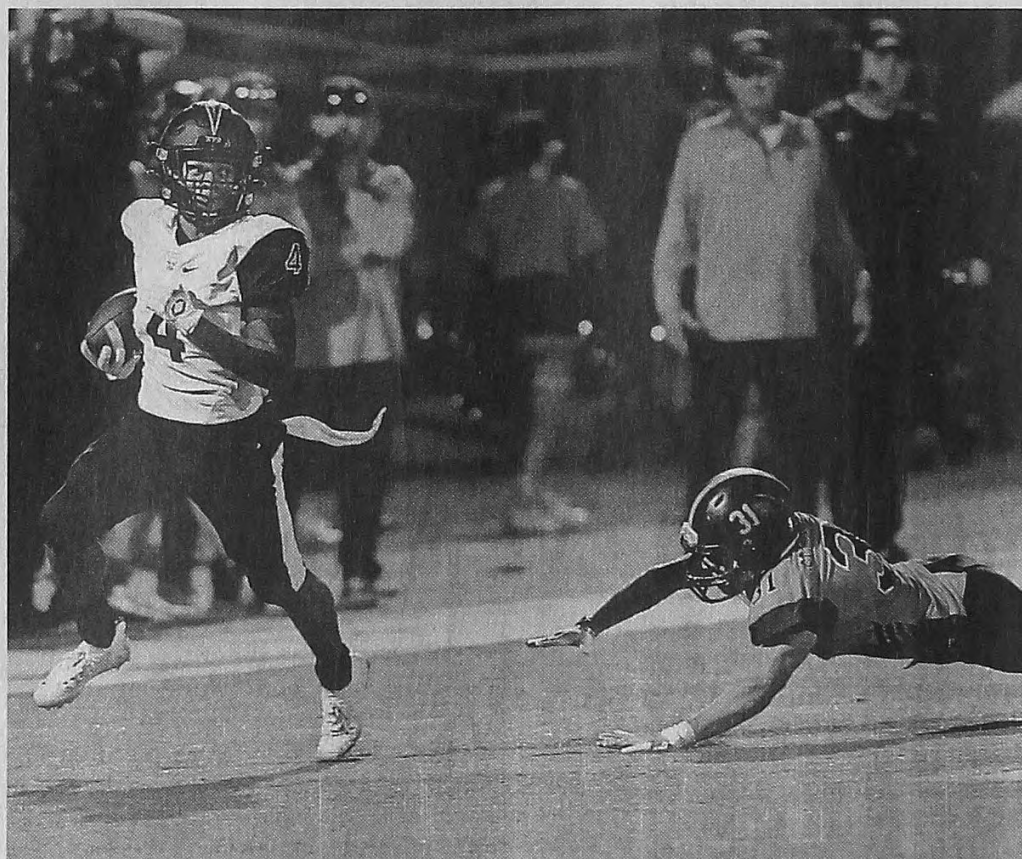
"I went to tackle him, but then I saw the ball drop, and I was like, 'Now's my time,' so I scooped it, and my first plan was to fall," the junior said. "But I looked behind me, and I saw my team had my back with the blocking, so I just ran. It was an easy gap to get the ball, and I just ran through."

Two drives later, Bratton intercepted Murray at midfield, which set up Boston Clegg Jr. for an eventual 40-yard TD run on a counter play that made it 28-14 with 3:45 remaining in the first half.

"Malachi is a junior, but he played a lot for us as a 10th-grader, so we've been working on his pass coverage and things like that," DeFillippo said. "I was happy to see him make that play. It was great to see our guys get some turnovers. It was great to see a couple of them go to the house. So that was good."

Fewer than 45 seconds later, Dearborn fumbled just outside the red zone. Brooks picked up the ball in the flats and raced 78 yards untouched to ensure the Chargers a 35-14 lead entering halftime.

"I saw my teammate Kameron Balhorn, who's been a stud for us all year,



Livonia Churchill's Joshua Brown, left, runs past a Dearborn player's diving tackle attempt on Sept. 24, 2021. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

going to rip the ball out after he had him already wrapped up," Brooks said of the fumble recovery. "I said, 'OK, here's my shot.' I had a drop or two on the drive before, and I wasn't playing really well on offense. I knew I had to make it up to my team, and that's what I did. So it was really awesome. I felt really fast. I'm looking over to the sidelines and pointing at my teammates. I felt really good."

Churchill's defensive effort in the second quarter locked up the win, but a few other heads-up plays created scoring opportunities in the second half.

Brooks batted down a Murray pass on fourth and 4. That turnover on downs set up an eventual 10-yard TD

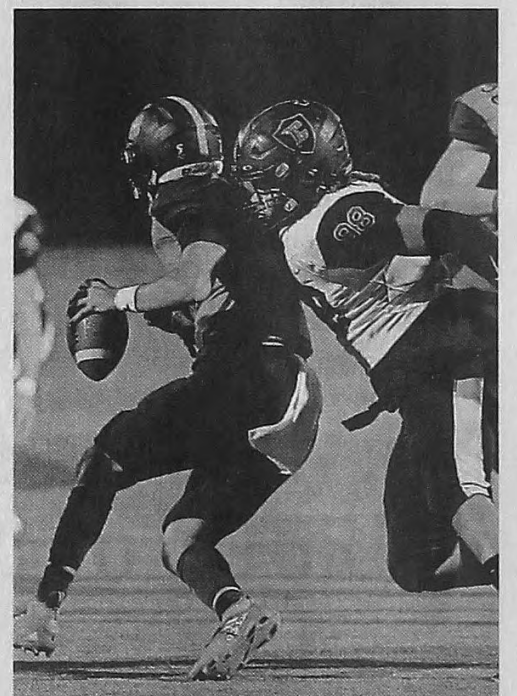
run by Williams, who finished with 10 rushes for 123 yards and two TDs.

Messiah Amerson recovered an on-side kick that led to a 5-yard score by Clegg Jr., whom Churchill rode late in the game to kill the clock. The running back totaled 23 carries for 132 yards and two scores.

And, finally, an interception by Dylan Wilczynski helped Dionte' Good score on a 10-yard run.

Murray finished 18 of 35 passing for 301 yards, three TDs and two interceptions for the Pioneers, who fell to 3-2 overall and 2-2 in the East.

"It's tough against these guys," DeFillippo said. "They're going to move the ball. They're going to get first



Livonia Churchill Charger Demarius Gibson-Wells, right, closes in on Dearborn's quarterback for a sack late in the third quarter. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

downs. So you need to end some possessions with turnovers, and we were able to do that tonight, which was good to see. They're always a physical team and always have good athletes."

It doesn't get any easier for Churchill. Matchups against rivals Franklin and Stevenson sandwich a Week 7 matchup against Fordson, another top-10 ranked opponent.

The Chargers already knew they could rely on their offense. Entering this stretch of games, it's nice for them to know they now have a tough defense they can rely on, too.

Brandon Folsom covers high school football, basketball and recruiting in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Do you have a story idea? Email him at bfolsom@gannett.com.

HOMETOWN LIFE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL RANKINGS

Churchill, South Lyon get statement wins

Both the Chargers and Lions remain atop the rankings entering Week 6

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Week 6 high school football rankings are here.

The only problem is the Boys' Bowl kicked off an hour after the Hometown Life print deadline this week.

As of this writing, we don't know if Detroit Catholic Central or Brother Rice won Sunday afternoon's Catholic League-Central game, and these rankings reflect as much. Catholic Central ultimately won Sunday's contest, 30-7.

No worries, though. We'll update our poll next week and reward whichever team wins with a bump in the rankings.

Here's how this week's poll shook out:

1. Livonia Churchill (5-0, 4-0 KLAAs-East; Last Week: No. 1)

The Chargers are in the top 10 of everyone's poll. Even The D-Zone ranked them No. 4 in the state, regardless of division, following Friday night's win at No. 10 Dearborn. When you beat a top-10 ranked opponent like the Pioneers with a running clock, you deserve the top spot in these rankings.

2. South Lyon (5-0, 4-0 LVC; Last Week: No. 2)

The Lions' to-do list is 3/4 finished. They've checked off wins against Milford, Detroit Country Day and, this past Friday, Lakeland. A win over Waterford Mott in Week 8 will ensure them the Lakes Valley Conference title and a likely undefeated regular season.

3. Detroit Catholic Central (3-1, 0-0 CHSL-Central; Last week: No. 4)

Warren DeLaSalle is the runaway favorite to win the Catholic League, but a runner-up finish by the Shamrocks would still make them one of the best



South Lyon's Dakota Blackwell rushes against Lakeland during a Lakes Valley Conference football game on Friday, Sept. 24, 2021. TOM BEAUDOIN, SPECIAL TO HOMETOWN LIFE

teams in the state. CC heads to DeLaSalle in Week 6 with a chance to upset the Pilots' bid to win the conference title. A matchup against Orchard Lake St. Mary's awaits them in Week 7. We'll know everything we need to about Catholic Central over the next few games.

4. Brother Rice (3-1, 0-1 CHSL-Central; Last week: No. 5)

The good news: The Warriors kept it close with a 21-16 loss against DeLaSalle last week. The bad news: They needed to knock off Catholic Central and St. Mary's in back-to-back weeks, plus pray for a Pilots' loss, to fight for a conference title. Nevertheless, they're still one of the best teams in D-3.

5. Detroit Country Day (3-2; Last week: No. 7)

Lose two games in a row and make a leap in the polls? Yeah, there's no shame in losing to South Lyon and Harper Woods in back-to-back weeks. They might even pick up a third-straight loss against Warren Michigan Collegiate next week at Bishop Foley. But this D-4 team has looked impressive punching above its weight all season.

6. Bloomfield Hills (5-0, 4-0 OAA-Blue; Last week: No. 9)

Yeah, the Blue is the lesser Oakland Activities Association division, but the Black Hawks are beating opponents by an average point differential of 24

points. That's nothing to scoff at. Games against Troy and Troy Athens are all that's in the way of them from completing a perfect regular season.

7. Lakeland (5-1, 4-1 LVC; Last week: No. 3)

South Lyon's schedule doesn't look too hard the rest of the way. That's tough for the Eagles, who need the Lions to lose a game to force a two-way tie for the LVC championship. Lakeland should win out, but they do have tough matchups with Gibraltar Carlson (4-1) and Milford (4-1, 3-1) to end the regular season.

8. North Farmington (3-2, 1-2 OAA-White; Last week: No. 6)

Are the Raiders going through a collapse? They face four tough opponents in their final five games, including matchups against Rochester Adams, West Bloomfield and Traverse City Central. The only gimme game appears to be their Week 7 game at Birmingham Seaholm.

9. Livonia Clarenceville (5-0; Last week: Unranked)

Welcome to the rankings, Trojans. Your 5-0 record hasn't gone unnoticed, especially with blowout wins against Cranbrook, Dundee and Advanced Tech. Plus, the victory over Lutheran North is pretty impressive, too.

10. Canton (3-2, 3-1 KLAAs-West; Last week: No. 10)

Don't look now but the Chiefs are in a three-way tie for second place in their division following their one-touchdown win against Novi last week. They're only one game away from first place.

Should Howell trip up down the stretch, Canton could find itself competing for a league title. What a surprise that would be.

Brandon Folsom covers high school football, basketball and recruiting in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Do you have a story idea? Email him at bfolson@gannett.com.



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Hartland's Sam Clay threw two touchdown passes after being pressed into duty as the team's starting quarterback against Plymouth.

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY



Quarterback Clay leads Hartland past Plymouth

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON — It's evident that there's really nothing Hartland junior Sam Clay can't do on the football field.

In his high school debut, Clay moved from cornerback to safety because of an injury and had two interceptions against Livonia Franklin.

But that wasn't as significant a position change as the one he was required to make Friday night against Plymouth.

Clay was named the starting quarterback less than 26 hours before the game when senior Brad Sollom had to be quarantined because of close contact with a positive COVID case in class.

So, naturally, Clay turned in a terrific performance in a 22-0 victory over Plymouth.

He was 9-for-13 for 195 yards and two touchdowns, while also running for a touchdown and 2-point conversion.

Clay remained as a starting safety, grabbing his fifth interception of the season. His regular position on offense is wide receiver.

"He played a little bit at quarterback last year on the JV," Hartland coach Brian Savage said. "He split time with

Dylan Neuer at quarterback. Those two were the JV quarterbacks. He's been there before. We didn't find out he'd be the starting quarterback until 5:30 (Thursday) night. He's done a few (reps at quarterback). He's sort of our backup guy."

Clay connected with running back Joey Mattord for a 58-yard touchdown to start the second quarter. A 52-yard pass from Clay to Ben Baker in the third quarter made it a 14-0 game.

Clay scored on a 12-yard run and 2-point conversion in the fourth quarter.

"He made some things happen," Savage said. "Obviously, he found some people open downfield, so he played well and did a good job, especially with less than 24 hours notice that you're going to be starting at quarterback."

Hartland registered its third shutout in five games. The Eagles have allowed only 14 points this season, with one of the touchdowns being scored off a fake punt. It's the best five-game defensive start by Hartland going back to at least 1950.

Isaiah McPherson had an interception and Aiden Martino recovered a fumble for the Eagles (4-1), who will host unbeaten Howell Friday night.

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com.

Howell junior stars in rout of Salem

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HOWELL — There isn't much job security being the backup to a football player who is committed to a Division I college and led Livingston County in rushing a year ago.

That didn't deter Howell junior Cole Quattlander from being prepared should the opportunity arise.

With senior running back and Western Michigan commit August Johanningsmeier out with an injury, Quattlander has taken advantage of the chance to be the Highlanders' primary ball carrier.

Making his second straight start, Quattlander ran for two touchdowns and caught two touchdown passes Friday night in unbeaten Howell's 48-8 blowout of Salem.

Quattlander ran 10 times for 99 yards and caught two passes for 48 yards.

He scored the game's first three touchdowns in the first quarter on a 12-yard run, a 42-yard run and a 23-yard catch from Nolan Petru.

After a 30-yard interception return for a touchdown by Jackson Kovarik made it 27-0 after one quarter, Quattlander caught a 25-yard scoring strike from Petru in the second quarter.

"It just goes back to his offseason work ethic," Howell coach Brian Lewis said. "Cole had goals in this offseason. Everybody on the team is one play away. Cole never allowed August to be the reason why he wasn't going to achieve his goals. He just kept his nose to the grindstone. Obviously, you can see his hard work paying off in games like tonight."

Riley Jones caught a 43-yard touchdown pass from Petru to give Howell a 41-0 halftime lead.

Petru was 4-for-7 for 114 yards and three touchdowns. Backup quarterback Dru Taylor was 5-for-6 for 60 yards.

"We jumped on them early and kind of took care of business," Lewis said. "Our defense played well again tonight."

Howell's bid for a fourth shutout in five games ended when Salem's Robert Jones scored on a 54-yard run against the backup defense with 11:48 left in



Howell's Cole Quattlander prepares to grab one of his two touchdown catches in a 48-8 victory over Salem on Friday. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY




Howell's Jackson Kovarik returns an interception for a touchdown in a 48-8 victory over Salem on Friday. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

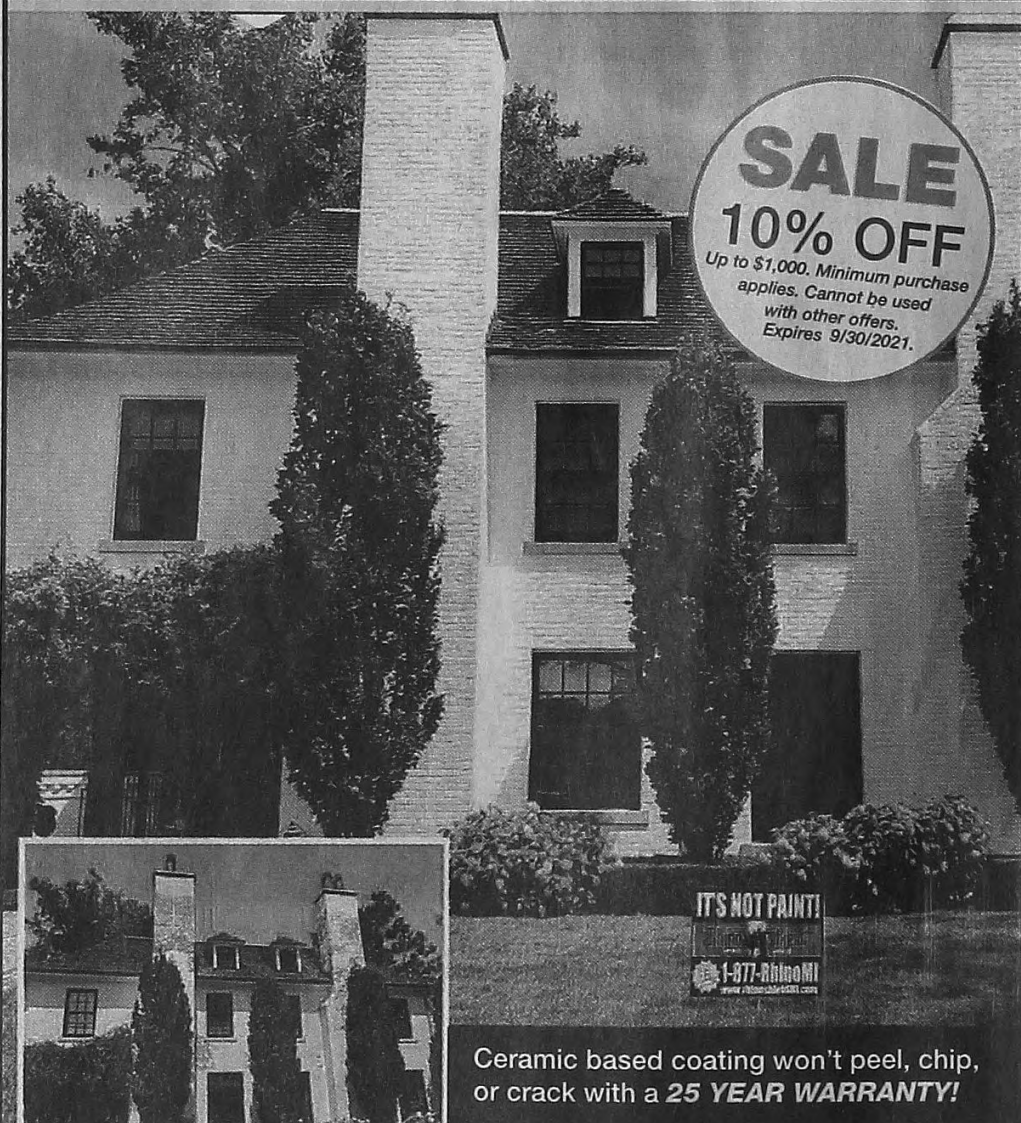
the game. Howell blocked three punts, the last one being recovered in the end zone to cap the scoring.

The Highlanders will travel to Hartland next Friday for a rivalry game that has KLA West championship implications. Howell is 4-0 in the division, while Hartland is 3-1 along with Brighton and Canton.

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com.



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1998	PONTIAC GRAND AM	G2NE52M3WM505511
2005	DODGE CARAVAN	1D4GP25R85B116638
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2006	DODGE GRAND CARAVAN	2D4GP44L76R687517
2006	FORD TAURUS	1FAFP53UX6A180694
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announcements, events...

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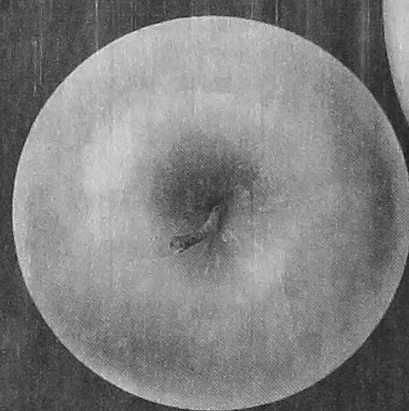
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