

# CANTON OBSERVER

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Faith Wesleyan Community Church Lead Pastor Tom Hazelwood works on building the church's new garden boxes. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Wayne judge urges youths in truancy court to sign contracts

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Truancy Court is back in session, and Judge Breeda O'Leary is reminding some Wayne youths that they can do better – much better – if they return to the classroom.

The judge was meeting with students who are failing classes because they are shirking their attendance responsibilities.

As the judge warned, they can put their school skipping ways behind and take advantage of local tutoring services and other resources or start making trips to Detroit as young members of Wayne County's juvenile justice system.

"The kids need to realize that Judge O'Leary is not a pushover," the judge told one parent. "I'm nice, but I'm not a pushover. I'm here as another tool that Mom has. Wayne Youth Assistance is another tool that Mom has. This is supposed to be a support group."

Wayne's Truancy Court has been happening for several years but took a long hiatus because of COVID-19. It returned Oct. 29, with about 15 Wayne Memorial High School teens, along with their parents or grandparents, scheduled to appear before O'Leary.

# Livonia church building garden boxes for free food

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Courtney Brown, an assistant pastor at Faith Wesleyan Community Church in Livonia, said her church's goal is always to serve the community.

She's hoping the church's new gar-

den box will be a tool low income families and gardening enthusiasts alike can take advantage of. Faith Wesleyan is at 14560 Merriman Road, north of Lyndon.

"We were looking at the community and trying to find ways to fill needs," she said. "I saw there was a Livonia gardening page with thousands of people in it. So, we thought it would be cool to offer something for people who didn't have a yard. If they're in an apartment, they could come here and have a garden."

#### See CHURCH, Page 3A

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Also present were Wayne Memorial High School Principal James Anderson and Wayne Youth Services social workers.

Teens choosing O'Leary over Wayne County's juvenile justice system signed a contract to get their

See COURT, Page 2A

#### **ELECTION RESULTS**

Voters in several Hometown Life communities made their preferences count in Tuesday's general election. Local election results, which included Livonia, Westland, Novi, Northville, South Lyon, Farmington Hills, Farmington and Plymouth, were not available in time for this print edition. Find election results online now at **HometownLife.com** and in the next print edition.

### **Off-duty officer saves woman from house fire**

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

An off-duty Farmington Hills officer and his K-9 partner are being credited for saving an elderly Livonia woman trapped inside her burning home.

Officer Ryan Yudt and K-9 Dozer were

traveling near Farmington and Six Mile roads in Livonia the afternoon of Oct. 25 when they saw heavy smoke coming from a nearby subdivision.

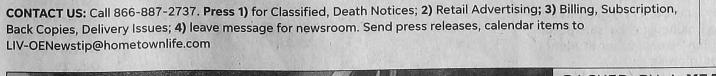
Yudt drove toward the smoke until he reached a residential home fully engulfed in flames.

He made sure the Livonia Fire De-

partment was apprised of the situation and exited his vehicle to speak to a group of neighbors.

They told him they thought an elderly woman who lived in the burning home was still inside.

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# Water main break affects multiple communities

#### Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi is under a boil water advisory and the school district canceled Monday classes in all buildings after a Sunday water main break at 14 Mile and Drake roads in Farmington Hills.

Novi city officials are advising residents to boil water before using for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, food preparation, etc.

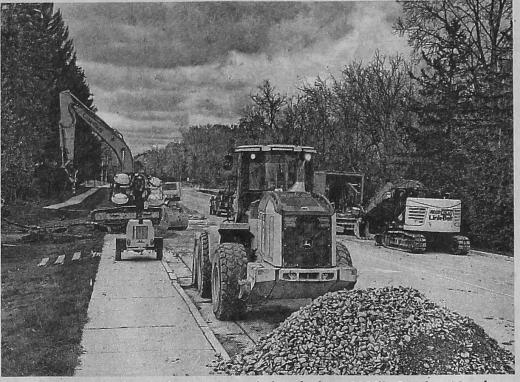
School district officials said all Novi schools would be closed Nov. 1 due to the water main break affecting food service operations, the bathrooms, and potential fire safety.

The water main break just west of Drake occurred in a 48-inch Great Lakes Water Authority transmission main at about 5:15 p.m., Oct. 31 and impacted eight communities, which besides Novi and Farmington Hills include Commerce Township, Walled Lake, Wixom, West Bloomfield, Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake.

GLWA officials said in a statement that only Novi, Commerce Township and Walled Lake had issued boil water advisories.

GLWA requested all impacted communities to open emergency valves to aid in maintaining minimal system pressures.

"At no time has the pressure in the regional system dropped to the point that would require a boil water advisory be



Crews work to repair a 48-inch water main break along 14 Mile Road on Monday. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

issued by the regional system," Cheryl Porter, Chief Operating Officer, Water and Field Services, GLWA wrote in the statement. "However, individual communities may have experienced pressure drops significant enough to warrant them to issue a boil water advisory out of an abundance of caution."

Seven additional breaks in the Far-

mington Hills water main system occurred as a result of the original break, which has resulted in boil water advisories in "localized areas" according to a statement on the city of Farmington Hills website. It did not list specific areas for the advisories. The Oakland **County Water Resources Commission** hand-delivered notices for individual

homes on a boil water advisory, according to a Facebook post.

The Water Resources Commission was working to repair those, and the city noted that customers in those areas could be experiencing low water pressure or discolored water.

Porter said in the statement that field service crews stabled water pressure to the regional system late Sunday and were on site Monday morning to isolate remaining sections of pipe to stop water flow and allow excavation so repairs can begin, which are expected to take three to five days.

While the impacted communities will continue to have water flow, the levels may be lower than normal, she added, and boil water advisories were not issued by the GLWA, but by communities "based on activity in their local systems."

A major water main break in late 2017 happened less than a mile away along 14 Mile Road by Verona when a section of pipe failed affecting more than 300,000 users in 11 communities.

A year later, the county debuted a new system intended to catch problems with the water infrastructure before pipe failures occur.

For more information on boil water advisories and health protocols for doing so, visit oakgov.com.

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

### Officer

#### Continued from Page 1A

Yudt tried the front entry but encountered heavy smoke and extreme heat. He then ran to the back of the home, where he was able to enter the home.

He located the elderly woman once inside and carried her out to safety.

Livonia firefighters assumed care of the woman and safely extinguished the flames upon arrival.

"If not for the heroic intervention of Officer Yudt, this resident may not have survived the smoke and fire spreading rapidly throughout her home," Farmington Hills Police Chief Jeff King said in a statement. "Our department is proud of Officer Yudt's actions in saving this woman's life.

"His conduct is indicative of the extraordinary bravery of our officers and their commitment to serving and ensuring the safety of all citizens, regardless of circumstances or zip code." Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

# Get ready to 'fall back' this weekend

Jordan Nelson Lansing State Journal USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Get ready for the "better" time change as we end daylight saving time by moving our clocks back one hour this weekend.

Unlike when we lost an hour in March to "spring ahead" into daylight saving time, most people look forward to autumn when we "fall back" into standard time and gain an extra hour of sleep.

That switch happens this year on Nov. 7, when at 2 a.m. the time officially rolls back an hour to 1 a.m.

Here are some interesting factoids to consider as we prepare to change our clocks:

Fact 1: Daylight saving time was created to conserve power and electricity by optimizing the use of daylight hours during seasonal changes.

Fact. 2: The U.S. made daylight saving time an annual event in 1966 after passing the Uniform Time Act.

Fact 3: The first official use of daylight saving time was in 1916 when Germany and Austria used a one hour clock shift to save electricity during WWI.

Fact 4: Daylight saving time was first proposed in New Zealand by George Vernon Hudson in 1895, but he was unable to get the time shift approved.

Fact 5: In 1905 a British man named William Willett proposed an 80 minute time change in fall and spring he called "summer time. The plan it never made it through Parliament.

# Tips for staying cyber smart and cyber safe



tity. Passwords should be unique and accounts. Remember, in today's world, changed regularly. Do not use the same you no longer have to wait to receive a



**Farmington Hills Police Officer Ryan** Yudt poses with K-9 Dozer. COURTESY OF FARMINGTON HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Whether you are a small business, a large business or an individual, taking the necessary precautions to protect your online presence is important.

As we all increased our online activities, crooks developed more complex, sophisticated scams. Coupled with the fact that the government doesn't have the resources to protect us, you can understand why it is important to take cybersecurity seriously.

Here are some tips to help you become cyber smart and cyber safe.

First of all, take passwords seriously. Your password is your first line of defense in protecting your online idenpassword on multiple sites. Changing one or two characters is not sufficient. In addition, when possible, use multifactor identification.

Think twice before opening attachments or clicking links sent via emails or text messages. Be careful, even if an email looks like it's from someone you know. We have all received texts and emails from friends and family who have had their accounts hacked.

Be careful before sharing information with someone online. If information is requested, be sure to verify the person's identity. Even if the request appears to be from someone you know, call the person before sharing anything digitally.

Lastly, it is important that you regularly check financial statements for any irregularities. In addition, sign up for alerts for any activity on your credit card

gram has a 70 to 80 percent success

children and watched them turn the sit-

She has worked closely with truant

"That's what we're excited for," Davis

rate, she said.

uation around.

said.

statement to review your account.

The aforementioned are some of the basics that we should all be following. The bottom line is we all must take cybersecurity seriously, and we cannot afford to let our guard down. Don't assume that the crooks are only targeting the wealthy. They are targeting all of us, and therefore, it is incumbent upon everyone to do what is necessary to protect our online presence.

As scams become more creative, you and I also have to step up our game. We should remind ourselves that protecting ourselves is a 365-day-a-year job.

Good luck!

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

### Court

#### Continued from Page 1A

schooling back on track. O'Leary will review their performance in another three months when another set of grades is available.

The 29th District Court judge is working with students who are serious attendance offenders, missing, for example, 20 days of school.

**Truancy Court offers opportunities** to mention challenges like transportation, sleeping issues, other students, and lack of interest.

"It's a means to an end," said O'Leary of getting an education, also asking students what they hoped to do after their high school years. "You're smart. You can go to school and get good grades. You can do it."

"I know I can," one student responded.

"So go," the judge said. "So you can come back here and say, 'Hey, Judge O'Leary, look at my progress.' I'm going to be so happy, we're going to celebrate with you. I know you can do it."

The student signed a contract. Erin Davis, a social worker and



Wayne **Memorial High** School Principal James Anderson, left, and Erin Davis, of Wayne Youth Services, talk to a truant student in the **29th District** courtroom of Judge Breeda O'Leary on Oct. 29. JOHN HEIDER/ HOMETOWNLIFE. COM

O'Leary is looking forward to seeing Wayne Youth Services case manager, some results. said 30 to 40 students enroll in Truancy Court during an average year. The pro-

"Making sure a student attends high school is fundamental to that child's ability to achieve his or her dreams and goals in life," she said. "I look forward to continuing this program for my entire judicial career to continue helping the youth in our community achieve their goals."

## **Outgoing Plymouth mayor** Wolcott thanks community

#### Dear Plymouth,

I never imagined when I began my term on the Plymouth City Commission eight years ago that I would be writing my final message to the community now, as mayor, with a simple two-word phrase overtaking my thoughts: thank you.

Thank you to my fellow city commissioners, past and present. Our community has benefited from your selfless service and commitment to represent the best interests of Plymouth. Residents have been wise to elect some incredibly smart and compassionate individuals who have come together as a team to accomplish some very big things. I'm honored to have served alongside them.

Thank you to our city administration. They are the unsung heroes who make Plymouth "work" every day. You are the embodiment of true public servants. The culture of servant leadership, empowerment, and trust has been built and strengthened over many years.

There is no greater example of that than during the past 18 months, as we've adapted during a global pandemic. The City of Plymouth rose to the challenge at every turn. Thank you to our amazing staff for making that possible.

Thank you to all the volunteer board and commission members. You provide a vital role in shaping and supporting the interests of our community. As the first point of interaction our residents and business owners often have with city government, your care and attention to their important matters leaves an impression. It builds trust and fosters positive relationships, and we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you to our businesses. I have



witnessed amazing ingenuity, grit and determination through unimaginable hardship just to keep the doors open during the most trying period's we've has faced in decades. I am so grateful you choose to call Plymouth home.

Thank you to our service clubs. You are the connective tissue that keeps the city strong and agile. Thank you for always stepping up when needed and filling gaps in the way only community service groups can.

Thank you to the residents of Plymouth. The trust you place in your city officials to advance the interests of the community allows us to accomplish so much more. I'm inspired by the residents I've met who don't ask, "Why doesn't someone...?" but instead part-ner with the city to be that "someone" who can improve life for all of us in Plymouth.

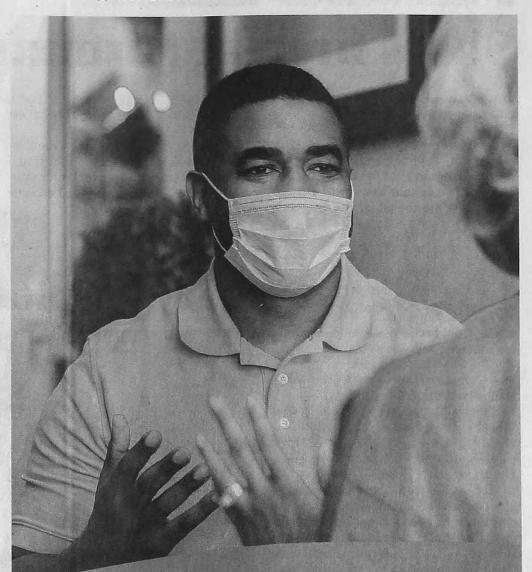
Thank you to our municipal partners. moving forward as one Plymouth; overcoming the old fights of the past us has proved to our community that we're better when we're engaging and focused on progress for the communities sake.

Plymouth is a more welcoming, vibrant, and dynamic town than it was when I joined the City Commission almost a decade ago, and I have no doubt that trajectory will continue in the years ahead.

Good people make good government, and I am blessed to leave you in the capable hands of some of the very best people, working tirelessly on behalf of our wonderful town.

Oliver Wolcott is the outgoing mayor of Plymouth.





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Faith Wesleyan Community Church pastor Jay Hunt, left, and lead pastor Tom Hazlewood team up to help construct the church's new garden boxes Oct. 26. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### Church

#### **Continued from Page 1A**

The church is sponsoring garden space for 11 households and plans to build more boxes in future years if there's a demand for it.

Brown said one of the grassy areas near the church is unused and could be completely taken over by garden boxes if need be.

The first box, which the church calls a gardening pod, will come with a door and fencing to keep animals out. People will be welcome to grow whatever they wish in the space they're given.

Gardeners don't have to be affiliated with the church and will be responsible for taking care of their own plants. Brown said church staff will help tend to plants when people are out of town.

"We want to show a servant's heart." she said. "Our main focus has just been saying we're here not to just Bible

thump but to be part of the community as neighbors."

People will be encouraged to donate any excess they grow. The church does free food giveaways twice monthly that the box could help supplement.

"I'm just happy that we're doing this," Lead Pastor Tom Hazelwood said. "People have been cooped up and can come here and plant a plant to give away to someone."

The church built its first box with the help of church-goers and small business owners who donated things like wood. Brown said it's been heartwarming to see the community lend a hand.

"It's been a huge help to have the community and the church be so involved in this," she said.

People interested in chipping in or getting gardening space can contact Brown by emailing her at pastorcourtney@faithschurch.org or by calling the church at 734-522-3570.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.



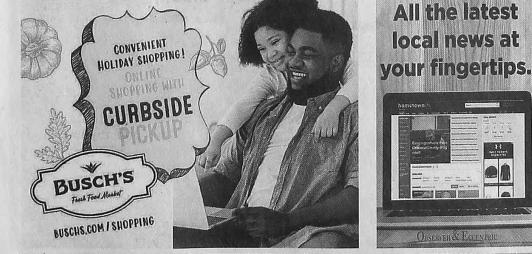
# **The New** Livonia Medical Center

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# Shots fired at Farmington Hills house party

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Halloween house party turned into a real Fright Night when gunfire erupted in a Farmington Hills subdivision.

Local police said they visited Stratford Court, northeast of the Haggerty and 13 Mile road intersection, at about 1:30 a.m. Oct. 31 after multiple 911 callers reported a fight and gunfire.

When they arrived, people were fleeing on foot and in vehicles. Police found no one hurt from the incident but recovered multiple shell casings. The home was struck by multiple bullets. "Specific patrols will be conducted in this area and an increased uniformed presence was previously detailed throughout the city for Halloween," Police Chief Jeff King said in a statement. "Preliminary evidence indicates that this incident was targeted and we have no reason to believe that there is an increase of danger toward the public at this time."

Police continue to investigate.

Anyone with information is asked to call the police department's Command Desk at (248) 871-2610.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

# Livonia veterinary hospital brings Halloween to pets

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN.

A Livonia veterinary hospital made Halloween fun for pets this year.

Sheehy Animal Hospital held its first "Sheehy Howl-oween" on Oct. 24 in Livonia's Middlebelt Plaza featuring trunk-or-treating for pets in costume and children.

"While we were excited about the idea from the beginning, we didn't know how much fun it would be," Sheehy Animal Hospital Office Manager Tracy Howard said. "People who don't have children were telling me this was a way they could really enjoy the Halloween experience."

Dogs of all sizes and in a wide array of costumes were excitedly led from trunk to trunk, receiving pet snacks. Hosts handed out treats to children with their critters, as well.

"What a great time," said Mark Bennett owner of Barky Mark's Dog Training. "It was great connecting with so many people, both from a personal and a business standpoint. We're already planning for next year."

Hosts at one car featured exotic animal demonstrations, giving attendees an opportunity to meet Edna the Ball Python, and to see a bearded dragon dressed as one of its more mythical cousins.

Attendees also had opportunity to get portraits done with a photographer from Safari Animal Rescue, vote in the hospital's annual "Crystal Pumpkin" contest, add to the pavement chalk art drawing, enjoy cider and donuts provided by the Redford Thurston High School National Honor Society and take pic-



A four-legged couple's costume depicting Charlotte and Wilbur from "Charlotte's Web." COURTESY OF BRADLEY DAVIS

tures of the other critters from the community.

"One of the great things about an event like this — everybody loves seeing a dog dressed up in a costume," pet owner Denise Toney said. Costume contest winners included a family dressed as Disney characters, a pair of dogs in red dragon costumes and a genie.

"It was a great event, and we look forward to growing it next year," said Sheehy Animal Hospital veterinarian and owner Sharon Sheehy. "We love being a part of this community, and love being able to help connect other great local businesses with families in a fun atmosphere like this."



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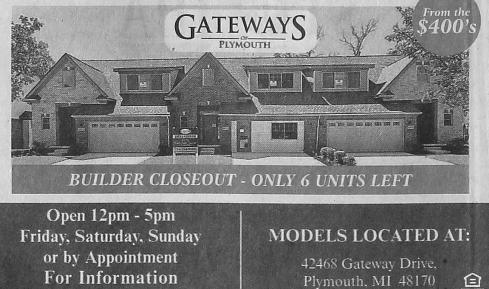
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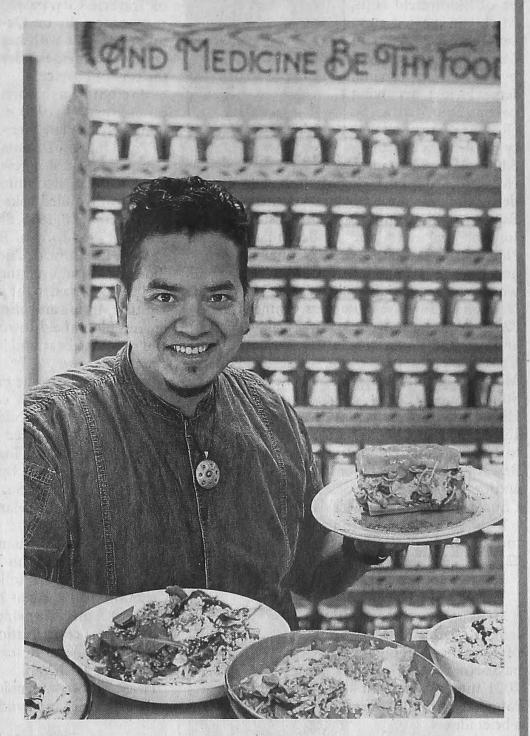
# Revolutionary Plant Based Grab-and-Go Meals coming to Westland, MI

### Aratham Gourmet To Go Expands with a new location.

After the amazing success of their plant-based food market in Troy, Aratham owners Gabriel and Tiffanie Vera are opening another location in Wayne County, MI. "Our desire has always been to support and nurture the community by providing high-quality, delicious, and flavorful plant-based food items at affordable prices. We are so happy we have been able to achieve this goal in Troy and are looking forward to providing more communities with the same quality of food and service."

Founded by husband and wife, Gabriel and Tiffanie Vera, Aratham is a labor of love in every sense of the word. Gabriel has an impressive culinary background working as an Executive Chef and Corporate Director at facilities like Andiamo, Joe Muer Seafood, the MGM Grand Hotel Casino, Hilton Hotels, Mission Point Resort and more. He is also a former gold medal Culinary Cup winner. Tiffanie Vera is a doula and holistic practitioner with food and beverage experience. Their combined expertise has led to the successful marriage of healthy, plant-based dishes that are both flavorful and affordable.

Tiffanie Vera states "We truly care about our customers, our community and the health of the planet. It's because of this love that we developed a menu that is gourmet in quality, plant-based and lower in price. Food can heal and fortify and we fully believe organic, gourmet cuisine and other natural products for the home and body should be affordable for all."



Aratham Gourmet To Go is a zero-waste business - from its composting to its biodegradable bags and containers. Every step of the organic, eco-friendly family business is designed for the betterment of its customers, the community and the planet. Gabriel notes "All our food scrapes go into compost or recycling. Our eco-friendly practices are a very important part of who we are."

When asked why he thinks they have been so successful, Gabriel stated that Aratham is able to stand by their promise of being an organic, plant based company, without sacrificing flavor. "A crowd pleaser is our spaghetti Bolognaise. People ask 'Are you sure there is no meat in this?' There isn't. We don't buy any processed meat - we make our own from oatmeal and seeds."

Aratham provides everything from side dishes to entrees, juices to desserts, super-foods, individual meals, deli service, party trays, natural supplements, candles, soaps, and other unique, all natural items. Aratham is the source for anyone interested in a more plant-based, organic, holistic lifestyle.

Aratham in Westland is located at 37628 Ford Road and will open November 1st. Hours of operation are Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm.





37628 Ford Road. Westland, MI info@aratham.com STORE: 734.895.3786 MOBILE: 586.871.09 www.aratham.com

# Obituaries

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

#### Julie Mattran Fielder

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Julie Mattran Fielder, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, passed away on October 23, 2021 in Maryland. She is survived by her beloved husband, James Fielder; her loving parents, Don Mattran, Sr. (Rose Mattran), and Betty Jacobs (Dale Jacobs); Siblings, Don Mattran, Jr.



(Marianne Mattran), Guy Mattran (Eileen Redden), Kim Mattran, and Christy Mattran; Uncle Randy Mattran (Emily Mattran); Sisters In Law, Jordan Fogal and Marie Baisden; many Nieces, Nephews, Great Nieces, Great Nephews, Cousins and Friends. Julie will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers, Connell Chapel) 32515 Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak, Michigan 48073 (248) 549-0500 on Sunday, November 14th from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. A Catholic Funeral Mass will be held at St. Hugo of the Hills Parish Stone Chapel (2215 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304) on Monday, November 15th at 11:00 am. Memorial Tributes can be made to The Sky Foundation, Inc. (Pancreatic Cancer Research) located in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and/or to Our Lady of the Fields Roman Catholic Church in Millersville, Maryland.

View obituary and sign tribute wall at AJDes mond.com

#### Marlene Messina

MONROE - Marlene Messina, 77 years of Monroe, Michigan, passed away October 30, 2021 in her home surrounded by family after a brief illness.

Born July 14, 1944, Marlene was raised in Detroit. A graduate of Cooley High School, Marlene married the love

of her life Frank in 1962. The two were married 51 years and in that time they raised three wonderful children: Joanne (Todd) Cameron, Debbie (David) Hanson, and Vince (Christine) Messina.

The two had homes in Redford, Canton, Plym-

#### **Marilyn Hester Smith**

**TRAVERSE CITY** - Marilyn Hester Smith, 91, of Traverse City, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2021 with her family by her side under the care of hospice.

Marilyn was born on February 1, 1930 in Pontiac to the late Henry Franklin and Delema (Goulet) Stack. She grew

up in Westacres in Commerce Township and graduated from Walled Lake High School in 1948.

On October 8, 1955, She married Wilfred Dow Smith at Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church in West Bloomfield. They built a home in West Bloomfield and lived there for 41 years.

Marilyn worked in the personnel department for Pontiac Motors and also in the Assessor's Office in West Bloomfield Township. She retired in 2003 and moved to beautiful Northern Michigan to be closer to family.

In her free time she enjoyed baking, reading, travelling and playing cards. Above all else she cherished her grandchildren.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, husband and brother Joseph.

Marilyn is survived by her son James (Dawn) Smith and daughter Suzanne Smith; grandchildren Matthew Smock, James Smith Jr., and Jessica Smith.

The mass of Christian burial celebrating her life will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at Christ The King Catholic Church at 2 pm, with visitation beginning at 1:30 pm. Interment will follow at Acme Township Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation or the Hospice of Michigan.

Please visit www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com to share your memories and condolences with the family.



#### Joyce Marian (Bittner) Wylie

MOUNT PLEASANT -Joyce Wylie, 84, of Mount Pleasant, formerly of Livonia, Mi, passed away





Market vendors and volunteers all got in the Halloween spirit at the Farmington Farmers Market's 10th annual Haunted Market on Oct. 30. PHOTOS COURTESY OF FARMINGTON FARMERS MARKET



The Addams Family at the Haunted Market.



## A year of pleasant surprises at market

Last Saturday at the Farmington Farmers Market, we celebrated the deep feel of fall by dressing in costume, placing fire cones at our entrances, and reveling in the small-town ritual of Halloween on a Michigan fall day.



outh, Punta Gorda, and more recently, Monroe. Marlene along with Frank founded Messina Concrete, one of the last surviving family owned and operated ready mix companies in the area.

Marlene enjoyed travel, dining out, going to the casino, her always present dog, Bella, and her five grandchildren: Caitlyn, Avery, Jake, Emerson, and Elliott.

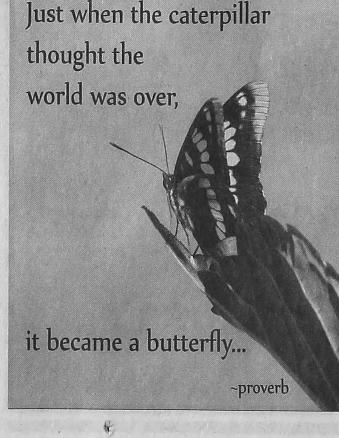
Her life was filled with love, happiness, friends, great travel, and wonderful memories. Never one to shy away or not let her opinion be known, she was direct and to the point. Small, but mighty.

"Mom, rest easy. We won't forget you and your legacy will live on."

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 5-8 pm and Friday from 1-8 pm at Bacarella Funeral Home, 1201 S. Telegraph Rd., Monroe, MI where funeral services celebrating her life will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at 11:00 am.

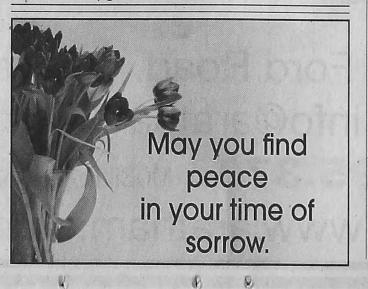
In lieu of flowers, Marlene asked that donations be made in her name to ProMedica Hospice of Monroe.

Online condolences and special memories may be shared with the family by visiting the obituary page at www.bacarellafuneralhome.com.



on Monday, October 27, 2021, at Green Acres Assisted Living in Mt. Pleasant. Joyce was born in Danville, Illinois on February 26, 1937, daughter of the late William and Marian (Prehn) Bittner.

Joyce graduated from Paris High School and continued her education at DePauw University for her bachelor's degree. She then attended The Ohio State University for a master's in counseling, where she met the love of her life, Bruce Wylie. They were married on April 20, 1965, in Paris, Illinois. Together they raised their two children in Livonia, Mi. She also developed a close relationship with her oldest stepson. Joyce taught in the Livonia Public Schools for many years. She served as a Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader; she enjoyed watching choir, sporting events and dance recitals for both children and grandchildren. Joyce loved her family and supported them in all their endeavors; they were her world. Joyce is survived by her children, Allyson (John) Klak of Mt. Pleasant, and Bradford (Pam) Wylie of Canton; grandchildren, Elizabeth Klak, David Klak, Lauren Wylie, Andrew Wylie, Jonathon Wylie, Travis Wylie and Casey (Scott) Wylie-Knight; great grandchildren, Andrew Wylie Barron and Alex Wylie; and sister, Jane Bittner of Paris, Il. Joyce was preceded in death by both parents; husband, Bruce Wylie; and stepson, Ian Bruce Wylie. A private family service will take place in Ohio. She will be interred next to her husband at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Cincinnati, Oh. To sign the online guest book or leave a condolence for the family please visit www.CharlesRLux.com.



More than 3,000 people joined us on a day when the unthinkable happened. For the first time ever, Farmington ate Petey's out of doughnuts! But then, it's been that kind of year, one of pleasant surprises.

So don't rub your eyes in disbelief when you pass by the Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion in downtown Farmington this Saturday morning. Yes, there's a Farmers Market.

We're extending our season for one more week because the fall weather has been kind to our farmers. The hard killing frost that we so often see early in October is bedding down in the fields this week. That means there will be plenty of produce to pick. Our market tables will be full, so bundle up and bring your market bags.

Like all creatures great and small, we know to line our nest when the clouds quicken, churning the skies to a foamy grey as falling temps rain down. This is late fall. We light our fires. We prepare for the short days ahead. Good food found means a lot. So come to market.

And then come again to a very special market in downtown Farmington on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 27.

The event heralds the return of Holly Days, a holiday tradition that starts with our Greens, Gifts & Giving market. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., shoppers can find holiday wreaths, greens, roping, centerpieces, grave blankets and more.

We're planning a big market featuring all your market favorites: Petey's Donuts, Mamma Rita's, Mackinac Fishmongers, Triple Bee Honey, Chocolate Chipped Bakery, Droscha Sugarbush Syrup and more, as well as artisan wares for gifts and donation pantry boxes for giving.

If you can keep a secret, Santa and Mrs. Claus are coming to town, too.

And there's more to make holiday spirits soar! On Dec. 4, a parade will light up Grand River at dusk followed by the lighting of the town Christmas tree at the Gov. Warner Mansion.

Presented by the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce Holly Days is a shop-local delight and a great way to gather in the warmth of the holiday season.

As details unfold, keep yourself updated by visiting www.gfachamber.com or www.farmingtonfarmersmarket.com.

One more week of the regular market season is our way of saying we're not ready to wave so long till next year. The pulse and pull of community are just too powerful.

From our vendors, volunteers, sponsors and now yourself, the ties that bind are abundantly self-evident in this simple expression: Until next time, then and as always, here's saying, "See you at the Market."

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(CP) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021 | 7A



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#### **USA TODAY SPORTS**





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# SPORTS

# Four questions entering Round 2 football

#### Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's Round 2 of the Michigan High School Athletic Association football playoffs, and there are eight teams in the Hometown Life coverage area still alive.

Just like the pre-district, this week

features two matchups where both Crosstown rivalry Part II: teams are from the Hometown Life area, and both games will be played in Livonia.

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom is here to ask the hard-hitting questions as teams prepare for their district championship games.

Who ya got?

Livonia Churchill (8-2) had no trouble putting away Livonia Franklin (5-5) earlier this season. And rightfully so. The Chargers were a machine on offense with quarterback Taj Williams leading the team down the field.

They have a different identity on offense since Williams' (right ankle) injury during the loss to Fordson in Week 8.

Churchill should've run past Livonia Stevenson the following week. Instead, it was the Spartans pulling off the upset on homecoming night.

See QUESTIONS, Page 2B



The Northville boys soccer team celebrates after winning the Division 1 regional championship against Clarkston on Oct. 28. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Northville beats Clarkston to win first regional title in 14 years

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

The boys soccer playoffs are always a gauntlet.

And when you play in one of the toughest districts, it can be even tougher.

That's what Northville regularly faces

This year, though, it seemed even

tougher having to face the defending Division 1 state champion in Detroit Catholic Central, going through Brighton and then opening the regional round with one of the best Walled Lake Central teams in the Vikings' history.

Coach Henry Klimes will be the first to tell you how hard it is.

"Our division, our district is always tough," he said. "You have to use everybody to get out. There's always a risk of injury, but we play very good, tough teams.

"It seems like the team that gets out of the district can make a good run."

Northville's run went from a good one to a special one after it beat No. 2 Clarkston, 1-0, to win the regional championship.

The win ended a state semifinal appearance drought for the Mustangs, who are still in search of the program's first state title.

"Fourteen years. It's been 14 long years since we've been in this position," Klimes said with a smile.

The game didn't come easy for either team, as both teams were ranked in the top five by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association entering the match up.

See NORTHVILLE, Page 2B

<sup>66</sup>After my car accident, Community Financial gave me a lower rate on my auto loan and a check for a new car in under 24 hours.

D'ANNA L. **MEMBER SINCE 2010** 



5(10)



Get the rest of D'Anna's story at CFCU.ORG/SayItBest

# **Our Round 2 high school football playoff picks**

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The second round of the playoffs is here, and it's time to predict some winners.

Normally, Hometown Life sports reporter Brandon Folsom picks the five best matchups of the week. But with six games in Round 2, he's going to pick every game involving a local team. (To do so, he'll make them rapid-fire picks and spare you long explanations on why each team will win).

Folsom went 9-4 in Round 1 and is 22-11 picking games since joining Hometown Life this fall.

#### Canton (7-3) at Belleville (9-1), 7 p.m. Friday

Rest in peace, the Southeastern Conference-Red. The division went 0-4 in the playoffs, which included three losses to Kensington Lakes Activities Association teams.

Canton upset 9-0 Saline, Belleville got past Ann Arbor Huron and Livonia Franklin took down Temperance Bedford.

The Chiefs will need an even bigger upset this week, though. The KLAA champs have won seven straight since losing to Livonia Churchill in Week 3.

Folsom's pick: Belleville 31, Canton 21.

#### Livonia Franklin (5-5) at Livonia Churchill (8-2), 7 p.m. Friday

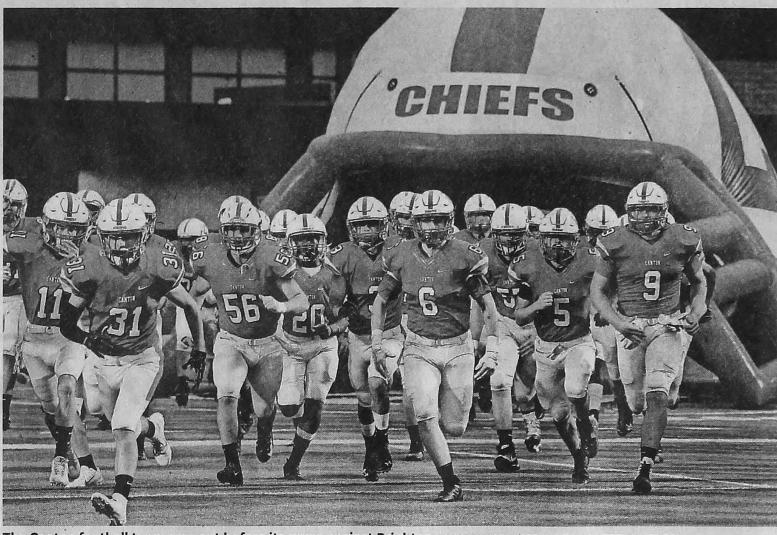
The Chargers had no trouble beating the rival Patriots in Week 6, but this is a different Churchill team.

Quarterback Taj Williams (right ankle) was injured in the Fordson loss the following week. Ever since Churchill has had to adapt its offense.

The Chargers looked rocky in a loss to Stevenson, but they've bounced back to beat Novi and Crestwood in back-toback weeks. They should be able to keep it going against Franklin.

Folsom's pick: Churchill 28, Franklin 24.

East Lansing (7-3) at South Lyon (10-0), 7 p.m. Friday



The Canton football team runs out before its game against Brighton. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The Trojans shut out Milford, 27-0, in the driving rain in Round 1, so they should be the toughest test the Lions have faced since they got by Lakeland in Week 5.

If the Lions can stop tailback Asher Gregory and deal with how physical East Lansing is at the point of attack, they should walk off the field with a district trophy.

Folsom's pick: South Lyon 28, East Lansing 20.

#### Detroit Catholic Central (8-2) at West Bloomfield (9-1), 7 p.m. Friday

Bloomfield Hills entered Round 1 with a 9-0 record, an Oakland Activities Association-Blue championship and the 12th-most playoff points in the entire state. And the Shamrocks made them look like an 8-player JV team before half-time.

My buddy, Jeff Corrion, owner of recruiting website The D Zone, tells me this week's Round 2 match up at West Bloomfield should be one of the best in the state.

Folsom's pick: West Bloomfield 14, Detroit Catholic Central 10.

#### Orchard Lake St. Mary's (6-4) at Brother Rice (7-3), 7 p.m. Friday (Lawrence Tech University)

During their Catholic League-Central game in the regular season, the Warriors led the Eaglets 43-3 at halftime before calling off the dogs. They ultimately finished with a 43-25 victory.

Expect more of the same, especially with Brother Rice coming off a 58-0 win

over Avondale in Round 1. Folsom's pick: Brother Rice 35, St. Mary's 14.

#### Detroit Country Day (6-3) at Livonia Clarenceville (9-1), 7 p.m. Friday

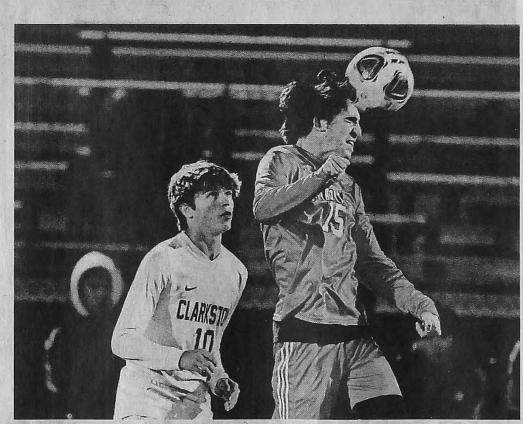
The Trojans have looked solid, only losing to Berkely, a D-2 school this season. But the defending state champions are playing like the defending state champions. The Yellowjackets hardly lifted a finger on offense Saturday, and they still blew out Redford Union, 35-6. They had two scores on defense and another on a kick return.

Folsom's pick: Country Day 28, Clarenceville 14.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.







While it looks like the Chargers have sorted out their issues on offense, there's still a chance Livonia Franklin could pull off a Stevenson-like upset and capture a district championship.

So, who do you have winning this city rematch?

### Can Detroit Country Day repeat as state champions?

With quarterback Brandon Mann back from injury, the Yellowjackets couldn't have looked any more impressive during their 35-6 victory Saturday at Redford Union.

Gabe Zeldes returned two interceptions for touchdowns on defense, Gabe Winowich took the opening kickoff for a score and Parker Yearego looked like a cheat code in the backfield.

Country Day (6-3) faces a tougher test this weekend at Livonia Clarenceville, which beat Madison Heights Lamphere in Round 1 to improve to 9-1.

But the true test will come in Round 3. Many in the media have tabbed 10-0 Chelsea as the favorite to win the state title. If Country Day can get past the Bulldogs, there won't be a team left in the playoffs that can beat the Yellowjackets.

#### Is DCC's game at West Bloomfield the best matchup of the week?

There are some great matchups in Round 2.

For example, there's Fordson-Woodhaven, Detroit King-River Rouge, Grand Rapids Catholic Central-Grand Rapids West Catholic and Warren De La Salle-Grosse Pointe South, among others.

But we're privy to Detroit Catholic Central (8-2) visiting West Bloomfield (9-1) for the Division 1 district final Friday.

The Shamrocks had one of the most convincing wins in Round 1 around the state, downing Bloomfield Hills 51-7 and igniting the running-clock rule early in the second quarter. The Black Hawks entered the matchup 9-0, winners of the Oakland Activities Association-Blue and it had the 12th-most playoff points in the entire state.

Catholic Central tore through them

LÓ

Detroit Catholic Central defenders snow under a Bloomfield High ball carrier. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

effortlessly, relying on the special teams to give the Shamrocks some great field position on offense.

But the Lakers, the defending state champions, won't be a slouch in the championship.

Despite both being D-1 teams residing in Oakland County, these two have met only once on the gridiron. The Lakers won that matchup 20-17 in 2018.

This game has the makings of being one of the most fun to watch.

#### How far can South Lyon go?

It's not going to be easy.

Teams such as Traverse City Central, Muskegon Mona Shores, Churchill, Roseville and, of course, De La Salle, are still alive in the D-2 playoffs.

But the Lions (10-0)' have a great shot at making it to the regional round this week. They welcome East Lansing, which just beat Milford, 27-0, for the district final.

The Trojans (7-3) ride their strong ground game, led by running back Asher Gregory.

If South Lyon wins this game, who knows how far it can make it? It'd likely face Portage Central in the regional. T.C. Central or Mona Shores would await them in the state semifinal. And, likely, De La Salle, the favorite to repeat as state champions, would be waiting for the Lions in the state championship.

The Lions haven't qualified for the state finals since 1995. Do they have what it takes to get back there this year?

Twitter: @folsombrandonj

Northville's Moreno Scaccia heads the ball past Clarkston's Richie Ludwig during the Division 1 regional final. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### Northville

Continued from Page 1B

Neither team registered an official shot on goal because of how tough both defenses played.

It was like a game of chess for Klimes and Clarkston coach Ian Jones.

"It was like a chess match," Klimes said. "They (Clarkston) wanted to build out of the back, and we let them do that. We then wanted to counter, and use Michael (Chimineti) and Jack (Kresnak) to use their speed because I wasn't sure if they'd seen two lethal forwards like that. They had their hands full as well.

"Clarkston played very well. They're the best team we've played all year. It was a misfortunate mistake that we were able to capitalize off of. I tip my hat to them, we didn't get to play our game because they were on us constantly."

With 16:45 left in regulation, the ball was fired in on Clarkston's keeper with Kresnak barreling down on him.

"To be honest, I thought he was going to get it and I almost gave up (on the play)," the senior forward said. "But in that last second, he started to

P

back away and I said to myself, 'You know what, screw it. I'm going for it."

As the ball lay at the keeper's feet, he reached down to grab it. Kresnak took advantage of the mistake and stole the ball right from under his hands, gathered it and fired the winning goal.

After the game, as pictures were being taken, he again was alone in the goal clutching the regional trophy thinking of what this win meant.

"This win means a lot," Kresnak said. "It means a lot to the school, too. We haven't been to the semifinals since I can remember. It's been a handful of years. But it puts a statement on this team that will live with us forever.

"It's awesome. It's one of the greatest feelings I've ever felt. It's happiness, upon happiness, upon happiness."

The only other time Northville was close to winning a regional was in 2014 when it lost to then-state champion Canton in a shootout. To go all the way this time, however, Klimes knows Northville still has to play its best game.

"I know the boys want to send the ball to our forwards all the time," the 31styear coach said. "Teams will understand that, and will take it away from us. We're going to have to build plays through the midfield; not every play will go long."

Providence and interaction of the

# Howell rallies to beat Hartland in 30T thriller

#### Bill Khan Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HARTLAND - Howell's seniors knew beforehand that it could be their last game as high school football players, which is the same prospect every team faces in the state playoffs.

But that sobering possibility was beginning to feel more real in the second half against Hartland on Friday night.

Nothing was working in the rain on a muddy field against an outstanding defensive team. To make matters worse, star running back August Johanningsmeier was lost with an injury for the second time this season.

"It was gonna be the last game for us, so we were just, 'Everything you have, everything you've got' the rest of the game," Howell senior quarterback Nolan Petru said. "We weren't gonna lose, and we came through."

"It's our senior year," senior linebacker Noah Ramonaitis said. "It's either win this or we're out."

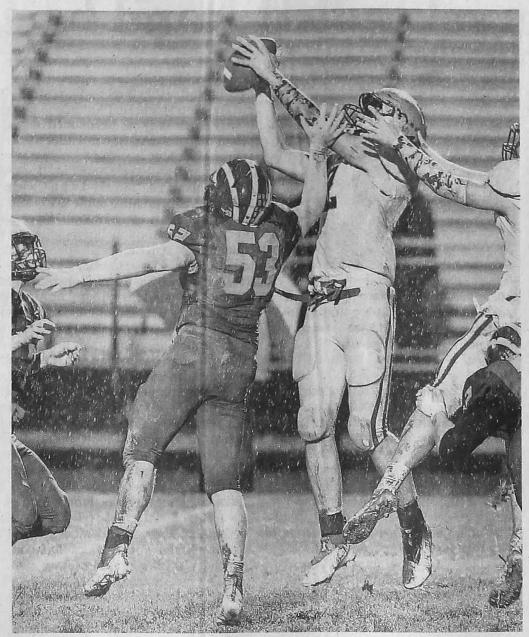
With the momentum slowly turning their way late in the third quarter, Howell rallied from a 14-0 deficit to beat host Hartland in a 35-28 triple-overtime battle in the opening round of the Division1 playoffs.

Petru ran for all five touchdowns for Howell, including two on fourth down. He scrambled for a 7-yard touchdown on fourth-and-goal to force overtime with 7.5 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

Carrying the ball on Howell's last 11 offensive plays, Petru scored what proved to be the winning touchdown on a fourth-and-goal run from 2 yards out on the first series of the third overtime.

Hartland threw only two passes the entire game, both in the third overtime. After an incompletion, Sam Clay threw a short toss to Isaiah McPherson, who had momentum going toward the goal line. That's when junior defensive back John Lovich came out of nowhere to jar the ball loose just outside the goal line. Ramonaitis fell on the fumble in the end zone to end the game, giving Howell a come-from-behind playoff victory at Hartland for the second straight season.

"The last play, we were just sitting there," Ramonaitis said. "We knew something would come, probably some-



Howell's Danny Honkala hauls in a 31-yard pass over Hartland linebacker Chase Kern to set up the tying touchdown in the final seconds of regulation time. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

thing crazy. I don't know who it was, but they popped him, they popped the ball out. I jumped on it trying to secure it. We won the game. Whoever popped it out, I'm going to figure out who it was. I'm going to buy him dinner or something."

A year ago, the Eagles led the Highlanders 16-13 when they could have put away the game by converting on fourthand-1. Instead, linebacker Danny Honkala recovered a fumble with 1:46 left, making it possible for Howell to win 21-16 on a 30-yard touchdown pass from Petru to Jackson Kovarik with 22.4 seconds left.

Hartland appeared to have Friday's game under control after a 3-yard run by Joey Mattord in the first quarter followed Michael Hawley's blocked punt and a 5-yard run by Clay in the second quarter put the Eagles ahead 14-0 at halftime.

Neither team threw a complete pass in the rain until Petru went 3-for-3 for 37 yards on a drive that culminated with his 2-yard touchdown run with 1:28 left in the third quarter.

It was still a lot to ask the Highlanders to get another touchdown under miserable conditions against a Hartland defense that held them to seven points in the teams' first meeting.

Howell's game-tying drive began at its own 20-yard line with 2:12 remaining. A 21-yard catch by Spencer Holdcraft got things rolling and a 31-yard catch by Honkala moved the ball to the Hartland 7-yard line, making a comeback feel more like a possibility.

After three straight incompletions, Petru scrambled on fourth down and barely got into the end zone.

"It was a pass play," Petru said. "I saw there was one guy to beat. There was nothing stopping me from getting in that end zone at that moment."

Each team led in overtime. Petru's 3yard run was answered by Clay's 1-yard run in the first overtime. After Mattord's 5-yard touchdown run put Hartland ahead in the second overtime, Petru scored from 2 yards out on the Highlanders' possession.

Petru's 2-yard run that proved to be the game-winner came one play after he gained five yards on third-and-7.

Petru ran 26 times for 93 yards and was 8-for-17 for 86 yards. Johanningsmeier ran 14 times for 67 yards before leaving the game.

"We talked at halftime, we've got to make plays," Howell coach Brian Lewis said. "Jackson made that big catch. Danny made that big catch. They kind of sparked us a little bit. (Petru) was unbelievable there at the end. August went down and (Petru) carried the load. He was an absolute man tonight. He was the competitor we all know he is."

Both teams' kickers were perfect on extra points. Howell's Nolan Cuellar was 5-for-5 and Hartland's Nathan Dibert was 4-for-4.

The Eagles, who beat Howell 29-7 four weeks earlier, finished with a 7-3 record. It was their best record since the 2014 team was also 7-3.

"The seniors, they did what we've been asking for several years and they did everything they needed to do," Hartland coach Brian Savage said. "They're a great example. So, these underclassmen hopefully can pick up from here and get over this hump in the playoffs."





# As Mel Tucker wins, appreciation for Mark Dantonio is rekindled - and he can feel it

#### Graham Couch Lansing State Journal USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

EAST LANSING - There is a powerful video of Mark Dantonio on the field Saturday at Spartan Stadium, at the end of Michigan State's win over Michigan. He's standing at about the 15-yard-line, hands in pockets, like a proud dad, just watching the Spartans celebrate in the end zone.

That video, shared by broadcaster Josh Pate, so well captures the warmth of a coach's feelings toward his old program, toward his formers players, the significance of a rivalry he changed, and the acceptance his successor has shown him. Twenty-five seconds, mostly of the back of Dantonio's head, did all of that.

There are a gazillion good storylines surrounding MSU's football program right now in its second season under Mel Tucker. One of them is Dantonio his dignified move into the background without disappearing. Tucker's willingness to have him still be a presence, and the rekindled gratitude from a fan base for what he did and who he is to MSU football.

Dantonio can feel it, too.

"I do. I feel appreciated by our fans," Dantonio said Monday evening. "Hey, we did our best, we had a lot of wins and a lot of great memories and a lot of great times. I've truly been blessed in this whole process."

We were always headed here - to this place where Dantonio is remembered as a legend and admired for his tenure as the Spartans' head football coach. But the rapid speed in which Tucker has won, with a roster featuring about half of Dantonio's players, has sped up that process. Instead of being perceived as a coach who left the program bare and perhaps left too late, he's remembered most for winning and the foundation he built. And that it all worked out pretty well in the end.

People ultimately remember how you make them feel. And, for a lot of years, Dantonio made MSU fans feel things they'd never felt before. That's the legacy, even if the last couple years weren't as fun to chew on.



Former coach Mark Dantonio, left, talks with Michigan State head coach Mel Tucker before MSU's game against Michigan on Oct. 30 in East Lansing. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

"Most people come into a program that's really down. I didn't think our program was down," Dantonio said. "... We still had a core of a very good players and, as much as anything, I think we had a core of good people that would work. And if you work at whatever you're being asked to do, you have a chance to be successful. I think that's what's happened to a lot of individuals. I see guys who were freshmen when I was there, like Maverick Hansen, who got bigger, stronger, faster. That's a credit to the coaching staff and to the weight room. ...

"They certainly have had some guys come in, like Kenneth Walker, who's been a big contributor and a gamechanger. It takes everyone - that's what I've learned as a head coach, everybody in your program. It takes every single person to be operating at full potential to be successful. But I don't think we had terrible players (at the end). We just, we needed more."

Dantonio sees this year's team similar to his 2010 squad - the beginning of the program's rise under Dantonio. That team, like this one, had settled on a young and savvy quarterback and, also like this team, began 8-0.

Dantonio's epilogue with MSU football doesn't work if Tucker is resistant to having Dantonio around. One could understand why a new coach wouldn't want the old guy in the clubhouse. Tucker, who noticeably (and perhaps strategically) didn't mention Dantonio publicly very much early on, has opened up his program to the man who ran it for the 13 years before him.

"I mean, Coach D is a Spartan," Tucker said this week. "I worked with Coach D for five years (at MSU in the 1990s and Ohio State in the early 2000s). We won the national championship together (at Ohio State). Anytime you spend that much time with a person side by side for five years ... you have a relationship. So I embrace his presence around our football team. It's not something that bothers me at all."

Dantonio's approach to his new place in the program has helped, too. The line he's walked in terms of being around but not a constant, being visible but in the background - coupled with all the feels from winning - has allowed for him to be seen as a treasure. Dantonio didn't think he needed to disappear to the other side of the country, like Jud Heathcote thought he needed to for Tom Izzo. But he gets that this is no longer his baby

"I think it's very important to give the next guy in line space," Dantonio said. "Nobody wants to be a burden or anything like that. Nobody wants to infringe upon that territory. I think it's important that an individual, whoever that is, whatever program that is, has an opportunity to move forward in your own way. So that's important (for me) to do that.

"But I also feel very accepted there. (Tucker) brought me down to Miami on the team plane and all that kind of stuff. I can probably go anywhere I want. He's told me that over and over, 'You come and go as you want.' So he's been very accessible and great. But I also think that this is his program, and he's doing a tremendous job with it. And I need to stand back and, like a past coach, watch."

Dantonio still has an informal role at the university, be it with donors or, as he put it, whatever is asked of him. He still has a house in East Lansing and, Saturday, got to experience Michigan StateMichigan game day traffic for the first time, like the rest of us.

We left at 10 (a.m.) right from from my house here. I think we got in there about 11:15 or 11:10. It took me about an hour-plus to get in. That's just getting down Harrison (Road)," Dantonio said, chuckling. "I was looking for that police escort.

"I used to walk in those stadiums with 100 guys and I'd focus on those 100 guys when I got there on the field, and then I left with 100. So I would see the fans and I would see the stands and understand the bigness of it all, but when you walk in before a game and you see it, where you get caught in the traffic, you see the magnitude of the game. It's something that I know I realized it, but I never really felt it. That's a little bit new to me. But I understand how big that win is."

Dantonio knows it better than anyone. He won that game eight times and. more than that, flipped the script on the rivalry by reacting to the Wolverines' bravado and then beating them repeatedly - adding not-so subtle verbal digs of his own along the way.

He talked Monday of the satisfaction of watching players celebrate. That's one of things he misses most from coaching.

"I miss the players. I think that's the biggest thing you miss - the players, the Xs and Os, the competition," Dantonio said. "But there are other things that you have to deal with on that end that I don't miss. It's a give-and-take a little bit, but I've been good and I've adjusted."

Watching the winning has helped. Especially watching it done with many of his old players.

"There's a great deal of satisfaction," Dantonio said. "I think the toughest thing when I retired was, the players that I recruited there, were they going to be successful? How are they going to be? Can they still realize their dreams? And that's the thing that's so important to me. ... It's a little bit of an unknown when you step away, what's going to happen? Because change is going to affect everybody."





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# **MSU commit puts Fordson a game** away from a district championship

Mick McCabe Special to Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Dearborn Fordson was about to wrap up the Division 1 district semifinal game over long-time nemesis Detroit Cass Tech.

It was third-and-2 at the Cass 17-yard line with less than two minutes remaining and the score was tied when Fordson quarterback Alex Osman dropped back to pass.

If no one was open he was going to throw the ball away, setting up a makeable 35-yard field goal to win the game.

But as he was preparing to throw Osman was smacked by Julius Faulkner, who forced a fumble Demarielle Lockett recovered with 1:46 left to play.

"To be honest," Osman said, "I thought the game was over."

Antonio Gates Jr. wasn't buying that game-was-over business.

"It's never over until the clock is 0:00," Gates insisted. "Of course, I had goosebumps like, 'Damn.'

Damn, indeed.

Cass Tech marched down the field and on the last play of the fourth quarter lined up for a 42-yard field goal attempt, which was blocked, forcing overtime.

Fordson had the ball first and on first down Gates was overthrown on a fade route in the end zone.

The Tractors called for a running play on second down, but as they were lined up before the snap, Osman looked at Gates and Gates looked as Osman and bye-bye running play.

"It was single coverage," Osman said. "I trust him. I looked him in the eye. We got it."

Osman and Gates have a certain connection that doesn't require many words.

'We have a kind of chemistry," Gates said. "We looked at each other and it was like: 'It's go time.'"

Osman lofted a perfect fade route into the end zone while a defender pulled at his arm, Gates pulled in the pass and Fordson led, 21-14.

After the Fordson defense stopped

go into Friday's home district final game against Woodhaven.

This was a gigantic victory for Fordson, which lost nine of the previous 10 state playoff games against the Technicians.

It was another tremendous effort by Gates, who caught six passes for 129 yards and two touchdowns and turned in another superlative effort on defense.

Trailing 7-0 early in the second quarter, Fordson had a drive on which Gates drew an interference for a15-yard penalty. He then caught passes for 24 and 30 yards on consecutive plays before grabbing a 14-yarder to get the Tractors on the board.

"I'm telling you, I'm biased, obviously, he plays for us he's the best damn player," said Fordson coach Walker Zaban. "Who's he playing against and look what he does. It's not like he's playing someone that's not that good and they know we're going to him. It's no secret."

On Fordson's last possession of regulation, Cass was double-teaming Gates, yet Osman fired a bullet between the defenders that Gates hauled in for a 19-yard gain.

"It was my quarterback" insisted Gates. "I don't think he's getting enough attention of how good he really is. My part is so little of what I'm doing. With the passes he's making, I don't understand why he's not getting much attention."

#### Line's Oxford squad makes postseason waves

Zach Line was one of Oxford's best players ever, running for 1,723 yards and 17 touchdowns in his senior year, which coincided with his 154 tackles and eight fumbles caused.

After a good career at SMU, Line was an undrafted free agent and spent seven seasons in the NFL as a fullback.

So don't be surprised if he spends an inordinate amount of time talking about his offensive line, which is exactly what he did after Oxford upset Clarkston, 38-

Cass Tech it was go time all right, as in 28 in the first round of the Division 1 playoffs.

'They've been phenomenal," Line said of his line. "A lot of the credit there goes to their line coach Eric Ghiaciuc, who played at Central Michigan and spent six years in the NFL. I tried to get him when I was first hired, but he was committed to Lake Orion. This year I convinced him to come over."

The offensive line allowed Sal Vackaro to run for 309 yards and four touchdowns on 29 carries, limiting Clarkston's ability to gain possession.

"Last year I was the O-line coach," Line said. "The biggest thing as a fullback, you're basically the sixth O-lineman so forever I'll know what they go through. It's grimy, it's gritty.

Those guys are doing a heckuva job up front."

Oxford lost its first three games before winning its fourth and losing its fifth and no one saw a state playoff berth, much less a spot in the district finals, coming.

"When we were 0-3, you get to that point and the worst that can happen is the guys check out, they don't believe they can make it," Line said. "With our schedule I felt after Week 2 we had come together as a team and then had a close game against West Bloomfield and they saw how good they are.

"Even after all the losses we kept coming closer and closer as a team which is rare."

Line took over a program that had been 1-8 and last season posted a 2-5 record before showing a vast improvement this year and the players are buying into the program.

"Everything is based upon effort," Line said. "From the guys you see on the field, when we come together as a coaching staff we'll be discussing every guy. The first thing it starts with is effort — does he give effort?

"If you going to be the tight end, the quarterback, the left tackle it doesn't matter. If you don't give effort, you don't check the first box, you're not going to be in that position. So it's pretty special

when we're basing everything off effort."

Oxford lost its Week 5 game to Clarkston, 20-17, and this week it continues its revenge tour with a game at Rochester Adams, which beat the Wildcats, 24-10. in Week 2.

"For these guys," Line said, "it shows them down the line in life whenever you want something you have to work for it. We're building a program at Oxford now."

#### **KLAA flexes its muscle**

If we have learned anything from week one of the playoffs it is that the **Kensington Lakes Athletics Association** is better than we imagined.

The top end of the KLAA has always been quite good, and Livonia Franklin (5-4) upset Temperance Bedford in the opening round. But the biggest surprise was Canton (6-3) knocking off unbeaten Saline, 32-20.

The Chiefs were able to pull this off without injured top running back Wesley Faulkner. Caleb Williams stepped up and played well in the first half until he was injured. That meant third-stringer Connor Hands had to take over as one of the three backs in Canton's tight T-formation offense in the third quarter.

Canton led 20-0 at the half and Hands gained 35 yards on his first carry and helped the Chiefs hold off Saline's attempt at a classic comeback.

"It's what you build for," said Canton coach Andy Lafata. "You want everyone to have a part in it and haver their role when their opportunity is there they take advantage of it."

Zach Badger came through with 133 yards on 20 carries for the Chiefs, who began the season with losses to Howell and Fordson, KLAA teams that are also in the district finals.

"It was tough because you had the whole off season and you have confidence in what you're doing and you're doing the right things," Lafata said. "Then you find out that other teams work in the off season as well."

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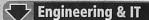
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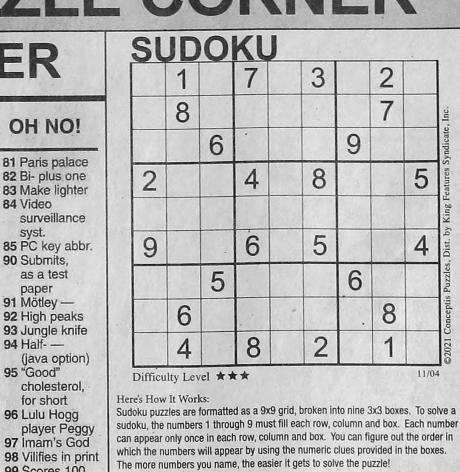
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