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# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Rats in Canton force township to action

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The only ones who truly know why rats are showing up in Canton Township subdivisions in greater numbers than in recent memory are the furry, long-tailed rodents themselves — and they're not talking.

But Security Pest Control co-owner Julie Lattimore, who confirmed rat-related service calls are higher than normal in a number of Canton subdivisions, has a theory.

"I think it's the building of all the new homes," Lattimore said. "They're getting pushed out of their natural habitat — the fields and wooded areas — and

they're looking for food and places to nest."

The growing rat presence is so substantial in some Canton subdivisions — Carriage Hills and Windsor Park to name two — that township officials have gone door-to-door circulating flyers warning residents how to prevent the infestation of the rodents.

A letter distributed by the township and signed by Director of Police Services Chad Baugh offers advice on what attracts rats — namely food and shelter — and to contact pest control professionals if they "encounter a rat infestation".

See RATS, Page 2A



Members of The Way Church with Pastor Jason Adams, pictured right center wearing a Detroit Lions hoodie, volunteering during a holiday parade in 2019. Church members were regular volunteers when the Livonia Service Corps started.  
COURTESY OF KRIS HERRMANN

## Livonia Service Corps reboots

Group connects volunteers with city residents needing help

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Former Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright started the Livonia Service Corps in 2017 to connect residents with volunteers when they need help. After idling for a year during the COVID-19 pandemic, the city is re-investing in the program.

"There's always been a group of volunteers who have contacted the city to let us know they have resources or time available to help those in need," LaShawn Thomas, the city's director of governmental affairs, said. "We get a lot of calls from residents who literally don't know what to do — sometimes it's someone who's a senior or has a disability and they can't shovel snow or rake

leaves." Volunteers help with anything someone might not be able to accomplish on their own. People have served as movers, landscaping teams and help out at city events.

"It's for anything that somebody may be unable to do themselves,"

See SERVICE, Page 3A

## Former FPS administrator sues district, alleging racial discrimination

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington Public Schools' former assistant superintendent is suing the school district, claiming racial discrimination in at least the third such federal lawsuit against the district in 2021.

Aaron Johnson, who left the district in June 2020, is alleging he deserves damages amounting to at least \$15 million because of emotional injuries and lost wages and income tied to his decision to leave the Oakland County school system.

Johnson actually worked for Detroit, Hamtramck, Farmington and Grosse Pointe schools before he returned to Farmington as one of its top administrators in 2014. When he left, he was assistant superintendent for diversity, equity, inclusion and student services.

"The unlawful discriminatory treatment of African-American students, staff and teachers, including plaintiff, was a driving force behind plaintiff deciding to take a job outside of the district between the years 2012-2014," reads the lawsuit filed Oct. 29 in U.S. District Court. "Upon plaintiff's return to FPS in 2014, the unlawful discriminatory and racially hostile work and general environment at FPS continued to exist."

Former Superintendent Robert Herrera, who resigned last year claiming harassment because he was being accused of being racist with Blacks, also is listed as a defendant but could not be reached for comment.


District officials would not say  
See LAWSUIT, Page 2A

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## Pioneer Middle sixth-graders go to remote learning

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Pioneer Middle School sixth-graders in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools shifted to fully remote learning Tuesday until at least Nov. 15 due to an escalating number of COVID-19 positive cases and the corresponding number of student quarantines.

According to the school district's website, 12 Pioneer students and one staff member reported positive COVID-19 results on Nov. 8.

"At this time, over 25% of Pioneer sixth-grade students are out of school either as a positive case or a close contact quarantine," a district correspondence told Pioneer families.

Class times will remain the same for students learning remotely, the correspondence said.

"Students should follow their normal lunch and recess schedule for the week and access Canvas and Zoom as they did during the virtual 2020 school days," the email stated.

The district emphasized that students need to check their email in the morning for specific instructions.

## Lawsuit

Continued from Page 1A

anything regarding the lawsuit that accuses the district of encouraging an unlawfully discriminatory environment negatively affecting Black teachers, staff and students.

"As a district, we cannot comment on ongoing litigation matters," district spokeswoman Diane Bauman said.

Johnson's LinkedIn page shows that he is now working as a partner and equity leadership coach at The Equity Collaborative. According to the collaborative's website, he has presented at several conferences, placing an emphasis on developing literacy for African-American students.

In his lawsuit, Johnson, who is Black, accuses the district of discriminatory behavior that includes not enforcing anti-discrimination laws, creating a racially hostile environment, treating Blacks unfairly and punishing him by increasing his workload for protesting.

When asked why Johnson returned to the district, knowing his perception of the district, his attorney Leonard Mungo said Johnson thought he could make a difference.

"The content of the lawsuit is extremely important," Mungo said. "This is a very serious problem. FPS is the poster district of institutional racism."

Mungo is also representing a young man who filed a separate lawsuit against the district and a teacher last spring alleging the teacher called him a racial epithet in front of an entire class during his junior year at Farmington Central High School in 2019. Responding to the suit, the district denied the allegation.

Another pending lawsuit was filed by a special needs parent in April. Dana Lambeth-Greer sued the district, Herrera and a special education teacher concerned with how her Black son was treated at Kenbrook Elementary School.

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by  
Observer & Eccentric Media

### Newsroom Contacts:

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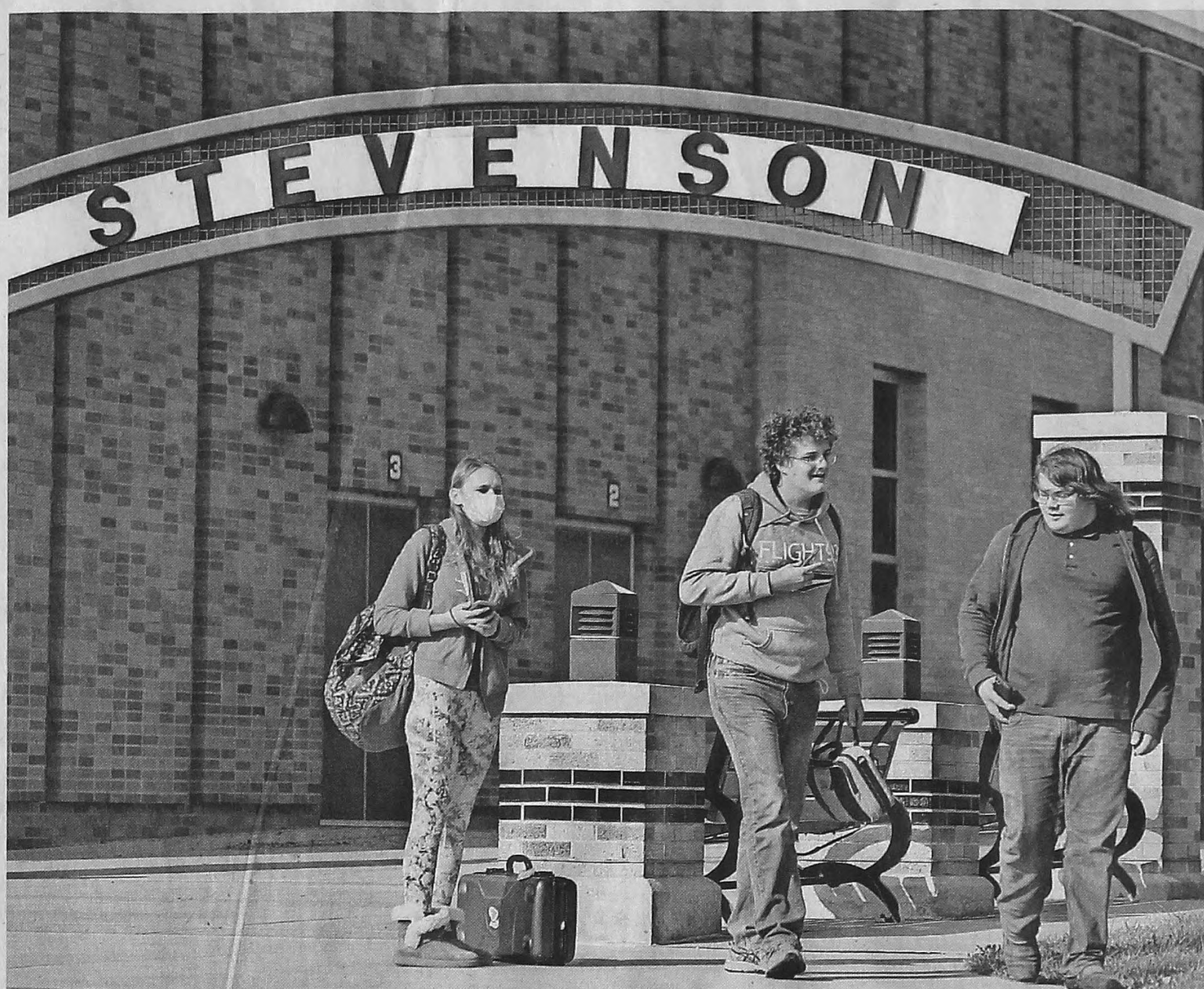
Newsstand price: \$1.50  
\$104 per 12 months home delivery

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Students leave Livonia Stevenson High School after classes Nov. 5. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Livonia winter sports remain different because of pandemic

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Because of county and state guidelines related to COVID-19, Livonia schools expect winter sporting events like basketball games to look much like they did last year.

"Our indoor sports are mandated to wear masks," Franklin High School Athletic Director Ron Hammye said.

The district does expect, however, that increased vaccination rates among students will lessen the number of people required to quarantine and therefore having a smaller impact on class attendance and sports rosters. Unvaccinated students with a close-contact COVID-19 exposure — being within 3 feet of an infected person for 15 consecutive minutes — are still required to quarantine.

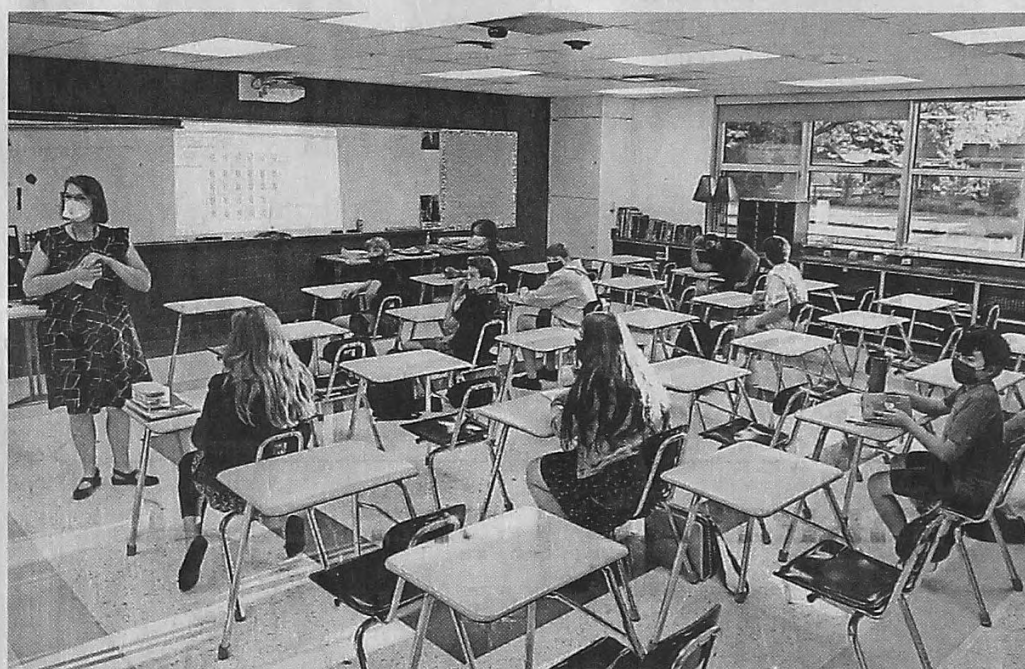
"When we compare last year to this year, it's been quite a bit different," Dan Willenborg, the district's director of secondary programs, explained. "The close quarantine factors have changed. Now, when somebody is determined a positive case they have their quarantine protocol of 10 days. But, there's not nearly as many close-contacts we have to quarantine."

"Just that factor (vaccination) itself has greatly reduced the impact on our schools and sports programs."

Schools also do not have to require testing before athletic events and do not need to require masking for outdoor sports like football and soccer in the fall season.

Now that children ages 5-11 years are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, the district plans on encouraging its elementary students to get the shot. However, the district is not planning to hold its own vaccine clinics like it did last year or how some other school districts are hosting clinics now because vaccine appointments are widely available.

"The more kids that are vaccinated, the less quarantines we'll run into," Willenborg said.



Students begin filling a classroom at Emerson Middle School in September.

**"When we compare last year to this year, it's been quite a bit different. The close quarantine factors have changed. ... (vaccination) itself has greatly reduced the impact on our schools and sports programs."**

**Dan Willenborg** Director of secondary programs

Livonia has yet to appear on Michigan's school-related COVID-19 outbreak database, which receives its information from county health departments. District administration believes, based on contract tracing it's done, most coronavirus cases in Livonia originate at home instead of at school.

Willenborg said families participating in the district's daily symptom screener, even when vaccinated, and not coming to school sick will be even more important as temperatures drop.

"Do not come to school if you have those symptoms or if you're feeling ill," he said.

The district plans to continue grappling with pandemic-created challenges related to classrooms and sports

as long as needed. Hammye and Willenborg said students, school staff and athletic staff have been diligent in making sure mitigation measures are followed.

"Our kids are following the rules as mandated," Hammye said. "It is problematic at times — it's a hard thing to play a sport with a mask on. You're huffing, you're puffing and sometimes we see kids pulling masks down or they slide down. For the most part, they're doing the best with a difficult situation."

You can view a school-by-school breakdown of COVID-19 case numbers and get answers to frequently asked questions by visiting the district's "COVID-19 Corner," which is viewable on the homepage of the district's website, livoniapublicschools.org.

## Rats

Continued from Page 1A

"Two of the main food sources that attract rats are bird feeders and dog poop," Lattimore said. "They'll eat pretty much anything, so keeping your yard clean can help prevent them from spreading."

"Keeping your grass cut, putting lids on trash cans that are stored outside and not piling firewood near your house can help, too. As far as shelter, rats can find compromised areas of your house and garage — openings in siding, holes in brick walls — to get inside."

Decades-long residents of Canton are reporting on social media posts

they are seeing rats for the first time since they moved into the area.

Other residents have said they have trapped as many as 30 in recent months.

Hannah Schauer, a communications & education coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division, said Norway rats are non-protected mammals and may be "taken at any time by any method without need for a permit or any authorization from the DNR."

"We do not track or collect population data on Norway rats," Schauer said. "They can be found throughout the United States and most of the world. Norway rats will live in close proximity to humans because there are usually ample food sources and shelter available. They are prolific breeders, having

multiple litters a year."

According to livescience.com, female rats can mate around 500 times in a six-hour period and brown rats can produce up to 2,000 offspring in a year. Brown rats can have up to 22 young at once, though eight or nine is more the average, the website states.

A rat's front teeth grow 11 to 14 centimeters each year, according to Discover Magazine.

Lattimore said rats' greatest threat to humans is that they carry diseases.

Rats and mice do offer a benefit to humans — although in an involuntary way.

"Brown rats are used in laboratories for research," the Foundation for Biomedical Research states on its website. "In fact, 95 percent of all lab animals are mice and rats."

ewright@hometownlife.com



# Plymouth police ID teen as suspect in sexual assault report

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth police have singled out a 15-year-old male as the primary suspect in an apparent attempted sexual assault in downtown Plymouth.

Lt. Jamie Grabowski said the teen will be facing charges but "no further details will be released due to (his) minor status."

The public provided numerous tips about the Oct. 30 Comfort Station incident.

That evening, a woman had attempted to use the Comfort Station public bathroom in the 700 block of Penniman Avenue when she was allegedly attacked while exiting a stall.

The woman told police she fought off her attacker,

who then fled out the door and toward Kellogg Park and Union Street.

Security camera footage showed the alleged attacker entering the bathroom about 20 minutes before the woman.

"Plymouth by in large is a very safe community but evil can strike anywhere," Grabowski said. "(My) advice would be to be aware of your surroundings, never assume your safety is guaranteed. Be prepared to defend yourself if needed."

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Plymouth Police Department, 734-453-1234, extension 272.

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

# Redford man sentenced to prison on child porn charges

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Redford Township man will spend 13 years in prison on child pornography charges, according to Acting U.S. Attorney Saima Mohsin.

She announced the sentence for Devin Walker, 24, on Nov. 2.

Federal prosecutors have said Walker enticed and persuaded females to produce images of themselves engaging in sexually explicit conduct between 2015 and November 2018.

If they did not continue to provide the photos, he threatened his victims with violence and exposure of their images.

He communicated with his victims using his real name and an alias over the Internet, according to Mohsin.

Investigators found 31 videos and 105 images of child pornography, involving 13- to 17-year-old children, when reviewing Walker's devices.

"Walker is a sexual predator who coerced and exploited children for his own sexual gratification," Mohsin said in her statement. "The images he obtained from girls as young as 13 are not merely pictures but are a permanent record of the sexual abuse and exploitation he visited upon these children."

The FBI invites people learn more about sextortion and how to talk to young people about it. Information, resources, and conversation guides can be found at [www.fbi.gov/StopSextortion](http://www.fbi.gov/StopSextortion).

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

## Service

Continued from Page 1A

Thomas said. "A lot of times, it's for someone who's a senior or who is disabled and they don't have any family nearby. They call the city because they don't know who else to call."

One of the most involved volunteers with the group since its inception is Jason Adams, who pastors The Way Church near the corner of Middlebelt and Joy roads. Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan recently gave Adams the first-ever "Heart of Livonia" award for all the time he's spent helping others.

Thomas said whenever the city sends out a call to volunteers, Adams is always among the first people to raise their hands. The pastor routinely gets members of his church to pitch in with the Service Corps, as well.

"We've always been ready and available for them to give us a call," Adams said. "It can be as simple to shoveling sidewalks to doing some landscaping. We've done some pretty aggressive tree removals with fallen trees after storms. It's just giving that helping hand."

The pastor said getting recognized with the "Heart of Livonia" award was unexpected and "humbling," but recognition isn't why he's involved with the program. Adams said doing the right thing is what motivates him.

"I really believe you can show the love of God in a practical way just by helping people out," he said. "You don't always have to preach, you don't always have to help people God's word. You can show it in a practical way. Sometimes, it means more."

Thomas said residents like Adams are the reason



Members of The Way Church work as volunteers to fix up a neighbor's backyard. Church members were regular volunteers when the Livonia Service Corps started. COURTESY OF THE WAY CHURCH

the Livonia Service Corps exists and she hopes to see the program grow. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact the mayor's office at 734-466-2201. The city has a working list of willing volunteers with the Service Corps that it will use to contact people whenever there's a volunteer opportunity.

Adams said the program is worth getting involved in, if only for the satisfaction that comes with doing something good.

"You don't realize how much of an energetic blessing it is to help somebody else out," he said.

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# CHECK OUT FALL COLORS BEFORE THEY'RE GONE

**From Staff Reports** [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Fall colors are spreading through local woods. If it seems like yellows and golds are dominating this season, that could be because of the gray, wet weather we've had.

Locally, this may be one of the latest autumns for fall foliage, but there are still spots in metro Detroit to enjoy some color, including Maybury State Park, Kensington Metropark, Shiawassee Park in Farmington, Booth Park in Birmingham and Wayne's Mill Trail.



As colder air begins to settle in, trees along the pathway of Shiawassee Park in Farmington take on colorful hues Nov. 1. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A maple tree's leaves in red, yellow and orange in Shiawassee Park.



A pair of cottonwood tree trunks frame some colorful maple tree leaves in Booth Park in Birmingham on Nov. 1.



A Virginia creeper leaf in fall color at Maybury State Park in Northville on Oct. 28.



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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."

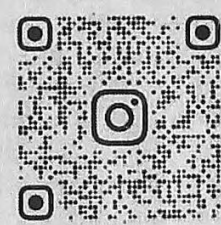
When asked why he thinks they have been so successful, Gabriel stated that Aratham is able to stand by their promise of being an organic, plant based company, without sacrificing flavor. "A crowd pleaser is our spaghetti Bolognese. People ask 'Are you sure there is no meat in this?' There isn't. We don't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



Aratham 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."

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.



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# Farmington Players return to live stage

Dave Reinke  
Farmington Players

The Farmington Players return to the stage this holiday season with the comedy, "A Hunting Shack Christmas," written by Jessica Lind Peterson.

The show is loaded with some of the funniest actors on the Barn roster, and it runs Nov. 19 through Dec. 4 at the Farmington Players Theater in Farmington Hills.

Tickets are available at [farmington-players.org](http://farmington-players.org) or at the box office's number, 248-553-2955. This year the Barn has implemented new COVID-19 rules to keep members and audiences safe: Masks are required for everyone, and audiences will be encouraged to enter the theater early rather than crowding in the lobby. Additionally, all cast and crew are fully vaccinated.

"A Hunting Shack Christmas" starts with a suburban couple, Charlie and Jennifer, who are nearing their 10th anniversary. Charlie suddenly gets the urge (against his wife's wishes) to escape alone to the family's beloved hunting shack up north a few days before Christmas.

But when Charlie arrives at the cottage, he discovers a colorful cast of characters squatting on his prized property. Bring on a snowstorm that traps them all in close quarters, and you have the ingredients for a wonderful Christmas-time comedy.

"It's an ideal vehicle to escape the heaviness of the past 19 months for a couple hours and come back with a warm feeling and a smile," Bob Hotchkiss, who plays Charlie, said.

"A Hunting Shack Christmas" is directed by Jason Wilhoite of Farmington, who's delighted to helm the first live Barn production onstage since the pandemic began.

"Having a script in hand, debating plot points, and developing the charming characters found in 'A Hunting Shack Christmas' has provided a normalcy I've missed deeply," Wilhoite said.

While the northern setting of the play takes place in Minnesota, the rustic setting will seem quite familiar to anyone who's ever visited Michigan's Upper Peninsula.



From left, actors Nick Szczerba, Maureen Mansfield and Dave Reinke. COURTESY OF PAUL MANOIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

"Words can't describe how it feels to be back in the theater," Rachel Biber, who plays Jennifer, said. "It's pure magic. Being back in rehearsals and learning lines and being in the presence of other people physically has been such an amazing experience."

Dave Reinke puts a funny spin on his character Ham, Charlie's cousin who runs an illegal venison jerky business. Maureen Mansfield of Farmington Hills plays Ham's mother, June, who is not afraid to speak her mind. She repeatedly

toots a duck call whenever she hears curse words uttered by Big Paul, played by Nick Szczerba.

"Just as the characters in the play gather at the hunting shack for recreational activities but come to realize it's the joy of being together that brings them true happiness, so too do we actors gather together at this theater again to do things we love with people we love," Szczerba said.

The idea that family is everything — not only for the characters of "A Hunting

Shack Christmas," but also for the cast and crew.

"It doesn't matter how much time has passed or what has happened," Assistant Director Amy Poirier said. "We have a shared history that creates these strong bonds. We are most at home with our family, even if that home is a hunting shack in the middle of nowhere."

Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$20 for students and \$20 for people age 62 or older. Groups can buy tickets at a discounted rate.

# Northville Downs site redevelopment clears hurdle

Ed Wright [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Following a marathon election night discussion, a request for planned unit development eligibility for the 48-acre Northville Downs property was approved — with several conditions attached — by the Northville Planning Commission.

The approval for eligibility did not come swiftly for applicant Hunter Pasteur Homes, whose ambitious redevelopment presentation of the racetrack grounds was scrutinized, praised and prodded during a nearly five-hour meeting.

The determination of PUD eligibility was granted with conditions, including that the developer submit a current traffic study and provide values of benefits, funding it is committed to cover and funding requested by the city for public benefits.

The developer also must address certain issues — including the segregation of residential uses and the consideration of the addition of a farmers market as a public benefit — that were raised during the Nov. 2 meeting.

PUD eligibility is the first — and widely considered the least-demanding — of the Triple Crown of approvals needed before ground is broken on the project. Planning commissioners approved the PUD on a 7-1 vote with Jeff Gaines casting the lone no vote to advance The Downs redevelopment process. The next two requirements are approval of a preliminary site plan and a final site plan.

A timeline for when a preliminary site plan would be presented to the planning commission was not revealed.

"I am optimistic we can all continue to creatively work toward a mutually beneficial solution that will uphold the character of Northville that we will leave for our children," Planning Commission Chair Donna Tinberg told Hunter Pasteur Homes President Randy Wertheimer.

The PUD eligibility approval was déjà vu for Hunter Pasteur Homes, which received a similar thumbs up from the planning commission in 2019 before its project was derailed by a combination of Northville residents' resistance to the



A conceptual drawing of The Downs' river walk area. COURTESY OF HUNTER PASTEUR HOMES

density the development would bring to the city and the COVID-19 pandemic.

After considering feedback from residents and community groups, the developer redesigned its 2019 plan, reducing the number of residential units from 577 to 481, increasing the percentage of open space from 30% to 33% and expanding its smorgasbord of unit offerings from three to five.

The development is expected to be home for 827 new residents, HPH projected. Regarding residents' concerns that the influx of new residents would be too much for Northville Public Schools to handle, Wertheimer said he met with school officials, who assured him they could handle the increase in students.

The developer has also agreed to daylight the portion of the Middle Rouge River that has been underground for close to a century and create public parks that all Northville residents can use.

Aaron Cozart, chair of Northville's economic development committee, of-

fered support for the developer's PUD presentation.

"Both the economic development committee and downtown development authority had the opportunity to meet with the developer and we agreed unanimously that the applicant does meet all nine criterion for PUD eligibility," Cozart said.

"The developer has addressed the concerns raised by the earlier iteration of the project by decreasing the number of housing units by roughly 12%, increasing green space and diversifying housing types."

Northville resident Stephen Calkins told the planning commission during the public comment portion of the meeting that change is needed in Northville.

"I hope it doesn't take another decade to go through all the hoops to get this done," Calkins said. "I hope the word doesn't start spreading that it's impossible to get exciting projects like this done in Northville."

Hunter Pasteur Homes's presenta-

tion didn't win over everyone who tuned in to the Nov. 2 Zoom meeting.

"I'm concerned with the overall gridlock in the city because of all the additional residents," Greg Swanson said. "It's a Catch-22: We want more people for our tax base, but there are already backups on our roads coming in and going out of the city."

Swanson encouraged the commission members to not let the developer's slick-looking renderings fool them.

"It's like the ads you see for hamburgers," Swanson said. "They look wonderful on the commercials, but when you go buy one, they never look as good as they do on TV."

Multiple public commenters said the daylighting of the river would more than make up for any inconveniences the development would generate for longtime residents.

"Freeing the river, which is mainly just a sewer now, would be an amazing upgrade to the existing site," Nancy Darga said.

[ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com)



# Snow, snow everywhere — but not enough plow crews

Emma Stein Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

As Michigan residents begin to dust off their heavy coats and prepare for a bone-chilling and especially wet winter, officials say a shortage of snowplow drivers and salt truck drivers is brewing.

While perhaps taken for granted, having plowed roads is incredibly important for the economy, for emergency services and day-to-day life.

"And so it's a little more critical to get on top of it in a very busy urban area like Detroit or Grand Rapids," said Mark Geib, administrator of the Transportation Systems Management Operations division at the Michigan Department of Transportation. "It's not just for the traveling public, but it's also for emergency services, the ambulances, and police and fire and all that. So, you know, we need to keep the roads clear so people can get around, especially in emergency situations."

Michigan is expected to get more precipitation and a "wetter-than-average" winter, meaning more snowfall, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Geib said he hasn't seen a snowplow driver shortage anything like this during his 30 years at MDOT.

The Michigan Department of Transportation contracts out the responsibility for about 75% of the roads to counties and manages the other 25% itself, according to Geib.

Individual counties, like Oakland, Wayne and Macomb, are also struggling to fill their rosters.

Leo Ciavatta, Macomb County maintenance superintendent, said they're missing about 30% of what they need. Wayne County is looking to fill about 50 spots, and Oakland is looking to fill 30, according to WWJ-AM (950).

Despite the shortage, Geib said there's no need to take your shovel to Interstate 75 just yet — the roads will be plowed, one way or another.

If enough drivers aren't hired and a snowstorm hits, Geib said people from adjacent garages and regions will help out where the storm hit hardest. Sometimes, employees capable of driving



A worker removes snow from the sidewalks before the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center in Detroit in 2019. DFP FILE

snowplows will be pulled from other divisions to help out.

In Macomb County, contractors are on standby as reinforcements if there's a large snowstorm.

"Safety is our number one priority," Ciavatta said.

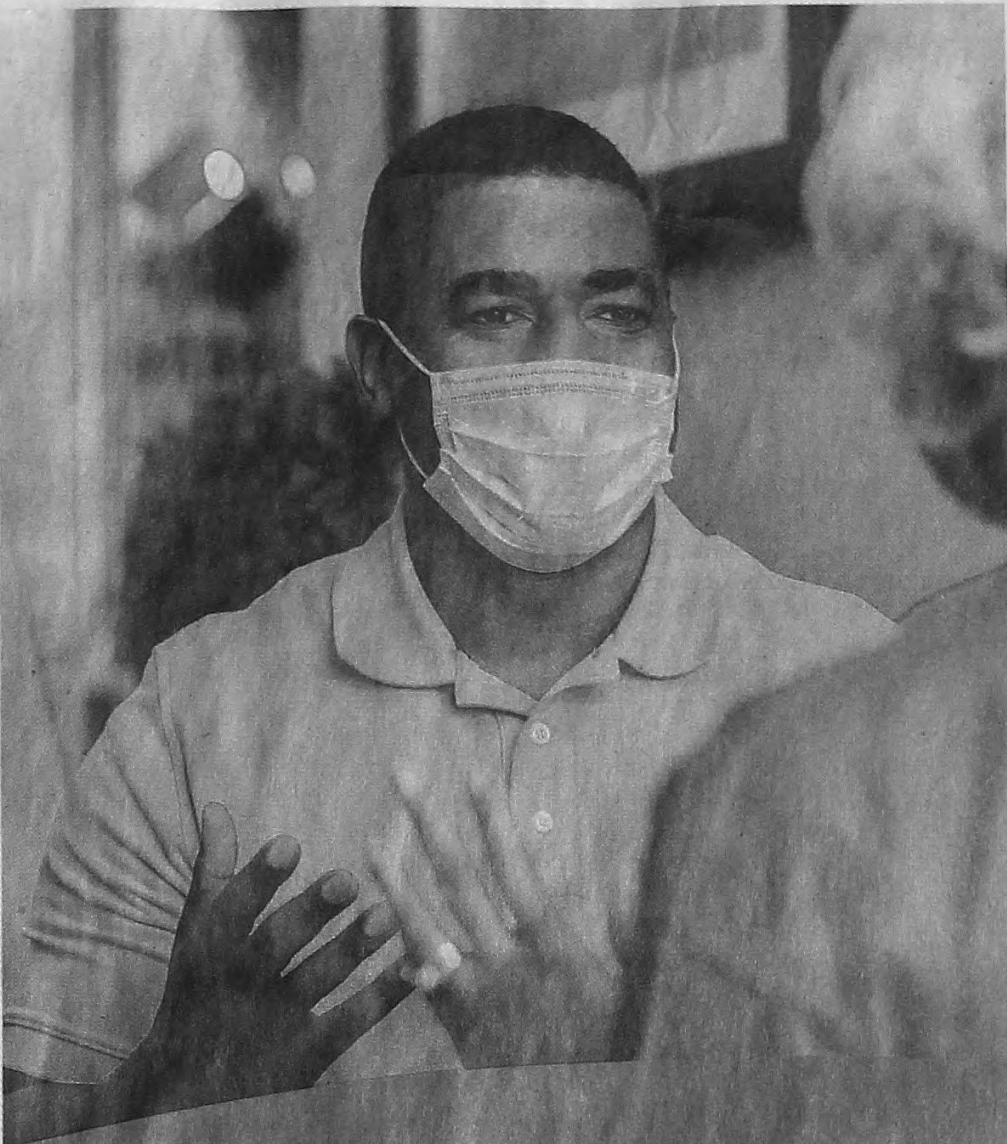
Geib said the shortage is likely due to a competitive job market and the private sector offering bonuses and higher wages, and it can be hard for MDOT to compete because it has pre-set salaries.

He said he hopes that once contractors that operate machines during the summer start to wind down those jobs, they'll be able to work temporarily during the winter.

"We do offer very good benefits and lead time," Geib said. "But, of course, the people we hire to do snowplowing, it's more difficult for them to take lead time because, you know, in the winter, we need them."

MDOT snowplow wages range from \$20-\$26 an hour for eight-hour shifts with up to four hours of overtime. In Macomb County, wages start at \$17.59 and reach about \$22 an hour.

"(Wages) will probably go up over time, especially if this shortage continues," Geib said. "Because, you know, in the end, we have to have people to do this because winter maintenance is one of the most important things we do to keep the roads safe, keeping them clear, so the economy can keep going."



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Fred Stasser grinds a metal fabrication component inside Globe Tech in Plymouth on Oct. 20. A family started Globe Tech in 2003, operating in a 34,000-square-foot building in Plymouth. Its defense business has taken Globe Tech to a new level. PHOTOS BY ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

## Dinner conversation may have saved small Plymouth business

Jamie L. LaReau Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Saturday evening dinner at Joan Smith's house in Novi led to big things in 2008.

Smith, 66, and her adult children — a son and two daughters — co-own Plymouth-based auto parts supplier Globe Tech LLC. So dinner conversation often spills over to business.

In 2008, fear that the cyclical auto industry might take a nosedive as the Great Recession loomed gnawed at Smith and her children.

"My mother started crabbing at us that we should have diversified years ago," said Jeanne (Smith) Swanson, co-owner and secretary of Globe Tech. "So we decided right then and there that we should probably start exploring other options."

One idea was the U.S. military, Swanson said. It proved to be fruitful.

Globe Tech is a tiny company with big government contracts today, making some of the most important military products used in combat. In fact, it considers General Motors' wholly owned subsidiary GM Defense LLC to be a potential customer or competitor.

Globe Tech has also upped its game in the auto parts business over the years, making bigger and more complex parts that are hard to ship from China, thereby securing a foothold as a domestic supplier.

"We got it all figured out in the last decade," said Amanda (Smith) Menchinger, president of Globe Tech.

### Eye on defense

Globe Tech has its eyes on future growth, but Menchinger admits, "It's a scary time to grow."

For one thing, it wants to hire more employees and advertised all summer to no avail. Then there are the shortages in raw materials, in part because of disruptions to the supply chain.

"We've approached our suppliers and asked them to give us assurances — steel, cleaning products ... you name it. And, we've seen increases in prices," Menchinger said.

But Globe Tech's eye on the defense business is promising lucrative returns. Just ask GM, which formed GM Defense in 2017 to get access to big paydays.

Last year, the U.S. Army awarded GM Defense a contract worth \$214.3 million to make the Infantry Squad Vehicle. In September, GM Defense won a \$36.4 million contract from the State Department to develop the next-generation large support utility commercial vehicles for the department's Diplomatic Security Service.

GM Defense leaders have said it can grab at least \$20 billion in contracts going forward. Those billions would flow right into GM's earnings before interest and taxation. It was one of the new revenue streams GM talked about recently when it told investors it plans to double its revenues by 2030.

### Detroit born to cars

Globe Tech is a 75% female-owned company. The other 25% belongs to Joan Smith's son, Wes Smith Jr., 29.

It is both a tier 1 and tier 2 supplier. A tier 2 supplier means it makes parts that then go to a tier 1 supplier, who then sends the final part to a manufacturer. For some products, it is considered the end manufacturer too.

The family started Globe Tech in 2003, operating in a 34,000-square-foot building in Plymouth. They employed "a couple of tool and die guys" to make tooling parts for the car industry, said Swanson, who was 23 at that time.

It was small, with three customers, but it was a business that made sense to the family.

"We were born into it," Swanson said. "Our great-grandfather was in manufacturing, our grandfather and our father too."

The Smiths' great-grandfather had a machinery shop that their grandfather took over. Eventually, their father inherited it and, "We realized that automotive needed support from the tool and die business and took it over from there," Swanson said.

Wes Smith was still a kid at that time, but he pitched in, "picking up cigarette butts and helping clean the bathroom" at Globe Tech, he said.

The business hummed along, servicing a few automakers, then came the Great Recession.

### 'A foot in the door'

Globe Tech employed 35 people in 2008 as the economy started to spiral. Swanson said it left them no choice but to lay off at least 15 employees. Even today, talking about it is tough for Swanson.

Then, the family had to turn to the other side of the world to save the company.

"We went to China for help to build tool and die because we couldn't compete with them and had to outsource some of our tool and die work there to remain afloat," Menchinger said.

As Michigan's auto industry crawled out from the ashes of the recession in 2010 and 2011, so did Globe Tech as new car sales started to pick up.

Also, as a certified female-owned business, it was able to add new supplier customers who wanted to meet a quota for doing business with minority-owned businesses.

"We were also a good company," Swanson said. "You shouldn't get your work just because you're a woman. You have to be a good company, as well. But it did help us get a foot in the door."

### Made in the USA

At that time, lending opened up, too, and Globe Tech got a business loan.

So in 2011, Globe Tech bought its current 180,000-square-foot facility in Plymouth Township, refurbished it and



From left, Amanda Menchinger, president, Wes Smith, military sales, and Jeanne Swanson, secretary, stand inside Globe Tech. The company has a U.S. government contract to make mine rollers used by the military to detect improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, which can kill or injure troops on patrol.

moved into it two years later.

The bigger building provided the space to buy more machinery to start making more large and complex products in the domestic auto industry.

"There are a lot of players in the automotive market and if all you're making is tiny parts it's a lot easier for customers to ship them over from China than to buy them here," Menchinger said. "If you can make something that's harder to ship, you're more likely to get customers. Otherwise, they can nickel and dime you out of business in automotive if all you're making is nuts."

Globe Tech's owners declined to provide sales or revenue information, but said the company has grown from three customers and eight employees in the early 2000s to about 20 customers and 75 employees, making parts for the following industries:

- **Transportation:** Auto industry and heavy trucks.

- **Commercial:** Smaller machinery such as washing machines and lawnmowers.

- **Defense:** Has contracts to make parts for all four military branches.

"We do tool and die and a large amount of engineering and metallurgical services," Menchinger said. "It's 50-50 between military and transportation."

The company makes various brackets for machines and aftermarket parts, too, such as chassis components and seating components that are fed to tier 1 suppliers.

### Military pilot speak

The military lineage in the family has extended to Wes Smith Jr.

In 2014, two years before graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in industrial engineering, Smith joined the Michigan Army National Guard. He is now an aviation pilot who has been deployed overseas on active duty in recent years.

Smith's military knowledge has been helpful in guiding Globe Tech through the defense industry.

"Being in that community, you gain a lot of knowledge," Smith said. "You're exposed to so much, so you can speak to

what is going on in the military and what projects are going on. I can speak the language."

Swanson and Menchinger have MBAs, which they say don't always translate.

"A lot of buyers and customers have employees and family who are active and retired military members," Menchinger said.

### Mine roller

So after that 2008 dinner, it wasn't long until Globe Tech had its first defense contract in 2013. It makes parts for the chassis frames used on the Humvee military trucks. Globe Tech cannot disclose the names of any of its defense customers.

The other big military product they make is a mine roller for the Army. A mine roller is a large steel device mounted on the front of a tank used to clear improvised explosive devices (IED) from the path for troops.

"It does get our employees and those directly involved on the project excited to know that they are saving lives," Menchinger said.

While the company still services automakers, the defense business has taken Globe Tech to a new level. So Joan Smith and her kids still have dinner at her house every Saturday and end up brainstorming ways to fully diversify.

### Leaving with leftovers

"I'm a mom of three and Amazon is at my house almost daily," Swanson said. "I really want to start serving the heavy truck market and redesign the parts to take weight off for them," which will reduce their use of gasoline.

She also sees Globe Tech making more parts for washing and drying machines, which will increasingly be manufactured in the U.S.

"We all have the company's best interest in mind with all of us working together," Swanson said. "I hope when we bring a customer in they see we're investing in the future of this customer. And, my mother will send you home with leftovers if you come in for a luncheon."





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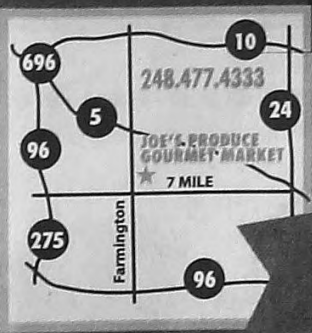
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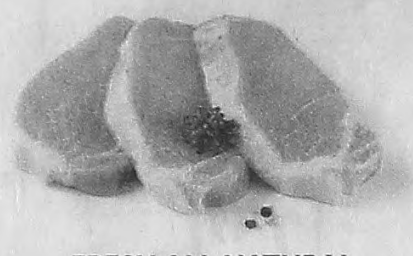
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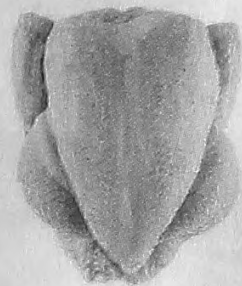
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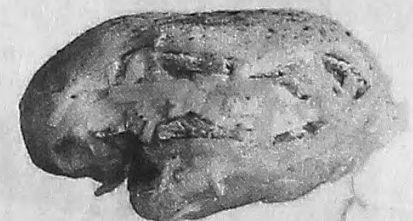
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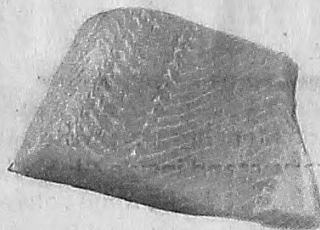
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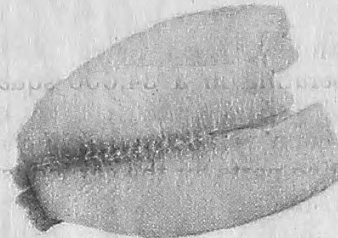
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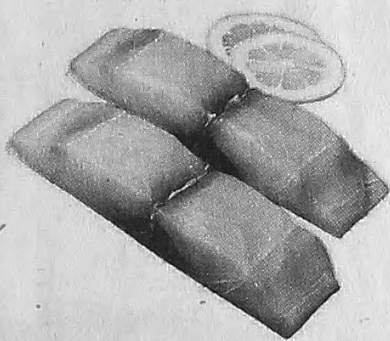
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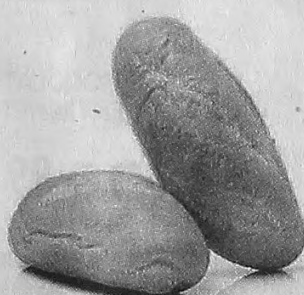
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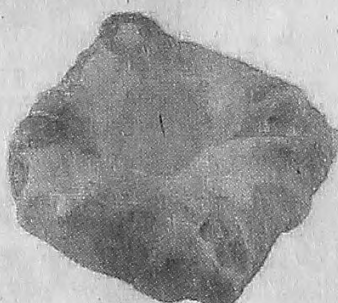
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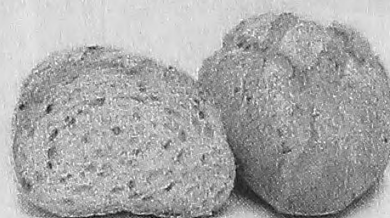
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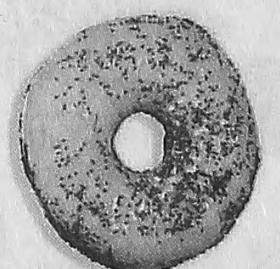
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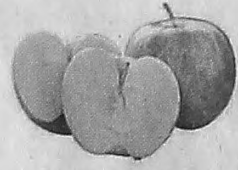
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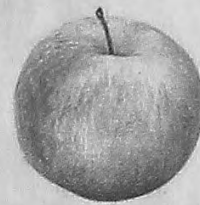
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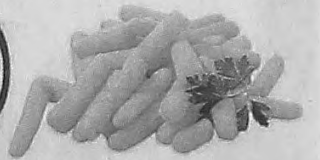
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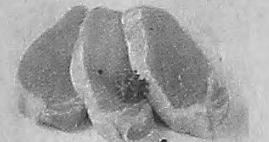
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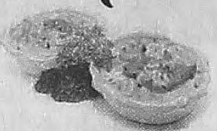


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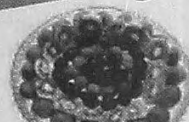


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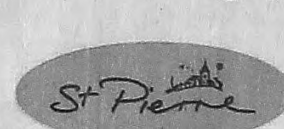
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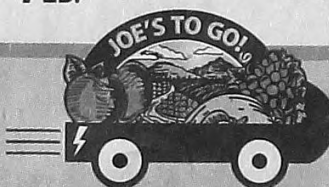


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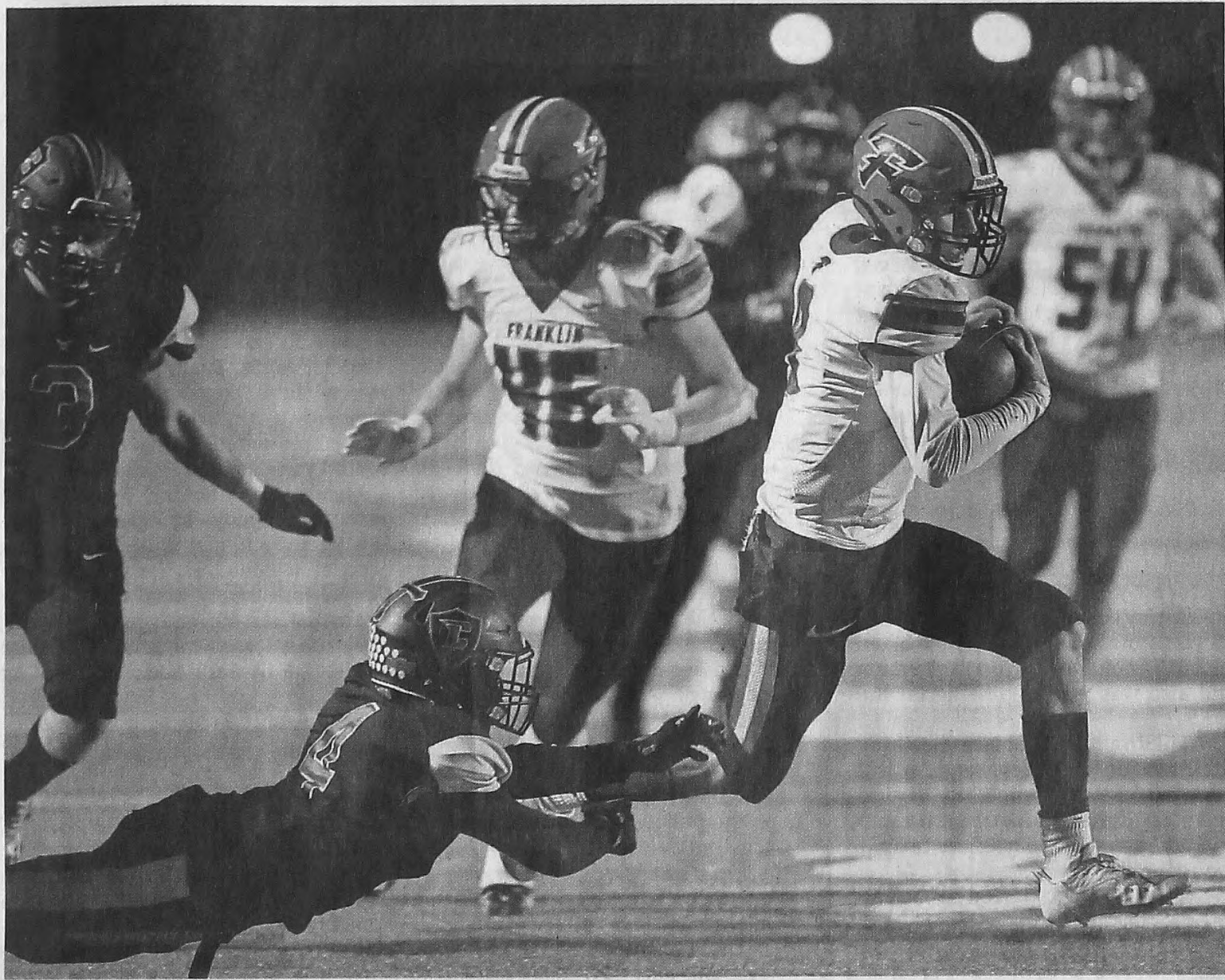




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# SPORTS



Franklin's Zac Olesuk eludes a Churchill player on the way to his second rushing touchdown. Franklin won, 27-20.  
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Franklin upsets Churchill to capture district football title

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Following Livonia Franklin's 27-20 upset Friday at rival Churchill, coach Chris Kelbert delivered quite the message to his Patriots, who captured their first Division 2 district title since 2018.

They visit Waterford Mott for the regional final at 7 p.m. Friday

"We're not done yet," Kelbert said during their postgame talk. "It's gonna take someone's best effort to send us home."

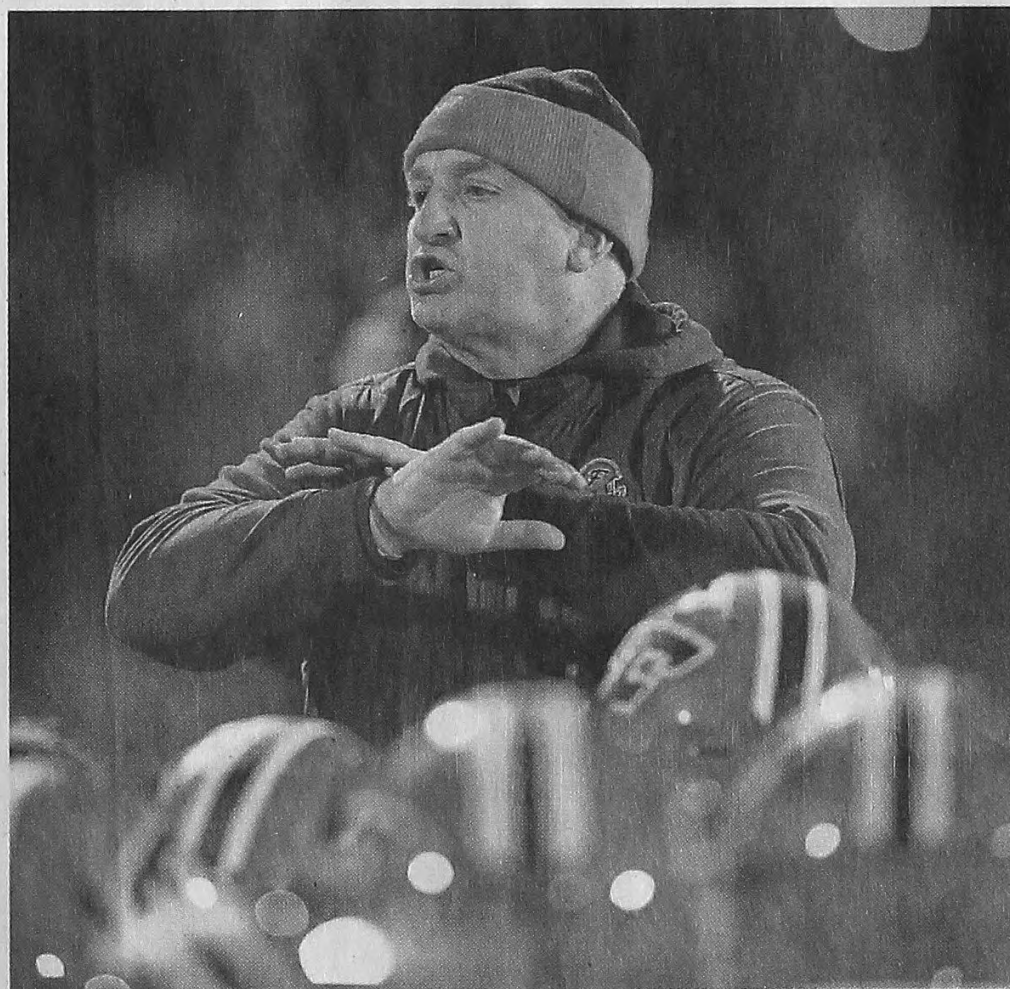
The Patriots (6-5) snuck into the postseason with a 4-5 record. Thankfully the playoff points they garnered from playing in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association helped them make it in.

Since then they've made the most of their opportunity in the big dance.

And that's saying something.

Following a 2-0 forfeit win in Week 5 over Westland John Glenn (the Rockets dealt with COVID-19 issues), Kelbert was worried if his team could turn things around. The following week, it lost to the Chargers. Two weeks after that, it lost to Belleville.

See **FRANKLIN**, Page 2B



Franklin head coach Chris Kelbert addresses his team after they beat Churchill.

## Mustangs win first district title since 2018

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The No. 7 Northville volleyball team didn't hide its anticipation.

With just three points left in the deciding set of Nov. 4's Division 1 district final, defensive specialist Ashlee Gnau fell out of her chair while celebrating a Mustangs' kill.

Her face turned bright red as she gathered herself, got back up and exchanged smiles with coach Sarah Lindstrom. The sophomore was too excited about what her team was minutes away from accomplishing.

And then, with match-point on the line, a referee blew her whistle to halt the game. Too many Mustangs were standing up and cheering in the bench area. Most of them were waving their hands in the air. Per the MHSAA rule book, only Lindstrom was allowed to leave her chair and roam the sideline.

Finally, the match-point serve sailed over the net. Canton volleyed it back to Northville. And then 6-footer Abby Reck blasted a spike down the middle that the Chiefs couldn't dig.

After a three-year drought and two coaching changes, the Mustangs finally won another district championship. And they celebrated immediately by rushing the court and dog-piling in front of the net.

They downed Canton, 3-0. They overcame a close-call in the opening set, 25-21, and then had no trouble putting away the Chiefs 25-11 and 25-12 in the ensuing sets.

"Canton definitely came out and put on a really good game for us," said setter Juliana Imbuzerio, one of six seniors. "It was super tight in the first set, but I definitely think we were more confident going into it."

"I just think that after so much hard work that it's so relieving. Even if the games aren't super intense, it's something we've worked for. It's the same trophy we've been pushing for every single year. I just think that no matter what happens from now on, this one win really meant a lot to us. This is definitely the first thing we've been working on since the start of the season, and regionals is next. We're just going to keep going."

Imbuzerio, a third-year varsity player, was a freshman on the JV the last time Northville won a district. That was the year her older sister, Laryssa Imbuzerio, who's currently a middle blocker for Niagara University, helped the Mustangs reach the state semifinal, a game they lost to Rockford, 3-1.

"I got to see what it was like to go super far," Imbuzerio added. "That's exactly what I want to do this year."

See **MUSTANGS**, Page 2B

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# Our HS football picks for Round 3

**Brandon Folsom** [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The regional round of the football playoffs is here, and it's time for Hometown Life sports reporter Brandon Folsom to predict some winners.

There are four local teams playing in Round 3.

Here's who he likes to win:

## **Livonia Franklin (6-5) at Waterford Mott (7-4), 7 p.m. Friday**

Patriots coach Chris Kelbert is worried about Mott sophomore QB Kalieb Osbourne. And rightfully so. The dual-threat accounted for four TDs while leading the Corsairs' to their first-ever district title last week. A Franklin upset will require neutralizing Osbourne.

**Folsom's pick:** Mott 21, Franklin 17.

## **Portage Central (9-2) at South Lyon (11-0), 7 p.m. Friday**

The good news is the Lions are home each week until they make it to Ford Field, assuming they're going all the way. The bad news is they definitely drew the tougher side of the bracket. This week it's a team from the Kalamazoo area.

Next week's it's either Caledonia or Traverse City Central. It would've been much nicer for them had they drawn the winner of the Franklin-Mott game, es-

pecially since South Lyon already defeated the Corsairs pretty easily this season.

**Folsom's pick:** South Lyon 32, Portage Central 17.

## **Mason (9-2) at Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice (8-3), 7 p.m. Friday (Lawrence Tech University)**

The winner faces Detroit King, arguably the best team in the state, regardless of division, in next week's state semifinal. Whoever wins this match up must make it out unscathed so they have everything in their arsenal ready to throw at the Crusaders.

**Folsom's pick:** Brother Rice 35, Mason 21.

## **Detroit Country Day (7-3) at Chelsea (11-0), 7 p.m. Friday**

I'm calling it right now: This is the actual state championship. The winner of this game should go all the way, as I believe both teams are better than Hudsonville Unity Christian, which should represent the west side at Ford Field. The Yellowjackets could win their second-straight title if they get past the Bulldogs.

**Folsom's pick:** Country Day 21, Chelsea 20.

*Folsom went 5-1 in Round 2 and is 27-12 picking games since joining Hometown Life this fall.*

# Franklin

Continued from Page 1B

Ever since the Patriots have been on a tear, winners of three-straight. They downed Brighton to end the regular season and then beat Temperance Bedford in Round 1.

"This is really special, and I'm really proud of our kids," Kelbert said. "For us, just being able to squeak into the playoffs there and to continue to get better throughout the season meant so much.

"Four weeks ago, things didn't look good. We didn't look good. We just couldn't seem to play well. We kept working hard and getting better, and we're here today."

The Franklins have relied on their ground attack to get it done.

Franklin scored twice in the third quarter to come back from a 14-13 half-time deficit.

First, Brandon Reiten caught a 17-yard touchdown pass from Zac Olesuk to make it a 20-14 score. Then Olesuk

ran for a 7-yard TD to secure the win.

Olesuk also had TD runs of 30 and 43 yards in the first half. He finished with 177 yards rushing on 16 attempts and also was 9 of 16 passing for 106 yards.

Franklin attempted to ice the win by going for it on fourth down and 2 with 3 minutes left at Churchills' 25-yard line. The Chargers came up with a stop and attempted one final drive to knot the score.

Instead, Jon J-Anderson nabbed an interception to halt the series. The Patriots knelt out the remainder of the clock.

"The message to the guys was to just get the stop," Kelbert said. "Keep playing hard. Believe that you can win it."

"I referenced how good we're playing now. We're starting to hit our stride a little bit. We're not going to be an easy out if we can continue to do what we're doing."

A request seeking individual statistics from Churchill wasn't returned before press time.

# Can Detroit Country Day conquer Chelsea?

## Four questions for Round 3 of high school football

**Brandon Folsom** [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There are only four teams left alive in the football playoffs from the Hometown Life coverage area.

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom is here to ask four questions ahead of this week's Round 3 action.

## **Detroit Country Day at Chelsea: Who ya got?**

There's a ton of can't-miss games this weekend.

In Division 1, we have three re-matches with Fordson-Belleville, Dakota-Sterling Heights Stevenson and West Bloomfield-Adams, and D-2 has Warren De La Salle-Roseville.

But maybe the best game of the weekend is Detroit Country Day (7-3) at Chelsea (11-0) in D-4.

Why?

It's the defending state champions visiting the media's pick to win this year's state title.

Chelsea is the real deal. The Bulldogs have lost only two games in the last three seasons, both coming in the D-3 state semifinals. And beating the Yellowjackets would send them back to the final four next week.

Only this time around Chelsea is a D-4 team. Will Country Day give them a fight or is being down a division make for an easier trip to the state final? Chelsea hasn't been there since 2015.

Country Day benefits from playing a stacked schedule. Half the teams the Yellowjackets played in the regular season are still alive in the postseason and will be competing for regional championships in Round 3. That includes South Lyon in D-2, Brother Rice in D-3, Warren Michigan Collegiate in D-6 and Detroit Loyola in D-7.

How much will that schedule prepare the Yellowjackets for a powerhouse like Chelsea?

## **Are the Patriots the next Detroit Edison?**

It's a long shot. Especially with how tough it's about to get in the D-2 playoffs.

But could Livonia Franklin make history?

In 2018, Detroit Edison became the first boys basketball team in Michigan to finish a regular season with a .500 record and go on to win a state championship.

The Class C Pioneers played a tough schedule against some of the top A schools in metro Detroit. So it's not like

they suffered 10 regular-season losses to nobodies.

But once they got into the postseason, they ripped off seven-straight wins, including beating Glen Lake, 53-38, to claim the state title.

Franklin finds itself in a similar situation. It tiptoed into the postseason with a 4-5 record thanks to all the playoff points it gathered playing in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, one of the most competitive leagues in the state.

The Patriots (6-5) won back-to-back wins against Temperance Bedford and Livonia Churchill to claim a district title. They visit Waterford Mott for the regional championship this week. That is a winnable game.

They could be the first team to enter the playoffs with a losing record and qualify for the state semifinal.

## **How much is Brother Rice going to win by?**

Don't let Mason's playoff points fool you. The Bulldogs haven't played anybody.

Seven of their nine wins are against teams who ended the year with a .500 record or worse. That includes victories over winless Okemos, one-win Eaton Rapids, two-win St. Johns and Fowlerville, three-win Lansing Eastern and South Lyon East and 5-5 Jackson.

Meanwhile, Brother Rice, which hosts the Bulldogs at 7 p.m. Friday at Lawrence Tech, just finished playing a heck of a schedule. Detroit Catholic Central is the only team the Warriors lost to that isn't currently in the playoffs. Their other losses were to D-2 favorite Warren De La Salle and Traverse City Central.

So how big of a blowout is this game going to be?

## **Is South Lyon Ford Field bound?**

Portage Central enters Friday's D-2 regional final at South Lyon with two losses. One of those was a 20-15 Week 4 defeat to East Lansing, the team the Lions (11-0) just blew out to win their district final. The Mustangs (9-2) are a good story, winning their first district championship since 2013 and carrying a record above .500 for the first time in three years.

But the question isn't will South Lyon beat Portage Central. It's this: Are the Lions capable of beating either Traverse City Central (10-1) or Caledonia (10-1) next week to clinch a trip to Ford Field?

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



First-year Northville coach Sarah Lindstrom watches her team play Canton in the Division 1 district championship Nov. 4. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Mustangs

Continued from Page 1B

And it's easy to see why.

Since the state semifinal run, Northville has had three different coaches. Julie Fisetle stepped down after three seasons in 2018. Rick VanDerVeer took over for the next two years before retiring.

The Mustangs lost to Novi, 3-1, in the 2019 district final. Last year, they lost a 3-2 heartbreaker to the Wildcats in the district opener.

Imbuzerio and her fellow seniors haven't seen this type of success with them in charge of the team.

That is until Northville hired Lindstrom this past off-season.

She came to the Mustangs with 10 years of experience. She coached Walled Lake Central the last six sea-

sons. Before that, she spent four with Divine Child.

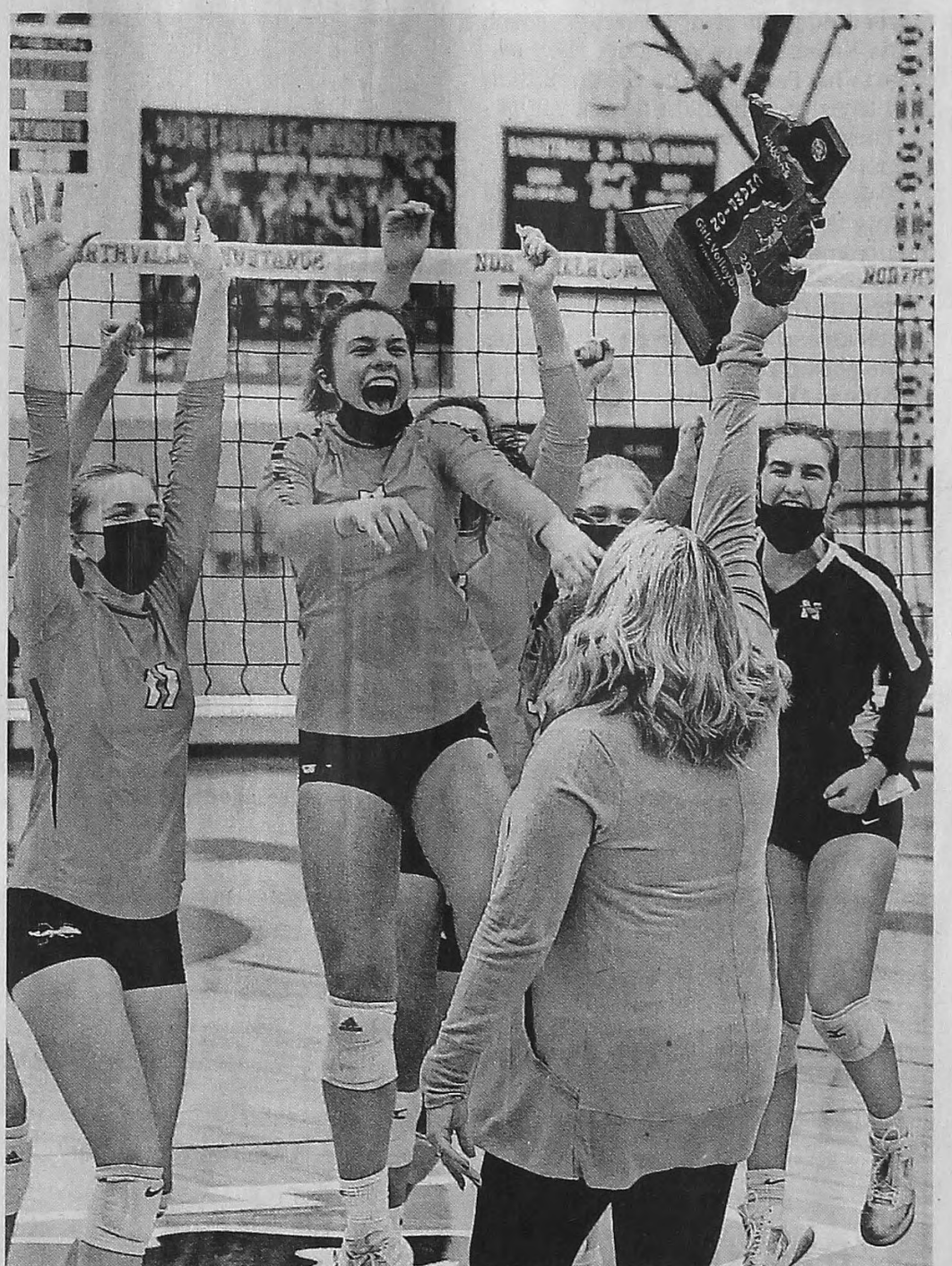
At each of her stops as a head coach, she's won a district trophy in her first season.

"I did apply for the job three years ago, but I didn't get it," the first-year coach said. "But I don't give up on anything. I know how good this program is. I saw that it was open again and that it'd be a really good place for me to be."

Northville took care of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association. Now it has a district title.

Only two more goals are left on its checklist: Win regionals and a state title, Lindstrom said.

"We've talked about it from the beginning of the season," she added. "This is one of three trophies that we want this year. It means a lot to them, and they've worked so hard. To do it in their own gym, it feels absolutely amazing."



Lindstrom presents the Division 1 volleyball district championship trophy to senior Juliana Imbuzerio and the rest of the Mustangs. The beat Canton, 3-0.



COMMENTARY

# Harbaugh needs to stop whining and Tucker needs to coach better

Jeff Seidel Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

EAST LANSING – Come on Jim, stop complaining about the officials. I'm sick about hearing about the MSU game. It's not a good look for you.

And Mel, you gotta coach better.

There.

Equal bashing.

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh has to be better. Because whining about the officials is not a good look, especially nine days after MSU beat Michigan, 37-33.

And Michigan State coach Mel Tucker has to coach better. Because his team's performance Saturday against Purdue was horrendous and some of that falls on the coaching.

Can we just move on?

But no. Harbaugh won't stop.

On Monday, Harbaugh was asked by a reporter in Ann Arbor if the Big Ten office called him to discuss the officiating in the MSU game.

"Yeah, as we all expected, all saw, mistakes were made," Harbaugh told reporters during his weekly news conference.

"You heard from them?" the reporter asked.

Harbaugh: "That was the response, they made a mistake."

Reporter: "On that call?"

Harbaugh: "Yeah. And others."

Reporter: "So they said they said they made mistakes on other calls?"

Harbaugh: "Yes."

Reporter: "Just being clear."

Harbaugh: "Can't be any more clear than that."

Reporter: "Well there were a lot of calls, that's why I wasn't sure."

Harbaugh: "Yeah, there were. The film doesn't lie, you know."

Ugh.

### Different coaches, totally different responses

Less than an hour later, Tucker stood



Mel Tucker, left, and Jim Harbaugh. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DETROIT FREE PRESS

at a podium in East Lansing, his voice hoarse.

He sounded like a guy who had spent the morning coaching his team.

Not complaining about the officials.

"Obviously, give Purdue credit. But however, the lack of execution on a consistent basis — offensively, defensively and special teams was very, very disappointing and unacceptable," he said, reflecting on Purdue's 40-29 victory Saturday over MSU. "And we need to get it fixed. So we'll do that. And that's what our focus is going to be this week."

I know Tucker is still building his team, still building a culture, still putting his pieces in place. But when you come out that bad across the board, everybody is to blame: the players, the coaches, everybody.

Tucker spent Monday morning trying to fix what went wrong at Purdue. And there were countless things that went wrong against Purdue. He held meetings with his coaches, trying to find solutions for numerous issues. And he met with a leadership council to set the right tone.

Tucker was brutally honest: the Spartans have to play better.

He didn't make excuses.

This is how a coach is supposed to act. This is how you build a winning culture.

And when he was asked about a call in the Purdue game, he wouldn't go there.

"I don't like to talk about bad calls," Tucker said during his weekly news conference. "That's not part of our culture. We don't like to make excuses about anything. I think that makes your program soft. I think it gives your coaches and your players a way out, so I don't even like to talk about it that much."

Woah!

Was Tucker talking about Harbaugh? I can't say for sure. But after the two coaches held news conferences, you couldn't have a starker contrast between them.

Tucker sounded classy, professional and accepted blame.

Harbaugh sounded stuck in the past, not-so-subtly making excuses for losing to MSU, which is a weak attempt at absolving blame.

Now, I know what you can say: "He was just answering a question."

But you know what?

Harbaugh didn't have to answer it. He is a master at news conference deflection, answering questions only the way he wants.

Harbaugh knew what he was doing. He could have turned the discussion to Penn State.

He could have talked about anything but the officiating.

### When will we just move on?

Personally, I hate talking about officiating. Complaining about officials is the loser's lament.

But some fans can't let this go because Harbaugh won't let it.

Maybe, you think U-M got hosed against MSU, and I can appreciate your passion.

But your coach should be talking about it a week and a half later.

Maybe, you're a Sparty fan and you think Harbaugh looks like a petulant child for obsessing about this, at a time when he should be focused on Penn State.

But I think the Spartans should be more worried about their pass defense.

Maybe, you are a Michigan fan, and you love that Harbaugh is speaking out. But I don't quite understand that. Because all the complaining in the world won't change the outcome.

The game is done.

Michigan State won.

Move on.

Both coaches have done a fine job this season. And both teams have a chance to end the season in a magical way. It's all out in front of them, if they can learn from their mistakes.

Harbaugh needs to stop talking about the refs and Tucker needs to coach better.

Because whining is ugly and that's what Harbaugh has been doing.

And losing to Purdue the way the Spartans did was ugly, too.

Both sides should be embarrassed. For different reasons.

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COMMENTARY

# West Bloomfield has its Kyler Murray play-a-like to thank for turnaround

**Mick McCabe** Special to Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

We have had a few changes in the 10 weeks since Rochester Adams opened the season with a surprising 35-17 victory over defending Division 1 state champion West Bloomfield.

Quarterback Requez Nance is still a sophomore for the Lakers, but just about everything about this youngster has changed.

Either West Bloomfield or Rochester Adams will have its season end against the other this week when they meet in the regional final at Adams.

Nance's changes were displayed in the Lakers' dominating 35-21 victory over Novi Detroit Catholic Central in the District finals.

He completed 10 of 15 passes for 130 yards and carried the ball nine times for 62 yards.

"I went out there and did what I had to do," Nance said. "The coaches called the plays and I had to make them. There were a couple of mistakes we messed on offense, but we did good, we got it back in the second half."

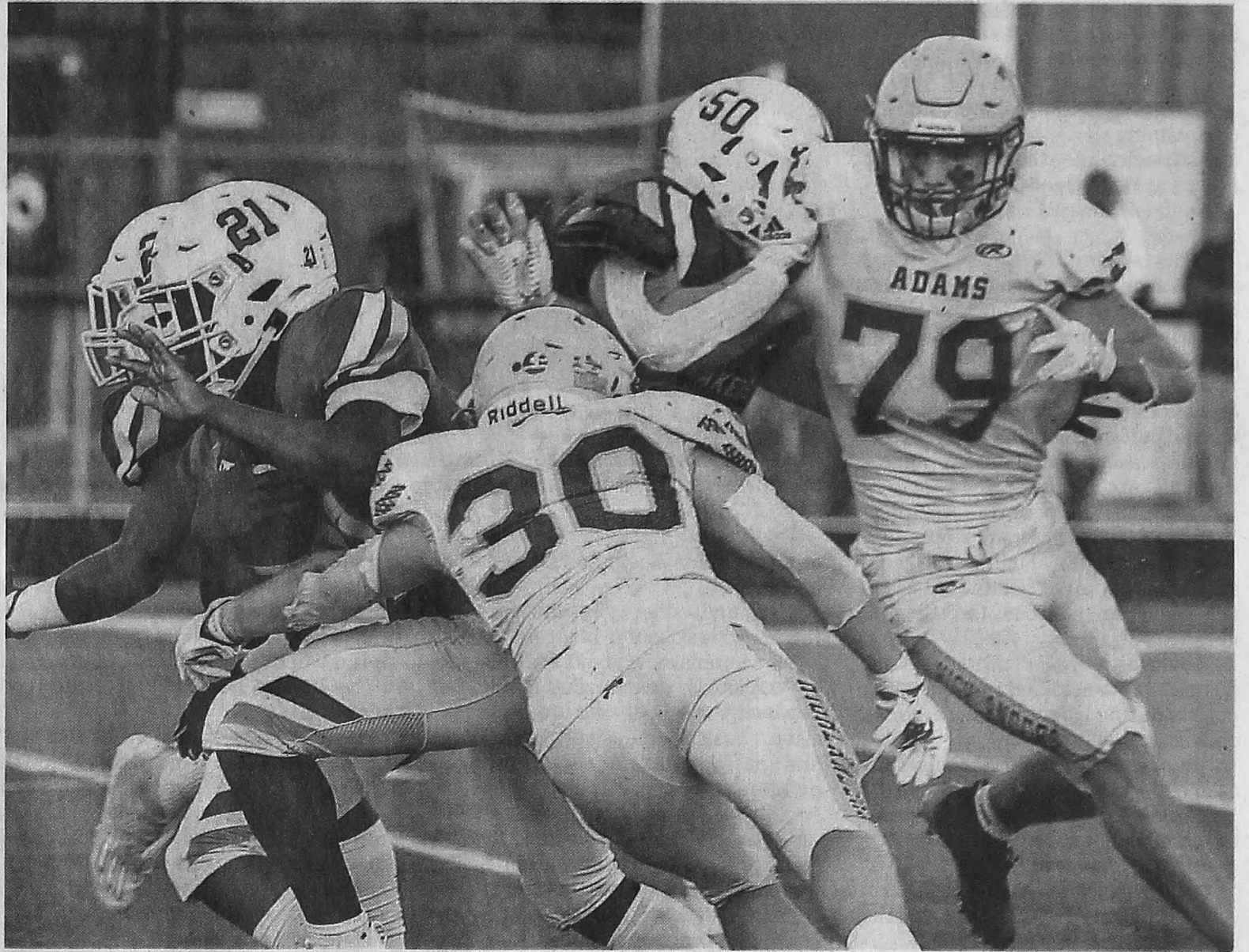
Nance is listed at 5 feet 10, 165 pounds, a gross exaggeration on both counts.

But size really doesn't matter. His scrambling ability and quick feet get him out of trouble and extend plays until he can find an open receiver or he takes off running.

"He's unbelievable, a lot of that's him," said quarterback coach Zach Hilbers. "We knew he was a playmaker. At the beginning of the year the hardest thing was we knew we had to reign him in some and not let him run wild, but that's what makes him special."

"I think he's got a great balance now of making plays and being a part of the offense."

His play was the perfect complement to running back/defensive back Dillon Tatum, who has committed to Michigan State. Tatum shredded the CC defense for 195 yards and three touchdowns on



West Bloomfield quarterback Requez Nance has become a passing and running threat for the Lakers.  
RODNEY COLEMAN-ROBINSON/DETROIT FREE PRESS

26 carries.

Tatum has had a close up view of Nance's rapid improvement thus far.

"He's impeccable," Tatum said. "Every week he's getting better. He might be a small guy, but he's definitely making plays all over the field."

Nance's size draws the natural comparison to Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray, 5-10, 207, which

raises unfair expectations for Nance, but West Bloomfield coach Tyrice Grice makes it at every opportunity.

"If you watch Kyle Murray's high school film, you'd think it's Rick," said Grice. "Go watch Kyle Murray his freshman year or sophomore year. I told Rick you guys play exactly alike. He's that type of player. He's special. We try to get him to slide, but he doesn't want to

slide. He's one of those guys who wants to make plays."

Like everyone at the game, Catholic Central coach Dan Anderson was impressed by the Lakers, especially Nance.

"They've a very good team, a lot of speed," Anderson said. "They got

See WEST BLOOMFIELD, Page 5B

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# West Bloomfield

Continued from Page 4B

outside of us and that quarterback is a helluva quarterback. They're young across the boards — they're very young — so we'll probably be seeing them again."

But perhaps even more impressive is how West Bloomfield's offensive and defensive lines controlled the CC lines.

"They beat us up front, too," Anderson said, "on the lines."

That rarely happens to CC, which may be why he Lakers are capable of repeating as D-1 state champs.

"As far as the offensive line goes, we're starting to hit our groove," said junior left tackle Amir Herring. "In Week 1 we had our trials with Rochester Adams and we're a young team, and progressively we kept getting better and better and better every week."

"I feel like now people are really going to see our offensive line is going to be a problem for all of the other teams that we're playing in the state playoffs."

In order to beat Adams, the defensive line, led by Michael Williams, will have to control junior quarterback Parker Picot, who torched the Lakers for 210 yards rushing and three TDs on 27 carries in the opener.

"He can throw, but the only thing is last time they didn't throw on us, they ran on us," said Williams. "That ain't going to do that this week, I promise you that. It's not going to happen this week."

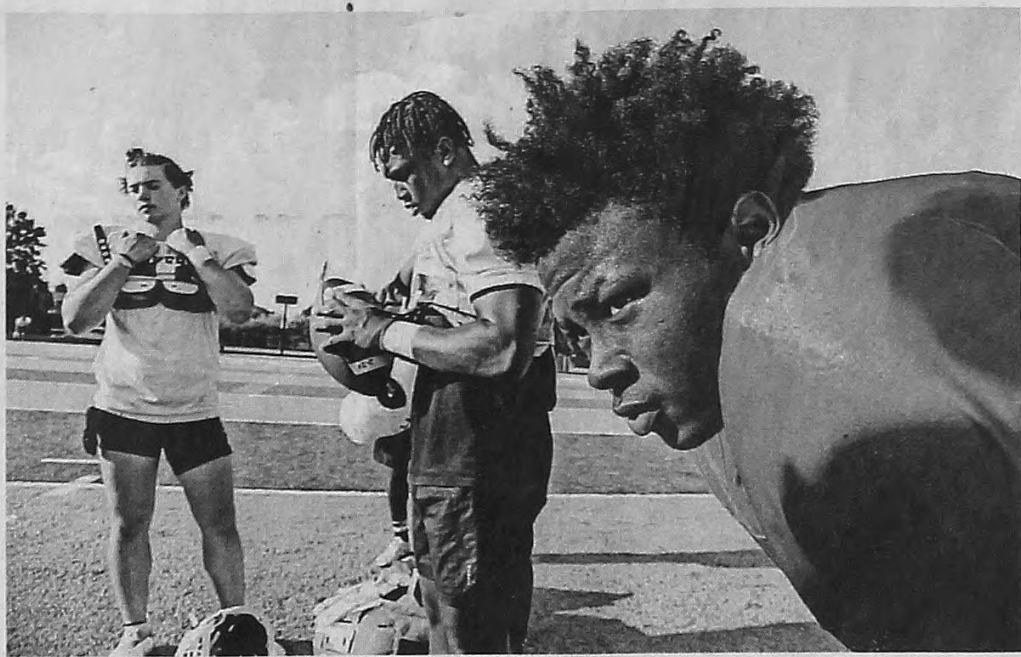
## Playoff Pats

For those of you who thought losing teams don't belong in the state playoffs, introduce yourselves to the Livonia Franklin team.

A month ago, the Patriots were 3-5 and had beaten only winless Wayne, earned a forfeit win over Westland Glenn and had a 28-12 victory over 4-5 Livonia Stevenson.

"Coming from where we were four weeks ago, we were in a dark place," said Franklin coach Chris Kelbert. "We didn't think we could compete with anybody; we didn't think we were good enough."

Frankly, Franklin was not good enough to beat any good teams and was trounced, 53-29, by Belleville.



West Bloomfield quarterback Requez Nance listens to his coach at practice in West Bloomfield in August. RODNEY COLEMAN-ROBINSON/DETROIT FREE PRESS

But the Pats managed to beat Brighton to sneak into the playoffs at 4-5 and quickly knocked off 7-3 Temperance Bedford before upsetting Livonia Churchill, 27-20, after losing to the Chargers, 42-14 in Week 6.

To be fair, Churchill lost a lot of its offensive firepower when quarterback Taj Williams was injured and out.

"The first time we played Churchill, we played a really good first half, it was 7-7 at the half," said Kelbert. "That's kind of when we started to be more of a physical team and doing what we do best in running the football. Just ball possession and keeping the ball out of their hands for the first half. In the second, things started to get away from us and we resorted back to what we were doing the previous four weeks and feeling sorry for us."

This time, Franklin out together a dominating running attack. Quarterback Zac Olesuk ran for 140 yards and three touchdowns while Cordell Mavins added another 160 yards on the ground.

"We were able to run the football," Kelbert said. "They were living off the big pass downfield since Taj has been out, but we made sure we didn't give the big play over top."

There is something about the playoffs that brings out the best in Kelbert and in his players. Over the past seven years, the Pats have won at least one playoff game and in 2017 they were in the state finals.

Part of it is the KLAA East is a meat-grinder. Five teams from the East were in district title games last weekend.

"I wish I was a better coach in the beginning of the year," Kelbert said, laughing. "I always say once we get to the playoffs we're so battle tested from our division that give us a chance and hopefully we can do some things."

"To be able to turn it around, it's on those kids. We pushed them hard and they didn't stop working so that's credit to them. We're not the same team we were four weeks ago."

## Caledonia celebration

Derek Pennington did an outstanding job rebuilding the Zeeland East program, taking over a team that had nine consecutive losing seasons and had won only one game over the previous three seasons before accepting the job.

Only once in 13 seasons did Pennington have a losing season while making 10 state playoff appearances, including a spot in the 2018 Division 3 state semifinals.

Still, he knew there was something else out there.

"I had grown tired of some of the things in Zeeland like the split community with two schools," he said. "I'd always looked for a place that was a one-horse town where we could get everybody behind football."

Welcome to Caledonia, which had

five straight losing seasons before Pennington rode in and turned around the program in one season.

The Fighting Scots improved to 10-1 last Friday and had one of the biggest upsets when they knocked off two-time defending Division 2 state champ Muskegon Mona Shores, 49-12 to set up this week's showdown against Traverse City Central at Grandville.

"We were up 28-6 at half and their quarterback got dinged up," said Pennington. "They were a mess in the second half."

Pennington has an offensive system heavily dependent on a quarterback that must do more than pivot and hand off the ball.

In other words, Mason McKenzie is all that and more. Against Mona Shores, he ran for 195 yards and two TDs on 21 carries while completing 11 of 16 passes for another three scores.

"Mason's really done a nice job with all of our dual threat stuff we do with our quarterbacks," Pennington said. "He's explosively fast, he can sling the ball."

The turnaround process was helped when Pennington's sophomore son, Derek Jr., who started on the East varsity as a freshman, transferred and is a starter at H-back.

East line coach Eric DeVries moved to Caledonia and his son, Andrew, 6-3, 300, who recently committed to Ferris State, is a stabilizing force on the line.

"Andrew has played 40 varsity football games for me," Pennington said. "He hadn't even been to the high school yet and he was starting at left tackle against East Grand Rapids."

"Our athletic director's son, Brock Townsend, is only a sophomore and he's gained over 1,200 yards and he's a beast. I may be his dad, but my son is a good player, too."

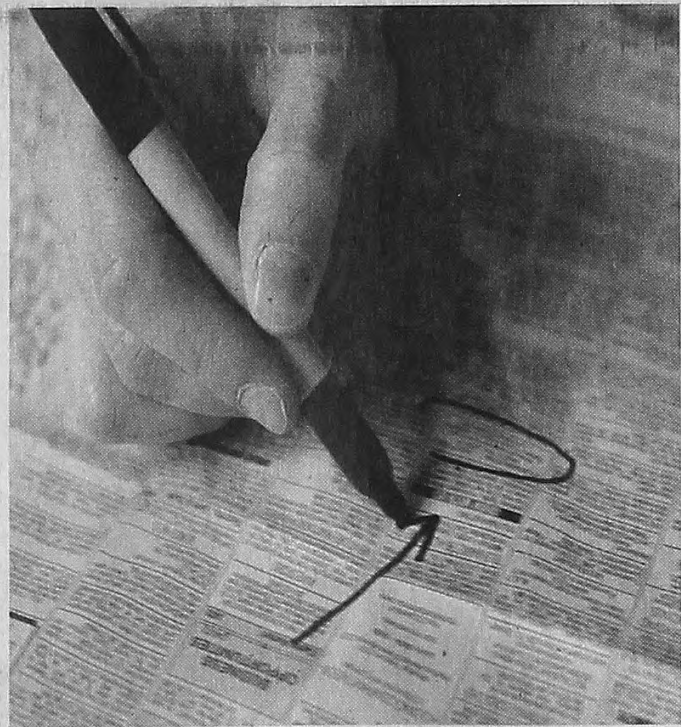
To hear Pennington talk about his new community, Caledonia may be his field of dreams.

"I gotta tell you, Caledonia might be the best hidden secret," he said. "Our homecoming game this year, we had 13,000 and Grand Haven didn't bring much."

"We had 12 food trucks and a live band in the parking lot before the game. It's a crazy place and they love football."

"There's just a vision over there that I bought into. But honestly, I didn't expect this the first year."

Mick McCabe is a former longtime columnist for the Detroit Free Press.



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\$1,355.00	2003	JEEP	LIBERTY	PURPLE	1J4GL58K03W706101
\$1,215.00	2010	FORD	RANGER	WHITE	1FTKR1ADXP75917
\$1,225.00	2007	FORD	FIVE HUNDRED	BLUE	1FAHP24127G144251
\$1,075.00	1997	DODGE	CARAVAN	PURPLE	2B4GP44R8VR130466
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\$1,035.00	2003	LINCOLN	TOWN CAR	SILVER	1LNHM82WX3Y622601
\$1,005.00	2005	GMC	ENVOY	SILVER	1GKDT13S852367949
\$965.00	2010	CHEVROLET	MALIBU	GRAY	1G1ZC5EBXAF226527
\$925.00	2007	HONDA	FIT	BLUE	JHMGD38687S028896
\$875.00	1998	FORD	ECONOLINE	WHITE	1FTPS24LOWHA47984
\$1,010.00	2010	FORD	FOCUS	SILVER	1FAHP3FN4AW104868
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Publish: November 11, 2021

LO-000380411 4x4

## CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE NO. 21 - 02

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PLYMOUTH CITY CODE:  
CHAPTER 74 - UTILITIES, ARTICLE III. - SEWER,  
DIVISION 5. - STORM SEWERS, SEC. 74-173

TO ACHIEVE THE REFERENCED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS AS NOTED ABOVE,  
THE FOLLOWING SECTION HAS BEEN ADDED:

**Section 74 - 173 Adoption of the County Storm Water Management Ordinance.**  
The Wayne County Stormwater Control Ordinance (Enrolled Ordinance No. 2021-526a) and Administrative Rules (Resolution No. 2021-526b) adopted by reference to:  
<https://www.waynecounty.com/departments/environmental/waterquality/ordinance-administrative.aspx>

Introduced- 6-21-2021  
Enacted - 7-6-2021  
Publication - 11-11-2021  
Effective - 11-12-2021

For Complete Ordinance Text Follow the Link Below:  
[https://library.municode.com/mi/plymouth/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/mi/plymouth/codes/code_of_ordinances)

Publish: November 11, 2021

LO-000360440 3x3.5

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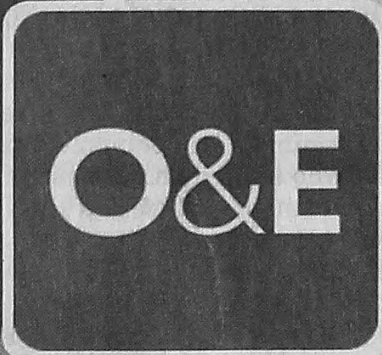
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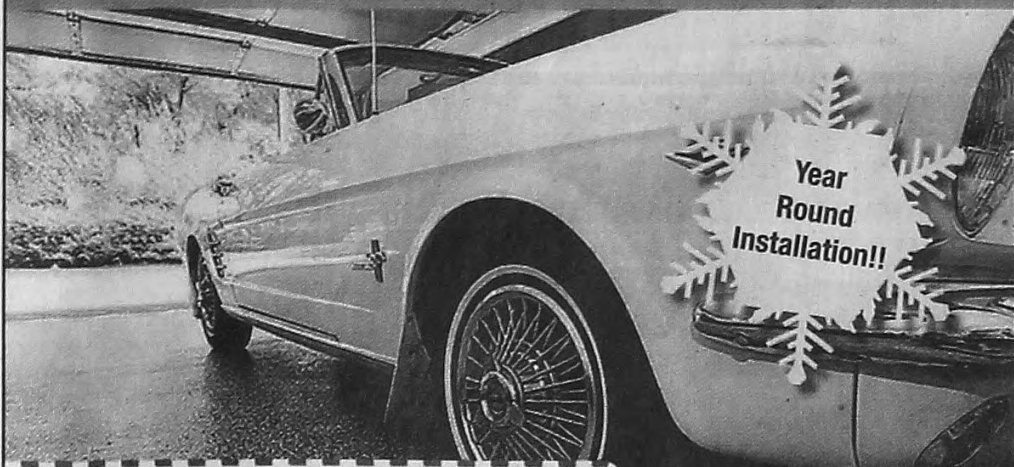




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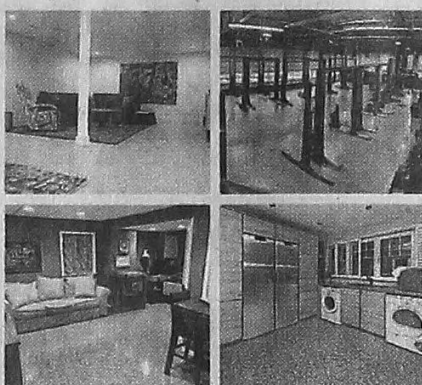
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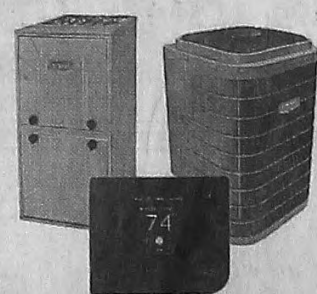


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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021

**PREMIER CROSSWORD/** By Frank A. Longo

**STARTING SUBGENRES**

- |  |  |   |  |                              |                                |
|--|--|---|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                  | 45 NYC subway org.                                   | 89 Month, to Manuela  | <b>DOWN</b>                                | 39 Firearm rights org.       | 80 Open delight                |
| 1 Worker welfare gp.                           | 46 Shocking fish, at times                           | 90 Put a rip in   | 1 Globe                                    | 40 H.S.-level exam           | 81 Devilkins                   |
| 5 Bark syllables                               | 47 Stuff causing a blowup                            | 91 Luau favors  | 2 — Paulo                                  | 45 Popular dog biscuits      | 82 School in Berkshire         |
| 11 Perform a dynamic crowd action in a stadium | 48 Conservative moral principles                     | 92 De Mille of choreography   | 3 Coxa, more familiarly                    | 46 Shirik                    | 83 Natal lead-in               |
| 20 Hospital bed attachment                     | 55 Like Ikea assemblies, for short                   | 95 Game-aiiring channel   | 4 Some nuts                                | 48 — the season ...          | 84 Bando of baseball           |
| 21 Nomadic type                                | 56 Sitcom alien                                      | 97 Welcome wind on a hot day  | 5 Jason's ship                             | 49 Sharp taste               | 85 Sense no danger             |
| 22 Turpentine, for one                         | 57 Sloop, e.g.                                       | 99 Entry at no charge   | 6 Horse hue                                | 50 Place to live             | 86 Oscar winner                |
| 23 1983-2014 periodical for adolescents        | 58 Sch. group  | 102 Key just above D  | 7 Perturb                                  | 51 Pines                     | 87 Play — (enjoy some tennis)  |
| 25 Reins are parts of them                     | 59 Summits   | 103 Tell untruths   | 8 Parisian bud                             | 52 Willing to participate in | 91 Alternative to a right hook |
| 26 The first task on the to-do list            | 62 Smell terrible                                    | 104 Strike caller   | 9 Title anew                               | 53 Musical exercise          | 92 Drifting at sea             |
| 27 Help-wanted, e.g.                           | 65 Splendid  | 105 "... boy — girl?"   | 10 One of the Corleones in "The Godfather" | 54 Mixed greens              | 93 Car part between headlights |
| 29 Musician Nugent                             | 67 Special times                                     | 106 Trial blasts, for short   | 11 Cry from Homer                          | 55 Lover of Lucy             | 94 Acupuncture item            |
| 30 Musician DiFranco                           | 68 Span rotating horizontally to allow ships through | 109 They die hard, it's said  | 12 City in Kansas                          | 60 Town shouter              | 95 NFL rusher                  |
| 31 Africa's Sierra —                           | 70 Sci-fi guru                                       | 113 Bob Fosse film title relevant to the starts of eight answers in this puzzle | 13 Actress Wright                          | 61 User's shortcut           | 96 Savor pekoe, say            |
| 33 No-problem advancement                      | 71 Natives of Catania or Catania                     | 117 Distributes in shares   | 14 Fit carmaker                            | 62 Relatives of geese        | 97 Certain fuel-carrying ship  |
| 37 What a biting sarcastic person has          | 73 Runs slowly                                       | 118 Shape-fitting game  | 15 Up 'til                                 | 63 Rake parts elected        | 98 Take a break                |
| 41 Ostrich lookalike                           | 74 Peeled  | 119 For — (not pro bono)  | 16 "Cursed" director                       | 65 Rapper — Khalifa          | 100 Burj Khalifa locale        |
| 42 Olympic swimmer Tom                         | 75 Above, in poems                                   | 120 Young superhero of DC Comics  | 17 Really attack                           | 66 Actress Meg               | 101 Super-angry                |
| 43 Royal heirs, often                          | 76 Meara of "Southie"                                | 121 Off the mark  | 18 Capital of Austria                      | 68 Tendon                    | 102 Razor brand                |
| 44 Veep's boss                                 | 77 Photo lab blowup: Abbr.                           | 122 Road curve  | 19 Junior naval officer                    | 69 Croissant, e.g.           | 103 Skinny                     |
|  | 78 Ryder vehicle                                     |   | 24 Assist illicitly                        | 72 Crooner Julius            | 104 Toward dawn                |
|  | 79 Alternative to bifocals                           |   | 28 More or less                            | 74 Dads                      | 105 Sweetie                    |
|  | 85 Naples loc.                                       |   | 31 Keep going                              | 77 "Yeah, but still ..."     | 106 IRS ID                     |
|  | 88 Deep, as a voice                                  |   | 32 Business coll. topic                    | 78 Noun follower, often      | 107 Buddhist discipline        |
|  |  |   | 33 Rocker Quatro                           |                              | 108 Brits' alphabet ender      |
|  |  |   | 34 Lighter — air                           |                              |                                |
|  |  |   | 35 Imagine                                 |                              |                                |
|  |  |   | 36 Laze about                              |                              |                                |
|  |  |   | 38 Grand Ole —                             |                              |                                |

## SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/11

Here's How It Works:

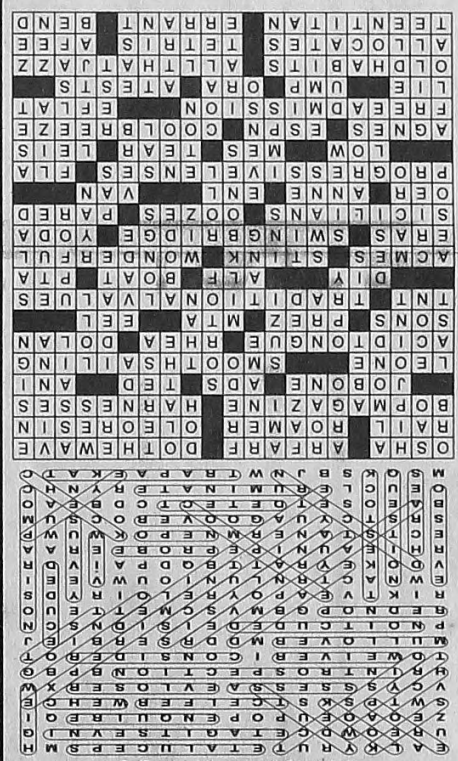
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues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

## CHECK IT OUT

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

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

- ANALYSIS
- ASSAY
- ASSESS
- CHECK
- CHEW
- COMPARE
- COMPARISON
- CONSIDER
- DEBATE
- DEDUCE
- DEDUCTION
- DELIBERATE
- DETECT
- DISCERN
- DISSECT
- ENQUIRE
- EXPERIMENT
- EYE UP
- GO INTO
- GO OVER
- INTROSPECTION
- INVESTIGATE
- LOOK
- MULL OVER
- OBSERVE
- OPEN
- PONDER
- PORE
- PROBE
- QUESTION
- REFLECT
- RESOLVE
- REVIEW
- RUMINATE
- SCRUTINY
- SEARCH
- SEEK
- SPECULATE
- STUDY
- SURVEY
- TAKE APART
- TAKE STOCK
- TEST
- TRY
- TURNOVER
- VIEW
- WATCH
- WEIGH



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

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

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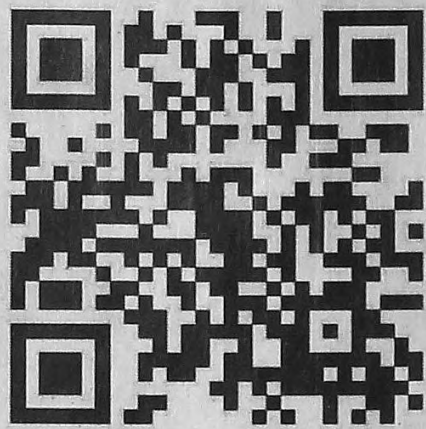
HOMESTYLE

# Holiday Meals

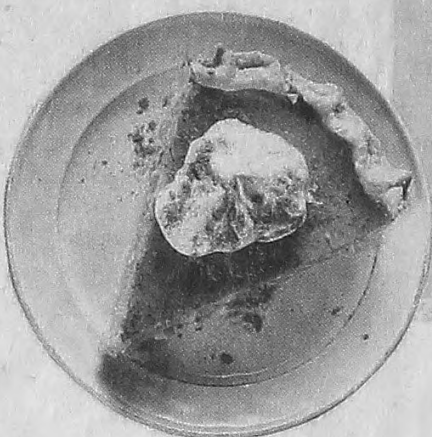


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ROCHESTER HILLS | SALINE | SOUTH LYON | TECUMSEH | WEST BLOOMFIELD