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Businesses brace for Ford Road project

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

An assistant manager at the Canton Township Chet's Rent-All, Howard Farmer has a million-dollar view of the daily mayhem that unfolds on Ford Road.

At least a few times a month, Farmer noted, the cringe-worthy sounds of metal-on-metal vehicle crashes vibrate through the glass window that separates his workspace from possibly the most chaotic stretch of roadway in Wayne County — Ford Road between Lilley and Haggerty roads.

"You always hear the squeal of the tires first and then you brace yourself for the crash," said Farmer. "I've seen a car go through that brick wall over there (pointing to a three-foot-tall decorative wall directly across Ford Road). They usually happen when somebody is trying to turn left into a business

and they pull into the path of a car going the opposite direction. I've seen some ugly ones." Farmer's view is about to become more serene; at least, that's the plan once a two-mile-long boulevard is

See FORD ROAD, Page 4A



Hines Park drive in Northville Township near Seven Mile Road. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

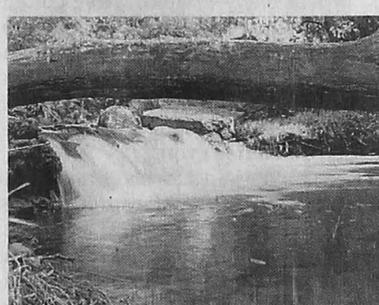
Wayne County's Hines Park remains year-round attraction

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wayne County's Hines Park was created with the intention to bring people across the county together. It still lives up to that legacy today. The park stretches along Edward N. Hines Drive, which runs between Northville and Dearborn Heights. It heads through western Wayne communities like Plymouth, Livonia, Westland and Garden City. People can enjoy the drive's natural

beauty during a walk, run, biking trip or drive all year long. The parks along the drive, which are supported by tax dollars, also include places to play sports, have a picnic, go fishing, visit a jungle gym and so much more. Especially during warmer months, people can be seen all along the drive taking advantage of the many amenities. According to Wayne County's history of the area, Former Wayne County Road Commissioner Henry Ford — yes, that

See PARK, Page 6A



A small waterfall along the Middle Rouge River in Hines Park.

Livonia planning 'big picture' look into libraries

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia's Civic Center Library is one of the city's true hubs, with. It's got workspace, hosts a plethora of events and has a handy little bookstore. Now it, as well as the city's other two libraries, Sandburg and Noble, will get a needs assessment next year. "Libraries are places where a community goes to access information — whether that is as an individual or in connection with other people," Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan said in an email. "Information in the 21st century, of course, has so many more meanings than it used to. It's not just books, but skill development, internet access, meeting spaces or even places for people who might work remotely." The assessment process will include public input to determine what the city wants its libraries to be and what the Noble branch's future might look like as the building has been closed since late 2019 because of mold. "What investments are we prepared to make?" asked Carrie Budzinski, who chairs the city's library commission. "Do we want to invest more in those buildings so they function better or is it better to consolidate our resources and focus on making the Civic Center the absolute best resource we have? I think that's something we as a community need to talk about."

The future of Noble

Water and mold concerns led former Mayor Dennis Wright to decide on closing Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth

See LIBRARIES, Page 4A

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Judge reinstates bond in Jones case

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Livingston County judge reinstated bond for Rep. Jewell Jones, D-Inkster, on Friday after the representative spent 60 days in the Livingston County Jail. A potential plea deal is also on the table.

Byron Nolan, Jones' attorney, asked Livingston County Circuit Court Judge Michael Hatty to reinstate bond, stating Jones would not violate bond again if given another chance. He said the Rev. Paul Turner, assistant pastor at Spiritual Israel Church and Its Army Temple in Detroit, is willing to take responsibility for Jones.

Turner runs Choice Behavioral Health Management, a behavior and alcohol treatment program in Detroit.

Hatty revoked Jones' bond on Sept. 14 following his third bond violation in connection with a driving under the influence charge stemming from an April 6 incident. Jones has been in jail since.

Hatty agreed to reinstate Jones' bond at \$100,000 personal recognizance in the initial case. His bond for a second incident, in which he is accused of smuggling a handcuff key into the jail, was set at \$100,000, 10%.

"I don't want any excuses. I just want you to follow my orders," he said. "There is a big string there. If you violate that bond, you are on the hook for \$100,000."

Following the bond hearing, the Livingston County Prosecutor's Office put a plea deal on the record, offering to dismiss five of the charges Jones is facing.

As part of the plea agreement, Jones would plead guilty as charged to two counts of resisting and obstructing a police officer, possession of a weapon under the influence of alcohol and operating while intoxicated. He would also plead guilty to added counts of reckless driving and breaking or escaping from lawful custody.

In exchange, prosecutors would dismiss two counts of resisting and obstructing a police officer, operating a motor vehicle with a high blood alcohol content, bringing a weapon into a jail and escape waiting trial for a felony.

Prosecutors also agreed to recommend Holmes Youthful Trainee Act status for the two counts of resisting and obstructing a police officer and possession of a weapon under the influence of alcohol because the initial incident took place before Jones turned 26.

Charges filed under the motor vehicle code and those stemming from inci-



State Rep. Jewell Jones, D-Inkster, sits prior to a bond hearing Sept. 14. His bond has been reinstated.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

dents after Jones turned 26 are not eligible.

Under HYTA, charged are removed from the court record after an individual successfully completes of the terms of sentencing.

Jones did not accept the proposed plea deal Friday. Nolan said he wanted to be able to discuss the terms with Jones outside of jail. As of 12:30 p.m., Jones was still lodged at the Livingston County Jail according to jail officials. The potential deal expires Dec. 10.

The plea deal comes a month after Nolan filed two motions asking the underlying driving case be dismissed and Jones' blood alcohol testing be suppressed.

The charges should be dropped because they are "fruit of the poisonous tree" because Jones' arrest was unlawful, Nolan stated in the motion.

An evidentiary hearing on the motions is scheduled for Dec. 10.

Turner has known Jones' since birth and is confident in Jones' ability to follow the court orders, he said Friday.

"I have mentored him in many aspects of the direction he has gone in his life," Turner said after the hearing. "We, as the village, have painstakingly tried to keep him on track as a young African American man, actually as an Ethiopian Israelite man."

"I believe it is my duty to find out what's going on and to assist him anyway I can to get him back on track. I believe that there has been some form of a mental break," he said.

As part of his bond conditions Jones is required to have a GPS and alcohol SCRAM tether affixed on his ankle before he is released from jail.

Livonia commission calls for raises, bonuses for elected officials

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Pay raises across the board

Livonia's elected officials may have pay raises and pandemic "hero" bonuses coming their way.

The city's Local Officers Compensation Commission, which determines the annual pay for elected officials including the mayor, clerk, treasurer and council members, met Nov. 9 and recommended raises and "hero" bonuses for all of the city's elected individuals. The commission usually meets once every two years.

City council will vote on the proposal at an upcoming meeting.

Hero pay for officials

The city recently approved one-time "hero" bonuses for active city staff who served the city during 2020 — a \$1,000 bonus awarded to full-time employees and part-timers received \$500.

Commission members unanimously recommended Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan, Treasurer Lynda Scheel and Clerk Susan Nash all receive a one-time \$1,000 bonus, and council members receive a one-time \$500 bonus. Council is considered a part-time body while the other elected positions are full-time.

Council's bonus would likely be paid after the new year but would only impact members who were active in 2020. Outgoing Councilwoman Cathy White would receive a bonus, and Councilman-elect Scott Morgan would not.

"It's hero's pay that I would say they earned," Glen Long, commission chair, said. "I think they all certainly earned an opportunity to be considered for that."

Commissioners noted officials faced unique challenges in 2020, and many continued to perform things like in-person work or volunteer at the city's COVID-19 vaccine clinic.

"It's combat pay that they've earned," Commissioner Mike Marighugh said.

According to Brosnan, the city is also working to get hero bonuses to reserve Livonia Police Department officers and Community Emergency Response Team volunteers, who were not included in the original wave.

The commission used recently-approved police and fire contract raises as a guiding figure for its proposals. Like police and fire personnel, the commission recommended a 3% raise in 2022 and a 2% raise in 2023 for Brosnan and council members not including the president.

The proposal means Brosnan, who currently makes \$130,687, would earn \$134,609 in 2022 and \$137,300 in 2023. Council members, who are currently paid \$17,270 annually, would make \$17,788 in 2022 and \$18,144 in 2023.

Council has declined the two previous raise proposals for itself. The body's pay has remained unchanged since 2017.

"We can recommend it," Commissioner Martha Foley said. "When you go four years without an increase, it's their prerogative to say 'no, thank you.' But, we can recommend it. We can make a recommendation that says we value their time."

The body proposed a higher raise for Council President-elect Jim Jolly. Outgoing Council President Kathleen McIntyre, who was present at the meeting, suggested the president earn 10% more than council members because of the extra responsibilities including creating the council's meeting agendas and serving as mayor pro tem.

McIntyre earns \$18,519 annually, and that figure has gone unchanged since 2017. The proposal of 10% more than council would give the council president \$19,566 in 2022 and \$19,958 in 2023.

The commission approved a 5% raise in 2022 and a 3% raise in 2023 for Nash and Scheel, who both currently make \$89,944 annually. Commissioners said the city's clerk and treasurer earn less than their counterparts in similar-sized communities do.

"We've always taken the nearby communities like Dearborn and Westland into consideration because they are mayor-centric and similar to us," Long said.

The proposal would give Nash and Scheel \$94,441 in 2022 and \$97,274 in 2023. Commissioners expressed a desire to bring those two positions more in line with other nearby cities in the coming years. Brosnan said that right now Livonia is "in a very strong financial position" to do that.

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Winter, Wine & Whimsy kicks off Friday

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi is kicking off a long-awaited return to holiday community events with Winter, Wine & Whimsy.

The city's first ever traditional holiday outdoor market will take place Nov. 19-21 at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, with live music, vendors, food and beverages, games, and of course, Santa Claus.

"We're really excited, we've gotten sponsorships and lot of people are making plans to join us," Nathan Mueller, city community relations manager, said. "We'd like to see at least a few thousand people. It's a great location and a free event."

Santa will join Mayor Bob Gatt at 6:15 p.m. Friday to start the festive weekend with the lighting of a 25-foot real tree. The big guy in red will return on Saturday, and families will be given time slots so they don't have to wait in line, but can enjoy other activities.

Winter, Wine & Whimsy runs from 5-10 p.m. Nov. 19, 2-10 p.m. Nov. 20, and noon-6 p.m. Nov. 21. It will feature nearly 30 Michigan vendors over the weekend, with goods running the gamut from candles, scarves, and ornaments to books, beef jerky, jewelry and more. The wares will be sold in two crafter tents set up at the center.

Live music will be performed Friday and Saturday on stage at the Beerhead Biergarten, where customers can get a variety of beer and wine. On Sunday, two 70-inch screens will show the Detroit Lions game, as Mueller said viewers are invited to "watch and see if the Lions can get their first win."

Surrounding Twelve Mile Crossing restaurants will also welcome guests throughout the weekend.

A mobile Escape Room trailer will be on site and other free activities include Jenga and cornhole, and axe throwing at BATL.

The event also features character visits from the Paw Patrol as well as Elsa

from Frozen.

The full weekend of festivities has been about six months in the making, and is a way to bring the community together after a long pandemic.

"We see a lot of surrounding communities with distinct downtowns and we don't have a downtown, but we have a great community for bringing the city together," Mueller said. "One thing we saw with the pandemic is people want to do things, especially outside. This was a way to engage the community and do something together."

The city is also bringing back Fuerst Festive Nights, planned for 6-9 p.m. Dec. 3, and 4-8 p.m., Dec. 4-5 at Fuerst Park at the corner of 10 Mile and Taft roads. That event features a holiday lights stroll, Santa visits, nature crafts, caroling, food vendors, marshmallow roasting and more.

To see further details and schedules for both Winter, Wine & Whimsy and Fuerst Festive Nights, visit cityofnovi.org.



A 25-foot-tall Christmas tree at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk will be lit at 6:15 p.m. Friday as part of Winter, Wine & Whimsy, the city's first outdoor holiday market. The market runs 5-10 p.m. Nov. 19, 2-10 p.m. Nov. 20, and noon to 6 p.m. Nov. 21. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF NOVI

City of Plymouth Zoning Board of Appeals Notice Thursday, December 2, 2021 - 7:00 p.m. Online Zoom Webinar

201 S. Main Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170

Website: www.plymouthmi.gov Phone: (734) 453-1234 ext. 232

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. online via Zoom to consider the following:

Z21-19 Non-Use Variance Request for 1115 S. Main
Landscape buffer located on the North side
AC condenser location and screening
Zoned: B-1, Local Business District
Applicant: Eunice Low

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street

Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 234

Birmingham grad takes star turn in 'Hadestown'

Susan Bromley hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After a dark year and a half, the spotlights are back on stage. And so is Shea Renne.

The 2010 Birmingham Seaholm graduate scored a role as one of the Fates in the Broadway national tour of "Hadestown" and will perform in the musical from Nov. 23 to Dec. 5 at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit.

"Live theater is back, and nothing is more magical," Renne said. "It's a show about humanity, hope, and love; and we could use all that right now."

"Hadestown," which premiered in New York in 2016, tells of two mythological love stories that intertwine young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice and King Hades and his wife Persephone "inviting audiences on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back."



Shea Renne is 2010 Birmingham Seaholm High School graduate. COURTESY OF SHEA RENNE

"Spoiler alert, but basically my role is to dictate the fates of humans and gods," Renne said. "I dictate everyone's destinies, goddesses or divine beings. The role is really fun, with power and control and glee."

It was the first role that came her way when auditions resumed earlier this year. Renne's audition was memorable for taking place via Zoom with her singing to a casting crew from her apartment.

The entire show is sung through with 33 songs, and Renne performs in more than half. The Fates' main song is called "When the Chips are Down" and as one of the Fates, she had to learn to play accordion as well as sing in a lower range than she is accustomed.

Renne has always been a singer, but she charted a course toward the stage when her elementary music teacher told her mother she should get voice lessons. Vocal competitions, school musicals and talent shows followed. Renne attended an Interlochen arts summer camp where her love for musicals really bloomed. She graduated with a bachelor of fine arts in musical theater from the University of Michigan in 2014 and moved to New York City that August.

That first year in New York she recalls going to tons of auditions. To pay the rent, Renne worked as a restaurant hostess and spa receptionist, but she felt fortunate to work shows pretty quickly, including regional theater gigs.

A year after arriving in New York she landed her first Broadway ensemble role as Betsy in the musical "Allegiance," which starred George Takei. She performed alongside her childhood hero Lea Salonga, the Broad-



Shea Renne, far left, plays the accordion as one of the three Fates in "Hadestown," which will run Nov. 23 to Dec. 5 at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BROADWAY IN DETROIT

way actress who originally portrayed Kim in "Miss Saigon" and also performed lead roles in "Aladdin" and "Mulan."

"Allegiance" ended two months after Renne joined the show, but she kept working, although not always in New York. She sublet her apartment for several months in 2016 while she performed in "Here Lies Love" in Seattle and also performed in multiple shows at the Fulton Theater in Pennsylvania, including roles as Allie in "Mamma Mia," an urchin in "Little Shop of Horrors" and multiple stints as Liat in "South Pacific."

Her dream role is Eponine in "Les Miserables."

Being an actor is not for the faint of heart, Renne admitted, but she loves what she does and that love of performing keeps her going.

The "Hadestown" tour has more than 30 stops, and she is under contract for a year and looking forward to every minute of it.

"If the pandemic taught me anything, it's to be grateful, to always be in the moment," she said as she walked to a rehearsal in Washington, D.C., for the tour's next stop in Boston. "I was wishing for this during the pandemic, but now I am overjoyed to have it... I'm so lucky to be performing, I will never take it for granted."

For more information on "Hadestown," showtimes and to get tickets, visit www.broadwayindetroit.com. sbromley@hometownlife.com

"If the pandemic taught me anything, it's to be grateful, to always be in the moment. ... I'm so lucky to be performing, I will never take it for granted."

Shea Renne

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Use investments to build up nest egg



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Good morning, Rick:

My sister is trying to build a nest egg. She is 53 and with \$200 a month, she'd like to build up her savings. Can you give her some ideas?

Thanks for the advice.

C.A.E.

Dear C.A.E.:

All too often when it comes to personal finances, people are reluctant to ask for help. As far as I'm concerned,

that should never be the case.

In reviewing your sister's situation, the first thing I would recommend is to make sure that she has established an emergency fund.

I think one of the ingredients of being a good investor is never having to sell when you don't want to. An emergency fund provides you with this flexibility. I generally recommend three to six months of living expenses as an emergency fund.

When it comes to an emergency fund, the key is accessibility, not returns. Most emergency funds should be invested in a savings account at the bank and CDs. In that regard, you can shop savings accounts and CDs.

One website I use is bankrate.com. On this website, all the banks listed are federally insured.

If your sister already has an emergency fund and is looking to invest for her future, here are some ideas. As a new investor, a balanced fund may be a good place to start. A balanced fund typically includes stock, bonds, and cash in the portfolio.

One to consider is the Schwab Balanced Fund (SWOBX). This fund will typically include about 60 percent stock, 35 percent bonds and 5 percent cash. This investment also has no minimums. Another no-minimum fund offered through Charles Schwab is the Schwab S&P 500 Index Fund (SWPPX).

Your sister may also want to consider the Fidelity Total Market Index Fund (FSKAX). This fund invests in a wide range of U.S. stocks across all U.S. markets. The fund has no minimum and very low fees. Fidelity also has a no-minimum, very low-cost index 500 fund, Fidelity 500 Index Fund (FXAIX).

In today's world there are many great investment options where investors can start with just a few dollars.

Don't try to time the market, because when you time the market you have to be right twice – once when you buy and once when you sell – and no one has been able to do that consistently. Therefore, the key is to start as soon as you can and invest money on a regular basis.



Gary Krone, who owns a Carvel franchise on Ford Road in Canton, has mixed feelings about the boulevard project. PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Howard Farmer, assistant manager at Chet's Rent-All in Canton, said the construction of a boulevard on Ford Road will undoubtedly affect business.

Ford Road

Continued from Page 1A

constructed, separating westbound and eastbound Ford Road traffic from Haggerty to Sheldon roads.

The No. 1 objective of the boulevard, according to Michigan Department of Transportation Project Manager Adam Penzenstadler, is to significantly reduce the number of crashes on the road.

"Most of the accidents are caused by courtesy lefts, when a driver traveling one direction stops to let a driver turn left from the middle lane," Penzenstadler said. "However, a car traveling in the outside lane may not stop, causing the collision."

"The boulevard will obviously prevent these types of incidents because the center lane will be replaced by the boulevard."

The project is currently navigating through the design phase, Penzenstadler revealed. Once the design is complete, land will have to be purchased from businesses along Ford Road by MDOT because the footprint of the restructured roadway will be wider than the current space it covers.

"It's really too early to tell when the design phase will be completed," Pen-

zenstadler said. "There are a lot of factors that go into this part of the project."

In November of 2018, project leaders projected a best-case scenario would see the design phase completed in late-2019 or sometime in 2020, bidding for construction work taking up most of 2021 and jack-hammers breaking up asphalt for the first time in 2022.

Construction starting in 2022 is a long shot now, Penzenstadler said.

The initial plan was to extend the boulevard 2.5 miles, which would have pushed it one-half mile west of Sheldon.

"The plan now is to have it run from Haggerty to Sheldon," Penzenstadler said. "We can always re-examine it in the future if the township so desires."

Although he understands why the boulevard is needed, Farmer worries what its construction will mean for Chet's bottom line.

"Ford Road is a mess already without construction, so once the work begins it's definitely going to hurt us," he said. "Our biggest issue is we have trailers coming in and out of here. It's tough with the trailers when there's no construction."

"I mean, we'll find a way; we have to. There's a path behind our place that runs west to Lilley, but a lot of times it's blocked by people dropping stuff off next door at the Goodwill."

Gary Krone, the owner of a Carvel ice cream franchise located on the north side of Ford Road, approximately one-quarter mile east of Lilley Road, said he's seen "at least 200" vehicle crashes over the past decade.

Krone has mixed emotions regarding the boulevard idea.

"I imagine the boulevard will minimize the crashes, which is obviously a good thing," Krone said. "But having a boulevard in a congested area like Ford Road where everything is, I don't know if that's going to fix anything as far as the traffic goes."

Krone said he'll have to get creative to keep a steady flow of customers walking into his doors once the construction commences.

"I haven't thought of anything specifically yet, but (some form of incentive) is a strong possibility," he said. "Ideally, the construction in front of my store won't happen during the summer, my peak months, but we just have to hope for the best."

Tina Larkins, a manager at The Bowery Grille & Pub, which is located on Ford Road just east of Haggerty Road, is hopeful the construction doesn't cost her establishment much business.

"We have a lot of regulars – customers who come in daily or weekly – so I don't think the construction will stop

them from coming here," Larkins said. "It's so hard to turn left into our place to begin with, most of our customers come from the west on Ford Road."

"We have a road behind our parking lot in the back that leads to Haggerty Road, so that will help, too."

Penzenstadler said meetings MDOT and Canton Township has hosted so Canton residents can voice their concerns about the project have gone well.

"The feedback we've received from residents and the community has been very positive," he said. "I've found that whenever you have a project like this that will solve a safety issue, people are usually onboard."

In August 2018, Canton Township residents approved a ballot proposal that will raise an estimated \$5,506,872 each year over a 20-year stretch that will go toward road maintenance and repair. The township will pay MDOT \$1 million per year until the project is complete.

Penzenstadler said a website that will provide residents with updates on the project is in the works. He said MDOT is hopeful the website is ready to roll before the next community-wide meeting on the boulevard project is held sometime in early-2022.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

Libraries

Continued from Page 1A

Road, in Oct. 2019. It hasn't reopened since then.

Brosnan said she's keeping "all the options on the table" for the branch.

"We are going to let the community participate in a needs assessment over the course of 2022 that is going to guide our next steps here, in collaboration with the consultant reports about water damage, mold, moisture and other issues in the building," she said.

Based on circulation data the library collects, Civic Center gets the most of the libraries' business. Noble, when it was open, and Sandburg are mostly used by people who live near them.

In October, Civic Center recorded 33,010 in circulation and Sandburg recorded 5,578.

"Most people use the Civic Center," said Toni LaPorte, the city's library director. "We have a lot more computers here and we have wireless here as well. People are able to plug in at the other branches, it's just not as convenient as the Civic."

Budzinski said the smaller facilities

serve a good purpose and she'd like to see more investment in them. LaPorte said eventually she'd like to see Noble and Sandburg, which is currently open five days a week, be open six days a week.

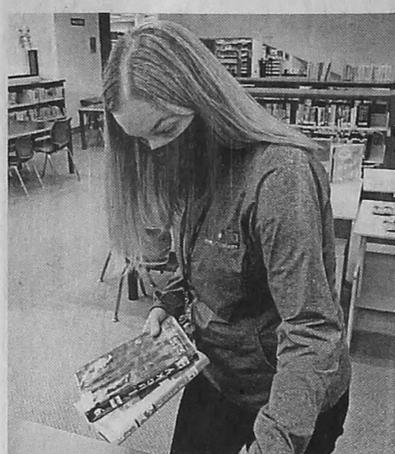
"I would love to see those buildings function as community spaces," Budzinski said. "They have value in their respective neighborhoods. I live in the neighborhood Noble is in, and we certainly miss being able to go up there and do events."

Outfitting the libraries to meet community needs

Livonia's libraries have made changes in recent years, including furniture and technology updates at Civic Center as well as the creation of the One City, One Book club.

The mayor has also put new faces on the library commission. The longest-serving member was appointed in 2019 and Brosnan feels the new members represent different kinds of library users who can bring an eclectic perspective to guide her office. She hopes the needs assessment will be a larger extension of that guidance.

"This needs assessment is going to



Livonia Public Children's Librarian Julie Novak reshelving books at the main branch. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

take a big picture look at our library system overall, to better understand how we can continue to meet our community's needs going forward," Brosnan said.

One thing the mayor thinks is sufficient is the libraries' funding. The city adopted a tax collection for the Civic Center campus in 1988. In 2009, the two smaller libraries became funded under

that collection, as well. All three campuses have benefited from grants and penal fines, as well.

Budzinski said it's her opinion the city should continue funding its libraries instead of creating a district library, which would lift it from under the mayor's guidance, but would like to see more money go to the libraries, especially Sandburg and Noble.

LaPorte joked no funding would ever be enough for her.

"We do our best with what we have," she said. "We're trying to do things that patrons would like. It's never enough. Libraries always need more money."

Brosnan said public input will help decide where the resources the library has go.

"I want to encourage Livonia residents to stay engaged over the next few months with our libraries and the needs assessment process as it rolls out," she said. "It will be a great opportunity to join in a collaborative conversation about our library system's future and how it will continue to meet our residents' needs in the years to come."

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

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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.

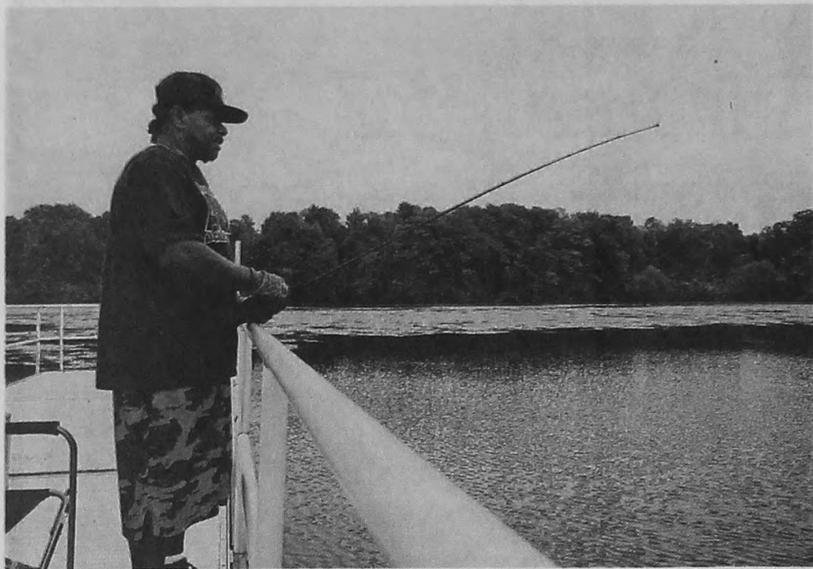


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Robert Thompson fishes Hines Park's Newburgh Lake in September. Thompson said he can usually find bluegill at the lake wedged into the southeast corner of 275 and I-96. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Cindy Lierstein says hello to her terrier Maggie during a visit in September to the Wayne County Dog Park in the Hines Park system. The WCDP has two fenced off sections, one for big dogs and the other for puppies like Maggie.



John Wehrly hikes around Hines Park's Cass Benton area in September. Wehrly said he also runs with a group of joggers through the park system.



With the beauty of the Hines Park system comes the ugly: a pile-up of trash and plastic bottles along its Middle Rouge River near Five Mile and Northville Road.



Nicholas Anderson of Ypsilanti plays disc golf at the Cass Benton course in July. Cass Benton, just south of Northville, is part of the Hines Park system.

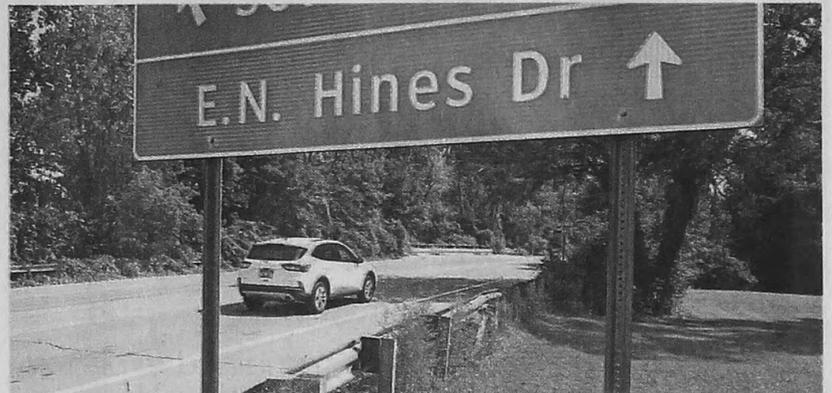
Park

Continued from Page 1A

Henry Ford — came up with the idea to turn the area into a park. Making the land along Hines Drive a park kept businesses with polluting potential further away from the nearby Rouge River and gave the land a purpose.

Over the years, the road has also become a popular road among those hoping to stay off the highway — Wayne County says some 22,000 vehicles drive the road daily — and hosts a popular Christmas light display every holiday season.

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



Hines Park and Edward N. Hines Drive begin in Northville near the intersection of Seven Mile and Sheldon.



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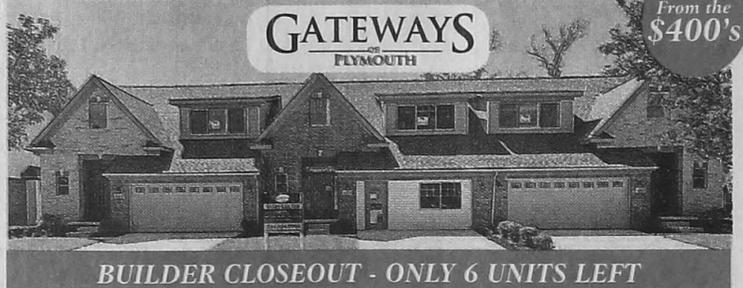
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■ MICHIGAN AREA RESIDENTS CASH IN: Pictured above are protected packages containing the unsearched Vault Bags that everyone will be trying to get. It's hard to tell how much these unsearched bags loaded with rarely seen Gov't issued coins could be worth someday. That's because each Vault Bag is known to contain nearly 3 pounds of Gov't issued coins some dating back to the 1800's including all those shown in today's publication. In addition, after each bag is loaded with over 200 rarely seen coins, each verified to meet a minimum collector grade of very good or above, the dates and mint marks are never searched to determine collector values. So you better believe at just \$980 these unsearched Vault Bags are a real steal.

Rarely seen United States coins up for grabs in Michigan -zip codes determine who gets them

Unsearched Vault Bags loaded with rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued coins some dating back to the 1800's and worth up to 50 times their face value are actually being handed over to residents who find their zip code below and beat the 48 hour order deadline

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Silver Morgan Dollar 1878-1921



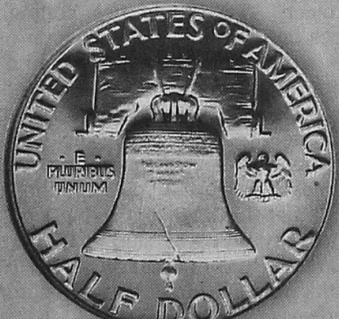
Silver Liberty Head 1892-1915



Silver Walking Liberty 1916-1947



Silver Peace Dollar 1921-1935



Silver Ben Franklin 1948-1963

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480	485	490	495
481	486	491	496
482	487	492	497
483	488	493	498
484	489	494	499

"The vaults at Federated Mint are going empty," said Laura A. Lynne, U.S. Coin and Currency Director for Federated Mint.

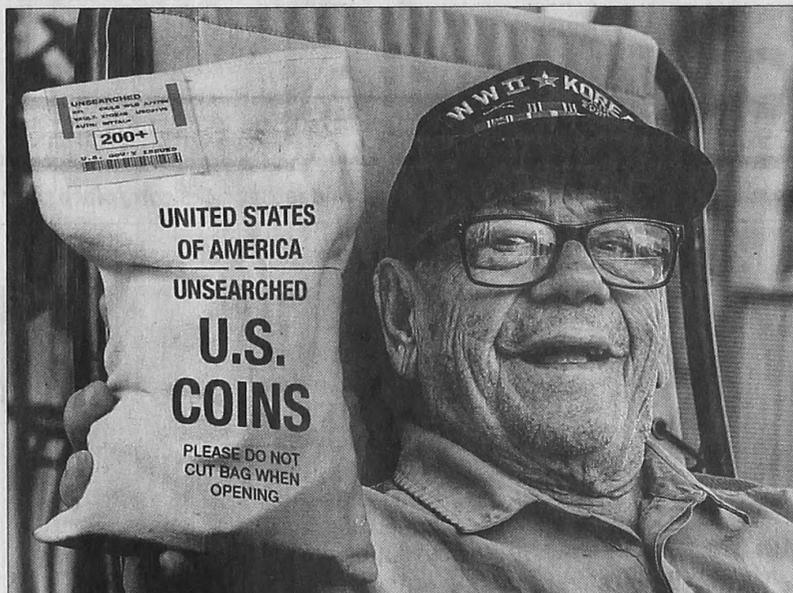
That's because a decision by Federated Mint to release rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued coins, some worth up to 50 times their face value, means unsearched Vault Bags loaded with U.S. Gov't issued coins dating back to the 1800's are now being handed over to U.S. residents who find the first three digits of your zip code listed in today's publication.

"But don't thank the Government. As U.S. Coin and Currency Director for Federated Mint, I get paid to inform and educate the general public regarding U.S. coins. Ever since the decision by Federated Mint to release rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued coins to the general public — I'm being asked how much are the unsearched Vault Bags worth? The answer is, there's no way to tell. Coin values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees, but we do know this. Each unsearched bag weighs nearly 3 pounds and is known to contain rarely seen Morgan Silver Dollars and these coins alone could be worth \$40 - \$325 in collector value each according to The Official Red Book, a Guide Book of United States Coins. So there's no telling what you'll find until you search through all the coins. But you better believe at just \$980 these unsearched Vault Bags are a steal," said Lynne.

"These are not ordinary coins you find in your pocket change. These are rarely seen silver, scarce, collectible and non-circulating U.S. coins dating back to the 1800's so we won't be surprised if thousands of U.S. residents claim as many as they can get their hands on. That's because after the bags were loaded with nearly 3 pounds of U.S. Gov't issued coins, each verified to meet a minimum collector grade quality of very good or above, the dates and mint marks were never searched to determine collector values and the bags were securely sealed. That means there's no telling what you'll find until you search all the coins," said Lynne.

The only thing U.S. residents who find their zip code printed in today's publication need to do is call the National Toll-Free Hotline before the 48-hour deadline ends.

This is very important. After the



■ UNSEARCHED: Pictured above are the unsearched Vault Bags being handed over to Michigan residents who call the National Toll-Free Hotline before the 48-hour deadline ends. And here's the best part. Each Vault Bag is loaded with over 200 U.S. Gov't issued coins, including all the coins pictured in today's publication, some dating back to the 1800's and worth up to 50 times their face value. Each coin is verified to meet a minimum collector grade of very good or above before the bags are securely sealed and the dates and mint marks are never searched by Federated Mint to determine collector value.

Vault Bags were loaded with over 200 of U.S. Gov't issued coins, each verified to meet a minimum collector grade quality of very good or above, the dates and mint marks were never searched to determine collector values. The Vault Bag fee has been set for \$1,500 for residents who miss the 48-hour deadline, but for those U.S. residents who beat the 48-hour deadline the Vault Bag fee is just \$980 as long as they call the National Toll-Free Hotline before the deadline ends.

"Remember this, we cannot stop collectors from buying up all the unsearched bags of coins they can get in this special advertising announcement. And you better believe with each bag being loaded with nearly 3 pounds of U.S. Gov't issued coins we're guessing they're going to go quick," said Lynne.

The phone lines will be ringing off the hook beginning at precisely 8:30 a.m. this morning. That's because each unsearched Vault Bag is loaded with the rarely seen coins pictured left and highly sought after collector coins dating clear back to the 1800's including iconic Morgan Silver Dollars, a historic Peace Silver Dollar, stunning

Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars, the collectible Silver Eisenhower Dollars, spectacular Silver Liberty Head Half and Quarter Dollars, rarely seen Silver Franklin Half Dollars, high demand President Kennedy Silver Half Dollars, beautiful Silver Standing Liberty Quarter Dollars, American Bicentennial Quarters, rare Liberty V Nickels, one cent Historic Wheat Coins including 1943 "Steel Cents", one of the beautiful Winged Liberty Head Dimes, scarce Indian Head one cent U.S. coins and the last ever minted Buffalo Nickels.

"With all these collectible U.S. Gov't Issued coins up for grabs we're going to do our best to answer all the calls," said Lynne.

Thousands of U.S. residents stand to miss the deadline to claim the U.S. Gov't issued coins. That means U.S. residents who find the first three digits of your zip code listed in today's publication can claim the unsearched bags of money for themselves and keep all the U.S. Gov't issued coins found inside.

Just be sure to call before the deadline ends 48 hours from today's publication date. ■

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Northville residents push back on Beck Road plan

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville Township residents gave a resounding two-thumbs-down review to "Beck To The Future", a proposal that would widen Beck Road to five lanes on the two-mile stretch the road carves through mostly residential sections of the township.

Citing an increase in large truck traffic, decreasing property values and nightmarish left-turn scenarios, residents used a public comment section toward the latter portion of a two-hour town hall meeting to vent their disapproval of the Beck Road Corridor Improvement Initiative that was spearheaded seven years ago by the cities of Wixom and Novi.

Wixom officials Drew Benson and Tim Sikma explained the motivation for the idea — the reduction of car crashes and easing overall traffic congestion were top issues — during the early stages of the meeting.

But the steadfast contingent of Northville Township residents wasn't buying the rationale for the stretch of road between Six Mile and Eight Mile roads.

"Widening Beck Road to five lanes in that area that has rolling hills and open spaces would ruin it," township resident Cindy Paul said. "Five lanes of traffic would create a barrier, dividing the township into two separate communities."

"I understand there is a problem with backups, but five lanes isn't the solution," said Don Paul, who suggested refining the synchronization of traffic lights and replacing curbs along the two-lane section of Beck with shoulders so emergency vehicles could navigate the area more smoothly.

Northville Township Fire Chief Brent Siegel said the two-lane make-up of Beck Road creates incredible challenges for emergency vehicles trying to transport patients to hospitals.

Siegel added something less than a five-lane makeover would make life easier for his crews.



The Northville Township meeting room was filled to capacity for the Nov. 8 town hall on a proposal to widen Beck Road to five lanes between Six and Eight Mile roads. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"A center turn lane on Beck between Six Mile and Eight Mile would likely reduce traffic crashes, improve traffic flow and reduce issues for emergency services," Siegel noted.

Siegel said Beck Road is used more than ever by the township's emergency services since the opening of Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi in 2008.

Multiple residents said a better plan to make Beck Road more manageable — at least in the township — is to pave parallel north-south roads like Ridge and Napier from Five Mile to Eight Mile roads, reducing the congestion on Beck.

Residents also hammered home the point that it's easier to accept a five-lane widening project in Wixom and Novi because the areas affected are mostly commercial, not residential like Northville Township.

"The reason we're here tonight is to find out how our citizens feel about this," said Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo. "It's still a very fluid plan. We were asked to be supportive of

this project, but before we can be supportive of it, we need to find out what it's all about."

When Abbo mentioned that Beck Road is owned by Wayne County, one resident asked him why the county wasn't represented at the townhall meeting.

"Trust us, we'll have no problem communicating what we learned tonight to Wayne County," Abbo said.

Benson said the more communities involved in the Beck Road widening initiative, the more likely the project will receive state and federal grants to help cover the several million dollar price tag.

Township resident Lisa Styers, who lives north of Six Mile Road and west of Beck, said she'd fear for her teenage daughter's safety if Beck's width was extended to five lanes.

"Every time she turns left out of our sub onto Beck Road now with just two lanes, it's scary," Styers said. "It's not fathomable to me to think about her crossing that many lanes safely."

Styers said proof is out there that safety can be attained without major overhauls of roadways.

"Before they changed the light at Six Mile and Beck (to a green arrow left-turn system), there was accident after accident at that intersection," Styers said. "We begged for years to get it done and now there's rarely accidents at that site."

Several residents who offered public comments agreed the best solution to fix Beck Road's congestion and multitude of traffic crashes is to add a middle turn lane from Six Mile to Eight Mile roads.

Benson estimated the earliest construction would begin on a widening project would be 2024 or 2025, giving decision makers plenty of time to get things right — and hopefully to make sure the residents most affected by any changes are in agreement with the plans.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com.

Obituaries

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Wendy Rogers

Wendy Rogers, formerly of Dundee, MI, passed away on October 19, 2021. Beloved daughter of Bert and Donna (Whitton) Miller. Cherish mother of Latonya Scott (Edward Carter), Autumn Rogers, and Hunter Rogers. Adoring grandmother of Elijah Chaney, Micah Chaney, and Ontae Chaney. Honored sister of Brien Miller, Carrie Southwell (George), and twin sister Cindy Robb (Doug). Wendy is also survived by a host of loving nieces and nephews and many other cherished friends. A private memorial will be held at noon Sunday, November 14, 2021 at Fellows Creek Banquet facility 2936 S. Lotz Rd., Canton, MI 48188.

Joan M. Somjak

GARDEN CITY - Joan M. Somjak Age 87 Beloved wife of the late John R. (Bob). Loving mother to Valerie (John) Car, John (Debbie) Somjak, Steve (Beth) Somjak, and Elaine (Scott) Rose. Wonderful grandmother to Andrew (Aubrey) Somjak, Ashley and Stephanie Somjak, Amanda (Hiram) Matos, Alissa (Caleb) Sprinkle, Matthew Somjak, Lisa (Johnny) Poole, Joanna Joy Car, Brian, Denise, Danielle and Nickolas Rose. Great-grandmother to Cordelia, Nathanael and Josiah Somjak. Loving sister-in-law to Agnes Turchan and dear long-time neighbors and friends to Frank and Barbara Rouland. Honorary "adopted" parent (along with her husband) to Sister Chilee. Wonderful aunt and friend to so many (you know who you are). Visitation Friday, November 19, 2021, 4-8pm with the Funeral Service Saturday, November 20, 2021, 11:30am at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Road, Garden City (Between Ford Road and Cherry Hill). www.santeiufuneralhome.com



Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over,

it became a butterfly...

-proverb



Property at the intersection of Morton Taylor and Michigan Avenue in Canton is proposed for a mixed-use development. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plans call for apartments, retail space in Canton Twp.

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plans to construct a unique mixed-use development in the southern end of Canton Township recently took a step forward.

The proposal calls for constructing several hundred single-story apartment units and commercial buildings on the north side of Michigan Avenue straddling Morton Taylor Road. The development, dubbed Redwood Marketplace, would be one of the first such residential communities in that part of Canton.

"I do believe it is going to be a very prominent piece of Canton and if we approved this, because it's just going to be different on Michigan Avenue," said Greg Greene, chairman of the township's planning commission. "I think it's going to continue to grow."

The plan returned before the planning commission during its virtual meeting held Nov. 1. That body reviewed and recommended final approval for the planned development district.

The residential development would rest on 48 acres and consist of one-story apartments, mostly marketed toward empty-nesters looking to stay in the community. The commercial development would sit on more than 14 acres and be developed later.

John Gaber, an attorney representing the commercial side of the development, said it would be years before any businesses were to open

at the site. He said it would be important to have the residential built first to allow for a built-in customer base to exist before businesses would show an interest in locating there.

"It's difficult to take a bare site like this and market the commercial first," he said. "This residential base provides a market for that."

This was the second time the planning commission reviewed this particular property, first dealing with the rezoning last summer. It won't be the last review of the project, either: in addition to the planned development district needing approval from the township's board of trustees, a site plan would also need to return for review and approval.

A few changes have been made to the plan since first proposed, including reducing the number of curb cuts along Michigan Avenue from five to three, as well as adding more sidewalks and other features.

Some commissioners discussed of natural space opportunities with the project. The residential component does not have any specific larger parks or natural spaces besides around the detention ponds. That was something Commissioner Alan Okon said originally concerned him, though it was later pointed out the development was located near the Morton Taylor trailhead.

"I just think we're missing a big opportunity here," he said of the natural features surrounding the site. "I just think we're missing a big opportunity to showcase some of that."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.





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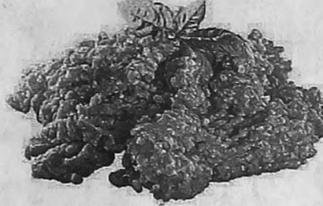
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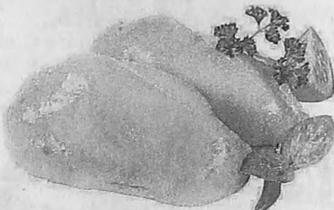
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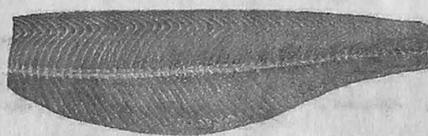


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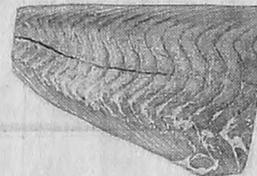
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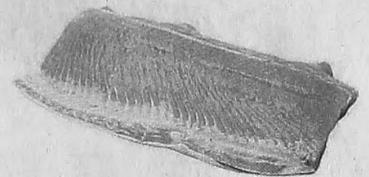
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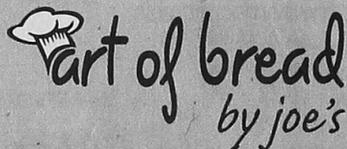
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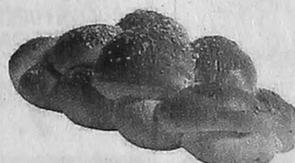
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SPORTS

Lions win 4th regional title ever in OT

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

A Division 2 regional title has eluded the South Lyon football team the past three seasons.

The Lions lost district games to Walled Lake Western and Fenton in 2018 and 2019, respectively. A COVID-19 forfeit loss to North Farmington cost them

a berth into the regional final a year ago. They finally ended that 17-year drought with a thrilling 29-23 overtime win over Portage Central on Friday night.

"It feels great. We all fought to the last whistle," said senior Dakota Blackwell, who made a victory-saving tackle in overtime. "The whole game was just up and down, up and down. We all believed

in one thing this year, and that was going to Ford Field. We were just so mad our season got canceled last year. We had to bounce back."

South Lyon (12-0) faces Traverse City Central (11-1) in the state semifinal.

Portage Central (9-3) took a 23-15 lead late in the fourth quarter. Senior Caleb Schnell capitalized on an interception by finding sophomore receiver

Danny Calhoun for a 7-yard touchdown pass with just under five minutes to play in the game.

"Second half we were our own worst enemy," South Lyon coach Jeff Henson said.

"We had the bad turnover, and on defense we didn't execute that well either."

See LIONS, Page 2B



The Patriots celebrate their last-second interception that sealed their 27-20 victory over Churchill. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

KLAA-East benefits Franklin in playoffs

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Franklin was one of the four-best football teams in Division 2 during the regular season.

And most of us didn't know it because of how tough the Patriots' schedule was.

They're one of the smallest schools in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East. Almost every week they faced a state powerhouse.

They snuck into the playoffs with a 4-5 record. Not many gave them a shot to win games. Yet, they've continued to persevere.

A pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns helped them beat Waterford Mott 43-26 to win a regional title Friday night, qual-

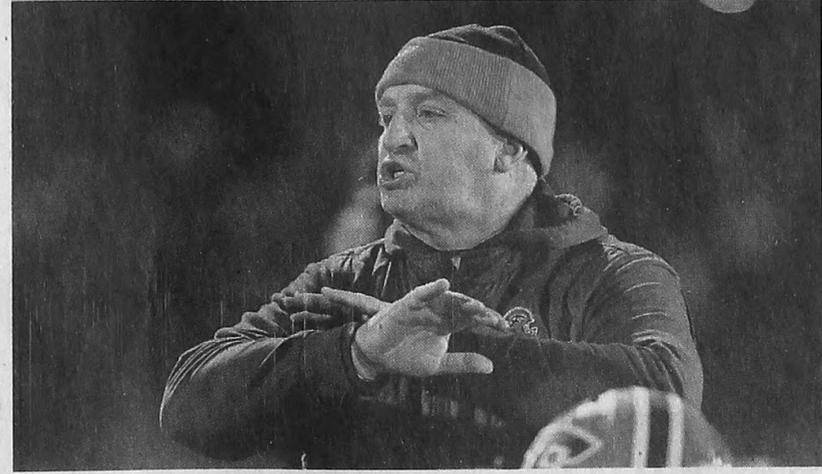
ifying them for their third state semifinal since 2017.

They'll face Warren De La Salle, last year's state runner-ups and the squad that beat them in the 2017 state final, in Saturday's state semifinal at Hazel Park.

"Our division, again, prepares us for the playoffs," coach Chris Kelbert said. "Playing Belleville, Fordson, Dearborn and Churchill week after week, you have to be a good football team to beat those teams, and that prepares us for the playoffs."

Franklin (7-5) carried just a 28-26 lead into the fourth quarter, but Zac Ole-suk pushed the Patriots to the victory with a pair scores late.

See FRANKLIN, Page 2B



Franklin head coach Chris Kelbert addresses his team.

"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."

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South Lyon's Tommy Donovan shakes off Mott's Eric Davis in October.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Our HS football picks for Round 4

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Division 2 state semifinals are here, and it's time for Hometown Life sports reporter Brandon Folsom to predict some winners.

There are just two local teams playing in Round 4.

Here's who he likes to win:

South Lyon (12-0) vs. Traverse City Central (11-1), 1 p.m. Saturday at Greenville

The Trojans have played a weak schedule to get here. Their wins over Bay City Western and Brother Rice were impressive, but blowout wins over Big North Conference foes and a school from the Upper Peninsula aren't going to get you battle-tested to play big-boy football in the playoffs.

In their one opportunity to impress, they laid an egg against DeWitt in the season opener at the Big House.

South Lyon is more than a middling program from northern Michigan. The Lions, even while playing with a backup quarterback, have won convincingly against everyone they've faced this year. And they've faced some tough teams. From Lakeland to Milford and Walled Lake Western. From East Lansing to Portage Central in the playoffs.

The only thing that could hold the Lions back is the fact they have to travel for the first time this season, and their trip to Greenville isn't going to be an easy ride. It's well over 2 hours on the bus. If they can hop off the charter and get Quinn Fracassi and Tommy Donovan going quickly, it should be safe for

fans to purchase their state finals tickets by halftime.

Folsom's pick: South Lyon 35, Traverse City Central 21.

Livonia Franklin (7-5) vs. Warren De La Salle (12-0), 1 p.m. Saturday at Hazel Park

The Patriots are more than a Cinderella Story. They're more like Cinderella, Mulan, Moana, Ariel and Anna and Elsa all rolled into one. They haven't just defied the odds to get here. They've made it look motion picture-like.

The problem with this David-and-Goliath story is that the Pilots don't have a single chink in their armor. They're battle-tested.

Look at what De La Salle did to Roseville a week ago. It was a 45-14 stomping. And the Panthers are good. They should've been undefeated entering last week's regional final, but they were caught playing an ineligible player early on during their Macomb Area Conference-Gold season.

Even without that player, they're still stacked. They have two of the top recruits in the state in Michigan State commit Tyrell Henry and Maryland pledge Malachi Clark. They also have Amare Snowdown, a three-star with several Division I offers.

Folsom's pick: De La Salle 49, Franklin 13.

Folsom went 1-3 in Round 3 and is 28-15 picking games since joining Hometown Life this fall.

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

Will Lions be road warriors in football state semifinal?

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

This is it. Win and you're in.

Hometown Life's coverage area still has two local teams alive in the football playoffs and both are playing in Division 2 state semifinal games on Saturday.

A win sends them to the state championship at Ford Field.

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom is here to ask the hard-hitting questions ahead of these two Round 4 games.

How well will the Lions travel?

On paper, it sounds like South Lyon and Traverse City Central should be a battle of two pretty even teams when they meet at 1 p.m. Saturday for the Division 2 state semifinal.

The biggest issue is how well will South Lyon handle traveling to play in Greenville, a high school located about a half-hour trip north of Grand Rapids. It's about 122 miles, give or take, to the stadium.

The Lions (12-0) haven't left Oakland County yet this season. The longest trip they've made was about 35 miles north to Waterford Mott. Their second-longest trip was about 20 miles to White Lake Lakeland.

They've played eight home games, including their first three playoff matchups. So they won't have the creature comfort of either playing at home or riding the bus for a maximum of 30 minutes.

T.C. Central is battle-tested in that regard. The Trojans (11-1) have already played DeWitt at the Big House, traveled to North Farmington for a regular-season game and visited Caledonia for the regional final. All of those trips are well over 2- and 3-hour drives.

Not to mention, they play in the Big North Conference, which routinely has them bussing to places such as Gaylord, Petoskey and Cadillac on a weekly basis. A minimum of 1 hour is expected on the bus unless it's playing crosstown rival Traverse City West. Their trips to face Alpena in league play are 124 miles each way.

What's more, since they're so far away from other Division 1 and 2 schools, they have long trips for their non-conference schedule, too.

In most sports, they routinely play schools such as Marquette, Escanaba and Sault Ste. Marie from the Upper Peninsula, schools from the Bay City and Saginaw areas and teams in metro Detroit such as North Farmington and Brother Rice. Their kids know 1-75,

US-131 and M-32 well.

South Lyon is a great team. But how fast is its offense going to wake up when the players are hopping off the bus with numb butts from sitting for three hours?

Can the Patriots pull off the impossible?

Livonia Franklin (7-5) enters Round 4 of the playoffs as the biggest underdog in the state.

No state semifinal in any division features two opponents with as big of a discrepancy in playoff points as Warren De La Salle (11-0) and the Patriots, who have 27.5 fewer playoff points than the Pilots.

De La Salle has the second-most playoff points in the state among teams still alive. Grand Blanc edges them out with just 0.3 more points, but the Bobcats are a D-1 team. They're supposed to have more points.

What's that mean? The Pilots have played a tough schedule.

They beat powerhouses such as River Rouge and Harper Woods in the regular season.

They blitzed through the Catholic League-Central, which included Brother Rice, Detroit Catholic Central and Orchard Lake St. Mary's, all teams that made it to at least the second round of the postseason.

The past two weeks, they stomped Grosse Pointe South and Roseville, two Macomb Area Conference teams absolutely loaded with Big Ten football recruits.

Plus, the Pilots, the state runner-ups a year ago, entered the season as the media's pick to win it all.

Franklin has a tall task ahead of them, but they've already defied the odds to get to the final four. No team has made it this far into the playoffs with a record as weak as the Patriots', which is a testament to them turning around their season mid-stream.

They snuck into the playoffs with only four wins. Fortunately, the playoff points they garnered from playing in the tough Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East against the likes of Belleville, Dearborn, Fordson and rival Livonia Churchill helped them sneak into the playoffs. They've gone on the road each week in the postseason and have ripped off wins against Temperance Bedford, Churchill and Mott.

But De La Salle is on the same level as Belleville and Fordson, and both of those teams beat Franklin by 24 points.

It's already been a dream season for the Patriots. Can they keep it going with an unlikely upset win at 1 p.m. Saturday at Hazel Park?

Lions

Continued from Page 1B

We've never been down this year. We've never been in that situation. Luckily, our kids are like goldfish: They have short-term memories. I had complete confidence in them to make the plays when needed."

Quarterback Braden Fracassi gave the Lions new life when he heaved a 48-yard pass to Gavin Limotte on third and 19.

And then Henson called Quinn Fracassi's number to finish the comeback, despite the older brother battling a shoulder injury since before halftime.

"Yeah, it's hurting," the slotback said after the game. "My shoulder has popped out at least 10 times tonight, but I'm just going to go out there and battle. This is my last game on this field. I didn't want to lose. It's the regional championship. You gotta do what you gotta do."

Hensen added: "We've rode (Quinn)

all year long. The ball was going to be in his hands. He's our best player."

Bum shoulder and all, Fracassi ran the ball twice for big gains from the wildcat formation to get South Lyon inside the red zone with 37 seconds left.

From there on, it was just a little backyard football for the Fracassi brothers to tie the score.

"Trust in each other. Trust in my teammates and my coaches," Quinn said. "I know I can make the plays, but we all had to make plays. I just rode the wheel, but we all had to make plays together."

On fourth down, Braden rolled to his left and found Quinn in the corner of the end zone for an 8-yard pass. The next play, Quinn received a pitch and ran with Braden to the far side of the field for the two-point conversion. As he was about to get hit, he optioned the ball to his brother to knot it at 23.

"We're a one-two combo," Quinn added. "We've been doing this our whole lives. It's just a little backyard football."



South Lyon's Quinn Fracassi rushes against Portage Central Nov. 12 during the Division 2 regional final. DAVID DONOHER/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

In overtime, South Lyon wanted to run the ball.

It took two plays for the Lions to get

in the end zone as running back Tommy Donovan scored from 5 yards out for a 29-23 lead.

Portage Central got the ball to the 1-yard line on a quick pass. On fourth down, though, a stop was needed to seal the game, and that's when Blackwell stepped up.

"Credit to Dakota. He's been plagued by injuries all year long. He stops the guy on the play before, and we sent him on a corner blitz on fourth down," Henson said. "He was able to step in and stop the ball carrier short."

"I'm extremely happy for him. It was a great play."

The win marked South Lyon's fourth regional championship.

Hopefully, for the Lions, they can make the most of this extended playoff run. They've lost two of three state semifinal matchups in the past. They won their final-four game in 1995 but wound up losing in the state championship a week later.

They're wishing this is the season they have success at Ford Field.

Franklin

Continued from Page 1B

He tossed a 12-yard TD pass to Cordell Maybins Jr. for the winning score. Then he scored on a 7-yard run to cap off a night that included 10 carries for 76 yards and three TDs on the ground for the quarterback. He was also 3 of 7 passing for 75 yards and two TDs.

Maybins Jr. did most of the heavy lifting, rushing 20 times for 167 yards.

"The big difference for us was our O-line," Kelbert said of his offense, which totaled 347 yards. "They've been playing very, very, very well these last three playoff games. We've been able to run

the ball.

"We're at our best offensively when we can run the football."

Defensively, Jon J-Anderson came up with another game-saving play for the second week in a row. This time he returned a fumble 33 yards for a TD in the third quarter.

The Patriots did their best to slow down Mott QB Kalieb Osborne, a dual-threat who's already being recruited by the likes of Michigan and other Division I colleges.

The Corsairs (7-5) totaled 363 yards, and Osborne was 13 of 23 passing for 176 yards and three TDs.

"Their QB is a really special player," Kelbert added. "We just hit him as many times as we possibly could. He is tough

as nails. We really put a beating on him, and he kept coming and coming and coming. He took every shot we could give him."

Playoff points-wise, Franklin enters next week's matchup against De La Salle as the biggest underdog in the state. The Pilots have over 27 points more than them.

But that doesn't mean much to Franklin, which has played as the underdog well all postseason. It has played three-straight road games to capture district and regional titles. It's the only team in the history of the MHSAA to qualify for a state semifinal after entering the postseason with a losing record.

"We didn't tell our kids about that," Kelbert said. "As a coaching staff, we've

talked about it. They know it, though, and they saw it on Twitter this week. It was said on there.

"This hasn't been a goal of ours (to be the first in MHSAA history to make it to a final four after having a regular-season losing record), but we knew we had to win. I attribute this to our program, our staff and our kids. When things didn't go well during the season, we didn't give up and pack our bags. We didn't say it wasn't going to be our year."

"We continued to get better. Once you start winning, everybody's attitude changes, and it's a better atmosphere."

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

Birmingham begins upgrading high schools' athletic facilities

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Birmingham Public Schools Superintendent Embekka Roberson had a long list of people to thank during a pair of groundbreaking ceremonies. But the biggest thanks went to the residents who live in the Oakland County school district.

"Without you, we would not have had the \$195 million bond that was able to make this happen," she said.

Roberson was speaking of two major projects that will begin construction soon: the addition of an auxiliary gym at Seaholm High School and a pair of new buildings at the football stadium at Groves High School.

The district marked the beginning of the construction with two quick ceremonies held Nov. 2.

In addition to the auxiliary gym at Seaholm, the building at the high school will consist of a concession stand, replacing the current one for the outdoor stadium; add locker rooms; and other features.

It will also add a new classroom, golf simulator, an elevated running track and outdoor balconies. The track and existing tennis courts will be removed to make way for a new track and additional tennis courts, as well.

At Groves, the project consists of removing the building on the north end of the field and replacing it with a new one that will consist of a concession stand and locker rooms.

The building maintenance structure will relocate to the northeast corner of the Groves campus in a building that's currently under construction near the tennis courts.

The work is the first major renovations the high schools have seen in about 20 years, said Anne Cron, the district's executive director of communications and family engagement.

The bond proposal, approved by voters in March 2020, provides the school district with funding to make capital improvements across the district's facilities.



Birmingham School Board members, with Seaholm High faculty, staff and students, celebrate groundbreaking at the school's auxiliary gym Nov. 2.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Some work has already taken place, such as the major renovations at the Groves football stadium and the addition to Pierce Middle School.

Work is essentially scheduled to begin as soon as possible and will take many months to complete, said James Larson-Shidler, the district's assistant superintendent of business services. Work at Groves should take a year and be ready before next football season. The work isn't expected to affect spring sports like soccer that use the outdoor field.

Construction of the new facility at Seaholm will also not affect spring athletics, though that project will take longer to complete: work is expected to wrap up on that sometime in 2023.

More information on the bond projects can be found on the district's website.

Issues stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, Larson-Shidler said, were minimal when it came to beginning bond work.

In fact, because of restrictions, he said it made scheduling meetings with all the appropriate people easier since

they were done virtually.

"When you start a project, you get people together to plan it. So actually with Zoom meetings, you have people from all over," he said. "They don't have to drive over, they just jump on Zoom."

Seaholm principal Kyle Hall said she was happy knowing that students were in attendance at the event to mark the beginning of the work. She said it was her desire to leave the new facilities as a legacy at the high school for years to come.

"This is for you," Hall said. "I know and I've seen and witnessed over the last four-and-a-half years the kinds of things that happen on the fields and on the courts when you play athletics."

"I hope that in the years to come, when you come back and raise your children here in Birmingham that you look at this and say, 'I was there at the groundbreaking ceremony.'"

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

Hartland, Pinckney stars go 1-2 in Meet of Champions

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Riley Hough of Hartland and Caleb Jarema of Pinckney grabbed the top two places in the Michigan Meet of Champions cross country meet in Shepherd.

Hough, the two-time Division 1 state champion, was first out of 89 runners in the boys elite team race in 15 minutes, 8.5 seconds. Jarema, who won the Division 2 state championship, took second in 15:20.4.

Luke Venhuizen of Traverse City Central, the fifth-place finisher in Division 1, took third in 15:25.2.

Parchment's Garrett Winter took fifth in 15:34.2. Winter finished second to Jarema in the Division 2 meet, but was disqualified for shouting an obscenity after crossing the line.

Brighton's Quinn Cullen was 35th in 16:12.0 and teammate Tyler Langley was 63rd in 16:29.4.

The county's top two girls finished within 0.2 seconds of one another, with Howell junior Mackenzie Wright taking 28th in 18:44.3 and Brighton senior Katie Carothers 29th in 18:44.5. Brighton sophomore Carrigan Eberly was 67th in 19:21.3.

Julia Flynn of Traverse City Central was first in 17:17.4, winning by 30 seconds over Madison Foster of Temperance Bedford.



Riley Hough of Hartland won the Michigan Meet of Champions. WRIGHT WILSON/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Keep your eyes on the holiday pies

Sweet potato dessert completes a Southern Thanksgiving

Sharon Rigsby

Special to Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

My oh my, sweet potato pie! Old-fashioned Southern sweet potato pie tastes like a cool crisp fall day; warm, pungent spices and Thanksgiving all wrapped up in one delicious and decadent bite.

Made with sweetened condensed milk, this classic southern dessert is a make-ahead wonder and can be prepared up to 48 hours ahead.

Chances are, if you are not from the South, you might not have ever had sweet potato pie before. However, with this old-fashioned recipe, like grandma used to make, I hope to change that. Considered "soul food" by many, southern sweet potato pie has long played second fiddle to its more popular cousin, pumpkin pie. But one bite will make a believer out of you.

Oh, and when I say easy, I mean easy! Once you cook the potatoes, this delicious dessert takes only minutes to put together.

This is not only a delicious Southern dessert, but a piece with your coffee in the morning is the breakfast of champions.

Sharon Rigsby is the blogger behind Grits and Pinecones, a southern cooking, and hospitality blog. Browse all of her recipes by visiting gritsandpinecones.com.



This classic southern sweet potato pie is a make-ahead wonder and can be prepared up to 48 hours ahead. SHARON RIGSBY/SPECIAL TO TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

lumps.

Add the sweetened condensed milk, orange zest, cinnamon, nutmeg, eggs, salt, and vanilla extract and mix well.

Pour the sweet potato mixture into the pie crust. Place the pie on a baking sheet and bake for 40 minutes, or until the crust is golden brown and the pie has set.

Place the pie on a wire cooling rack and let cool completely. Garnish with whipped cream if desired.

Sharon's tips

- To cook the potatoes in the microwave, prick them with a fork and microwave for five minutes. Then, turn them over and cook for another five minutes or until the potatoes are very soft when squeezed. Allow to cool for a few minutes, and scoop out and mash the flesh.
- If you prefer to cook your potatoes in the oven, preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Bake the potatoes for 60 minutes or until they feel soft and squishy when squeezed.
- You can also boil the potatoes. To boil them, peel and cut the potatoes into small cubes. Place in boiling water and cook for about 15-20 minutes. They are done when you can easily pierce them with a fork. Drain and mash them.
- You can substitute canned sweet potatoes in this recipe. Be sure to drain and rinse them and mash well before adding to the batter. You will need two cups of mashed potatoes.
- For convenience, I use a frozen pre-made deep-dish pie crust in this recipe. Feel free to make your own using your favorite pie crust recipe.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Cook the sweet potatoes, peel and mash using a fork or potato masher until they are smooth.

Add the sweet potato and butter to a medium-size bowl. Use an electric mixer and blend on medium until everything is combined and there are no

Easy Southern sweet potato pie

Serves 10

1 pound sweet potatoes (baked and peeled, about 2 cups mashed)

¼ cup butter (softened)

14 ounces sweetened condensed milk

1 teaspoon orange peel, zested

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

2 large eggs (beaten)

¼ teaspoon kosher salt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 unbaked pie shell (9-inch deep-dish)

Whipped cream (optional for garnish)

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Twitter Blue hits US, allows customization for subscribers

Terry Collins
USA TODAY

After a year of rumors, waiting and wondering, Twitter is finally launching Blue, a monthly subscription service, in the U.S.

The \$2.99 premium service debuted Tuesday on the social media platform provides more customization features including "undo tweets" and a mode that makes reading those long threads of tweets way easier to follow.

"This is just the beginning of the journey, as we think about what's ahead" creating new features that "power users" want, said Sara Beykpour, Twitter's senior director of product management, during a briefing with reporters on Monday.

The arrival of Blue now in the U.S. (and also in New Zealand for \$4.49 a month) comes after Twitter tested the premium service in Canada and Australia in June, as the platform continues seeking new lines of revenue. Twitter did not disclose how many Blue subscribers it has.

Within the last year, Twitter has introduced features including Spaces, a response to audio chat hit Clubhouse; Tips, which lets users send money directly to their favorite accounts; and Fleets, where users can share text, photos and videos that disappear in 24 hours, similar to Snapchat.

"We're improving personalization, facilitating conversation, delivering relevant news, and finding new ways to help people get paid on Twitter," CEO Jack Dorsey said in a statement when announcing the company's third-quarter earnings on Oct. 26. With 211 million daily average users, Twitter reported revenue growth of 37% from a year earlier to \$1.284 billion.

"This is the greatest opportunity for us in terms of relevance and that drives everything from growth and usage but also to our advertising business," said Dorsey during his earnings call with analysts last month.

Even with all of the alternative reve-



"Undo tweet" is one feature of the Twitter Blue subscription service now offered in the U.S. PROVIDED BY TWITTER

ue streams that Twitter is experimenting with, subscriptions are the one that shows the most promise, said Jasmine Enberg, a senior analyst at research firm eMarketer/Insider Intelligence.

"Subscriptions are a good match for Twitter's use cases, mainly news and current events, and its highly engaged power user base will likely appreciate features that help them organize and follow conversations more easily," Enberg said. "Twitter's value proposition is different from the other major social platforms, so a service like Twitter Blue may be a harder sell elsewhere."

"That said, all of the social platforms are working on ways to augment their ads businesses."

Speaking of ads, Twitter said Blue subscribers also will have ad-free services when visiting select news sites including USA TODAY, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Rolling Stone, and

The Hollywood Reporter, among its publishing partners.

Tony Haile, Twitter's senior director of product, told reporters as part of the ongoing "commitment to strengthen and support publishers and a free press," a portion of the revenue from Twitter Blue subscription fees will go directly to publishers within its network.

"Our goal is to help each publishing partner make 50% more per person than they would've made from serving ads to that person," Haile said. "A better experience for readers - and more support for the journalism they care about."

Caroline Harris, vice president of digital distribution at Gannett, the parent company of USA TODAY, shares a similar sentiment.

"We at USA TODAY believe in the importance of evolving access to quality journalism for readers, and innovating to meet audiences' preferences," Harris

said in a statement. "Therefore, we're excited to expand our partnership with Twitter and offer our brand and content on Twitter Blue."

While subscriptions are one way that Twitter is attempting to diversify its revenue streams, "advertising will remain its core source of revenue for the foreseeable future," Enberg said.

"We expect Twitter's net U.S. ad revenues, after traffic acquisition costs, to rise by 38.5% to \$2.35 billion in 2021," Enberg added.

Other key features of Twitter Blue include:

Access to Twitter Blue Labs lets subscribers test out and share their thoughts on new features before they're available to all users. For example, subscribers can upload and tweet videos for up to 10 minutes when they post from twitter.com.

Bookmark Folders lets subscribers organize the Tweets they saved by allowing them "manage content so when you need it, you can find it easily and efficiently," Twitter said.

Undo Tweet allows subscribers to set a customizable timer of up to 30 seconds to click 'Undo' before the Tweet, reply, or thread they sent posts to their timeline. "Correct mistakes easily by previewing what your Tweet will look like before the world can see it," Twitter said.

Top Articles lets subscribers see the most-shared articles among who they follow think are important in the last 24 hours. This gives subscribers a new and complementary way of catching up on the latest on Twitter.

Twitter said additional Blue features include customizable app icons for a user's home screen on their device, color themes for the Twitter app, and access to dedicated subscription customer support.

And Twitter said it is introducing "Custom Navigation," as subscribers can choose what appears in their navigation bar to quickly access "the Twitter destinations they care about most."

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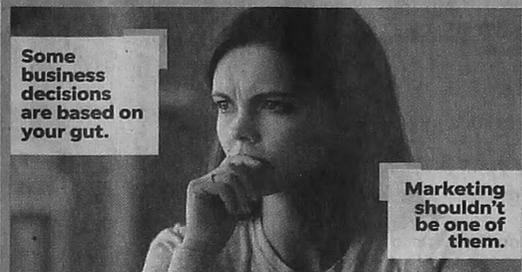
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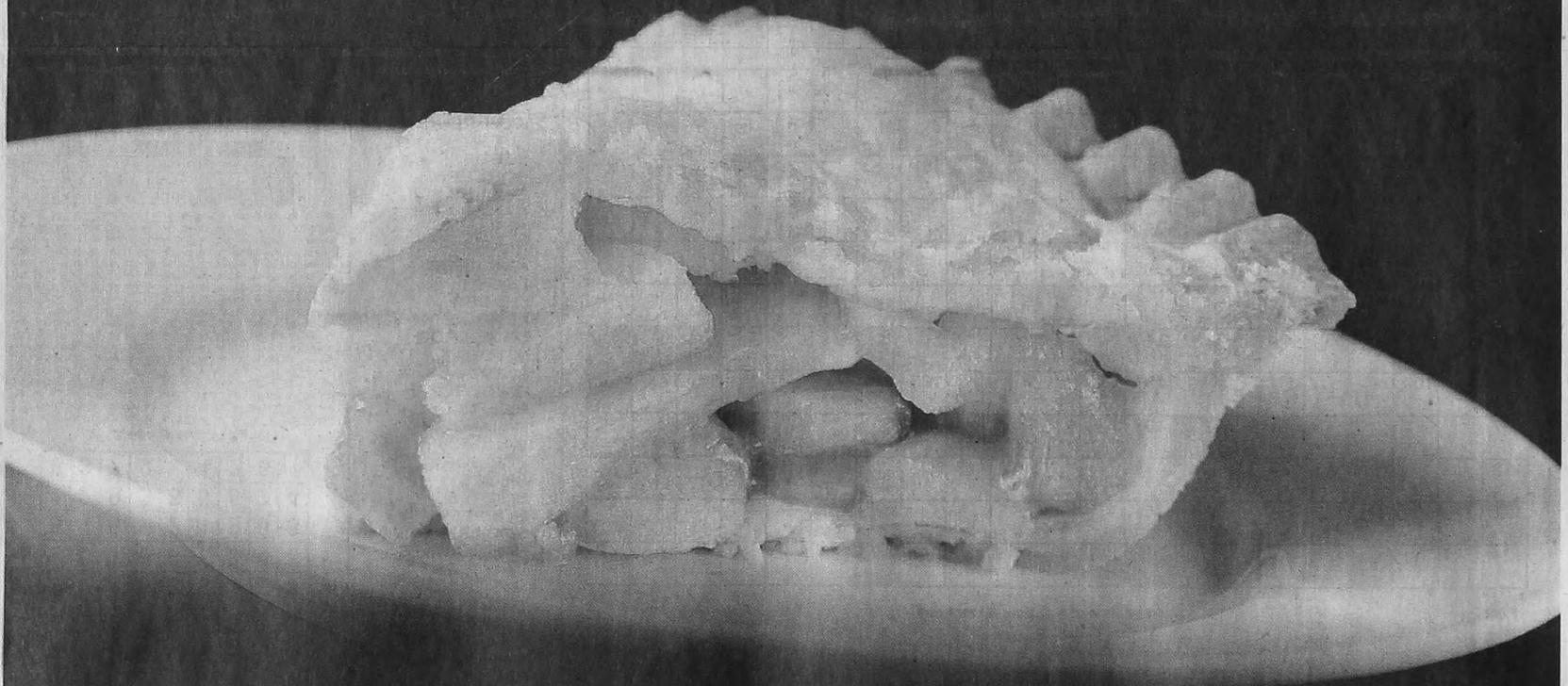
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