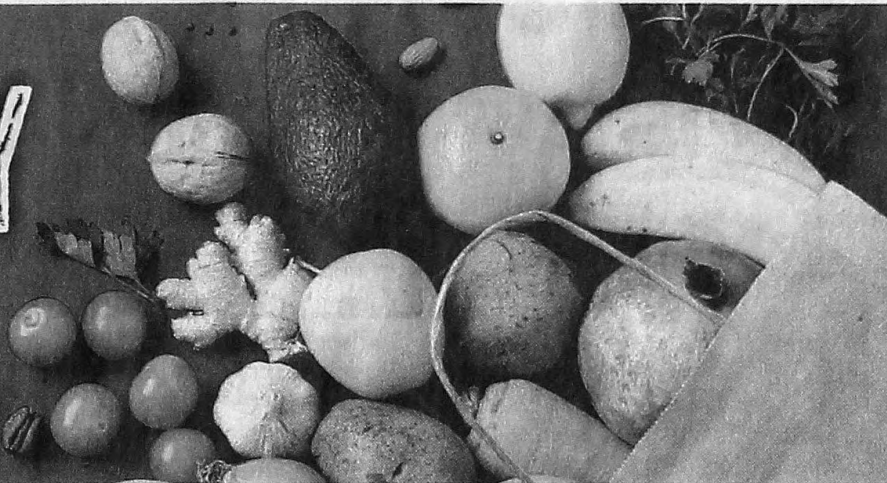




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LIVONIA

Partisanship, absentee ballots motivate voters

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia's 2021 election was its most engaged city council election in recent memory. It was also the most politically charged.

Around 22,000 Livonians voted in November, an election focused solely on four city council seats. During the city's historic 2019 election when voters elected Livonia's first female mayor, about 24,000 people cast a ballot.

In 2017, when city council was the

only office on the ballot, about 13,500 people voted.

"All precincts are doing better than they used to," City Clerk Susan Nash said. "It's more participation."

While more voters show up for the presidential and gubernatorial elec-

tions, Nash said local government has a far greater impact on people's lives than those in Lansing or Washington, D.C., and she thinks it's "great" that more people are choosing to get involved.

See **VOTERS**, Page 4A



Bambi Chick and Mike Marshall at Bambi's Milford home for Thanksgiving. Bambi befriended Mike when he was living in his car and helped him get into a better situation. COURTESY OF BAMBI CHICK

Caring community helps man find home, sweet home at last

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A year ago, Mike Marshall was living in his car, a cold, lonely, cramped existence that was destroying him mentally and physically.

It was an incredibly cruel end to an already isolating pandemic year for the 74-year-old widower and retired nurse.

But as a weary world closes the door on a second year in the pandemic, Marshall is opening the door to a new home, one that doesn't have a steering wheel

and four tires.

Marshall reflected on 2021 as he sits now in his warm, two-bedroom apartment in Pontiac with a full kitchen, a bathroom, and furnished with a bed

See **HOME**, Page 4A

Retired pastor in Plymouth co-founds men's ministry

Jennifer Timar Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Men's ministry co-founder Kevin McKenna said his calling is to lift men up so they can be good husbands, fathers and sons.

"When you serve someone who is rebuilding their life, it's a blessing you can't explain," said McKenna, 68, a retired pastor NorthRidge Church in Plymouth who lives in Fowlerville.

He devotes his energy to DoorKeepers, a men's ministry that encourages men who are struggling in their lives to connect with one another and participate in volunteer projects in the community.

He is also on the board of Grace Centers of Hope, a faith-based Pontiac homeless shelter and residential life-skills program, where he has volunteered for more than a decade and reached men who have experienced homelessness, addiction and other struggles.

He said one of the most powerful things someone can do to transform themselves is to do charitable acts to help others.

"We provide what I call kinesthetic Christianity, opportunities for people to serve in the real world," McKenna said.

Once a month, volunteers with DoorKeepers deliver furniture to people in need through local organization LOVE Inc. of the Livingston County Area.

"We'll take guys out to deliver furniture and they will walk away and cry," McKenna said.

On one occasion, they delivered free furniture to a young woman with a small child and another on the way

See **PASTOR**, Page 4A

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What new congressional maps mean for Livonia

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Elections in Livonia are about to look a lot different. Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission recently approved new district maps for the state's house, senate and congressional seats.

The commission was created in to undo years of gerrymandering — redistricting previously has been led by the state legislature — so the new maps should create a more competitive environment for candidates. Gerrymandering is the manipulation of district lines to favor one party over another. Voters approved the commission in 2018.

Though Livonians have shifted toward electing more Democratic candidates in recent years, for decades the city has typically voted Republican.

Though some expect the approved changes to end up in court, the commission's new maps should take effect in six months. Many of the area's representatives in Washington, D.C., and Lansing have already announced their plans to run for reelection.

Here's what those maps mean for Livonia:

Three state house seats

Livonia is among the most notable state House of

Representatives district shifts in the metro Detroit. The city, which is almost entirely represented by one person now, was split among three house districts as designed in the commission's "Hickory" map.

The new districts pair Livonia with its more Democratic neighbors like Redford Township and Detroit. Democrats will likely be more competitive when it comes to vying for state house seats.

Southeastern Livonia — south of Five Mile Road and most of the city east of Farmington Road — will be part of the 16th district along with parts of Redford Township and Detroit.

The 17th district, covering most of northern Livonia between Eight and Five Mile roads, will also include parts of Redford Township and Detroit. Rep. Laurie Pothutsky (D-Livonia), has announced her intention to run for her third term there in later this year.

Parts of the city south of Five Mile Road and west of Farmington Road, along with the city's northwestern corner, will move to the 22nd district. The district also includes Northville and Plymouth. Matthew Koleszar (D-Plymouth) has announced plans to run for that seat later this year. This would be his third term.

Two state senate seats

All of Livonia sits in the 7th state Senate district

right now. Under the new "Linden" map approved by the redistricting commission, the city will be split between the 5th and 6th districts.

Most of the city will go to the sixth district, which also includes parts of Redford Township, Detroit, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

The southwestern corner of Livonia is going to the fifth. That district includes Westland, Canton, Inkster and Garden City. Sen. Dayna Polehanki (D-Livonia), stated she's running for reelection in this district. Polehanki is running for a second term later this year.

A new congressperson

Congresswoman Haley Stevens (D-Rochester Hills) likely will no longer represent Livonia in Washington, D.C. after the current term.

The redistricting commission put Livonia in the 12th congressional district with other western Wayne County communities like Dearborn, Westland, Redford, parts of Detroit and all of Southfield, which is in Oakland County.

This district, part of the Chestnut map, puts Congresswomen Brenda Lawrence (D-Southfield) and Debbie Dingell (D-Dearborn) in the same district. Neither has announced whether they'll run again in the November 2022 elections.

Livonia requires masks in city buildings amid COVID-19 case uptick

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

People using public buildings in Livonia need to mask up again in 2022.

The city's library announced on Facebook that all patrons will have to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status. The rule also applies to other city buildings. Right now, the rule is set to remain in place through Jan. 22. The city will have masks available for people who enter buildings without one.

The decision comes on the heels of an uptick in COVID-19 cases throughout Michigan. The state reported a single-day average of 12,929 new cases earlier this week — a new high since the pandemic began. Officials at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say the uptick is caused by COVID-19's omicron variant.

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist
Mobile: 248-396-3870

Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

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How metro Detroit state, federal political seats will change in 2022

Philip Allmen Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan's redistricting commission released new state and congressional boundary maps, just in time for the 2022 election cycle.

In the past, the state legislature was responsible for drawing district boundaries every 10 years. The 2018 voter-approved commission was intended to design politically competitive maps.

Here are the changes residents in Oakland and Wayne counties will see:

State House of Representatives

Political districts in metro Detroit cross split several local communities traditionally represented by a single person. The redistricting commission approved the "Hickory" plan with 11 of 13 commission members approving the plan.

District 5 combines Birmingham with Oak Part and a small portion of Detroit.

District 17 includes northern Livonia, and parts of Redford and Detroit.

District 18 includes Farmington, southern Farmington Hills and Southfield.

District 19 combines northern Farmington Hills with Franklin, Bingham Farms and Beverly Hills.

District 21 combines Novi with western Farmington Hills, eastern Lyon Township, and the Oakland County portion of Northville.

District 22 includes western Livonia, Plymouth the Wayne County portion of Northville, and eastern Plymouth and Northville townships.

District 23 includes western Plymouth and Northville townships, Salem Township, South Lyon and southern Lyon Township. It stretches southwest to Ann Arbor.

District 24 includes most of Canton Township; the southeast section is in District 25.

District 25 includes Westland and Wayne, as well as southeast Canton Township (south of Palmer)

District 26 includes Garden City, Inkster and Romulus.

District 49 combines the New Hudson area of Lyon Township with Wixom and Walled Lake, as well as as small portion of northwest Novi. The district extends west into Livingston County with Green Oak, Brighton and Hartland townships.

District 51 keeps the Huron Valley communities of Milford, Highland, White Lake and western Commerce together, as well as the Davisburg area of Springfield Township.

District 54 joins Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Auburn Hills and Lake Orion

State Senate

The commission approved the "Linden" state Senate district map with nine of 13 members voting in favor.

The city of Wayne finds itself aligning with its southern neighbors in District 4, where it is combined with Romulus, Wyandotte, Gibraltar and Flat Rock.



The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission meets to vote on new congressional and legislative districts for the next decade in Lansing on Dec. 28. KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/DETROIT FREE PRESS

District 5 combines Canton Township with Westland, Garden City, Inkster and southwest Livonia.

District 6 includes most of Livonia, as well as Redford, Farmington, southern Farmington Hills and part of Detroit.

District 7 includes Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Franklin, Beverly Hills, Pontiac and Auburn Hills.

District 8 is a north-south District that stretches from Birmingham south to Royal Oak, Oak Park and Ferndale into the Palmer Park area of Detroit.

District 13 includes Novi, Northville, Plymouth, northern Farmington Hills, Walled Lake and West Bloomfield.

District 23 features western Oakland County, including Lyon, Milford, Highland, White Lake, Waterford, South Lyon and Clarkston.

Congress

Most of the Hometown Life communities fall within the 11th District, which is held currently by Haley Stevens. While the Oakland County core of that district remains intact, a lot of local communities will find new representation come 2023.

Eight of the 13 redistricting commissioners approved the congressional "Chestnut" plan.

The **6th District** starts in western Wayne and Oakland counties to include Novi, Northville, Plymouth and Canton, then ventures west into Washtenaw County, including Salem Township, Ann Arbor, Chelsea and Manchester.

The **11th District** maintains much of southern and central Oakland County, and it includes Birmingham, Bloomfield, Farmington and Farmington Hills while stretching outward to include Waterford, White Lake, Wixom and Royal Oak.

The neighboring **12th District** includes a few of Birmingham's neighbors: Franklin and Beverly Hills and ventures south into Wayne County, including Livonia, Redford, Westland, Garden City, Dearborn and parts of Detroit.

Milford and South Lyon are part of the **7th District**, which includes all of Livingston, Ingham, Shiawassee, Clinton counties and most of Eaton County. Highland Township is part of the sprawling 9th district, that includes northern Oakland and Macomb counties, as well as the entire Thumb region.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for the Township of Canton, Wayne County, Michigan, and Case No. 21-05-2918P. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) solicits technical information or comments on proposed flood hazard determinations for the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for your community. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. The FIRM and, if applicable, the FIS report have been revised to reflect these flood hazard determinations through issuance of a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), in accordance with Title 44, Part 65 of the Code of Federal Regulations. These determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to adopt or show evidence of having in effect to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. For more information on the proposed flood hazard determinations and information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, please visit FEMA's website at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp, or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

Publish: December 30 & January 6, 2022

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for the Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, and Case No. 21-05-1510P. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) solicits technical information or comments on proposed flood hazard determinations for the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for your community. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. The FIRM and, if applicable, the FIS report have been revised to reflect these flood hazard determinations through issuance of a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), in accordance with Title 44, Part 65 of the Code of Federal Regulations. These determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to adopt or show evidence of having in effect to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. For more information on the proposed flood hazard determinations and information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, please visit FEMA's website at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp, or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

Publish: December 30, 2021 & January 6, 2022

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Northville family donates SUV to police

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Northville Township family wanted to thank their local police department for shoring up their sense of security after an armed robbery.

So they donated a new Chevrolet Blazer.

Tom Close won the vehicle by sinking a hole-in-one during a golf tournament.

"This never happens, right? They had the car there and I won the car. Nobody ever wins the car," he said. "I talked to my wife. We just looked at each other and said let's donate it to the police."

"We're fortunate enough that we don't need a car. I feel great about it. It's wonderful."

Close is president of Advanced Technologies Consultants, Inc., on Main Street in Northville. He's also a serious golfer.

Over the summer, he was driving home from Pheasant Run Golf Club in Canton Township when his phone rang.

His wife was on the other end, telling him that she, their daughter and their grade-school granddaughter had just survived an armed robbery in a CVS parking lot in downtown Northville.

He could hear his daughter talking to the dispatcher.

According to his wife, they had walked out of CVS and were settling into their vehicle when a gunman snuck up on them.

He pointed his gun at them individually, demanding their jewelry.

"They were absolutely terrorized," Close said. "Our daughter gave them her wallet. She said, 'Look. Take this and just leave us alone.'"

The robber ran off, eluding City of Northville officers who took control of the investigation.

Northville Township officers were alerted to the case as well, for reasons that included the fact that the robber could determine the Close family's address from what was inside the stolen wallet. They greeted the Close family at their home.

They sat down with the family and let them know they'd be patrolling the area more intensely to keep them safe.

"(Their actions) just comforted



Northville Township Police Chief Scott Hilden with Thomas Close near the new vehicle Close donated to the department.
SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

them," Tom Close said of that August day. "Then they came back the next day. They came back on Saturday. They had the change of duty on Sunday. They came back by the house again. That really meant the world to our family."

His family has struggled to shake off trauma from the robbery. Knowing officers kept them safe while showing how kind, caring and compassionate they can be helps.

Tom Close said he would give both Northville and Northville Township police departments new vehicles if he could. With only one to offer, he chose township officers for their extra personal service.

The new Blazer has joined the township department's fleet of vehicles.

New Police Chief Scott Hilden said officers could use it for a variety of tasks. A detective or community relations officer might drive the Blazer. There's also the possibility of transportation to training events.

"It's going to be a great addition for us," Hilden said. "Mr. Close here donating this car is just an incredible gesture. I don't know how many people donate cars to police departments around the country. I don't think there's a whole lot."

The chief said criticism against police can wear officers down, while gifts

like the Close family's can remind them of why they chose their profession.

"When they hear positive comments and community members that are extremely happy with the jobs that they've done, that's why the officers got into this profession," Hilden said. "You're out there to help the community. You're out there to do good things."

According to township authorities, the person suspected of committing the CVS armed robbery is in custody out of state facing several felony charges.

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

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Home

Continued from Page 1A

and other amenities of a comfortable home, including two pet parakeets.

"I like this place," Marshall said by phone. "I'm doing pretty good... This time last year, I was right down in Dodge 10 park (in Highland Township). I've been here since May, and I don't miss living in the car."

He laughs when he notes that a social worker asked him if he ever thought about going back to live in the car. He responded by asking if he looked freaking stupid.

Marshall looks nothing but happy and comfortable in recent pictures as he celebrated Thanksgiving at the home of Bambi Chick, one of his benefactors in the Milford area. He has much to be grateful for since Chick helped start a gofundme on Marshall's behalf that raised more than \$10,000.

"Everyone from the community jumped in and started doing stuff and taking stuff out to him," said Chick, who assisted Marshall in getting into a motel room around the end of January. "Everyone read the article and it went viral. It just means there is humanity and people really do want to help, it's just a matter of who do you trust? I would do it all over again for him, he is such a good person."

After more than two months in the



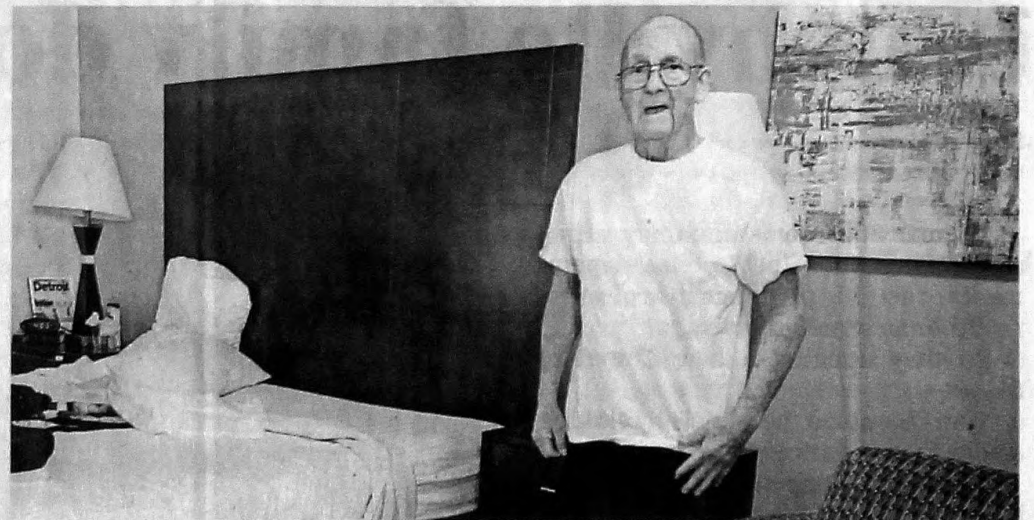
Mike Marshall gives a thumbs up at the end of 2021. COURTESY OF BAMBI CHICK

homeless shelter, a rough stretch for Marshall but necessary to get him assistance, he was moved into his subsidized apartment.

Besides furnishings, the community's goodwill enabled Marshall to get dentures, repairs to his car so he can use it as it was meant to be used, and medical bills paid.

He also shared some funds with a friend in need, paying forward the kindness he has been shown to a man without income who lived in the shelter and now lives a half-mile from Marshall.

"They (social workers) found him a



Marshall pauses in his Best Western motel room in Highland on Feb. 16. Marshall was living in his car until good Samaritan and Milford resident Ian Sharp noticed and helped to get him a room. Now, Marshall lives in a subsidized apartment. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

place, and he has Bridge cards but no way to get to the grocery store and had no furniture," Marshall said. "He was sleeping on the floor and had one pan. Me and gofundme helped out. I got a twin-size bed and gave him my cot and I went to the thrift store and got him more pots and pans and a bicycle so he can get around. I'm so damn glad I found the thrift store."

The gofundme money is now gone, but Marshall, who has Social Security income from his many years of working, said he has all he needs, including internet and a desk so he can start writing a

book; a good physical therapist who helps with the damaged feet he sustained from living in his car for five months; and a genealogist who is helping Marshall, adopted as an infant, find his biological family.

He hopes that is a family who will welcome him in a brighter chapter of his life. In the meantime, he is thankful for all those who have helped him through the dark days and enabled him to help others.

"It's why we're alive and here on the planet," Marshall said. "To help one another."

Pastor

Continued from Page 1A

who had been kicked out of her family home.

"They left crying and asking what can we do for that woman?"

He said those moments are transformative.

"Without those kinesthetic opportunities, without opening our eyes, we can't see God in other people," McKenna said.

Several years ago, Jager Carmos said he didn't really know what volunteers do. Now he is devoting his life to it.

In 2015, Carmos, 25, was struggling in his life and entered a one-year life skills program during which he resided at Grace Centers of Hope.

This fall he was promoted to the center's new volunteer coordinator position after working there as a food services coordinator for a couple years.

Carmos said when he was in the one-year program, McKenna came in one day to volunteer and offer mentorship. It was the first time in his life he had seen someone volunteering and he did not understand at the time why people would do it.

"I asked Mr. McKenna why he was coming here and he told me because he wants to give back," Carmos said. "With



Kevin McKenna of men's ministry DoorKeepers volunteers at Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac. SUBMITTED

my lifestyle in the past, I never thought about helping other people. When I saw that, it planted a seed. Throughout my life I want to help other people."

He said McKenna provided him mentorship and friendship.

"He consistently came. It was always kindness. I could talk to him about stuff, personal troubles. He was an ear," Carmos said. "For me personally, what it

meant was that people care and that I wasn't an outcast."

DoorKeepers serves meals at Grace Centers of Hope's men's center and donates kitchen supplies.

McKenna said it provides him opportunities to connect with men he mentors who are staying there and reach out to anyone who could use a "non-judgmental" ear.

"We'll sit with the clients at the table, sit and talk," he said. "We meet them where they are at. For the most part, the gentlemen are responsive and happy to have someone there."

DoorKeepers has supported Grace Centers of Hope and other charitable organizations in a number of ways over the years, including fundraisers. They also donate and serve meals at Mission:City in Detroit.

The ministry has helped support Little Grace Village, a neighborhood of about 50 homes Grace Centers of Hope has rehabilitated in Pontiac. Graduates of their one-year life skills program rent the homes.

"After two years of them doing basic requirements, paying rent and going to church, they can buy the home," Carmos said.

McKenna said about 200 men are active in DoorKeepers. Chapters have opened in Missouri, Texas and Florida.

Door Keepers holds face-to-face and online study groups for any men, regardless of religious affiliation.

McKenna, who retired as pastor from NorthRidge Church in Plymouth earlier this year, said he leads by Christian principles but the group is not about arguing the finer points of theology.

"We encourage men to pursue a personal faith to be good husbands and fathers or if they are not married they can be a good man for a woman."

Voters

Continued from Page 1A

Livonia's local officials — council members, mayor, treasurer and clerk — all serve office in a nonpartisan capacity. Candidates for office do not need to declare a political party affiliation to appear on the local ballot. Most of those elected officials will say their job is nonpartisan, too.

But is that actually true?

Nash attributes the uptick in voting to easier access to absentee ballots. A few years ago, the city had roughly 5,000 permanent absent voters. Now, it has more than 32,000.

Livonia traditionally supported Republican-leaning candidates in elections, but in recent years Democratic-leaning candidates have found success in the city.

Kate Shishkovsky, president of the Livonia Democratic Club, noted the city is more "purple" — meaning it's competitive for Republican (blue) and Democratic (red) candidates — than it has been in a long time. She said she thinks that's one reason why the 2021 election cycle focused on partisan political issues more than other years, and why it saw more voters than normal.

"A lot of the Republicans say, 'Well it was never like this before,'" she said. "Well yeah, it was never like this before because they never really had any opposition before."

When politics matter

The pandemic, and individual and community response on how to handle the challenges it brings, were the biggest points pushed by both sides

leading up to November. Republicans Scott Morgan and Rob Donovic were criticized by the left for opposing against mask or vaccine mandates. Donovic has since stated online that he is not in favor of a mandate of any kind.

Dan Centers, a Democrat, was criticized by the right for his characterization of people who refused to mask at a school board meeting. Centers is a trustee on the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education.

Delisha Upshaw, one of the lead organizers for Livonia Citizens for Progress PAC, said partisanship is something voters seem to care about.

Over the years, candidates have said the same, and voters regularly ask which political party those non-partisan candidates support. In the 2021 council election, Republicans pushed the three Republican candidates as "the only three for me."

"People were still very much focused on partisanship," she said. "Like abortion and reproductive rights, which local city council has no purveyor-ship over, were what people focused on."

Shishkovsky said the mayor's proposed nondiscrimination ordinance, which Republicans on council like Councilwoman Kathleen McIntyre characterize as government overreach, is another local issue where politics come to play. Democratic Councilman Brandon McCullough and President Jim Jolly have said the proposal is similar to ordinances in other communities and reflects Livonia's values.

"I think it's pretty clear that politics have something to do with that and the friction over getting it passed," Shishkovsky said.

Shishkovsky doesn't think politicization of local government is necessarily bad. Following former U.S. President

Donald Trump's four years in office, she said it's important for people to show voters exactly who they are.

"I think honesty and authenticity is always a great thing," Upshaw said. "I think knowing what people think and where they stand is a good thing."

Dillon Breen, president of the Livonia Republican Club, said the partisanship is a negative thing and downplayed its importance in Livonia. Negative mailings for both conservative and liberal candidates often were sent by state or national groups.

"I think, unfortunately, we probably will see more Lansing-based PACs get involved," he said. "These races are nonpartisan."

Breen repeatedly said he doesn't think partisanship has any significant impact on local politics, but continued to say "values" are important to voters.

He then named candidates he felt were "too far left to be elected in Livonia," but didn't acknowledge Livonians' increasing tendency to elect Democrats to offices like mayor, state representative, state senator and council president. In the most recent city election, Republicans garnered three of the four open positions, although the top vote-getter was a Democrat.

Breen also resisted commenting on Republican council members being unhappy to use American Rescue Plan — a federal stimulus plan from the current Democratic White House — dollars because some don't like where the money comes from.

Serving in a nonpartisan role

To Nash, it isn't surprising that partisanship can impact nonpartisan elections.

"No matter what group you're looking

at, they're going to use whatever they can to try and charge their base," she said. "People vote for someone that is going to represent their values, right? So, even if council and mayor are nonpartisan, you're still looking for someone who's going to have your view or close to your view."

Upshaw's group, aside from supporting candidates, aims to educate residents on issues like housing, infrastructure and the environment that, she says, are nonpartisan at the end of the day. Once someone is in office, she thinks those personal opinions shouldn't stand in the way of helping the city.

"The focus has to be on policies and making sure the community isn't harmed by biases and personal views," she said. "They're not there to represent themselves, they're there to represent all of us."

Nash and Upshaw said the issues the mayor and council deal with can have a big impact on local life, and people should care about them.

"People think of the presidential or the gubernatorial elections as the big ones," Nash said. "But your day to day life is more effected by local elections. It's your property taxes, it's your schools."

And if partisanship is one thing that can get people to pay attention, so be it.

"I think the best thing that will come from this (last election) is, hopefully, people will start to pay more attention and see the results of voting based on anything other than the things that impact us locally," Upshaw said. "We'll see how that works out for us, and if we don't like it then we've got two years to do something different."

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

Home sales heat up in metro Detroit cities

JC Reindl Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The year 2021 was a hot one in the metro Detroit home sales market, and specific areas were sizzling.

Ten cities saw the biggest year-over-year gains in total home sales through the month of November, according to data from RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan. Many of them also experienced big jumps in sales prices.

Overall across southeast Michigan, home prices were up nearly 15% last fall compared to 2020, according to the closely watched S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller index covering Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, St. Clair and Lapeer counties.

Jeanette Schneider, president of RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan, said in an interview Monday that she anticipates a less frenzied real estate market for home buyers in 2022 as interest rates are expected to rise and there now seems to be less "fear of missing out" among those perusing listings.

So prices across southeast Michigan may only rise about 8-10% over the course of the year, she said, or roughly half as much as last year's gains.

"Not that we won't have some bidding wars or multiple bids in some cases, I think we will see some of that come back into the market the closer to spring that we get, but I also think that buyers have gotten a little bit more realistic," Schneider said.

"They are saying 'I understand it's competitive, but I am not going to get caught up in outbidding to the point where it doesn't match my budget anymore. I'm not going to have this fear of missing out,'" she said. "I think that was some of what was driving the spring market last year — the feeling that if I don't bid on this right now, I'm never going to find a house."

The cities with the biggest jumps in the number of home sales between 2020 and 2021:

1. **Sterling Heights:** 988 home sales, up 31% from 2020. Median sales price



Overall across southeast Michigan, home prices were up nearly 15 percent last fall compared to 2020.

KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

was \$261,000 in November, up 4.4% from same month in 2020.

"Sterling Heights is popular because it's central to so many conveniences along the M-59 corridor," Jessica Belanger, an agent with RE/MAX Eclipse, said in a statement. "It also provides easy access to M-53 and Metro Parkway, so commuting is convenient regardless of where work is located. In addition, homes are generally more affordable in Sterling Heights than many neighboring communities."

2. **Troy:** Home sales up 20% to 851. Median sales price up nearly 11% to \$386,750.

3. **Farmington:** Home sales up 20% to 120. Median sales price up 18% to \$273,000.

4. **Madison Heights:** Home sales up 18% to 391. Median sales price up 9% to \$172,285.

5. **Birmingham:** Home sales up 18% to 514. Median sales price down 1% to \$665,000.

6. **Warren:** Home sales up nearly 18% to 1,400. Median sales prices down 3% to \$165,000.

7. **Roseville:** Home sales up 16% to 407. Median sales price up nearly 17% to \$152,000.

"Roseville and Warren have in-

creased in popularity because they're two of the few places that first-time homebuyers can still be competitive in this market," Belanger said. "While home prices are rising there, homes remain affordable. In addition, they're both located right off I-696, which makes them convenient for commuting."

8. **Clawson:** Home sales up 16%. Median sales price down 1% to \$224,000.

9. **Ferndale:** Home sales up nearly 15% to 526. Median sales price up 5% to \$242,500.

10. **Chesterfield Township:** Home sales up 14% to 264. Median sales price up 19% to \$337,500.

Livonia police accreditation team invites public comment

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A team of assessors from the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission will visit Livonia Jan. 18-19 to examine all aspects of the Livonia Police Department policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services.

"Verification by the team that the Livonia Police Department meets the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission's 'best practice' standards is part of a voluntary process to achieve accreditation, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence," Police Chief Thomas Goralski said.

As part of this final on-site assessment, employees and members of the general public are invited to provide comments to the assessment team.

They may do so by telephone or email. The public may call 734-466-2142 on 10 -a.m. to noon Jan. 19. Email comments can be sent to Sgt. Stacy Hayne at stacy.hayne@livoniapd.com.

Telephone comments are limited to five minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with the commission's standards.

A copy of the standards are available for inspection at the Livonia Police Department 15050 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Contact Sgt. Stacy Hayne at 734-466-2496.

Anyone wishing to offer written comments about the Livonia Police Department's ability to comply with the standards for accreditation is requested to email the accreditation program manager at nrossow@michiganpolicechiefs.org or write the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission at 3474 Alaiedon Parkway, Suite 600, Okemos, MI 48864.

The Livonia Police Department must comply with 108 standards in order to achieve accredited status.

"Accreditation results in greater accountability within the agency, reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased community advocacy, and more confidence in the agency's ability to operate efficiently and respond to community needs," Goralski said.

The accreditation program manager

"Accreditation results in greater accountability within the agency, reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased community advocacy, and more confidence in the agency's ability to operate efficiently and respond to community needs."

Police Chief Thomas Goralski

for the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police is Ret. Chief Neal Rossow.

"The assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar Michigan law enforcement agencies," Rossow said. "The assessors will review written materials, interview agency members, and visit offices and other places where compliance with the standards can be observed."

"Once the assessors complete their review of the agency, they will report to the full commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted accredited status."

Accreditation is valid for a three-year period during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting to their continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

The MACP, through its Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, is the legitimate authority and accreditation agency in the state of Michigan.

For more information regarding the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, please write the Commission at: MACP, Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, 3474 Alaiedon Parkway, Suite 600, Okemos, MI 48864 or email at nrossow@michiganpolicechiefs.org.

Obituaries

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

Patty Jo (Fischer) Laveroni

HINESVILLE, GA - Patricia Joan "Patty Jo" (Fischer) Laveroni, 89, died Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at her residence.

She was born October 30, 1932 in Coshocton to the late Franklin John and Lucille Jessie (Smith) Fischer.

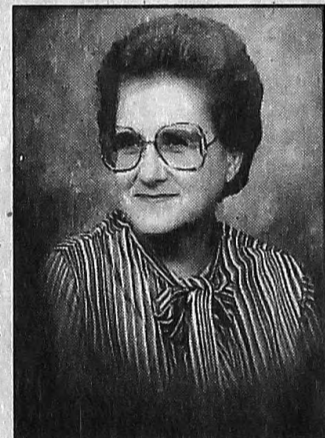
She was a 1950 graduate of Warsaw High School and a retired school teacher.

She is survived by her daughter, Lona Laveroni of Hinesville, GA and a brother, Don E. (Carol) Fischer of Washington Court House, OH, and nieces, nephews, & cousins.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by a daughter, Lora Laveroni, and a brother, Lynn R. Fischer.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Fischer Funeral Home in Warsaw with Pastor Dairal Kaiser officiating. Burial will follow in the Valley View Cemetery at Warsaw. Visitation is one hour prior to the service on Tuesday. www.fischerfuneralhome.com

The family asks that those attending to please wear masks.



Wayne County, Oakland County COVID-19 tracker

Mike Stucka
USA TODAY NETWORK

New coronavirus cases leaped in Michigan in the week ending Sunday, rising 106% as 64,747 cases were reported. The previous week had 31,437 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked 23rd among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week coronavirus cases in the United States increased 104% from the week before, with 2,833,203 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 2.29% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, 49 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Christmas and New Year's significantly disrupted who got tested, how

many people got tested, what labs operated and what government agencies reported on time. Some of the Christmas weekend reports were shifted into the latest week. Most states reported no cases at all the weekend of New Year's, which will bump those reports into the following week. Consequently, week-to-week comparisons will be skewed.

Wayne County reported 18,726 cases and 128 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 7,383 cases and 109 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 277,665 cases and 6,482 deaths.

Oakland County reported 10,156 cases and 63 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 4,425 cases and 59 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 199,302 cases and 3,116 deaths.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in Wayne County with 1,070 cases per

100,000 per week; Macomb County with 920; and Oakland County with 808. The Centers for Disease Control says high levels of community transmission begin at 100 cases per 100,000 per week.

Adding the most new cases overall were Wayne County, with 18,726 cases; Oakland County, with 10,156 cases; and Macomb County, with 8,040. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Michigan ranked 34th among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 63.5% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 73.3%, a USA TODAY analysis of CDC data shows. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which are the most used in the United States, require two doses administered a few weeks apart.

In the week ending Thursday, Michigan reported administering another

187,823 vaccine doses, including 38,762 first doses. In the previous week, the state administered 292,958 vaccine doses, including 53,595 first doses. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 13,979,476 total doses.

Across Michigan, cases fell in seven counties, with the best declines in Gratiot County, with 111 cases from 253 a week earlier; in Wexford County, with 56 cases from 66; and in Alpena County, with 72 cases from 81.

In Michigan, 675 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 606 people were reported dead.

A total of 1,710,325 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 29,020 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 55,114,057 people have tested positive and 826,060 people have died.

Two documents will help you navigate 2022 financially



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Happy New Year! I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy and healthy New Year, and hopefully, 2022 will be the year that we can all put the COVID-19 pandemic behind us.

As we begin the New Year, all of us should be dedicated to making sure that in 2022 we keep our financial house in order. In these ever-changing and troubling times, it is more important than ever that we take care of our finances. I believe there are two documents we should all complete this time of year to help keep our financial affairs in order. These two documents are a family balance sheet and a cash flow statement.

A family balance sheet is nothing more than a listing of all your assets and liabilities. Assets less liabilities equal

your net worth. It is important that if you are going to do any financial planning, you know where you're starting from. A balance sheet accomplishes that. It's a picture of where you stand financially at that point in time.

By doing a personal family balance sheet at least twice a year, it allows you to see exactly where you stand financially. In addition, as time goes on, you will be able to see what your net worth is and compare it to prior years.

When putting together a personal family balance sheet, it's important that you use accurate numbers. It's easy with regard to your financial assets, such as your stocks and bonds, because you can look at your statements and see exactly what those items are worth at any point in time. On the other hand, things like your house and collectibles are a little more difficult to value.

When it comes to your home, remember, it's not what you think it is worth, but rather what a buyer would be willing to pay for your home. By looking at home sales in your area, it should give

you a good approximation of the value of your home. On the other hand, with collectibles it's sometimes not as easy. For most people, the reality of the situation is that their collectibles are not worth that much. My general view is that unless you have collectibles that you know you can sell, you should not include them in your family balance sheet.

Remember, there's no reason to puff the numbers on your balance sheet, because this document is for you and only you.

The other document you should do is a cash flow statement. A cash flow statement is nothing more than a listing of what's coming into the household and where it's going. By knowing where your money is going, it lets you know what your cost of living is. I cannot stress enough how important it is to know what your cost of living is. It does not matter what stage in life you're in, knowing your cost of living is essential, particularly to determine whether you can afford to retire.

Another benefit of a cash flow statement is that it will help you get a hold on your expenses. You may be surprised at what you're paying in unnecessary fees and costs. Don't forget, in determining what it costs you to live some expenses are not recurring on a regular basis, such as property taxes, birthday and holiday gifts.

Knowing what your net worth is and what it costs you to live is a great way to begin 2022. Unfortunately, it is only the beginning. We live in a complex and ever-changing world, and when it comes to our personal finances, we cannot put it in autopilot; we have to be proactive. However, no matter what stage of life you're in, and whether your personal finances are currently in order or not, personal balance sheets and knowing your individual cost of living, are important numbers that everyone should know.

Good luck, and once again a very happy and healthy New Year!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor.

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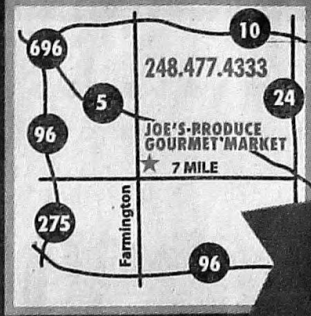
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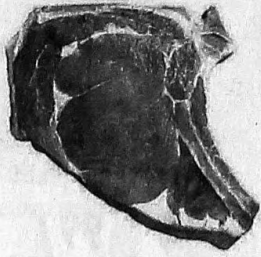
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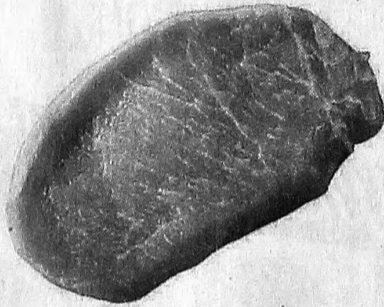
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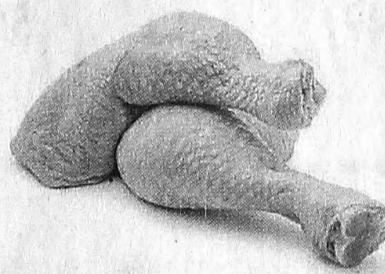
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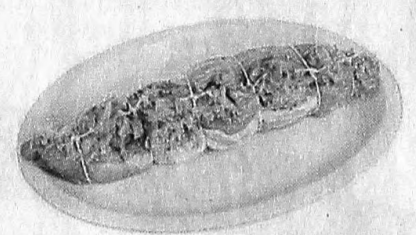
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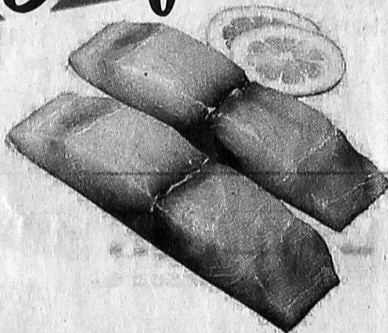
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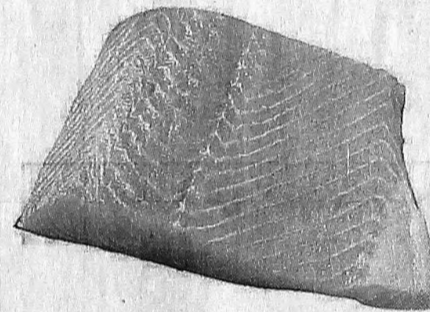
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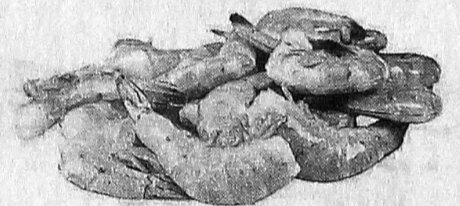
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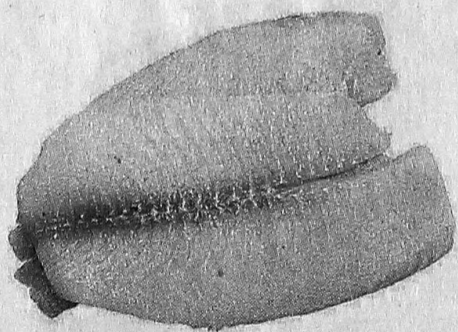
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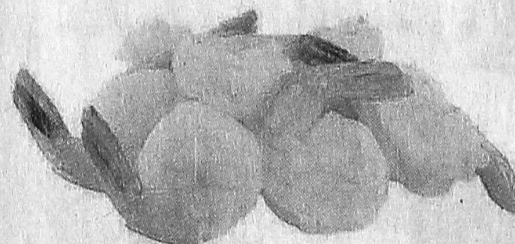
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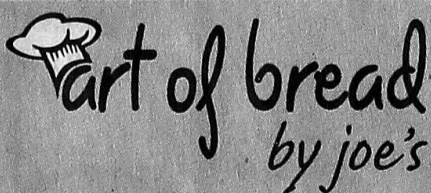
CENSEA
COOKED SHRIMP
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BLACK PEARL
SALMON FILLETS

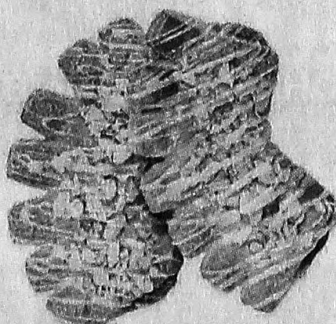
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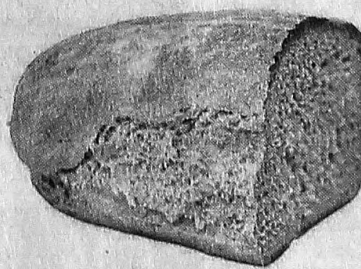
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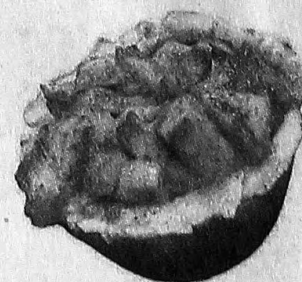
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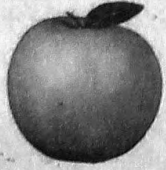


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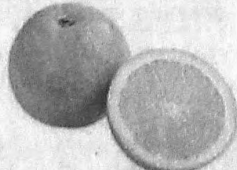
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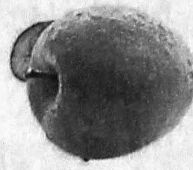
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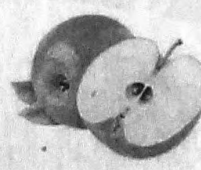
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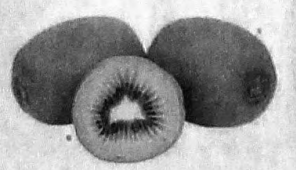
CALIFORNIA NAVAL ORANGES
\$1.49/LB.



WASHINGTON GALA APPLES LUNCHBOX
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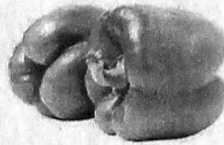
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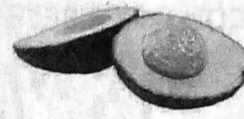
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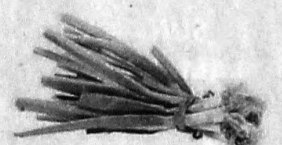
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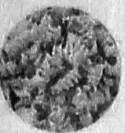


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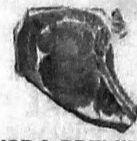


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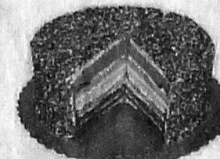


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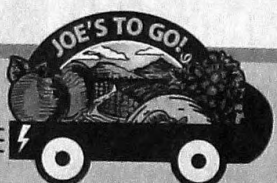
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SPORTS

How Shamrocks stack up in CHSL-Central

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Catholic League-Central couldn't be any better.

All five teams are currently ranked in the top 15 of The D Zone's Top 100 teams in the state, regardless of division.

Orchard Lake St. Mary's, which fea-

tures the top-ranked player in the state in three-star JaVaughn Hannah, who transferred to the Eaglets after playing with Emoni Bates and Ypsi Prep Academy over the past two years, is No. 1, while De La Salle and Brother Rice are ranked 3 and 5, respectively. Even Detroit U-D Jesuit is ranked 14th.

But don't forget about Detroit Catho-

lic Central, which The D Zone has tabbed at No. 10.

Since losing to Detroit King (ranked No. 4) in its second game, it's ripped off three-straight, all in blowout neutral-site games.

The Shamrocks (4-1) almost beat Port Huron Northern by 40 points in the Calihan Challenge at Detroit Mercy. Then

they almost downed Rockford by 30 in The Showcase at Cornerstone University.

They got another big win in the Motor City Roundball Classic showcase game at Ferndale.

Kam Mayes scored 21 points and was

See **SHAMROCKS**, Page 2B

Northville boys claim 7th holiday tourney win

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville worked the ball around the arc as the final 15 seconds faded off the clock.

Jack Holland strong-armed a pass toward the corner that found Matt Gorski, who proceeded to dribble into the paint until the defense finally collapsed on him. Then the senior jumped in the air and kicked the ball outside to Angelo Rodriguez with 4.8 seconds left.

Rodriguez collected the ball, squared up and shot a Steph Curry-length 3-pointer at the buzzer. He drained the basket, gave a fist pump, turned around and then flexed as hard as he could before his teammates mobbed him.

The walk-off gave the Mustangs a 49-46 victory over Erie Mason in Monday's semifinal of their annual four-team holiday tournament.

As fun and exciting as that finish was for Northville, it knew it couldn't play another close game like that in Tuesday's championship if it wanted to win its seventh-straight tournament title and eighth overall since 2010.

So it didn't.

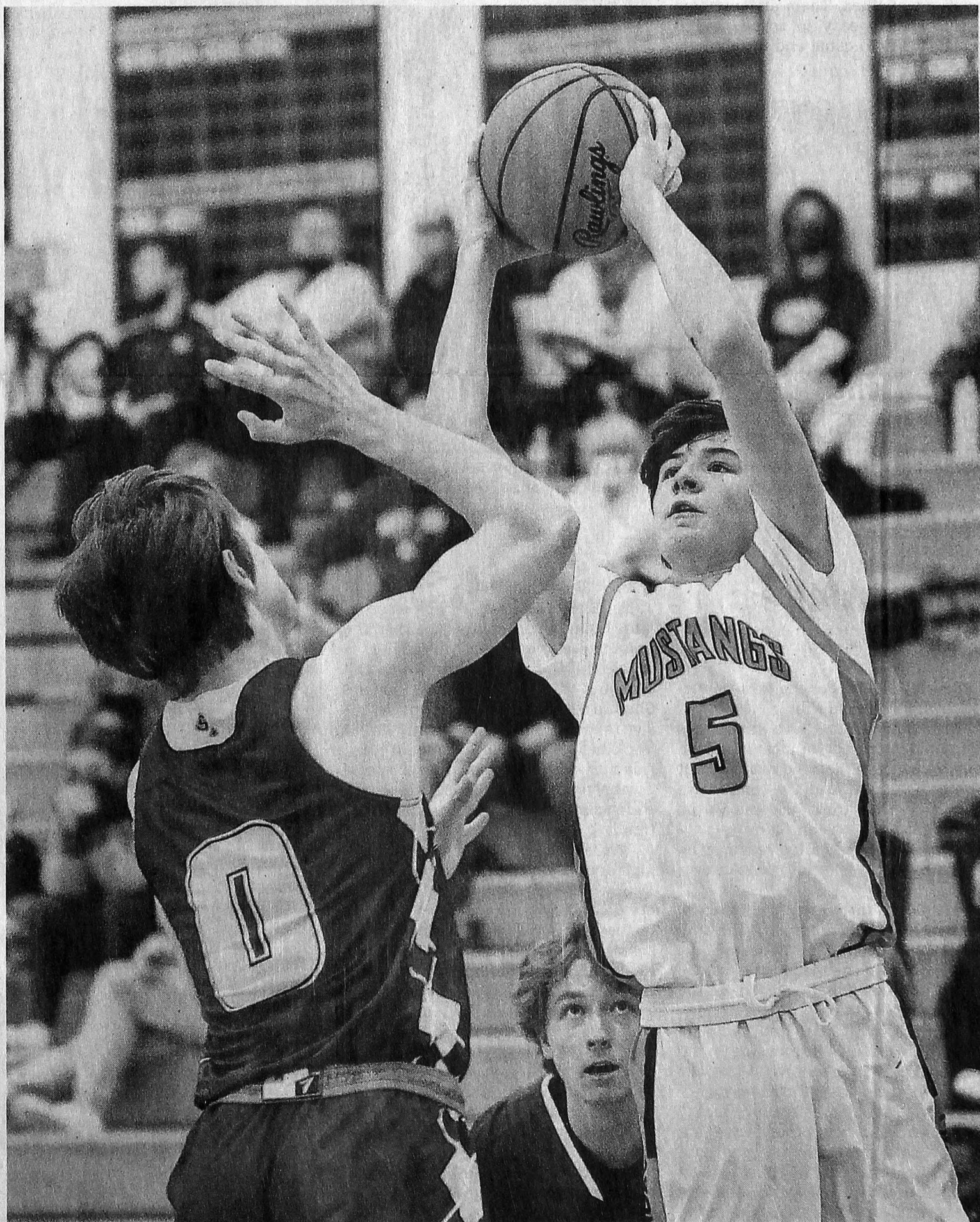
The Mustangs (3-1) laid down the hammer early in the first half against South Lyon. Their rebounding limited the Lions' second-chance opportunities. They ran the floor in transition, and they sank four crucial 3-pointers.

Outside of a short 6-0 run by South Lyon in the second quarter, Northville controlled the play. It was the more physical team. It had no trouble grabbing a 28-19 lead entering halftime, one it wouldn't relinquish.

Northville maintained that pace the rest of the evening and enjoyed walking off the court with a comfortable 52-38 victory over a former rival.

"I thought we had a much more complete game tonight," coach Todd Sander said. "We played four quarters. We scored in double digits each quarter. I thought we got great shots and great looks all night. The guys were really patient. We continued to be unselfish and share the ball, and I thought that led to a lot of open looks for us.

"We did a really good job, in the first half especially, of cleaning up the defensive rebounds, which have been an issue for us. So I was really proud of how we owned the glass in the first half. South Lyon shoots the ball really well



Northville's Matt Gorski shoots against South Lyon on Dec. 28 during the Mustangs' annual holiday tournament. It was the seventh-straight holiday tournament win for Northville, which beat South Lyon 49-46. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

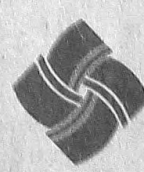
See **NORTHVILLE**, Page 2B

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Northville

Continued from Page 1B

from the outside. One of the best 3s in basketball is the kick out after an offensive rebound because it just leads to extra possessions. It's really been a problem for us (to limit that) to this point, so I was really, really happy with how we responded to do that."

Northville was streaky in the second half. It used an 8-2 run to carry a 41-31 advantage into the fourth. Then it scored 10-straight during a brief stretch of the final 8 minutes to secure the win.

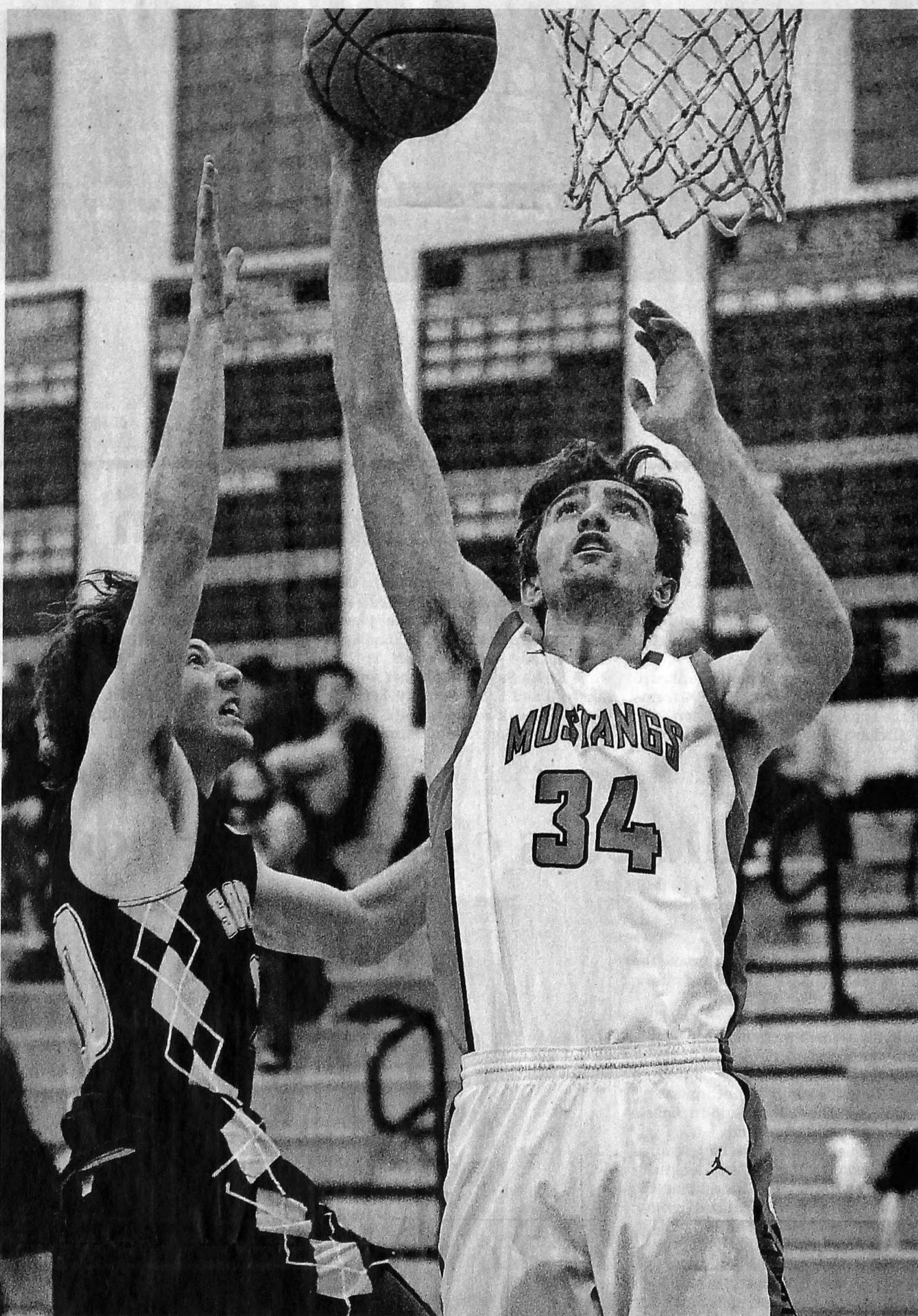
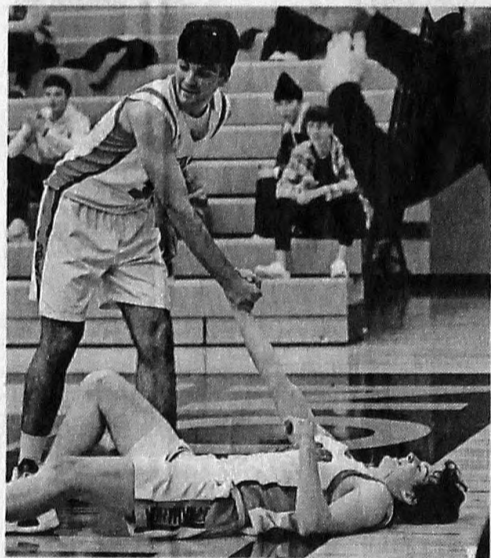
Gorski led with 17 points followed by Cullen Foley and Sam Barnhart with nine apiece.

"Last night, we kind of lacked a lot of energy," said Foley, a junior point guard. "Tonight, we were all gas, no brakes. We definitely jumped on them early. ... South Lyon is a physical team, and we knew that coming in. We knew we had a little bit of a height advantage with our center (Gorski). So we tried to get it to him, and he was very active on the glass, and he did a great job. All of our shooters knocked down their 3s."

Northville limited South Lyon point guard Logan Doty, one of the top scorers in metro Detroit, to just 11 points (only three made field goals). Max Peters helped the Lions (1-3) with 15 points.

Sander said he's happy with how much his Mustangs have improved since their 10-point loss to Ann Arbor Skyline in the season opener three weeks ago.

"The one thing about this group is we're so much better right now on Dec. 28 than we were the day of our first game when we played Skyline," the 14th-year coach said. "They come to practice every day. They work. They push each other. Their attitudes are great. They're easy to coach, and it makes it fun to come and watch them work every day."



Above at left, Northville's Matthew McLaughlin helps up Cullen Foley on Dec. 28 during the Mustangs' annual holiday tournament. Above at right, Northville's Sam Barnhart shoots against South Lyon. Barnhart and Foley had nine points apiece for the game. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Shamrocks

Continued from Page 1B

named the MVP following a 74-36 victory over Bloomfield Hills.

The Shamrocks have matchups against Dexter and Hamtramck when they return from the holiday break. But they're definitely ready to compete in the CHSL when they welcome De La Salle to their gym on Jan. 14.

That is, after all, a big reason why Brandon Sinawi left Novi to take over CC.

"We've got film on everybody already. We haven't watched any of it yet," the fourth-year coach said. "We know how talented each of the rosters are, and we know how well-coached each of the teams are going to be."

"But, truthfully, we're just going one day at a time, and we're focusing on the next opponent. We've always got our league in the back of our heads, of course. ... It's fun, though, and I wouldn't want it any other way. It's a challenge. It's great for high school basketball in the state of Michigan, and it's great for our kids to experience those types of games and the atmospheres the fans and student sections are going to bring."

"One of the big reasons why I came over here, too, is because the league is so respected and talented, and it's fun to be a part of."

So what's been the key to CC's success in December?

"Our defense has traveled every place that we've gone, and that's going to be a staple for us," Sinawi added. "We need to continue to defend, continue to guard their tops guys. And tonight was no different. The defense was tremendous."

"We've only had one home game, and everything else has been neutral site. So it's important our defense comes every single night because it's going to keep us in the basketball games."

The defense certainly showed up

against Bloomfield Hills.

The Black Hawks (4-2) couldn't score more than seven points in either the first or second quarters. Multiple times coach Phil Kurajian was forced to call timeouts to stop the bleeding as the Shamrocks turned turnovers and defensive rebounds into transition points.

CC held Bloomfield Hills guard Noah Adamczyk, a Foster-Loyer level of a 3-point shooter, to just 20 points, most of which came in garbage time after half-time.

"We've got a couple of guys who are just sound defenders," Sinawi said. "Brady Hewer, No. 5 for us, is the pillar of our defense. We know he's going to do his best to lock down the other team's best player, and he sort of frustrated Noah tonight. He got him off his game. He still had a great game, but I think it led to some good plays for us offensively when our defense turns into offense. We stay true to our shell drill. We stay true to helping the helper and keeping them to one-and-done and just rebounding and pushing the ball."

Their effort in the second quarter was key. That's when Cooper Craggs scored 11 of his 15 points, including the center making a pair of 3-pointers, while Mayes had nine.

They started on a 13-3 run and totaled 26 points in an 8-minute span to lead 40-14 entering halftime.

Also contributing to the victory was Chas Lewless, who scored 16 points.

With four big victories under their belt, they're ready to see how they stack up in the Catholic League.

"We talked about how we wanted to end 2021 on a high note playing against a talented team, a well-coached team. It was nice to see," Sinawi said. "We're rolling a little bit now. We're playing hard. We're playing unselfish. We had different guys stepping up on different nights. We're proud of the guys."

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



Catholic Central's Kam Mayes shoots against Bloomfield Hills on Dec. 29 during the Motor City Roundball Classic at Ferndale. Mayes, who had 21 points, was named MVP after the Shamrocks' 74-36 victory. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Why Michigan's loss is reminiscent of MSU's CFP collapse back in 2015

Rainer Sabin Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Gemon Green dropped his head, and the Michigan football cornerback shook it ever so slightly as he glanced briefly at the celebration unfolding in the painted red end zone at Hard Rock Stadium.

James Cook had just slipped out of the backfield, cruised past the Wolverines' last line of defense and scored on a 39-yard touchdown reception that accounted for Georgia's last points in its 34-11 romp Friday. A party started on New Year's Eve and the College Football Playoff's lone Big Ten representative wasn't invited.

"Sucks it's got to end this way," Michigan's star pass rusher, Aidan Hutchinson, said afterward.

Indeed it does.

Six years before, on the very same night, Michigan State experienced the same cold rejection.

Making its debut in the CFP, the Spartans were shut out literally and figuratively by a different SEC behemoth. Alabama, which has ruled this sport for more than a decade, exerted its supremacy during a 38-0 slaughter that reverberated long after the final whistle. In the coming years, the plucky program Mark Dantonio built into a regional stronghold disintegrated, and as it did some wondered if that resounding defeat to the Crimson Tide triggered the decline.

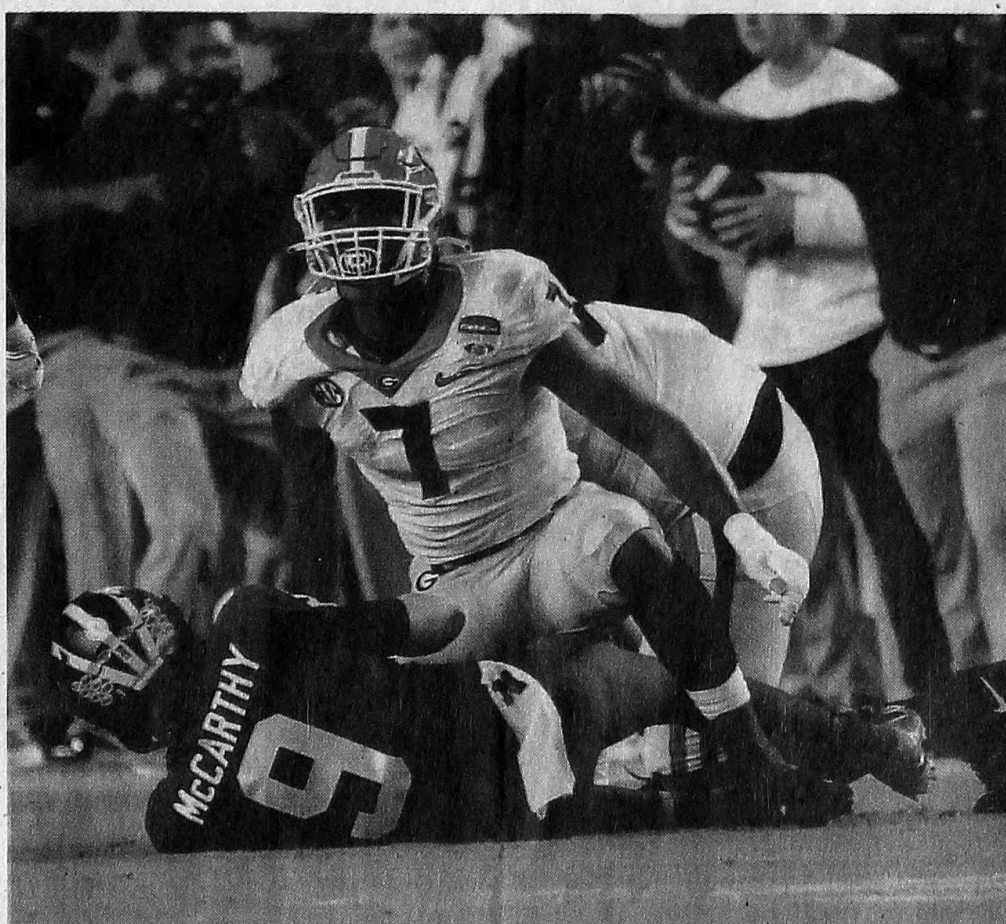
Here in South Florida the Wolverines are confident they won't endure a similar downturn after they were wrecked by Georgia.

Instead, they proclaimed they're built to last.

"Ton of resolve with this team," head coach Jim Harbaugh said. "To me it feels like a start. Feels like a beginning."

Harbaugh's rosy outlook is understandable.

In Year 7 of his much-scrutinized tenure, he realized a series of breakthrough achievements. He finally led the Wolverines to a victory over rival Ohio State,



Michigan quarterback J.J. McCarthy is sacked by Georgia linebacker Quay Walker during the second half of U-M's 34-11 loss in the Orange Bowl on Dec. 31 in Miami Gardens, Florida. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

a win he labeled his best yet. A week later, he guided his alma mater to its first Big Ten championship since 2004 and launched the program's maiden voyage in the CFP.

"It was a great season," Harbaugh said. "We were trying to make it greater tonight."

But then Michigan ran into Georgia's rapacious defense, which spent this fall devouring one opponent after another.

As Alabama did against Michigan State, the Bulldogs feasted on the Wolverines. They chewed their way through Michigan's offensive line and swallowed its stable of running backs, sucking the life force out of Wolverines. U-M netted a season-low 88 rushing yards

and entered the red zone only twice on its first eight possessions.

As Michigan's offense stagnated, its defense hemorrhaged from front to back.

The pass rush was blunted by Georgia's quick passing game while the coverage collapsed across the second and third levels. Freshman linebacker Junior Colson surrendered a 53-yard completion to Cook that helped Georgia expand its lead in the second quarter. Not long thereafter, cornerback Vincent Gray was burned on a 57-yard touchdown strike to Georgia receiver Jermaine Burton.

The score was now 27-3, and the epiphany on Michigan's 2021 tombstone was

ready to be engraved.

As Harbaugh learned, death by the SEC is never a pleasant way to go, especially for programs aspiring to compete in college football's Thunderdome.

The Spartans weren't the only team to lose on that unforgiving battlefield.

In 2016, the Washington Huskies did as well when they ran up against Alabama in the semifinal round and never sniffed the CFP again.

After their dismal performances Friday, playoff newbies Cincinnati and Michigan could soon follow in their footsteps. But fifth-year safety Brad Hawkins believes the Wolverines will avoid that fate.

"All these young guys, they've got this scar tissue now, being in the Playoffs, losing, having to feel this," he said. "I know they're going to bounce back next year and give 'em hell."

When considering Michigan's favorable 2022 schedule that includes three soft nonconference opponents and eight home dates, Hawkins' optimism seems justified. Beat the Buckeyes again in Columbus, and it's entirely conceivable Michigan could end up in the same position next year.

But outside of Tuscaloosa, nothing is guaranteed in this sport.

Harbaugh hinted at that when he said, "This team won't be together fully next year."

The Wolverines lose stalwarts like Hutchinson, running back Hassan Haskins and center Andrew Vastardis. Other contributors could leave as well.

The winning culture, linebacker Josh Ross insisted, will remain though.

"It's just the beginning," Ross reiterated.

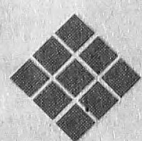
That's the hope at least. But as Michigan State knows, it could also be the end.

It's Harbaugh's responsibility to ensure that it isn't. The man who steered the Wolverines to the CFP for the first time must find his way back in the near future and then maybe, just maybe, take the next step. Otherwise, the party will continue to go on without them.



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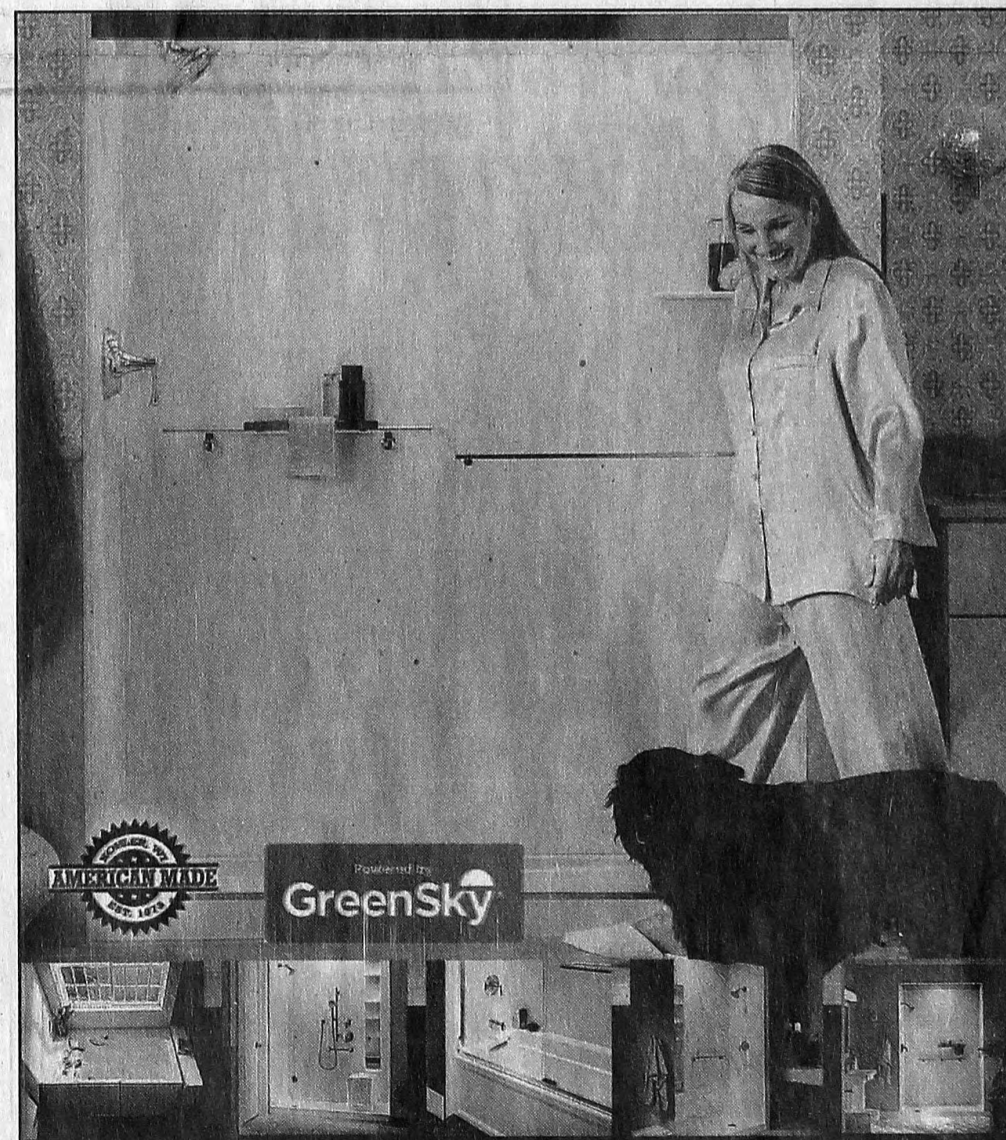
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Rally caps a magical MSU football season

Peach Bowl comeback was familiar theme for Spartans

Chris Solari Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

ATLANTA — Almost all season, when Michigan State football appeared in second-half danger, a comeback seemed imminent.

A dominating pull-away surge at Miami, followed by an improbable punt return touchdown and overtime escape against Nebraska. A hard-fought grind at Indiana and a thrilling run to victory over Michigan. Even when it didn't materialize, while getting shredded defensively in a loss to Purdue.

Call it a trend, call it resilience, call it culture shift. Call it whatever — the Spartans nearly always managed to somehow, some way, find an answer and win.

So why not one more time? In Mel Tucker's first bowl game. On the big stage of the Peach Bowl and the New Year's Six. With Pat Narduzzi's Pitt Panthers clamping down his old program in a way MSU fans remember fondly.

Payton Thorne, Jayden Reed and the Spartans made it happen with a two-touchdown rally on offense in the final 8-plus minutes. The defense answered with a critical third-down stop by Angelo Grose and a pick-six to seal it from Cal Haladay.

And in familiar fashion, No. 10 MSU closed out its resurgent 2021 season with another memorable finish and a 31-21 victory over No. 12 Pitt on Thursday night at Mercedes Benz Stadium.

"The effort was there tonight, and there was an element of competitive greatness," Tucker said in delivering the sixth 11-win season in program history and first since 2015. "That's being at your best when your best is needed. And that's what we've seen this season — the several games guys have made plays down the stretch to ice games, because there's something to be said for that. We do have pride in our program, we do have pride in our defense.

"We're not where we need to be, but we're going to get there."

"There" is playing for a national



Michigan State safety Angelo Grose (15) tackles Pittsburgh quarterback Davis Beville (17) during the first half of the Peach Bowl at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, on Dec. 30. PHOTOS BY JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

championship in the College Football Playoff, something MSU (11-2) has done once since its inception in 2014. The Spartans have not been part of that conversation since Mark Dantonio's magical three-year run between 2013-15 that put the program in the national spotlight regularly for the first time in nearly a half-century.

Tucker and his players defied experts who projected his second-year team to be among the worst in the Big Ten, riding Kenneth Walker III for 12 games to stay in the hunt for a conference championship deep into November. And then Thursday, with the star running back opting out of the Peach Bowl and into the NFL draft, the Spartans once again willed their way to a win.

Even with the previously potent run game nonexistent without Walker, and Thorne admittedly playing poorly for most of the first three quarters.

The Spartans trailed 21-10 going into the fourth quarter, with Pitt's second touchdown late in the first half indirectly coming off a Thorne interception and the Panthers' third score coming directly off his fumble to open the third quarter, returned for a touchdown by Pitt's Cam Bright. The redshirt sophomore quarterback struggled with his accuracy, overthrowing open receivers on deep routes and firing wide on short and intermediate passes.

"Coach Tuck was talking to me on the sidelines, kind of asked me what I needed or what I wanted to run or anything

like that," Thorne said. "And I just told him I like the plays that were being called, they're my favorite plays that we had in, and I just wasn't being accurate. He asked why. I said, 'Probably my feet are messed up,' because it always starts with your feet. But you can't really focus on that during the game, because you're looking at the defense the whole time."

Thorne was 15-for-31 for 210 yards with a touchdown and the interception through three quarters, with a one-handed grab by Jalen Nailor accounting for 50 yards on one of the Spartans' squandered first-half possessions.

Yet as soon as MSU got the ball back after a punt to open the fourth quarter,

See MSU, Page 5B

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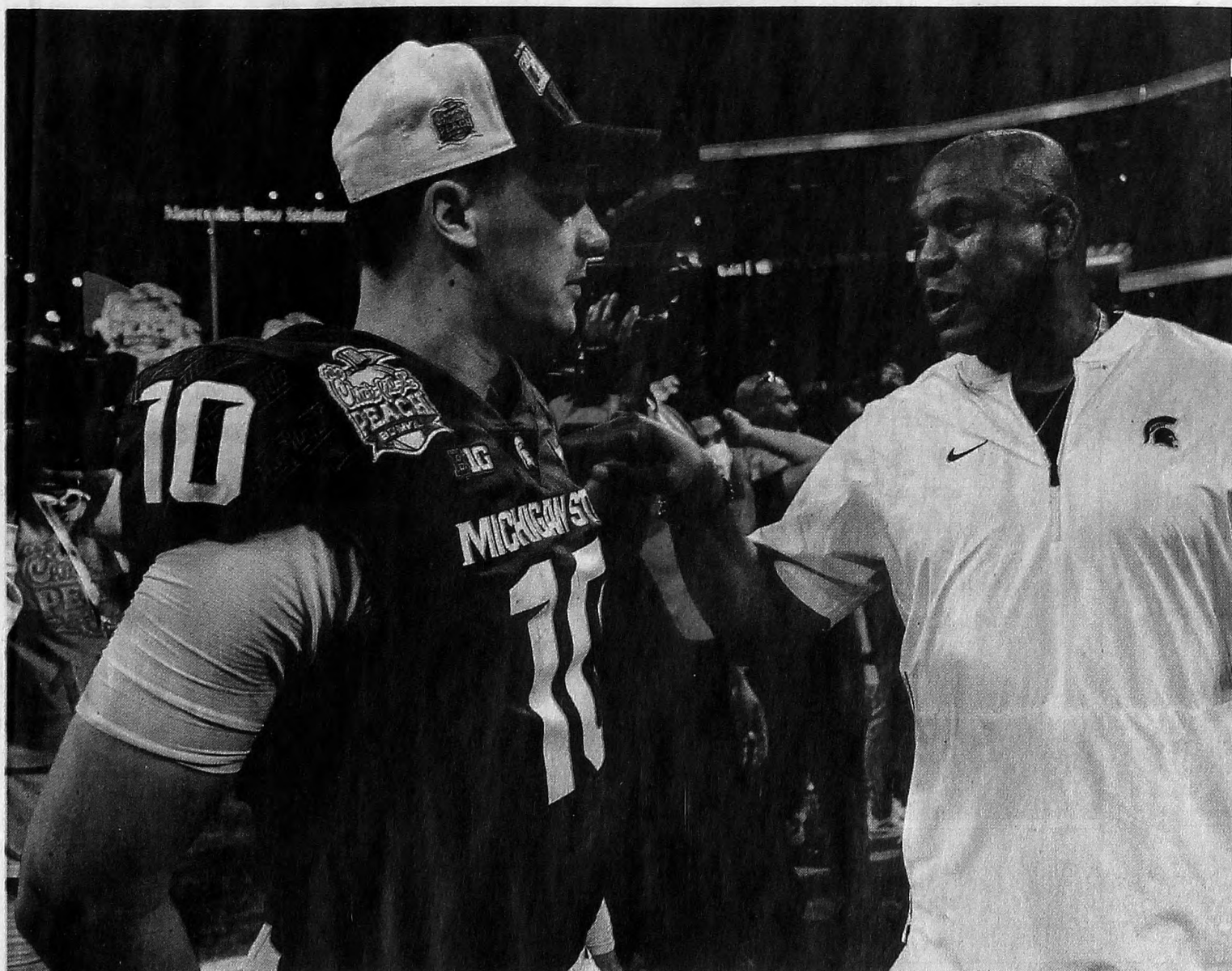
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Spartan coach Mel Tucker talks to quarterback Payton Thorne after the 31-21 win over Pittsburgh in the Peach Bowl.

The Spartans hustled to the line after that last one. Then it became a one-on-one showdown between Reed and Pitt's M.J. Devonshire. Thorne took the shotgun snap and lobbed a high spiral toward the front right pylon. Reed elevated above Devonshire, reached over the cornerback and pulled in a 22-yard touchdown with 2:51 remaining. Thorne's strike to Nailor on the 2-point play put MSU ahead 24-21, its first lead of the second half.

Friends since middle school, Reed said he wanted to make sure to keep Thorne positive even when he was struggling.

"Something I do as always. I want to be a big brother to him as I always do when things aren't going his way, because I know he's a really good player," said Reed, who had six catches for 80 yards and two TDs. "I was trying my best to make sure he wasn't getting discouraged or anything like that. I was picking his head up when it was down.

"Obviously, things changed. He got his head straight, and he made plays when we needed him."

Beville got the Panthers driving in the hurry-up, needing a field goal to send the game to overtime. They quickly moved 49 yards in seven plays and got to the Spartans' 26, with Biletnikoff Award-winning receiver Jordan Addison catching a pair of passes for 32 those yards.

But MSU came up with the big play at the right moment. Haladay dropped into coverage and, like he did at Indiana in mid-October, read the quarterback's eyes and route perfectly. He stepped in front of a quick slant intended for Addison and plucked it away, with nothing but turf and teammates in front of him for a 78-yard interception return that was the longest in Peach Bowl history.

It marked a culmination of everything Tucker started preaching — from when he took over and went 2-5 in his 2020 debut, into an offseason filled with personnel changes both inbound and outbound, and throughout a fall that provided an exhilarating ending to one of the most magical seasons in MSU history.

"We're relentless. We don't flinch. We believe in the process. We keep chopping," Tucker said. "We're in great condition. We know that we can go deep into the fourth quarter and wear teams down, take them to the deep water. And that's where we want to be."

MSU

Continued from Page 4B

Thorne reemerged and began to find his rhythm with five straight completions to open a 13-play, 70-yard drive that chewed almost 7 minutes off the clock. He converted a fourth-and-6 with an 8-yard throw to Connor Heyward, then found his senior tight end again on third-and-goal for a leaping 15-yard touchdown with 8:06 to play that pulled MSU back within 21-16.

"For me, we talked about it on the sideline, just treat it like it's practice and treat it like you're just playing one play at a time," said Thorne, who was 10-

of-16 for 130 yards and seven first downs on third-down passes. "(Offensive coordinator Jay) Johnson talks about that a lot. I feel like in the fourth quarter, I was just playing one play at a time, just reading the defense and taking what they give us."

Pitt (11-3), down to its third-string quarterback, picked up 9 yards on Davis Beville's pass to tight end Gavin Bartholomew on the second play of the ensuing drive. That set up a third-and-1 at the Panthers' 31. And on a misdirection pitch to the right, with Vincent Davis charging in the open field toward a first down, Grose closed from the safety position with quickness and dragged down Pitt's running back for a 2-yard loss to force a punt with a little more

than 5½ minutes to play.

"We just had to clean up how we were playing," Haladay said. "Our adjustments just were tackle better, drive on the ball better, break, just doing the little things better. That's what we did at the end of the day. We just needed to go out, get the ball back to our offense as quick as we could and give ourselves an opportunity to win the game."

Thorne and the offense took over at MSU's 29 and began marching toward victory. Three times on the 11-play, 71-yard final drive they converted third-down passes, first for 11 yards to Reed on third-and-7, then 10 yards on third-and-10 to Maliq Carr and, after a timeout with 3:05 to play, 14 yards to Nailor on third-and-10.

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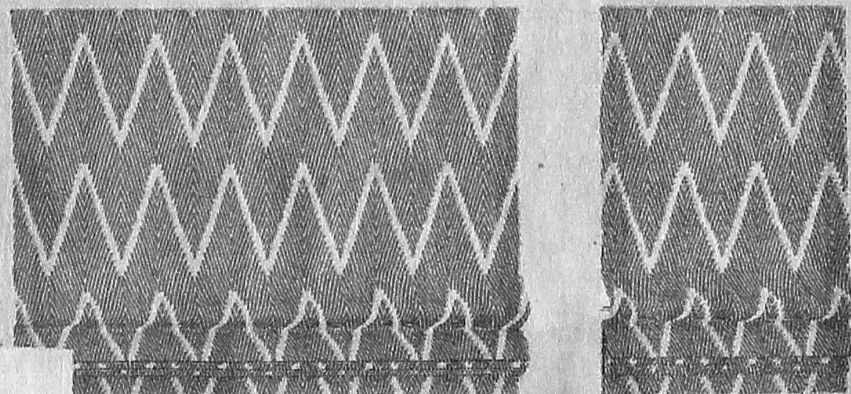
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- | | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 49 Des Moines native | 99 Acorn trees | 2 Put new concrete on | 38 Solidifies for "Marines," e.g.: Abbr. | 87 Small amount, as of sales |
| 1 Dubya or JFK | 51 Cry to a lifesaver | 100 "Incredible" maker | 3 Revised copy | 43 "Seminar," e.g.: Abbr. | 88 Jazz saxophonist Dave |
| 5 Horse riders | 53 Move in spasms | 104 Tips, as a hat | 4 Cholesterol-lowering drug | 45 River in Italy | 90 Injure greatly |
| 12 Bandleader Lawrence | 56 "American Pie" actor — William Scott | 106 Wd. often ending in "-ly" | 5 Funny Carrey | 46 "Kisses and hugs" symbol | 92 People crushing things |
| 16 NBA's Erving, familiarly | 58 Visibly awed | 107 Rho-tau link | 6 Artist Yokoyama | 47 Glide in a rink | 93 Stick on |
| 19 Totally alter | 60 Tailless cat | 109 Western treaty inits. | 7 "Be quiet!" | 48 Glaring | 96 Biblical song |
| 20 Visibly sulky | 61 Pop's Grande | 111 U.S. spy gp. | 8 Univ. about 50 miles west of Topeka | 50 "That's the — goes" | 98 Points of convergence |
| 21 Pack of yaks | 63 The Beatles' "Eleanor —" | 112 Former Pan Am rival | 9 Coating with glossy varnish | 52 Med. insurer | 101 Prizes highly |
| 22 Coastal inlet | 65 Gibson liquor | 115 Decide you will | 10 Yang partner | 53 NFL's Jaguars, on scoreboards | 103 Animals: Suffix |
| 23 Monumental | 66 1847 Herman Melville novel | 117 See 33-Across | 11 Office scribe | 54 The "E" of 39-Across | 105 Kismet |
| 24 Of very hilly regions | 67 Big name in utility knives | 121 Part of a ship's hull | 12 Interlaced | 55 Well-off | 108 Wolf down |
| 25 Liveliness | 68 Atty.'s title | 123 Cartoon hits | 13 Is | 57 Muslim face veil | 110 Suppress |
| 27 Betray by snitching | 69 18-wheeler | 125 Cool, man | 14 Third bk. of the Bible | 59 Arouse | 112 Pre-liftoff expression |
| 29 Possible answer to "Who is?" | 71 Div. of a hoops game | 126 Some Native Americans | 15 Roguish behavior | 62 Linguist Chomsky | 113 Hot dog |
| 30 Scottish refusals | 73 See 33-Across | 127 Getting a laugh of out | 16 Group of precision marchers | 64 Mark over a short vowel | 114 Judicial inquest |
| 32 Lupe of "Mexican Spitfire" | 80 Mine, in Italy | 129 Cool guy on "Happy Days" | 17 Ceremony | 68 Pliocene, e.g. | 116 Book divs. |
| 33 With 73- and 117-Across, notable fact about this puzzle's solution | 81 ROY G. — | 133 Years, in Italy | 18 "Run This Town" rapper | 70 Big name in infomercial knives | 118 Lauder of cosmetics |
| 37 Antigen-attacking lymphocyte | 82 Albuquerque-to-Denver dir. | 134 Traffic snarl | 26 Toon frame | 72 Eligible for Soc. Sec. | 119 Cereal utensil |
| 39 Abbr. ending a math proof | 83 Chef's hat | 135 Lawn digger | 28 Laugh syllable from a Stoooge | 74 Class for an Eng. major | 120 Basra citizen |
| 40 Suffix with form | 85 Travel by foot | 136 Popular place for a piercing | 31 Plant — (claim some territory, maybe) | 75 Little jewel | 121 Mexico's — California |
| 41 Deer relative | 89 Cable inits. for old films | 137 Give a test to Log splitter | 34 Writer Mario Vargas — | 76 Sam of golf | 122 Huge-screen film format |
| 42 Surgical tool | 91 Reverend Jackson | 138 Log splitter | 35 Mitigate | 77 Judo halls | 124 In-favor votes |
| 44 Put a levy on | 93 Tweak | 139 "— Out of My League" | 36 "King Kong" studio | 78 Blue hue | 128 "Stupid me!" |
| 47 Smidge | 94 Ending for buck | 140 Basic nature | | 79 Walrus tooth | 130 Partakes of |
| | 95 "EI —" (nickname of a drug lord) | 141 "That's clear" | | 84 Aliens, briefly | 131 "Grimm" ailer |
| | 97 Drink heartily | | | 85 Tot's glassful | 132 Wye follower |

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

SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/06

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!

BUT Y?

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.

```

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

- YACHT
- YAHOO
- YAK
- YAM
- YANG
- YANKEE
- YANTRA
- YAPOK
- YAPPED
- YARD
- YARN
- YARROW
- YASHMAK
- YAWN
- YAWS
- YEARBOOK
- YEARN
- YEAST
- YELLOW
- YELP
- YEN
- YEOMAN
- YES
- YET
- YEW
- YIDDISH
- YIELD
- YIKES
- YIN
- YOBBO
- YODEL
- YOGA
- YOKEL
- YOLK
- YORKER
- YOUNG
- YOURS
- YOUTH
- YO-YO
- YTTRIUM
- YUCCA
- YUCK
- YUKATA
- YUMMY

BUT Y?

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

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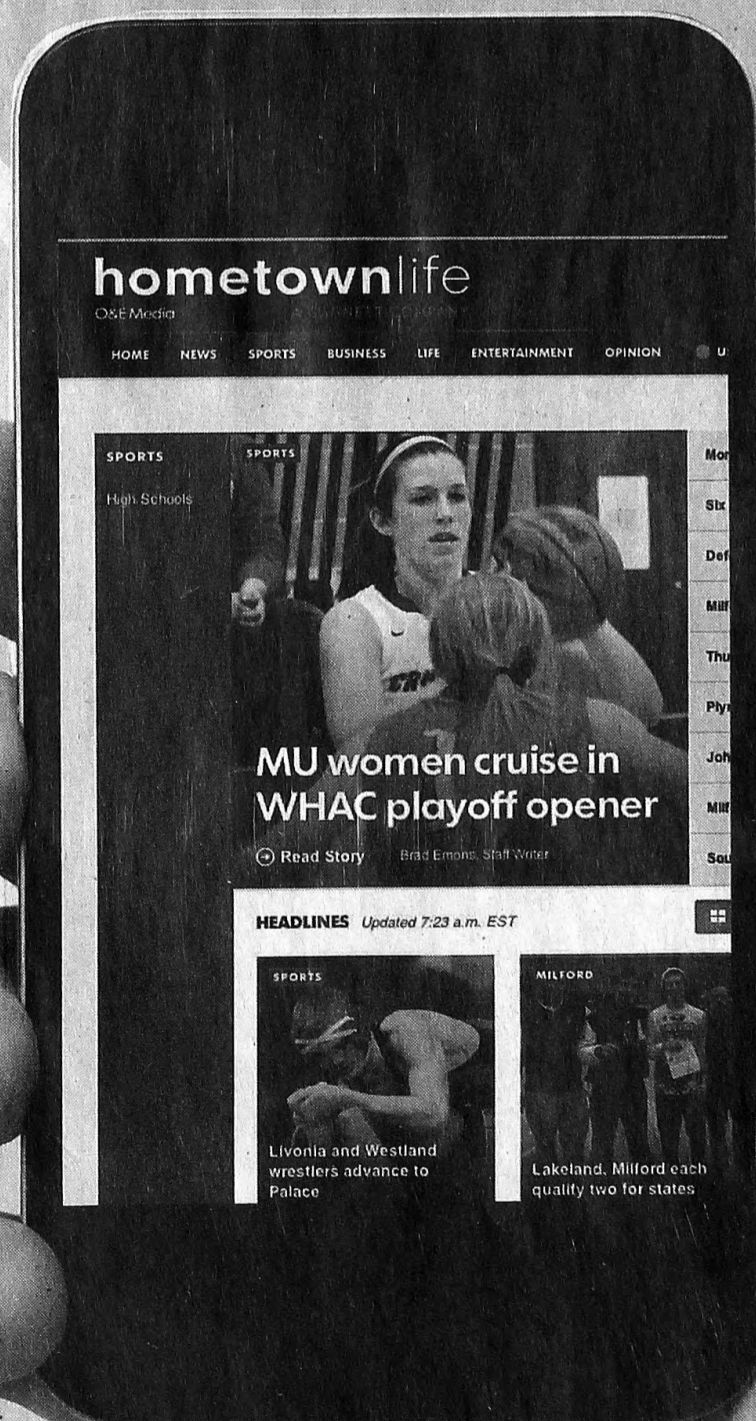
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