



FARMINGTON

Project to transform downtown streetscape

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The stretch of Farmington Road in downtown Farmington isn't anywhere near as pretty as the rest of the downtown area on Grand River Avenue.

As the city looks to bring more visitors downtown, officials hope a redo of Farmington Road's streetscape will make it more attractive and friendlier to pedestrians.

Crews hoped weather would cooperate this week to start work on Farmington Road between Alta Loma Drive and Orchard Street.

The project will eventually stretch to Grand River Avenue and should last through the fall. Drivers won't have access to the affected area until work is completed.

Creating a 'different feel'

Officials want Farmington Road to look and feel more like the rest of the downtown area.

See **STREETSCAPE**, Page 4A



Hassan Ahmad cuts chicken on a rotisserie at Falafel & Company in Livonia. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Fall for falafel at Livonia's Middle Eastern restaurant

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

After constructing restaurant interiors in his career, Sam Salami decided it was time to build out his own.

The Bloomfield Township resident and his family did just that: they opened

Falafel & Company at 33485 W. Eight Mile in Livonia.

"I had a passion for building out restaurants and making them look modern and unique, and that's where it took off," he said. "I decided to do it for myself."

Salami, who owns the Philmar Plaza west of Farmington Road where Falafel

& Company is located, took some time building out the corner space.

When deciding on his new eatery, he knew the region needed a bit more Middle Eastern influence, thus the fast-casual falafel joint was born.

See **FALAFEL**, Page 8A

WESTLAND

Co. blames weather for delay in trash, compost collection

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Westland's trash pickup has been spotty for five weeks now.

According to the city's trash hauler Priority Waste, an unusually warm spring and poor organization are to blame. Priority provides Westland's garbage, yard waste, recycling and special collections services.

Yard waste collection has posed the biggest issue and is where the company fell farthest behind, though officials say the company has since improved and caught up with recycling and garbage pickup. Westland has roughly 26,000 stops for each of the services.

"I'd like to apologize to any resident for the service level they've experienced over the last five weeks," said Paul Ruthenberg, a representative with Priority Waste, during a city council meeting Monday night. "It's embarrassing."

Ruthenberg, who provided garbage services in the city for years with Midwestern Sanitation, said Memorial Day weekend usually creates a trash hauler's busiest week of the year, but the entire month of May presented larger than normal needs in Westland due to warm temperatures creating even greater need for yard waste collection.

According to the company, crews have been working 14-hour days to catch up, but it hasn't been enough. Ruthenberg noted yard waste crews are usually seasonal employees who

See **DELAY**, Page 7A

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Canton man who attacked wife, child sentenced to up to 50 years in prison

Susan Vela [Hometownlife.com](https://www.hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Canton man could spend decades in prison for attacking his wife with a circular saw and banging his daughter's head against the ground.

Third Circuit Judge Paul Cusick said no spouse should have to endure the "horrific acts" that Oswald Tallent's wife survived. The judge sentenced Tallent, 48, on May 31 to up to 50 years in prison.

Cusick found Tallent guilty earlier this year of assaulting, torturing and abusing his family during a bench trial.

Cusick on May 31 sentenced Tallent to 28-50 years for assault with intent to murder and for torture, sentences that will run concurrently and alongside sentences of 10-20 years for assault with intent to do great bodily harm and 2-4 years for third-degree child abuse, according to Wayne County prosecutors.

Tallent appeared to be looking at his former wife as she began asking for the maximum sentence to protect her children.

"We'll continue to try to trust and love," she said, not appearing in the courtroom camera's view for the streamed proceeding.

Her brother said his career as a law enforcer never prepared him for seeing his sister in shock wrapped in a bloody blanket at her Stonebrook Drive home in late March 2020.

"We are eager to put this tragedy behind us," Alan Hunt said. "He needs to spend the rest of his life locked away."

Defense attorney Brent Jaffe, who pursued an insanity defense for Tallent, has filed a motion for a new



Defense attorney Brent Jaffe represents Oswald Tallent, 47, of Canton in 35th District Court in 2021. Tallent's ex-wife and daughter testified against him during a preliminary exam on assault, torture and child abuse charges. He was sentenced May 31 to up to 50 years in prison.
SUSAN VELA/
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

trial "to preserve the rights of (my) client." He declined to comment further about the case.

According to investigators, Tallent was a contractor and self-employed mason worker who had marital problems with his wife around the time the pandemic began.

Prosecuting attorney Erin Wilmoth referred to the former wife as a resilient warrior. The daughter, she said, has a level of maturity that comes from having to grow up too fast.

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

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Newsroom Contacts:

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

Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

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COVID-19 case tracker for Wayne, Oakland counties

Mike Stucka [Hometownlife.com](https://www.hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Michigan reported far fewer coronavirus cases in the week ending Sunday, adding 19,535 new cases. That's down 24.8% from the previous week's tally of 25,968 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked 22nd 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 10.9% from the week before, with 770,895 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 2.53% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, 22 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Wayne County reported 3,720 cases and three deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 5,588 cases and 35 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 432,149 cases and 8,019 deaths.

Oakland County reported 3,048 cases and two deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 4,152 cases and 16 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 312,684 cases and 3,877 deaths.

Across Michigan, cases fell in 64 counties, with the best declines in Wayne County, with 3,720 cases from 5,588 a week earlier; in Oakland County, with 3,048 cases from 4,152; and in Macomb County, with 1,881 cases from 2,523.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in Baraga County with 414 cases per 100,000 per week; Washtenaw County with 345; and Clinton County with 307.

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 3,720 cases; Oakland County, with 3,048 cases; and Macomb County, with 1,881. Weekly case counts rose in 17 counties from the previous week.

The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Clinton, Gratiot and Baraga counties.

In Michigan, 50 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 139 people were reported dead.

A total of 2,547,366 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 36,407 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 84,762,022 people have tested positive and 1,008,585 people have died.

Note: In the Johns Hopkins University coronavi-



Runners prepare to compete in the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon at sunrise May 21. The race, which made its return after being canceled the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, began at JP Luby Beach and ended at McCaughn Park in Corpus Christi, Texas. LUCAS BOLAND/USA TODAY NETWORK

rus data, cases and deaths for the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Federal Correctional Institution separately from Michigan counties.

Michigan's COVID-19 hospital admissions staying flat

USA TODAY analyzed federal hospital data as of Sunday, June 5.

Likely COVID patients admitted in the state:

- Last week: 1,177
- The week before that: 1,183
- Four weeks ago: 1,049


Likely COVID patients admitted in the nation:

- Last week: 58,022
- The week before that: 55,117
- Four weeks ago: 44,923

Hospitals in 35 states reported more COVID-19 patients than a week earlier, while hospitals in 32 states had more COVID-19 patients in intensive-care beds. Hospitals in 29 states admitted more COVID-19 patients in the latest week than a week prior, the USA TODAY analysis of U.S. Health and Human Services data shows.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control. If you have questions about the data or the story, contact Mike Stucka at mstucka@gannett.com.

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A guide to summer fun in Farmington Hills



Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

If I'm going to spend free time in one of the communities I report on — Livonia, Westland, Wayne and greater Farmington — it's probably gonna be greater Farmington.

And when I tell people that, they look at me like I have a third eye (no offense if you have a third eye).

We get, like, five seconds of summer here in Michigan and, in my time living in metro Detroit, greater Farmington has become one of my favorite places to pass time outside.

The Farmington area may not have the malls and regional parks some of its neighboring communities do, but that's exactly what I like about it.

Whether you're looking to have fun with friends, by yourself or even with kids, here are my suggestions just about anyone could use to have a good time in the greater Farmington, Hills area this summer.

Play disc golf at Founders Sports Park

Founders Sports Park, near the corner of 8 Mile and Halsted roads, has a great disc golf course.

I hardly ever see other humans there, which shocks me.

The course is, in my opinion, friendly to beginners and only has one hole that sits beside water.

So if you're just starting out, this is a great place to go.

What I love about disc golf is the affordability. All you need is a disc or Frisbee.

And the walk through the woods you get while you're at it is great. I've been playing casually for years — my father introduced the sport to my sister and I as kids — and this is my go-to place in the area.

While you're there, Founders Sports also has plenty of room for a picnic or some time on the swings at the playground.



A trail marker at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. The large park has a sizable trail network including paved, gravel and wood-chipped portions.

PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Hit the farmers market or social district in downtown Farmington

There's plenty to do in downtown Farmington, but the social district and weekly farmers market are especially friendly to warm weather.

Farmington's market runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday through October. In my experience, the produce prices are generally comparable to or cheaper than the grocery store. And it's all Michigan grown.

There's all kinds of other stuff to check out, too — one of my favorites is the cinnamon bread from Kapnick Orchard's booth.

Grownups meandering through the downtown area can also take an adult beverage outside.

The downtown functions as a social district, nicknamed The Syndicate, that allows open alcohol containers from participating businesses, including lo-

cal favorites Farmington Brewing Co. and MI.Mosa.

Take a hike at Heritage Park

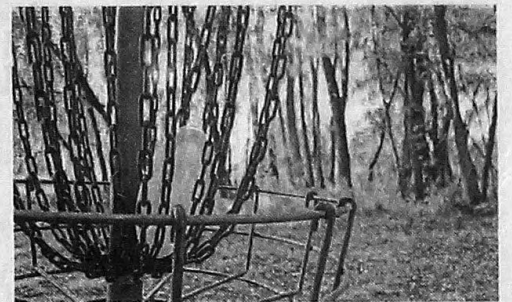
Heritage Park, off Farmington Road near 10 Mile, is probably best known for its splash pad beloved by local youths.

But this isn't that kind of list. So, moving on.

The large park has a sizable trail network including paved, gravel and wood-chipped portions. I'm always hesitant to call a walk around the park a "hike," but Heritage has enough dirt and enough hills that I'll allow it.

Heritage is great for a walk and a picnic and has a few large fields to toss or kick around the sports projectile of your choice.

I see just as many adults using this park as I see kids, and that makes me smile. There's actually something for everyone there.



Founders Sports Park has a disc golf course great for all skill levels.



Cherries usually start showing up at the farmers market at the end of June. COURTESY OF FARMINGTON FARMERS MARKET

Make an affogato at Farmhouse Coffee

I had my first affogato working at a coffee/ice cream shop similar to Farmhouse Coffee and Ice Cream on 12 Mile Road when I was in college. Let me tell you: They're delicious.

What's an affogato, you ask? It's hot espresso poured over a scoop of vanilla ice cream or gelato.

You can generally only get these at coffee/ice cream shops, which can be hard to find.

Affogato isn't a menu item at Farmhouse, but you can make one by getting some ice cream and a shot of espresso.

Wayne County readers can also get one at Coffee + Cream in Livonia, where affogato is on the menu.

Thank me later.

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

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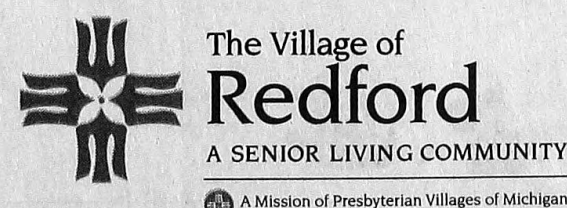
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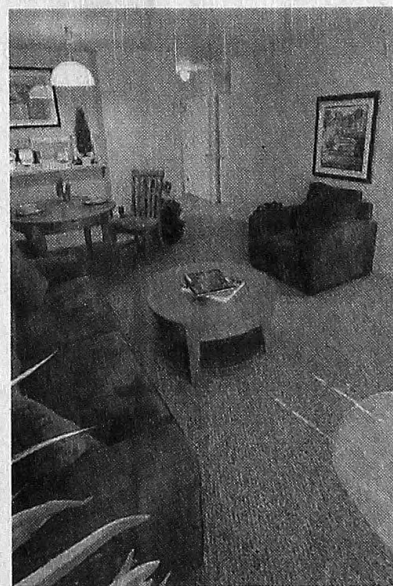
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Redford library requests millage for service, building improvements

Courtesy of the Redford Township District Library

On Aug. 2, Redford Township District Library will ask residents to approve a 2 mill tax levy to fund the library for of 20 years.

The millage would replace a 1.4 mill operating millage and a .66 mill debt millage levied in 2021.

Have more questions about the library's ballot proposal? The library will host community information meetings at the Redford Township District Library on the following dates:

- Tuesday, June 21, 11 a.m. to noon;
- Tuesday, July 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, July 16, 11 a.m. to noon.

Here's what to know before heading to the ballot box:

Why is the library asking for the millage?

Without this millage, the library's revenue will decrease by over 50%. Library services that would be reduced or eliminated include hours of operation,

the number of books and other materials purchased, digital subscriptions, computer maintenance, events and reference assistance.

If approved, the funding will allow the library to move forward with renovations.

This includes completing the second floor of the library where 18,000 sq. ft. of space has remained unfinished since the library was built in 2004. Renovations would also include creating a new space for kids, additional study rooms for all ages, expanded teen space and more.

What will the millage cost?

A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable value on a property.

So, with 2 mills, a resident with a home valued at \$50,000 would pay \$100 a year.

This millage would be a slight reduction from what residents already pay toward the library.

What will happen if the millage is not approved?

Without the millage, the library's operating budget will decrease by over 50% in 2022 and lack of funding will diminish services, forcing cuts to hours of operation, reduction in staff, reduced access to computers, cuts to the materials budget and a decreased number of classes.

Why is the millage request for 20 years?

In addition to ensuring the library can maintain its current level of service, the twenty-year period allows the library to finish the second floor of the library in addition to the recent improvements to the library. Renovations to the library would begin in the fall of 2023.

What improvements would the library make?

In the last year, the library has made a

number of capital improvements. In 2021, the library added a new drive through and a new patio area. The drive through allows convenient access for patrons to pick up and drop off library materials, and the patio provides outdoor seating and space for programming opportunities and events.

In 2022, the library replaced its roof. These projects were completed using the library's fund balance. In 2023, the library plans to renovate the second floor of the library, which has been unfinished since the library was built in 2004.

How is the library funded?

Between 85% to 90% of the library's revenue comes from property taxes. Other sources of revenue include penal fines, state aid, donations and room rental. The library is independent and does not receive funds from Redford Township.

The library also keeps a fund balance for emergency expenses.

Streetscape

Continued from Page 1A

"This is going to fill in the missing gap," said Austin Downie, an engineer with OHM Advisors, during an informational meeting on the project. "This will match those other elements you see (downtown) and create a better aesthetic."

Because this is a streetscape project, the sidewalks will be completely rebuilt along with the roads. Once work is finished, Farmington Road will have benches, bicycle racks, disability-friendly crosswalks, light posts and raised planters along its sidewalks.

People can expect temporary sidewalk closures throughout the course of the project. Businesses in the affected



In preparation for a complete overhaul of Farmington Road in downtown Farmington, the city removed dozens of small trees just south of Grand River Avenue.

JOHN HEIDER/
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

area will maintain their normal hours of operation.

A new traffic flow

On the road itself, the lanes will go

down from two each way to one each way with the addition of several parking bump outs and a pedestrian island.

The new design will make foot travel safer.

"We want to bring more people into

the area," Downie said. "With more people comes more safety measures, and we identify traffic as a safety issue."

Farmington has secured a \$1 million federal grant for the project. The city and Downtown Development Authority will split the remaining \$3 million through purchasing bonds.

Throughout the duration of the project, OHM Advisors plans to have at least one person on site at all times to address questions or concerns.

By the time it's finished, Farmington Road will have a completely different look.

"There's going to be a different feel to it," Downie said.

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

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"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 Morgan Silver Dollars, some worth up to 100 times their face value, means unsearched Bank Bags loaded with U. S. Gov't issued Morgan Silver Dollars dating back to the 1800's are now being handed over to U.S. residents who find the first three digits of their 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 Morgan Silver Dollars to the general public - I'm being asked, how much are the unsearched Bank 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 contains 50 Morgan Silver Dollars and just one coin alone, could be worth \$40 - \$100 in collector value 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 \$2900 these unsearched Bank Bags are a steal since everyone who misses the deadline must pay \$4000 for each bag," said Lynne.

"These are not ordinary coins you find in your pocket change. These are rarely seen Morgan Silver Dollars some 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 50 U.S. Gov't issued Morgan Silver Dollars, 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 Coin Claim Hotline before the 48-hour deadline ends.

This is very important. The Vault Bag fee has been set for \$4000 for residents who miss the deadline, but for those Michigan residents who beat the 48-hour deadline the Bank Bag fee is just \$2900 as long as they call the National Coin Claim 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 50 U.S. Gov't issued Morgan Silver Dollars 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 AM this morning. That's because each unsearched Bank Bag is loaded with nothing but U.S. Gov't issued Morgan Silver Dollars some dating clear back to the 1800's.

"With all these collectible U.S. Gov't issued Morgan Silver Dollars 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 Unsearched Bank Bags. That means U.S. residents who find the first three digits of their 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 Morgan Silver Dollars found inside.

Just be sure to call before the 48-hour deadline ends. ■



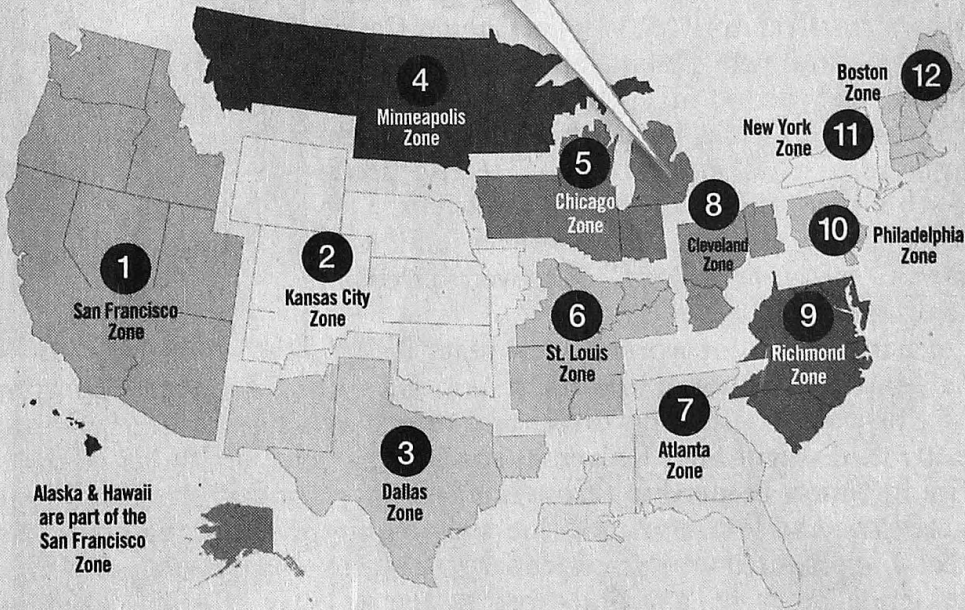
■ **SNEAK PEAK INSIDE VAULT:** The phone lines will be ringing off the hook beginning at 8:30 AM this morning when the vaults open for Michigan residents to claim unsearched Bank Bags. It's hard to tell how much these unsearched bags loaded with Morgan Silver Dollars issued by the Gov't over 100 years ago could be worth someday. That's because each Bank Bag contains 50 Morgan Silver Dollars some dating clear back to the 1800's. And here's the best part. After the deadline each Bank Bag fee is set for \$4000, but Michigan residents who find their zip code listed in today's publication and beat the deadline cover just \$2900 which is a real steal for these unsearched Bank Bags.

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481	485	489	493	497
482	486	490	494	498
483	487	491	495	499

The National Toll-Free Hotlines open at precisely 8:30 AM this morning for US residents only. If lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered. If you miss the deadline you will be turned away from this offer and forced to wait for future announcements in this publication or others, if any.

The only thing residents need to do is find the first three digits of their zip code on the Distribution List above and beat the 48-hour deadline. The Bank Bag fee has been set at \$4000 for residents who miss the deadline, but for those Michigan residents who beat the deadline the Bank Bag fee is just \$2900 as long as they call the National Coin Claim Hotline before the deadline ends.



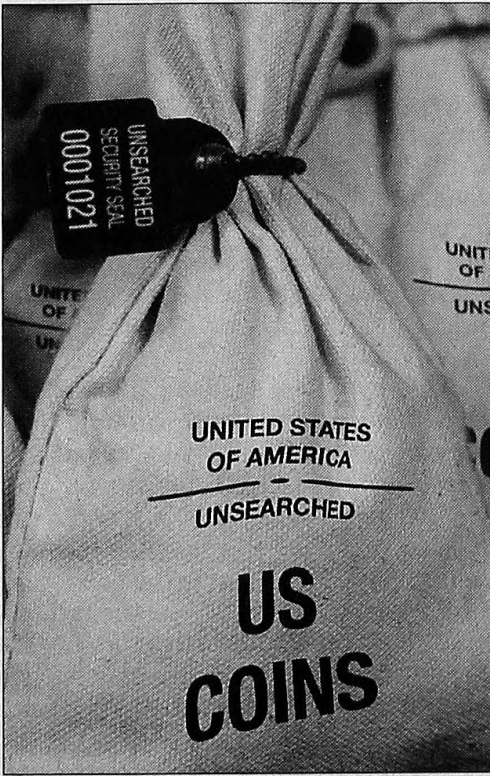
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DNR offers tips for dealing with Canada geese

Bryce Airgood Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

They can be found in every county in Michigan. In some parts of the state people see them and hear their honking (or hissing) year-round.

You can't escape Canada geese. And in June and July, these birds are often found on lakes and golf course ponds, feeding on lush lawns while molting - the annual loss of their flight feathers - which takes about two weeks.

Canada geese are unable to fly during molting and as such could be hanging around your pontoon more often.

To help deal with the potential nuisance, here are three tips from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on how to prevent conflicts with these feathered neighbors.

1. Make your yard less attractive for geese

Urban and suburban developments with manicured lawns, abundant water bodies and refuge offer all the resources geese need to thrive. Geese are especially attracted to heavily fertilized, watered and mowed lawns.

"If you live on a lake and geese frequently visit your yard, try making your lawn less attractive to them by allowing your grass to grow long and cutting down on fertilizer and water, or try planting shrubs to create a barrier between your lawn and the water," said Barbara Avers, a waterfowl and wetland specialist with the DNR.

Repellents, like those made from grape extract, may help deter geese in the short-term from feeding on grass.

2. Don't feed them

Intentionally feeding Canada geese can attract them to an area, making them comfortable around people, potentially increasing overcrowding and spreading disease among the birds. So don't.

Geese are herbivores and are important in their ecosystem as they distribute seeds from the various plants they consume. They prefer grass shoots, aquatic vegetation, seed heads, bird-



In June and July, Canada geese are often found on lakes and golf course ponds, feeding on lush lawns while molting.
CHRISTINE PETERSON/USA TODAY NETWORK

Canada goose quick facts

- Life span: 12 years in the wild on average
- Size: 4-foot to 5.6-foot wingspan
- Clutch size: Two to 10 eggs
- Sounds: They will hiss when threatened but are best known for their honking.
- Habitat: Open, grassy habitats near water including ponds, marshes, rivers or coastlines.

seed and various grains.

Canada geese can go up to 30 days without food if necessary.

Artificial feeding is not necessary for their survival and can be harmful to their health.

It also can create a resident population that does not migrate, and these geese can become a nuisance.

3. Use scare tactics

"You may also want to use scare tactics to frighten them away without harming them," Avers said. "Use a combination of loud noises such as shell crackers, bird alarms or bird bangers, distress cries, screamers and electronic noise systems, along with visual deterrents like bird scare balloons, Mylar scare tape and plastic flags."

However, don't touch nests or eggs. They are protected under federal law and it is illegal to touch, move, or possess any part of the nest or eggs without the proper permit, according to the DNR.

Michigan has special goose hunting

seasons established in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in early September, January and February to target resident geese.

Season dates and bag limits can be found in the current Waterfowl Hunting Digest, found online at Michigan.gov/Waterfowl.

In many urban areas, hunting may not be allowed and in that case specially permitted nuisance control companies can be hired to assist landowners with geese control programs.

You can contact your local DNR office if there is an aggressive Canada goose causing a public safety risk, farm damage or an inappropriate nest in your area. The Lansing DNR office can be reached at 517-284-4720.

For more questions about geese conflicts or hunting, people can contact the DNR Wildlife Division at 517-284-9453.

Obituaries

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

Joe E. Buckson

SOUTHFIELD - Joe Elliott Buckson went home to be with the Lord on May 31, 2022. He was 82.

He was born on April 26, 1940, in Chester County, South Carolina to Thomas and Annie (Barber) Buckson, the second oldest of five children. Joe graduated from Finley High School in 1958 where he played baseball and football. He also drove the school bus during his high-school years. He then married his high-school sweetheart Lillie Mae Feaster in September 1958. They moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1960.

Once in Detroit, Joe worked a few years at Firestone, and then he began to work at Associated Truck Lines in 1965 from where he spent most of his career and retired as a supervisor. Early on, Joe attended Wayne State University specializing in Labor Studies. He was active in Union Leadership throughout his career and appreciated court proceedings and legal pursuits. Joe was an entrepreneur, small business owner, and procured several residential properties in the Detroit metro area. Later in life, he started a second career as a Security Guard and worked for Allied Security for 15 years.

Joe was a people person. He enjoyed helping others and relished conversation. He liked researching aspects of history and sharing his community and family lineage. Joe never forgot where he came from nor those who helped him along his way. He always paid it forward. He was a protector, a provider, and was passionate concerning his family. He raised his sons to respect others, work hard, and appreciate the value of a dollar. His legacy continues in his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, the family he loved very much. He was affectionately known as "Papa". Most importantly, Joe accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, and he was a member of the Gathering Ministries Church of God in Christ.

Survivors include his Children: Brian (Cheryl) Buckson of Detroit; Mathias (Debra) Buckson of Ypsilanti; Bruce Buckson of Detroit; Grandchildren: Kela Hinton, Charmaine Tharpe, Bruce Buckson II, Bryce Buckson, and Brian Buckson II; 15 Great-grandchildren; 2 Great-great grandchildren; Siblings: Tommy Lee (Betty-deceased) Buckson of Edgemoor, SC; Charles (Mary) Buckson of Detroit; Annie Bell (George) Lindsay of Charlotte, NC; Shirley (Charles) Hills of Charlotte, NC; and a host of other brothers/sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and friends. Joe was preceded in death by his wife of almost 62 years, Lillie Mae, and his parents.

Funeral / Celebration of Life services will take place Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 1:00 PM at The Gathering Ministries Church of God in Christ, 16219 Meyers Rd., Detroit, MI 48235 with Pastor Stephan L. Jackson, Sr. officiating. Family Hour will be at the church, prior to the service, from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM on Saturday, June 4, 2022. Visitation will be Friday, June 3, 2022, from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the O.H. PYE III Funeral Home, 17600 Plymouth Rd., Detroit, MI 48227.

Memorial contributions may be made to: The Gathering Ministries



Downtown Northville streets to say closed to cars until fall

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

It's an issue that's seemingly divided Northville into two camps: should the downtown roads stay closed or should they reopen?

After plenty of discussion, debate and conversation, the city council decided it would honor its previous decision to keep Main and Center streets closed to vehicle traffic until just after Halloween.

"We gave a commitment to every business person in town to go to November," Mayor Brian Turnbull said.

The downtown streets initially closed to traffic due to state-issued COVID-19 restrictions, which now have not been in place for nearly the last year.

The closure was to allow for more outdoor dining and gathering spaces. The city also launched a social district, The Twist, which allowed visitors to wander downtown with alcoholic drinks.

The roads were closed in summer 2020 and the closures have been extended several times, most recently last December, when the city council decided to keep both closed until November of this year.

The council addressed the issue again at its June 6 meeting at Northville City Hall. The council reaffirmed its December 2021 decision, voting unanimously to keep the roads closed to traffic until then after a survey was taken asking the community its thoughts on the closures. That survey, reviewed by the city council earlier this spring, had more than 4,000 responses.

A recent recommendation from the Downtown Development Authority asked the council to consider reopening Center Street as soon as possible with Main Street staying closed to cars until the original November date. The DDA approved that recommendation by a 5-4 vote, one of the tightest votes DDA Director Lori Ward said she's seen during her time in Northville.

But council declined to follow that recommendation, saying they want-

ed to keep the original agreement in place. Councilman Andrew Krentz listed several reasons for keeping the roads closed, saying Northville had developed an atmosphere no neighboring community had been able to accomplish.

"Vibrant communities are built from vibrant shared third places," he said. "We have lightning in a bottle."

Some community members and business owners have demanded the roads reopen to vehicles, saying the closures have outlived their need.

Among them is South Lyon resident Thomas Fox, who said he works downtown. He said he recently had an incident where someone almost struck him with their car when he was walking near Wing Street, which he thinks would not be a concern if all the city's roads had been open to vehicular traffic.

"My life would have actually been affected by the road closure," he said. "You have to consider other people's lives outside the community who come there to work."

Michele Johnson, an owner of Colors of the Wood downtown, said the closures have been nothing but a success.

"As a business on Center Street, we have gotten almost 100% positive feedback on the streets being closed," she said. "We've received a lot of positive feedback from our customers."

While the streets will remain closed the next several months, city council members realized the issue will continuously return, especially regarding traffic.

That problem existed before the street closures and will continue until council addresses it, said Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Moroski-Browne.

"We had a traffic problem and a pedestrian safety problem before the pandemic," she said. "Prior to the pandemic, in the evenings ... we were all finding a way to avoid Center Street and Main Street. Whatever our decision is, we need to address those. And that's become more clear."

"I don't want to keep kicking the decision on the road closure down the road."

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

Try curling, ax throwing and more in Novi

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Could the next Olympic curling champion learn the game in Novi?

That's a possibility, as one of the first public sheets opened at the city's newest entertainment venue.

The HUB Stadium opened in early May in the space formerly occupied by Lucky Strike at 44325 W. 12 Mile H-160 inside Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountainwalk. The center contains a wealth of options designed especially for group fun, including curling sheets, ax throwing and football bowling.

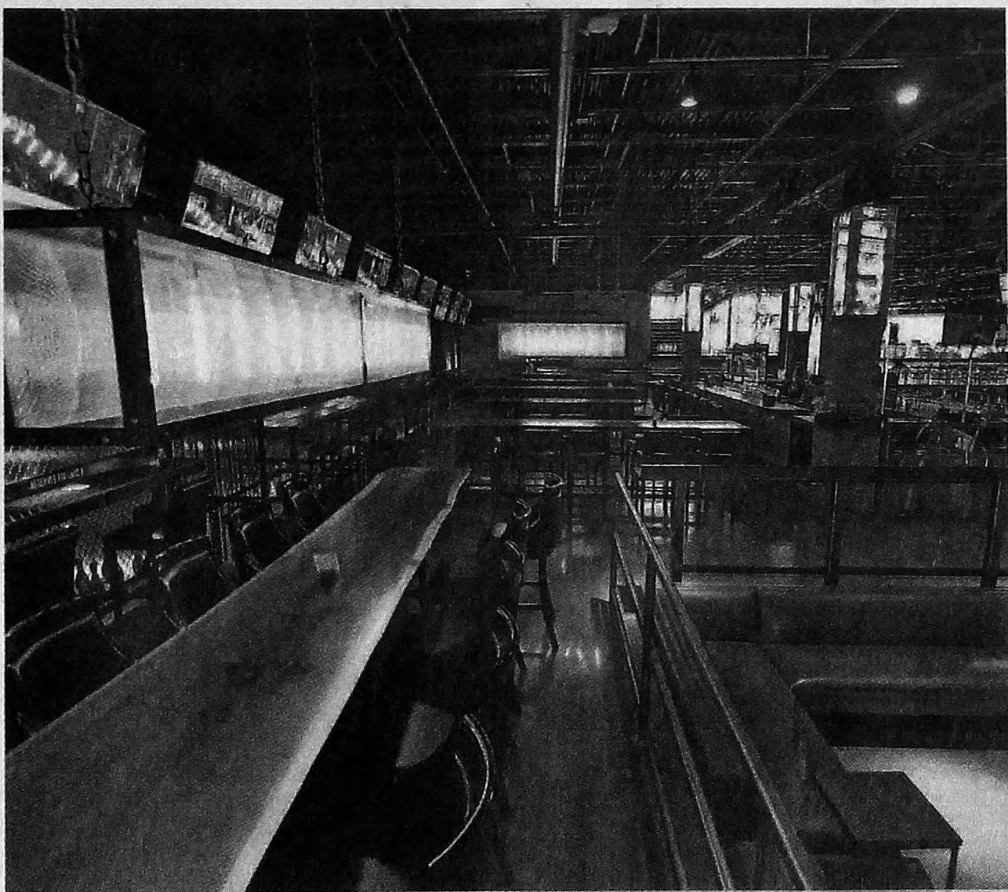
But curling is perhaps one of the center's more unique features.

"Everyone's excited," Ashley Sharma, director of sales for the company, said. "You don't get to go to many places and curl."

The center took months to transform, completely changing the space. It sports several private gathering spots for parties, corporate events and more.

Curling is a big highlight at The HUB, Sharma said, especially since there aren't many places open to the public to do such an activity, especially in the summer. Travis Powers, a member of the Detroit Curling Club, works at the curling manager for The HUB Stadium.

"Usually the first end is kind of a practice. After that, people are starting to get stones in place," he said. "Just watching people do it and getting their rocks in play and some into the house and putting scores on the scoreboard,



The lower level of the HUB Stadium in Novi, which contains a wealth of options designed especially for group fun. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

it's very gratifying."

In addition to the entertainment options, there are a multiple area to get a bite to eat. Looking for a higher-end experience? Try The Concession Stand, which, despite the name, is The HUB

Stadium's sit-down steak-and-seafood restaurant.

Looking for more traditional pub fare? Hit up the bar in the middle of the entertainment section for items such as burgers and appetizers.

The space is a perfect attraction for booking larger events, something Sharma said has gotten a lot attention, even before it opened.

"We've had a lot of party bookings. We've had a lot of interest since last year," she said. "We're already beginning to sell out of December dates."

The ax throwing also sports a different feel than other spots that have recently opened. Instead of markings directly on the wood, the throwing stalls have computers that beam lights onto the target, allowing participants to play a variety of games. HUB Stadium boasts stations both for smaller axes and larger axes.

About 1,700 people can be in the building at any given time between private events and other activities.

The Novi location is the second for the company, which began five years ago. Its first location is in the former Big Buck Brewery building seen along Interstate 75.

Sharma said The HUB Stadium is a perfect fit for the Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountainwalk complex.

"I know Lucky Strike back in the day was a hit. I know this plaza has really transformed into an entertainment complex. You've got movie theaters, dining," she said. "At night, if you're driving through here on a Friday or Saturday that Fountainwalk just has a life to it."

Those interested in booking a space can do so by visiting thehubstadium.com.

Delay

Continued from Page 1A

may not be experienced, and that yard waste is usually heavier than recycling and garbage.

"They tried, but when the labor force got exhausted, we started to slow down even more," he said.

Priority Waste will add four trucks and extra staff dedicated to compost pickup until operations are back to normal. It plans to add a quality representa-

tive assigned to Westland full-time moving forward. Trucks have also been repaired to keep hydraulic fluid from leaking onto the street, which some residents have reported.

The company expects to be "back to normal" within two weeks.

Residents have expressed exasperation online over waste-hauling delays. Council President Jim Hart said council has received numerous complaints on the issue. Council members appeared mostly sympathetic, but Councilman Peter Herzberg suggested it might be time for a change in service providers.

When Westland entered a 10-year, \$38.5 million contract with Priority Waste in late 2020, officials included a termination clause in the contract that, in Herzberg's view, already may have become necessary.

"With this new company, the way its looking right now its just not working out," he said. "... I think we need to take a look at the out clause. I think we need to set a deadline and go out to bid if things don't get cleared up."

Mayor Bill Wild asked Ruthenberg to commit to getting things back on track and putting extra resources into the

city's pickup until that happens.

"I've been asking the residents to be patient, and they have been," Wild said. "Like you said, it requires you to stay organized. We're going to ask you to do that."

Westland residents continuing to experience waste collection issues can call Priority Waste at 586-228-1200 or submit a complaint online at prioritywaste.com.

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

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Falafel & Company manager Tamara Salami finishes up an iced coffee beverage at the Livonia restaurant on May 17. Tamara has begun her own line of coffees called The Coffee Cat, which she serves at the new Middle Eastern restaurant. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Falafel

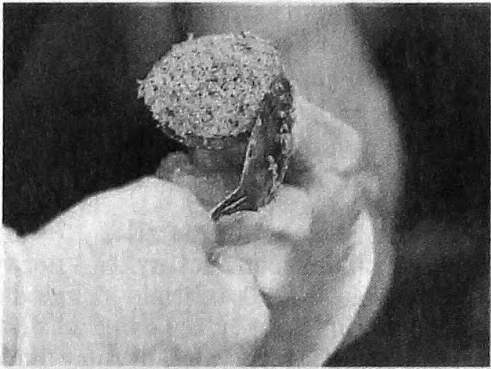
Continued from Page 1A

“I think a restaurant would be great here, especially a Mediterranean restaurant. I know this area needs it,” he said. “So that was the start.”

The menu has many classic dishes, including chicken shawarma, grape leaves and shish kabob, along with new takes on classics, such as cheese-stuffed falafel. It also has a variety of American-style dishes, including burgers, chicken sandwiches and fries prepared in a host of ways.

Zeinab Salami, Sam’s wife, said they’ve constantly crafted new items. “Every day, we’re coming up with new stuff,” she said.

The space also specializes in coffee



A ball of falafel is readied for the fryer.

drinks, crafted by the Salamis’ daughter, Tamara. The Oakland University student said she created her own coffee line, The Coffee Cat, after spending a few years working at Starbucks.

“I source my own beans, I have my own manufacturer that roasts them for



Inside Falafel & Company at 33485 W. Eight Mile in Livonia.



An employee chops up marinated and grilled chicken.

me, and I have my own label on it,” she said.

Falafel & Company is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. It also offers online ordering and delivery through some third-party services such as DoorDash and Grubhub.

More information can be found on its Instagram page, @Falafelandcompany-livonia.

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

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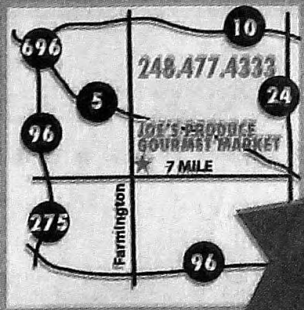
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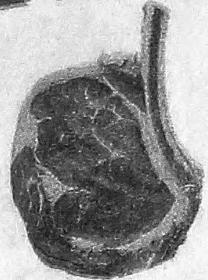
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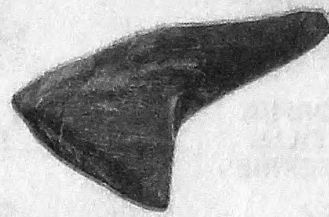
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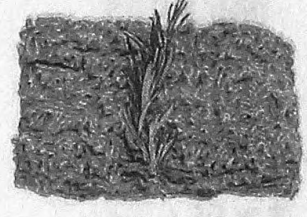
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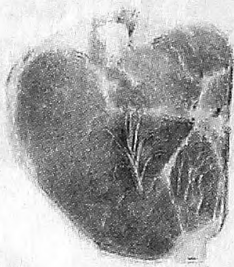
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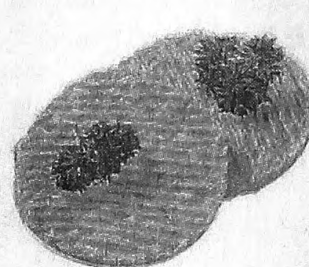
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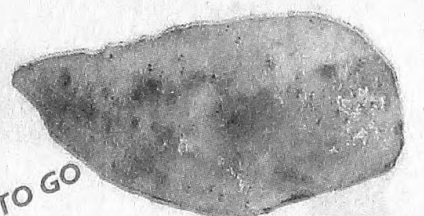


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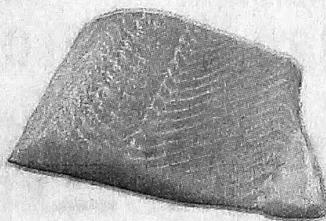
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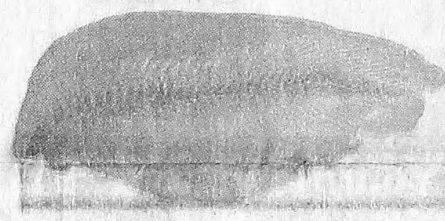
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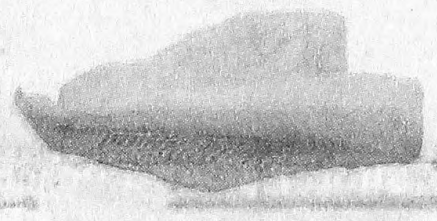
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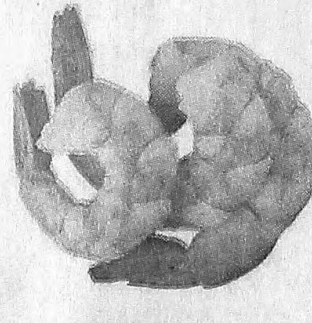
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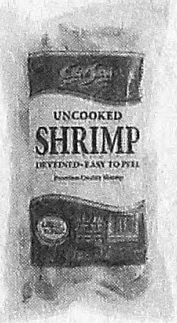
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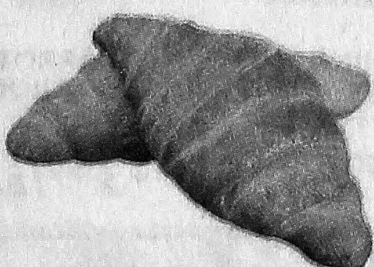
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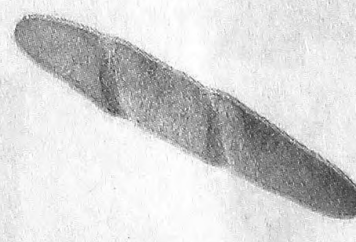
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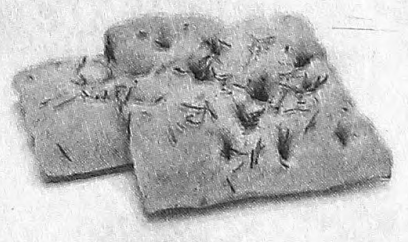
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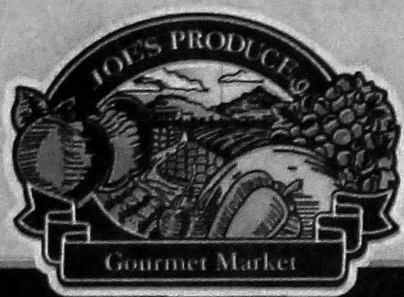
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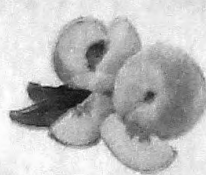
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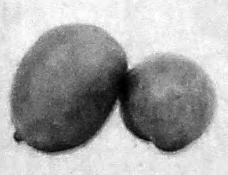
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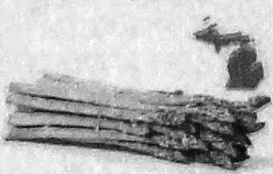
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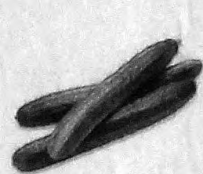
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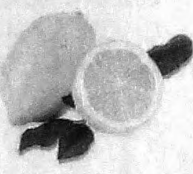
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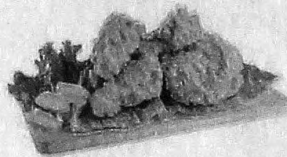


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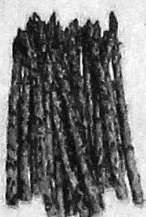


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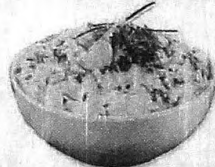
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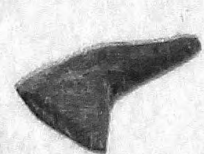


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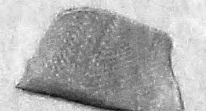
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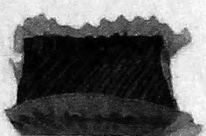
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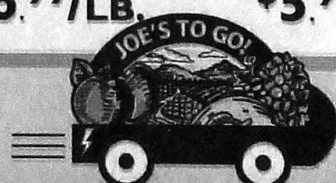
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SPORTS

DCC senior pushes team to regional title

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Friends, family and opposing coaches and players flocked to congratulate Peter Stassinopoulos, who smiled while standing under a shady tree at Salem Hills Golf Club.

It's likely the Detroit Catholic Central senior already knew he had made the

right choice years ago. But this moment, right there, with the coaches from Brighton and Novi, players from Northville and a handful of the Shamrocks' parents all hovering around him and shaking his hand, proved that all his sacrifices were worth it.

Stassinopoulos called his younger self "an outdoors kid." His parents couldn't get him to come inside. He

loved playing sports. It didn't matter what it was. But he loved basketball, soccer and, of course, golf. He grew up living at Walnut Creek Golf Club in South Lyon, so, naturally, he picked up the sport at 8 years old.

With each swing, he fell more in love. He entered tournaments. He improved his game. He got hooked on the sport.

So much so that, at first, he said fare-

well to playing basketball. That made him just a two-sport athlete. And when he realized he could go far in golf, he quit soccer as well. He needed to dedicate all his effort to his true passion.

Those were tough sacrifices to make, especially as someone who was entering middle school at the time.

See SENIOR, Page 2B

GIRLS SOCCER



The Farmington Hills Mercy soccer team celebrates after beating Stevenson on June 2 in the Division 1 girls soccer district final at North Farmington.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mercy claims 1st district title since 2012

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Give Kristina Sikora credit.

The first-year Farmington Hills Mercy girls soccer coach called her shot before the season started.

After spending three years leading the JV, she took the opening on varsity, and one of the first things she did was

tell her Marlins that they were going to win a Division 1 district title.

That's very, very bold because, for one, Mercy hadn't won a district championship since 2012, and, for two, it was playing in the same tournament as No. 8 Livonia Stevenson, one of the hottest teams in Michigan.

The Spartans won the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East, al-

most upset top-ranked Northville to win the league title outright and had just two losses in the regular season (the other coming to No. 7 Rochester Hills Stoney Creek in a non-conference matchup).

So with a bold statement like that, it wasn't a surprise that the Marlins (11-5-3) needed a bold play during an intense moment of the game to pull off the upset against Stevenson in the June 2

championship.

The two squads played to a 0-0 tie in regulation.

But Mercy striker Kirsten Fitzgerald received a through-ball during the first overtime and managed to sneak one past Stevenson goalkeeper Chase Gregor to give the Marlins a 1-0 advantage.

See MERCY, Page 2B

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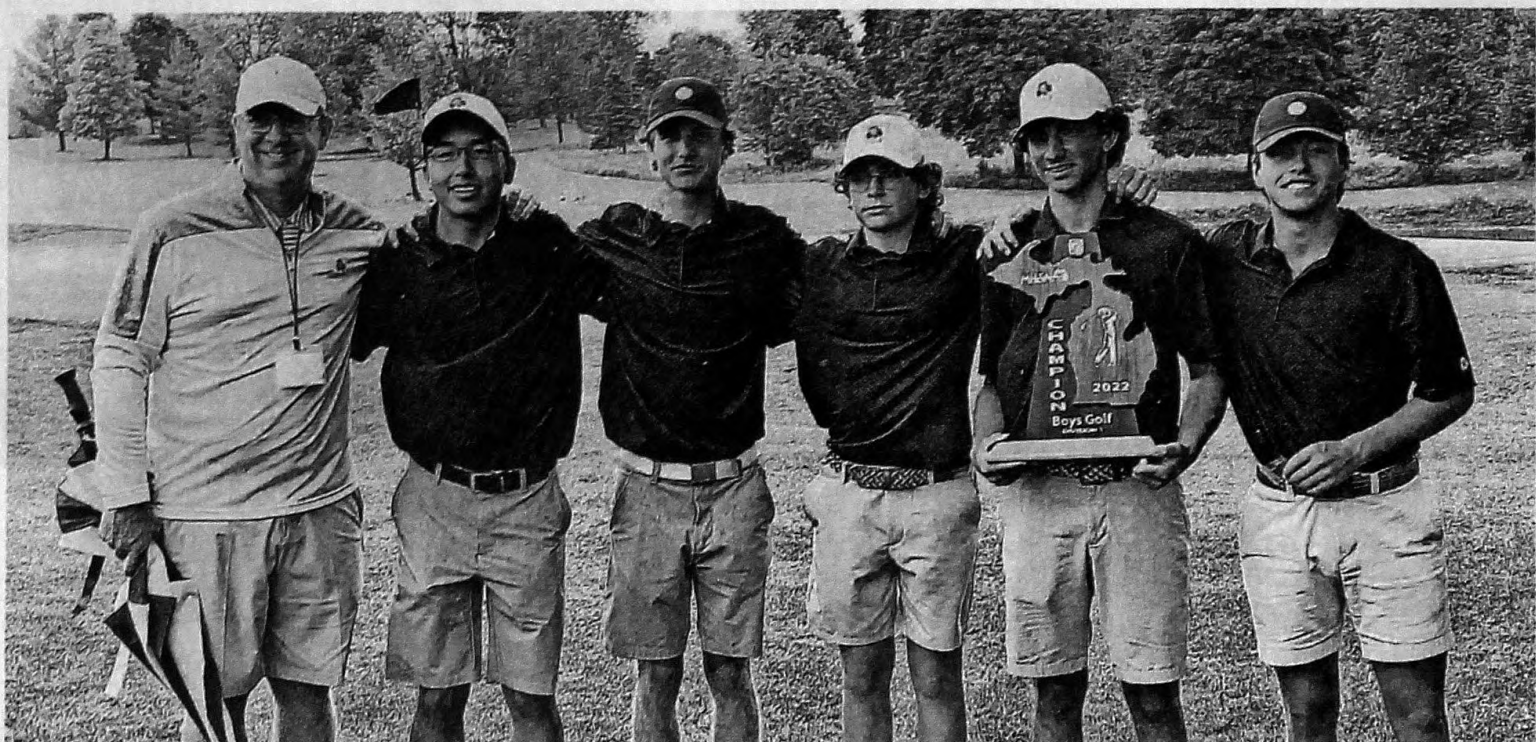
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Detroit Catholic Central celebrates winning the Division 1 boys golf regional June 1 at Salem Hills Golf Club. Pictured are, from left: coach Mike Anderson, Neil Zhu, Matthew Mans, Julian Menser, Peter Stassinopoulos and Liam Casey. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Senior

Continued from Page 1B

And, sure, the “what ifs” have occasionally crept in ever since. He’s watched his buddies win district and regional basketball championships at CC. He’s seen the hockey team hoist the state championship trophy plenty.

But now, finally, he has proof that sticking it out with golf was all worth it.

During Thursday’s Division 1 regional, the Robert Morris signee shot a 3-under-par 69 to become the individual medalist — making him a regional champion.

What’s more, the Shamrocks shot 289 as a team to win the team regional title as well, the first time doing so in the four years Stassinopoulos has been on the varsity.

When CC plays in the state championship Friday and Saturday at Katke Golf Course, Stassinopoulos will definitely have an extra pep in his step. He’s finally leaving his mark on the program.

“It’s got to be this,” Stassinopoulos said when asked what his favorite memory of his high school career has been. “We’ve made states for the last two, three years. But we’ve never won this. To win regionals, we’ve been longing for that, so we really wanted this.”

Everywhere you look at CC, there are top-shelf athletes.

Conference contenders. District and regional winners. State champions.

Shooting the best round among a

crowded field that included the likes of Northville’s Greg Braun and Ryan Gallagher, White Lake Lakeland’s McCoy Biagioli, Waterford United’s Richie Kuhn, Canton’s Alex Mei, Novi’s Harshan Juttu and Plymouth’s Brayden Niemiec puts Stassinopoulos among the greats at CC.

All it cost him was the opportunity to play basketball and hockey in high school.

“It’s really cool to see them (CC’s basketball and hockey players) succeed as well and to see that is really cool,” Stassinopoulos said. “But this is kind of my home, and the course is where I belong. It feels really nice to be out here.”

Stassinopoulos birdied four holes, hit par on 13 others and bogeyed only once.

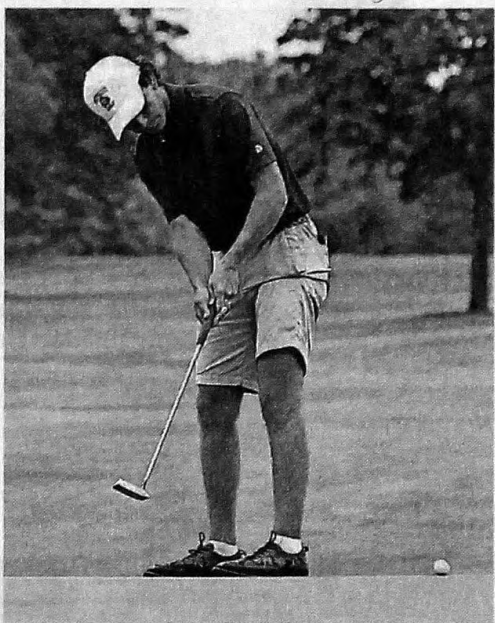
“He’s a terrific young man,” coach Mike Anderson said. “He’s been part of the varsity program since his freshman year. It’s no different than anyone else. You just see the boys mature and turn into young men, and that’s exactly what happened to Peter. He’s always been a good player. Now he’s a good player who makes a lot better decisions than he did in his freshman year. He’s going to do well in golf. He hits it a long ways, he’s strong, he’s smart. He’s got a good short game. I’m very happy for him.”

Stassinopoulos didn’t do it alone, of course.

And Anderson called it the “lowest-stressed” regional he’s ever watched in his 12 years leading the team.

And, yeah, when your team has two players under par and the other three just near it, it’s easy to say that.

The only problem is Thursday was



Detroit Catholic Central’s Peter Stassinopoulos putts during the Division 1 boys golf regional.

only the second tournament Anderson has had all five of his starters in the line-up at the same time. While most teams play 10 to 15 rounds together before the playoffs, CC has just one match where everyone showed up. That’s almost unheard of, honestly.

But golf is, after all, an individual sport at heart. And each player showed up when it mattered the most.

Helping Stassinopoulos was sophomore Julian Menser, who shot 1-under to tie for second individually with Gallagher, Kuhn, Biagioli and Juttu. Senior Liam Casey went 2-over to tie for 10th,

Local golfers in state competition

Division 1

Teams

Detroit Catholic Central (Peter Stassinopoulos, Liam Casey, Neil Zhu, seniors, Matthew Mans, junior, Julian Menser, sophomore)

Northville (Ryan Gallagher, Greg Braun, Mason Sokolowski, Cameron Charles, juniors, Jack Thallman, senior)

Individuals

McCoy Biagioli, junior, White Lake Lakeland

Harshan Juttu, sophomore, Novi

MJ Orlowski, senior, Livonia Franklin

Division 2

Teams

South Lyon East (Ryan Kruschka, sophomore, Kameron Knox, freshman, Chase Temple, Brady Renard, Adam Jagacki, seniors)

Birmingham Brother Rice (Lorenzo Pinili, Marcus Lee, juniors, Leandro Pinili, freshman, Matt Baer, Kyle Gruley, seniors)

Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (Ryan Li, David Schmitt, freshmen, Larrance Xing, David Wu, Duncan Murdock, juniors)

Individual

Joseph Fisher, sophomore, Detroit Country Day

Division 4

Individual

Caleb Quick, sophomore, Plymouth Christian Academy

while junior Matthew Mans was 3-over to tie for 12th and senior Neil Zhu carded 4-over to tie with six others for 14th.

Yeah, all five were in the top 15 when it was all said and done.

“We had team dinner last night, and everybody was really comfortable, really calm and focused,” Anderson said. “They had played some practice rounds, and they really felt good. They were confident going into this morning, and we got off to a good start. We just kind of held it together all day. I’ve been part of a lot of regionals, and this is definitely the lowest-stressed regional that we’ve had. They played so well today. All of them were hanging around par most of the day. ... Six holes into the tournament we had the lead and just increased it throughout the day.”

Mercy

Continued from Page 1B

“She was speedy and able to get by their defenders,” Sikora said. “She got past their goalie, and she just slotted it home. It just looked like your typical easy shot right into the corner.”

Except the play was anything but easy.

The goal came in a moment filled with plenty of tension. And it wasn’t a walk-off home run either. The Marlins still had to buckle up and run out the clock in the second overtime to secure the 1-0 victory, which, mercifully, they did.

“It’s funny because it’s literally a blur right now,” Sikora said. “We both wanted the win, and I just think everyone was out there battling. We knew we had to get it done right now. That was our message going into overtime: We need to get this done now. We don’t want to go to penalty kicks.

“Penalty kicks is never a great way to either win or lose a game. We needed to get things done now.”

“You go in respecting your opponent, but you know what you’re capable of doing,” Sikora added. “I think we’re capable of winning. It’s just coming up and playing big in a big game. I told them at the beginning of the season that we’d win the district final and move on. It’s just about them believing in themselves. ...

“That’s what it was like going in to play against them (Stevenson). We knew they’d be a tough team to play. We were preparing for that, but it was just a back-and-forth battle. Obviously, it was a little stressful, but we played well, and they were a great opponent.”

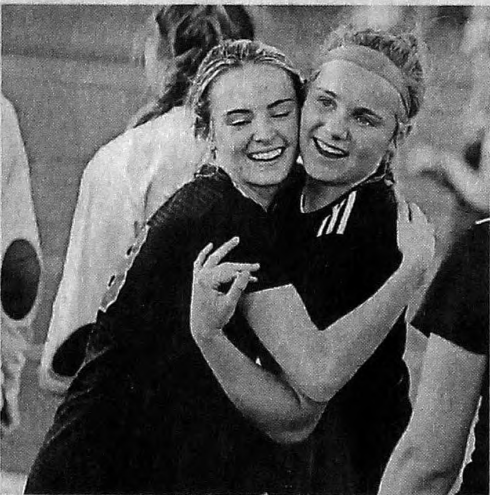
Right now, Stevenson coach Ken Shingledecker is wondering “what if?”

Not “what if the Spartans were better prepared?”

Not “what if they had more experienced players?”

No, he’s wondering what if Stevenson (17-3) wasn’t so darn exhausted?

During the May 31 district semifinal,



Farmington Hills Mercy’s Makenna Sanom (left) hugs teammate Kristen Fitzgerald, who scored the goal to beat Stevenson, 1-0.

Stevenson and Novi played another overtime thriller, with Marlo Lulgjuraj pushing in the game-winner with 7 seconds left, ensuring the Spartans a 4-3 win.

So when the championship went to overtime, Shingledecker knew his girls would be gassed. Especially coming off a game he referred to as an absolute “circus” because three goals were scored in overtime.

“We played 100 minutes on Tuesday and then had to turn around and play 100 more today,” he said. “It was a lot for our kids. We had to spend a lot of energy to even get to this game. Our kids never quit, but it’s a really hard thing to do when you have to turn around in 48 hours and play another game.”

Shingledecker was hoping the Spartans would have enough left to make one last push at an equalizer in the final OT period and, hopefully, get a chance at winning it all in the waning moments.

“We had a ton of chances to score, and we really just didn’t get it done,” he said. “Their goalkeeper (Jordan LeVasseur) played really well. We certainly thought we carried the game and generated the most opportunities. ... You’ve got to overcome it at times, and we weren’t able to. We do deserve better than what the result gave us.”



Stevenson’s Jenna Barbour (right) dribbles away from Farmington Hills Mercy’s Olivia Martinez during the Division 1 district final June 2 at North Farmington. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Girls soccer scoreboard

Division 1

Farmington Hills Mercy 1, Livonia Stevenson 0 (F/OT)

Bloomfield Hills 2, Walled Lake Northern 0

Northville 1, Salem 0

Hartland 3, South Lyon 2

Division 2

South Lyon East, Pinckney (Friday)

Bloomfield Hills Marian 1, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook 0

Division 4

Plymouth Christian 3, Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 2

Livonia takes field with empty net vs. Brighton in girls lacrosse regional final

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — When Brighton senior Amanda Granader took the field Friday afternoon, nothing seemed out of the ordinary.

It took one of her opponents to point out the elephant in the stadium.

On one end of the field stood an empty unguarded lacrosse net.

“I literally got on the field and someone who I’m friends with on that team was like, ‘Oh, do you notice anything different? I take a look around and I’m like, “You guys have five defenders?” She’s like, ‘No.’

“I look at the net and there’s no goalie. It’s definitely something weird to adjust to.”

Pulling the goalie for an extra attacker late in a hockey game is a standard strategy for a team trying to tie a game.

There was nothing standard about Livonia beginning its Division 1 regional championship game against Brighton with its goalie on the sidelines and an extra defender on the field.

The Bulldogs scored five goals into an empty net in the first 5 minutes and 26 seconds of the game before Livonia goalie Allison Breitbart entered the game.

The goals just kept coming for Brighton, which won 24-5 to capture its fourth straight regional championship.

Granader scored two of her five goals and Gabby Mainhardt scored one of her seven goals without being challenged by a goalie.

“It was pretty funny,” Mainhardt said. “It was a smart play. I get it. I was not expecting that at all. It was kind of cool, kind of fun to spice things up.”

“It doesn’t make you feel accomplished if you can shoot it from so far,” Granader said. “It’s super weird thinking you can shoot from 12 meters and it’s going to go in.”

For Livonia coach Chris Merucci, it was a case of desperate times requiring desperate measures. Livonia had been blown out three times by Brighton in the last two seasons, including 26-6 in the



Brighton’s Gabby Mainhardt scored seven goals during a 24-5 victory over Livonia in a Division 1 regional championship lacrosse game June 3 at Novi. DAN ZEPPA/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

KLAA championship game on May 16.

“I actually consulted a couple of my friends who are D1 lacrosse coaches this morning,” Merucci said. “It’s a strategy that men employ a lot in the men’s game. They call it a 10-man ride. In girls, it would be an 11-man ride.

“The theory is really high pressure in the midfield to cause turnovers and keep a spy back for any long passes to the goal. It really has to be executed to a ‘T.’ It has to be flawless. You have to have the personnel and speed to do it. We gave it a shot. We figured we had nothing to lose.”

Brighton coach Ryan Skomial gave a hat tip to Merucci for trying something different.

“It’s a bold strategy, so respect,” she said. “They made adjustments and tried new things. I’ve got to respect the

moves. It’s definitely interesting. Overall, I’m proud of the girls for making the adjustments they needed to.”

The rout of Livonia concluded a regional run in which Brighton won its three games by a combined score of 68-19.

“In the semifinal, we’ll have some challenges,” Skomial said. “The girls are going to have to bring their ‘A’ game. I tell every girl to go into it like it’s Rockford. We don’t take any team lightly, so I’m hoping they keep that mentality going forward.”

Lauren Zaccagni scored three goals and Ella Boose two for Brighton, which initially triggered a running clock by taking an 11-1 lead with 8:17 left in the first half. Livonia got the deficit under 10 goals twice before a goal nine seconds into the second half resulted in the rest

of the game being played with a running clock.

Brighton is one of the traditional powers in Michigan lacrosse, while this is only the third season Livonia (12-8) has had a team. The run to the regional championship game was the fledgling program’s deepest after losing to Novi in the regional quarterfinals in 2019 and Brighton in the regional semifinals in 2021.

Ava Perrone scored three goals for Livonia.

“It’s a growing process,” Merucci said. “Eventually, you keep working hard, you’ll get there. Again, an area like Brighton, Hartland and whatnot, the feeders start early in second or third grade. It’s a challenge to be in Livonia with no feeder program. They’re working hard. They’ll get there some day.”

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Public invited to sign card for retiring Churchill AD

Brandon Folsom [Hometownlife.com](#)
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Here's your chance to say farewell to Livonia Churchill athletic director Marc Hage, who is retiring after 26 years at the conclusion of this school year. Churchill Athletic Patrons is hosting its 21st annual golf outing on Sunday,

June 12, at Whispering Willows Golf Course. Since it'll be Hage's final event leading the Chargers' athletic department, CAP has purchased an 8-foot wide farewell banner to give to him. CAP encourages anyone who wants to stop by the outing and sign the banner to offer him a farewell message



Hage

Nine current athletes will each be

should do so by 1 p.m. Hage founded CAP 22 years ago. Ever since then, it has awarded more than \$175,000 in scholarships to Churchills' student-athletes.

awarded \$1,000 scholarships during a dinner presentation station at 7 p.m. For more information about the outing, visit [chs-cap.com](#). *Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsom-brandonj.*

Hartland senior's hat trick lifts team to district title

Bill Khan [Livingston Daily](#)
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

HOWELL — Hartland proved it can win soccer games without Hannah Kastamo, going 3-1 and scoring 15 goals when she missed the start of her senior season with an injury. So, maybe the Eagles would have found a way to win a second straight district championship if she hadn't returned, but not having Kastamo on the field isn't a concept anyone at Hartland cares to imagine. Kastamo scored all three goals for defending state champion Hartland in a 3-2 victory over South Lyon in a Division 1 district final June 2 at Parker Middle School. "She's been involved in all five of our goals in districts," Hartland coach Andrew Kartsounes said. "... It's real nice to have her back and playing that way. It really changes what we can do." Kastamo scored some of Hartland's biggest goals during its run to the state championship last season, finishing with 22 goals to tie for third on the Eagles' single-season list. She had goals in three of the last four games of the post-season, including one with 7:33 left to beat Novi, 1-0, in the regional semifinals. With the graduation of Justina L'Esperance (24 goals) and Julia Pietila (18), Kastamo's goal-scoring ability is even more critical. She has 12 goals and four assists in 12 games this year. "It was exciting, it was good," Kastamo said. "Obviously, it wasn't all me. The teammates set me up for the goals



Hartland's Hannah Kastamo (right) and South Lyon's Mackenzie Buckley track the ball during the district championship game June 2 at Parker Middle School. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

and did all the defending, all the hard work. I was the one to shoot the ball." Kastamo gave Hartland a 2-0 lead with two early goals and added a third in the second half after the Lions got within 2-1 by halftime. She opened the scoring 3 minutes and 33 seconds into the game when she took a long pass from Emma Kastamo and got in behind the defense for a

breakaway on the right side, firing a shot inside the far post. The second goal came with 29:35 left in the first half when Kastamo buried the rebound of a shot by Amanda Roach. Rhianna Schermerhorn put South Lyon on the board when she scored off a corner kick by Kourtney Farrington with 18:03 left in the first half.

Kastamo restored the two-goal lead when she put a shot inside the right post with 36:39 left in the game, but South Lyon countered with another goal off a corner kick with 19:38 remaining. This time, Schermerhorn took the corner kick and Maggie MacGregor provided the finish. "It's an intense game," Kastamo said. "You just have to make sure that your defense is holding strong, and ours did." South Lyon (12-5-2) was attempting to win its first district championship. After finishing fourth in the Lakes Valley Conference, the Lions beat two tradition-rich programs in Brighton and Okemos to earn a shot at third-ranked Hartland. "Our girls are warriors," South Lyon coach Brian Elliott said. "If you look at our first game against Brighton, we were down two separate times in the game and battled back and ended up beating them in sort of dramatic fashion toward the end. "It feels good to have girls like this who truly care about succeeding and about winning, because that's not always the case. There are girls who come out just to have fun. This team really truly were competitors and were fighters. You saw that in the game; they fought all the way to the end." Hartland (13-2-3) advances to the regional semifinals against unranked Farmington Hills Mercy (11-5-3) at 5 p.m. Tuesday at Novi's Meadows Stadium. Lake Orion and 12th-ranked Bloomfield Hills are in the other semifinal at 7. The championship game was scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at Novi.

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Pinckney falls to South Lyon East in district final

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

PINCKNEY — No girls soccer team could beat Pinckney 11-on-11 over the final 15 games of the season.

It took a shootout for 10th-ranked South Lyon East to eliminate the Pirates, 2-1, in a Division 2 district championship game Friday night at Pinckney.

After a scoreless first half, both teams scored in the second half. Two 10-minute overtime periods couldn't settle the issue, so the title came down to penalty kicks.

Pinckney had one miss on five kicks, while East made all five of its kicks. The Cougars clinched it on a successful kick by Reganne Koskela.

"We played amazing," Pinckney coach Sean Grace said. "They have a couple players that are really, really good. We were able to stop their best player from scoring. Payton (Delongchamp, Pinckney's goalie) played unbelievable. ... She made three or four saves that I have no idea how she got to it. She played amazing, the entire team."

"I'm upset, but I'm not mad. It's one of those things where we played one of the best teams in the state and went into a PK shootout."

Pinckney (13-4-2) entered the game with an 11-game winning streak and a 14-game unbeaten streak in which it went 12-0-2. The Pirates allowed only six goals in their final 15 games.

One of those goals came in response to a score early in the second half by Pinckney's Claire Denton, forcing overtime.

Pinckney was playing in its fourth straight district championship game, seeking its first district title. The Cougars beat the Pirates in the district final last season, 3-1. It's the second time Pinckney has lost a shootout in a district final, the other time being in a 5-4 loss to Hartland in 2000.

"I thought our season was amazing," Grace said. "The girls played great. We got better throughout the season. They were super unselfish. I really couldn't be more proud of the way the girls handled everything. It's just a shame it comes to an end like this, but they're an amazing team. South Lyon East is an amazing team."



Pinckney's Claire Denton (left) gets around South Lyon East's Alexandria Armstrong on June 3 in a Division 2 district final.
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Northville ‘had to dig deep’ in district final

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Jeannine Reddy sighed loudly and then stated the obvious.

“I had pretty crazy high blood pressure for all 40 minutes in the second half,” the first-year Northville coach said.

It’s not hard to see why.

Thursday’s matchup was much, much, more than just the Division 1 girls soccer district final.

Two weeks ago, it took everything the Mustangs (14-0-5) had to fight back, score a goal in the final 8 minutes and force a 1-1 tie against Salem.

The stalemate kept Northville’s undefeated record intact, ensured the team the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West championship and proved its squad was every bit worthy of its recent No. 1 ranking in D-1.

And the rematch in the district final was no different.

Late in the first half, Lauren Moraitis sailed a corner kick toward Caroline Melloche, who toed in a goal to give Northville — still the top-ranked team in Michigan — a 1-0 advantage.

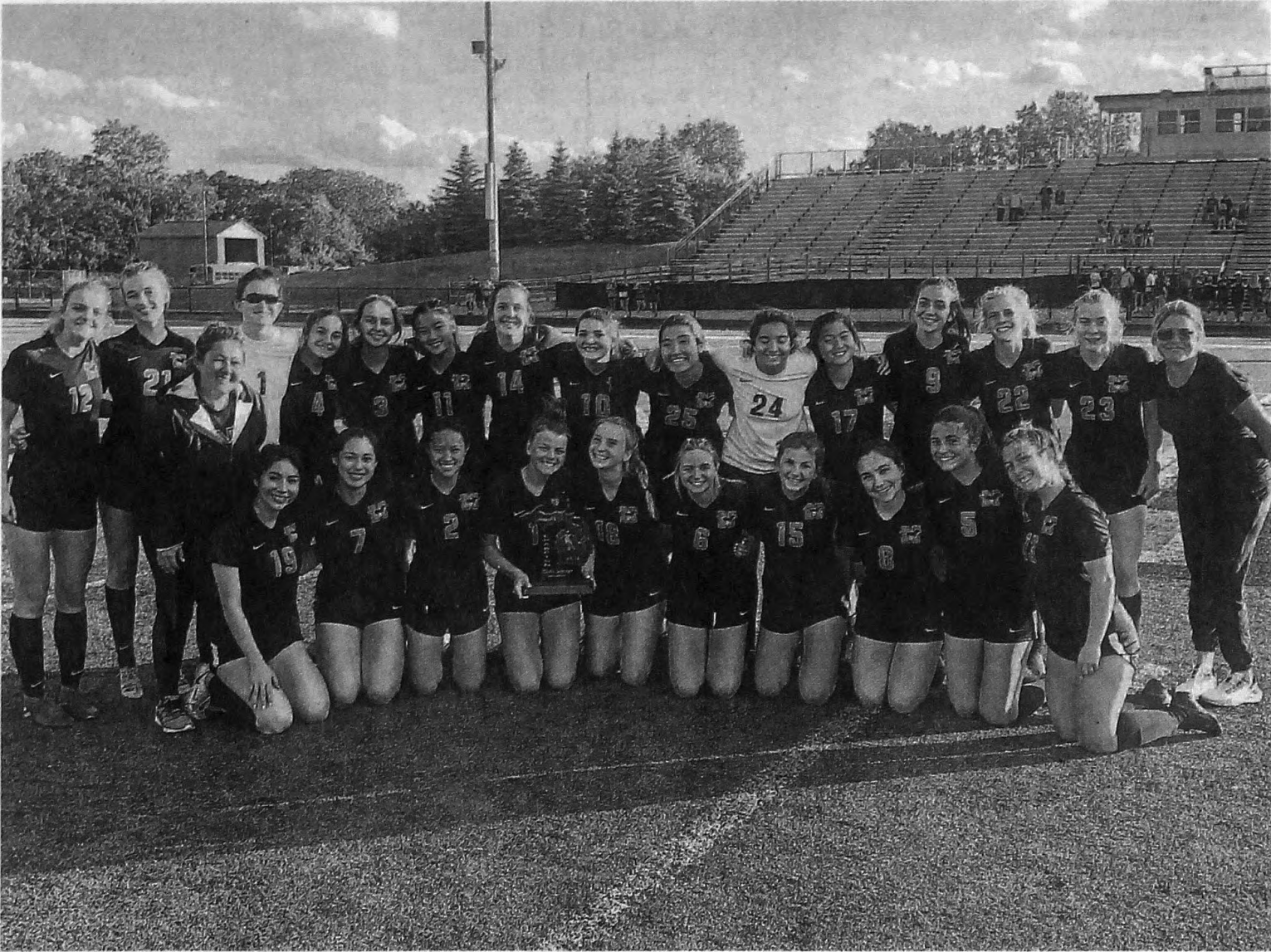
The Mustangs created more scoring chances in the second half. They just couldn’t get any of the shots past Salem goalkeeper Ava Holloway.

They were forced to sweat out another nail-biter for all 40 minutes of the second half. And they somehow did it, shutting out the 14th-ranked Rocks (11-5-4) and holding on for the 1-0 victory.

So, yeah, that partly explains the high blood pressure for Reddy, who has pushed her team to a regional semifinal appearance in just her first year (and we’ll talk about the other reason she was stressed during the matchup later).

“That goal was a big turning point for our team,” Reddy said. “They were quite nervous. I could feel that before the game started. But that goal helped.”

“Salem pressured quite a bit, and we had to fix our formation. At halftime we needed to regroup and adjust to what they were doing. In the second half, we played much better. We didn’t score, but we kept them at bay for 40 minutes. We expected quite a bit of energy from the other team, so I had to keep my girls’ level-headed.”



The No. 1 Northville girls soccer team edged Salem 1-0 to win the Division 1 district final June 2.
COURTESY OF NORTHVILLE ATHLETICS

Goalie Simran Magnan stood tall in the net to keep the clean sheet for the Mustangs.

The Mustangs had a chance to scout the Rocks before their 4-0 win over Plymouth in the district semifinal, as Salem was playing Canton in its semifinal at the same venue (and it took overtime for the Rocks to win, 3-2).

But many of them just kept to themselves during warm-ups and chose not to watch Salem’s close-call victory. That’s how locked in Northville needed to be to get through the district tournament.

“A lot of them didn’t want to watch it,” Reddy added. “They were just focusing

on our game. When you’re playing a team for the third time, it’s never easy. And no one can come out of this one with a draw. Someone has got to win this game, and that’s what I was letting them know in practice: No one had won the game yet.”

“Obviously, I’m happy with the result, but it was a tough game. We had to dig deep and find a way to win it.”

Staying focused was also a challenge for Reddy.

She spent 18 years coaching at Canton before taking the Northville opening. She’s incredibly familiar with all three of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park schools.

Both Plymouth and Salem have been rivals to her for years.

It was just her luck that this was the first year in a long time that Northville was thrown into the same district tournament as the P-CEP schools, so she got to face her two biggest rivals three times apiece this spring.

Talk about blood pressure. The win was huge for Northville but it was just as big for its new coach.

“Let’s just say the girls are really excited,” Reddy said, laughing.

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

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This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

australianwordgames.com.au

Aделаіде	Hobart	Perth
Аlbany	Hostels	Port Macquarie
Bega	Innisfail	Roma
Blyth	Kiama	Snug
Busselton	Kudla	Sydney
Cairns	Lismore	Toowoomba
Ceduna	Lorne	Warragul
City	Maree	Wollongong
Coffs Harbour	Maya	Wyndham
Colo	Nerang	Yass
Dubbo	Newcastle	
Hervey Bay	Nowra	

TODAY'S ANSWER

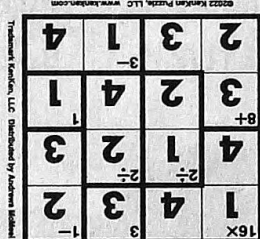
Finding a place to call home

Paradise found

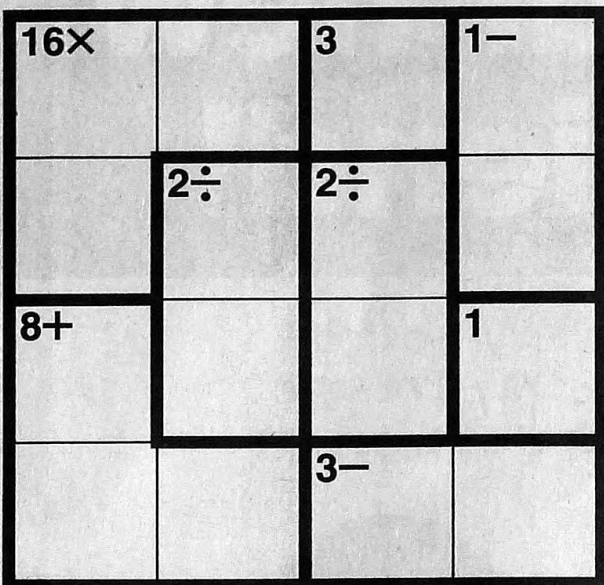
C	Y	W	Y	N	D	H	A	M	F	I	N	D	I	N
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O	V	L	G	N	O	T	L	E	S	S	U	B	S	F
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L	E	A	E	R	B	C	A	Y	L	D	O	D	C	S
O	H	N	R	A	E	I	E	U	L	N	B	T	W	H
N	K	Y	T	N	L	R	G	O	O	E	A	C	E	A
G	I	A	H	G	O	A	A	W	R	Y	R	L	N	R
O	A	L	A	M	R	L	R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

KENKEN

1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.



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SUDOKU | CREATORS

Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: BRONZE**

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Band work
5 Dominates, in sports jargon
9 Prenatal
14 Bryce Canyon's state
15 Dams and does
16 Eel, at sushi bars
17 Passed-down knowledge
18 Kansas' state reptiles
20 What a sheepdog shakes with
22 Ranger's venue
23 Photog's choice
24 Explorer of kids' TV
25 Type of road turnoffs
30 Bloke
34 US ally since '48
35 Fortune 500 company
36 Look too long
37 Exit
39 Pantry invader
40 Reason for some raises
41 Powerful person
42 Reagan attorney general
44 Shell-game accessory
45 Getz of jazz
46 Aerobic maneuver
48 Disorganized places
50 Bake-sale sponsor
51 Pale yellows
54 Remarkable thing, quaintly
59 Dolphin with a unique beak
61 Dame Dench

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 62 | Popeye's nemesis | 8 | Former fast flier | 32 | Disney mermaid |
| 63 | Short on pizzazz | 9 | Considerable commotion | 33 | Piece of potpourri |
| 64 | Sports reporter Andrews | 10 | Theater intermission | 36 | Operates a refinery |
| 65 | Lacquer ingredient | 11 | Narrative | 38 | Sacco's codefendant |
| 66 | Crumb catchers, at times | 12 | Carders' concerns | 43 | Groups of seas and sins |
| 67 | Strengthen, with "up" | 13 | Enumerate | 46 | High-end audio brand |
| | | 19 | Airborne anomalies | 47 | Type of aircraft engine |
| | | 21 | Pale yellow | 49 | Sweater fabric |
| DOWN | | 24 | Showtime crime series | 51 | Mr. or Mrs. |
| 1 | Chasm | 25 | Leaves rudely | 52 | Double agent |
| 2 | Langston Hughes poem | 26 | Fitness-motto starter | 53 | A/C capacity measures |
| 3 | Actress Teri | 27 | Non ____ (unwelcome) | 54 | Picnic beverage |
| 4 | Exclamation of exasperation | 28 | Theater offerings | 55 | Memo directive |
| 5 | "Look Back in Anger" playwright | 29 | Recluse | 56 | Finnish coin |
| 6 | Exclamation of elation | 31 | Oprah's production company | 57 | Thor's father |
| 7 | Call to a queue | | | 58 | Theme of the puzzle |
| | | | | 60 | Pro Bowl org. |

DOWN

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Chasm | series |
| 2 Langston Hughes poem | 25 Leaves rudely |
| 3 Actress Teri | 26 Fitness-motto starter |
| 4 Exclamation of exasperation | 27 Non ____ (unwelcome) |
| 5 "Look Back in Anger" playwright | 28 Theater offerings |
| 6 Exclamation of elation | 29 Recluse |
| 7 Call to a queue | 31 Oprah's production company |

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
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59							60				61				
62						63					64				
65						66					67				

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**TODAY'S
ANSWER**

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


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Sr. Purchasing Manager with Rivian Automotive, LLC in Plymouth, MI. Lead Reqst for Intrmtn (RFI), Request for Quotation (RFQ), Request for Proposal (RFP) & strategic sourcing process. Multiple positions open. RQMTS: Bach deg or foreign equiv in Busn Mngmnt, Supply Chain Mngmnt, or a closely related field & 5 yrs of progressively resp for a Mgmt deg or foreign equiv in an acceptable field as stated abv. + 2 yrs of exp negotiating purchase agreements & developing procurement strategies for metal & plastic components, incl fastners. Exp must incl: assessing & coordinating logistics to meet internal & external requests & ensure receipt specifications are received; performing cost effectiveness analysis to identify potential suppliers; sourcing parts on time to meet build/program milestones in collaboration w/ engg, program, & supplier quality team; performing cost savings activities to meet annual targets by VAVE plans, logistics consolidation, long term agreement negotiation & resourcing parts; audit potential suppliers' facilities for technical capability & QA standards along w/ supplier quality & engg team; & identifying & sourcing new/alternate parts per engg change requests/requisitions. Email resume to Rivian Automotive, LLC, Attn: Mobility, Job Ref #: SPM21MD, hrrmobility@rivian.com

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Garage Sale! Woodbridge Estates on Geddes between Beck & Denton. June 9th, 10th & 11th, 9am-4pm
Livonia - Annual Sub Sale - btw Wayne & Newburgh, enter Sub from Ann Arbor Trail or Joy. June 9th - 11th, 9-5p. Over 30 Homes. Hunting/Golf/Garden equip., Ice maker, Sewing mach., Tools, etc.
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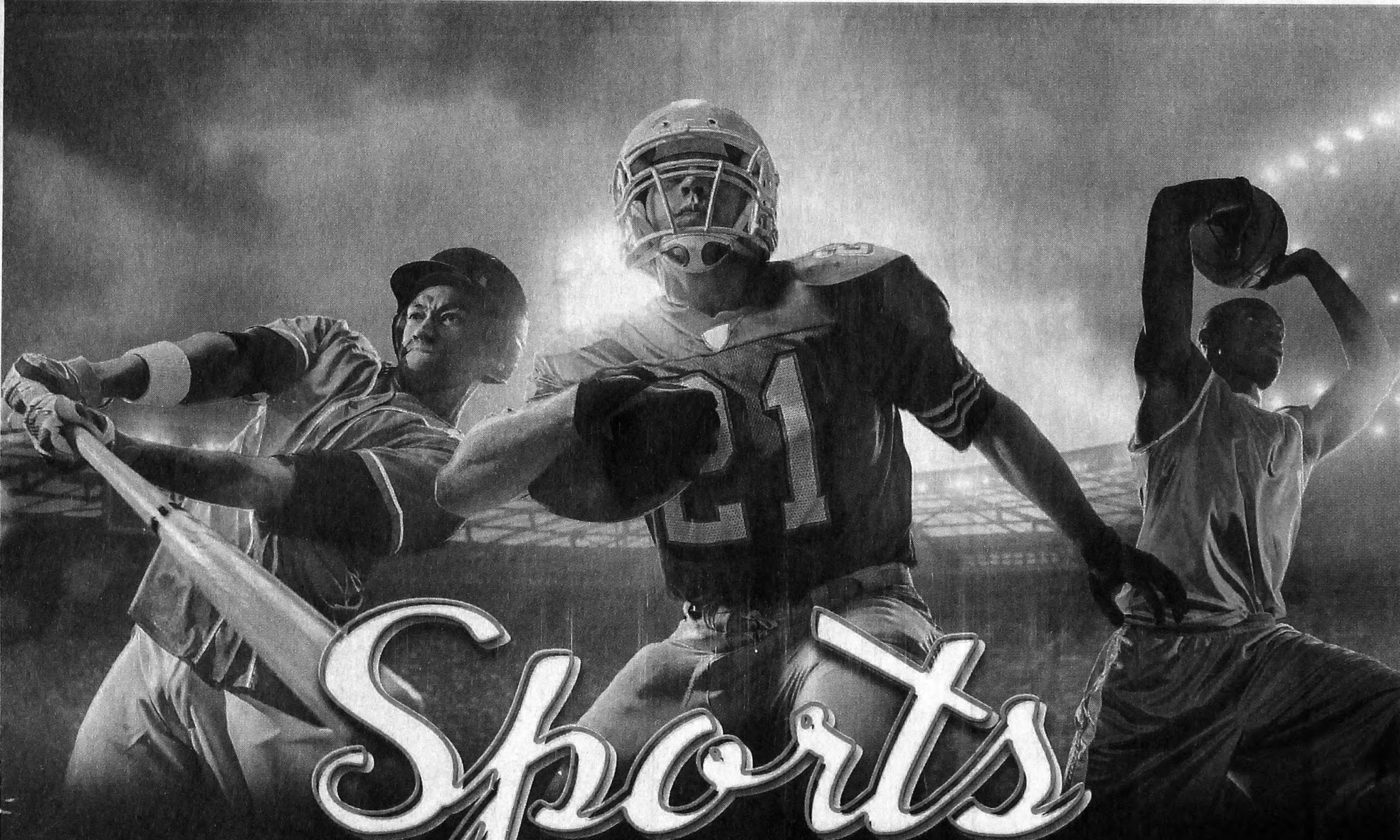
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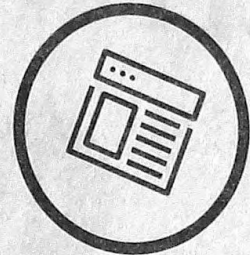
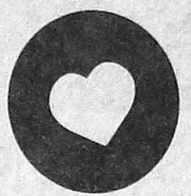
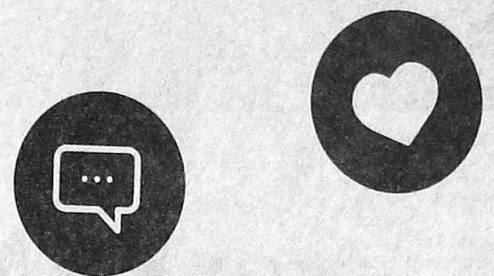
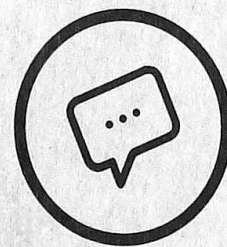
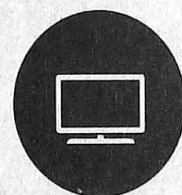
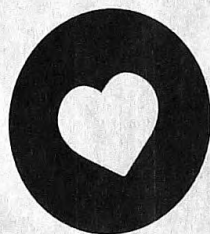
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