



CANTON

# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Livonia Noble Library's future still unclear

### Branch has been closed for 3 years due to mold concerns

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Rumors that Livonia will permanently close the Alfred Noble Library are, according to city administration, premature.

But, nearly three years after the library first closed in October 2019 due to mold concerns, its future is still uncertain.

"We have not made that decision yet," Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan said regarding a potential closure. "But, obviously, there's a couple things that have happened that created an opportunity for the library commission to ask where our library system is headed in the future."

The city's library commission is in the process of

selecting a firm to create a strategic plan for all three of the city's library buildings — an initiative originally pitched in 2021. Brosnan said that process will help her office decide what to do with Noble. The process will allow residents to voice their concerns and ideas as they've been able to do with the Livonia Vision 21 and Greenmead master plans.

"The cool thing about this is it will look at the entire

See LIBRARY, Page 2A



Peter Frangie, vice president of Communications for BJ's Wholesale Club, shows off some seasonal items available to purchase at the store, including fresh pumpkins. PHOTOS BY LAURA COLVIN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## BJ's Wholesale Club opens at new location in Canton

Laura Colvin Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BJ's Wholesale Club offers everything consumers expect to find in a large store of its kind — from groceries, produce, pet supplies and personal care to clothing, electronics, furniture and seasonal items — along with a few surprises.

Last Friday, the company opened its newest location at 43690 Ford Road in Canton Township, where JC Penney was once located. Club memberships cost \$55.

"We're excited to bring our value and quality to the hardworking people of the Canton community," said Peter Frangie, BJ's vice president of communications.

He said the company is headquartered in Marlborough, Massachusetts, and currently operates 230 clubs, mostly along the east coast.

As the company moves westward, the new Canton location is Michigan's fifth. The first Michigan location opened in 2019 in Madison Heights.

On its website, BJ's boasts annual revenues of \$16.7 billion.

While BJ's stocks the national brands consumers

See CLUB, Page 2A



Employee Sara Armstrong, of Westland, helps stock the deli counter at the new location.

## Stevenson grad faces long recovery after carjacking, shooting

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Justin Schultz has his whole life ahead of him. But what's ahead looks a little murkier than it did a few weeks ago.

Schultz, 22, a Livonia Stevenson graduate, survived a gunshot wound he sustained Aug. 17 when three men stole his car. He had been leaving his apartment in Southfield to grab some food.

"I saw someone running up with a rifle, and he got like four or five feet away from me," Schultz said. "He said, 'Give me them keys.' That's verbatim what he said. My mind must have just been in shock, like, this can't be real."

He said the next thing he knew, he had been shot in the leg, and he threw the car keys toward the trio.

The three assailants almost immediately crashed Schultz's car and fled the scene on foot. Police have two of the men in custody and are working to locate the third as well as a fourth man who showed up later with a getaway car.

"Thankfully, they didn't take his cell phone," said Paul Schultz, Justin's father. "If they had, he would have bled to death and we'd be planning a funeral instead."

The gunshot broke Justin Scultz's right femur, severed his femoral artery and damaged the nerves in his leg. He's expected to begin inpatient

See RECOVERY, Page 2A

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# Farmington Players choose comedy for September show

Courtesy of The Farmington Players

The Farmington Players present "Suite Surrender," a screwball comedy that pays homage to the classic farces of the 1930s and 1940s with fast-paced dialogue, slamming doors, physical comedy, and escalating stakes.

Claudia McFadden (Rose Randall Warner) and Athena Sinclair (Hilary Borlack) are rival divas who despise one another but are appearing at the same wartime benefit concert that evening. Keith Firstenberg plays Bernard Dunlap, the hotel general manager who tries his best to keep the divas apart, but complications arise when they are assigned to the same suite.

Director Tony Targan wants the play to pay homage to the World War II era. "Suite Surrender" is set in 1942, the start of the United States' war effort. Star entertainers gave benefit concerts at home and entertained the troops abroad.



"Suite Surrender" cast members during a scene from the screwball comedy. COURTESY OF PAUL MANOIAN

"There was a collective spirit of cooperation and sacrifice that is almost unimaginable today," Targan said. "Men went to war and women went to work in factories."

The Farmington Players are dedicating their performance of "Suite Surrender" to the father of cast member Eric Nogas, Richard Nogas, who died Aug. 27. Coin-

identally, Richard was born in 1942, and his father, Walter, was killed in Germany near the end of World War II.

The show will run Sept. 23 to Oct. 8 at the Players Barn on 12 Mile Road. Tickets are available now at [farmingtonplayers.org](http://farmingtonplayers.org) or at the box office by calling 248-553-2955. Tickets cost \$22 for adults.

## Club

Continued from Page 1A

expect to find in a wholesale club, the store also offers two of its own brands: Wellsley Farms and Berkley Jensen.

The Wellsley Farms brand incorporates a full selection of dairy products, produce, snacks, juices, desserts and fresh heat-and-eat meals, while the Berkley Jensen brand includes general merchandise products and sundries items.

"I welcome you to match the quality and price of the national brands to our brands," Frangie said, adding that customers can expect to pay about 25 percent less for BJ's brands.

The store also offers rotisserie chickens for \$4.99 and, unlike some other wholesale clubs, has a full-service deli counter.

"We also have a bake shop," he said. "The cookies are awesome. I buy them for my kids and they're gone before I even get one."

In addition to the usual fare, the store is always stocked with seasonal merchandise, currently including fall and Halloween décor, with large pumpkins available throughout the store.

The new BJ's location also includes a tire center, optical center, and sells wine and liquor.

"Our offerings are always changing," Frangie said. "We always have our ears to the ground so we can provide what our customers want."

The Canton store currently employs about 100 team members. And yes, BJ's Wholesale club is hiring.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at [lcolvin@hometownlife.com](mailto:lcolvin@hometownlife.com) or 248-221-8143.

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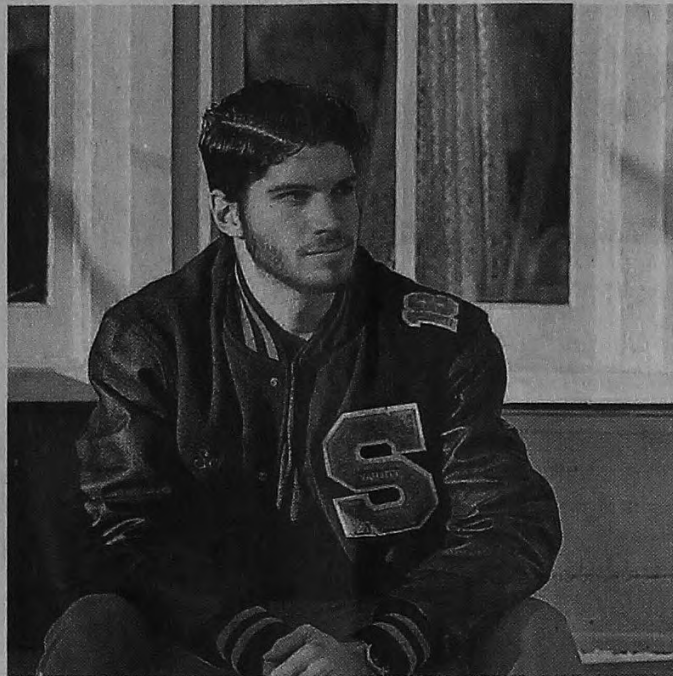
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Justin Schultz, a Livonia Stevenson graduate and currently a senior at Oakland University. Schultz, 22, is recovering from gunshot wounds he sustained when his car was stolen. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAUL SCHULTZ



## Recovery

Continued from Page 1A

rehabilitation at Michigan Medicine in Ann Arbor soon, but doctors are unsure what his recovery will look like.

"That's the unknown right now," Paul Schultz said. "When I did speak to the nerve specialist, they said there's so much swelling going on right now, his nerves are compressed and there's been a lot of disruption so it'll be two to three weeks after the injury that they can assess that. ...

"Nerve pain will probably be a reality for Justin for the rest of his life."

Justin Schultz, a senior at Oakland University in Rochester studying finance, said he's focusing on regaining function of his leg and, consequently, his independence.

"My first goal for my leg is just being able to get out of bed and being able to use the walker independently," he said. "Right now, I can barely lift my leg. It's being able to get up and take a few steps on my own and do basic, everyday things like go to the sink and brush my teeth."

The family is hoping to raise \$55,000 through a

GoFundMe titled "Justin's road to healing." Paul Schultz said the biggest concern is medical expenses, because the family's insurance isn't covering many parts of the rehabilitation. He said his son's apartment rent, vehicle recovery, potential car repairs and other unforeseen costs related to the incident are also looming.

"I can just imagine what's coming down the road," Schultz said. "He's got enough to worry about without finances."

Though Justin Schultz ventured outside Livonia for college, his family still lives there. While at Stevenson, he played on the varsity soccer team for three years, spent his senior year as soccer captain and was involved in DECA and National Honors Society. He took a hefty number of Advanced Placement courses, too, and joked that he's always been a bit of a "try-hard" when it comes to school.

Schultz said he'd like to be back at Oakland in time for the winter semester so he can wrap up his degree and, he hopes, work alongside his father as a financial adviser.

"I want to go back to school and start working again," he said.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.

## Library

Continued from Page 1A

library system," Brosnan said. "It looks at all of our libraries and the role of libraries in a community, not just as a distribution point for books."

### A question of whether Noble should reopen

Back in 2019, officials determined the repairs Noble needed would cost \$1.6 million. Those funds weren't in the budget at the time, and then the library closed along with the Sandburg and Civic Center branches when the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020.

If Noble were to reopen, it would likely need extensive repairs. Brosnan said the water damage that caused mold has been a reoccurring issue for years. An ongoing capital needs assessment the city is undertaking will help determine exactly what Noble needs.

Brosnan said a timeline for a decision on the building's future will hinge on how much residents engage with the strategic plan process — more information takes more time to go through.

"Sometime next year, I think we're going to have a really good idea," she said.

### Deciding the library's role in Livonia

While Noble has been shuttered, Livonia residents have been using the Civic Center and Sandburg libraries more. According to circulation data, use of both libraries has steadily risen since 2018. Library programming overall, even without Noble, is also up.

At the Civic Center campus, circulation between August 2021 and July 2022 was 420,426. That's up from 371,142 in 2018.

In the last two years, Livonia has also started using its libraries to loan out seeds and facilitate a city-wide book club.

Brosnan said she hopes a strategic plan will help Livonia's libraries continue evolving. She envisions creating more ways for people to meet and exchange ideas, whether that means meeting in person or not.

"We as a city want to look at how we advance our library system to make sure we're keeping pace with the challenges people are facing today," she said. "We absolutely are trying to make the libraries more relevant."

Livonia has been reinvesting in the Civic Center and Sandburg branches. Recent progress on that front has included newly-approved funds to repair the roof, plus a new auditorium and furniture at Civic Center, and a new sidewalk at Sandburg.

City council recently put a request for a new roof at Sandburg on hold until council holds a committee meeting about the future of the libraries.

Council President Jim Jolly was in a minority who voted against that move — he and Council Vice President Laura Toy voted in dissent at council's Sept. 7 meeting, during which Councilman Brandon McCullough was absent — and said he sees value in the brick-and-mortar facilities the city has.

"Although these libraries are changing, their value is absolutely no less important than it was the day they opened up," he said.

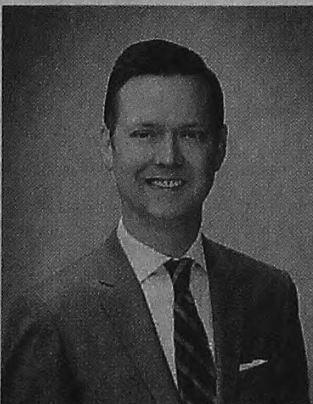
Brosnan's office also plans to request new air conditioning for Civic Center and new building controls for both libraries. Both of those projects would need city council approval.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.



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# Your guide to the 2022 Detroit auto show

**Emma Stein** Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Detroit auto show – one of the largest in the world – kicks off in just a few days.

Formally known as the North American International Auto Show, the event has historically brought hundreds of thousands of people to the motor city. This year, the multi-day event is meant for everyone – car fanatics and those who are less passionate.

From flying cars (yes, you read that right) to rock stars to food trucks, the exhibits appeal to a wide range of interests.

This year, the show is placing an emphasis on the electrification of the industry.

With so many pit stops, it can be hard to know where to start. Here's your comprehensive guide to the event:

## When is the auto show?

The show is open to the general public from Sept. 17-25.

From Sept. 17-24, hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Sept. 25, it's open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Other events:

- Industry Tech Days and Auto-Mobili-D, a chance to preview emerging technologies and new start-ups, are on Sept. 14 and 15.

- The Black Tie Charity Preview, a fundraising gala, is on Sept. 16.

## Where is the auto show?

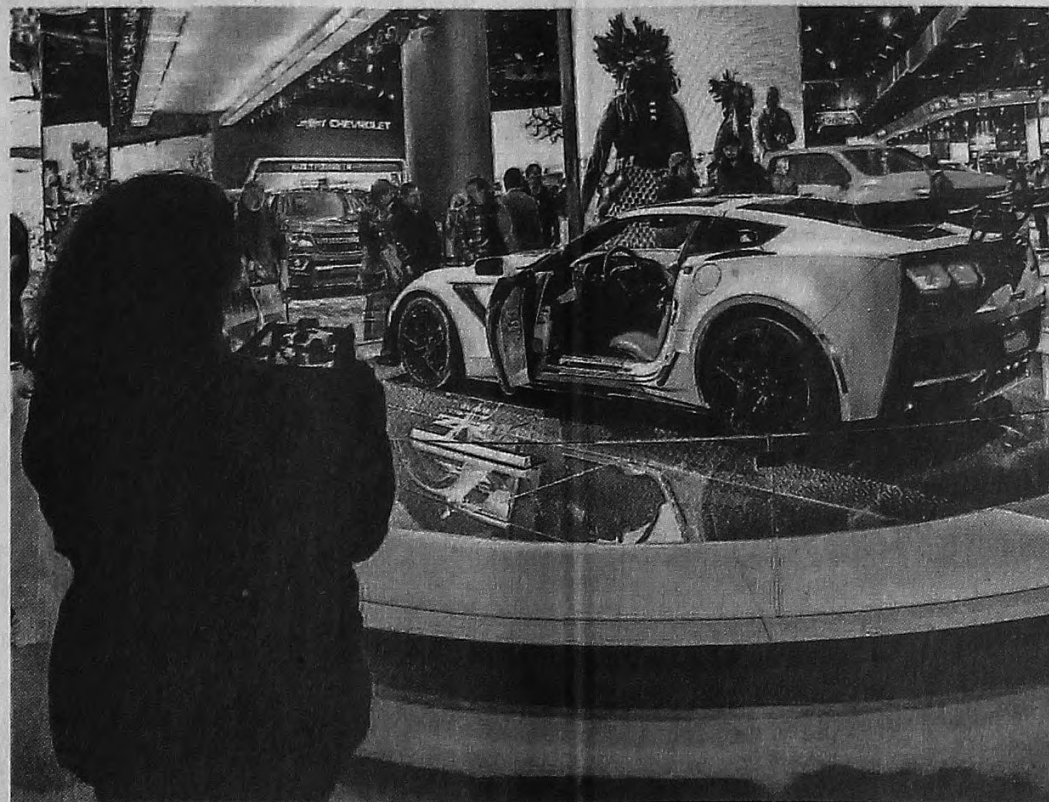
The event will be scattered across downtown Detroit. It will be both indoors and outdoors for the first time in the show's history.

Locations include Campus Martius, Huntington Place, Hart Plaza and Spirit Plaza.

## Ticket prices

For the public show, tickets are \$20 for adults, \$12 for seniors 65 and older and \$10 for children ages 3-12. Children 2 and under can get in for free. A family pass is \$50.

Tickets for the Industry Days, meant for those who work in the mobility in-



The Corvette ZR1 on display as attendees enter the doors of the 2019 North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit.

DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

dustry, are \$75 per person.

Black Tie Charity Preview tickets cost \$400 each or \$700 per pair. This includes access to the entire show and the VIP Ribbon Cutting Ceremony inside Huntington Place.

## Take flight

The future has become reality with the auto show's air mobility exhibits – from jet packs to flying car technology.

"This exciting addition to the show is a natural extension of the evolving transportation ecosystem, especially as people continue to look for creative ways to expand personal mobility," said Detroit Auto Show Chairman Joe Lungamer. "We'll give auto show audiences a taste of the future today with a look at the whole spectrum of mobility – from the thrill of human propulsion to amphibious vehicles you can keep in your backyard to EVs leading the industry's transformation."

Electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) companies including AIR, Air-space Experience Technologies and

AERWINS Technologies will display their aircrafts. Visitors can fly in the cockpit of AIR ONE through virtual reality.

A jet suit from Gravity Industries lets humans fly, and Omni is bringing the world's first-ever flying hoverboard.

## Family fun

The Detroit auto show is taking families on a blast to the past with the Dinosaur and Off-Road Vehicle Encounter.

A Jurassic walk-thru experience at the Huntington Place Ballroom features more than 80 life-like dinosaurs, a band, crafts and fossil digs.

While you're there, you can check out the one and only Flintmobile – the car used in the 1994 feature film "The Flintstones."

Meanwhile, attendees can watch a Monster Truck Throwdown in Hart Plaza, including the world's first battery-powered monster truck. The world's largest rubber duck, standing at 61 feet, will also be on display at Hart Plaza.

A hot spot for family fun, an arcade

on wheels will be parked at Hart Plaza where visitors can play Xbox, Nintendo Switch and PlayStation, with hundreds of games to choose from.

## Music

Grammy-winning musician Nile Rodgers and CHIC are the headline performers at this year's Black Tie Charity Preview at Huntington Place in Detroit.

Rodgers, a Rock & Roll Hall of Famer, co-founded CHIC and is co-founded CHIC, which is best known for dance favorites like "Le Freak" and "Good Times."

Performances open to the public will be at Hart Plaza 6-11 p.m. Sept. 16.

The public show will feature themed days in Hart Plaza, from Motown Tuesday to Saturday Family Day and Sunday Family Day. Each theme will have related music with local artists and street food.

## Food

Downtown Detroit will be decorated with a rotating fleet of beloved food trucks throughout the event, featuring menus from around the world

For those wanting a sit-down meal, the area is packed with restaurants so you can experience everything from expensive steak dinners at Texas de Brazil to an exquisite brunch at the always-crowded Dime Store.

## Where to park

Parking in downtown Detroit is notoriously difficult, and the allure of the auto show won't make it any easier.

The auto show does not manage or provide parking. However, SpotHero, a reservation service, is the official parking app of the show. Visitors can plan their parking in advance using the website.

For those who want to avoid parking altogether, MoGo, a non-profit bike share organization is offering a 25% discount during the show. The bikes are available throughout downtown Detroit with locations shown on the system map.

Attendees can also opt for the QLINE for free access to the Woodward Corridor.

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Silver Morgan Dollar  
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## Contents date clear back to early 1900's

U.S. Gov't issued Silver coins, rare Indian Head coins, scarce Buffalo coins, old Wheat Cents - Silver Certificate, Red Seal Notes and more found inside

"Breaking the seal of one of these Bank Bags is like stepping back in time," said Laura A. Lynne, Director of Coin and Currency for Federated Mint.

That's because you just don't find Bank Bags like these or pick them up at a defunct bank. Records confirm the origin of each Defunct Bank Bag can be traced back to vaults at the Federated Mint where they were loaded with a combination of over 200 U.S. coins and currency notes some dating clear back to the early 1900's and then securely sealed for good. That means there's no telling what you'll find until you search through each Bank Bag. But you better believe at just \$649 these Bank Bags are a steal. And it gets even better. The price drops clear down to \$590 for all those who take multiple bags.

And here's the best part. Each of these Bank Bags bearing the name of one of several now defunct banks, each full of U. S. Gov't issued coins and currency some dating clear back to the early 1900's and could be worth up to 100 times their face value are actually being handed over to U.S. residents who call the Toll-Free Hotlines listed in today's publication.

"But don't thank the Government. As Director of Coin and Currency for Federated Mint, I get paid to let the general public know when U.S. coins

and currency are up for grabs. Ever since the decision by Federated Mint to turn over these heavy Bank Bags full of old money to the general public — Everyone wants to know how much the Bank Bags are 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 Bank Bag weighs nearly four pounds and contains a rarely seen Morgan Silver Dollar and just this one coin alone could be worth up to 100 times its face value," confirmed Lynne.

The only thing readers of today's publication need to do to get the multiple bag price is call the Toll-Free Hotlines printed in today's newspaper before the 2-day deadline ends.

This is very important. Do not miss the deadline. That's because the Bank Bag fee has been set for \$849 for residents who miss the 2-day deadline. So it's important for U.S. residents to call the Toll-Free Hotlines before the deadline ends.

Thousands of U.S. residents stand to miss the deadline to claim the U.S. coins and currency. Now any U.S. resident who calls the Toll-Free Order Hotlines gets to claim the Bank Bags for themselves and keep all the U.S. coins and currency found inside.

Just be sure to call right away because the deadline ends 2 days from today's publication date.



**TREASURE HUNT:** Operators are bracing for the flood of calls. That's because Bank Bags whose contents, some dating clear back to the early 1900's, are actually being handed over to the general public beginning at 7:30 am this morning. Coin values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees, but requests for the bags are sure to be overwhelming since they contain nearly four pounds of U.S. Gov't issued coins and currency so there's no telling what treasures could be sealed away inside.

## Here's what we know about what's in the defunct Bank Bags

### Each bag contains nearly 4 lbs of old money packed at Federated Mint

Operators working the Toll-Free Hotlines are bracing for the flood of calls.

The reason is the 2-day deadline applies only to readers of this publication. That means heavy Bank Bags bearing the name of one of several now defunct banks, each full of old U.S. Gov't issued coins and currency are actually being handed over to the general public by Federated Mint beginning at 7:30 am this morning.

And here's the best part. The price drops from \$649 to \$590 per bag for everyone who claims multiple Bank Bags plus free shipping and free handling as long as they call before the deadline ends. But do not forget this. Everyone who misses the 2-day deadline must pay \$849 for each Bank Bag.

That means all those who call the Toll-Free Hotlines printed in today's publication are getting Bank Bags full of old U. S. coins, including silver and currency some dating clear back to the early 1900's and could be worth up to 100 times their face value including the rarely seen Morgan Silver Dollar, the iconic Peace Silver Dollar, the Barber Silver Half Dollar, stunning Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars, the scarce Franklin Silver Half Dollar, the Barber Silver Quarter Dollar, beautiful Standing Liberty Silver Quarter Dollar, magnificent \$1 Dollar Silver Certificate Note, \$2 and \$5 Dollar Red Seal Notes and collectible \$2 Notes just to name a few. In fact, the bags weigh nearly four pounds and contain

a combination of over 200 U.S. coins and currency notes.

That's why everyone should be taking the max limit of 3 Bank Bags before the deadline ends.

"These heavy Bank Bags weigh nearly four pounds and are full of old U. S. coins and currency which is why we're guessing everyone will be snapping up as many as they can while they still have the chance," said Federated Mint officials.

There's one thing readers need to know. Only U.S. residents who call the Toll-Free Hotlines before the 2-day deadline ends are getting the multiple Bank Bag price.

"These heavy Bank Bags bearing the name of one of several now defunct banks, each full of U.S. coins and currency some dating clear back to the early 1900's are impossible to get anywhere. In fact, they're only being sold off by Federated Mint directly to U.S. residents who call the Toll-Free Order Hotlines printed in today's publication", confirmed officials.

To make it fair, special Toll-Free Overflow Hotlines have been set up to ensure all U.S. residents have an equal chance to get them.

Operators are scheduled to be on duty beginning with the first calls being accepted at precisely 7:30 am this morning.

So many people are expected to call to get these Bank Bags, callers who cannot get through are being urged to call the special Overflow Hotlines printed in today's publication.



**OLD MONEY:** Beginning at 7:30 am this morning sealed Bank Bags are up for grabs. Each bag measures 9" X 17.5", bears the name of one of several now defunct banks and is full of valuable U.S. coins and currency some dating clear back to the early 1900's.

### 2-DAY DEADLINE: The multiple Bank Bag price will only be honored for the next 2 days

The Bank Bag fee is set at \$849 for those who miss the 2-day deadline, but for those who beat the deadline the single bags are \$649 and just \$590 for multiple bags as long as calls are received before the 2-day deadline ends.

Begin calling at 7:30 am this morning  
**Call: 1-800-563-1656**  
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**OVERFLOW HOTLINE:** All those calling to claim the Defunct Bank Bags who cannot get through to an operator need to call this special Overflow Hotline before the 2-day deadline ends: **1-800-573-1901 Code DBL1377**

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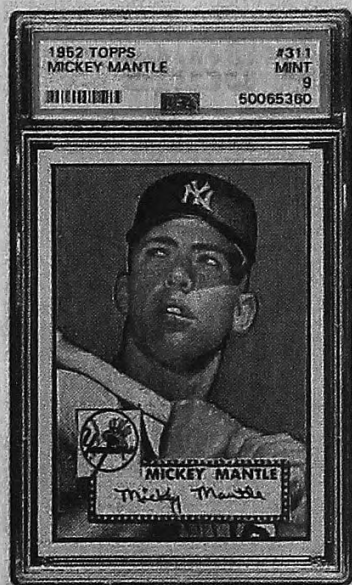
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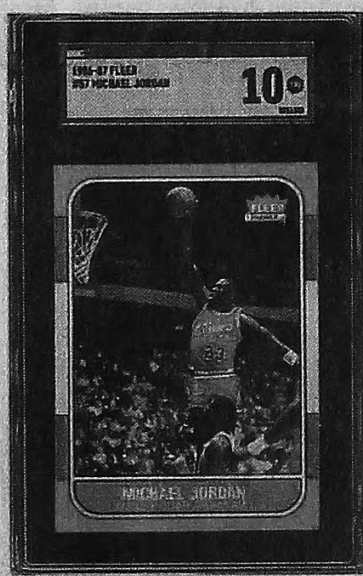
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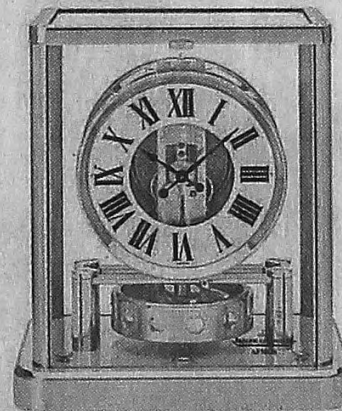


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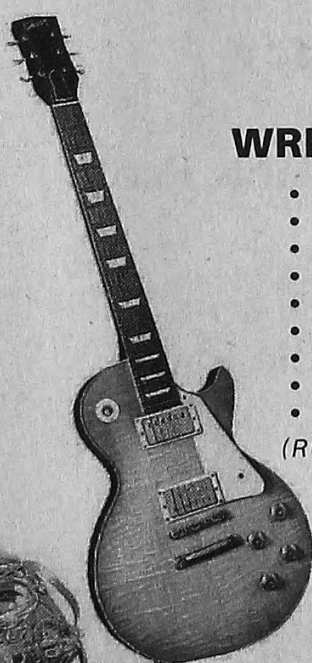
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# Nurse-midwives come to Trinity Health to work with expectant mothers



**Nicole Sekulich and Timothy Johnson**  
Trinity Health Livonia

For centuries, midwives have been used to help women deliver babies. The idea of a midwife may sound old-fashioned, but the practice of midwifery has evolved. Now considered certified medical professionals, Nurse-Midwives can play an important role in a woman's journey through pregnancy.

Certified nurse-midwives are nurses who specialize in advanced practice nursing. They have a nursing degree and a master's degree and are accredited by the American Midwifery Certificate Board (AMCB).

Since 1996, nurse-midwives have worked at Trinity Health St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor, attending more than 2,300 births. With their arrival to Trinity Health St. Mary Mercy Livonia and the Trinity Health IHA Medical Group - Schoolcraft Campus this fall, expectant mothers from Livonia and surrounding communities will have additional options on where to seek support and care.

Women often seek out nurse-midwives because they offer additional counsel and guidance through the birthing experience.

Nurse-midwives spend a significant amount of time educating and preparing women for the labor process, and provide them with an intimate, one-on-one approach to customize and personalize the birthing experience. As a result, mothers who use a nurse-midwife are more likely to have improved outcomes such as lower Cesarean section rates, lower preterm birth rates, and higher breastfeeding rates.

This fall, expectant mothers will begin receiving prenatal care from nurse-midwives at the Trinity Health IHA Medical Group - Schoolcraft Campus.

When they are ready to give birth, the nurse-midwife will prepare the mother for delivery at Trinity Health St. Mary Mercy Livonia.

While nurse-midwives are trained and certified to deliver babies independently, a physician is available 24/7 in the event a delivery becomes high-risk or if an emergency procedure is required.

Nurse-midwives are also trained to help physicians during a Cesarean section, in the event one is needed. Our physicians and nurse-midwives work hand-in-hand to offer mothers the birthing experience they want, while working to create the safest environment possible for mom and her baby.

The addition of a Nurse-Midwifery Program compliments many of the OB/GYN services already available at Trinity Health St. Mary Mercy Livonia. We offer a wide range of support services to new mothers, including childbirth and infant care courses, and breastfeeding support. We also have a donor breast milk program for mothers who are unable to produce enough milk on their own, but still wish to provide their babies with the benefits of breast milk.

We're excited to begin offering nurse midwives to the Livonia community. We believe their arrival further strengthens our commitment to providing safe, high-quality care to local women and their growing families.

*Timothy Johnson, MD, FACOG, is a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist on staff at Trinity Health St. Mary Mercy Livonia and Trinity Health IHA Medical Group - Schoolcraft Campus in Livonia. He is also chair of Maternal Child Services at the hospital. Nicole Sekulich is a certified nurse-midwife at Trinity Health Livonia and Trinity Health IHA Medical Group - Schoolcraft Campus in Livonia.*

# What to consider when returning to work after retirement



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

**Dear Rick:**

A couple of years before COVID, I accepted a buy-out offer from my employer. At the time, I wrote you and you suggested that I delay Social Security until my full retirement age. Your theory was that my military pension and my Social Security would then cover all my living expenses and I'm happy to say that is exactly what has happened.

I began collecting my Social Security earlier this year, and even with the current inflation, my pension and Social Security cover all of my needs.

Recently, my former employer has asked me to come back to work. Even though I don't need the money, I have been somewhat bored in retirement. I am considering the offer; however, I have some concerns.

My first is, the company said I would be treated as an independent contractor, not as an employee. What does this mean for tax purposes? In addition, a friend of mine told me that I have to be cautious, because my Social Security benefits may be affected in the future.

I am curious as to your thoughts on these two issues.

*Thank you, Rob*

**Dear Rob:**

First, I want to thank you for your service to our country. It is people like you who protect our freedoms and our way of life. Our country is indebted to veterans like you.

There is a tax difference between an employee versus an independent contractor. As an employee, your employer is responsible for withholding state and federal taxes from your paycheck, including Social Security taxes. In ad-

dition, the employer is responsible for their share of your Social Security and unemployment taxes. On the other hand, as an independent contractor, the company is not responsible to withhold taxes or, in fact, to pay any taxes on your behalf. You are responsible for those.

Therefore, independent contractors must file a Schedule C with your normal 1040 tax return. The amount earned for your services, less any business expenses, would be taxed to you as ordinary income. (Note: As an employee, it is difficult to deduct any business expenses but, that is not the case being an independent contractor.)

In addition, being self-employed, you would be responsible for the self-employment tax on your net income. Currently, the self-employment tax is 15.3 percent.

With regards to your Social Security benefits, the fact that you are working would not negatively impact your benefit. I think your friend is confused about the impact regarding working before your full retirement age.

If someone chooses to collect Social Security before their full retirement age and their earned income exceeds a threshold, they will see a reduction in their Social Security benefits. However, since you are at full retirement age, your benefits would be unaffected. In fact, it is possible that your benefits may increase because you are paying more money into the Social Security system.

There are tax issues to consider when returning to work after already collecting Social Security. However, as I always advise people: don't let the tax tail wag the dog. The focus should always be what ends up in your pocket, not what ends up in the tax man's pocket.

Good luck.

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is [www.bloomadvisors.com](http://www.bloomadvisors.com). If you would like him to respond to your questions, email [rick@bloomadvisors.com](mailto:rick@bloomadvisors.com).*

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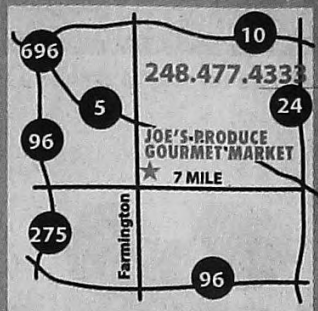


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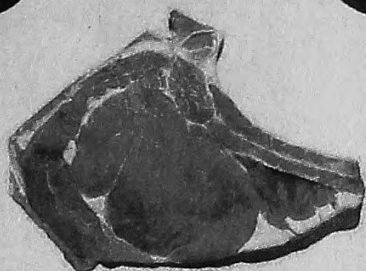
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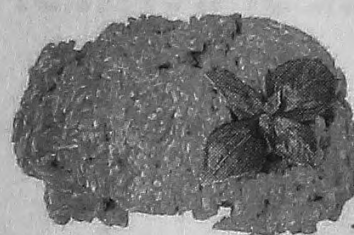
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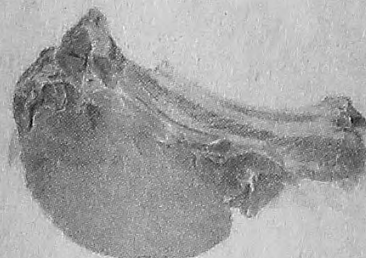
**USDA PREMIUM CHOICE ANGUS GROUND SIRLOIN**  
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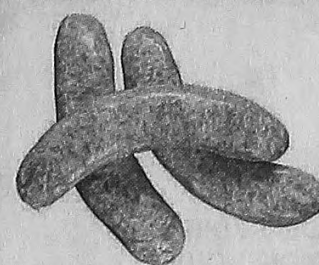
**PREMIUM FRESH ALL NATURAL BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST**  
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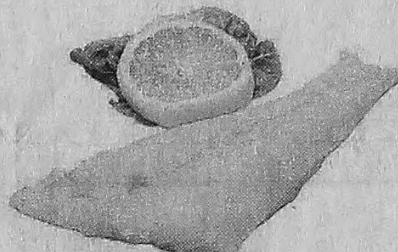


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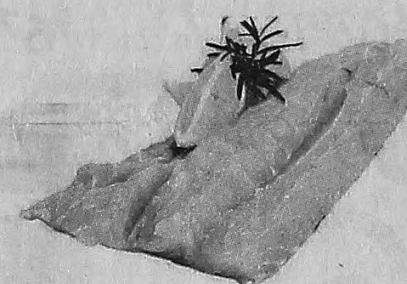
## Seafood



**FRESH BLACK PEARL SALMON FILLETS**  
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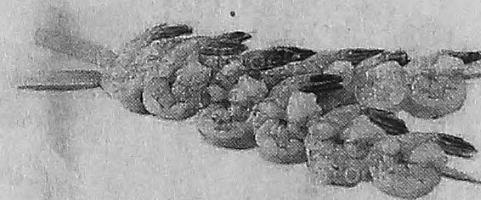
**GROUPE FILLETS**  
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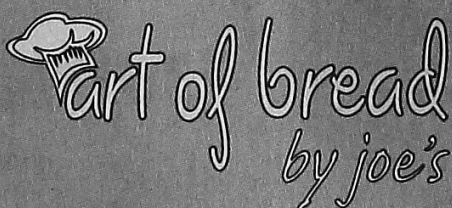
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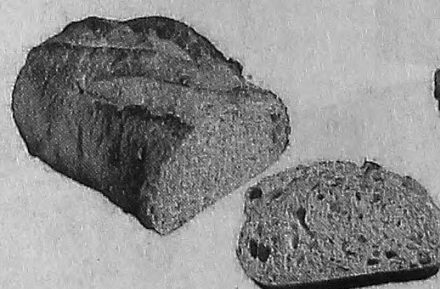
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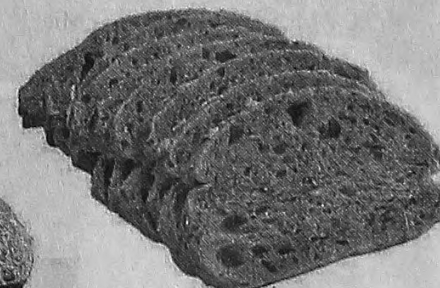
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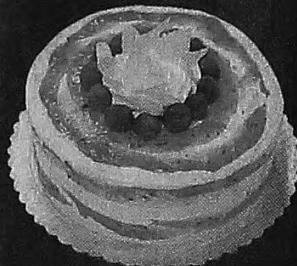
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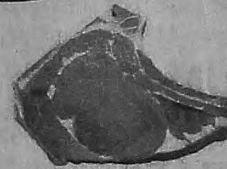
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FRESH WILD CAUGHT COD FILLETS  
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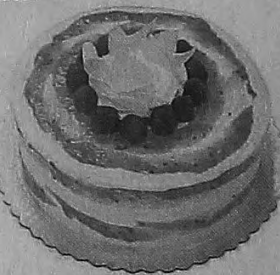


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# SPORTS

## ArJon Thompson left it all on the field for the Spartans



Livonia Stevenson's ArJon Thompson drives for a touchdown during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at Westland John Glenn. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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

It was the second time in 3 weeks that ArJon Thompson has been in serious pain.

While the Livonia Stevenson quarterback clutched a bottle of Gatorade Gatorlyte in his left hand, he barreled over, placed his palms on his knees and fought back his vomit.

He was woozy.

He was absolutely spent.

And he almost threw up on his teammates in the post-game huddle Friday

night at Westland John Glenn.

And while this pain was more severe than what he endured in Week 1, the dual-threat QB will take this type of nausea any day of the week.

That pain he felt in Week 1? That was emotional pain. That was realizing the Spartans could've done more. They could've made fewer mistakes. They could've fought back. Instead, they lost to Howell, 18-0.

Vomiting sucks. But feeling heartache with your teammates is much worse.

And that's what was going through Thompson's mind late against the Rockets.

Stevenson trailed, 20-14. There was only 1:29 remaining. And it was fourth and 1 near the goal line.

"We didn't have an option," Thompson said of the moment. "The other team (John Glenn) might have an option to lose. We don't have an option to lose. After that first game, we told ourselves we were never going to feel like that again. We were never going to feel (embarrassed from defeat) again.

"A 20-7 loss? Nah-uh. We're going to fight back no matter what. We're going to fight back until they physically kick us

See SPARTANS, Page 3B

## Does Novi have a new QB? 4 Michigan football questions entering Week 4

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

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom asks the important questions entering Week 4 of the Michigan high school football season.

### Have the Wildcats found their next quarterback?

With a comeback in Week 1's Xenith Prep Kickoff Classic well out of reach, Novi brought in backup quarterback Caleb Walker to close out the game.

And in Week 2, the junior led the Wildcats to a late-game upset against Hartland. Walker tossed a 5-yard touchdown to Boden Fernsler to secure the 13-10 victory.

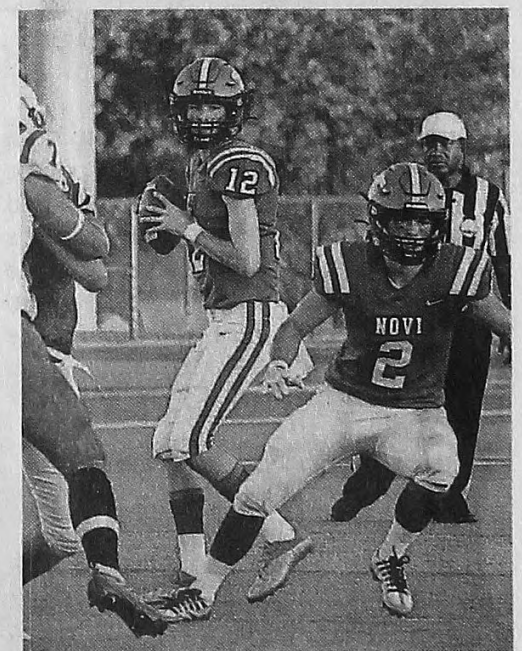
Week 3 proved to be Walker's breakout performance. Novi downed Salem 43-10 thanks to the QB finishing 21 of 32 passing for 408 yards and a staggering six TDs. And on the receiving end of one of those TDs? Luke Aurilia.

When Jim Sparks took over the program a year ago, Aurilia was the new coach's safety blanket. Aurilia brought both a passing and running threat to the QB position. Plus, he's been a heck of a leader. If you didn't see that side of him on the football field, you for sure saw it on the basketball court.

He entered this fall as one of the top returning QBs in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

But it's clear the Wildcats have a better chance to win the KLAA-West with Walker behind center. And that's not a slight at Aurilia. Aurilia is a pure athlete. He could play running back, fullback, tight end or receiver if need-

See WEEK 4, Page 4B



Novi's Cole Shire (right) blocks for QB Caleb Walker (left) during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West football game against Salem on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022. RAYVON DELMONTA, SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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# Wanna see some football? These are the five best Week 4 games

**Brandon Folsom**

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom breaks down the five biggest matchups taking place during Week 4 of the MHSAA football season.

All games kick off at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16.

## Livonia Churchill (1-2, 0-2) at Livonia Franklin (3-0, 2-0) (KLA-East)

The first matchup for the Livonia City Championship doesn't have as much sheen as we'd like.

Livonia Franklin and Livonia Churchill have been trending in different directions.

The Patriots have followed up last year's Division 2 state semifinal appearance by ripping off three-straight wins, including beating two solid teams in Canton and Dearborn.

The Chargers couldn't have looked better in their opening week victory over Plymouth during the Battle at the Big House. But they've since dropped back-to-back games, getting upset by Westland John Glenn in Week 2 and losing to defending state champion Belleville a week ago.

Churchill needs this win more than Franklin, but that doesn't mean the Patriots are going to roll over and die. This should be a great Week 4 matchup, despite the Chargers entering on a two-game losing streak.

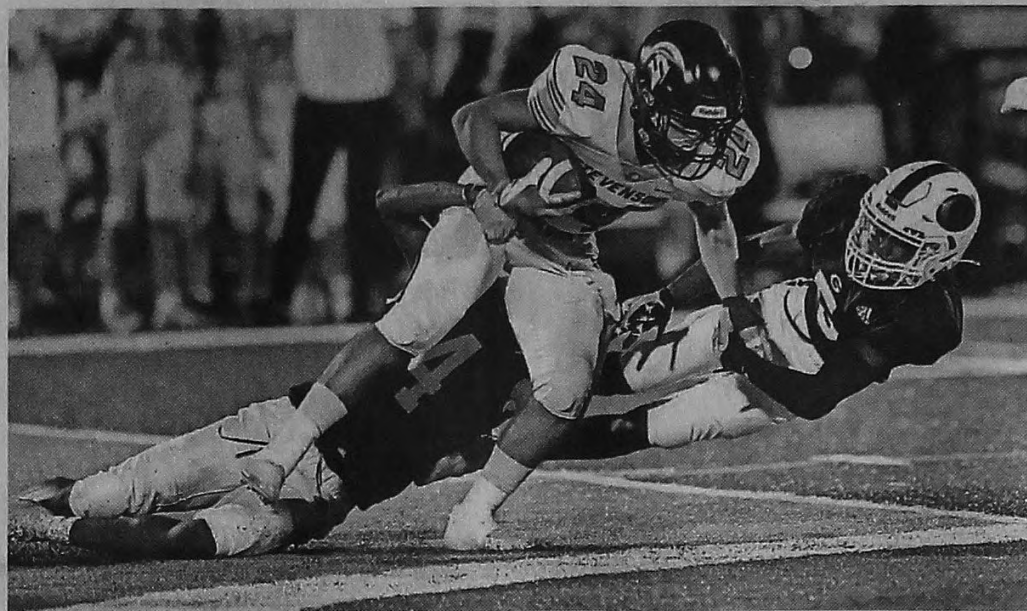
## Livonia Stevenson (2-1, 2-0) at Dearborn (1-2, 0-2) (KLA-East)

During the post-game huddle following last week's 21-20 comeback win at Westland John Glenn, one of the Spartans jokingly shouted, "Let's win the Dearborn City Championship next week!"

Even if that comment was tongue in cheek, Livonia Stevenson can do just that in Week 4.

Dearborn is coming off back-to-back losses to Belleville and Franklin, arguably the two best teams in the KLA-East. And Stevenson has proved it can play as a unit and fight through adversity since losing 18-0 to Howell in the opening week.

Coach Randy Micallef admitted the Spartans were almost caught sleep-



Livonia Stevenson's Alex Bowser rushes during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at Westland John Glenn.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

walking early on against the Rockets, but they pulled through by erasing a 20-7 deficit in the second half.

If they can play a full four quarters, expect them to win to be the next mayor of Dearborn.

## Novi (2-1, 2-0) at Brighton (3-0, 2-0) (KLA-West)

Outside of Novi and Northville, no team has looked as impressive as Brighton in the KLA-West.

This should be quite the test for the Wildcats, who are coming off a 6-TD performance from new QB Caleb Walker. There's no doubt about it: If they want to win the division title and have a chance to rematch Belleville in the KLA championship, they must get past the Bulldogs, who edged Hartland 9-7 in Week 3.

Brighton has blowout wins against Dearborn Fordson and Salem to open the season. And only scoring nine points against Hartland says the Bulldogs are human. But this would be another statement win for the Wildcats if they can go on the road and pull off the upset.

## North Farmington (1-2, 1-0) at Farmington (2-1, 1-0) (OAA-Blue)

The Raiders finally picked up a win after edging Troy, 9-0, in Week 3. But their defense is once again getting a serious test, this time against rival Far-

mington.

Cameron Pettaway has proven to be one of the top running backs in the Oakland Activities Association, and QB Dominic Pesci has been able to air it out each week for the Falcons.

That's trouble for the Raiders, who were gashed both on the ground and through the air against Caledonia two weeks ago.

Yes, it's a rivalry game, so throw out the records. But unless North Farmington's defense shows up, this game could get out of hand.

## South Lyon (2-1, 2-1 LVC) at Detroit Country Day (3-0)

The Yellowjackets enter this matchup undefeated, but they haven't faced a team as challenging as South Lyon, which beat Detroit Country Day 31-7 a year ago.

Running back Tommy Donovan has continued to make a push to be named Hometown Life's Player of the Year. He's getting it done on the ground, through the air, on defense and in the return game. He's too good to take off the field.

If the Yellowjackets can't stop a future Division I running back such as Donovan, it'll be a long night for their defense.

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

# Hometown Life's Michigan high school football picks for Week 4

**Brandon Folsom**

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom picks the winners from the five biggest matchups of Week 3 of the MHSAA football season. He went 3-2 picking games last week and is 10-5 on the season.

All games kick off at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16

## South Lyon (2-1, 2-1 LVC) at Detroit Country Day (3-0)

With the way the Lions have been playing since their Week 1 loss to Walled Lake Western, they appear to be pretty much unbeatable.

A year ago, they had no trouble beating the Yellowjackets at home. They should get a similar result in Week 4 on the road.

South Lyon senior Tommy Donovan has scored on the ground, through the air and in the kicking game. Can he get a TD on defense next?

**Folsom's pick:** South Lyon 45, Detroit Country Day 10.

## Novi (2-1, 2-0 KLA-West) at Brighton (3-0, 2-0 KLA-West)

Novi and Brighton have at least one thing in common: Both teams have already played tough nail-biters against Hartland, last year's Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West champion.

The Wildcats' offense is starting to find its rhythm, especially coming off a six-TD performance by QB Caleb Walker in Week 3's win over Salem.

But Brighton has the advantage as the home team.

Flip a coin in this one. It should be that close.

**Folsom's pick:** Brighton 17, Novi 10.

## Livonia Churchill (1-2, 0-2 KLA-East) at Livonia Franklin (3-0, 2-0 KLA-East)

The Chargers haven't lost three-straight games since opening the 2013 season 0-3.

If they can't slow down Livonia

See PICKS, Page 3B

# Who's at the top? Check out Folsom's Week 3 football rankings

**Brandon Folsom**

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom is back with his Week 4 top-10 football rankings:

## 10. Birmingham Seaholm (3-0; Last week: Unranked)

During the entire nine-game season in 2021, the Maples scored only 136 points. They enter Week 4 having already scored 122 points and will likely eclipse last year's point total against Troy Athens. And the season is only 1/3 finished. Welcome to the rankings, QB Colton Kinnie and the boys. I'm looking forward to watching you play in person in Week 9.

## 9. Birmingham Groves (2-1, 1-0 OAA-White; Last week: No. 5)

The Falcons beat a tough Oak Park squad that has made the postseason in nine of the past 10 seasons. Which was a great way for them to start the Oakland Activities Association-White. They have another winnable game against Bloomfield Hills in Week 4. But back-to-back games against Southfield A&T and Harper Woods await them in Weeks 5 and 6. So the schedule is going to get tougher.

## 8. Northville (3-0, 2-0 KLA-West; Last week: Unranked)

The magic number for the Mustangs was three. That's how many games they've won in each season in four of the past five years. With them winning their first three games to open 2022, they've already met that threshold, and they have a handful of winnable games coming up. Welcome to the rankings, QB Luca Prior and the boys. I can't wait to watch your rivalry game against Novi in person in Week 8.

## 7. Detroit Country Day (3-0; Last week: No. 9)

For the second-straight week, the Yellowjackets escaped with a close-call win in Week 3, this time beating Warren Michigan Collegiate, 28-20. They'll have their hands full this week when they welcome South Lyon to 13 Mile. The Lions are the second-best team in the Lakes Valley Conference and will likely win out to finish the regular season.

## 6. Milford (2-1, 1-1 LVC; Last week: No. 7)

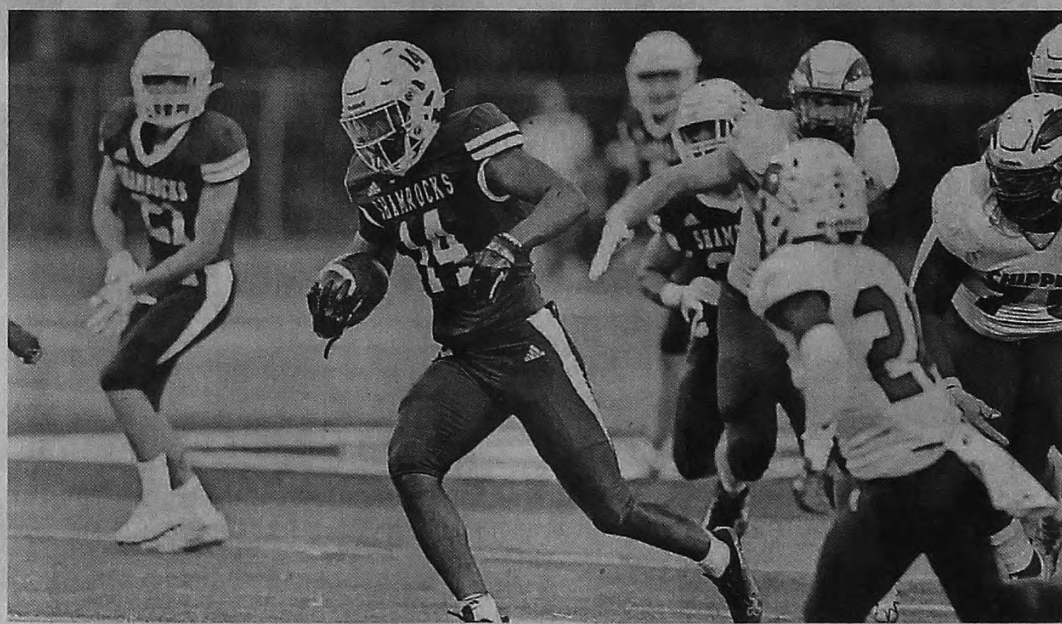
Linebacker Wyatt Lesnew has joined Novi's Niko Krall and Detroit Catholic Central's Brayden Courser in the pantheon of elite linebackers playing on the west side of metro Detroit. If you get a chance to watch the Mavericks play this fall, pay close attention to No. 52. He flies to the ball better than most can.

## 5. Novi (2-1, 2-0 KLA-West; Last week: No. 8)

The Wildcats continue to take care of business, winning two straight after getting skunked by Belleville in the season opener. They face their toughest test yet since taking on the Tigers, though. Week 4 is a trip to undefeated Brighton. The winner of this one gains a game on the other in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West standings.

## 4. Redford Union (3-0, 2-0 WWAC; Last week: No. 4)

The Panthers didn't have the kind of offensive output they expected in their 21-8 win over Dearborn Heights Annapolis in Week 3. But they're still one of the best Division 4 teams in Michigan. They have more winnable games against Romulus and Dearborn Heights Robichaud coming up. But that Week 6 matchup against Garden City will hopefully be a must-see.



Detroit Catholic Central's Spencer Lyons rushes during a football game against Chippewa Valley on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## 3. Livonia Franklin (3-0, 2-0 KLA-East; Last week: No. 3)

Is there a better one-two punch than Cordell Mabins Jr. and Tyler Garrett? The Patriots' offense is producing statistics you'd expect from someone playing Madden NFL 23 on rookie mode. They face Livonia Churchill for the first Livonia City Championship matchup of 2021 in Week 4, but I've got my eye on that Week 5 game at Westland John Glenn. Damon Powers and Xavier Spadacini vs. Mabins Jr. and Garrett. Sign me up for that.

## 2. South Lyon (2-1, 2-1 LVC; Last week: No. 2)

If running back Tommy Donovan would stop scoring touchdowns, football fans would pay more attention to just how great the Lions' defense is. In the last two weeks, the starters have given up just 13 points, which includes big wins over Milford and Walled Lake Central. It's a shame South Lyon had to play Walled Lake Western in Week 1 because that game would be a toss-up if it were played later in the season. The defense has things figured out

now.

## 1. Detroit Catholic Central (2-1; Last Week: No. 1)

Had the Shamrocks not given away a win to Chippewa Valley in Week 1, they might be considered one of the five best teams in Michigan. After going on the road and upsetting Davison in Week 2, they responded by beating DeWitt with an impressive overtime effort this past week. They've played three recent state champions to open the season, and they're 2-1. No one has played a tougher schedule through three weeks. Now things get easier for CC over the next two weeks.

**Out of the top-10 rankings:** Brother Rice (1-2), Livonia Churchill (1-2, 0-2 KLA-East).

**Also being considered:** Livonia Clarenceville (2-1), Livonia Stevenson (2-1, 2-0 KLA-East), South Lyon East (3-0, 3-0 LVC), Westland John Glenn (1-2, 1-1 KLA-East).

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

## Spartans

Continued from Page 1B

off this field."

It was Thompson who dove over a pile of defenders for a 2-yard touchdown that kept the Spartans in it during the first half.

And then he raced 27 yards down the far sideline for a TD to turn a 13-point deficit into a 20-14 score with 9:28 left.

Facing fourth and 1 with the game on the line, it was a no-brainer who was going to win it for Stevenson.

Out of a shotgun set, running back Alex Bowser picked up a block on the edge. And then receiver Nathan Patterson pushed his defender deep into the end zone. Thompson raced full speed to the right pylon and snuck into the end zone for the winning score, ensuring the Spartans a 21-20 comeback victory.

"I just had to go," Thompson added. "Everything that was left in me, I left it out there on that play right there. ... At that time, at this place in the game, it was clutch. We just fought back from a bunch of adversity throughout the game. We knew there was everything on the line then, and we just had to do it."

Coach Randy Micallef said the Spartans (2-1, 2-0 KLAA-East) sleepwalked through most of the first half and early on in the third quarter.

John Glenn running back Xavier Spadacini punched in a 1-yard TD on the game's opening drive. QB Nick Wetmore tossed a 5-yard score to Connor LeCourt to put the Rockets (1-2, 1-1) ahead 14-7 entering halftime.

And then Wetmore raced 7 yards on a keeper play to make it 20-7 with 3:53 left in the third.

The Spartans needed answers quickly. They got just that from their defense and Thompson.

"I'm so proud of the kids," Micallef said. "We made some mistakes, and they (John Glenn) played really well, taking advantage of some of the stuff they run really well. But our kids just hung in there. They kept on battling and battling and battling."

"ArJon is a special player. Last year, he was a special player. This year, he's maturing into a leader. We know when he's got the ball in his hands, good things are about to happen. He's playing both ways. He barely comes off the field."

And that was true as well after Ste-



Livonia Stevenson's Owen Reed, Johnny Morris and Blake Zoro (l-r) celebrate a defensive stop during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at Westland John Glenn. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

venson's winning TD.

The Spartans and Thompson had to make one final defensive stand to sew up the victory.

John Glenn started from its own 20-yard line and moved the ball toward midfield. And the coaches on its sideline were hollering for someone to find the kicking block. The Rockets were just 10 or 15 yards from field goal range.

And then Wetmore dropped back for a pass but was quickly met by Stevenson linebacker Owen Reed, whose sack forced a fumble that defensive tackle Blake Zoro jumped on.

"We were just playing with heart," said Zoro, a sophomore. "We were giving it all we got, 100% every play. Just never giving up. We started off slow, and then we started to get hot. We knew we had it. It's just the fear of losing."

Added Thompson: "Right as I think he's (Wetmore) going to throw the ball, I hear, 'Ball! Ball! Ball!' I see the guy on the ground. I see the ball on the ground. I see the pile. And I just had faith that we were going to get the ball. And the next thing you knew, we were in our victory formation and winning the game."

Thompson winced in pain while being interviewed for this story. Sometimes he held his belly in fear of throwing up. But that bright smile never left his face. The come-from-behind win was worth the pain.

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

## Picks

Continued from Page 2B

Franklin running back Cordell Mabins Jr. and slot back Tyler Garrett, they will, indeed, be on a three-game losing streak. They've lost back-to-back outings to Westland John Glenn and defending state champion Belleville.

The undefeated Patriots should have the advantage in the first Livonia City Championship matchup of 2021. But, like most rivalry games, throw the records out. This game could go either way.

**Folsom's pick:** Livonia Franklin 35, Livonia Churchill 21.

**North Farmington (1-2, 1-0 OAA-Blue) at Farmington (2-1, 1-0 OAA-Blue)**

The Raiders' defense didn't have many answers for Caledonia two weeks ago, as the Fighting Scots' offense got it done both passing and running.

The Falcons' offense isn't as dynamic as Caledonia's, but they have QB Dominic Pesci and running back Camer-

on Pettaway.

If North Farmington's defense can't come up with stops, it's in for a long night in this crosstown rivalry game.

**Folsom's pick:** Farmington 42, North Farmington 21.

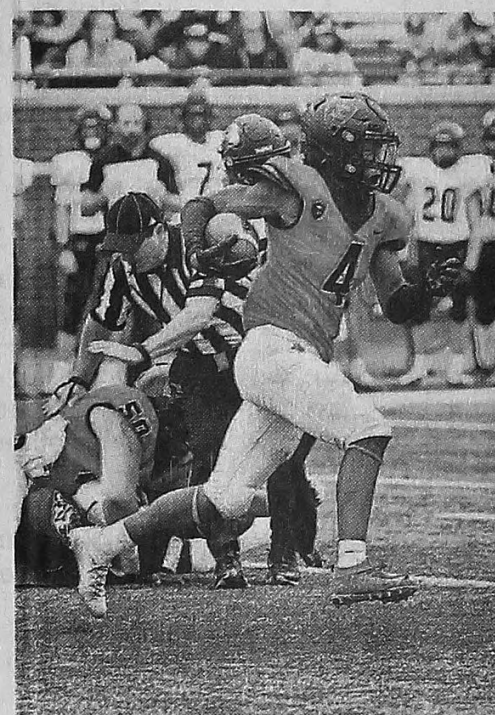
**Bloomfield Hills (0-3, 0-1 OAA-White) at Birmingham Groves (2-1, 1-0 OAA-White)**

The Black Hawks have given up 38 points or more in each of their first three games. And the magic from last year's 9-0 regular season and OAA-Blue championship just hasn't sparked yet. But they have QB CJ Jackson back for his senior year.

Bloomfield Hills should score points, but can it slow down the Falcons' offense? Birmingham Groves running back Mario Campoy-LoVasco has been unstoppable, and QB Cayden Hardy has plenty of weapons at his disposal.

**Folsom's pick:** Birmingham Groves 28, Bloomfield Hills 17.

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



Livonia Churchill's Jonathon Lytle-Montgomery rushes during the Battle at the Big House football game against Plymouth on Friday, Aug. 26, 2022, at Michigan Stadium. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



North Farmington's Mill Coleman returns a kickoff during a football game against Caledonia on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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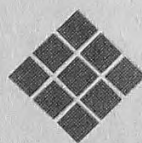


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## Week 4

Continued from Page 1B

ed. And he knows all the plays for each position.

Walker is more of a traditional QB. He's not a threat to break off 80-yard runs like Aurilia. But he's got a cannon for an arm. Having him throw the passes allows Sparks to use Aurilia as a gadget guy in his fun-and-gun offense.

Hey, this kind of setup worked for the New Orleans Saints with Drew Brees and Taysom Hill. Now it appears to be working for the Wildcats, who just got stronger on offense by moving a few pieces around their chess table. That just speaks to Aurilia's selflessness. The 'we' is definitely bigger than the 'me' at Novi.

### Will the Cougars actually make the playoffs?

Without counting the COVID-19-shortened season in 2020, when every team in Michigan was allowed to compete in the playoffs, Garden City hasn't made the postseason since 2018.

That's why coach Thomas Michaelson is putting his team in a position to get there this season.

The second-year coach went for the win in the Cougars' 29-27 victory over Melvindale in Week 3.

After the Cougars punched in a TD late in the fourth quarter, Michaelson elected to go for two points, both entrusting his offense to secure the win and giving his defense a little breathing room should the Cardinals attempt the comeback.

Garden City QB Nathan Wasil pitched to Jessey Chavez to score the two-point conversion.

Melvindale scored on the ensuing possession with 2:08 left. But it was forced to go for two to knot the score. Cougars lineman Paul Wint plugged the hole, which allowed Travis Hartwell and Christopher Kosniewski to swarm to the ball and wrap up the ball carrier just short of the goal line.

Michaelson's gamble paid off. Now Garden City is 2-1 overall and undefeated in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference. And it's likely the second-best team in the league behind Redford Union, last year's WWAC champions.

There's a lot to like about this Division 4 squad, including do-all running back Owen McGraw, and now the Cougars have games coming up against D-2 Dearborn Heights Crestwood and D-3 Redford Thurston. Wins over the next two weeks will yield plenty of playoff points. They likely need five or six wins to get in.

"We're improving, and the kids are



Livonia Stevenson's ArJon Thompson rushes during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at Westland John Glenn. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

getting excited around here," Michaelson told Hometown Life. "The team is really unified. They're buying in and learning the game. To get winning results is encouraging for us going forward. We have a long ways to go, but we're trending toward making the state playoffs."

"Now we've got a couple of great opportunities to beat some bigger schools and put a ton of playoff points in the bank."

### Who else can make plays for the Spartans?

Livonia Stevenson quarterback ArJon Thompson wasn't a surprise entering the fall.

The dual-threat junior turns likely sacks into TD runs. He bounces a likely 3-yard gain into an 80-yarder. And, when given time behind the line, he can laser passes down the field.

But he cannot do it alone if the Spartans (2-1, 2-0) expect to keep winning games. He scored all three of their TDs on the ground in Week 3 at Westland John Glenn, willing them to a 21-20 comeback victory.

They used running back Alex Bowser in spurts. And a handful of receivers hauled in chains-moving catches.

But Stevenson is missing a playmaker or two.

You only have to look across town to see what I'm talking about. Livonia Franklin has running back Cordell Mabins Jr. running for hundreds of yards, Tyler Garrett catching passes and racing for TDs and QB JD Bates finding his rhythm. Livonia Churchill has running back Jon Lytle-Montgomery, receivers Jayden Allen and Johnny Palozzi and QB Evan Snead.

Bowser does a good job of keeping defenses honest. Defenses can't only pay attention to Thompson.

But who else can be a stud playmaker on Stevenson's offense? Hopefully, we find out in Week 4.

### Can the Wildcats keep this going?

In Week 3, we finally saw the type of Plymouth team we were expecting to see entering the fall.

The Wildcats (1-2, 1-1 KLAA-West) took their foot off the gas in the Battle at the Big House, playing only about one

half of solid football against Churchill in the opening week. And then they just fell apart against Northville in Week 2.

But they finally put it all together against rival Canton in the first Park game of 2022.

The Chiefs elected to ride its running attack once again, and Plymouth stayed disciplined. Canton had three 100-yard rushers in Week 2, but the Wildcats didn't let any of them reach 100 yards in this one. What's more, they didn't even give up a single point, posting a 16-0 shutout in the Week 3 matchup.

That's the effort we've been expecting. But keeping it going might be tough. They have Howell in Week 4, and then the schedule gets incredibly challenging with games against Hartland, Novi and Brighton in back-to-back-to-back weeks. All three of those squads are vying for the KLAA-West title.

We've seen Plymouth play well. Now it needs to keep it going. For all four quarters.

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

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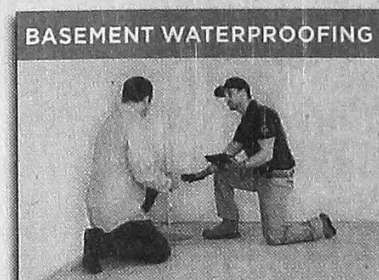
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This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 13 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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| Anchor | Darts | Gear       | Ludo    | Silver |
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| Ball   | Dive  | Grass      | racing  | Solo   |
| Baton  | Event | Grid       | Oval    | Strain |
| Boot   | Fast  | Hand       | Park    | Swim   |
| Bowl   | Fault | Heat       | Peel    | Team   |
| Break  | Final | Injury     | Pioneer | Tice   |
| Canoe  | Fish  | It's a try | Poker   | Tired  |
| Cards  | Flag  | League     | Pool    | Toss   |
| Clubs  | Foul  | Legs       | Regular | Walk   |
| Cups   | Gala  | Long jump  | Rugger  |        |

**TODAY'S ANSWER**

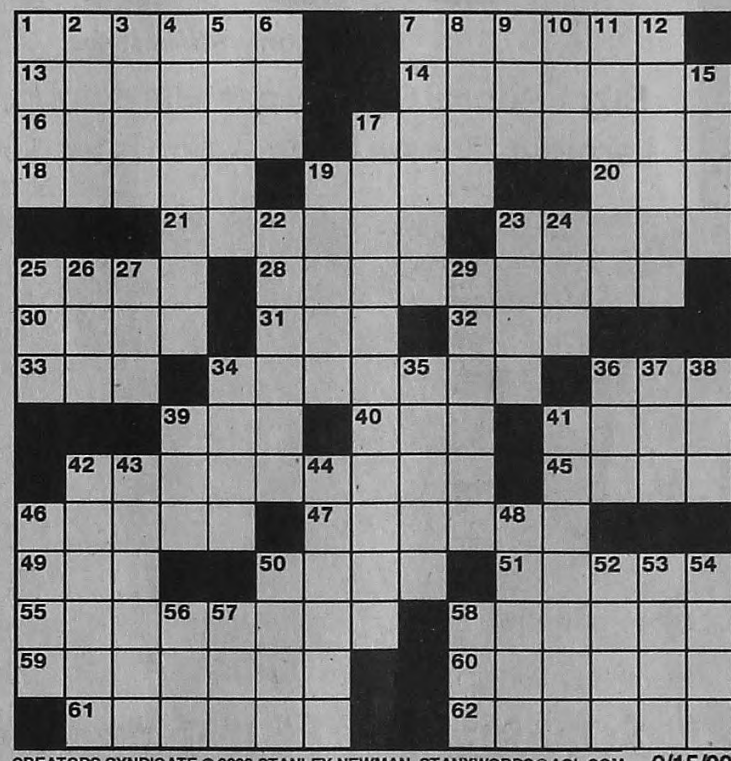
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 H E G G I O S K P S S T V V T  
 S S A E G E A U N S O F A I R  
 I O E R M E C S T R A D L D Y  
 F L L A R A R A R U L E S S I  
 D O G B O T E A L E G S T W O  
 D I R G H H C T W R E V L I S  
 I N B N C I A L O N G J U M P  
 F J O S N I N G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

**NEWSDAY CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Last words
  - 7 Topper for Waldo
  - 13 Scale without black 8 Down
  - 14 Crystal collector, perhaps
  - 16 For whom "amen" is a last word
  - 17 Last word (Japan)
  - 18 Snide comments
  - 19 Honduras half-dozen
  - 20 Utters, nonstandardly
  - 21 Where "Shalom" is a last word
  - 23 Rapper's minions
  - 25 Last word
  - 28 Last word (1920s)
  - 30 Potion holder
  - 31 Board boss
  - 32 Cry's partner
  - 33 \_\_\_ Lanka
  - 34 Leafs through
  - 36 Beach lotion stat
  - 39 It may sit at a stand
  - 40 Tahitian floral wear
  - 41 Peseta successor
  - 42 Last words
  - 45 PlayStation rival
  - 46 Jai alai equipment
  - 47 Furthermore
  - 49 RN station
  - 50 GPS calculations
  - 51 Museum founded by Ferdinand VII
  - 55 Last words (France)
- DOWN**
- 1 Hapless ones
  - 2 Where "Salaam" is a last word
  - 3 Sax-playing preteen toon
  - 4 Facing a jury
  - 5 Secluded spots
  - 6 Hostile sound
  - 7 Slowpokes
  - 8 Targets for Billy Joel
  - 9 \_\_\_ Jima
  - 10 Harrison's pilot persona
  - 11 '90s tennis star
  - 12 Peace Nobelist nun
  - 15 Knock down
  - 17 Last words
  - 19 Sort of sword
  - 22 Zoom past
  - 23 Six popes before Francis
  - 24 Inseparable
  - 25 Sports bar setups
  - 26 Contents of bubble wrap
  - 27 Mai \_\_\_
  - 29 52 Down noble
  - 34 Prefix for phrase
  - 35 Factions of faith
  - 36 Short-term replacement
  - 37 Reliable expert
  - 38 Cunning canine
  - 39 Part of the earliest PCs
  - 41 Immoderate
  - 42 Wife of King Priam
  - 43 Financial shark
  - 44 Indonesian hand-dyed fabrics
  - 46 Last word (Italy)
  - 48 Mimic's talent
  - 50 Stood up
  - 52 For who "Salaam" is a last word
  - 53 Refuse to grant
  - 54 Yellow friend of an orange cat
  - 56 Timber tree
  - 57 Sundial numeral
  - 58 Critical comment



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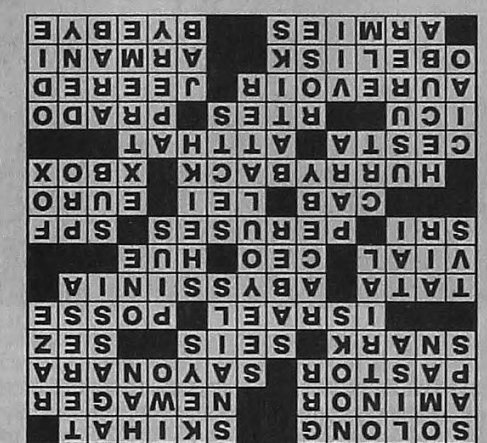
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Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: BRONZE**

**TODAY'S ANSWER**

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

**TODAY'S ANSWER**



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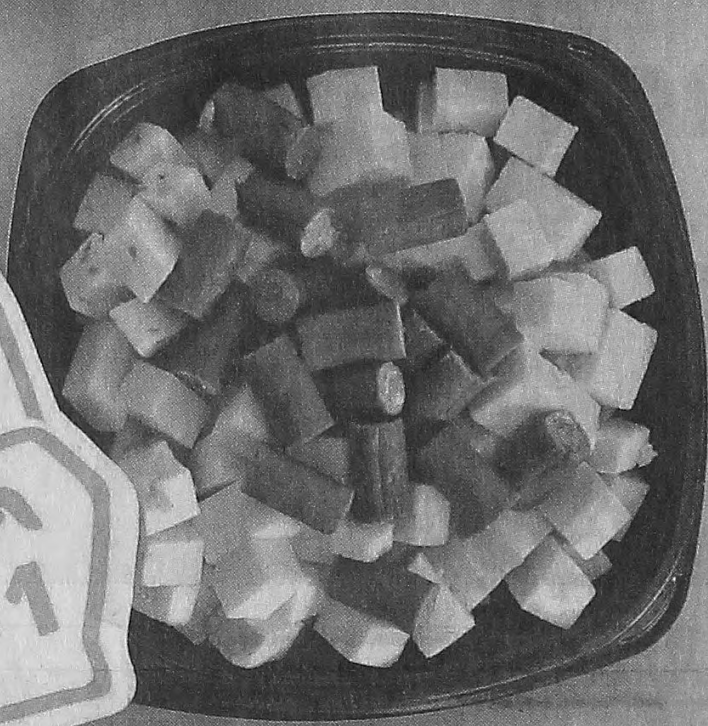
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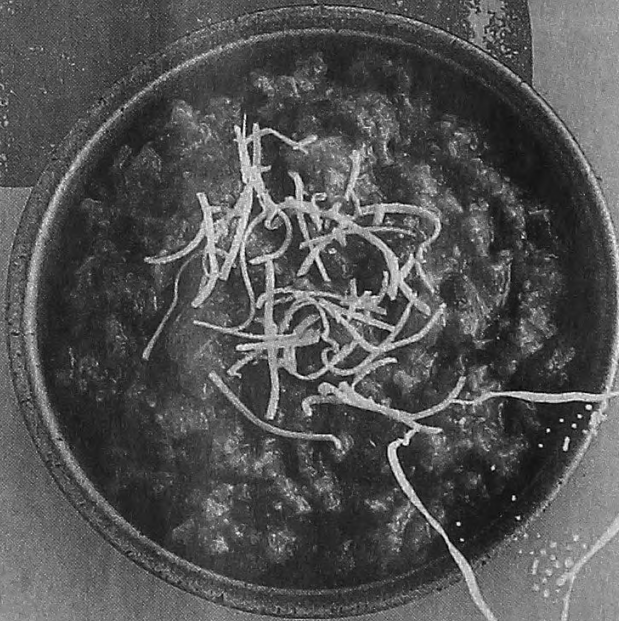
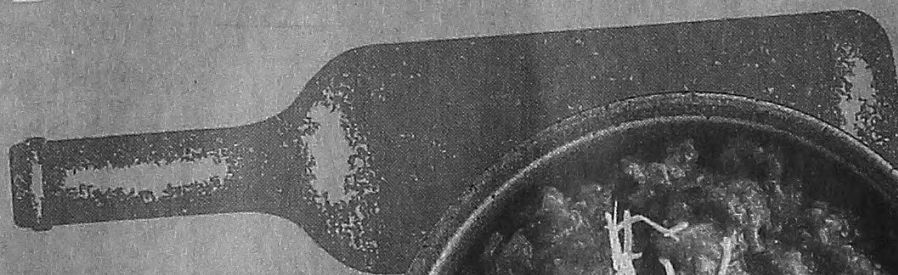
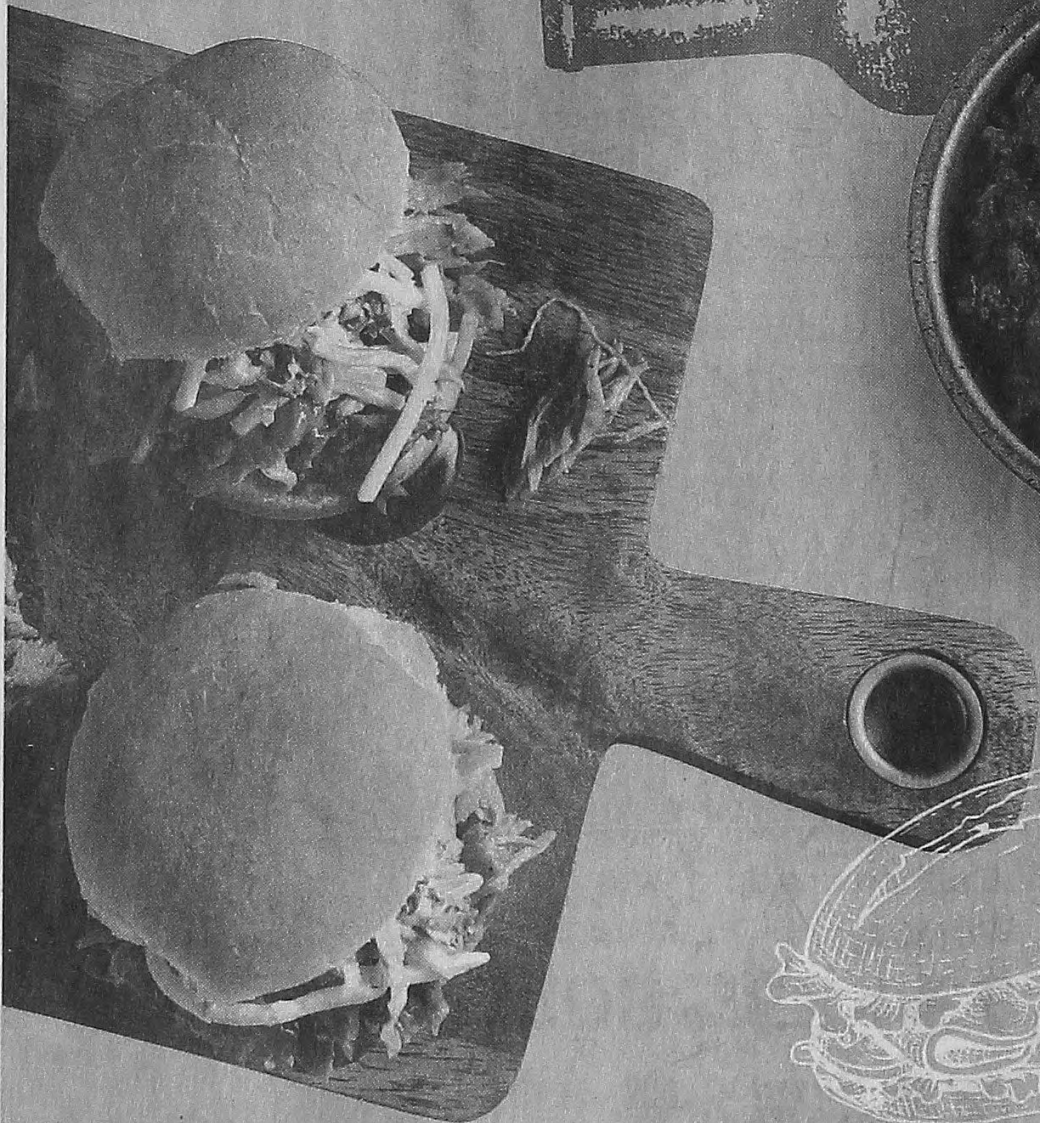
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