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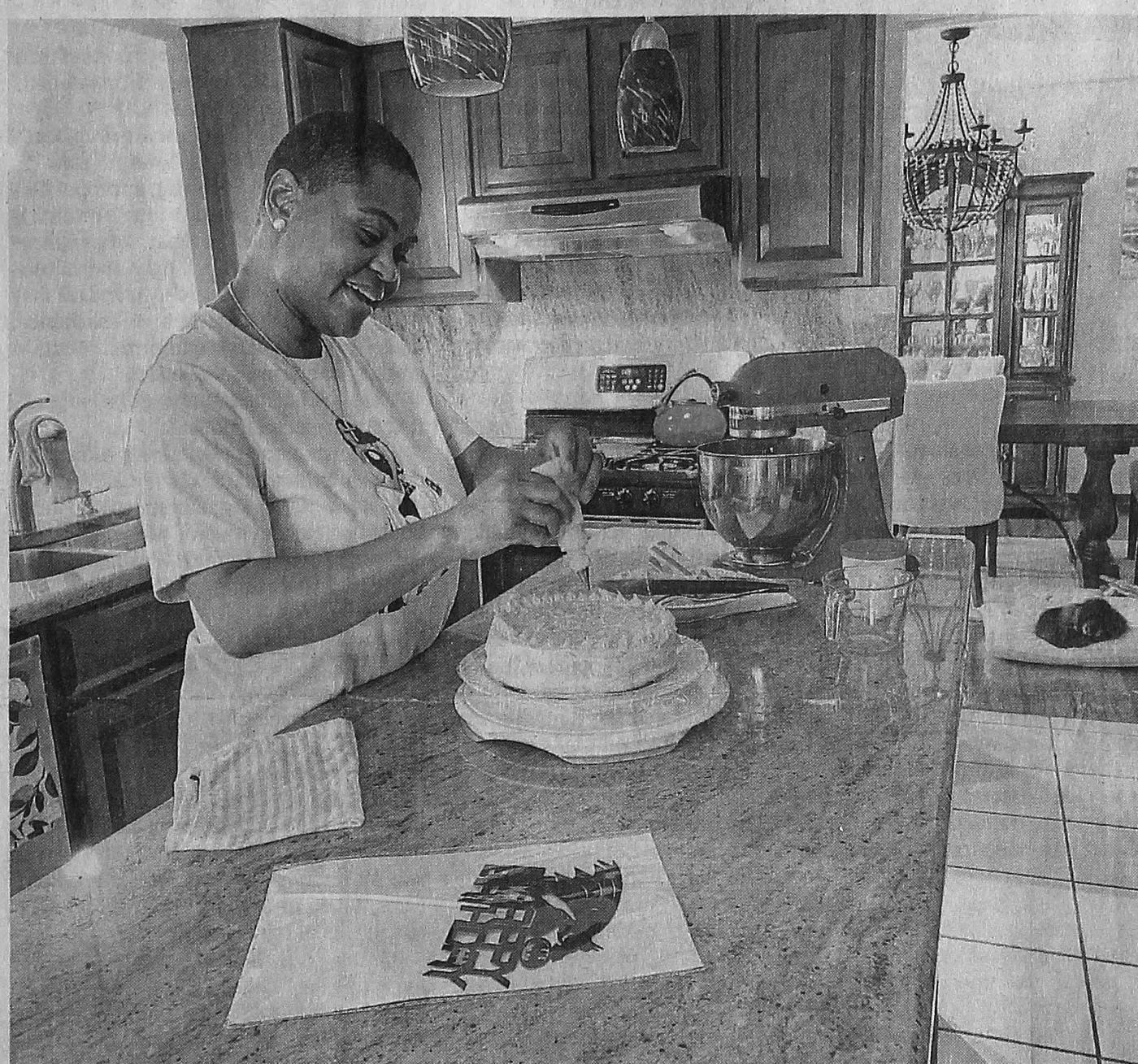
CANTON

# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Volunteers needed to bake birthday cakes for kids in foster care



Valada Sargent, a new volunteer with For Goodness Cakes, decorates a "practice" cake at her Farmington Hills home. She bought a special Batman decoration for the 5-year-old recipient of the real cake, which she will decorate after donning a mask and gloves, per the organization's protocol. LAURA COLVIN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**Laura Colvin**  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Valada Sargent retired in August after 25 years of teaching at Farmington High School, she began looking for meaningful volunteer opportunities.

She found several, including a new chapter of For Goodness Cakes, a nationwide organization with a new local chapter. The group, through its volunteers, provides birthday and graduation cakes to children in foster care and youth overcoming adversity so they feel recognized, celebrated and loved on their special day.

For Sargent, it sounded perfect. "I was like, 'Are you kidding me? You can make cakes for people?'" she said. "I'm not a professional decorator, but I did think it was a cool way to give back and have some fun."

The newly-opened metro Detroit chapter of For Goodness Cakes is co-led by Jaime Luczak of Plymouth and Dana Gannon of Canton. The duo are looking for volunteer bakers, known within the organization as the Sprinkle Squad.

Volunteers must be at least 18 - although younger bakers can participate with an adult - and everyone

See **CAKES**, Page 4A

## Oakland doctor charged in sex assault of hockey player in home office

**Bill Laitner**  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Adding to Michigan's shocking toll of authority figures from organized youth sports being charged with criminal sexual conduct, police said Saturday they had arrested a doctor in Oakland County who treated young hockey players.

Dr. Zvi Levran, a urologist with offices in Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield, was arraigned Satur-

day on multiple counts, a news release from the Farmington Hills police said.

"Dr. Levran has provided medical assistance to youth hockey organizations in Michigan and Minnesota for the past 20 years. These charges are the result of a criminal complaint filed by a 19-year-old male, following a medical exam at the doctor's home office in Farmington Hills on Oct. 18, 2022. It was alleged that during the medical examination Dr. Levran

See **DOCTOR**, Page 4A

## Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery relocates within Redford Township

**David Veselenak**  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After starting as a simple shop in Detroit decades ago, Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery has gone nationwide. And now it has the facility to keep up with the demand for their delicacies of all kinds.

The business, long located at Five Mile and Beech Daly in Redford Township, recently relocated to a larger facility more in line with its current mission. Located on Plymouth Road between Beech Daly and Telegraph, the bakery has more room to create and ship those delicious meat pies that have made it famous.

"That's what our goal was in this building was to pursue wholesale opportunities and be able to grow the e-commerce side of things," said Megan Ackroyd, the owner of the business and granddaughter of one of its founders. "We're trying to work different ways."

The new 7,600-square-foot building became fully operational at the end of August and has shipped the bakery's products all over the country since then. The bakery still sells all its mainstay products, from its sweet options such as shortbread, scones, butter tarts; as well as its savory options such as bridies, haggis and its ever-popular meat pies.

They've even ventured into other online markets, including one of the largest in the world: the bakery now sells some of its shortbread to customers on Amazon, as well as wholesale on Faire.

Ackroyd said she wanted to test those waters and use the shortbread - it does not require refrigeration and has a longer shelf life - as a way to see what type of business Ackroyd's can do.

"Shortbread's just so great for that," she said. "We're taking it all step by step and hopefully we'll see some good returns on that."

### Ackroyd's shifts to online ordering

The pivot to mostly online sales was something Ackroyd realized had to happen years ago if she planned on keeping the business around. Ackroyd's closed the retail storefront at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing efforts on online sales

See **BAKERY**, Page 4A

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# How save money, minimize taxes for special needs child on disability



## Money Matters

Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

### Dear Rick:

Our 15-year-old son has recently been declared legally disabled. Unfortunately, his doctors do not believe he will recover from his disability. Currently, he lives with us, and it is our intention that he will be with us until we both pass. We want to begin to save money for him for his future needs. The problem is we were told that there's not much we can do to save for him because it could impact his government assistance.

My first question to you - is there anything that we can do to start saving money for him?

My second question deals with his Michigan Education Savings Plan. We've been saving since he was born, and we now have a little over \$30,000 in the account. My son will not be able to attend college and I'm curious if you

have any suggestions on this money. Our accountant said that we should close out the account and take the money back ourselves. Do you have another alternative?

Thank you, Diane

Dear Diane:

I am so sorry to hear about your son, and my thoughts and prayers are with him. He may not think of himself as lucky, and I understand that, but at the same time he is lucky that he has you and your husband to help him on his life's journey.

With regards to saving for his future, there is something that you can do. You are eligible to open an ABE account on behalf of your son. An ABE account is a tax-advantaged account for individuals with disabilities and their families. The benefit of an ABE account is that the money in the account will not affect someone's eligibility for SSI, Medicaid, and other means-tested programs such as food stamps.

In the past, you virtually had to have no assets in order to get financial assistance; that is no longer the case. Money

in an ABE account can be invested and used for virtually any expense that is not covered by public assistance.

In order to be eligible for an ABE account, you must have a qualifying disability that started prior to age 26. In addition, you must be either eligible for SSI or SSDI because of a disability, or experience blindness as determined by the Social Security Act, or you have a similar severe disability with a written diagnosis from a licensed physician.

Under current law, the total annual contribution to an ABE account in a single year is \$16,000. In 2023 this number is set to increase to \$17,000. To open an ABE plan through Michigan, you can go to the state's website at [www.sawewithable.com](http://www.sawewithable.com).

With regard to your son's current 529 plan, that is eligible to be transferred into an ABE account. However, the \$16,000 (\$17,000 for 2023) limit still applies. Therefore, if you want, you can transfer \$16,000 from the 529 into an ABE account this year, and then transfer the remaining amount next year. I should also mention that an eligible in-

dividual is only allowed to have one ABE account. In addition, like in a 529 plan, the ABE accounts do offer a variety of investment strategies.

For those of you who have loved ones who are eligible for an ABE account, you should look at taking advantage of them. These tax-advantaged accounts allow you to access the money at any time and allows the disabled individual to retain assets, and at the same time qualify for government assistance.

One last note, and that is, ABE plans must be opened through the state; however, you are not limited to the state of your residency. You are free to use any state plan as long as they are accepting out-of-state residents. That being said, I would give strong consideration to the State of Michigan plan because it is flexible, low cost and has a variety of investment options.

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).

# Election monitors ramp up battle plan against conspirators

## Clara Hendrickson

Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Set up hidden cameras to capture license plate numbers. If you go at night, show up armed.

These aren't battlefield directions. They're instructions laid out as part of a strategic operation spearheaded by prominent election conspiracists seeking to keep close tabs on Michigan's upcoming mid-term election.

Michigan is one of several states targeted by the America Project, an organization led by allies of former President Donald Trump to recruit citizen election monitors in ways election experts worry blurs the lines between lawful oversight and vigilantism. In a promotional video touting the America Project's launch, Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn calls the 2020 presidential election "an assault on our sacred election process. The America Project's website lists former Overstock.com CEO Patrick Byrne as part of the "fearless, battle-tested team." Byrne and Flynn participated in failed efforts to overturn the 2020 election that included an attempt to persuade Trump to order the military to seize voting machines. Two leaders from the Michigan GOP — ethnic vice chair Bernadette Smith and grassroots vice chair Marian Sheridan — appeared on panels supported by the America Project.

Michigan for America First, an affiliate of the America Project, has called for drop box observers and poll challengers to fan out across Michigan during the Nov. 8 elec-



Braden Giacobazzi at the Michigan GOP Nominating Convention at the Lansing Center in Lansing on Saturday, August 27, 2022. Giacobazzi was kicked out of the counting board processing absentee ballots cast by Detroit voters during the August 2022 primary. JUNFU HAN, DETROIT FREE PRESS

tion.

The Michigan for America First website states that the America Project encourages poll challengers to attend trainings led by a pair of organizations primarily focused on relitigating the 2020 election despite hundreds of audits, court rulings and post-election reviews upholding the results. Michigan Citizens for Election Integrity has falsely claimed that Detroit stole the election that year while the Election Integrity Force touts its "lawsuit to decertify the Michigan 2020 election" on its website.

While those who deny the legitimacy of the 2020 election and joined efforts to overturn it have had two years to strategize for the Nov. 8 election, so have election officials.

"We've got a lot of plans," said Chris Thomas, Michigan's former elections director who will serve as a liaison to election observers in Detroit during the upcoming midterm.

"This year, we have taken at face value the Republican Party's assertion that they're going to be good citizens and put challengers that fulfill not only the letter but the spirit of the law which is to allow transparency by both parties and other groups," he said. "Now there's other groups that may not share that view of the world, who think that disruption is really what they're there for to see if election officials can effectively function under duress."

In a statement responding to the national campaign led by election deniers to recruit observers in Michigan, incumbent Democratic Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson reiterated that voter intimidation is illegal. "We will stand with them and work with federal, state and local law enforcement to ensure that every voter — no matter where they live, who they vote for or how they choose to vote — is protected and seek consequences for any who seek to illegally interfere with the safety and security of Michigan's elections," Benson said.

### The trainers

Those leading trainings hosted by the groups recommended by the America Pro-

ject include an election challenger previously ejected for disruptive behavior and another who wrote a report alleging "election lawlessness" in Detroit in 2020.

Security personnel removed Braden Giacobazzi from the counting room in Detroit during the recent August primary. Speaking at a recent news briefing hosted by Karamo's campaign, Giacobazzi denied any wrongdoing, called members of the security team "thugs" and accused them of intimidating and assaulting him. "I teach poll challenger training and the one thing I teach is 'be courteous, be nice, be respectful, be peaceful,'" he said.

But election officials say he didn't follow his own instructions.

"He was intrusive and violating department and state protocol and harassing poll workers," said Daniel Baxter, who oversees the absentee counting process in Detroit. "He was being insulting and calling our poll workers cowards." Giacobazzi received multiple warnings before his removal, according to Baxter.

Phil O'Halloran, another poll challenger instructor, wrote a report for Michigan Citizens for Election Integrity which claims to reveal "Detroit's deception in the 2020 election." The Michigan Citizens for Election Integrity website includes the disclaimer that it "does not make any warranties about the completeness, reliability, and accuracy" of the information it publishes.

A manual for poll challengers in Michigan published on the Michigan for America First website provides a glimpse of what kind of oversight activities the America Project supports in the battleground state this fall.

### The ballot box

The challengers' manual on the Michigan for America First website suggests observers set up hidden cameras near ballot drop boxes to capture the license plate numbers of cars belonging to those returning ballots and to show up armed.

"In person monitoring of drop boxes through the night may not be feasible, but if undertaken, should be done with caution, and well-armed, as criminals caught in the act can be dangerous," the manual states.

"We have to respect people's constitutional right to carry and bear arms, but there's a line," said Aghogho Edebie, the Michigan State Director for All Voting is Local, an organization focused on removing barriers to the ballot box. Using weapons to intimidate voters is illegal, he said.

Meanwhile, drop box monitors who set up hidden cameras may be violating laws against voter intimidation, Edebie said. Those exercising their constitutional right to vote and returning their ballot at a drop box videotaped by "some random vigilante election denier would chill the process," Edebie said.

Former Canton state senator Patrick Colbeck — a prominent purveyor of election conspiracies — serves as the state director for Michigan for America First. Col-

beck — whose name appears below an introductory statement in the manual — defended the instructions. "It is not unreasonable to remind our citizens of their right to defend themselves if threatened," Colbeck wrote in an email.

Increased scrutiny of secure drop boxes for returning ballots follows a slew of videos purportedly showing improper ballot returns with some individuals returning multiple ballots. In Michigan, voters can legally return ballots for family and household members or voters who have a disability or may need some form of assistance. Postal workers and authorized election workers can also handle ballots.

Calls to observe drop boxes have unsettled some election officials.

"I will shut one down if it's making voters feel intimidated," said Livonia Clerk Susan Nash of groups planning to monitor voters at ballot boxes. "Mess with my equipment, mess with that ballot box, I'm going to prosecute."

### The polling place

The manual on the Michigan for America First website also includes a lengthy checklist for challengers at polling locations to complete.

The Michigan for America First manual instructs poll challengers at polling locations and counting boards in Michigan to submit an incident report along with pictures, video or audio recordings detailing suspicions of misconduct.

Colbeck has claimed a recent court ruling empowers challengers to record what they see at the polls. During a news briefing hosted by Karamo's campaign, Colbeck called the ability of challengers to record what they see at the polls "one of the key tenets" of the ruling.

The court order issued by Michigan Court of Claims Judge Brock Swartzle invalidates guidance from the Secretary of State's Office barring challengers from possessing electronic devices at counting boards that process absentee ballots.

"He did not say that people could record things," Edebie said of Swartzle's ruling. A long-standing prohibition has prevented challengers from photographing or filming what they see at polling locations and counting boards.

The Secretary of State's Office declined to comment, citing a pending legal appeal on the matter.

Guidance in 2020, like the instructions issued this year, also prohibited challengers at absentee ballot counting boards from recording. A filing on behalf of Benson to suspend Swartzle's order argues that even allowing challengers to possess phones in counting rooms would make it unfeasible "to police what challengers may be texting or emailing from their electronic devices."

Amid GOP efforts to recruit election workers and challengers, some election administrators have welcomed the participation of those who question the 2020 election. Those who observe the process up close leave with a greater understanding of the safeguards in place, they say.

"I'd rather you see the process than question it afterwards," said Nash, the Livonia clerk.

But election officials like Nash have also made unyielding commitments to hold those who interfere with the election process accountable.

Clara Hendrickson fact-checks Michigan issues and politics as a corps member with Report for America, an initiative of The GroundTruth Project. Make a tax-deductible contribution to support her work at [bit.ly/freepRFA](http://bit.ly/freepRFA). Contact her at [clarahendrickson@freepress.com](mailto:clarahendrickson@freepress.com) or 313-296-5743. Follow her on Twitter @clarajanehen.

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Please see agenda on website [www.plymouthlibrary.org](http://www.plymouthlibrary.org)  
The agenda will be posted by November 11, 2022

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its Regular Meeting on November 15, 2022. The meeting will be offered in hybrid format.

The District Library Board will provide auxiliary aids and services of materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Shauna Anderson, Director, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI at 734 453-0750 x 218.

# Whitmer, Dixon trade tough jobs

**Paul Egan**  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Republican challenger Tudor Dixon sparred Tuesday over energy policy and the quality of Michigan's K-12 schools, with Whitmer on the defensive at times over plummeting student performance on reading and math and her efforts to shut down the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline.

The second and final debate between Whitmer and Dixon took place two weeks before Election Day, with polls showing Dixon narrowing what once was a wide Whitmer lead in the race for governor.

The candidates stepped up the rhetoric during the one-hour debate at Oakland University, with Whitmer accusing Dixon of stoking violence and boosting conspiracy theories, and Dixon saying of Whitmer: "Her radical policies have crushed this state."

"Both candidates had a greater sense of urgency tonight," said Aaron Kall, director of debate at U-M. "You could see how important they thought this debate was."

Moderator Chuck Stokes of WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) challenged Whitmer directly on declining performance on standardized tests, saying the buck stops with her as governor and she has had four years to move the needle but has not done it.

"We've also had some historic challenges over the last four years," Whitmer countered, referencing the COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020, adding: "Kids were out for three months." For those who say children were kept out of classrooms for too long, "as a mom, all I was thinking about was saving the lives of our kids."

Dixon said new national test results released this week show Michigan is a "bottom state" for education and "we are really doing horribly in reading and math." She scoffed at Whitmer's statement that students were only out of classrooms for three months, saying some students had not even returned to classrooms this year.

Whitmer ordered schools closed in March 2020 and eventually extended



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, left, and Republican gubernatorial candidate Tudor Dixon speak during their debate on WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) at Oakland University in Rochester on Tuesday. AP

that closure through the end of that school semester. She again ordered high schools closed for an additional three weeks in November 2020 during a spike in COVID-19 cases. During much of the pandemic, returning to in-person instruction was a decision left up to local school districts, under legislation agreed to by Whitmer and the Republican-controlled Legislature, so many students were out of classrooms for much longer.

School test results released Monday by the National Assessment of Educational Progress showed the performance of Michigan students in reading and mathematics worsened between 2019 and 2022, roughly mirroring drops in performance seen around the country.

The national ranking of Michigan's performance in fourth grade reading dropped to 43rd in 2022, from 32nd in 2019, while the state's ranking in eighth grade reading dropped to 31st, from 28th, the report shows. Michigan saw some improvement in its national ranking, relative to other states, in mathematics, but test scores also worsened in that discipline and Michigan's rankings remained in the bottom half of the 50

states. Detroit Public Schools performed worst of the 26 urban districts nationally that participated in the tests.

Dixon called for 25 hours of tutoring for every Michigan student to help them recover from the lost classroom time and catch up.

Whitmer said Michigan has made the biggest investment ever in K-12 schools under her administration and that has included tutoring and other extra help for students adversely affected by the pandemic.

And she said that if Dixon is elected governor, the education budget will be written by Dixon and her biggest financial booster, former U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, and half a billion dollars will be drained from public schools to pay for a tax credit plan DeVos is backing in the Legislature to support private schools.

Whitmer, who campaigned in 2018 on shutting down Line 5 to protect the environmentally sensitive Straits of Mackinac from a potential spill of crude oil, appeared on the defensive on that issue after Dixon said such a shutdown would disrupt propane supplies to both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas, forcing up already high home heating costs.

"There has been no change in Line 5," Whitmer said. "The tunnel continues to move forward," she said, referencing an Enbridge plan to dig a tunnel across the straits and encase the pipeline in concrete to prevent a spill. That plan, backed by former Gov. Rick Snyder and the GOP Legislature, is opposed by Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel, in favor of an immediate shutdown.

Dixon countered: "The only reason it's not shut down is because other people have stopped her radical energy agenda."

Whitmer, who has said alternative arrangements can be made to supply Michigan residents with propane, said she has promoted clean energy alternatives and it's possible to protect against energy price spikes at the same time as protecting the Great Lakes from an environmental catastrophe.

At their first debate, held Oct. 13 in Grand Rapids, Whitmer and Dixon portrayed each other as radical as they debated abortion, roads and a wide range of other state issues.

Contact Paul Egan: 517-372-8660 or [pegan@freepress.com](mailto:pegan@freepress.com). Follow him on Twitter @paulegan4.

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# Doctor

Continued from Page 1A

sexually assaulted his patient," the release said.

He was charged with four counts of criminal sexual conduct third-degree (force or coercion); and three counts of criminal sexual conduct fourth-degree (force or coercion), and he entered a plea of not guilty before Magistrate Matthew Friedrich of the 47th District Court in Farmington Hills, the release said. Levran was being held as of Monday morning at the Oakland County Jail, according to a county website.

To be released, the court ordered that Levran comply with the following: Post a \$100,000 cash or surety bond; wear an electronic-locator tether and not leave the state; surrender his driver's license and passports; stay home although he may leave for work, medical emergencies, court hearings and

meetings with a lawyer; no longer treat patients at his home office, and "not have contact with the victim, the victim's family, minors, hockey players or staff."

Farmington Hills police Chief Jeff King said in a statement that he "wishes to extend his thoughts and prayers for the victim of this crime and commends him for his courage in coming forward and reporting this incident."

King said that "investigators are concerned that other patients may have had similar experiences with Dr. Levran but may not have yet come forward (and) "anyone with information relevant to this incident or knowledge of similar incidents" should contact the Farmington Hills Police Department at 248-871-2610. Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald was cited in the release as encouraging additional victims "to reach out" to police.

Contact Bill Laitner: blaitner@freepress.com

# Cakes

Continued from Page 1A

must take a mandatory online orientation before beginning. Once approved, volunteers can access an online task calendar listing upcoming opportunities for cake baking with all the details: the age of the recipient, date of delivery and whether the child has a specific request.

"For example, if the child really likes Baby Shark and he wanted a blue cake and he wanted it to be chocolate with chocolate frosting, he could say that," said Gannon, noting the cakes can also be listed as baker's choice.

Cakes, she emphasized, should be baked with care but do not need to look like they came from a professional bake shop.

"Some people feel a little intimidated, because there's definitely some very talented bakers in our Sprinkle Squad and we've had some beautiful cakes," Gannon said. "But even if you've never baked a cake before, and you just want to help these kids celebrate a special day in their life... some of these kids have never celebrated a birthday. It might seem like just a

birthday cake, but it means so much more to these kids. It means the world to them."

Alisha Hejka, mentoring director with Royal Family KIDS Plymouth, an outreach of NorthRidge Church in Plymouth, agreed.

The group, which serves foster kids from Wayne, Washtenaw and Oakland counties, recently signed on as a recipient of For Goodness Cakes, and the kids are loving it.

"A lot of kids in foster care don't even know when their birthday is," Hejka said. "A lot of them have never had a birthday party before. They have either been passed around a lot, or the neglect abuse was so bad that their birthday was not even celebrated."

When the personalized cakes arrive, she said, the kids are often in disbelief. They just kept asking 'Is this really for me?' It's an awesome opportunity to show these kids that they are special and they matter and these cakes really help that," Hejka said.

Interested in learning more or joining the For Goodness Cakes Sprinkle Squad? Visit the For Goodness Cakes Detroit Chapter website.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com or 248-221-8143.



Ackroyd's employee Wendy Jones of Redford Township rolls out dough in the new facility for the Scottish bakery in Redford. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Bakery

Continued from Page 1A

and curbside pickup. Given how little space the Five Mile shop had for the volume the business was doing, she began looking for a new space, eventually signing a lease at the new building and relocating all its supplies and work.

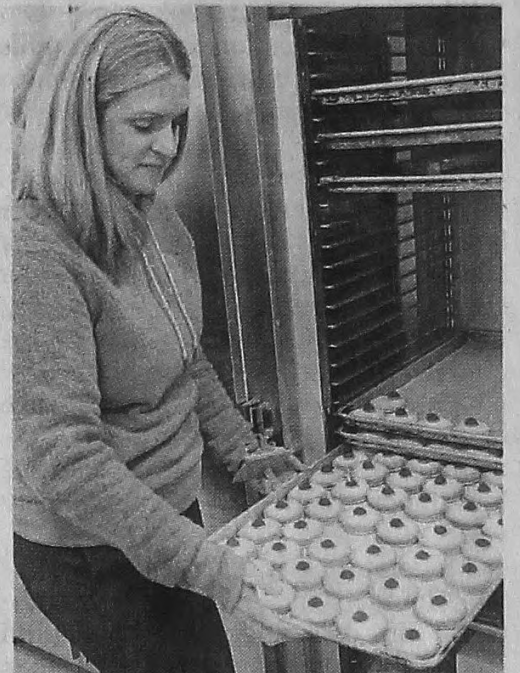
It's a far cry from how the business started and operated for years. Ackroyd's had retail locations in several communities over the decades; in addition to the Redford location, it also operated shops in communities such as Birmingham, Dearborn and Flint.

While local customers can opt to have orders shipped to them, the bakery has restarted offering some limited curbside pickup. Customers can place orders online and pick up at the bakery Thursdays and Fridays between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. It's something the bakery hopes to offer more often in the future, but Ackroyd admits it could change depending on what happens in the future.

"It's worth it for us, yes, definitely worth it for us now," Ackroyd said. "But again, there probably will be one of those breaking points where something has to give."

Those looking to order from Ackroyd's can do so by visiting ackroydsbakery.com.

While many longtime customers of the business have expressed some concern over the changes, Ackroyd said it's needed to stay in business and remain competitive. The old method of stocking a storefront with employees




Megan Ackroyd pulls out a tray of Empire Biscuits at the new home of Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery in Redford Township. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

just did not make financial sense, Ackroyd said.

The other benefit to the changes? Better working conditions for all the workers at the bakery, something Ackroyd said was desperately needed for everyone involved.

"I'm most proud of our work-life balance," she said. "We're a little bit more in control of what happens within these walls. The control gives us the flexibility."


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



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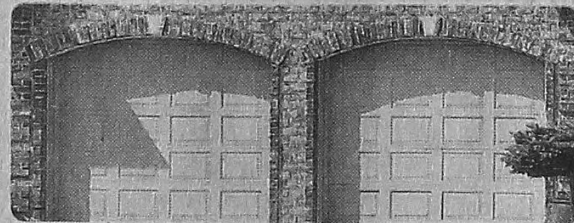
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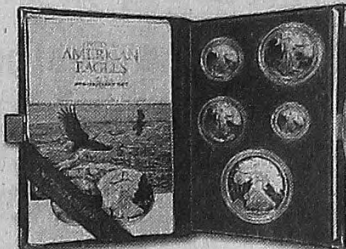
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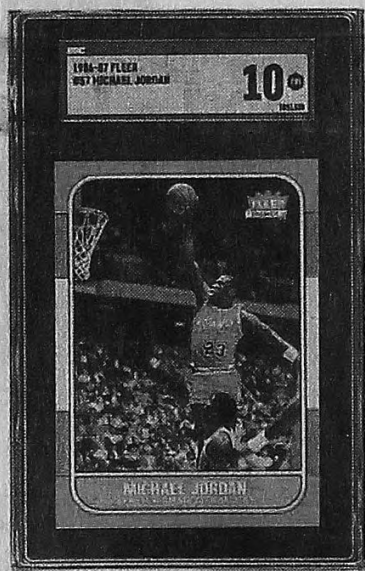
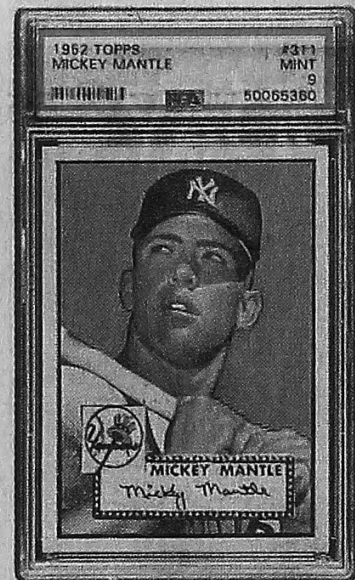
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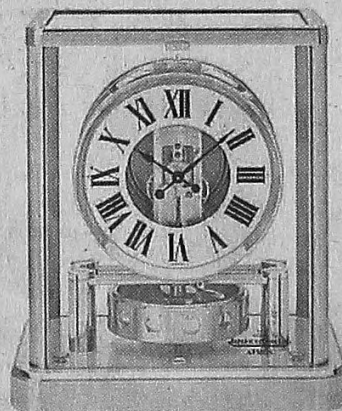
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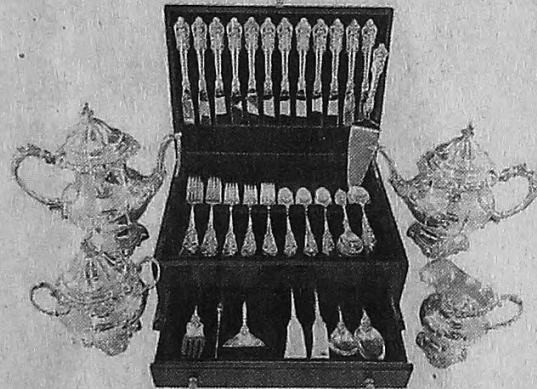


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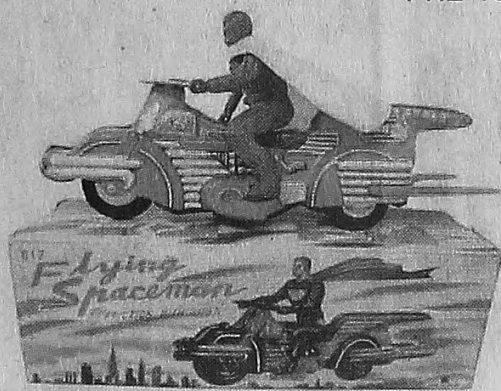


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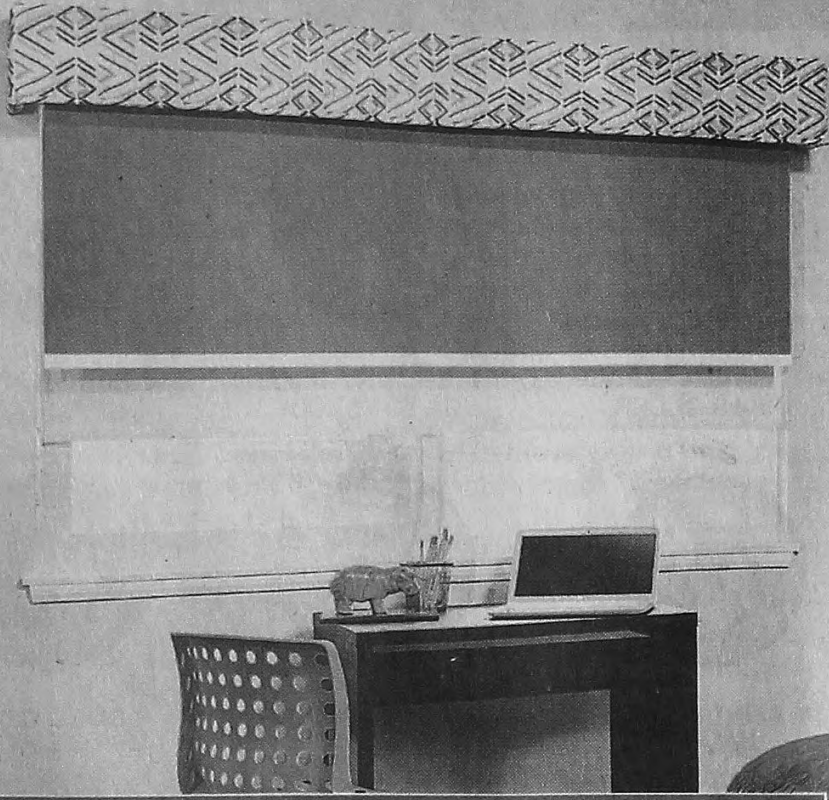
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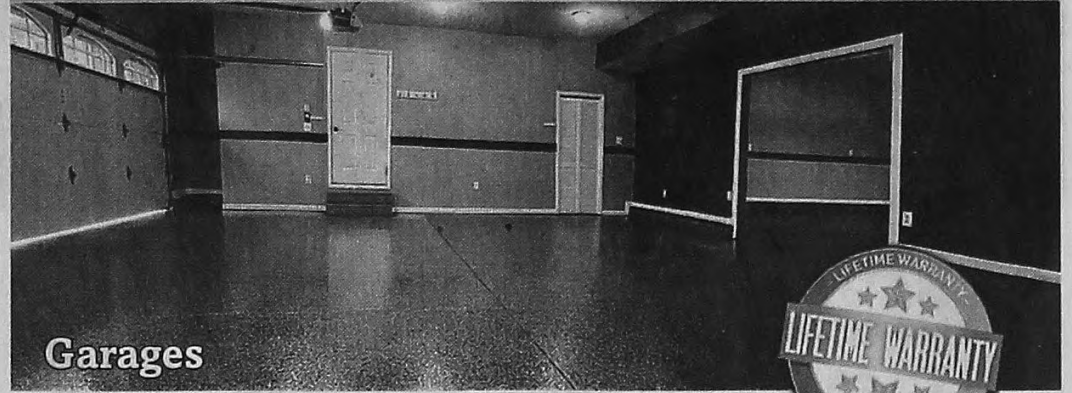


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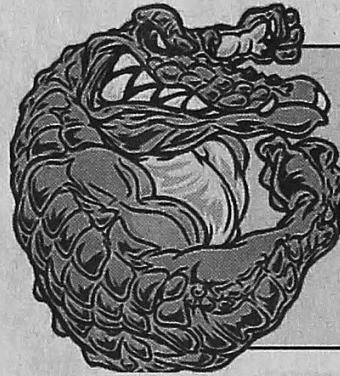
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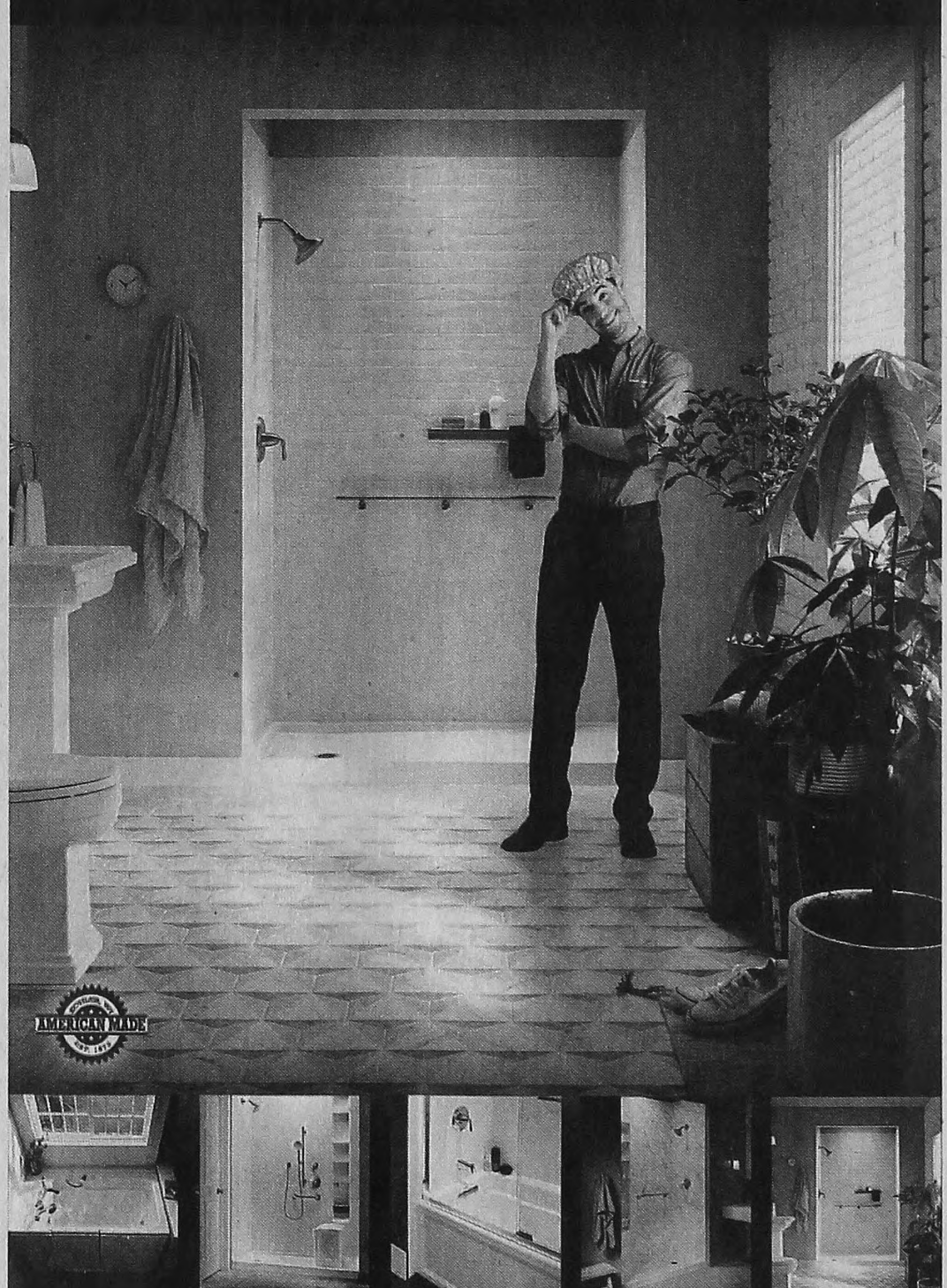
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# Obituaries

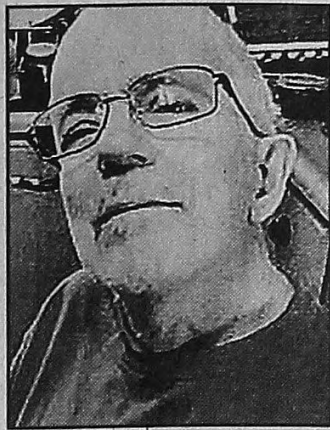
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## James Bruce Ellerby

JOHANNESBURG - Mr. James Bruce Ellerby, 73 of Johannesburg, Michigan died peacefully at his home on October 10, 2022, with his wife at his side. He was born in Pontiac, Michigan on July 3, 1949, to the late, Robert and Augusta "Jackie" (Hosey) Ellerby. He served his country proudly in the United States Navy from 1969-1975 during the Vietnam War. James has resided in Johannesburg since 2003 but had owned a cottage in the area since 1996. He began coming up north as a small infant in the 1950's and it was always his dream to retire here because he absolutely loved northern Michigan. Before retiring, James worked for the city of Royal Oak. He was very, very musical, and talented. James sang and played the bass and performed in the Kenneth Jewel Corral in Detroit, the Detroit Lutheran Singers, and the Prince of Glory Lutheran Church Ensemble in Royal Oak. He even played the bass for a couple of plays. He fostered special needs children with his wife, Sallie for 10 years and thoroughly enjoyed being up north. He will be deeply missed.

James is survived by his wife, Sallie Ellerby of Johannesburg; brother, Robert (Mary) Ellerby of Portland, Oregon; stepbrother, Carl (Pat) Lundgren of New Hampshire; and step brother-in-law, Ronald Liesmer of Illinois. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Augusta Ellerby; stepdad, Clifford Lundgren; and stepsister, Karen.

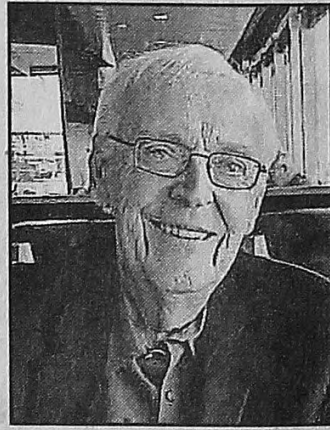
In accordance with his wishes, cremation has taken place. The family has chosen to remember James privately at this time. Donations may be made to the Charlevoix Area Humane Society in James' honor. Arrangements were entrusted to Green Funeral Home. Condolence messages may be sent via our website at [www.greenfuneralhomes.com](http://www.greenfuneralhomes.com)



## Robert A. Gardner

Robert A. Gardner (Bob) was born on May 26, 1931 in Detroit. He married his wife, Evadon (Eve) Gardner, on September 15, 1956 and they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with family in 2021 before Eve's passing earlier this year. He was a loyal and devoted husband as well as father and grandfather to his two daughters, Michelle and Elyse, his two grandchildren, Adam and Tori, and his baby great granddaughter, Ellie. Raised in Detroit by parents who had immigrated from Scotland, Bob was a graduate of Lawrence Technological University and Cass Technical High School. As a Registered Architect, Bob worked for Detroit area architectural firms before his tenure began in 1964 at General Motors Argonaut, its real estate division. His career spanned over 26 years there before retiring in 1990. Bob was a very active retiree and enjoyed golf, winter vacations in Florida, events at the Birmingham Senior Men's Club, Heather's Club of Bloomfield, GM Argonaut Retiree Club, Bloomfield Township Library, and membership at the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham.

View obituary and share memories at [AJDesmond.com](http://AJDesmond.com)

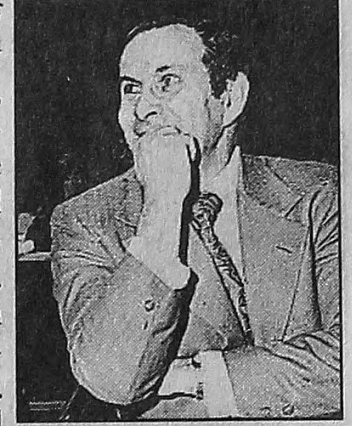
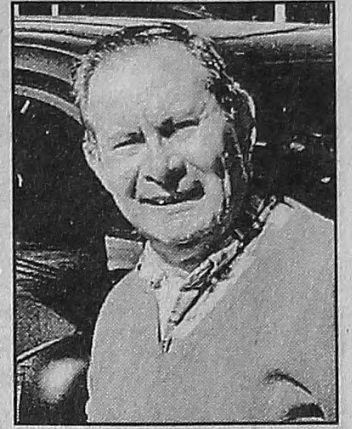


## Benjamin Ray

DEDHAM - Benjamin Ray, of Dedham, MA, passed away on October 16 at the age of 96. Born September 18, 1926 in Loch Gully, West Virginia, he grew up in Detroit, Michigan. After high school he served in the Army during World War II, and on his return earned a B.S. from the Michigan College of Mining and Technology in Sault Ste Marie, MI, which made a lasting impression on him for the snow, extreme cold and predominance of rutabagas in the cafeteria. After working briefly in industry he turned to education, earning an M.S. from Michigan State, and devoting the rest of his career to education as a high school teacher of science, a coach and an administrator (his least favorite job) in Livonia, MI. After retiring and moving to Dedham in 1996 to be near family he spent many hours volunteering at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, the Dedham Historical Society, enjoying Boston Symphony performances, reading and studying history.

He is survived by his two sons, Douglas Ray (and his wife Becky) of Richland, WA, Jim Ray (and his wife Natalie Jensen) of Dedham, MA; his grandchildren Tamarack O'Donnell, Chaney Ray, Julia Ray and Nicholas Ray and great grandchildren Stella Stokes, Avery O'Donnell and Ethan O'Donnell. He was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Mary Frances (Dreese), and his siblings Manuel, Joe and Julia.

No services are planned at this time.



## Terry Scott Stillwagon

Terry Scott Stillwagon passed away peacefully on September 5, 2022 with his sister Rebecca, by his side, holding his hand. Terry lived on his terms with a positive outlook and good humor. He was a bright light and the world will miss his spark.

Terry was born to Ruth and Scott Stillwagon on March 21, 1942, in Detroit, Michigan, the oldest of five children. He overcame childhood polio to become adept at many sports including swimming, sailing, and golf. As a youngster, he amazed people by catching and throwing a baseball with the same hand. The physical impact of polio never defined him and he taught us to face adversity without complaint. He was skilled in electronics and wood-working, rebuilding a radio, a recording machine for vinyls, and making everything from dressers to wooden rocking horses.

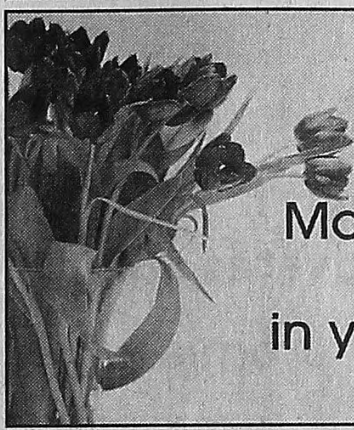
His interpersonal skills served him well in a very long career as a real estate professional, which he pursued until recently. On birthdays and holidays, his calls were consistent and memorable. National politics, Detroit sports, Civil War history, and religion were his favorite topics. His faith journey gave him much comfort, especially during his final days.

Terry had a great sense of humor, both clever and edgy, but always with perfect timing to lighten any mood, whether at a wedding or a funeral. He loved to laugh and execute practical jokes, such as during a dominoes game with family and at his sister Rebecca's wedding. Along with his brother, Dennis, there was plenty of mischief. His lighthearted manner will be deeply missed.

Terry is survived by his daughters, Beth (Joe) Straub and Jennifer Stillwagon, brother, Dennis (Connie) Stillwagon, and sisters, Ruth Ellen (Bob) Kucab, Rebecca (Tom) Brent, and Gwendolyn Stillwagon. He leaves his beloved aunt, Gwendolyn Joseph, former spouse and longtime friend, Karen Jackson Stillwagon, many cousins, nieces, nephews, and supportive close friends and coworkers. A remembrance of Terry's life is planned for the spring. The family wishes to thank Beaumont of Farmington Hills for their kind support and care. Memorial donations may be made to the Michigan Humane Society, 900 N. Newburgh Road, Westland, MI, 48185.



May you find  
peace  
in your time of  
sorrow.



## Kathleen Mary Sweder

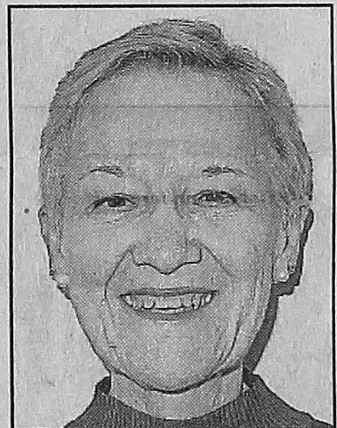
LIVONIA - Kathleen Mary Sweder, of Livonia, age 74, passed away peacefully on October 18, 2022.

Beloved wife of Thomas for 52 years. Loving mother of Julie (Jeff) Camarata and Tom (Cathleen) Sweder. Dear grandmother of Jacob (Sydney) and Isabelle, Braeden and Maia. Stepdaughter of Lucy Hance. Dear sister of Joe Hance, Lynn (Olin) Robie, Christine (Norm) Claerr, Pat, and Robert (Stephanie) Hance.

A visitation will be held at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday, October 23, 2022 from 1:00 PM until 8:00 PM with a Vigil Service at 7:00PM. Instate at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Road, Livonia, Monday, October 24, 2022, from 9:30 AM until her Funeral Service at 10:00 AM.

Memorials may be directed to the Lewy Body Dementia Association (LBDA.org).

Please share a memory at [www.rggrharris.com](http://www.rggrharris.com).



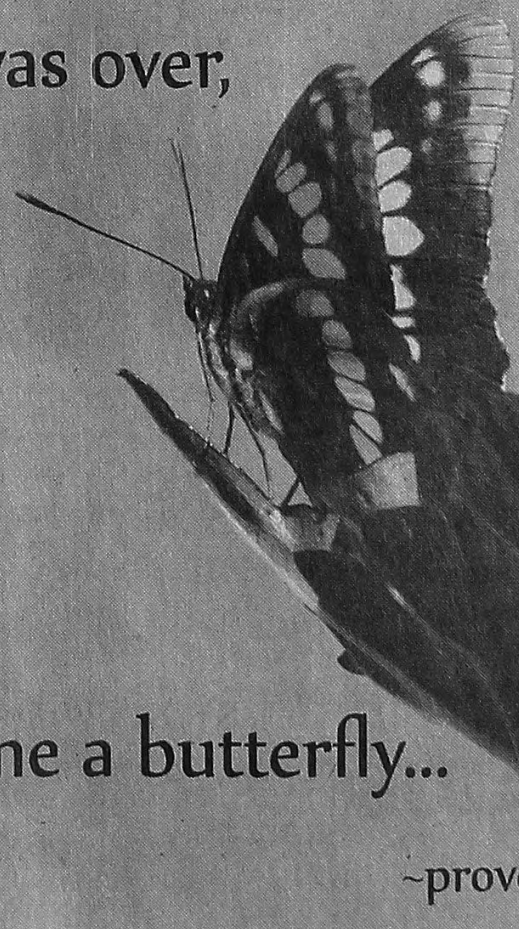
Never  
Forgotten



Just when the caterpillar  
thought the  
world was over,

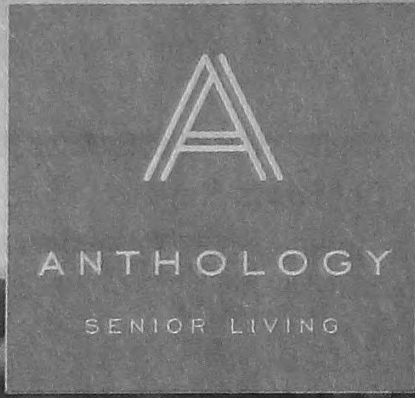
it became a butterfly...

~proverb



Life itself  
is a quotation.

~Jorge Luis Borges



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# SPORTS

## Former Groves coach leads rival Seaholm to boys soccer district title

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

The decision wasn't an easy one. Following two seasons leading the Birmingham Groves soccer program, which included the Falcons winning a Division 1 district title in 2021, Greg Perkins stepped down as head coach to take on a new challenge.

And where was that challenge? Less than 2 miles up the road at rival Birmingham Seaholm.

On paper, the decision made sense. Groves had just graduated 15 seniors, and Seaholm was bringing back some of the most talent it has had in years. And several of them had played for Perkins at the club level.

So not only were the Maples going to be good this fall, but he actually knew these kids. He knew their personalities. He knew the strengths and weaknesses of their games. He knew they were going to be good.

And they were — and still are. Seaholm is currently 16-1-3 overall. And that one loss? That was a 3-0 heartbreaker to Groves on Sept. 13. Led by senior Mori Miller, the Falcons got the best of their old coach and spent plenty of time celebrating it afterward on the Maples' own field.

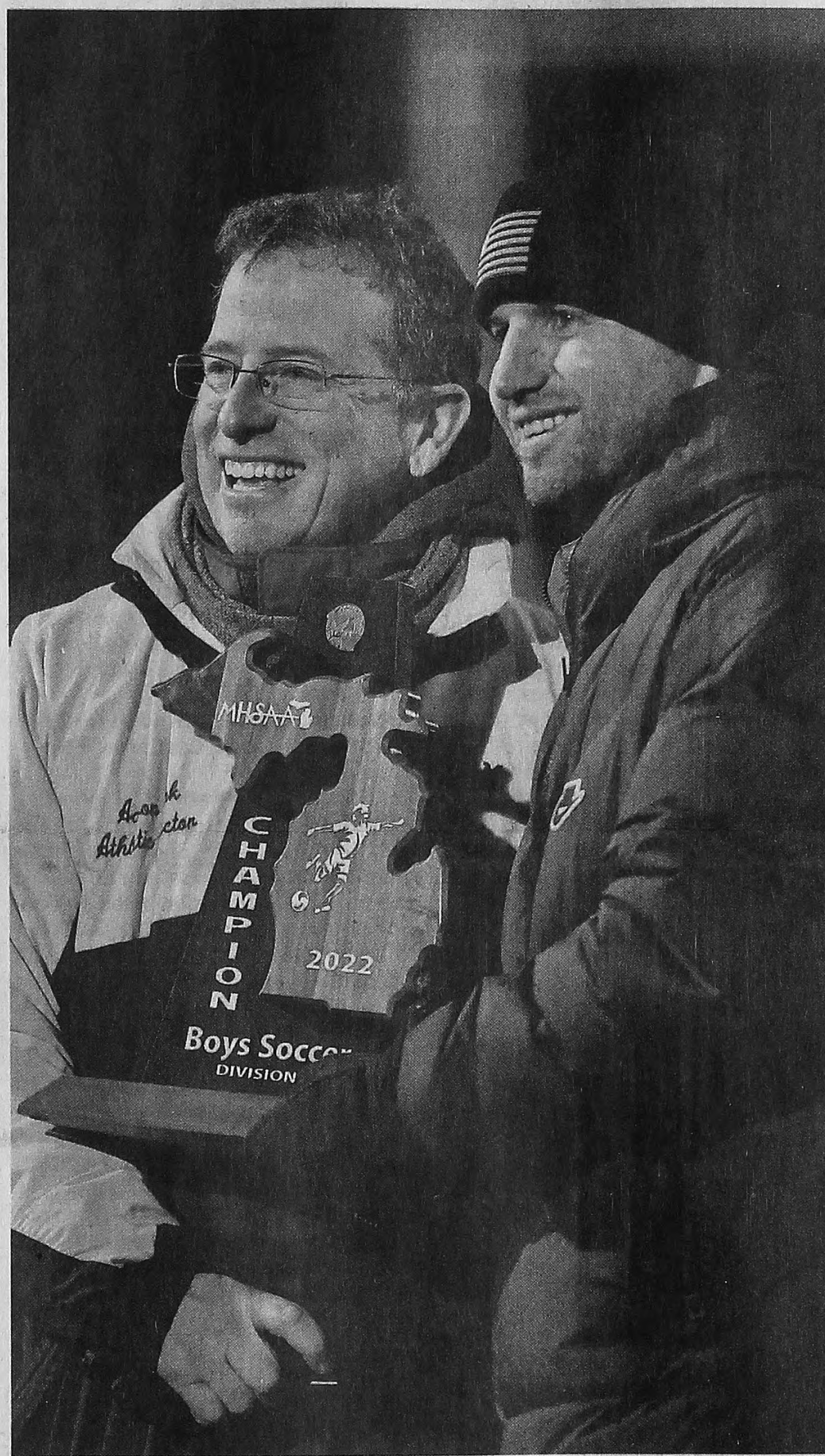
But the Maples got the best of Groves when they edged the Falcons by one point in the final Oakland Activities Association-White standings, meaning they were the ones who captured the league title, not Perkins' old boys.

And they haven't lost a game since. They tied Bloomfield Hills 1-1 two days later. But now they're on an 11-game winning streak, which also includes them beating the Black Hawks 2-0 to win a district title Oct. 19 at North Farmington.

That's right. Just one season after leaving Groves, Perkins has helped the Maples capture both league and district championships.

"It was (a hard decision to leave Groves)," Perkins admitted. "But the reason I went to Groves was a similar kind of reason. We had 15 seniors who graduated from Groves last year. Sea-

See **SOCCER**, Page 3B



Birmingham Seaholm athletic director Aaron Frank and coach Greg Perkins celebrate with the championship trophy following the Division 1 boys soccer district final Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## The best defense in school history? The Panthers just proved it

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

The Senior Day festivities at Hilbert Middle School were in full swing. Redford Union football coach Ian Iler stood near the west end zone to shake hands with each senior in the ceremony.

Quarterback Cory Chavis took as many last-minute practice snaps as he could before it was his turn to be honored.

And, one by one, each of the other seniors made their way to midfield with their parents and guardians. It was quite the moment for the Panthers and their fans in the stands.

And assistant Tim Hopkins was oblivious to the whole thing. The defensive coordinator was too busy holding court with the handful of media members who trickled in just before the Redford City championship kicked off.

The Panthers (9-0) have been lights-out on offense all year. And it makes sense why. Chavis has one of the strongest arms in metro Detroit. Plus, the senior has several future Division I options to get the ball to at any moment. They're averaging almost 41 points per game.

But Hopkins wanted the media members to know exactly why Union was about to beat rival Redford Thurston 36-0, finish 7-0 in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference and repeat as the league champions: The defense.

Hopkins held up three fingers. Then he recited the team's three goals.

They want to win their first two playoff games and secure the program's first-ever district title.

They want to earn a berth into the Division 4 state championship.

But first and foremost? They wanted to snap a 52-year program record.

The fewest points the Panthers have allowed in a single season was 54 during the 1970 season.

Through eight games, they'd allowed just 47 points. And they closed

See **FOOTBALL**, Page 3B

## Here are the top performers in Week 9 of Michigan high school football

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

Week 9 of the Michigan high school football season is in the books. Let's take a look at the stat leaders around the Hometown Life coverage area. Is your team missing stat leaders? Encourage your coaches to send stats to

sports reporter Brandon Folsom at [bfol-som@hometownlife.com](mailto:bfol-som@hometownlife.com).


**Kensington Lakes Activities Association**

**Dearborn 35, Novi 20**  
Caleb Walker was 16 of 28 passing for 218 yards, two TDs and one interception for the Wildcats (5-4). Andrew Kummer caught five passes for 55 yards and one

TD. Cole Shires had three catches for 76 yards and one score and Martez Langford rushed 14 times for 45 yards and a TD. Niko Krall led the defense with 12 tackles (eight solo), Thaddeus Lawler had eight tackles (six solo) and Andrew Abler and Preston Phimister each had a half-sack.  
**Livonia Franklin 25, Northville 6**  
Cordell Mabins Jr. rushed 27 times for 116 yards and two TDs for the Patriots

(8-1), while JD Bates was 7 of 12 passing for 80 yards and a 12-yard TD to Tyler Garrett. Garrett caught three passes for 53 yards, and Jon Jasionowski finished with five carries for 45 yards and one score. Jacob Goria (two for loss) and Jasionowski had four solo tackles apiece, James Thomas had one sack and Dominic Simpson totaled six tackles.

See **STATS**, Page 4B




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

**Brandon Folsom**

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom is back with his final top-10 football rankings heading in to the playoffs:

**10. Garden City (6-3, 4-2 WWAC; Last week: No. 10)**

The Cougars secured a playoff berth for the first time since 2018 thanks to a trio of scoop-and-score TDs and two Josh Sharp-Pelto pick-sixes against Pontiac. Now comes a challenging trip to Dearborn Divine Child. The Falcons went 7-2 overall with impressive wins over Livonia Clarenceville, Detroit Loyola and Pontiac Notre Dame Prep. Should Garden City pull off the upset in its playoff opener, they'll likely get a rematch against Redford Union in Round 2.

**9. Birmingham Seaholm (7-2, 3-1 OAA-Blue; Last week: No. 4)**

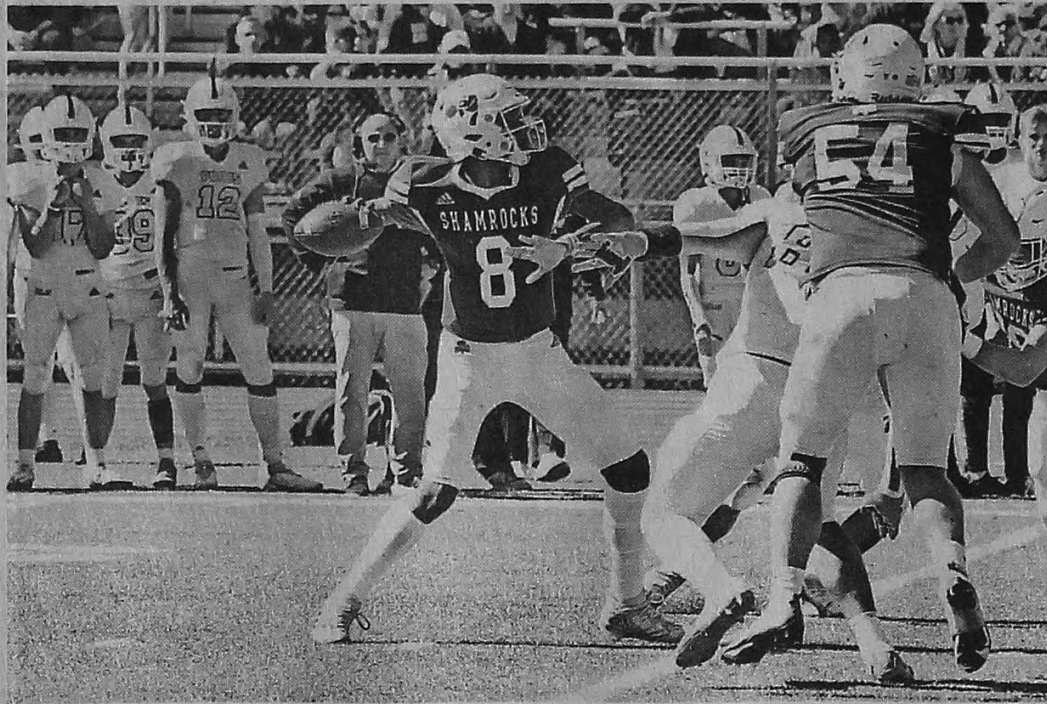
The bad news is the Maples came up just short of knotting the score late at Birmingham Groves and forcing overtime in the regular-season finale. And some even worse news is they're entering the postseason on a two-game losing streak after going 7-0 to open the year. However, the good news is they have a winnable Round 1 matchup against 5-4 Ferndale. And if Groves takes care of business against Warren Mott, Seaholm will get to rematch its crosstown rival.

**8. Farmington (6-3, 3-1 OAA-Blue; Last week: No. 6)**

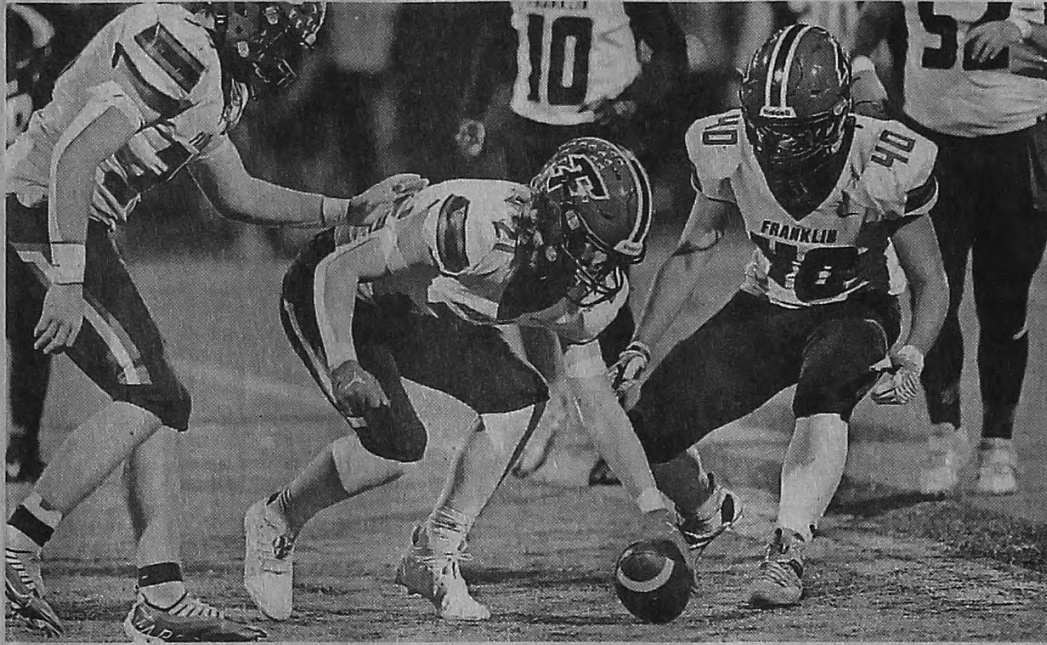
After upsetting Seaholm and earning a share of the Oakland Activities Association-Blue championship in Week 8, the Falcons came up short of beating two-loss Utica in the regular-season finale. And the Chieftains were on a seven-game losing streak after going winless in the Macomb Area Conference-White, the second-toughest division of the MAC. That's not great as Farmington prepares to hike down to the Michigan-Ohio border to battle Temperance Bedford in the playoff opener. The Mules have beaten only one team with a winning record, but they did defeat Ypsilanti Lincoln, which beat Farmington in Week 1.

**7. Birmingham Groves (6-3, 3-2 OAA-White; Last week: Unranked)**

Jack Wainer's late-game heroics ensured the Falcons took care of rival Seaholm, 14-7, in Week 9. But they'll need superhero efforts from several of their players to stay alive in the postseason. They have a winnable Round 1 matchup against Warren Mott, but then they'll likely rematch Seaholm in the district championship. Expect an all-out assault from the Maples, who will host the rivalry game this time around since it has more playoff points than the Falcons.



Detroit Catholic Central's Beau Jackson passes against Warren De La Salle during the Boys Bowl football game Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Livonia Franklin's Owen Pittenger downs a punt during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association crossover football game Friday, Oct. 21, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**6. South Lyon (6-3, 5-3 LVC; Last week: No. 5)**

Raise your hand if you saw the Lions losing three regular-season games in 2022. What a shock it was to see them limp into the postseason on a two-game losing streak following back-to-back slugfests with Mott and South Lyon East. But that's the reality South Lyon faces right now. At least it gets the Cougars again in Round 1. Expect seniors such as Tommy Donovan, Braden Fracassi, Alex Stoyanovich and Simeon Mardossian to have the boys ready for the rematch.

**5. Northville (7-2, 6-1 KLAA-West; Last Week: No. 3)**

The Mustangs are a great team, and they have a chance to win a district championship. Don't let their two losses fool you either. They've lost to Brighton and Livonia Franklin, and both squads made an appearance in the most recent top-25 poll released by The D Zone over the weekend. It's not like Northville is losing to middle-of-the-road teams.

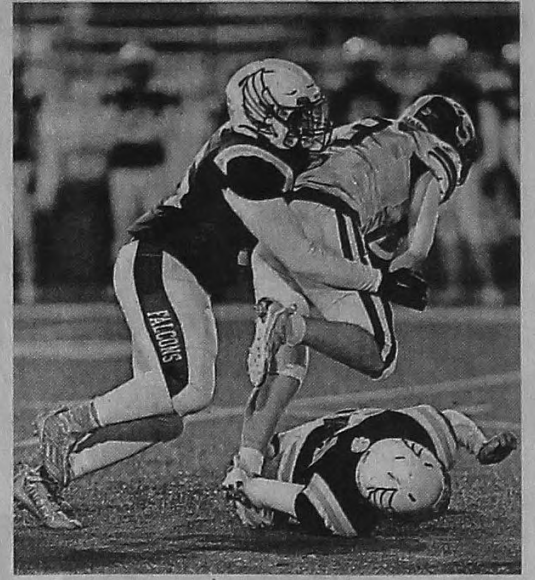
They're battling some of the best teams in Michigan, and that should make them battle-tested entering the postseason. And, of course, they'll need to be when they rematch rival Novi in Round 1.

**4. Detroit Catholic Central (6-2, 2-1 CHSL-Central; Last week: No. 4)**

You've got to take the good with the bad. The good is the Shamrocks enter the postseason well-rested and healed up since it had an open week to conclude the regular season. The bad is because they took a bye week, they didn't accumulate any playoff points. So that means they're going on the road when they face Dearborn in Round 1. And they'll be on the road in Round 2 should Northville beat Novi in the other matchup in that district.

**3. South Lyon East (7-2, 6-2 LVC; Last week: No. 7)**

It is finally safe to anoint the 2022 squad as the best team in program history. Last week's victory gave the Cou-



Farmington's Ekene Uzosike (left) makes a stop during an Oakland Activities Association-Blue football game against Birmingham Seaholm on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

gars the most wins (7) and points scored (257) in a single season and marked only the second time it had beaten rival South Lyon. Yeah, South Lyon East has only been playing the sport since 2008, but this is a special season. And the Cougars have a chance to continue making it special if they can beat South Lyon in Round 1.

**2. Livonia Franklin (8-1, 6-1 KLAA-East; Last week: No. 2)**

No wonder Livonia Franklin is making its eighth-straight playoff appearance. Dating back to Oct. 1, 2021, the Patriots have lost just three games. That's two Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East matchups to Belleville, the defending Division 1 state champions, and a state semifinal loss to Warren De La Salle, last year's D-2 state champions. Yeah, these Patriots are good. They're just not getting as much love as they should be because they continue to face Michigan's best powerhouses. That's about to change as they look to win another district championship in the next two weeks.

**1. Redford Union (9-0, 7-0 WWAC; Last week: No. 1)**

What a year for the Panthers. They won the Western Wayne Athletic Conference for the second-straight year. Their win over Cranbrook in the regular-season finale gave them a perfect 9-0 record. And the three points they allowed to the Cranes meant they gave up just 50 points for the entire season. That makes this the best defense in program history as it snapped a 52-year record (the 1970 team allowed just 54 points). Can they keep this going? They've never won a district championship. This could be the year should they get past Livonia Clarenceville in Round 1 and either Garden City or Divine Child in Round 2.

**Out of the top-10 rankings:** Novi (5-4, 6-2 KLAA-East).

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

## Away from war in Ukraine, athlete finds solace in soccer

**Brian Calloway**

Lansing State Journal

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lucas Perez has always noticed Ruslan Masalatin's big smile.

From the first day he met Masalatin during a summer workout with the DeWitt soccer program, that smile was there. And whether he's on the pitch in perfect conditions or on a cold and rainy day when everyone is tired, that demeanor has remained.

"He's always putting a smile on our faces when we don't want to practice or we're having a tough time during a game," Perez said. "He is a very outgoing person. He has a great sense of humor and has helped our team a lot. That's his personality. He's not afraid to show it."

Masalatin's friendly nature belies what's going on inside. Beneath the smile is fear and unending concern for his family and friends at home in Kharkov, Ukraine - a country in the thick of war since Russian forces invaded and have continued attacks since February.

He balances his worry for loved ones and about his country's future with gratefulness to be half a world away attending school and still playing soccer.

"We are in America in complete safety thanks to this country," Masalatin said.

Masalatin, a sophomore, witnessed first-hand the impacts of the war in the early weeks, seeing rocket missile at-

tacks destroy buildings and vehicles as well as aircrafts fly overhead while he was outside playing soccer. Teammates and others he's known have died.

Hearing about Masalatin's experiences have been eye-opening to teammates like Perez and DeWitt soccer coach Joe Ishraidi.

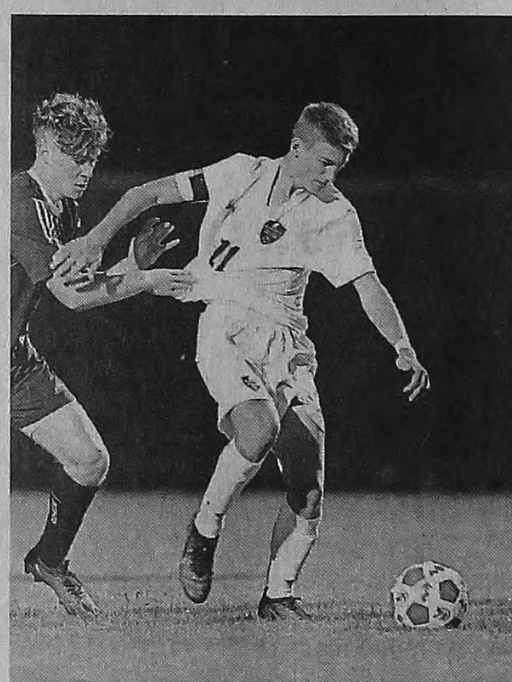
"You don't really realize how real it is until you hear it from somebody that actually lived there and was a witness to all the tragedies that happened in Ukraine," Perez said. "Our whole team has a lot of empathy for him with all the stories he tells us about what happened to his car and his house and to his family and all the friends that he lost in Ukraine."

"(It) is really heartbreaking. That really made our connection even stronger because he shared all those stories with us."

Masalatin and his mother escaped Ukraine in March through a program called Uniting for Ukraine. The program allows Ukrainian citizens to come to the United States and stay for a two-year period. With his stepfather, Keith Parker, living in DeWitt, Masalatin and his mother were able to come to the U.S.

After spending time in Poland and Germany upon leaving Ukraine, Masalatin arrived in DeWitt in July.

He has been welcomed with open arms by the soccer program, which has tried to make him feel comfortable and help him adjust to life in America.



DeWitt's Ruslan Masalatin, right, vies for the ball against East Lansing. AL GOLDIS/FOR THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL

"The players and the parents have been supportive of him and tried to lift him up," Ishraidi said.

Parents made armbands with the Ukrainian flag to show support for Masalatin and his country. Teammates have sported them along with Masalatin during games. It's a gesture he has greatly appreciated.

"It's important," Masalatin said. "It's very important (I can represent) my

country. I'm very glad. Guys support me. I'm very grateful. I'm glad I'm with this team."

The Panthers are also glad to have Masalatin on the field. He played a lot of soccer in Ukraine for FC Metalist and he has made a big impact for Division 2 No. 9-ranked DeWitt.

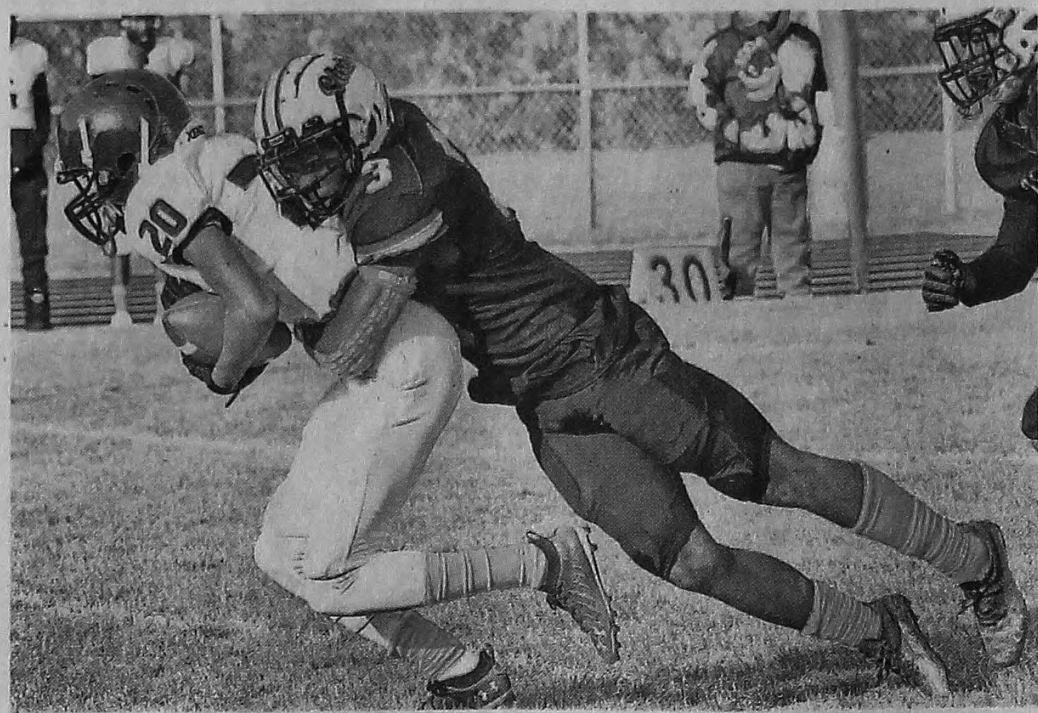
He is one of the team's top goal scorers and helped the Panthers to their first regular-season league title since 2015. He enters Monday's district semifinal against Haslett with seven goals and five assists.

The pitch has been a place of comfort for Masalatin. He has displayed strong skill for a player his age, according to Ishraidi.

But even as the smiles are constant and Masalatin has enjoyed being part of the Panthers' success, he misses the life he left behind.

"The fact that in my country there is a war in my city that affected my family and the families of other residents of my country is very painful," Masalatin said. "It is very creepy when you realize that you don't know when the war will end and when you will return to your country."

"Ukraine is my home forever. (DeWitt) is my home right now. I really miss my country. I really miss my Ukrainian friends and Ukrainian food. It's different. Ukraine is a very beautiful country. It's my home."



Redford Union's Jeremiah Alston-Jackson makes a stop during a Western Wayne Athletic Conference football game against Redford Thurston on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Football

Continued from Page 1B

out the regular-season at Cranbrook. They held the Cranes to three points and hit that benchmark.

And it's not surprising Union made it happen. In Iler's fifth season leading the program, the Panthers are starting to turn the corner. They're starting to earn state-wide respect. They're starting to become a football powerhouse.

"We know that defense wins, and that's what we're about with taking our team to the next level," Hopkins said.

The Panthers have allowed just 5.6 points per game on defense, one of the best in the state.

They've given up more than one touchdown in only one game (a 47-21 win over Garden City in Week 6). And that includes them holding Pewamo-Westphalia, winners of two of the past three D-7 state championships, to just six points in the season opener. And they've posted three shutouts already.

So how are they doing this? You don't just wake up one day and play better defense, right?

Well, two things happened.

First, Detroit Country Day blew out Union 35-6 in last year's district opener.

That loss sparked an incredible amount of buy-in from the players. Whether it was showing up to volunteer off-season workouts, not skipping lifting sessions in the weight room or even signing up for the baseball or track and field teams to stay in shape, each player took heart in doing their part in making the team better.

Each Panther showed motivation to get better in the off-season.

"When I saw how hard those kids wanted to work after Country Day, and I saw how they were willing to do everything that we asked, I knew we were going to be good," Iler said. "Our defense has always been lights out. They've always been the part of our team that has really led us. Now we're trying to make sure all three phases of the game are firing at the same time at all times."

And the other thing that helped the defense improve?

The Panthers' off-season schedule.

They practically lived on the 7-on-7 circuit. And they weren't just playing anybody with a pulse.

They battled past state champions such as Detroit King, Cass Tech, Belleville, River Rouge and DeWitt. And they took on tough programs such as Oak Park, Roseville, Detroit Central and Dearborn.

"And we competed with those high-level kids," Hopkins added. "Even though it was 7 on 7, in order to sharp-



Redford Union's Malique Wilson makes a stop during a Western Wayne Athletic Conference football game against Redford Thurston on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

en iron, you've got to get with iron. In order to get good, you've got to work with guys who are going to push you, and that's been what the big factor was. We exposed our kids to those environments where they can excel."

Iler admitted the Panthers miss being in those competitive atmospheres right now.

The WWAC wasn't as competitive as it has been in the past, with the exception of that Garden City matchup, so keeping the players locked in has been difficult at times.

But they've always shown up ready to go on game day. Especially with the seniors taking responsibility for the team being prepared before each snap.

"It's been very hard," said three-star Central Michigan University commit Jeremiah Alston-Jackson, who's been the heart and soul of the Panthers' defense while playing outside linebacker. "I've just had to keep my head on straight, lead the team and just work hard. We've been working hard, and we want that record of keeping teams under 54 points for the whole season, and we just want to go undefeated."

Added senior defensive back Kyren Ware: "Know that, it's a lot to handle. But at the same time, we go over it (playing hard-nosed defense) every day during every practice of the week. Coach says it every day, 'If you want to be the best, you've got to act like the best.' He wants that record, so we're going to give him that record."

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



Redford Union's Jakahri Lewis makes a stop during a Western Wayne Athletic Conference football game against Redford Thurston on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

holm is more of a 'soccer school' if you like. We get more of an influx of players, and, I'm sure you know, high school soccer coaching isn't paying the bills, right? So I want to have at least a chance of doing something (such as winning championships) if I'm going to spend a lot of time on what I'm working on."

For fans of the Maples' football, swimming and tennis teams, please note that Perkins used air quotes when calling Seaholm a "soccer school." That wasn't a dig at the other sports programs. He's just thankful to have so much talent that chose to attend Seaholm over the other nearby teams during this school-of-choice era.

But, honestly, Seaholm looked like a soccer school against Bloomfield Hills.

Considering the Maples have conceded only one goal during the eight matches they've played in October, which includes them outscoring opponents 26-1 during that 19-day stretch, the Black Hawks (6-8-3) elected to pack it in on defense.

And it made sense. The best way to halt Seaholm's elite scorers is to keep more defenders behind the ball.

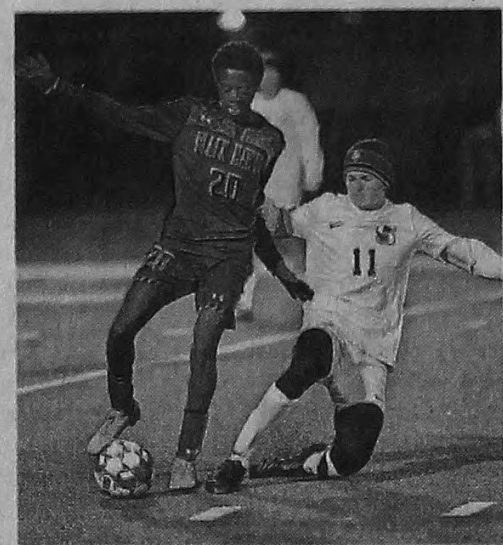
And it worked during the first half. But a minor adjustment at halftime saw Perkins realign his forward's positioning, and that's all it took for the Maples to draw a pair of set pieces to win the championship.

First, Chase Henderson broke the 0-0 stalemate with a goal on a penalty kick in the 44th minute.

And with under 10 minutes left, Cole Ericson took advantage of Bloomfield Hills' laissez-faire approach to stopping his free kick by burying an insurance goal.

"I saw that they were taking way too long to set up that wall, and the keeper was taking too long," the senior midfielder said. "Right as the ref blew that whistle, I knew I had to hit that ball right away. Placement and power were all I was thinking about, and I just put it in the bottom right as hard as I could."

"I knew the pressure was on. I knew I had to step up, and I wanted to. I wanted that goal. I wanted the satisfaction of being the player who put us ahead in the safety spot. I was happy



Bloomfield Hills' Taye Levenson avoids a tackle from Birmingham Seaholm's Cole Ericson during the Division 1 boys soccer district final Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

to do that."

Surprisingly, Ericson's goal celebration of doing the viral NFL and college football dance called "The Griddy" was only the team's second-best celebratory moment of the night.

The top celebration went to Perkins, who grabbed the district title trophy from athletic director Aaron Frank, feigned handing the wooden mitten to his players and did a 180-degree spin while waving the trophy above his heads as parents and newspaper photographers snapped the Maples' biggest moment yet this fall.

Perkins' tough choice to leave Groves had definitely paid off.

"We all love him," said Ericson, who had played for Perkins in the United Football Club Michigan system. "A lot of us grew up playing for him as our club coach. We've got a lot of club connections. It's been a long time since we've known him, and we had that connection with him so it wasn't a fresh start."

"And we knew we had a really great team going into this. We knew that we could do it. We had everything that we needed. We had a lot of seniors, a lot of great seniors, so we knew our potential. We know we can go all the way (to the state finals). We know we can."

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



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# Stats

Continued from Page 1B

Sam Wiest made field goals from 44 and 48 yards for the Mustangs (7-2). Luca Prior was 8 of 15 passing for 64 yards, while Nolan Thomson and Angelo Rodriguez each had 48 yards receiving. Evan Deak led the defense with 10 tackles (three solo), Hassan Elzayat had seven (three solo) and Max Anderson (three solo) and Cooper Hoffman (four solo) had six apiece.

**Canton 50, Livonia Churchill 14**

Devon Pettus rushed 14 times for 176 yards, three TDs and a pair of two-point conversions for the Chiefs (3-6). Joe Najduk added nine carries for 170 yards and two TDs, while Caleb Williams carried seven times for 60 yards and caught two passes for 65 yards and a score. Aiden Carr added 50 yards on the ground.

The Chargers finished the season 2-7 overall.

**Dearborn Fordson 26, Plymouth 14**

Nathan Gillick rushed 20 times for 97 yards and two TDs for the Wildcats

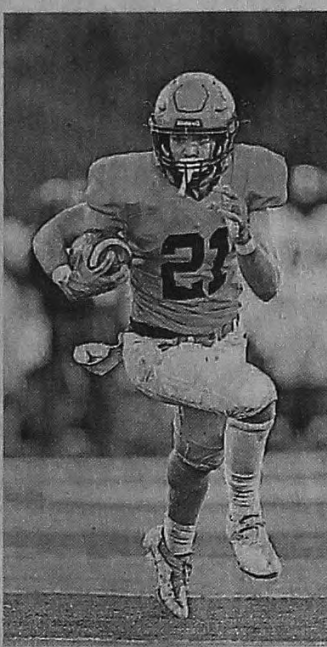
(2-7). Sam Plencner added six carries for 81 yards, and Dylan Sasena caught a 37-yard pass. Luc Damiani led the defense with six tackles (four solo), Marshall Thorn had five tackles (four solo) and Evan Cosgrove (two solo, two for loss) and Kamari Pearson (two solo) had three apiece.

**Hartland 31, Livonia Stevenson 17**

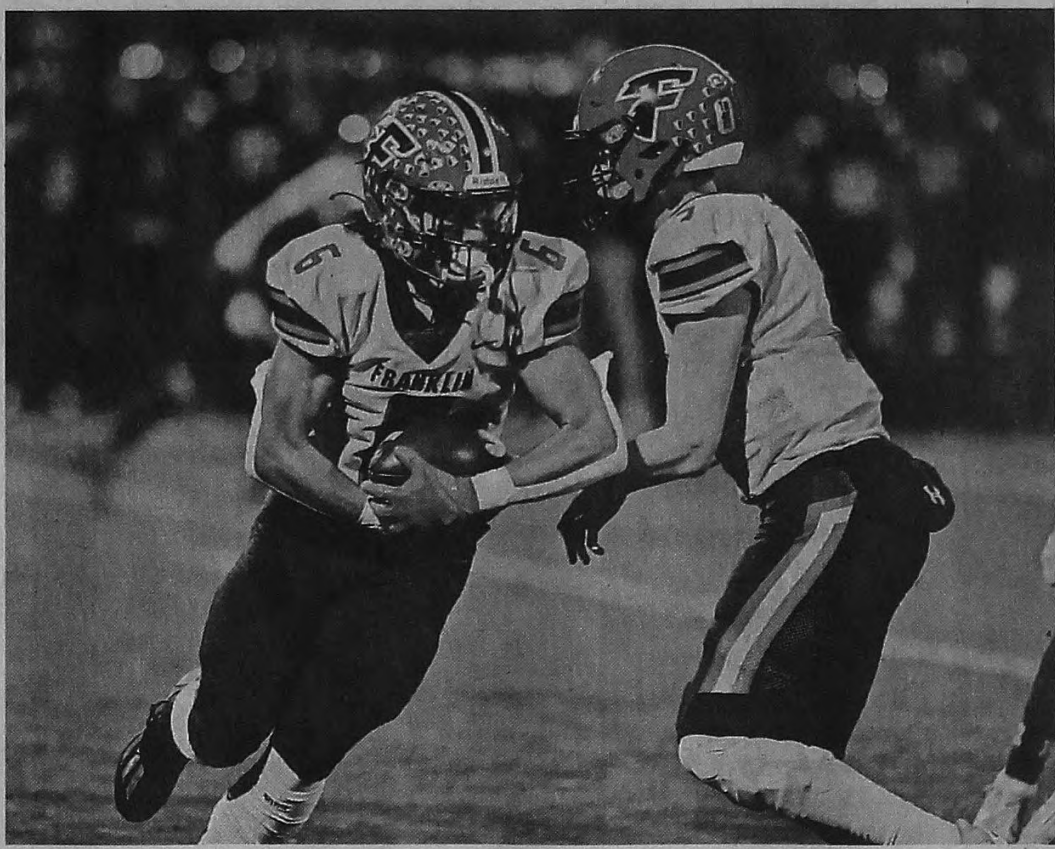
ArJon Thompson rushed 10 times for 139 yards and a TD and also was 5 of 8 passing for 114 yards, one TD and an interception for the Spartans (4-5). Aidan Nolan caught four passes for 114 yards, while Justin Mitchell had five catches for 68 yards.

**Salem 50, Wayne Memorial 28**

Robert Ahlgren was 15 of 19 passing for 225 yards and three TDs and carried five times for 64 yards and one score for the Rocks (1-8), while Robert Jones rushed 25 times for 147 yards and three TDs. Nick Mullin caught four passes for 64 yards, and Lawson Shields, Gavin Morrison and Zach Passmore each caught TD receptions. Jaywan Thomas led the defense with eight tackles and one pass breakup, while Ma-



**Brother Rice's Vincent Ferich carries the ball against Cass Tech on Oct. 21.** DAVE DONOHER/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



**Livonia Franklin's Jon Jasionowski rushes during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association crossover football game Friday, Oct. 21, 2022.** BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

son Fraley had seven tackles, one sack and one fumble recovery.

The Zebras finished the season 0-9 overall.

**Howell 56, Westland John Glenn 20**

The Rockets finished the season 3-6 overall.

**Lakes Valley Conference**

**South Lyon East 27, South Lyon 21 (LVC)**

Nico Campo was 14 of

19 passing for 289 yards and three TDs for the Cougars (7-2, 6-2). Drew Moyer caught seven passes for 196 yards and two TDs, while Jordan Newbill had eight catches for 93 yards and one TD. Caleb Gash led the defense with 7.5 tackles, Carter Hamilton had 5.5 tackles and one sack, Jack Toth added five

tackles and one sack, Jayden LaPerna totaled 2.5 tackles, one interception and one fumble recovery and Dante DeGrazia had 3.5 tackles, one sack and one interception.

Braden Fracassi was 11 of 20 passing for one TD to Alex Stoyanovich and two interceptions for the Lions (6-3). Tommy Donovan rushed 16 times for 77 yards and two TDs, Fracassi added 49 yards on the ground and Nicholas Stoyanovich caught three passes for 59 yards. Nicholas Stoyanovich and Simeon Mardossian (two for loss) led the defense with five tackles apiece, while Wyatt Douglass had four and Brody Weaver recovered two fumbles.

**Milford 29, White Lake Lakeland 7 (LVC)**

Ryan Allen was 9 of 14 passing for 164 yards and one TD and also rushed 20 times for 129 yards for the Mavericks (5-4, 4-4). Peyton Chamberlain rushed for 63 yards, Max Cremeans caught a 20-yard TD pass and Ethan Phipps caught two passes for 86 yards. Wyatt Lesnew led the defense with 11 tackles (three for loss) and a fumble recovery. Tyler Freer added eight tackles (one for loss), two fumble recoveries and one interception. Danny Sternberg had five tackles (one for loss) and one forced fumble, while Ike Stuff chipped in five tackles (one for loss) and one fumble recovery, Jon Motes had seven tackles (two for loss) and Josh Tobias had four tackles and one interception.

Sean Latham rushed 15 times for 125 yards and a score for the Eagles (4-5, 4-4). Nolin Thompson led the defense with nine tackles and four sacks, Trey Rowley had eight tackles, Michael Mahaney III added five tackles, Drew Carlson had four tackles and recovered one fumble and Blake Zaminski recorded a sack.

**Michigan Independent Athletic Conference**

**Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard 35, Lutheran Westland 8**

Noah Etnyre was 4 of 8 passing for 82 yards and a TD to Micah Lavigne, who rushed 10 times for 74 yards and caught two passes for 84 yards for the Warriors (5-4). Etnyre also ran in a two-point conversion and pulled down an interception on defense, while Nathan Klann led with eight tackles.

**Oakland Activities Association**

**Bloomfield Hills 28, North Farmington 21**

The Black Hawks fin-

ished the season 3-6 overall.

Thomas Balazovic threw for 230 yards and three TDs to Quinn Parpart (141 yards receiving) for the Raiders (2-7). Lawrence Woodley totaled 113 yards returning kicks.

**Birmingham Groves 14, Birmingham Seaholm 7**

Joshua Woods rushed 27 times for 161 yards and one TD for the Falcons (6-3). Cayden Hardy was 4 of 9 passing for 39 yards, which included a TD pass to Jack Wainer (three catches, 35 yards), and Jalin Samuel rushed six times for 37 yards. Braden Hall led the defense with five tackles (one for loss), Aiden Leung added four and Chris Little had three. Jackson Crane had an interception.

Colton Kinnie tossed a 12-yard TD to Ben Diskin for the Maples (7-2).

**Utica 35, Farmington 28**

Cam Pettaway rushed for 114 yards and three TDs for the Falcons (6-3). Ryan Connolly added 74 yards and a score.

**Western Wayne Athletic Conference**

**Redford Union 48, Cranbrook 3**

The Panthers completed a 9-0 regular season and broke the school record for the fewest points allowed in a single season (50).

The Cranes finished the year 2-7 overall.

**Garden City 60, Pontiac 24**

Josh Sharp-Pelto returned two interceptions for touchdowns and had a scoop-and-score for the Cougars (6-3). They returned three fumbled kickoffs for TDs.

**Swartz Creek 71, Redford Thurston 13**

The Eagles finished the season 0-9 overall.

**Catholic League**

**Detroit Catholic Central (Open date)**

The Shamrocks finished the regular season 6-2 overall.

**Detroit Cass Tech 33, Brother Rice 14**

The Warriors ended the regular season 3-5 overall.

**Independent**

**Traverse City St. Francis 45, Detroit Country Day 20**

The Yellowjackets fell to 5-3 overall.

**Flat Rock 57, Livonia Clarenceville 56**

The Trojans fell to 5-4 overall.

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

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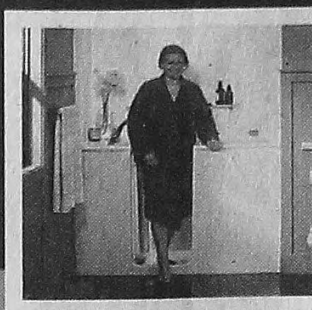
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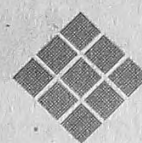
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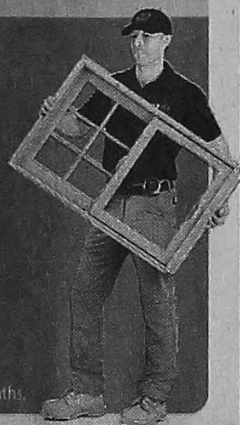
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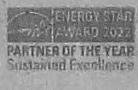
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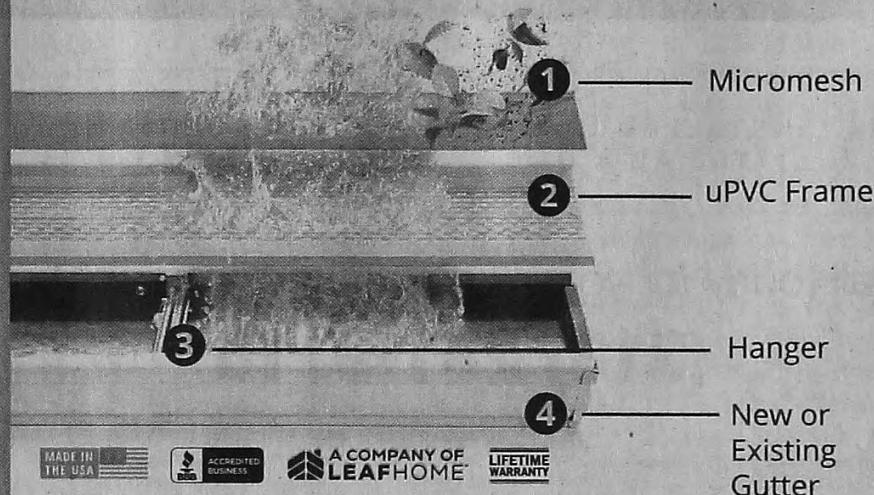
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**FIND THE WORDS**

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 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

- |          |         |       |       |            |
|----------|---------|-------|-------|------------|
| Avon     | Euston  | Logan | Reeds | Swim       |
| Barwon   | Fish    | Lort  | Risk  | Todd       |
| Boat     | Flow    | Lyons | Robe  | Tugs       |
| Bremer   | Fruit   | Maze  | Rods  | Upper      |
| Clarence | Gilbert | Moama | Ross  | Urana      |
| Colo     | Gol Gol | Moore | Sandy | Vegetables |
| Cooks    | Hull    | Myall | Sheep | Victor     |
| Crops    | Hume    | Namoi | Slip  | Harbor     |
| Dams     | Huon    | Nets  | Snags | Weir       |
| Dora     | Hutt    | Paroo | Spray | Whale      |
| Eacham   | Lake    | Peel  | Styx  | Wine       |
| Eden     | Link    | Pier  | Swan  | Yule       |

**TODAY'S ANSWER**

Teeming with life

**Australia's waterways**

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

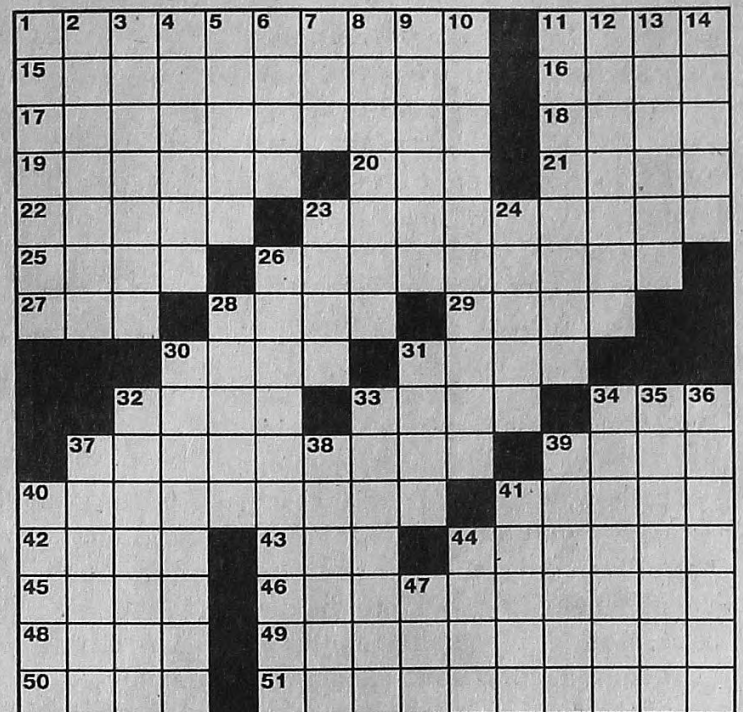
**NEWSDAY CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Groups attending board meetings
- 11 Sticker's pics
- 15 Where one is from in the future
- 16 Robinson was "Proud of [his] greatness as a tennis player" (1968)
- 17 Living the dream
- 18 Chuck's overseas relative
- 19 Phileas Fogg in 2004
- 20 Nobody's-up situation
- 21 Midwestern home of serpentine monster Bessie
- 22 Data structure in computing
- 23 They're often taken out of stock
- 25 First name on *First Man's* cover
- 26 Exercise with no running
- 27 Bridge maintenance group
- 28 Split with speed
- 29 Knock around
- 30 Source for much cellophane
- 31 Freshness, these days
- 32 Preceder/follower of "a"
- 33 Not bunches
- 34 Guy going back for a plan
- 37 Rises in desert temperatures
- 39 Leche \_\_\_ (Filipino dessert)
- 40 Flashy car color
- 41 Us, in hymns
- 42 Big name in Mexican War annals

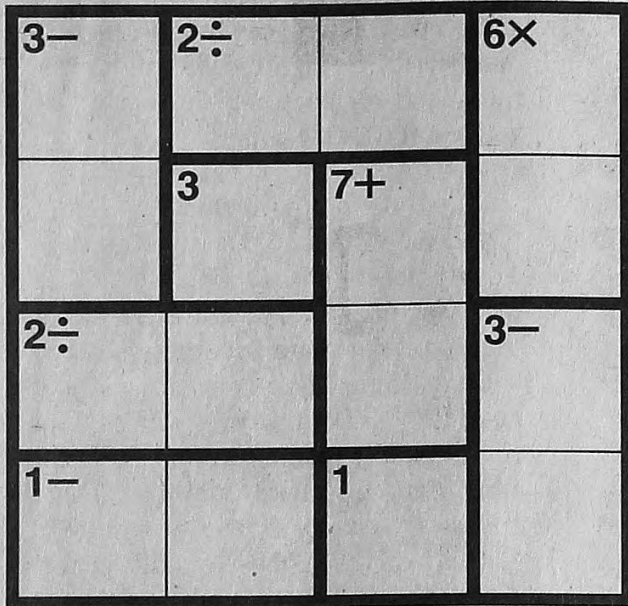
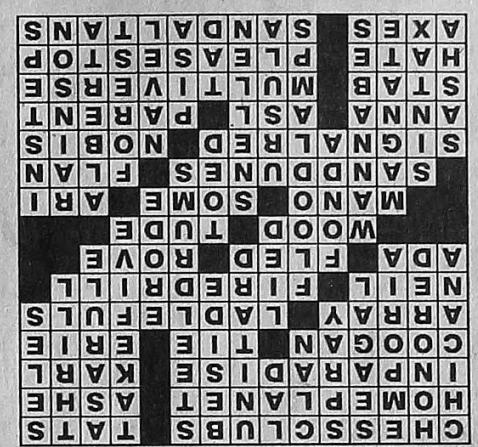
**DOWN**

- 5 \_\_\_ can
- 6 Blood group
- 7 Finn, for one
- 8 Figure skater attire
- 9 With or against
- 10 Heavy metal instruments
- 11 Director's direction
- 12 With few exceptions
- 13 Transport
- 14 Serbian sports great
- 23 Song written by Beethoven
- 24 Blow away, say
- 26 They're seen in security systems
- 28 Surname of two 1981 Oscar acting nominees
- 30 Hopeful bunch
- 31 Square-\_\_\_
- 32 Economic eminence
- 33 Dutch doctor known for his optotypes
- 34 Home of Dinosaur Provincial Park
- 35 Washes out, quite possibly
- 36 Natural arches
- 37 Scratch-off scratch
- 38 Orson's cousin
- 39 Metaphoric big picture
- 40 Secret Service's "Rosebud" (c. 2012)
- 41 Trunk depression
- 44 \_\_\_ cake (multitiered dessert)
- 47 Bit



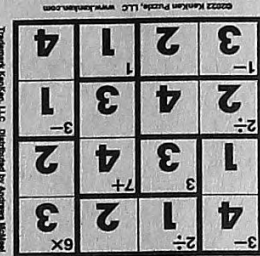
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**TODAY'S ANSWER**



**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.



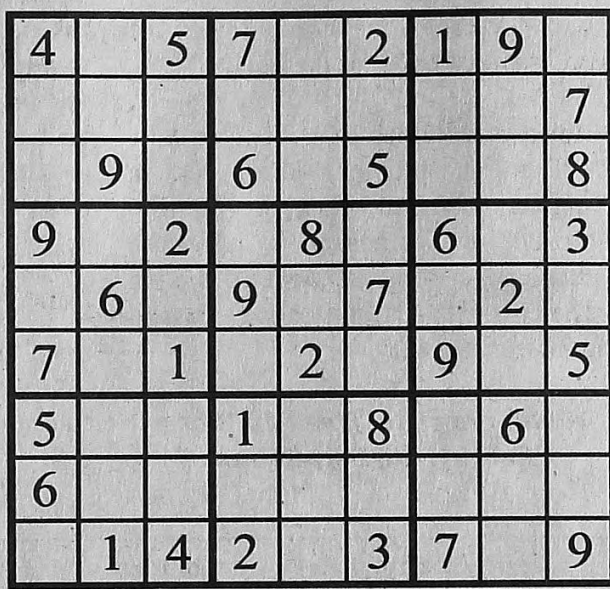
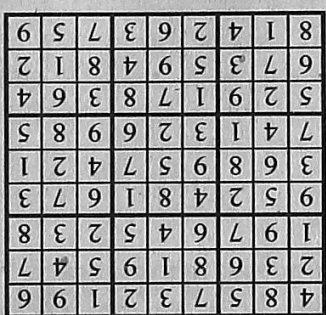
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**SUDOKU | CREATORS**

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**



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## Recruiting Employees and The Law of TQM

Small business is the backbone of our economy and recruiting employees is the most important part of the business. 64% of all new jobs are created by small and medium businesses. They are responsible for 99.7% of all employment in the USA\*. You're ready to hire- but you need to find the employees first.

### What is The Law of TQM and why you should be aware of it when looking for new employees

The Law of TQM states that there are 3 important factors in recruiting employees: Time (to hire), Quality (of hire), & Money (cost of hire). There are other factors we can evaluate for recruiting but these 3 are the most significant.

### When Recruiting Employees You Can Control Only 2: Time, Quality, or Money

In the world of traditional recruiting, you only get complete control over two of these three factors when trying to find and hire the best candidates. Time, Quality, or Money.

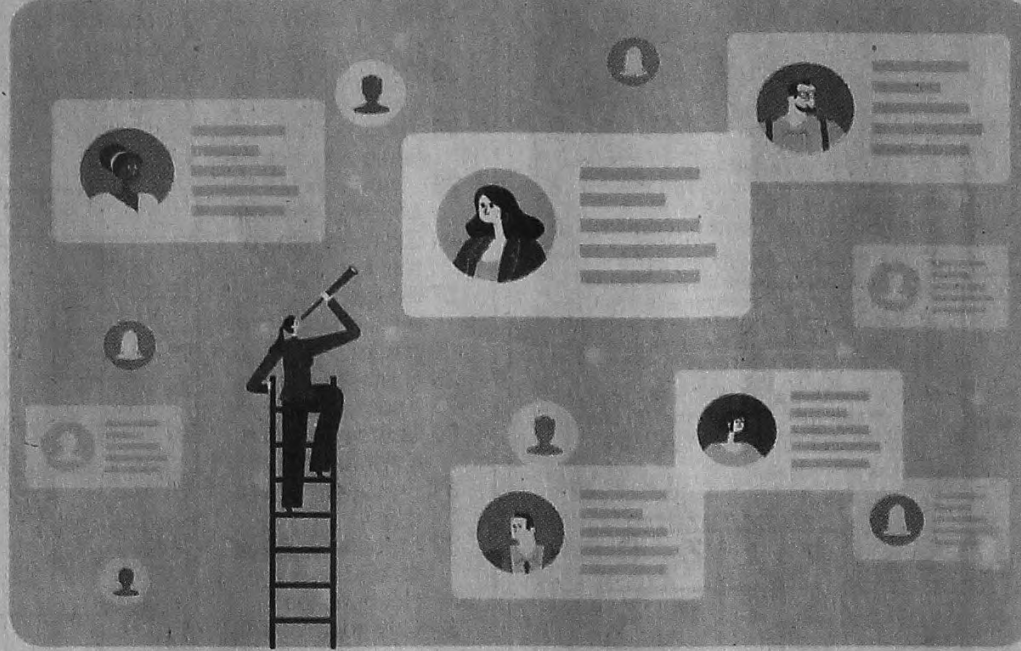
The third factor is controlled by the Law of TQM.

Remember - you get to choose which two of the three factors you can control...but there's one that you're probably not likely to want to skimp on...keep reading and it'll make sense.

### Speed-to-Hire!

If you want to hire FAST, then you're controlling the TIME. The Law of TQM states that you will have to compromise on either Quality or

Money in the hiring process if you want to hire quickly. To control the cost of hiring, along with the speed, you'll likely have to give up on hiring



the best, and just hire "good enough" in an effort to get someone you can afford- in the time you want to hire.

Increasing your speed to recruit employees requires that you get your job in front of the right candidates as quickly as possible. There are hundreds of job sites dedicated to recruiting employees. You want to make sure your job is posted to the right ones so that the people you're looking for can see you. You have to research the right job sites, the niche networks, and the social media hang-outs where your candidates are likely to be. And then get your job out to those sites. Or let MaxRecruit® help you.

### Saving Money While Recruiting Employees

And if you want to hire cheap (how much you pay, how much you spend for advertising, online posting, or



recruiters) then the Law of TQM states that you've got to compromise on Time or Quality. When you are recruiting employees traditionally you can only control 2 of the 3 levers. And you find a way to leverage your money to get the absolute most bang for the buck!

However, sacrificing Quality is usually the least acceptable solution for an employer. We all want people who represent our business well, reflect the values of our Company, will do the job to the best of their ability and fit in with the existing team.

### Do Not Sacrifice Quality When Recruiting Employees

Given the Law of TQM and the fact

that we rarely want to sacrifice Quality- we have to accept that we EITHER have to spend more money or take more time to find the right person. So we're going to have to get really creative recruiting employees to find the people we want to hire at a price we can afford. It's not easy but with the right solution you don't have to break the bank to recruit. MaxRecruit® scientifically optimizes the spend for each site to make sure you're not wasting a dime.

### Best-of-the-Best?

And of course, you want to hire Quality people. The Law of TQM states that you must compromise on either time (speed-to-hire) or money. When you are recruiting employees you will need to possibly pay much more than you originally wanted to find the right person and get their attention. There are ways to ensure that you get your job in front of the highest quality candidates available. People who meet your job requirements, fall within your salary guidelines, and who will make your business shine. Finding those folks takes a bit of know-how. And there are ways to make sure you're not missing out on getting your job in front of the best-of-the-best! With the power of MaxRecruit® you can distribute your job to the places where the best are likely to be.

It's against this backdrop that you need to attract a pool of possible hires, interview them, keep them engaged in the process, extend them an offer, and ultimately- find your new employee.

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