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Livonia scraps luxury apartments plan

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

After a monthslong process, Livonia City Council on Monday night voted unanimously to deny a rezoning request on land on the north side of Seven Mile between Newburgh and Victor Parkway that would have paved the way for a four-story apartment building. Council members said Monday there were several issues with the rezoning, some saying they had a hard time seeing so many units in such a space.

"We obviously have heard substantial input from the residents here," said council Vice President Jim Jolly. "When we look at the city planning overall, I don't think this is the most appropriate place for an apartment building."

Royal Oak-based Etkin Management wanted to construct the luxury apartments, which would have run between \$1,800 and \$3,000 a month in rent. Several residents who live nearby have spoken up against the plans, taking issue with the density, traffic and problems with apartments not fitting into Livonia's "Families First" motto.

Councilwoman Kathleen McIntyre said she was not opposed to the type of housing proposed, but agreed that the project wasn't appropriate for the area.

See APARTMENTS, Page 2A



Farmington prepares for era of fewer high schools

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

When the first bell rings Sept. 3, Farmington Public Schools will be a two-high-school district.

At the board of education's Aug. 20 meeting, North Farmington High School Principal Joe Greene and Farmington High School Principal Tom Shelton discussed their plans to handle the merger.

"We've both been talking with our teams about how exciting it is to create a new school culture," Greene said.

A new culture

After Harrison High School's closing this spring due to a steady decline of students in the district, a number of students won't finish high school at the building in which they started. But North and Farmington plan to keep little slices of Harrison around for students who will have attended both schools when they graduate. When you walk into Farmington High School today through the front doors, you see the once a hawk, always a hawk emblem hanging right there as you walk in the front doors right next to the Farmington emblem," Shelton said. "So that's the message that we're sending to our students."



Westland Police officers Chaim Kozak, left, and Rodney Donald display the box of medals meant to replace those stolen from military veteran Vince Berna, the founder of Veteran's Haven in Wayne. COURTESY OF WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police officer replaces vet's stolen war medals

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Vince Berna may not get a chance to thank personally the Westland police officer who replaced military medals stolen from him a few years ago.

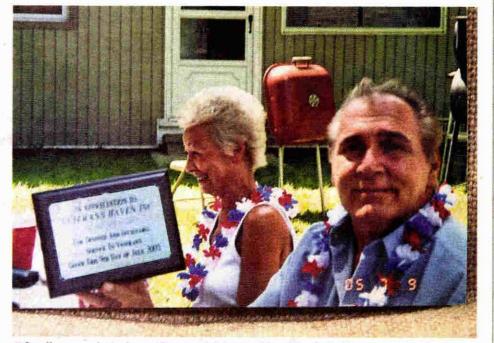
In declining health, the Vietnam War veteran is at an assisted living facility, where the replacement medals hang on a wall inside a shadow box.

Berna likes seeing them. His wife, Judy, said he was upset when his originals disappeared from Veteran's Haven, the organization they run that helps feed, clothe and house veterans for nearly three decades.

She was touched when Officer Chaim Kozak presented the replacement medals to her over the summer. She immediately took them to her husband.

"I was surprised that somebody cared enough to do something like that,"

See MEDALS, Page 2A



A family snapshot shows Berna, right, and his wife, Judy Berna, at a barbecue. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

At North, the Raider mascot students get to touch when they graduate will now be accompanied by a Harrison Hawk.

"The last thing that you touch when you walk out the door can be where your heart is, and my hope is people will tag both," Greene said.

Both schools' student councils will have joint class representatives this year to represent people from Harrison as well as their new schools.

Sports mergers

All eyes will be on North and Farmington this fall they take on staff and players from Harrison's storied football program. Greene said, at North, the students in the marching band and on the football team are getting along well so far.

"They've both really surprised each other with how they've embraced and worked together," he said. "We've heard from coaches, parents and students that for now, almost six months, that those sports teams are doing really well together."

At Farmington, Shelton gave a very

See FARMINGTON, Page 3A

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Apartments

Continued from Page 1A

"I think that we do need to look at new kinds of housing," she said. "Demands change, land use changes. I'm open to looking at the appropriate uses."

Councilman Scott Bahr agreed, saying that space wasn't a great location for such construction.

"Having studied this thoroughly, I do think there is a market that exists for this kind of development," he said. "I do think that it does make sense in some places in the community.

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Consumer Experience Director Mobile: 248-396-3870 Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com Follow us on Faceboook: @OEHometown

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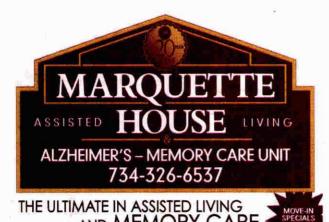
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"As this is drawn, I can't support this either."

The vote to deny the rezoning essentially kills the project. If another proposal were to come up, it would need to either conform to current zoning or propose rezoning for another use.

The project was originally recommended for approval by the planning commission at two separate occasions this year, as the petitioners were required to start the process over after failing to post a sign on the property notifying the public of the intent to rezone the land.

Despite the failure, some higher-end apartments are planned in the northwest corner of the city. Several stories of high-end apartments are planned at the site of a former technical center, along with some commercial space that will mark the city's first mixed-use development. Those plans were proposed last year and approved last fall.

Council President Laura Toy said she didn think the project fit either, especially given the issue surrounding traffic in that area.

"I wouldn't want this intensity of living the p gardless of its traffic," she said. "I carrie the waff You can see the near-misses.

"This isn't the right fit at this time Contact David Veselenak at du lenak townlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follo

@davidveselenak.

Medals

Continued from Page 1A

Judy Berna said. "It wasn't easy. That same day, I took them to him. He was just in shock. He just kept staring at them. He wanted them there hanging in his room."

She's worried about her husband's health. He turned 70 on Aug. 30. But she sees him almost daily. She hopes and prays he'll get a chance to return to the outreach center on Wayne Road, which has a motto of "Vets Helping Vets."

If he goes before her, she'll keep the center alive and hang his medals there.

"That's where they belong," Judy Berna said. "He put so much in that place. It's part of him. I would have them there."

Kozak, a Purple Heart Medal recipient, and his fellow community policing Officer Rodney Donald learned Berna's medals were stolen last fall. They have worked diligently ever since to research, find and order replacement medals.

"To see her expression and to see how much it meant to her and knowing how much it was going to mean to him. ... It meant the world to me," Kozak said. "Because those medals. ... There's no money value (to) them, but the sentimental value ... is priceless."

Kozak and Donald asked their commanders if they could commit to replacing the medals – for Berna and his family.

"There was no hesitation," Kozak said. "They said do what you have to do to get these medals replaced. They were 100 percent supportive. They were all for it. From that point on, the journey began."

They worked with pictures, military documents, Berna's family and their local VFW post to confirm Berna's honors, which Kozak said included the following: Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

The project became personal for Kozak. While keeping Berna in mind, he thought about his own life – growing up in Westland, serving in Afghanistan "Each medal that he earned, I knew how much it took. I understood it. If I ever had my medals stolen and had someone bring those back to me, it would mean so much."

Chaim Kozak Westland police officer and military veteran

and Iraq as a Marine Corps infantryman, living with scars and other reminders of a detonated roadside bomb, and realizing his family's pride in his own medals.

"Behind each medal, you have a story of what you had to go through with your fellow comrades," the police officer said. "Each medal that he earned, I knew how much it took. I understood it. If I ever had my medals stolen and had someone bring those back to me, it would mean so much."

The police department spent about \$200 to replace the medals. Kozak remains grateful for the support and the opportunity to help a man who founded Veteran's Haven out of his apartment in 1993.

"I love my fellow veterans," Kozak said. "I love the fact that I ... have done this for a veteran.

"I can't say this enough. When I and my partner presented this idea, everybody was on board with this. Everybody. It was just, 'Do what you guys need to do. Do what you need to do. And get this done'."

Vince and Judy Berna were high school sweethearts. They were engaged to be married when Vince Berna volunteered.

His medals remind his wife of all he went through overseas and when he came home, which include his health problems. There also are the memories he won't share.

"It's emotional," she said. "You'd be surprised at how it affects you. I try not to look at them, but I had to hang them on a wall that he sees all the time."

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



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Two new charter schools come to Redford

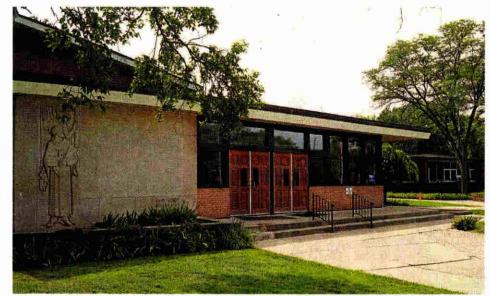
Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

At the start of the school year this week, Redford will welcome two new charter schools to town. Westfield Charter Academy and Westfield Preparatory High School will both open their doors Tuesday to their inaugural groups of students for the first day of school.

Westfield Charter, which enrolls students in kindergarten through sixth grade, is at 27201 W. Chicago Road and has a staff that is excited to be part of something new. The school is led by Principal Ira Kleiman and deans Ninfa Mazzola, Christina Maxwell and Joe Teague.

"The staff is thrilled to be here and thrilled that we're in the area we're in," Kleiman said.

Westfield Charter will work in partnership with Westfield Prep, which enrolls the seventh through 12th grades and is led by Principal Aquan Grant. Students attending both will be able to have a similar learning environment and philosophy all throughout school. Westfield Prep is not far from its partner



Westfield Charter Academy, at 27201 W. Chicago Road in Redford, is one of two new charter schools that will first open their doors Sept. 3. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

school and is located at 23750 Elmira St. in Redford.

Kleiman said this is an uncommon approach, but the two schools think it will be beneficial for students as they age out of the charter academy.

"We thought this would be a better, more seamless transition to have a partnership right off the bat," he said.

Both schools, which are chartered

through Grand Valley State University, will have their own focus, like many charter schools do. While Westfield Charter will have a "character education" program, Westfield Prep will offer around 20 advanced placement (AP) programs along with character education. Both schools will employ dress codes and school uniforms.

"One of our big focuses beside academics is really our moral focus curriculum," Kleiman said. "It's like a character education program, but it's not just putting some words around the building, which we do have."

Because of the partnership with Westfield Prep, Kleiman said college readiness will also be a continual focus with all students.

Though some grades already have wait-lists, Kleiman said he and the rest of the two schools' staff are always happy to meet new people. Westfield Charter can be reached at 313-625-3030 and Westfield Prep can be reached at 313-778-7990.

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

Farmington

Continued from Page 1A

similar report, saying he sees a lot of camaraderie on the field and in the student council office.

"They just confirmed what we knew all along about this process, which is that the kids were going to have the easiest time with this," he said.

Melting pot of students, staff

Though Greene and Shelton both acknowledged there's still a lot of work to be done while creating new learning environments, they expect things to go smoothly for everyone when school starts.

"I think three years of transition team work laid down the foundation for that," Greene said.

Shelton noted that teachers from all

three high schools have been working collaboratively for years and they may not face as many obstacles as previously thought.

"The teacher traveling is not nearly what everyone expected it to be," he said. "I'm confident in saying the schedule we've developed for our teachers and students is very humane for both and very workable."

But nobody expects things to be easy all the time.

"I don't think any of us are under the impression that we're going to start school on Sept. 3 and we're going to be done and all of this is going to be over," Shelton said. "We know that taking care of our students coming to us and our teachers coming to us is going to be a process probably going even beyond this school year."

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



Joe Greene, left, and Tom Shelton, the respective principals of North Farmington and Farmington high schools, attend a forum in May. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE





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Ivywood Classical Academy ready to open

The Ivywood Classical Academy school board, families, community members and special guests celebrated the grand opening of the school Aug. 22.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on the front lawn in front of 250 guests who came from near and far for this celebratory event.

"I am so proud of what the Ivywood team has accomplished to get us here," said Tyler Horning, Ivywood Classical Academy board president, in his opening remarks. "There has been a lot of long nights and hard work to get to this point, that is what makes this ribboncutting ceremony so special.

"However, it is what is to come that I am most proud of: the impact that this school will have on our students, community and country."

Horning shared that the dream of Ivywood Classical Academy started five years and 298 days ago, the date his son, Luke. was born.

Horning, alongside other passionate parents, brought the dream of Ivywood Classical Academy to life last week.

Kathleen O'Toole, assistant provost for K-12 Education at Hillsdale College



Ivywood Classical Academy board members Jim Musgrave, left, Myranda Fabian, Tyler Horning, and Troy Morris stand in front of the school building. They celebrated the academy's grand opening Aug. 22 in a special event. SUBMITTED

and director of the Barney Charter students. School Initiative, followed with inspiration remarks for the parents and the

Ivywood will follow the Barney Charter School Initiative classical education curriculum, where its purpose is to disseminate knowledge.

Classical education means that students do not merely need to learn "critical thinking skills" but will also need to furnish their minds and imaginations with wonder.

Corey Northrop, executive director of Central Michigan University's Charter School Office, presented the honorary charter plaque.

Kurt Keise, Plymouth Township supervisor, shared remarks on how proud he is to have Ivywood in the township.

Lastly, Stephanie Kooiker, principal of Ivywood Classical Academy, shared her appreciation for the board's vision and dedication in bringing Ivywood to life for the nearly 200 students enrolled for the fall.

After the ceremony, families and guests were able to tour the building for the first time and meet the teachers and staff.

There are still a few seats available for students in kindergarten through fifth grade this fall. To learn more, call 248-207-1757 or visit ivywoodclassicalacademy.com.

Canton man charged with filming Aqua Tot patrons

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Futa Sakamoto, 44, of Canton, was arraigned in 35th District Court on Tuesday on a three-count felony warrant alleging he was capturing disturbing images at Aqua Tots on Joy Road in Canton.

Count 1 was capturing disturbing image of unclothed person, a five-year felony. Count 2 was surveilling unclothed person, a 2-year felony. Count 3 was eavesdropping - Installing/using device (to observe/record/photograph), which is a two-year felony.

Police were called to Aqua Tots after an adult female observed a recording device aimed toward her changing stall.



Sakamoto

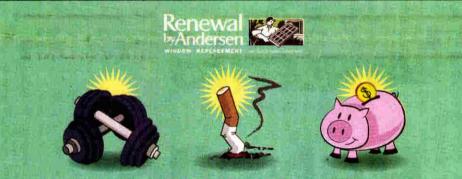
The female confronted the suspect and then went to the staff with her findings.

A Canton Public Safety investigation led to the discovery of addi-

tional recordings filmed in a tanning room of Planet Fitness, police said.

Detectives are working to make contact with potential victims of the Planet Fitness incident(s).

Judge Mike Gerou set Sakamoto's bond at \$250,000, with a GPS tether. His next court appearance is scheduled on Sept. 6, at 35th District Court, 660 Plymouth Road, in Plymouth. eawright@hometownlife.com.



BUT GES

Company back with restaurant idea for old **Birmingham bus yard**

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

The owners of Metro Detroit eateries Vinsetta Garage in Berkley, the Fenton Fire Hall in Fenton, and Gran Castor in Troy have resubmitted plans to transform the former Birmingham Public Schools bus yard at 2159 E. Lincoln into a restaurant serving American comfort food.

It's a similar concept to what the owners, Union Joints out of Clarkston, proposed in 2017 before pulling out of the project over issues surrounding the city's bistro licenses. This time, the ownership is attempting to join the economic development zone to secure a liquor license, as opposed to applying for a bistro license like it did in 2017.

Curt Catallo, one of the owners of Union Joints, said pulling out two years ago and waiting for another opportunity was the right move for his business, especially given the limitations of the bistro license compared to their other restaurants.

"I think the two years just enhanced our resolve and I think what we've been able to do with the property knowing that we were going to a full Class C license, that just allowed it to be a different undertaking," he said. "It was a little longer walk, but we think we're in a place that's better for us." The restaurant would actually consist of two entities in the building. Lincoln Yard would be a sit-down restaurant with table service, and a smaller service called Little Yard would be more grab-and-go and fast-casual, perfect for those in the area looking for something to take with them.

No opening date has been determined yet, Catallo said, as that would depend on when Union Joints received the proper approvals.

The restaurant would follow Union Joints' reputation of taking over buildings not thought of as restaurants and turning them into destination eateries. The Vinsetta Garage was a former auto repair shop, and the Fenton Fire Hall was a former firehouse.

The site plan and special land use permit were reviewed at the city's planning board meeting Aug. 14, though any action was postponed until the application to join the economic development zone could be reviewed by the city. Catallo said the application was submitted the afternoon of Aug. 14, and it's his hope the project can be reviewed at the next planning board meeting.

Even with the postponement, several planning board members lauded the project, saying it was a welcome change to that area of Birmingham.

"It's cool. It's unlike anything we've seen," said planning board member Janelle Whipple-Boyce. "The furniture is even different. It's fun, and and I think it's going to bring a lot of people in to say 'What's going on?' in there. We have seen anything like it." Planning board member Robin Boyle said he was in favor of bringing the concept to that area of town. He hoped there would be a way to make the area more pedestrian-friendly for residents wanting to access the business on foot. "Wouldn't it be great if we could wander through and get to your establishment in some way that didn't mean you had to take a car?" he said. "This, unfortunately, is very car-dependent.

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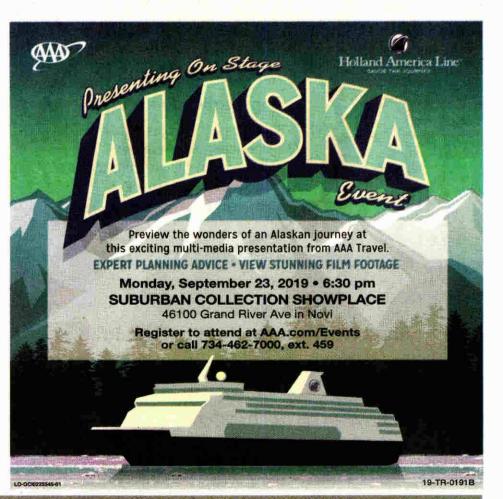
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"Little Yard is definitely designed to be greener and lighter than anything," he said.

"You can't wander through this area." Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Twitter @davidveselenak.





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How to prepare to care for elderly parents



Money Matters Rick Bloom

Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

I hope you can help me with a couple questions that I have. I've been divorced for about 10 years and have recently retired and moved back to Michigan to take care of my elderly parents.

My parents are in their early 80s and are beginning to slow down. My first question deals with my divorce. Under the divorce settlement, I had to pay my ex-husband for a 10-year period which has now ended. Under that settlement, I was required for 10 years to name my exhusband as beneficiary of a life insurance policy. To meet my obligations, I purchased a 10-year term policy which is now expired. I have an offer from the insurance company to extend the policy for another 10 years and my question is, do I need it? I have no dependents and my parents have more than enough money to take care of themselves.

My second question is, to assist my parents with their finances and other things, what legal documents do you think I should get?

Thank you, Andrea Dear Andrea:

I first want to say it's a wonderful thing you are doing with regard to your parents. What you're doing will allow them to have a much better quality of life, and that's something you should be proud of. Our world can be very difficult as seniors age and having a loved one by their side is invaluable.

With regard to the life insurance, I see no reason why you need to continue the policy. I have always been a believer that life insurance, like all types of insurance, is need based. The question to ask yourself is, if you pass away, does anyone lose out financially. Clearly in your situation the answer is no. Therefore, I would recommend that you do not re-up the policy.

Of course, you should look for ways to better invest the premium dollars you will save. Since you are no longer working for a wage, something you may want to consider is Roth IRA conversions. You may find that you're in a very low tax bracket and you can begin converting money on a year-by-year basis. After all, if you can turn tax deferred money into tax free money at a low cost, why not?

With regard to your parents' situation, in order to make sure you can effectively handle their financial and medical needs, I recommend you obtain a medical durable power of attorney and a general durable power of attorney.

A medical durable power of attorney along with a HIPAA waiver will allow you to be actively involved with your parents' medical situations. Not only will you be able to converse with medical personnel, but you would also have the right to obtain copies of your parents' medical records. A general durable power of attorney would cover basically anything other than medical situations, including allowing you to handle your parents' financial affairs.

If you obtain these documents, you will basically have the most power you can in handling your parents' affairs. If you wait too long and your parents have diminished capacities, you may not be able to execute these documents. I recommend you obtain these documents as soon as you can.

It is important to note that if you are going to take over the financial affairs of a loved one, you need to obtain the necessary legal documents. Not only will these documents give you the authority to deal with third parties, but they also can be invaluable if there are disputes within the family.

I know what many of you are thinking: "We have a very close family, there won't be any disputes." I cannot tell you how often I've heard that and then before too long the family members are at each other's throats. Having the right legal documents can avert a family crisis and that is something that everyone should strive for.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please him at Rick@bloomassetemail management.com.

Metro Detroit native back home with 'Cats' tour

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

Erin Chupinsky has answered two catcalls a decade apart.

After straying far across the country and world in her stage career, the 2002 Novi High grad comes home as part of the national tour of the musical "Cats," performed Sept. 3-15 at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit.

It's her encore in the popular Broadway show, and her eighth tour since moving to New York City in fall 2006.

"I've been away more than I have been there," she joked.

In Brooklyn, she has an apartment and a husband, Andrew, a guitarist whom she met in her first stint with "Cats" 10 years ago.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber musical is based on a T.S. Eliot poetry book and

tells of a night when a tribe of cats gathers for their annual ball to decide which one will be reborn. The Tony Awardwinning musical premiered in London in 1981, had a 21-year run there, and had an 18-year run on Broadway, the fourth longest-running show in New York as of 2019. This production is a revival, with new choreography, and all new lighting and sound design.

"It's inspiring that it has endured this long," Chupinsky said. "There's not many shows from the '80s being seen now.'

Chupinsky could not resist the call of "Cats" again, and when her turn in the musical tour of "Love Never Dies" ended in December in Texas, she caught a plane to New York to audition for the "Cats" national tour starting in January, landing the role of dance captain/swing. As such, she can fill in for six roles when -

cast members are sick, injured or on vacation. When she is not performing, she is backstage making sure the show runs smoothly.

Chupinsky gets to the theater about 90 minutes before showtime in order to get ready, taking about 30 minutes to do her own makeup, as well as about 20 minutes to curl her hair and pin a wig. Her costumes are easy and comfortable to wear, don't require any changes during the show and help her feel "in character." She also loves that she can dance in a jazz shoe, rather than in heels.

In the first week of performances in Detroit, she plans to be on stage every day in the role of Rumpleteazer, filling in for a performer who is on vacation.

"As a performer, I like that ("Cats") is an all-encompassing piece," she said. "I have to use my entire skill set: sing the score with a huge range, and the whole

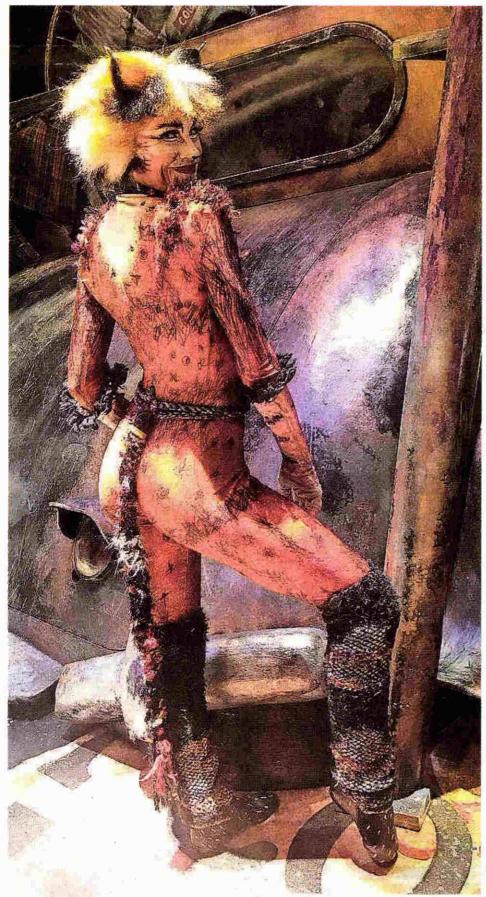
show is danced through and you have to act in a way that makes it somewhat believable that you can be a cat. I like that it is such an ensemble piece. We are really a tribe.'

Detroit is the 25th city on this national tour, which will have been performed in 36 cities by the end of January.

She has grown accustomed to life on the road, pursuing her dream. The 35year-old Chupinsky, who started dancing when she was 3 and kicked off her musical run at age 7 in "The Wizard of Oz," has now performed in 48 states and 35 countries on five continents.

Her list of credits includes roles off Broadway in "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," as well as tours in "Love Never Dies," "Hello, Dolly!" "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," and "Wonderful Town."

See 'CATS', Page 6A





Novi High graduate Erin Chupinsky is a cast member in the national touring production of "Cats," which runs at Detroit's Fisher Theatre from Sept. 3-15. COURTESY ERIN CHUPINSKY

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Zap Zone sets 2 Guinness World Records

This past weekend, Zap Zone celebrated its 25th anniversary. It was a day to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of everyone who has made the success of Zap Zone possible. When the weekend ended, two Guinness World Records were finally realized.

The Farmington and Canton Zap Zones' bid to be recognized by Guinness World Records for hosting the longest laser tag marathon and the largest winner stays on laser tag tournament with the most participants in a single day.

Zap Zone considers itself southeast Michigan's premier laser tag and family entertainment destination, and now holds the additional title of world record holder, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. Actually, it holds two records: one for the longest laser tag marathon (26 hours and 40 seconds, breaking the previous record of 25 hours, held by a laser tag arcade in Italy), and a second for the longest winner stays on laser tag tournament. The records were confirmed Aug. 25 by officials of the Guinness Book of World Records.

"Our goal was 250 participants in the tournament, but we ended the contest with 974 players," said Kimberly Elliston, executive manager for Zap Zone. "Going



Zap Zone in Canton and Farmington set two world records over the weekend during a celebration of the company's 25th anniversary. COURTESY OF ZAP ZONE

for the marathon record is something we have wanted to do for a long time. The idea of going for the world record for the longest marathon was originally presented by one of our managers a few years ago. "Doing it now, for our 25th anniversary, made great sense. Especially when you consider our official anniversary date is Aug. 25."

In the planning with Guinness officials, Elliston said Zap Zone learned of another world record: longest winner stays on tournament.

"We decided we had to go for that one, too," she said. Zap Zone assembled a team of 16 players with three alternates consisting of "our all-star employees from across Michigan, as well as some longtime customers," said Elliston, adding, "they trained for months. We couldn't be prouder of them."

Players tagged each other a total of 46,315 times throughout the marathon.

The participants were: Jacob Chasse, Kayla Hamelin, Mishael Bingham, Ethan Brandon, Richard Spicer, James Brandell, Justin Green, David Graham, Aaron Saxton, Andrew Robinson, Devin Durr, Jonathan Judycki, Austin Lay, Stephen Davis, Thomas Balleza, and Tyler Warner. Emergency reserve participants were: Justin Loveless, Terrence Peugh, and Sam Baetzel. Event organizers/facilitators were Dana Hermann, and Ghelan Ismail. The evidence photographer was Ryan McLachlan.

'Cats'

Continued from Page 5A

Regionally, she has been Ariel in "The Tempest," Babette in "Beauty and the Beast" and has been in "Chicago" and "Victor Victoria."

Her favorite role so far remains her lead role her senior year in Novi High School's production of "Peter Pan."

Being on the move constantly is "fun, but exhausting," Chupinsky said last week by phone from a "gorgeous farmhouse" outside of Hershey, Pennsylvania,



another stop on the tour.

She only stays in Airbnbs or with family now, having tired of living in hotels. The show reimburses for accommodations, as well as for food.

When not working, she enjoys sightseeing in the cities where she stays, and also runs about 5 miles per day. She has completed 29 marathons in 23 states.

While the challenge is being away from home and constantly traveling, that is also the benefit, as she is afforded the luxury of seeing the world.

"The reward is traveling and getting to see new places and people and getting to do what I love," she said. "We are taking an iconic show around the country for a new generation. Some of the people I saw 10 years ago are now bringing their kids."

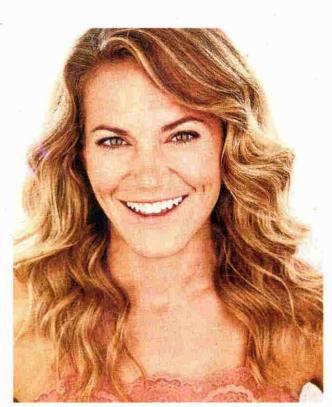
Her dream is to be part of bringing a new show to Broadway, perhaps "Love Never Dies," but long-range, any performer's goal is just to keep working, she said.

"One always needs to have goals, but I am constantly in the practice of being really thankful," she said, and gave a shout-out to her parents, Daniel and Jean Chupinsky:

"Thanks for driving me to dance class Mom and Dad! And for the theater class, it's working out great," she joked.

Cats will be performed at the Fisher Theatre from Sept. 3-15. For more information on times and tickets, visit broadwayindetroit.com.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.



Erin Chupinsky, a Novi native, has traveled the country and world in a musical stage career. She is currently performing in the national tour of "Cats." SUBMITTED

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Obituaries

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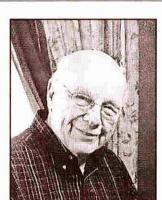


Dorothy Bleimeister Balogh

PLYMOUTH - Passed away August 2, 2019, at the age of 90. Beloved wife of the late Tivadar. Dear mother of Melissa (Tim) Waidley and Margaret (Mike Bishop) Balogh. Devoted grandmother of Clara, Hope, Gwendolyn and Zoltan and caring sister of the late William. Visitation at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 42600 Ford Rd. (W. of Lilley) Saturday, Sept. 14, at 10 am until the time of her Memorial Service at 11 am. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at www. griffinfuneralhome. com

GRIFFIN

L.J. Griffin Funeral Home



Lowell H. Peterson

LIVONIA - Passed away August 23, 2019 age 91. Beloved husband of Marie. Loving father of Ann (David) Grupczynski and James (Donna) Peterson. Cherished grandfather of Brian (Linsey) Grupczynski, Mark (Dana) Grupczynski and Kelly (Matt) Speck. Great-grandfather of Dylan, Chase, Aidan, Willa and Laila. Memorial visitation at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt Rd (S. of Ann Arbor Tr.) on Thursday 3:30-7 p.m. with a Memorial Service at 7 pm. Share a Memorial Tribute with the family at www.griffinfuneralhome.com

GRIF

L.J. GRIFFIN FUNERAL HOME, INC.



John T. "Jack" Stahley, Jr.

WINDSOR, ON - John T. "Jack" Stahley, Jr., aged 97 years, departed peacefully on Tuesday, August 13, 2019. Husband of Florence, father of Steve (Janine) and Sherry (Marschall), grandfather of 5 and great-grandfather of 4. A private memorial with military honors is planned (U.S. Navy, WWII). Memories and condolences: http:// www.mykeeper.com/ profile/JackStahley/

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Sports

Polzin, Van Dike bring fishing club to nationals

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

All Andrew Barry wanted to do was fish

A junior at Livonia Stevenson High School, Barry already considered himself a quality fisherman, striving for high placements in tournaments he had

never been able to participate in. So he took initiative, starting the Livonia Outlaws Fishing Club with his fishing partner John Gusmano.

In the third year of the club, with 10 members consisting of students from Stevenson and Churchill High Schools and Barry as coach, the Outlaws have qualified for nationals because of two

fishermen Barry and Gusmano recruited from the Stevenson soccer team.

Because all Anthony Polzin and Drake Van Dike wanted to do was fish.

Friends since second grade, Van Dike would go with Polzin to his lake house and, after watching YouTube, decided to take up fishing as a hobby.

When Barry reached out to both Van See FISHING, Page 3B

Dike and Polzin about joining the team, that was what he focused on.

"That's what we do: we fish. We love it. That's why we're there," Barry said. 'We're just a group of guys that want to fish. That's really it."

It was not until Polzin and Van Dike



Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Wayne State football team is aiming to bounce back from a 2-9 season in 2018, and will look to some former area stars to do it.

The following players from the Hometown Life coverage area are on the 2019 roster:

DE Lamar Namou, R-junior., Walled Lake Western

FB Will Butler, R-sophomore, Detroit Catholic Central

RB James Hill, R-senior, Livonia Clarenceville

DE Jacob Mass, sophomore, Livonia Franklin

WR Marcus Bailey, R-senior, Walled Lake Western

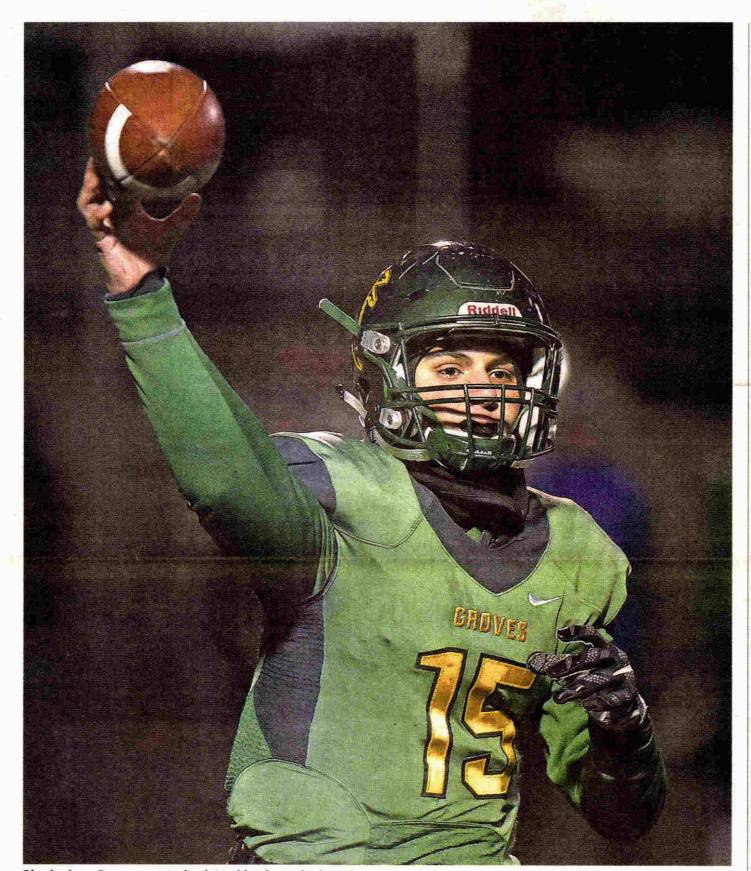
WR Kameron Ford, R-sophomore, Walled Lake Western

RB Kendall Williams, freshman, Farmington

Assistant running backs coach Dylan Dunn is also a Livonia native and played football at Livonia Stevenson, where he graduated from in 2012.

Hill is the most important player on the list this fall for the Warriors. He is the team's starting running back and rushed for 831 yards and 10 touchdowns last season. He also caught 17 passes for 172 yards, making him the team's second-leading receiver.

Bailey is expected to be more inlved in the offense this year, after



Birmingham Groves quarterback Markis Alexander launches a pass during game action last season. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Veteran players run the show in Groves football

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Birmingham Groves football head coach Brendan Flaherty first met his future quarterback Markis Alexander when he was 8 years old, playing flag football with his son. Flaherty said he watched Alexander as he learned to take his first snaps from under center.

Flaherty's eyes light up when he talks about Alexander, saying how fulfilling it is to watch him grow up and mold into the quarterback that he has become for the Falcons.

And now in his third season with the varsity team and his second as the starter, Alexander has gained the trust of his head coach.

To prove that, Flaherty is giving his

quarterback control of the offense.

"It's his show to run. Let him," Flaherty said. "Let him have the keys to the car and do it, get us in stuff and out of stuff."

After leading the Falcons to the Division 2 semifinals in two of the past three seasons, losing in the semifinal

See GROVES, Page 3B

catching two passes last season.

Mass played in all 11 games and recorded nine tackles and one tackle for loss. The other four players will fight for playing time.

Wayne State opens the season at home on Thursday, Sept. 5 against No. 10 Slippery Rock.

Contact Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com.



From left, Wayne State head coach Paul Winters, Lamar Namou, Will Butler, James Hill, Jacob Mass, Marcus Bailey, Kameron Ford and assistant running backs coach Dylan Dunn stand together for a photo. SUBMITTED



What to expect from OAA volleyball

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The start of fall means the start of the volleyball season for many teams in the OAA. Here is a look at five teams within the Hometown Life coverage area ahead of the 2019 season.

Seaholm

Head coach: Heather Gambone, 13th season

Last year's league record: 0-7 (8th in OAA Red, moves to OAA White)

Players to watch: Audrey Brown, Maddy Ligon, Anna McLeod, Catlin Geraghty, Brooke Geraghty

Gambone's 2019 season outlook: "This year is promising as we have all starters returning, six girls on our roster are seniors and will provide great leadership."

Groves

Head coach: Jesse Prepolec, second season

Last year's league record: 5-2 (T-2nd in OAA White, moves to OAA Red)

Players to watch: MB Ellie Ruprich (Sr.), OH Becca Apsey (Fs.)

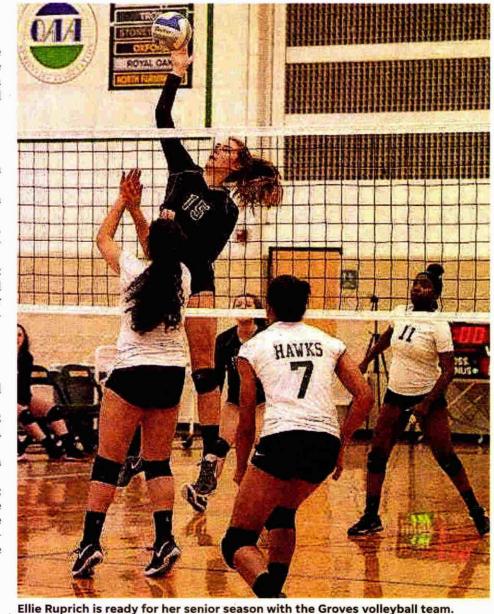
Prepolec's 2019 season outlook: "This year, we are excited to be in the Red Division and are set out to prove we belong. We have a much more competitive schedule this year which we are looking forward to."

North Farmington

Head coach: Mike Love, first season Last year's league record: 6-0 (1st in OAA Blue, moves to OAA White)

Players to watch: Libero Alyssa Murphy (Sr.), outside/middle Lauren James (Jr.)

Love's 2019 season outlook: "I am definitely excited to be a part of the North Farmington volleyball program. Our outlook this season is going to be strong. You have a new coach coming in who has a different aspect of the game of volleyball and how I want things to be ran as opposed to any other coach. Them adjusting to my coaching style is going to be their greatest adjustment. But they play well as a team. Our scrimmage this past Wednesday, I saw a lot



Ellie Ruprich is ready for her senior season with the Groves volleyball team. SUBMITTED

out of every player that made the team, and I know each player that made the team will make an impact on our program at the beginning of the season and all the way through post season. I think our biggest thing will be our middles and our defense. We move well, we are very vocal, we rally well when mistakes are made, our bench, when they are not in the game, they are super loud, being vocal, which is what you need from the girls that are on the court. We'll definitely be very competitive this year in the White division and we are basically going to take it one day at a time, one practice at a time."

Farmington

Head coach: Katie Drews, sixth season

Last year's league record: 3-4 (T-5th in OAA White)

Players to watch: OH Sydney Eggleton (Sr.), MB Rachel Kriese (Sr.), OH Lindsay Hubler (Jr.), MB/RS Val Pallett (Jr.), Libero Kayla Ghafari (Jr.)

Drews' 2019 season outlook: "Our returners are primed to lead and have years of high-level experience to help the new players to the team, a few of whom will need to step up and be impact role players for us. Last season, we lost a few matches we could have won so I'm looking forward to getting some redemption. With the merging of schools, we've got even more talent, at all levels. It's really fun right now from both a varsity and overall program perspective and I think we're going to have an incredibly strong year."

Bloomfield Hills

Head coach: Larry Wyatt, second season

Last year's overall record: 1-6 (7th in OAA Red, moves to OAA White)

Players to watch: RH Alex Rouseau (Sr.), Libero/OH Noelle Siwek (Sr.), S/ DS Alivia Slazinski (Sr.), RH Brooke Bosart (Sr.), OH Ava Petrucci (Soph.), MH Ashlea Nwabueze (Soph.)

Wyatt's 2019 season outlook: "With a great mix of returning talent and new young players we will be exciting. Our ability to attack and block will be greatly increased year to year. Our setting and defense will be strengths. We will content for the OAA white and most events we play in. If we are free of injuries we anticipate a strong post season finish."

Here is a look at how the divisions are set ahead of the 2019 season

OAA Red Stoney Creek Lake Orion Clarkston Troy Adams Oxford Groves West Bloomfield **OAA** White Seaholm **Bloomfield Hills** Berkley Athens Farmington Rochester North Farmington Avondale **OAA Blue Royal** Oak Ferndale Southfield A & T Oak Park Pontiac Contact Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-310-6710.

NO

What's next for OAA boys soccer this season?

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

With fall coming fast, the OAA boys soccer schedule is already underway. Here is a look at the five OAA teams in the Hometown Life coverage area ahead of the 2019 season.

Seaholm

Head coach: Jared Vince, fourth season

Last year's league record: 4-2-1 (3rd in OAA White)

Players to watch: Cole Karmanos, Mark Wischmeyer, Zayd Faraj, Sam Sheckell, Dean Abdrabboh

Vince's 2019 season outlook: "We will be competitive this year and hope to win our league."

Groves

Head coach: Jonathan Turner, fifth season

Last year's overall record: 12-7-2 (1st in OAA White, moves to OAA Red)

Players to watch: Junior midfielder Luke Restrepo, senior defender Charlie Meilinger, senior midfielder Evan McCulloch, senior midfielder Moritz Preuss,

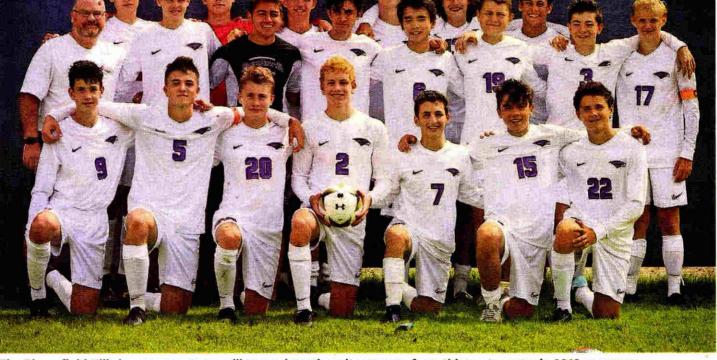
Turner's 2019 season outlook: "I expect us to be very competitive in the OAA Red this season. We moved up from the OAA White after winning the League last season. We have one of the toughest schedules in the state playing against Ann Arbor Skyline (D1 State Champions, Country Day (D2 State Champions), Cranbrook (D2 State Semifinalist) De Lasalle (D1 State Semifinalist). Every season we aim for the highest achievement you can earn which in High School Soccer and work towards that.

"We have 15 returning players from last year's team and 7 starters. We have a lot of young talent and I expect to be very successful this season."

North Farmington

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Head coach: Erika Rust



The Bloomfield Hills boys soccer team will try and continue its success from this past season in 2019. SUBMITTED

Rust could not be reached for comment. Play

Farmington

Head coach: Tim Russell , first season

Players to watch: Senior Tudor Pascutiu, senior Aaron Percival, junior midfielder Eli Bride, sophomore outside back Aidan Bard-Kuhl

Russell's 2019 season outlook: "This is a wonderful group of young men who have come together very quickly despite the fact that they represent two high schools coming together to form one team. No matter what the final result, I am confident we will compete to win every game."

Bloomfield Hills

Head coach: Doug MacAulay, sixth

Players to watch: Central defender Dom Curti (Sr.), Midfielder Henry Earls (Jr.), Forward Ian Kirner (Sr.), Midfielder Lincoln Judge (Sr.)

MacAulay's 2019 season outlook: "Goals are to win OAA white and District, anything from there is luck or a bonus. Looks to be the strongest side since the first school year 2013 where we made the State final. Won three Districts in a row with one Regional final loss (2014), 2013-2014-2015 District winners but nothing since. Boys are working hard and we have a lot of good options with competition for playing time in a 21 player group."

Here is a look at what the divisions will look like in the 2019 season.

OAA Red Troy Berkley Adams

Athens

Clarkston Stoney Creek North Farmington Groves **OAA** White Rochester **Bloomfield Hills** Seaholm Oxford Avondale Lake Orion Farmington West Bloomfield **OAA Blue Royal Oak** Pontiac Southfield A & T Ferndale Oak Park Contact Colin Gay at cgay@home-

townlife.com or 248-310-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.

2



DeLaSalle running back Muzanenhamo Kahari, left, carries the ball until he meets Birmingham Groves linebacker Daryll Allen during game action last season. FILE

Groves

Continued from Page 1B

in 2018 to De La Salle, the head coach has his core. He has his quarterback. He has returning offensive pieces in running back Colby Taylor and wide receiver Clayton Fox. He has his defense, led by seniors Ralph Donaldson and Daryll Allen.

With the veteran leadership knowing what is expected, the message is not "state" at this point. It's not pleading with players to hustle. It's a positive and confident assurance.

It's almost as if Flaherty has been here before.

"We know we got some skills. If we get stopped, we can figure it out," Flaherty said. "We can fix it."

Alexander has the mentality heading into his final season with the Falcons as well. Instead of feeling the pressure of facing his last chance at a state title, the senior quarterback is more excited about the opportunity to run the offense the way he wants to run it.

"We know the offense inside and out," Alexander said. "We're familiar with the playbook, we have been playing in the same system for the past three years. It's like second-nature to us."

Alexander said the Falcon offense is installing new things, playing to the strengths of the pieces it has, especially those who are already familiar with the

offense from previous seasons.

Defensively, Allen, one of the senior leaders of the defense, said the unit's main attribute is speed; being able to fly around the field and make plays, stopping opposing offenses early and often.

This is something Groves saw in spurts last season, allowing just under 13 points a game and allowing singledigit point totals in six regular season games.

But Allen wants to start 2019 off with something that the Falcons defense only did once this past season: he wants a zero under the opponent's name.

"I want a shutout to be honest," Allen said. "That's the main goal. No points, no points allowed."

This expectation is something that

represents the team as a whole. It's high, state is at the back of the minds of players and coaches. But during the preseason, they are cool, calm and collected.

Alexander said the seniors have taken over meetings and are leading drills, coaching up the younger players, which they are receptive to.

It's about the common goal. Groves football seems to know what they need to do to get to where they ended last season.

"Everybody's bought in," Alexander said. "Everybody's taking responsibility for what they have to do."

Contact Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-310-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.

Fishing

Continued from Page 1B

joined the team that they heard about the tournaments: going out onto a lake with 20-30 teams, attempting to catch the five largest bass fish possible and placing based on the total weight.

It seemed simple enough to Van Dike: catch the biggest fish possible. However, in their first time out on the water as a team, adversity came.

"First day, we couldn't even get five fish in the boat to make a bag," Van Dike said.

Polzin and Van Dike finished near the bottom of the standings in their first tournament. However, Van Dike said he learned how much dedication and persistence it took to be successful in this sport.

"You can't just go out there and wing it on the tournament day and hope it works out," Van Dike said.

Barry said he could see the mindset of both Van Dike and Polzin change moving forward, practicing and preparing for events like he and Gusmano used to do.

"These guys, they remind me of myself and my partner John from a couple of years ago where, you know, we had a tournament coming up. We would prefish, sometimes for a week straight, trying to learn the lake and knowing every in and out the best we could," Barry said.

Barry said he knew, over time, that success would come to the Outlaws because of Polzin and Van Dike.

In 2019, the team finished with 356 points, placing them in the top four and qualifying the Outlaws for nationals, which the two will compete for in August 2020.

But the Outlaws are not only for those interested in seriously competing in fishing tournaments. The overall goal for Barry is to get high school students involved in fishing.

And for Barry it's not too hard. He said, while working at Dick's Sporting Goods, he talks to students at local LivoThe Livonia Outlaws bass fishing team has qualified for nationals. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONICA VAN DIKE

nia schools, advertising his organization and getting more people to join.

Polzin said the community surrounding fishing is the part he likes about being a part of the Outlaws most.

"We get to do something that not many people have been able to do, and do something new," Polzin said. "We meet a lot of new people that I have never talked to that are interested in the same stuff as you. You just, overall, have a really fun time."

This is something both Polzin and Van Dike try and keep in the back of their minds as they compete in tournaments. They try and remember why they joined the Livonia Outlaws in the first place.

"You are just fishing," Van Dike said. "Forget about the tournament and go back to just like it's just three of us on the boat, catching a bunch of fish."

All Barry, Polzin and Van Dike wanted to do was fish. Success just happened to come with it.

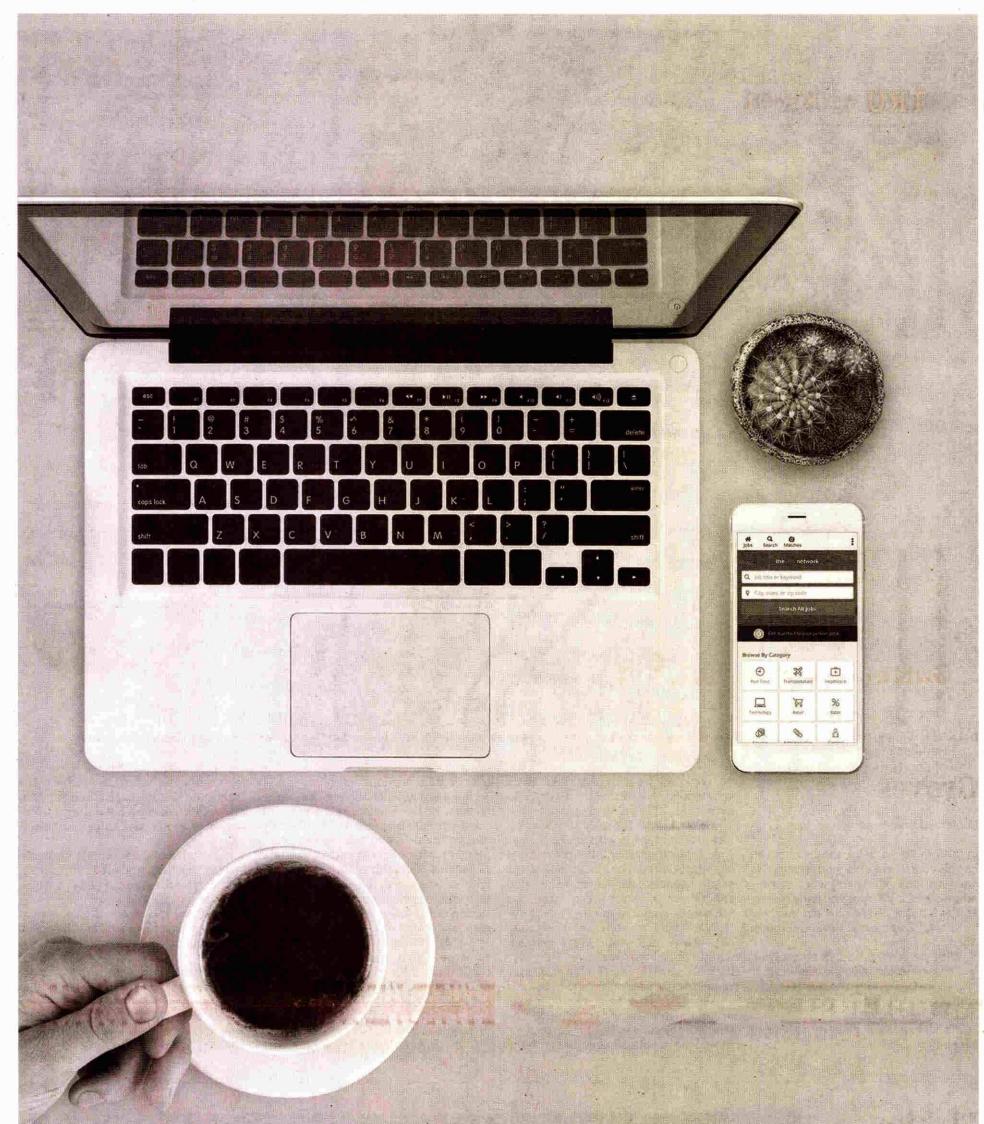
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Anthony Polzin and Drake Van Dike show off bass they caught in a tournament.







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The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned in the Township of Redford by the Michigan State Police Department and are to be sold, as is, at open auction on Wednesday, the 4th day of September, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at North Redford Towing, 12719 BEECH DALY Redford, MI 48239. Vehicles can be viewed on the auction dates. Registered owners will be allowed to pick up their vehicles prior to the start of the auction. Check www.nrtowing.

Publish: September 1, 2019

WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A TAX ABATEMENT FOR US FARATHANE LOCATED AT 39200 FORD ROAD, CITY OF

The Westland City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers located at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan to consider the adoption of a resolution approving Tax Abatement for the property located at 39200 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, PID #027-99-0001-004 (the "Property"), pursuant and in accordance with P.A.198, as amended.

All maps, plats and a copy of the proposed Tax Abatement Plan are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the City of Westland Clerk's Office, Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan.

All aspects of the Tax Abatement Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing. All interested persons desiring to address the City Council shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in regard to the approval of the Tax Abatement Plan.

This communication serves as notice of the City's intent to consider approval of the Tax Abatement Plan for the Property.

Publish: September 1, 2019

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL93-383), as amended, to be used for the following eligible community development activities as identified in the 2019-20 Annual Action Plan.

PROJECTED USE OF CDBG FUNDS

A. Major Home Rehabilitation	\$101,153
B. Emergency Rehabilitation Program	\$15,000
C. Minor Home Repair Program	\$40,000
D. Rehabilitation Inspection	\$2,500
E. Acquisition, Rehabilitation and or Demolition of Properties	\$30,000
F. Management & Maintenance of City-owned Single-Family Rental Units	\$95,000
G. Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative	\$60,000
H. Improvements of Public Facilities	\$100,000
I. Planning & Administration	\$83,000
J. Public Service Activities:	
 Senior Van Transportation 	\$48,000
 Mental Health Counseling 	\$3,000
First Step	\$24,000
 WMCAA Emergency Utility Assistance 	\$3,000
Designed Bridget (CDBC Finds Designed Funds)	\$CO4 652

Proposed Budget (CDBG Funds, Program Income & Unprogrammed Funds)..... \$604,653

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) which documents the environmental determinations for these projects is on file at the Livonia Housing Commission-Community Development Office located at 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150 and may be examined weekdays 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. No further environmental review of said projects is proposed prior to Request for Release of Federal Funds. Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Livonia Housing Commission at the address listed above. All comments received on or before September 17, 2019 will be considered by the Livonia Housing Commission prior to authorizing submission of request for release of funds.

CERTIFICATION: The City of Livonia-Housing Commission certifies to HUD that the City and Dennis K. Wright, in his official capacity as Mayor, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental reviews and administrative action, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect on this certification is that upon its approval, the City of Livonia may use the CDBG funds and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Livonia's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is for one of the following bases: a)That the certification was not in fact executed by the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Livonia; b) The City of Livonia has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58;c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to HUD, McNamara Federal Building, 17th Fl, 477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI. 48226. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Publish: September 1, 2019



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How It Works

puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. umber can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to he puzzle!

ISPRINT WORD SEARCH

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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



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