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SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Former YMCA building in Livonia could become sports facility again

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Athletics could return to Stark Road in Livonia this year.

Representatives from Detroit-based Detroit Rising Development said they are in the final stages of purchasing the former Livonia Family YMCA across the

street from Ford Field. Their plan, along with several investors working on the project, is to keep the building and renovate it to accommodate sports teams looking for indoor practice space, including baseball, volleyball, soccer and more.

"We've been looking for a property like this one for probably a year or two,

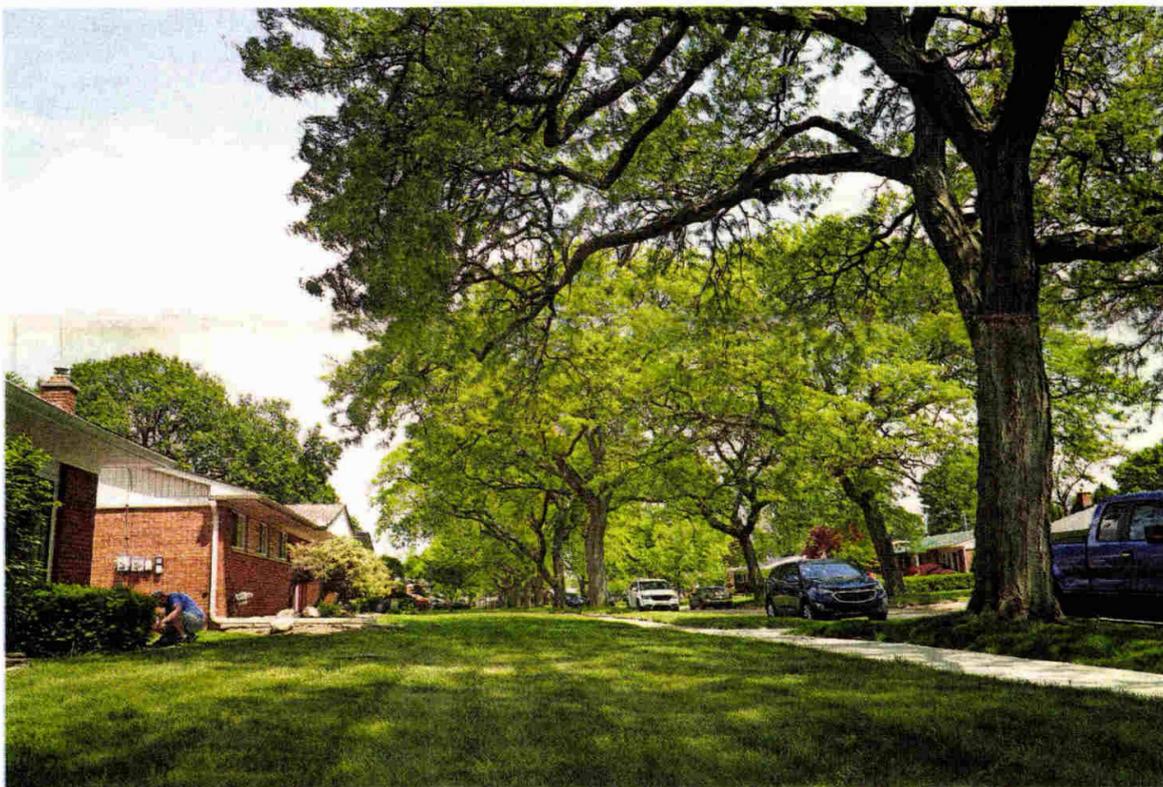
just because there's such a growing need, a growing demand for these large, indoor practice facilities," said Kirstie Hardy, a development project manager with Detroit Rising Development. "It provides a lot of opportunity to continue its use in a way."

The building had been up for sale for several months when Detroit Rising De-

velopment took an interest in it. Hardy said they began conversations with the YMCA about acquiring the site several months ago and plan on closing on the building in early June.

Once that takes place, she said major renovations will start inside: the indoor

See YMCA, Page 4A



Large honey locust trees give shade to the homes along Blue Skies Street in Livonia. The city plans to remove many of the trees in the coming months as it upgrades the sewer system. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Livonia residents sad to see trees come down during road work

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

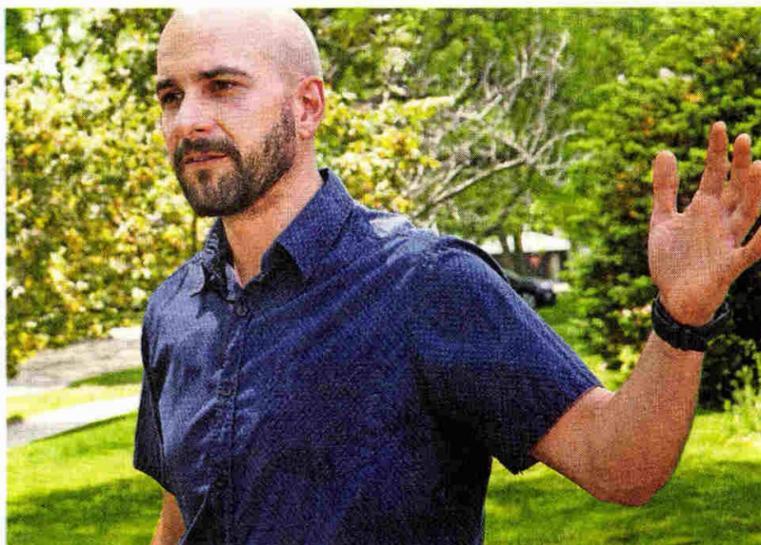
Brent Sabo has lived in his Livonia home for four years, and he says the big honey locust tree in his front yard does a lot more than create shade.

It reduces noise pollution from nearby Interstate 275 and Interstate 96, creates a pleasing neighborhood aesthetic and helps keep the air clean.

Now, it and 23 other trees on Blue Skies Street are coming down for a road and sewer repair project being done by the city.

Officials say the trees cause a hazard for the work, and it's possible the construction work would damage roots to the point that the trees would die regardless.

"... my main concern is climate change," Sabo said. "For a city to take out that many trees is irresponsible. I



Livonia resident Brent Sabo talks about his efforts to get the city to spare some of the large shade trees on the easement in his Blue Skies neighborhood.

See TREES, Page 4A

Longtime Farmington ice cream shop now a smoothie bar

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Talia Thomas gave one of downtown Farmington's biggest eyesores a fresh new look.

The Farmington Hills resident and Harrison High School alumna opened Sipp, a smoothie and juice bar, at 23629 Farmington in the former Hershey's Ice Cream parlor that's been vacant for nearly a decade.

"I've never done it before; this is my first business venture," said Thomas, who worked in mental health before launching the smoothie shop in May. "I've always done things like this on my own, so it was kind of natural for me to do something that I'm familiar with."

"When I had seen the space, I knew I had to do it here."

See SMOOTHIE BAR, Page 4A

Georgia man sentenced for bank robbery

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Joe Stafford, 55, of Georgia was sentenced to 4-15 years in prison for robbing a Canton Township bank.

He'll receive intensive drug treatment since Third Circuit Judge Kelly Ramsey said it's clear Stafford's cocaine addiction inspired his crime.

"Mr. Stafford, I want you to think about this. Say it with me to yourself, 'You're worth it,'" Ramsey said during the May 26 proceeding held via Zoom. "Don't let drugs take that away from you, sir."

Prosecuting attorney Stormie McGee shared that tellers at the Chase

See ROBBERY, Page 4A



What to do if you're working and taking IRA distributions



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick,
I am 75 years old and have been retired for nearly 10 years. My wife passed away a few years ago, and since then I have been bored. My son recommended that I go back to work part time.

So, here I am working about 15 hours a week. I was told that because I am working, I do not have to take minimum required distributions from my IRA; is that true? In addition, is there a limit on how much money I can put into my IRA? My employer does not have a 401(k) Plan so contributing to an IRA is my only retirement-account option. I'm not sure this is important but in 2020 with my pension and investments, I earned a little over \$100,000.

Thank you, Daniel

Dear Daniel,
The fact that you are working is immaterial when it comes to required minimum distributions. What you are confused with is minimum required distributions from a 401(k) Plan. There are provisions that while you are employed, you do not have to take required distributions from that company's 401(k).

The exception does not apply to IRAs. In addition, the exception for 401(k) plans may not be available if you are an owner of the company.

With regards to new contributions into an IRA, yes, you are eligible to make a contribution. For 2021, the maximum IRA contribution is \$6,000; however, because you are over 50, the maximum is \$7,000. Therefore, if you earn at least \$7,000 annually, you can put the maximum away. If you earn less than \$7,000 then that amount, the amount earned from your wages would be the maximum allowed contribution.

In making your IRA contribution I would recommend that you use a Roth

IRA, which has many benefits. First, Roth IRAs are not subject to the minimum required distribution. Therefore, you can let this money grow tax free for as long as you choose. In addition, if you should die with a balance in your Roth IRA, your beneficiaries would be able to withdraw that money income tax free.

Furthermore, because of your income, more likely than not you would not qualify for a tax-deductible traditional IRA; therefore, using the Roth IRA is a slam dunk.

Traditionally, many working seniors were not eligible to contribute to a traditional IRA. Seniors who were over 70½ and were taking minimum required distributions were prevented from contributing to traditional IRAs. However, that has changed because of the Secure Act.

The Secure Act, which was passed in 2019, removes the age restrictions with regards to contributions into a traditional IRA. Therefore, working seniors are now eligible for traditional tax deductible IRA contributions.

For seniors who are making qualified charitable distributions to a charity from their traditional IRA, there are some complexities about tax deductible IRA contributions after 70½. Therefore, if you have made a qualified charitable distribution, you should talk to your tax advisor before you make a tax-deductible IRA contribution.

For those of you who don't know, qualified charitable distributions are a way for seniors to donate to charities using their minimum required distributions.

For seniors who are still working, contributing into a Roth IRA can be a very good strategy. Not only does it allow you to have money grow tax free, it is also money that is not subject to minimum required distributions.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomadvisors.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, email rick@bloomadvisors.com.

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Motor City Irish Fest returns for 2021

The Motor City Irish Fest announced the festival will return this year. The MCIF is the premier Irish-themed event in southeast Michigan and features up to 15 bands playing Irish and Celtic music in two tents.

This year's headliner band will be the internationally renowned Byrne Brothers, originally from Ireland and now residing in Florida. The MCIF will take place June 11-13, at Greenmead Historic Park in Livonia.

After consultation with Livonia parks officials, organizers felt that they could field a safe and entertaining event.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be able to offer the MCIF to the public this year," Kevin Murphy, MCIF committee co-chairman, said. "... We hope that presenting the MCIF in a safe and responsible manner will help our guests feel that things are gradually returning to normal."

In addition to The Byrne Brothers,



The Ardan Academy of Irish Dance ladies perform at Motor City Irish Fest.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The family-friendly event also features a cultural tent that explores the history and culture of Ireland, and activities such as traditional Irish dancing featuring many local Irish dance schools.

Also offered are dancing lessons, Irish football demonstrations, Hugh Irwin - The Kilted Magician, Pipe Bands, a .001-K Run, a Kid's Tent featuring crafts and tin whistle lessons, vendors of Irish and Irish-themed goods and clothing, beer stations, a whiskey tent and whiskey tastings. Hours of the festival will be: 5-11 p.m. Friday and noon to 11 p.m. Saturday. Sunday will feature Mass at noon and the festival 1-7 p.m.

The 11th year of the festival, and now in its fifth year at Greenmead Historic Park, the MCIF promises to be bigger and better than any Irish festival in southeast Michigan, and a premier event in the entire Midwest. For more information, including ticket prices, visit motorcityirishfest.com.

some of the best local and regional Irish music will be featured from bands including The Corktown Popes, Blackthorn, The Codgers, Wakefire, Cross-Bow, McSpillin, Kish Celtic Band, Black Murray, Jamrocks, Bill Grogan' Goat, Shamrock Shore, McLaughlin's Alley, the Metro Detroit Police and Fire Pipe and Drum Band and Dublin-born singer-songwriter Enda Reilly.



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Past members say Farmington school board infighting created toxic culture

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Former and veteran trustees say being on the Farmington school board the last five years was like dealing with school bullies all over again.

At a glance, things appeared fine in public meetings, but board members say personal attacks amongst themselves plagued their lives outside the board room. Infighting was fueled by big egos and big personalities and ultimately pulled the board's attention away from their primary focus: students, those critics say.

"Toxic" is the word of choice describing the board's culture in recent years. Superintendent Bob Herrera filed a harassment complaint against a school board member shortly before his resignation, which came just 18 months after the school board hired him. The district paid Herrera a \$105,000 buyout, and the district continues to pay his six-figure salary through June as his replacement is hired.

Several board members said Herrera's not the first to administrative leader to leave the district because of strained relations, saying former Superintendent George Heitsch's retirement was premature.

"I felt like I was back in high school," former trustee Richard Mukamal said of the school board. "It was like the queen bee and the wannabes. This was like 'Mean Girls.'"

Now with a mostly new school board who just picked Christopher Delgado as the next superintendent, board members say they're determined to work together. But, longtime elected officials will also admit they've said that before.

Infighting gets in way

Pam Green, a former board president who resigned last November, said she never knew the board without problems amongst itself.

"It was very clear there was a lot of disruption on the board," she said. "What I found is instead of being a cohe-

sive, collaborative board, there was a lot of division and there was one common thread amongst it."

Green said the "common thread" was one of her elected colleagues, current trustee Angie Smith.

Herrera said in his resignation Smith's harassment against him created a hostile work environment. Following his resignation, the school board censured Smith, and two board members followed Herrera's lead and resigned, as well.

"Her censure-ship was much more than what the portrayal is," Green said. "It's the behavior of her overall. It's the spreading rumors, the gossip and her attacks on different staff members."

Other former members agree. "Angie Smith has had problems with every single person on that board," Terry Johnson, a former board vice president who also resigned in November, said.

Smith is unapologetic for her approach. She said she's not the bully: her former colleagues are.

"I'm very vocal and I'm very passionate about what I do and who I do it for," she said.

There's some evidence, however, Smith was resistant to soothing school board tensions, declining requests the board undergo restorative practice training in 2019.

"I am not interested in having her do this practice," Smith wrote to Green of the suggested instructor in a March 2019 email.

That email, and dozens of others Hometown Life obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, highlight some of the behind-the-scenes rancor among the elected officials.

Former board members Johnson, Green and Mukamal said problems weren't limited to one person, arguing Terri Weems, the board's current president, has also fueled discord. Johnson and Weems have gone as far as filing complaints against each other to the district.

It's not just former board members

alleging conflicts. Smith and Weems have had conflicts as well.

"Publicly accusing people especially without investigation is dangerous," Weems wrote in an email to Smith in January 2019. "It continues the cycle of negativity. It is creating an unsafe working environment for employees, creating a divide in the community and likely fueling recall efforts."

Weems said she and Smith are on good footing now but acknowledged the two have faced issues in the past. Those struggles, they said, happen because elected school boards aren't in agreement on all issues.

"The board was fighting bitterly over Terri Weems as president, and it was made very clear to me that she needed to go as president," Mukamal said of Weems' previous tenure as board president. "That was obvious."

The infighting eventually led to Green and Johnson resigning. Jim Stark, a former board president, resigned in 2018 for similar reasons.

"I could not emotionally continue," Green said. "It is exhausting and it's hurtful."

Personal conflicts, they say, also drew attention away from the schools. Both current and former board members expressed frustration over squabbles standing in the way of work that would benefit students in a district with continued declining enrollment. The district serves about 9,100 students right now, a number that dropped over 300 students from the 2019-2020 school year.

According to Weems, the board did not look at "meaningful" student achievement data for almost two years.

Individual agendas, lack of vision lead to superintendent exits

School board members agreed its role is to manage the superintendent and let him or her run the day-to-day operations of the district. They also accused everyone else of not seeing things that way.

Don Wotruba, executive director of

the Michigan Association of School Boards, said operating without a clear vision and culture can hold a board back.

"Problems get created when members see their role differently than what MASA or their board sees as the appropriate role of a board member versus a superintendent," Wotruba said.

Johnson, Green and Mukamal contend Weems and Smith allow their personal friendships to dictate their school agendas and frequently get involved in issues that should be handled by administration.

"They'll take questions and comments from their friends and instead of referring their friends to the proper channels, they take it upon themselves," Mukamal said. "So you get bogged down in all this minutia."

In a Sept. 24, 2020, harassment complaint, Herrera detailed actions taken by Smith he believes were in "retaliation" over a hire she didn't agree with. Hometown Life obtained this complaint through a FOIA request. Herrera did not respond to multiple interview requests.

"During the past six months, the number of public and internal comments that include disparaging, false and defamatory statements has increased and is in direct violation of district policies," Herrera wrote in the complaint.

Smith also questioned if Herrera, who is Latino, was the diverse person she feels is needed to lead the district and felt he did nothing to sooth racial tensions in the district.

"When it comes down to the diversity in this community and being a people person, that was why I could not vote to put him in," Smith said regarding her dissenting vote when Herrera was initially hired. "This is a community with over 87 nationalities."

According to 2019 U.S. Census data, Farmington Hills is 62.7% white, 19.9% Black and 14.1% Asian. All other races or nationalities make up the remaining 3.3%.

See BOARD, Page 6A



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Smoothie bar

Continued from Page 1A

While she's never worked in a similar shop before, Thomas said she's had plenty of experience creating drinks on her own, which translated into her desire to open a business selling products like smoothies and juices.

"Personally, I've always done it and always been into it," she said. "That's why I said I have to do something that I love and I'm passionate about."

In addition to the healthy drinks, Sipp also sells some light fare such as wraps and salads. The most popular item on the menu, Thomas said, is the #OMG, a smoothie made with strawberry, pineapple, mango, peach and orange.

The opening of the shop ends a long era of vacancy in that space. The building sat vacant for years and became well-known for standing out for being empty for so long. It prompted some discussions by the city council years ago about what could be done about it, considering its prominent location in the heart of downtown Farmington.

Kate Knight, executive director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, said she said one word when she heard last year Sipp was going to occupy the space.

"Alleluia," she said. "(Thomas is) very savvy and her product is terrific. She treats people really well. It makes you want to go in there and buy a juice."

See **SMOOTHIE BAR**, Page 6A



Delisha Williams prepares a fruit and spinach smoothie at the new Sipp Smoothie & Juice Bar in Farmington. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

YMCA

Continued from Page 1A

tennis courts will be converted to a turf field suitable for soccer, the gym will be rebranded and more. Some of the office space on the main floor will also be available for leasing for private entities looking for space that could be connected to the facility as well, Hardy said. Other spaces could be used by medical professionals or physical therapy practices.

The YMCA facility was built in the 1960s at 14255 Stark between Lyndon and Schoolcraft. There, it was a gathering place for the community for decades, offering classes and providing fitness opportunities for the area until the COVID-19 pandemic closed it down in March 2020. Two months later, the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit announced it had permanently closed the center.

The center will also sport a new name: The Livonia Athletic District. Unlike the YMCA, it will not be a membership-based center where anyone can join, Hardy said. The space will be used primarily by groups and teams that contract with the center to use its space for training and other activities.

One of those groups includes the Detroit Soccer District, which is expected to make use of the facility for indoor training once it opens, said Joseph de Verteuil, its founder. Launched several years ago in Detroit de Verteuil said play will continue in the city with some indoor events, especially during the colder months, taking place in Livonia.

"We'll leverage this facility so that they can have somewhere to train in the winter," he said. "We'll be offering everything that any other facilities will be offering."

If the sale goes through, it would bring new life to the building after being closed for a year. Mark Taormina, Livonia's planning and economic development director, said they will work to see what steps need to be taken to redevelop the facility.

"While many of the details are still emerging, Detroit Rising Development has plans to renovate the facility, maintaining its primary use for indoor recreation and training opportunities, as well as wellness, which fits nicely with one of Mayor (Maureen Miller Brosnan's) primary objectives of advancing Healthy Livonia," he said. "Over the next several months, we will be working closely with the new owners to improve the property so that integrates nicely with the surrounding parks and outdoor play spaces, and hopefully becomes a destination location for many groups and organizations, and the community at large."

Hardy said indoor renovations — around \$1 million — will begin as soon as the organization officially purchases the property. The plan is to begin opening portions of the building by the fall.

Latitia McCree, senior vice president of marketing and communications for the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit, confirmed the organization was in talks to sell the property to Detroit Rising Development but the sale had not yet closed. Online records indicate the property ownership remains with the YMCA as of May 25.

She said while the facility is closed, the YMCA still

offers activities, including summer day camps, in neighboring communities such as Westland and Farmington.

"We're still providing services, we just had to consolidate," she said.

Detroit Rising Development is a development and construction management group that has mostly focused on projects in the city, including the Detroit Shipping Co., and Supino's Pizzeria. It has also worked on the Lansing Shuffleboard & Social Club, being built inside the former City Market in Lansing.

Hardy said while the Livonia project is unique compared to their other projects, the team involved has plenty of experience when it comes to similar buildings.

"It is a little different from the projects in our portfolio, but the guys have a lot of background with athletic leagues and athletic facilities," Hardy said.

If the facility does open under its intended use, it will join several others in the region especially designed for soccer. In addition to Total Sports facilities in places like Farmington, Wixom and Novi, the St. Joe's Sports Dome opened in 2017 on the Schoolcraft College campus in Livonia.

Hardy said they don't believe their new facility will be competition for the area indoor spaces, especially given how interest is high for training space right now.

"There's such a demand for all of this," Hardy said. "This has been a project in the works for a while and in the last 2-3 months we've really been ramping up trying to pre-lease spaces to prove our model to ourselves and to the banks. We've seen a lot of interest."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

Robbery

Continued from Page 1A

Bank, near Michigan Avenue and Old Canton Center Road, had told her that Stafford was polite and never appeared threatening when he presented a note demanding money on Nov. 5.

Also, it was clear to a witness that he was suffering from a drug addiction.

There also were letters from Stafford's wife and brother, who told the

judge Stafford is a good, loving and caring man when drugs aren't in his system.

Police have agreed that no weapon was seen and no one was injured before Stafford escaped with an undisclosed amount of money.

Stafford, when offered the chance to speak, agreed that he needs help with his addiction.

"I know I would never be in any trouble if it wasn't for that," he said during the sentencing. "I



Stafford

apologize to the courts and Chase."

Stafford was facing two charges of bank robbery. He pleaded guilty to the Canton robbery, and the other charge for a Nov. 7 bank robbery was dismissed.

He has prior felonies, but, because of his plea, a habitual offender charge also was dismissed.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

Trees

Continued from Page 1A

like the aesthetics, big time, but that's not my main concern. ... The thing I hear most from neighbors is that (the trees) are why they moved into this neighborhood."

Sabo and his neighbors recently called on city council members to stop the trees from coming down and submitted a petition to the city.

Though council delayed removal for about a week so it could discuss the issue, members said "at this point" there's nothing they could do.

Due to contracts with removal companies, the city would lose at least \$75,000 if it canceled the work.

The city is keeping 35 of the 59 large trees on the street and will replace those it cuts down with smaller trees.

Councilman Brandon McCullough suggested



Stumps of large honey locust trees along Marie Street in Livonia. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

would come back before council for a vote.

"This is at least the third time since I've sat on this council that we've had issues with trees and neighborhoods," Councilwoman Laura Toy said. "It's about the process of how we go about communicating with residents. ... Right now, I don't think we look that great."

Sabo said he's "cautiously optimistic" council referred the issue to the administration, but said he "won't be glad until it actually changes."

He said he'd like the administration to better inform people and take the naysayers seriously, which he doesn't feel happened this time.

"When I was going around trying to get signatures for the petition, there were a couple of people I spoke to who just had no idea this was happening," Sabo said.

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

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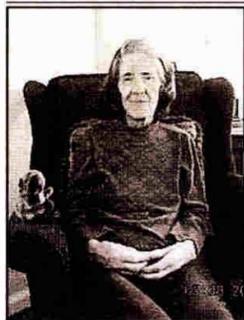
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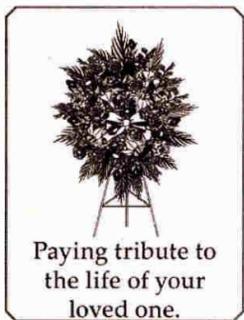


Mary Carver

LIVONIA - Beloved wife of 61 years to Stuart. Loving mother of Christopher (Julie Jurrjens) and Kathryn Ann. Dear sister of Robert (Joyce) Readmond. Also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents James and Norma Readmond; and siblings Irene and Donald.

A Memorial Service will take place at a later date.

Please share a memory of Mary at www.rggrharris.com



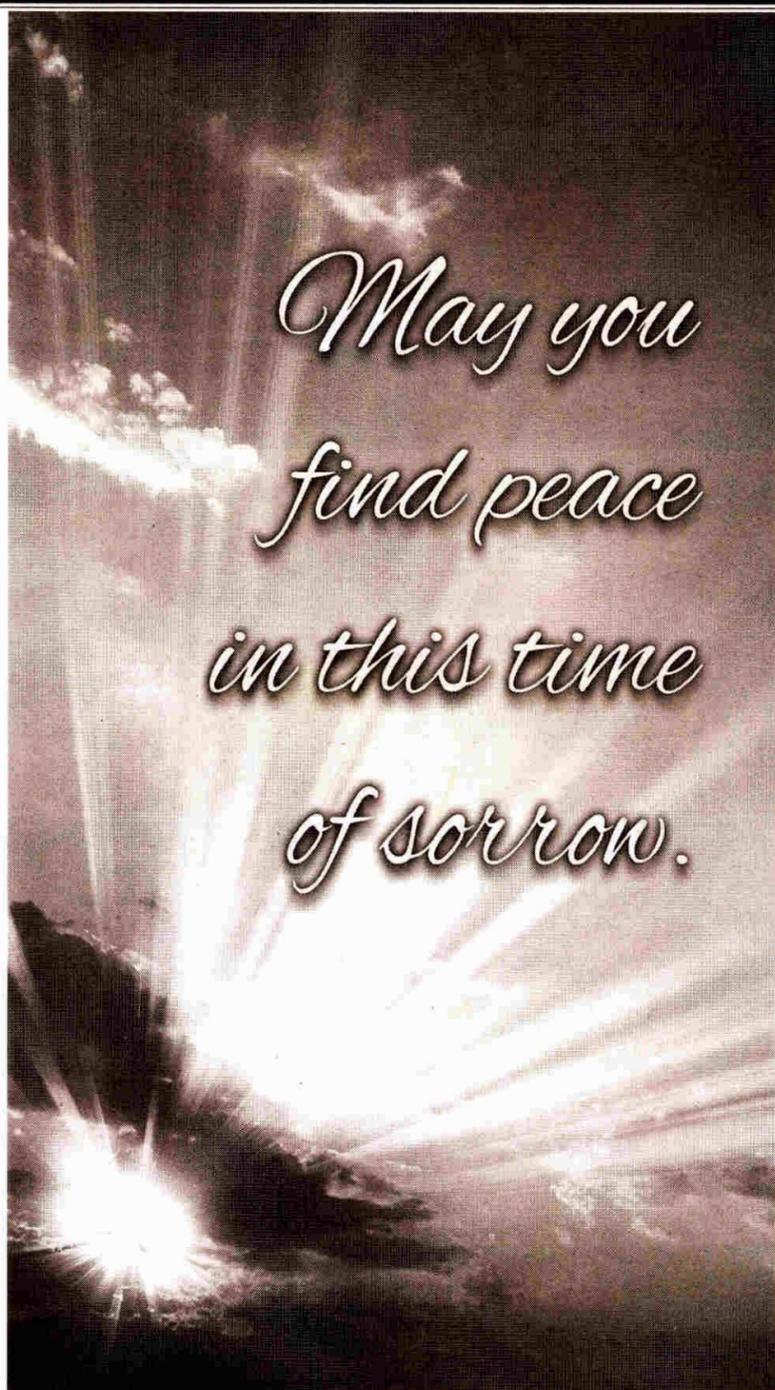
Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.

Kenneth Dabelstein

GARDEN CITY
- Kenneth "Kojak" Dabelstein, age 77 of Garden City died peacefully on May 19, 2021 with his wife Linda and family at his side. He owned Ken's Country Produce in Westland since 1974 where he enjoyed selling the best flowers and garden needs. He started



out selling vegetables on Detroit's East side until settling in Westland. Ken felt that this was his calling in life and was proud of all he accomplished. Ken worked hard but still took a few months to enjoy his second home in Naples, Florida where he enjoyed the sunsets, fishing, boating and his annual swamp buggy races. He was especially grateful to get to know his oldest grandson, Jason Graham and his young family during the last few years of his life. Ken is survived by his wife Linda Tornj together for 30 years. He leaves seven children, June (Ron) Lothamer, Wanda (Kevin) Graham, April (Steve) Shepler, Kevin (Carrie) Dabelstein, Dale and Erik Dabelstein. He will be reunited with his beloved daughter Anita. He was the stepfather of Tonya and Judy Whidden, the late Jimmy, the late Joanie and the late Tommy. Proud grandfather of 17. He is survived by siblings Leo (Sally) Dabelstein, Fred and Anne; sister-in-law and friend Patty (Mike) Camp. Ken lived in Garden City for the last 30 years. He enjoyed looking out his window, watching all the birds that came to visit at sunset. He lived by his motto, "Work smart, not hard". Visitation Tuesday, June 1st 2-8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill) Westland. Funeral Service Wednesday, June 2nd 11 AM at the funeral home. Entombment Naples Memorial Gardens in North Naples, Florida. Memorial contributions may be made to Veterans Haven, Inc. 4924 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, MI 48184. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenh.com



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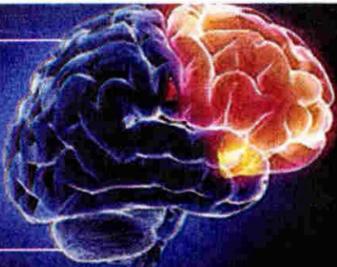
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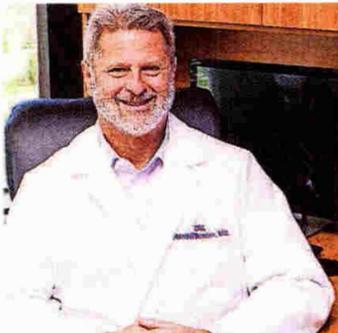


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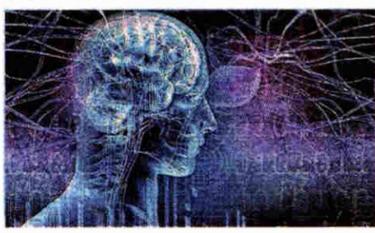


Randall Benson, MD

Dr. Randall Benson, is a nationally regarded behavioral neurologist and imaging neuroscientist. Dr. Benson is recognized for developing new, more effective diagnosis for incapacitating brain disorders using advanced functional MRI, DTI & SWI methods. His work has led to an unprecedented understanding of brain function and disease.

Among his accomplishments:

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- Neurology residency at Boston University and the Veterans Administration.
- Principal investigator on US National Institutes of health and Department of Defense projects.
- Testified before the US Congress on a National Football League sponsored study on concussions.



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Board

Continued from Page 3A

Critics said Smith's behavior created an environment Herrera couldn't work in, prompting the complaint.

"The fact that Farmington Public Schools was not able to retain him is a big black mark on our district," Mukamal said.

Though different factions present different reasons for Heitsch's retirement, all say he left the district sooner than he wanted to because of board dysfunction. Heitsch did not respond to multiple interview requests.

Finding a new leader, moving forward

The seven-member school board is relatively young with four members elected or appointed in the past 6 months.

As president, Weems worried the controversy could impact the district's superintendent search; the board voted May 13 to offer the job to Christopher Delgado, who has been serving in a deputy superintendent role for Walled Lake

Consolidated Schools.

Weems, Smith and Zach Rich, another veteran trustee, have said they're optimistic about a new board being able to turn things around. Weems pointed to the board's decisions regarding in-person learning as evidence of that.

"We made a decision on (return to learn) in early January and, I think, the very next day some board members were questioning that decision," she said. "They felt uneasy. So in response to that, the board got together in spite of the fact that some members disagreed ... everyone wanted to make sure the new board members wrestling with that decision had a chance to be heard."

The current school board removed Smith's censure in January, wanting to put everyone on the same footing as it moves forward. Fixing the board's culture is important to its effectiveness moving forward.

"They need to have a conversation about who they want to be as a board, who they want to be to the public, how they want to be toward each other and how they are going to conduct themselves," Wotruba said. "A lot of boards don't do that."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

Smoothie bar

Continued from Page 4A

Thomas said she looked at several locations but felt the Farmington Road spot was the right fit for her and for her offerings. She said she's happy to have filled such an identifiable location in town.

"It was just the best option. It was the perfect location for me," Thomas said. "I think it was what the community needed, because we don't have anything like that down here. I just felt like the community needed it."

Knight said there's plenty of excitement to see that part of downtown occupied again. Couple Sipp with its relatively-new neighbor Motown Philly Cheesesteaks and Fries and that part of downtown has new life in it. It's gathered enough interest that Knight said the DDA is looking to transform part of the space south of the building into a

small gathering space, occupying a handful of parking spaces and adding additional seating. That's something they hope to have up in the coming weeks, Knight said.

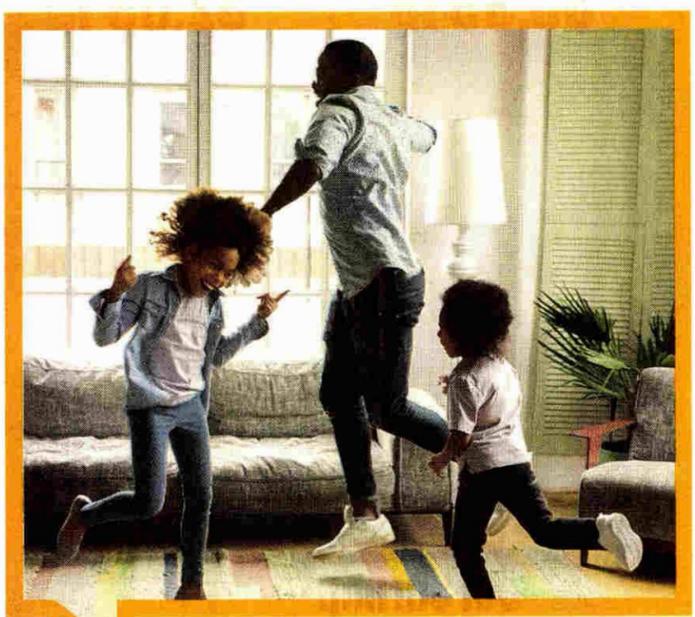
Thomas said the most popular times she sees customers is around lunch and dinner time. The crowd is a mix, from teenagers buying an acai bowl to adults picking up smoothies and juices.

"Everyone has been super nice," she said. "It's very exciting."

While she's still getting started in downtown Farmington, Thomas has her eyes on potential expansion. The first place she'd like to go? The Hawk, the new community center soon to open at the site of her former high school in Farmington Hills.

The shop is open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday. More information can be found at sipp2health.com.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.



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SPORTS

Brizard named Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year

Marian High School junior Ava Brizard was named 2020-21 Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee.

Brizard is the third Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Marian High School in 12 years.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Brizard as Michigan's best high school volleyball player.

She is now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award. Brizard joins previous Marian winners Alex Lovell (2010-11) and Rachel Charles (2009-10).

The 6-foot-1 junior outside hitter led the Mustangs to a 37-5 record and the Division 1 state championship this past

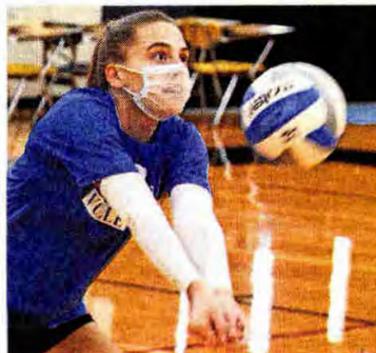
season. Brizard compiled 598 kills, 412 digs, 37 blocks and 35 service aces while posting a .492 kill percentage and a .395 hitting percentage. She recorded 26 kills and 10 digs in Marian's 3-0 win over Lowell High in the state final.

Ranked as the nation's No. 75 recruit in the Class of 2022 by PrepVolleyball.com, Brizard was a Division 1 first-team All-State selection. She concluded her junior year with 1,536 kills and 1,340 digs in her prep volleyball career.

Daughter of Julie and Brian Brizard of Novi, Ava has maintained a weighted 4.17 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach with Summer in the City, through which teens invest their creativity and compassion into the city of Detroit.

She has made a verbal commitment to play volleyball on scholarship at North Carolina State University beginning in the fall of 2022.

The Gatorade Player of the Year pro-



Marian's Ava Brizard practices earlier this year. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

gram annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and

boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Brizard has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year.

To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.



The Salem girls soccer team earned its first KLAA conference championship in 34 years. COLIN GAY | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Salem soccer beats Livonia Stevenson for first KLAA title in 34 years

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the first half of the KLAA girls soccer championship, Salem hit a goal 34 years in the making. It really didn't have to look that pretty.

Coming from the corner, Salem senior Macayla Harris lost possession once she passed Livonia Stevenson goalkeeper Madison Curtis. With no one around her, Rocks senior forward Talia Zoli stepped up from the other side, took a second to adjust and tapped the ball in the back of the net for the first score of the game.

Nearly 24 minutes into the game, Salem's (14-0-3) offense was off and running, beating Stevenson (11-2-2), 3-0, for its first conference championship in 34 years.

"It's been a long time coming," Salem head coach Kyle Karns said. "They haven't experienced winning at this level in terms of trophies and things like that. Not only is it fun and makes things exciting, but it gives you that confidence heading into the state playoffs."

Hoisting a conference trophy, Harris could not help but think back to when she first joined the Salem soccer program.

No matter what the Rocks seemed to do on the soccer field - winning 16 games through her freshman and sophomore seasons, including three playoff wins - the group always seemed to play second-fiddle to the other two schools in Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

But Harris came into her senior sea-

son knowing what Salem had at its disposal: a group of 14 seniors who had played club soccer together and had a level of chemistry, she said, the Rocks had never had before.

And they all came in with one goal in mind.

"We don't want to be seen as the underdog anymore," Harris said. "This group of seniors has always been special, so we just came into our senior year wanting to change the program. We're doing it."

The chemistry Salem has thrived on was on full display against Stevenson: using combination soccer to find open players, taking advantage of a young Spartan defense that seemed to bite too soon and too aggressively at net.

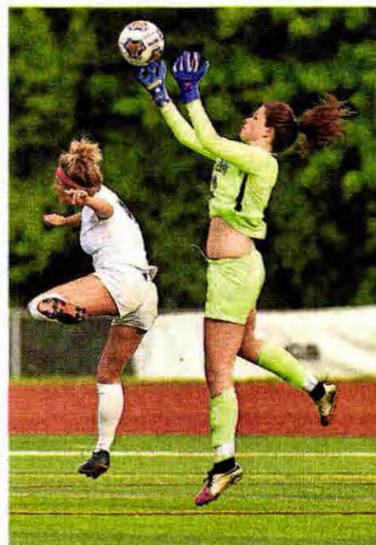
Harris reaped the rewards twice, totaling two of Salem's three goals in the championship game on assists by Kelsey Zol and Abby Siddall, respectively.

"Macayla works hard off the ball," Karns said. "She creates a lot of problems just with her athleticism and her work rate. She does a lot of the dirty work. It's that energy, and it becomes infectious."

It's an energy that Stevenson was unable to overcome in an atmosphere that many on the roster had never experienced.

Heading into the championship game, the Spartans carried four seniors. Stevenson head coach Ken Shingledecker said it was his team's first taste of what playoff soccer was like.

"You can't have bad games," he said. "I don't think we played very well to-



As Stevenson's Mackenzie Gregor, left, tries to get a shot on goal from a bouncing pass Salem net-minder Ava Holloway plucks the ball out of midair. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

night, this isn't one of our best showings and I think we played much better the last time we played them. When you do get chances you need to, in districts, moving on, you have to put them away. If not, it gets really hard."

Despite the uncharted success for Salem over the course of the 2021 sea-

See SOCCER, Page 4B

Momentum carries Novi boys track and field to regional title

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Heading into his first season as the head coach of Novi's boys track and field team, Danny Taylor had an idea of what he wanted it to look like.

A veteran of the Wildcats' coaching staff for the past seven years, Taylor wanted to put forward his idea of a "track family," a united front standing together and working toward the same goal.

Novi senior Miles Brown knows what his coach is suggesting, but he calls it something different: an army. It's a battalion that doesn't expect to win, but does everything in its power to make it happen.

With the results to show for it - an undefeated KLAA schedule, a conference title - Novi, continuing to show up for battle, continued to be victorious by winning the Region 7 title as a team at Farmington High School Saturday and advancing to the Division 1 Michigan high school state meet June 5.

The Wildcats secured first place with 136 points - 59 more points than second-place Oak Park - totaling six individual regional champions and 11 individual-event state qualifiers.

"They bought in early, they put the work in and they are reaping the rewards all over the season, so it's been incredible," Taylor said.

Taylor knew something special was in store for the Wildcats when both of his pole vaulters - Nicholas Dembinski and Spencer Goodman - finished first and second in the event as the only two competitors to clear the bar at the regional meet.

Saturday morning continued that momentum: opening the day with a first-place finish in the 4x800-meter relay, leading to personal championship finishes by Brown, who broke his own school record in the 400-meter with a 48.21, while adding a first-place finish in the 800-meter.

"Miles Brown is must-see track

See NOVI, Page 4B

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Winn and Millross bring Livonia Franklin tennis success

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brittney Winn made a significant first impression on Daphne Millross when the two first met.

"I thought she was super cool," Millross said. "She was super athletic, and I was super into school."

"I was like, 'Woah, I kind of want to be like her.'"

When the two paired up on Livonia Franklin's tennis team as doubles teammates, though, they found success together.

Serving as the No. 5 doubles flight for the Patriots in their first year, the team moved up to No. 3 as sophomores, winning 22-of-29 games. Millross and Winn teamed up again as seniors and, in the No. 2 spot, lost only three times — twice to Novi — in the regular season.

Franklin head coach Tom Muller had known Millross and Winn well before each joined the team; his daughter had been the one that brought each of them to the tennis courts for the first time. He had an idea of what each could do.

Winn was more aggressive at the net, using her instincts to get to any ball that's hit her way. Millross served more in the finesse role, according to her head coach, using a slice and drop shot that other teams have a difficult time return-

ing.

Instead of what he usually did from year to year — pairing more successful doubles players with partners who had less experience — Muller trusted in Millross and Winn's pairing all four years.

"Normally we would break them up after a year or two because we need an experienced player with someone newer, but it was nice for them to stay together," he said.

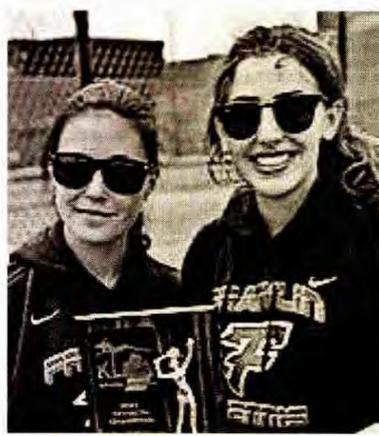
In doubles tennis, communication is key. For Winn, it's about trust: knowing that if you don't get to a ball, your teammate has your back.

Despite being friends before teammates, that trust still took awhile to develop.

"We yelled at each other a lot," Winn said. "Our coach was like, 'You have to be a little nicer.' We were good friends, so we knew that we were just being competitive, knew we needed to be competitive to win."

To Millross, the early disconnect had to do with her lack of confidence as a player. Early on, she said she was scared, knowing that Winn was better than her and that she would leave for a better partner. Millross would become frustrated with herself on the court and take that out on Winn.

But over the course of the first few matches of freshman year, the pair got



Brittney Winn and Daphne Millross have been playing as a doubles team at Livonia Franklin since freshman year. COURTESY OF TOM MULLER

its timing down, basing its game off communication: always focusing on the next point while encouraging one another through the good times and bad.

As the relationship blossomed, Winn and Millross would be able to just say "Me," or "You" when a ball was coming their way, knowing instinctively what would happen.

As seniors, Millross and Winn played incredibly consistent roles for Franklin,

a team that, despite losing each of its top six tennis players after the 2020 season was cancelled due to COVID-19, won the KLA East. Heading into the regionals the pair posted a record of 25-2.

After a straight-set win in the second round of regionals, Millross and Winn's career together ended, falling to No. 1 seed Marian in the regional semifinals.

Next year, both players will go their separate ways. Millross is heading to Schoolcraft, while Winn plans to join the club tennis team in her first year at Central Michigan.

Athlete of the Week results

Winn and Millross won the Hometown Life Athlete of the Week poll the week of May 10, earning 5,177 (47.21%) of the 10,965 total votes cast.

Mercy track and field junior Abby Fush finished second with 3,812 votes (34.77%), while Lakeland baseball junior Matthew Hanneman finished third with 1,481 votes.

Milford soccer's Michi Hooks and Canton softball's Emma Grau finishes fourth and fifth, respectively.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCOREBOARD

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK

The spring season is in full spring. Here's a look at how Hometown Life-area teams are performing in sports, such as girls soccer, softball, baseball and boys golf.

Coaches, players and parents: please send scores and stats. Tag us @HTLSports or @ColinGay17 on Twitter, or send them over email to cgay@hometownlife.com.

Baseball

May 20

Livonia Stevenson 9, Hartland 8

May 19

Lakeland 12, Walled Lake Northern 7: Gavin Meehan earned the win on the mound in relief, giving the Eagles a gutsy 4-2 shutout innings. LHS pounded out 18 hits led by Kevin Krill who was 3-4 with five RBI including a home run. Tate Farquhar was 3-3 with a walk, Ryan Abrey was 3-4 while Caden Duryea, Andrew Platt and Dom Slone each added two hits.

May 18

Livonia Stevenson 4, Howell 1
Lakeland 9, Walled Lake Northern 2: Tate Farquhar picked up the win on the mound going six innings scattering five hits and striking out six. Ryan Abrey went 2-2 with two RBI and Nolan Hull also had two hits. Walled Lake Northern 3, Lakeland 1: Kevin Krill, Caden Duryea and Trey Rowley all had hits.

May 15

Lakeland 7, Northville 6: Jake Held earned the win on the mound in relief. The Eagles scored five runs on the top of the seventh to take the lead. Dom Slone was 2-4, Matthew Hanneman recorded one hit with three RBI. Kyle Zavinsky had the big two-RBI single for the go-ahead runs.

Novi 4, Lakeland 1: The Wildcats handed the Eagles its second loss of the season, scoring four runs in the bottom of the third inning. Freshman left-hander Brendon Bennett threw six innings, allowing one run on four hits, four walks and seven strikeouts. Dom Slone took the loss on the mound for Lakeland. Caden Duryea recorded two hits.

May 13

Livonia Stevenson 3,

Livonia Franklin 1
Livonia Franklin 6, Livonia Stevenson 5

May 12

Lakeland 8, Waterford Kettering 0: Matthew Zarembo picked up the win on the mound, throwing five innings. Caden Duryea pitched the final two scoreless innings to combine for the shutout. Andrew Platt, Ryan Abrey and Brandon Abrey each had two hits. Tate Farquhar had an RBI triple in the first inning to start the scoring and Kevin Krill and Gavin Meehan each had two RBI.

May 5

Seaholm 7, Groves 6

May 3

Lakeland 12, Canton 2
Livonia Franklin 2, Brighton 1 (8 innings): Franklin starter allowed only one earned run and two walks in eight innings of work, striking out six. Caden Fournier led the team with a single, a double and an RBI, while TJ Calleja recorded an RBI single in the eighth to give the Patriots their 14th win of the season.

Softball

May 18

Howell 13, Livonia Stevenson 1

May 14

Livonia Stevenson 13, John Glenn 10
Livonia Stevenson 15, John Glenn 0

May 5

Canton 3, Novi 1

Novi 4, Canton 3

May 4

Groves 10, Seaholm 5: Freshman Sydney Lezovich recorded three singles and a double, while Taegen Lemberg earned the victory, allowing five hits in seven innings of work. Groves 9, Seaholm 4: The Falcons recorded 15 hits, including multi-hit efforts from sophomore Ella Blank, senior Bella Caza, senior Rylee Wilson, freshman Paige Hammers and Lezovich.

Girls soccer

May 11

Novi 2, Canton 1

May 6

South Lyon East 3, Milford 2

Girls tennis

May 14

Livonia Franklin 5, North Farmington 4

Singles

No. 1 - Lindsey Berke, Farmington Hills - North def. Katie Callaghan, Livonia Franklin, 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 2 - Claire Letterman, Farmington Hills - North def. Sandreea Cueva, Livonia Franklin, 6-0, 6-2, -;

No. 3 - Mary Dadisho, Farmington Hills - North def. Gabbie McCoy, Livonia Franklin, 6-1, 6-1, -;

No. 4 - Christina Hobson, Farmington Hills - North def. Celing Li, Livonia Franklin, 6-3, 6-3, -;

Doubles

No. 1 - Marissa Muller, Livonia Franklin - Kelly Engler, Livonia Franklin def. Catherine Ashare, Farmington Hills - North - Maria Marougi, Farmington Hills - North, 6-0, 6-1, -;

No. 2 - Daphne Millross, Livonia Franklin - Brittney Winn, Livonia Franklin def. Sydney Winter, Farmington Hills - North - Kendall Turner, Farmington Hills - North, 7-5, 6-4, -;

No. 3 - Kate Montie, Livonia Franklin - Jade Fabian, Livonia Franklin def. Angelina Sun, Farmington Hills - North - Mia Fletcher, Farmington Hills - North, 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 4 - Cypress Burns, Livonia Franklin - Jasmine Dumitru, Livonia Franklin def. Sydney Elder, Farmington Hills - North - Naima Jennings, Farmington Hills - North, 6-3, 6-0, -;

No. 5 - Katie Thiele, Livonia Franklin - Leeda Gharibi, Livonia Franklin def. Rita Andrawes, Farmington Hills - North - Alpina Rajagopal, Farmington Hills - North, 6-0, 6-0, -;

May 12
Seaholm 4, Troy 4

Singles

1. Sophia MacKinnon (Seaholm) def. Hayley Chenfang (Troy) 6-0, 6-2

2. Sofia Gryzenia (Seaholm) def. Amritha Yelleti (Troy) 6-2, 6-2

3. Carly Burkel (Seaholm) def. Josie Billinger (Troy) 6-1, 6-1

4. Courtney Marcum (Seaholm) def. Chloe Pottenger (Troy) 6-1, 6-0

Doubles

1. Angela Anderanin/Sabrina Song (Troy) def. Ashley Buechner/Madeleine Leo (Seaholm) 6-0, 6-0

2. Grace Zhu/Stephanie Ochoa (Troy) def. Nina Graham/Jane Wineman (Seaholm) 6-1, 7-5

3. Nika Tanako/Sophie Chong (Troy) def. Kaitlyn Marcum/Katie Slazinski (Seaholm) 6-1, 7-6

4. Varsha Penumalee/Prisha Akasapu (Troy) def. Tatum Hirsch/Ellie Wyzkowski (Seaholm) 6-3, 2-6, 6-2

May 11

Seaholm 4, Midland Dow 4

Singles

1. Zoe Angell (Midland Dow) def. Sophia Mackinnon (Seaholm) 6-2, 6-4

2. Savannah Matuszewski (Midland Dow) def. Sofia Gryzenia (Seaholm) 6-3, 1-6, 6-2

3. Laura Leiti (Midland Dow) def. Carly Burkel (Seaholm) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4

4. Courtney Marcum (Seaholm) def. Claire Earley (Midland Dow) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4

Doubles

1. Ashley Buechner/Madeleine Leo (Seaholm) def. Emily Telgenhoff/Mallory Matthews (Midland Dow) 4-6, 7-6, 6-0

2. Salma Elsaadany/Emelia Ingalla (Midland Dow) def. Nina Graham/Jane Wineman (Seaholm) 4-6, 6-4, 11-9

3. Kaitlyn Marcum/Katie Slazinski (Seaholm) def. Dana Winslow/Andrea Vargas (Midland Dow) 7-5, 6-3

4. Tatum Hirsch/Ellie Wyzkowski (Seaholm) def. Elise Ingalla/Maggie Nelson (Midland Dow) 6-0, 6-1

May 5

Livonia Franklin 6, Belleville 3

Singles

No. 1 - Alyssa Melidosian, Belleville def. Katie Callaghan, Livonia Franklin, 6-4, 6-2, -;

No. 2 - Janae Troupe-Hardwick, Belleville def. Gabbie McCoy, Livonia Franklin, 6-4, 6-1, -;

No. 3 - Celing Li, Livonia Franklin def. Hailey McCloskey, Belleville, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4;

No. 4 - Zoie Sawdy, Belleville def. Ainsley Petrie, Livonia Franklin, 6-0, 6-2, -;

Doubles

No. 1 - Marissa Muller, Livonia Franklin - Kelly Engler, Livonia Franklin def. Avni Patel, Belleville, 6-1, 6-2, -;

No. 2 - Brittney Winn, Livonia Franklin - Daphne Millross, Livonia Franklin def. Sophia Melidosian, Belleville, 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 3 - Jade Fabian, Livonia Franklin - Kate Montie, Livonia Franklin def. Meghan Sawdy, Belleville - Jasmine Hawkins, Belleville, 6-1, 6-0, -;

No. 4 - Cypress Burns, Livonia Franklin - Jasmine Dumitru, Livonia Franklin def. Taliyah Blair, Belleville - Emma Sikora, Belleville, 6-3, 6-0, -;

No. 5 - Isyess Davis, Livonia Franklin - Katie

Thiele, Livonia Franklin def. Jasmine Martz, Belleville - Lauren Bergeson, Belleville, 6-2, 6-0, -;

Seaholm 9, Groves 0

Singles

1: Sophia MacKinnon (Seaholm) def. Sullivan Patel (Groves) 6-4, 5-7, 6-0

2: Sofia Gryzenia (Seaholm) def. Kaitlyn Stieva-ter (Groves) 6-1, 6-1

3: Carly Burkel (Seaholm) def. Emma Schardt (Groves) 6-2, 6-0

4: Courtney Marcum (Seaholm) def. Roni Blank (Groves) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles

1: Ashley Buechner/Madeleine Leo (Seaholm) def. Sydney Jacob/Avery Purther (Groves) 6-2, 6-1

2: Nina Graham/Jane Wineman (Seaholm) def. Niya Bryant/Katherine Bean (Groves) 1-6, 6-0, 6-2

3: Kaitlyn Marcum/Katie Slazinski (Seaholm) def. Riley Rosenfeld/Lexy Rosenwasser (Groves) 3-6, 6-1, 6-2

4: Tatum Hirsch/Ellie Wyzkowski (Seaholm) def. Tali Rubenstein/Allie Fundaro (Groves) 6-1, 6-1

5: Isabelle Hamlin/Lauren Whittall (Seaholm) def. Angelica Callaghan/Lauran Brown (Groves) 6-0, 6-3

May 4

Seaholm 4, Grosse Pointe South 4

1 Singles: Moira Hix (GPS) def. Sophia MacKinnon (Seaholm) 6-2, 6-3

2 Singles: Sofia Gryzenia (Seaholm) def. Mairin Heimbuch (GPS) 6-0, 6-1

3 Singles: Carly Burkel (Seaholm) def. Olivia Dalman (GPS) 6-3, 6-0

1 Doubles: Kate Beard-slee/Claire Beardslee (GPS) def. Ashley Buechner/Madeleine Leo (Seaholm) 6-0, 4-6, 6-3

2 Doubles: Anna Dietz/Molly Perkins (GPS) def. Nina Graham/Jane Wineman (Seaholm) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4

3 Doubles: Meghan Wysocki/Molly Wysocki (GPS) def. Kaitlyn Marcum/Katie Slazinski (Seaholm) 6-1, 6-4

4 Doubles: Tatum Hirsch/Ellie Wyzkowski (Seaholm) def. Maevie Hix/Cara Chadwell (GPS) 6-3, 6-0

Livonia Franklin 8, Dearborn Fordson 1

Singles

No. 1 - Zohra Haidous, Dearborn Fordson def. Katie Callaghan, Livonia Franklin, 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 2 - Gabbie McCoy, Livonia Franklin def. Farah Abouarkab, Dearborn Fordson, 6-0, 6-1, -;

No. 3 - Leeda Gharibi, Livonia Franklin def. Ayah Elayyan, Dearborn Fordson, 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 4 - Celing Li, Livonia Franklin def. Zena Farris, Dearborn Fordson, 6-2, 6-2, -;

Doubles

No. 1 - Marissa Muller, Livonia Franklin - Kelly Engler, Livonia Franklin def. Fatima Beydoun, Dearborn Fordson - Marriam Beydoun, Dearborn Fordson, 6-4, 6-0, -;

No. 2 - Brittney Winn, Livonia Franklin - Daphne Millross, Livonia Franklin def. Lynn Harp, Dearborn Fordson - Hajar Reda, Dearborn Fordson, 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 3 - Jade Fabian, Livonia Franklin - Kate Montie, Livonia Franklin def. Fatima Dabaja, Dearborn Fordson - Zeinab Beydoun, Dearborn Fordson, 6-1, 6-1, -;

No. 4 - Cypress Burns, Livonia Franklin - Jasmine Dumitru, Livonia Franklin def. Marwa Chbeir, Dearborn Fordson - Hadia Chami, Dearborn Fordson, 6-1, 6-0, -;

No. 5 - Carli Pares, Livonia Franklin - Katie Thiele, Livonia Franklin def. Lena Elkoussy, Dearborn Fordson - Sawsan Faraj, Dearborn Fordson, 1-6, 0-6, -;

Boys lacrosse

May 10
Northville 9, Plymouth 4

May 4
Birmingham Unified 8, Rochester Adams 5: Jackson Tinsley recorded 15 saves at goal for Birmingham, while Owen Van Hees added three goals and an assist.

Girls lacrosse

May 20
Birmingham 19, Grosse Pointe South 10: Abbie Caza led Birmingham with five goals, while Gwyn Wineman and Grace Hupp each added three, giving Birmingham its first playoff win and advancing the team to the second round of the MHSAA tournament.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Novi girls lacrosse blasts Salem in first round of regionals

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It has not been too long since Novi had last seen Salem, and Wildcats head girls lacrosse coach Kaitlyn West knew her team could have played better.

In Novi's 19-18 win against the Rocks May 13, she said her team got "frazzled" by certain situations. West did not want to see that again in their rematch in the first round of the MHSAA playoffs, focusing her practices all week to not let that happen.

When Novi took its home field for the final time in 2021, it proved to be a different team.

"This was the game that I knew they were capable of playing," West said.

Novi (9-9) exploded against Salem (7-7), beating the Rocks, 22-8, for the program's first 20-goal game since April 17, 2019.

Just over a minute into the first half, Alaina Smythe showed Salem quickly what the game was going to look like. Holding onto the ball, the Novi senior raced down the field, garnering the attention of a slew of Rocks defenders. Instead of taking the contested look, Smythe dumped the pass off to junior Alyssa Welch for the first score of the game.

It proved to be the first of many, as Novi scored 15 goals in the first 25 minutes of the game, scoring as many or more goals in the first half against Salem as it had in 13 games this season.

Much of that had to do with the play Anna Werth.

The Novi senior, in her fourth year with the varsity team, scored five goals in the first half while also assisting a score by Allyson Smolarek to help the Wildcats take a 12-goal first-half lead. Werth finished the game with six goals and an assist.

"Anna is a very tenacious player," West said. "She just wants it. She's also super positive. She loves lacrosse. This girl eats, breathes, sleeps lacrosse.

"I think she adds team chemistry, one, but also a drive to go to goal and amp up the attack. So as you watch her charge to goal or do all these things on attack, she's also like leveling up that level of play and making everyone else more amped too."



Novi scored 22 goals in the first round of regionals against Salem. COLIN GAY | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

In the second half, Smolarek took a step up in the offensive game plan, scoring three of her five goals in the final 25 minutes to help the Wildcats to a 14-goal victory, tying the Wildcats' April 9 win against West Bloomfield for the largest margin of victory for the season.

Smythe, who scored two goals in the first half, added four assists for the Wildcats, while sophomore Haylee Pendergraft scored each of her three goals in the first half.

"I think we realized it was a regional game, so we were just having fun with it because, what can we lose now? If we lose a game, we're done," Werth said.

Salem's offense started and ended

with freshman Mileena Cotter.

Scoring four of the team's eight goals and adding an assist, Cotter always seemed to have the ball in her stick, racing down the field with Novi defenders crashing at her every which way, something Salem head coach Damien Butler has seen all season.

"She is the ball hog, and that's not a negative," he said. "She has an eye for the ball. She knows where the ball is, knows how to get to the ball. And she has an eye for the goal. She has that aggressiveness, so it's hard not to have the ball when you're that aggressive."

Even through her team's losses in 2021, West said other teams around the

state have begun to notice Novi. She knows her team is in the process of building something special.

To open the playoffs with a 22-goal performance, West said, sends a message to the rest of the Wildcats' region: Novi is capable.

"I think Novi's always been on that cusp and always been that one step under," West said. "We're starting to break through."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

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Novi

Continued from Page 1B

and field," Taylor said. "Any time he laces them up and he steps on there, you know that you are going to get something special. What he's been able to do as a leader on this track team is unbelievable. Just watching his determination — the way he runs, the way he carries himself — I mean, he's a great young man with a great head on his shoulders and he has a bright future ahead of him.

Senior Raymond Wu, the first-place finisher in the 110-meter hurdles and second place in the 300-meter hurdles, and senior Matthew Gustitus, who posted a regional title in the 1,600-meter, while finishing second to Brown in the 800-meter by .07 seconds, later held the momentum, helping Novi to the regional title.

"I'm really grateful to be on the Novi team," Wu said. "I have so many friends, and we're cheering each other on."

Heading into his senior season with Novi, Brown really didn't know what to expect, but it was

not this level of success.

He had an idea that the Wildcats would be solid with its core of distance runners, but thought the field and sprint events were wild cards, having not competed in them for two years after last year's spring season was cancelled due to COVID-19.

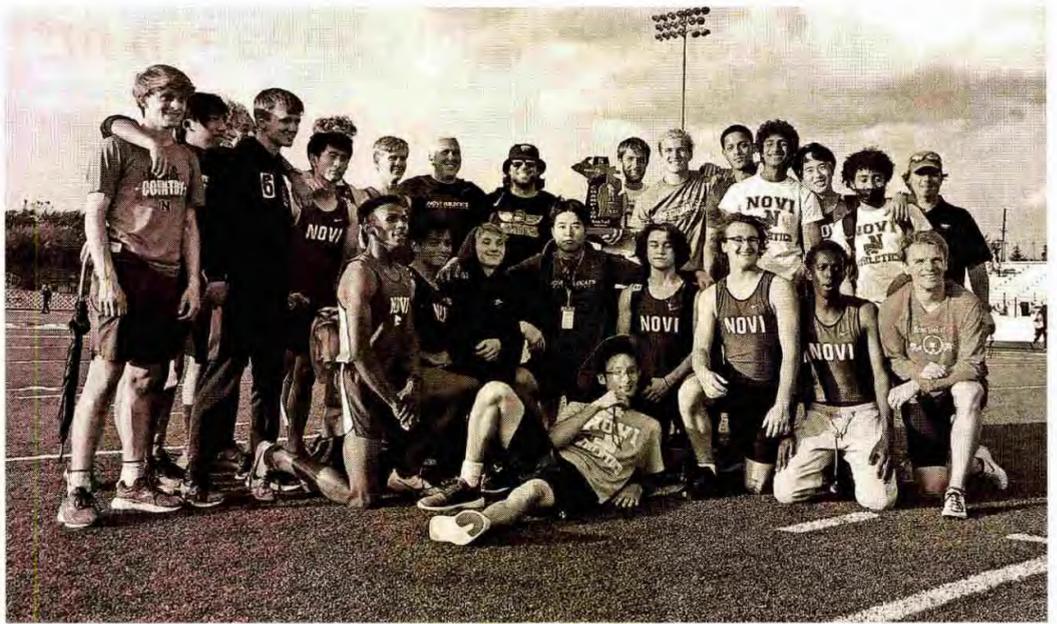
Brown could not make expectations because success, he said, comes from a whole team effort. Through the unknown, Novi has delivered, combining skill and a bond that the senior said is unlike anything that he's experienced.

"I think we have made the most of it, that's for sure," Brown said. "We're the closest the track team has been in my four years, that's for sure. Definitely used to be more spread out in different event groups. Now, I would say, we are all one specific team."

It's a bond that got Brown through the last leg of the 4x400 relay.

The Novi senior knew he was not going to catch up to U-D Jesuit and Oak Park. And he was tired, "deceased," he described it.

But as Brown turned to face the last 100 meters, the last straightaway, he



The Novi boys track and field team remains undefeated with its regional championship.

COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

heard cheering behind him from the Novi girls 4x400 relay team egging him on, giving him that boost of adrenaline he needed to finish, placing third and beating the state qualifying time by .13 seconds.

With this team, this level of support, Brown is confident. Novi has shown what it can do against KLAA opponents. Now, it has shown what it can do against regional opponents.

The goal now is within reach, something Brown said he would not believe if you told him four years ago.

"The goal is always to win," Brown said. "Can we do it? I'm not sure. But I have faith."

"It's not out of our wheelhouse."

DaDamio shines for Seaholm

Audrey DaDamio came into the regional meet as the favorite in the girls 800-, 1,600- and 3,200-meter races. Leaving Farmington Saturday evening, the Seaholm senior was regional champion in each.

Finishing seventh in the 1,600-meter and fifth in the 3,200-meter at the Division 1 state meet as a sophomore, DaDamio paved her way to another chance at a state title, breaking her personal record in the 800-meter dash with a 2:13.81.

In her first-place finish

in the 3,200-meter race, the Seaholm senior lapped each opponent that she faced.

Seaholm finished sixth at the Region 7 meet, as Oak Park took the victory with 135 points.

A first-place finish by junior Abby Fush in the long jump and a second-place finish in the 4x800-meter relay helped Mercy to a third-place finish, 47 points behind Detroit Renaissance.

Novi finished fourth with 54 points and Farmington was fifth with 51, with senior Valladian Pallett finishing first in the shot put and the discus. Livonia Stevenson finished eighth with 41 points despite junior Erica Molnar finishing first

in the pole vault.

Behind Novi in the boys regional, Farmington finished third with 71 points, as junior Peter Baracco took home the regional title in the 3,200-meter, finishing in 9:46.82, and junior Jake Steslicki finished first in the discus.

Nicholas Devereaux finished as a regional champion for Brother Rice in the long jump, beating teammate Cole Lacanaria by .25 inches to secure the first place finish.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

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2002	Ford	1FMYU08192KA38762
1985	Chevrolet	1G1GZ37GXF130034
2003	Chevrolet	2G1WH52K739327268
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2007	Chrysler	2C3KA43R17H746877
2004	GMC	3GKFK16Z64G122948
2006	Chevrolet	1G1ZT51F36F116421
1996	Dodge	1B4GP44R4TB478552
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2003	Ford	1FTRX17L83NA67249
2007	Chrysler	2A8GM68X57R161833

Published May 30, 2021

Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

son, Harris is just taking it in stride. Instead of feeling the weight of an undefeated season each time she steps on the field, she simplified it to playing the game she loves with her best friends for 80 minutes

each day. Harris knows winning helps too: having outscored opponents 55-3 in 17 regular season games while recording 14 shutouts.

But with each game, each goal scored, each trophy raised, the 14 Salem seniors know the narrative of their program is changing. Hoisting their first conference

trophy in 34 years, the Rocks don't want their story to end there.

"Once you lift one trophy, you don't want to stop lifting trophies," Harris said.

Salem will open its 2021 playoff run with a first-round bye, and is scheduled to face either Plymouth or John Glenn in the District 11 semifinal

7 p.m. June 2 at Livonia Franklin.

Stevenson will play the winner of Northville and South Lyon in the District 8 semifinal 7 p.m. June 1 at Tom Holzer Field in Northville.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN

ON ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22

The Board of Education of Garden City Public Schools, County of Wayne, Michigan, will hold a public hearing on Monday, the 14th day of June 2021, at 6:30 p.m., at the Garden City Middle School Building, in the IMC, 1851 Radcliff, Garden City, Michigan, to consider the approval and adoption of the operating budget of Garden City Public Schools for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Copies of the proposed budget will be posted to the Garden City Public Schools website for inspection during regular business hours beginning June 14, 2021. At the public hearing, all citizens, taxpayers, and property owners of Garden City Public Schools shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in regard to the approval of the proposed budget. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education of Garden City Public Schools, County of Wayne, Michigan.

Patrick McNally, Secretary
 Board of Education
 Garden City Public Schools

Published May 30, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET
MONDAY, June 14, 2021

Please take notice that, on June 14, 2021 at 7 o'clock p.m., via Zoom Platform, (link will be posted), the Board of Education of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, Wayne County, Michigan will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2021-2022 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2021-2022 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2021-2022 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

MARK NEAL, Secretary

Published: May 30 & June 3, 2021

CITY OF LIVONIA
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

* Due to COVID-19, Public Hearings will not be held in the City Hall Auditorium
 Connect on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/182188326>
 Or Phone at: 312-626-6799
 Webinar ID: 182 188 326

To participate, use the 'Raise Hand' button on Zoom or press *9 on your phone to be called on.

Petition 2021-05-01-03 submitted by A.F. Jonna pursuant to Section 23.01 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, requesting to rezone the west 150 feet of the property at 37276 Six Mile Road, located on the north side of Six Mile Road between Levan and Newburgh Roads in the Southwest ¼ of Section 8, from C-1, Local Business to C-2, General Business.

Petition 2021-05-02-08 submitted by Community Financial Credit Union requesting approval of all plans required by Sections 11.03(n) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance No. 543, as amended, in connection with a proposal to construct a freestanding credit union with drive-thru facilities within the parking lot of the Mid-5 Shopping Center at 29441 thru 29583 Five Mile Road, located on the south side of Five Mile Road between Middlebelt and Henry Ruff Roads in the Northeast ¼ of Section 23.

The above-mentioned petitions will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the scheduled public hearing and may be examined upon request by emailing Planning@livonia.gov or by calling (734) 466-2290 during normal working hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
 Ian Wilshaw, Chairman

Published: May 30, 2021



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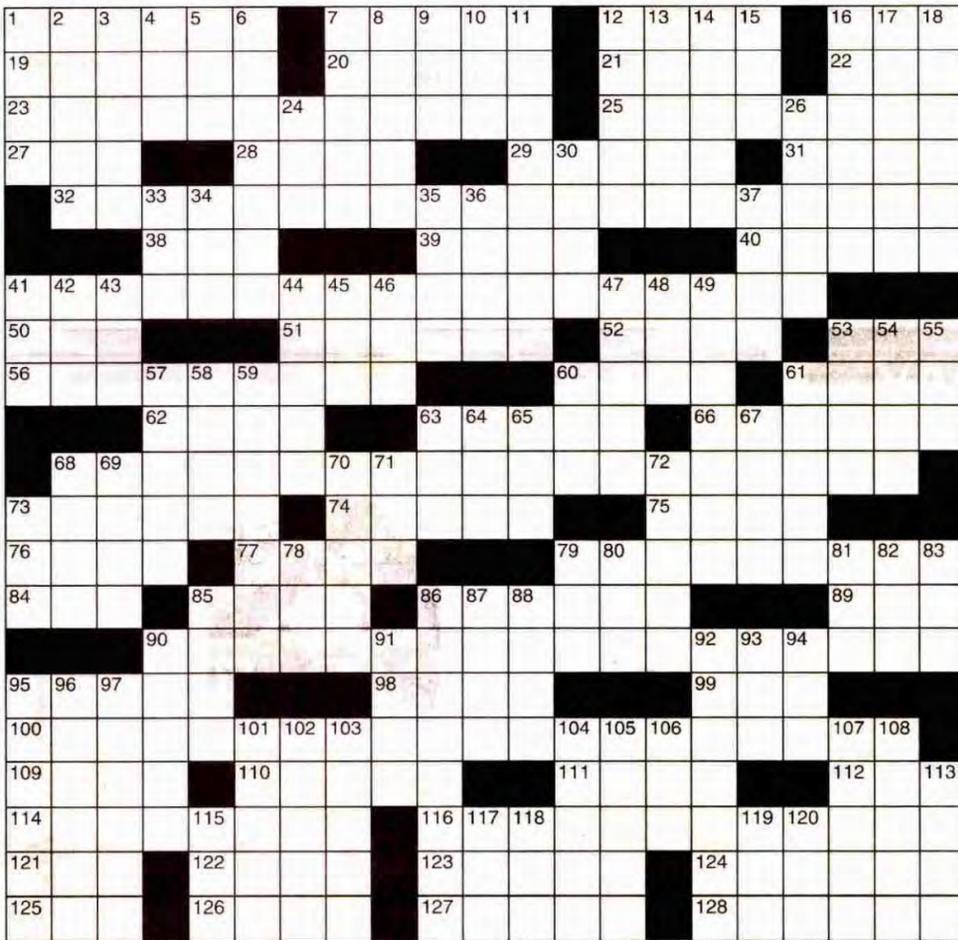
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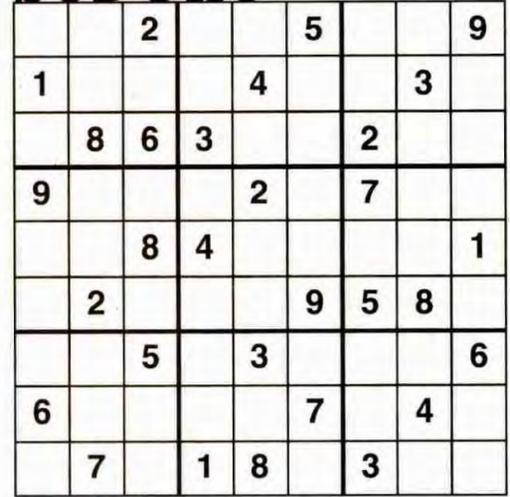
SCHOOLHOUSE
DARK ROCK

- ACROSS**
- 1 Beethoven's Third, popularly
 - 7 Biblical twin
 - 12 "— -Ca-Dabra" (1974 song)
 - 16 Math calculation
 - 19 Fred Astaire, e.g.
 - 20 Piano challenge
 - 21 Get out of the field
 - 22 Year, in Portugal
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 Security datum
 - 27 Cockpit guess, briefly
 - 28 Math calculation
 - 29 Woolen cloth
 - 31 Many a roof edge
 - 32 Riddle, part 2
 - 38 Costume part, perhaps
 - 39 Future jr.
 - 40 Maine college town
 - 41 Riddle, part 3
 - 50 Debt slip
 - 51 "Annie" star Quinn
 - 52 Home of the Bay of Pigs
 - 53 Mr. America's pride
 - 56 Sensed
 - 60 Great serves
 - 61 It has limbs
 - 62 Bit of a lot
 - 63 Cow catcher
 - 66 Diner dish
 - 68 Riddle, part 4
 - 73 Home of Ikea
 - 74 Virtual bread?
 - 75 Elliptical
 - 76 Like saints
 - 77 Not had by
 - 79 Turns away
 - 84 With
 - 85 Mrs., in Berlin
 - 86 SOS signals
 - 89 "So cool!"
 - 90 Riddle, part 5
 - 95 "Heidi" author
 - 98 A juror takes one
 - 99 Corn-on-the-cob unit
 - 100 End of the riddle
 - 109 Intro studio class
 - 110 "— Gold" (Fonda film)
 - 111 Author Sarah — Jewett
 - 112 Gun rights org.
 - 114 Stunning with a gun
 - 116 Riddle's answer
 - 121 Suffix with polymer
 - 122 Town near Santa Barbara
 - 123 Everything, in Latin
 - 124 Ill-advised
 - 125 Decimal base
 - 126 New York City river
 - 127 "Zounds!"
 - 128 Notes with hashtags
 - 10 Exalting poem
 - 11 Really criticize
 - 12 The Little Mermaid
 - 13 Moisten, as grass
 - 14 Gil's time off
 - 15 Clerk at TV's Kwik-E-Mart
 - 16 Actor Antonio — Jr.
 - 17 Asymmetric
 - 18 Oscar winner Rita
 - 24 Laundry room brand
 - 26 London length unit
 - 30 Actor Ken
 - 33 "Oh, gross!"
 - 34 LI doubled
 - 35 Even — speak
 - 36 Score unit
 - 37 Itty-bitty bit
 - 41 Little drink
 - 42 Bladed tool
 - 43 "They're playing — song"
 - 44 Courtroom mallet
 - 45 Go hastily
 - 46 Dated
 - 47 Razor-inventing philosopher
 - 48 Chalked stick
 - 49 Remit, as sins
 - 53 Musician Guthrie
 - 54 Bone to pick
 - 55 See 84-Across
 - 57 Tea box
 - 58 Latin "Lo!"
 - 59 Mined find
 - 60 Year — -glance
 - 61 Green car?
 - 63 Zenith rival
 - 64 "TGIF" part
 - 65 Hearth residue
 - 67 Spiteful
 - 68 Like a missing GI
 - 69 Tony winner Carter
 - 70 Subside
 - 71 Start for friendly
 - 72 Aplomb
 - 73 "Na Na" lead-in
 - 78 Scot's refusal
 - 79 Bible boat
 - 80 Tripod part
 - 81 As well
 - 82 Really long time
 - 83 Hen or nanny
 - 85 Govt. money guarantor
 - 86 It lacks a heel
 - 87 Wood strip
 - 88 Throb
 - 90 Shaw of jazz
 - 91 Presage
 - 92 Ration
 - 93 Mineo of films
 - 94 Three, in Rome
 - 95 Try to hit, as a gnat
 - 96 Coined thing
 - 97 China's Sun —
 - 101 Mystical board
 - 102 Lower arm bones
 - 103 Kosher
 - 104 Like plow-pulling oxen
 - 105 Lock of hair
 - 106 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
 - 107 Many a bellybutton
 - 108 Lovers' meeting
 - 113 Firefighters' tools
 - 115 Sushi eggs
 - 117 "Can u believe it!"
 - 118 — roll (lucky)
 - 119 Nashville-to-Chicago dir.
 - 120 Have debts



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

SUDOKU



Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

WILD WILD WEST

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



ANSWER KEY

- AMBUSH
- BANK
- BAR
- BOOT HILL
- BOUNTY
- BRANDING
- BULLET
- CARDS
- CAVALRY
- COWBOY
- COWPOKE
- DEPUTY
- DOGIES
- DUST
- FAST DRAW
- FORT
- GAMBLING
- GUN
- HANGING
- HAT
- HIDEOUT
- HIDES
- HORSE
- JAIL
- LIASSO
- LYNCH
- MAIL
- MOB
- OUTLAW
- POKER
- PONY
- POSSE
- PREACHER
- RANCH
- RIFLES
- ROBBERY
- RODEO
- ROPE
- SALOON
- SCALP
- SPITTOON
- SPURS
- STAGECOACH
- STAR
- STETSON
- TENDER
- TRAIN
- WAGON



WILD WILD WEST



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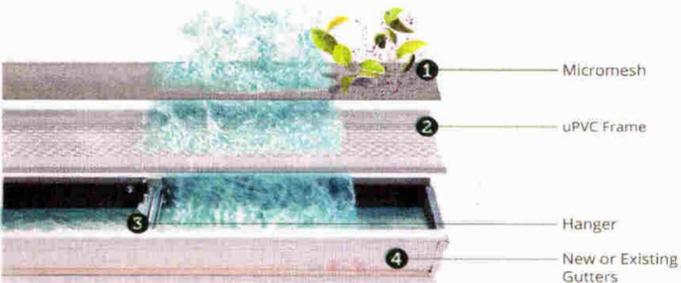
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