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# NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## NORTHVILLE DOWNS DEVELOPMENT

### Residents give revised plan mixed reviews

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Luxury homes developer Hunter Pasteur Homes revealed during a four-hour planning commission meeting Aug. 30 how it plans to turn the Northville Downs racetrack property into a pride-

building, revenue-generating showcase for Northville residents.

Joined virtually by a team of home-building all-stars, HPH CEO Randy Wertheimer explained how feedback gathered from residents over the past two years led to major revisions in the firm's initial plans for the property.

"I've listened intently to the city's master plan revision process, gone over every survey and game board, and listened to what residents have had to say," Wertheimer said at the Zoom meeting.

In April 2019, Northville planning commissioners agreed that the developer had met the nine planned unit de-

velopment (PUD) eligibility criteria; however, the project stalled at the preliminary site plan stage due to widespread public opposition.

The owners of Northville Downs entered into a tentative sale of the 50-acre

See **REVIEWS**, Page 2A

### A-10s flew 'very low, very loud' over Milford, South Lyon

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wondering what exactly flew over southwest Oakland County that may have rattled your windows last week?

It was likely a pair of Warthogs, the Air Force planes formally known as the A-10 Thunderbolt II.

Phillip Ulmer, chief of public affairs for the 127th Wing, confirmed a two-ship formation was returning home to Selfridge Air National Guard Base with a flight path over the South Lyon and Milford areas Aug. 30. Shortly after, residents remarked on social media about the "very loud" and "very low" flyover.

"They were flying within the allowed altitude, which can be between 500 to 1,500 feet," Ulmer said. "Sometimes they do that as a part of their training."

The route that took the 107th Fighter Squadron pilots over the area is not a typical route back to Selfridge. The pilots were returning from a training range in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

Ulmer noted the A-10 is not like the F-16, which has afterburners and the ability to break the sound barrier.

"People may or may not notice (the A-10) if they are in their house," Ulmer said. "It's comparable to a small commercial aircraft, it's not like 'Top Gun.'"

The A-10 can reach a speed of 450 nautical miles per hour, or Mach 0.75. Each plane has a cost of \$18.8 million.

See **A-10S**, Page 2A

### BEST OF FALL



Ericka Kruegel lifts up her daughter, Madelyn, 4, so she can pick ginger gold apples at Erwin Orchards on Sept. 1.  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### Celebrate the season at these apple orchards, cider mills

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's cider mill season.

This year brings a return to a more normal-looking fall after several cider mills put restrictions in place last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But

with the availability of vaccinations and state restrictions being eliminated, cider mills are largely returning to operations that resemble what they looked like in 2019.

Perhaps one of the most well-known cider mills in metro Detroit is reopening its buildings this year in anticipation.

The Franklin Cider Mill, 7450 Franklin in Bloomfield Township, set a Sept. 4 season opening date. The mill welcomes guests to purchase baked goods and other treats in the main sales area, which was not open last year.

See **FALL**, Page 2A

### Novi exploring options for faster internet service

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi officials are pursuing the possibility of faster, more reliable internet service in the city.

The city council unanimously agreed to seek bids from qualified

technical consultants to examine existing broadband and fiber infrastructure in Novi, as well as possibilities for establishing a new network and funding sources.

Finding reliable, affordable internet service would be a relief to Dorothy Duchesneau, who has changed satellite

providers four times and has dishes all over her home that are no longer usable due to trees on neighboring properties. She said she has only one provider available, which requires her to bundle internet with phone and cable services.

See **INTERNET**, Page 2A

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Volume 152 | No. 6  
Home delivery pricing inside  
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Parmenter manager Robert Nelson checks out some half gallons of cider. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

## Fall

Continued from Page 1A

"We're opening up our inside and our outside," said Melanee Peltz Radner, one of the owners of the mill. "We're still continuing online ordering."

Those who enter the main sales area will be required to wear a face covering, though masks won't be required in the outdoor lower sales area.

Guests will be able to see how cider is made, as well as enjoy doughnuts and other goodies. Returning this year are cider dogs, hot dogs marinated in apple cider. Unlike previous years, the outdoor market area will be open seven days a week, Radner said.

"I'm hoping that people feel safer now," she said. "We have proven how safe we are and how the operation is run."

[franklincidermill.com](http://franklincidermill.com)

### Plymouth Orchards & Cider Mill

Plymouth Orchards & Cider Mill did not open for guests at all in 2020.

The farm, 10685 Warren in Superior Township, begins the season Sept. 4. Families can return to the farm for wagon rides, visits with farm animals and strolls through the pumpkin patch.

Online ordering and reserved time pickup are expected to arrive this year as well, according to the farm's Facebook page.

[plymouthorchards.com](http://plymouthorchards.com)

### Erwin Orchards

While plans to construct homes at the site continue to work their way through the approval process, Lyon Township's Erwin Orchards remains open.

The orchard at 61475 Silver Lake has already opened for the season, selling its famous doughnuts and cider. It's also open for raspberry picking.

Returning this year is u-pick apples and the corn maze, which opened Labor Day weekend. Group tours will also launch Sept. 14 during the week, providing tours of the orchard and more.

The cider mill is open Tuesdays through Sundays through Oct. 31.

[erwinorchards.com](http://erwinorchards.com)

### Parmenter's Northville Cider Mill

The cider mill at 714 Baseline in Northville has reopened for the season.

Gone is the drive-thru-only format the cider mill used last year. Guests can visit the grounds and enjoy cider and doughnuts, though guests who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine are asked to wear a mask.

The cider mill is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Nov. 21.

[northvillecider.com](http://northvillecider.com)

### Other cider mills in the area

**Diehl's Orchard and Cider Mill**, 1479 Ranch Road in Rose Township, opened in mid-August and will be open through Nov. 21, though only on weekends in November.

[diehlsorchard.com](http://diehlsorchard.com)

**Spicer Orchards**, 10411 Clyde Road in Hartland Township, offers a myriad of fruits to pick all summer long, with apples being available in September.

[spicerorchards.com](http://spicerorchards.com)

[dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com)

## Internet

Continued from Page 1A

"Adding citywide access so we can have a better way of accessing the internet in our homes would be fantastic," she said.

Council member Andrew Mutch said the frustration extends to those who, like himself, live south of 12 Mile.

"I am on Spectrum, and the cost rela-

tive to the speed we're getting is ridiculous," he said. "We're paying too much and getting too little for it. ... We're years behind and it's driven by issues of competitiveness or lack of competition, and we won't get a handle on it until we take the next step and get more information."

Humna Anjum and Willy Mena, members of the city's broadband committee, have been studying broadband and fiber options for the past few months. They benefited from discussions with officials from Farmington

and Farmington Hills, who earlier this summer chose to create a fiber optic network across their communities.

Fiber cables offers internet speeds up to 60 times faster than copper connections, but it can be extraordinarily expensive to establish a network. A private provider is creating the network for Farmington/Farmington Hills for \$150 million, but the city is not being charged for its creation. Internet providers will be able to rent the network for use.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Staudt, also a member of the broadband committee, said the city is not looking to pick up the tab unless there was "an absolutely compelling reason."

"It will probably take six months to get any real results back, but it will be time well spent," he said.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com) or 517-281-2412. Twitter: @SusanBromley10.

### NOVI TOWNSHIP MINI BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Novi Township Mini Budget Public Hearing will be held during the Regular Meeting of the Novi Township Board on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. by remote access.

The public may participate in the Township Board Meeting and the Mini Budget Public Hearing through electronic remote access via Zoom. Contact Janeen Crittenden, [novitwp@gmail.com](mailto:novitwp@gmail.com) or by phone 248-404-7529 to receive access information via computer/smart phone link or via a landline or cell phone with a call-in toll-free number.

The Township will publish this information on the board at the mailboxes one week prior to the meeting.

A copy of the budget is available for review at 44551 Chedworth Ct. Comments may be submitted by email to [dhalltreas@gmail.com](mailto:dhalltreas@gmail.com).

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 2 days notice.

Janeen Crittenden  
44114 Wyngate Dr.  
Northville, (248) 404-7529

Publish: September 9, 2021

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### LEGAL NOTICE STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF OAKLAND CITY OF NOVI ORDINANCE NO. 18.297

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE 14-271, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, AT ARTICLE 2, DEFINITIONS, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY (PRO) CONDITIONS, AND AT ARTICLE 7.0, "ADMINISTRATION, APPEALS, AND ENFORCEMENT," SECTION 7.13, AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCE, SUBSECTION 2, PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY (PRO), IN ORDER TO COMPREHENSIVELY REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE WITH RESPECT TO INTENT, ELIGIBILITY, APPROVAL, PROCEDURE, EFFECT OF APPROVAL, AMENDMENT, EXPIRATION AND EXTENSION, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, August 30, 2021 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after its publication. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Courtney Hanson, City Clerk

Publish: September 9, 2021

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## A-10s

Continued from Page 1A

According to an Air Force fact sheet, the A-10 has "excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitude, and is a highly accurate and survivable weapons-delivery platform. The aircraft can loiter near battle areas for extended periods of time and operate in low ceiling and visibility conditions. The wide combat radius and short takeoff and landing capability permit operations in and out of locations near front lines. ...

"The aircraft has participated in operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Provide Comfort, Desert Fox, Noble Anvil, Deny Flight, Deliberate Guard, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom."

Ulmer invited residents to get a closer look at the A-10s in action during the Selfridge Air Show, planned for July 9-10, 2022.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com).

## Reviews

Continued from Page 1A

property in 2018. Horse racing has continued at the facility, which is Michigan's only venue of its kind.

Even Wertheimer's announcement that the number of housing units in the plan was reduced from 599 in 2019 to 478 didn't win over a number of Northville residents, who voiced their concerns during the citizen comment portion of the meeting.

"I am appalled by the number of residents they're trying to squeeze into such a small area," said lifelong Northville resident Nancy Riegner.

The idea of adding approximately 1,000 residents within Northville's boundaries concerns Bryan Riegner, Nancy's husband.

"Can our school district handle 20 percent more residents?" Bryan Riegner asked. "Our schools are full now."

"It appears to be a pretty dense development population relative to what Northville is now," added Sean Nichols.

The presentation had its share of supporters, including Michelle Aniol, who lives just east of the property.

"This plan is head and shoulders above what was presented (in 2019)," Aniol said. "I won't say I agree with everything they're proposing, but it's just the start of the process."

Northville resident Ryan Mckindles agreed.

"I've seen the presentation before and every time I see it I come away impressed each time," he said. "I feel the developer has taken the feedback well and has been thoughtful about it."

Wertheimer said the conceptual plan delivered Aug. 30 includes the daylighting of the 1,200-foot section of the Middle Rouge River and maintaining one-third of the site as green space.

"Keeping this much green space or park space in a development this size is almost unheard of," Wertheimer said.

Wertheimer said the revised plans address connectivity, diversity of housing and the scale of buildings along Cady Street.

"The connectivity in this plan — whether it be walking paths, bike paths or vehicular — is tremendous," Wertheimer said. "Connectivity has been a big focus of ours."

Wertheimer acknowledged a marked increase in traffic is also a hot-button topic for residents.

"We will support — financially and every other way — whatever traffic solutions the city and its traffic planners believe will work," Wertheimer said.

Bryan Riegner noted that the intersection of Seven Mile Road and Center Street is already congested in the early afternoon and evening.

"If you add up to 1,000 more vehicles, how will these roads handle this?" Riegner said.

The range in pricing of the units stretched from \$400,000 to \$1.3 million — a scale that concerned planning commissioner Carol Maise and resident Lenore Lewandowski.

"I think the plan needs more affordable housing," Lewandowski said.

Northville resident William Poulos said if the developer released data related to its return on investment, more residents may be willing to accept the plan.

There was no official action taken following HPH's presentation. A timeline for the next step in the process was not revealed.

[eawright@hometownlife.com](mailto:eawright@hometownlife.com)



# Novi meets with DTE to resolve repeated outages

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Storms rolled through again.

And once again, Novi was on the DTE power outage map.

It's been a familiar sight this summer, this year, and in recent years as well, drawing the ire of residents and city officials alike.

Mayor Bob Gatt and City Manager Pete Auger, along with other city officials, met Aug. 23 with representatives from DTE Energy to discuss issues and how to resolve them.

"I think it was good," Auger said of the meeting in which short-term and long-term solutions were discussed. "You can't stop storms. If you try to get in the way of Mother Nature, she'll knock you over. But it's

the frequency and duration of these outages we want to fix."

Power outages have occurred frequently this summer and DTE acknowledged being behind in a tree trimming maintenance program that aims to prevent problems.

During the meeting, DTE staff assured city officials that Novi is on the tree trimming schedule for 2022. In the meantime, the utility company is launching its "Customer Excellence" program. DTE officials did not immediately respond to comment, but Auger explained that the program entails putting more staff in the field to inspect lines, including the use of drones, to find weaknesses and "fix issues right away instead of putting in a work order."

The program, Auger said, will start "soon."

Last month, after a southeast portion of the city

was without power for several days following a storm, the level of frustration among city council members led them to consider a city-run tree trimming program.

However, Auger said that idea is no longer on the table.

"We have to stay in our lane," he explained. "We don't have easement rights... It sounds reasonable: if you're not cutting them, we will, but power lands with the power company and with what they are charged to do."

Auger is looking forward to improvement, but expects more hiccups, too.

"We had a micro-storm a couple nights ago and a couple hundred people lost their power," he said. "Everyone holds their breath now."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412.



Matthew Diroff teaches band students learning both in person and remotely at Novi High back in October.  
SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## How school districts plan to ensure mask compliance

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

School resumed this week in many metro Detroit districts, and so has mandatory masks.

Some parents are wondering what will happen if a child doesn't follow the rules.

"Are you enforcing if kids show up without masks?" Mike Keller asked the Novi Board of Education after the Oakland County Health Division issued an order requiring masks be worn indoors for all K-12 students.

Keller told the board it should be left up to parents to make a decision after "leaving it up to scientists and we're in the same place as a year ago." Keller said his wife, a registered nurse, and daughter had attended a protest earlier that day outside the Oakland County Health Division offices.

Novi Community School District Superintendent Steve Matthews had a simple answer in how mask-wearing would be enforced: Any student who shows up to school without a mask will be given one to wear. If they refuse, their parents will be called and they will be sent home to stay until they wear one.

He said there were very few problems last year with the mask mandates and he doesn't expect many problems this year.

"They want to be in school and if the price to pay is to wear a mask, they will pay that price," Matthews said. "We are very good at communicating that message."

In the few instances last year where high school students initially rebelled, they complied when reminded they would be sent home otherwise. Masks worn incorrectly, such as under the nose, will also not be tolerated.

Students refusing to wear a mask will be quarantined in offices while awaiting parent pickup.

The Oakland County and Wayne County mask-wearing orders state all individuals over the age of 4 who are indoors at school must be masked, regardless of vaccination status.

In Huron Valley, Superintendent Paul Salah said that while some parents have been very outspoken on their dislike of the mask mandate, "very few students" have really vocalized they are unhappy with wearing the masks.

"Nobody likes wearing a mask, present company included," Salah said. "We've had to have some gentle reminders, but outside of that no problems. I have no reason to believe there will be any differences from last year."

"Some parents asked what will happen if they send their child to school without a mask, and we said we will provide them with a mask, and they will wear it."

Salah said further refusal would "precipitate communicating with families and asking them to wear the mask" and "if it turned into a disruptive situation, it is more than masking at that point."

He added that district officials do not plan to discipline a child who is not wearing one, but said the district will send home a child who is being disruptive.

Asked if he would send any child home who was not wearing a mask, regardless of whether their behavior was disruptive, Salah said the district is required to

follow the law, but working with the family is critical. He also took note of the exceptions to not wearing a mask, including children with certain medical conditions and those with individual education plans.

"Obviously, we would work with a family to secure a doctor's note if they have a 504 plan or IEP and if it relates to any issues with their health, we would do our best to problem solve," he said. "Our first course of action is provide mask for the child. Second is to call parents to ask for support and ask why they're not wearing a mask, and if they refuse after that, it could result in a child going home."

Other than the mask mandate, both Salah and Matthews are looking forward to a school year that is largely back to normal after last year's tumultuous one.

Major differences include 5 days per week in-person learning and no hybrid plan. Both districts are still offering virtual learning to those who want it, but the majority of enrolled students have opted to return to the classroom. Novi had about 350 virtual learning students and Huron Valley had about 400.

The return of students will make 6 feet of social distancing not feasible in most instances, but officials are hoping to still have at least 3 feet of social distancing where possible, which will also help avoid quarantines, a major challenge last year.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be quarantined. Salah said other students would have to be less than 3 feet away from an infected student for more than 15 minutes in order to be quarantined. Even then, if that student was masked or vaccinated or had recovered from a COVID-19 infection themselves within the previous 90 days, a quarantine would not be needed.

In Novi, where parents also questioned the district's plan to promote vaccinations as "indoctrination," Matthews said school officials would encourage COVID-19 vaccines for all eligible individuals on the district website and in newsletters, but not in the classroom.

He is excited for the school year, which will start like every year does with educational assessments of students.

"We will welcome them back, and then we're diving in and making sure kids are learning," Matthews said. "Not being in school had an impact, but both our virtual and in-person learning were strong and we are looking forward to moving on."

Salah is also excited for a new year, particularly when remembering last year at this same time, when was cautioning parents that he expected a bumpy road in and out of remote learning, a forecast that turned out to be extremely accurate. He does not anticipate that again.

"If we reflect on this year compared to last, we aren't talking now about hybrid, parents will have access to the kids, we will have ice cream socials and concerts. The only impediment is the mask for a bit longer, but by and large it will be a normal school year and we need to take a moment and celebrate that."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

## South Lyon short 7 bus drivers as school year starts

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A bus driver shortage is spelling problems in some Oakland County school districts as school begins.

A "severe" staffing issue caused numerous bus delays, some up to an hour, in Birmingham's first week of school, as well as temporary route cancellations and resulting efforts to organize carpools.

South Lyon expected to be short seven bus drivers on the first day of school. Transportation Director Cindy Helton is busy working to avoid a situation similar to Birmingham.

"We don't want to cause a panic; we're just trying to get the kids on buses and might be late," Helton said. "At this point, we're not talking about the canceling of routes."

If it did come to that, Helton said the district would take similar action to this past March, when a shortage of nine bus drivers temporarily halted service to and from the high schools as the district prioritized younger kids.

That shortage was driven in part by four drivers quarantined due to COVID-19. The current shortage is driven more by long-term issues of trying to attract enough workers to a profession which Helton said has odd hours, but many benefits.

Six bus drivers are currently in training for South Lyon, but will not be ready until at least mid-October. The district has reached out to contract companies for substitute drivers but has been told none are available. A representative at National Trails declined to comment, but confirmed the company has a severe shortage of drivers.

Helton said the district's current bus drivers will double up on routes, dropping kids off at one school and then picking up at another. There are 45 bus routes in South Lyon, with the district covering 88 square miles.

Most buses in the district's fleet carry 77 passengers, up to three students per bench seat. Helton has currently planned for those buses to carry 60-65 passengers, with a few of the buses "maxed a little bit, right at the 77 mark." She said that number will come down when school begins as not every student rides the bus.

She continues to seek bus drivers.

"Bus driving is a great job and every driver I have met, from all walks of life, said they had no idea how much they would enjoy it," Helton said. "When they come in, they ask, 'Why did I not do this sooner?'"

While driving a large bus may intimidate some potential hires, Helton said her trainers are great at getting them comfortable and the buses maneuver nicely.

"South Lyon itself, there are a lot of roads you go down that are just beautiful," she said. "Our drivers take their time in the winter and they all say they would rather be in a bus in the winter than in their own cars."

For more information, call South Lyon Transportation at 248-573-8900 or apply at [www.slcs.us](http://www.slcs.us).



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ONLINE COUPONS





# Eateries sweeten the deal to entice new workers

David Veselenak | Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Joe Spencer was ready to bring Cajun flavor to Farmington Hills earlier this summer.

But difficulties in finding employees has delayed the opening of his restaurant, Louisiana Creole Gumbo at 29216 Orchard Lake, by several months.

"We've been ready to open for a very long time," he said. "... It's challenging just to try to find people ... I've never seen it like this."

Spencer, who's been with the Detroit-based restaurant for nearly 40 years, isn't alone. The labor market has seen shortages when it comes to workers, especially in customer-facing jobs such as in restaurants. Seeing those shortages has employers being more aggressive to attract workers, including increased wages, signing bonuses and other offers to lure workers out and onto the payroll.

While the unemployment rate in July dropped to 4.8%, the lowest it's been since the pandemic shutdowns last spring, many businesses have still struggled to find workers.

Spencer has advertised higher wages than he previously offered to help lure in good employees. Now, instead of offering a range of \$11-\$12.50, the longtime Detroit restaurant that's expanding into Oakland County is pushing wages between \$14-\$18. He's also looked at expanding medical insurance offerings and paid time off, benefits that interviewees have expressed a desire for in their place of employment. Spencer restructured his bonus program as well.

Improving the compensation is just one way he hopes to attract and grow the longtime business, which originally opened in 1970 on Detroit's east side and also operates in the northwest part of the city near Seven Mile and Schaefer Highway.

"We're really trying to raise the bar for people who may be looking at food service as a career," Spencer said.

## Hiring hardships expected to continue

Hiring is a problem that will probably stick around for a while, said Terry Har-

vill, an adjunct professor at Madonna University in Livonia who teaches economics. The result comes after a combination of many factors at a macro level from the federal government and on a micro level with more people opting not to return to the traditional labor force.

"We're definitely in a time where (what) we're seeing is an outlier event," he said. "You saw that migration early last year and just accelerated when it got to last spring."

It's also a pivotal time in the American economy, said Harvill, who also works as an energy consultant in Northville. With shifts taking place in types of work — less manufacturing jobs that were more prevalent in previous decades and more service-oriented jobs — what have traditionally been seen as jobs to support families has begun to evolved.

Harvill cited the efforts being done by Amazon, which recently brought a center to nearby Toledo and advertised needing hundreds of workers. Those positions have typically begun at \$15/hour. Seeing those wages increase for those types of jobs, Harvill said, will have to be the case if they continue in their trajectory of being dominant in number across the workforce.

"People have looked at these jobs for these opportunities," he said. "If that's going to be the case, then wages need to go up to support that."

## Struggles for companies big and small

The hiring issues haven't just affected small shops. Christian Camp, vice president of awesome people at Livonia-based Team Schostak Family Restaurants employs about 5,000 people across five restaurant brands: Del Taco, Wendy's, Olga's Kitchen, MOD Pizza and Applebee's.

They've seen the same struggles others have. While the first indoor dining shutdown took the entire industry by surprise, he said Team Schostak did everything they could to transition. It was the second shutdown that began last fall that kept dining rooms closed from mid-November to February that resulted in a mass exodus of workers.

"Then as the second lockdown hap-



Even before opening, Orchard Lake's Louisiana Creole Gumbo has advertised for positions at \$14-17 per hour, depending on experience.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

pened, I think that's what really created a significant impact to all businesses," he said. "We saw a lot of people migrate away from the restaurant industry."

That reality is in line with information from the Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association. A recent survey by the organization showed 88% of hospitality industry respondents are operating with not enough staffing to meet demand.

It lines up with what Justin Winslow, the president of the organization, told a small group at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi earlier this year: that the loss is going to sting for some time.

"The level of shuttered industry has been our reality for a long time and its impacts are felt acutely right now, and I think they're going to be something that we're going to feel as an industry as we're adapting to for a long time to come," he said in April.

Team Schostak always offered an incentive program for referrals, though those figures have increased significantly. They've even offered signing bonuses to employees who join the team, a common tool being used at businesses across the region.

He said they want to bring in the best people for the job, but it can prove to be difficult in places such as Novi. A city full of customer service businesses such as restaurants, Camp said Novi has been a difficult spot to hire.

"There's a lot of restaurants over there. Everyone is trying to be competitive with pay," he said. "That's been really one of the toughest spots."

## Is it just extra unemployment?

A common factor mentioned by business owners impacting the worker shortage is the additional \$300/week offered in unemployment on top of what the state offers, an incentive that began as more jobs saw furloughs and layoffs especially at the beginning of the pandemic.

It's one of the big reasons Camp cited for his company's worker shortage.

"Things have been very extraordinary with unemployment benefits," Camp said. "That's been very very challenging for us in light of that."

That unemployment benefit expires Sept. 4.

Spencer said he originally believed the additional money being paid in unemployment was the sole cause. After talking around the community, he came to the realization that the economy was just changing: many people, especially younger people, were making just as good money working for themselves in various areas.

Dubbed the "gig economy," many people began doing things like delivering for services like DoorDash and making money through non-traditional

means. Given the control such jobs have, he realized more people were attracted to that line of work, making it tougher for employers like himself.

"The idea of being tied down to a job is not as appealing as it was before," he said.

Unlike the online chatter shared that blame the labor issue solely on the unemployment benefits or the wages currently being offered by employers, the answer to the problem lies somewhere in the middle, Harvill said. The market is in a unique place, with much more cash flowing in the forms of unemployment payments, PPP dollars and more that aren't typically there.

"There's a lot of money being injected into the economy right now," he said.

## Can't grow fast enough

For some businesses, the hiring process is a necessity for survival, especially restaurants. Several eateries across the region have closed their doors in recent months, citing a lack of workers as the reason. Those include Milford House Bar & Grill, Hector & Jimmy's in Milford and Detroit Eatz in Farmington.

But it can stunt growth as well. Similar to Spencer and Louisiana Creole Gumbo, Hunter House Hamburgers in Birmingham is looking for employees. But the iconic hamburger stand isn't in danger of shutting down due to a lack of workers, it just wants to continue its organic growth it seen over the years. To do that, it needs workers, so much so that the restaurant is advertising eye-popping pay of \$20-\$35/hour for those who work there.

Those figures factor in tips, something customers have been generous with during the pandemic.

"It's partially driven by the need to hire people," said Kelly Cobb, owner of Hunter House. "It's also just sort of the nature of what's happening now with people tipping."

The restaurant at 35075 Woodward recently expanded, opening a second location at United Shore Mortgage in Pontiac. Operating in a replica of the white hamburger hut, it's open solely for employees of the company, but it's brought in enough business to justify the increased wages for new hires.

Even with the increased wages, Cobb said it's still difficult to find the right help to find the close-knit environment. With not having all the employees needed, it's limited restaurant hours: it still hasn't reopened for breakfast in the mornings.

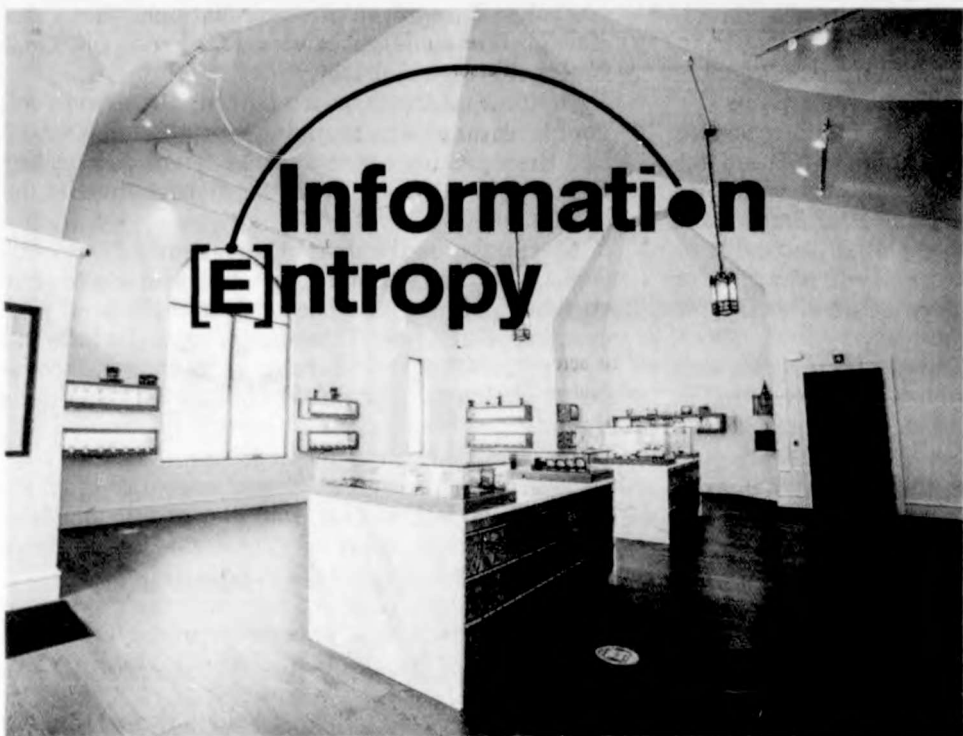
Cobb said while he wishes the circumstances were different at his shop, he'll take the problem he faces rather than having to lose employees.

"I think more people are out into the workforce again. I'm hoping that restaurants can reopen their hours," he said. "I'm just so thankful we've never had that problem."

Despite not having enough employees, Spencer said he expects Louisiana Creole Gumbo to open in Farmington Hills the week of Labor Day. While he had nearly 50 before the pandemic, he's down to less than half that between the three restaurants. Those looking to apply can do so by visiting [detroitgumbo.com](http://detroitgumbo.com).

"We are trying to get people in. We've got opportunities at all three of our stores," he said. "We're working the hell out of our people."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728.



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## The Michigan Elder Law Reporter™

SEPTEMBER 2021

31 Years Serving Michigan Seniors

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 9.1

THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY OUR SOULS

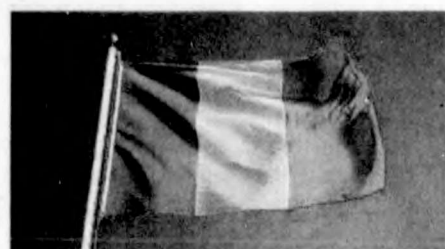
## LIGHT A CANDLE, NOT CURSE THE DARKNESS

YOU CAN SAVE AMERICA

Like you, I grew up in the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. We were told that hard work and perseverance would pay off. We believed it. We lived it. Not perfect, but so much better than anywhere else. Luck and pluck. We are all Americans. We were getting beyond the divisions of race, ethnicity, religion. The progress was visible and undeniable. Work hard, get an education, get ahead.



David Carrier



wish to be treated." "Judge not by color of skin but by content of character." "Keep your nose to the grindstone." "Hard work and perseverance pay." (Nowadays, these ideas are "problematic" at many colleges and universities. But you just keep co-signing those student loans!)



Not perfect, but on the road. That's the America we grew up in. Land of Opportunity. The only thing standing in your way is you.

And it was true. And it is true. It will always be true.

Eight kids in my family. Dad worked at school all day, came home, took a nap. At 6 p.m. he punched in at the Narragansett Brewery. At 2 a.m., he punched out, came home, took a nap. At 8 a.m. he was back at school. Mom was an R.N. Community college named its nursing assistant program after her.

Like you and your family, we all worked. That's how it was done. Blame? Blame who? You are living in the greatest country on Earth... You already won the lottery. It's up to you. No excuses.

And so, I started delivering newspapers at age 7. My 4 younger brothers did too. My 3 sisters also worked. Whatever we could get. We all believed. Because we saw it work. In our own lives. In the lives of others.

What about today? What works now? In the real world, the same things still apply. But

Our shared values are under sustained, angry attack. Criminal suspects arrested and immediately released to wreak more havoc. Rioters destroy property and injure other people and are praised. Is this simply special treatment for politically favorites?

Do you see the real danger? Our America Idea is under assault. You and I have always believed that most folks can lead happy, productive lives. We can build. We can raise healthy families. We can make a difference.

But, Professors, Politicians, Preachers, Professionals... they all tell us how awful we are. They say: "Your thoughts and intentions are irrelevant." "Your actions don't matter." "No innocent bystanders." They condemn you by your skin color. Or make you a hero. Provided you profess their hate-monger faith. Exactly the opposite from what you and I learned as kids.

How can this be?

And what does it have to do with Elder Law? Quite a bit.

Long-term care is in the cards for 70% of Americans aged 65 or older. For an average of about 3 years. For 20%, it'll be more than 5 years. Who pays for it? You do. With every paycheck. With every health insurance premium payment.

Long-term care falls heaviest on us, the middle class. Rich folks pay without blinking an eye. People without savings don't pay. Only you bear the burden. Only you have the gut-wrenching problem of getting \$6000 - \$12,000 nursing home money each month. Lose lifesavings. Liquidate your cottage or cabin. Your home. Now you are broke. Your choices do not matter. You get what they feel like giving you.

Do you see it? Long-term care targets the middle class. Family farms built up and preserved for generations... sold off 10 acres at a time. Grandparents helping grandchildren with tuition... Prohibited. Penalized.

Learn the lesson. You are a chump. A sucker. A mark. You thought you were saving for your own retirement and then to offer a stepstool for the next generation. They have other ideas.



LifePlanning™ keeps the American Dream alive. LifePlanning™ rejects Nursing Home Poverty. LifePlanning™ preserves your hard-earned dollars to serve your spouse, you, and the next generations. You earned it. You paid in. You did the right things.

And now they want you broke. Dispirited. Discredited. Dependent. Why do they want you a beggar? Because beggars are easier to please.

Must you go broke? Can you preserve what you have earned, protect what you value? Yes, you can. LifePlanning™ preserves your savings. LifePlanning™ does not create wealth, you did that. I know it wasn't easy. LifePlanning™ makes the rules work for people who play by the rules. That is you.

Maybe thousands of LifePlanning™ Michigan families are wrong. Perhaps the many hundred who have received long-term care benefits while preserving their life's work are mistaken. It is possible that you just want to surrender. Give up. Wave the white flag. That is OK. Personal Choice.

Or maybe the hundreds of millions in homes, farms, and other assets protected by LifePlanning™ Michigan families will preserve and strengthen our middle-class values. For you. For the next generation.

Think about it? Not enough. Those who wish to tear down America are acting. So should you. Find out how. Ask questions. Get answers. LifePlan™ Workshops are available on-line and in person. Don't look back with regret. Face the future with hope and confidence.

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David Carrier

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Which one? Who do you think could be counted on to deliver your twist soft serve? Forget about banana splits, turtle sundaes, or worms-in-dirt. I mean the basics...

Let's see... Pothole Queen? Napper-In-Chief? Cranky Get-Off-My-Lawn Shouter? Perhaps the Cackling Maniac? The Turtle? Mr. Potato Head? That lady with the million-dollar freezer and stockpiles of hundred-dollar ice cream bars? The ensemble cast of "Rules for Thee, But Not for Me"? Would you trust any of them to have washed their hands after using the restroom? Face it, if any of our "leaders" ran your local ice cream stand:



1. If you worked there, you would quit. Like by the end of the first day.
2. After they screwed up your order six times, you'd go to the local supermarket, buy a half-gallon and some spoons, find a picnic table and lament the passing of another fond memory.

Thinking our future looks more "Rocky Road" than "Superman"? Me too.

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# Remember 9/11 at local memorials, monuments

David Veselenak [hometownlife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's a sobering reminder of the longtime war in Middle East nestled in the Westland Veterans Memorial Garden.

A vast park with plenty for visitors to see, the centerpiece is a pillar in the middle of the park memorializing the wars the United States has participated in since the Revolutionary War.

Perhaps the most relevant panel these days is the panel commemorating the war in Afghanistan, one that lasted 20 years until the final U.S. troops withdrew from the country as of Aug. 31.

The Westland monument is just one of many across the region commemorating the events of Sept. 11, 2001 and the fighting in the Middle East after. The monuments have given local communities a way to remember and reflect on the history of that day, where about 3,000 people were killed in terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

All across the region, these monuments and memorials are a simple reminder to that day. From elaborately designed monuments made of granite to a piece of the World Trade Center, each one has its own way of remembering the past.

"Obviously, it's very important to honor the victims of the attack of Sept. 11," said Ryan Kaltenbach, creator director at the Northville Art House. "They contribute to the emotional recovery for many individuals and the nation moving forward."

Kaltenbach spoke of the unique memorial tucked behind the Marquis Theater in downtown Northville: a large American flag painted on the back of the building has dotted the landscape in the northwest Wayne County community since shortly after the attacks earlier this century.

Painted by artist Jeff Von Buskirk, it's a piece that continues to peak interest. So much so that the Northville Art House is currently promoting an exhibition on Von Buskirk's mural. Through September, guests can visit and learn about the mural by visiting the Northville Art House at 215 W. Cady.



Birmingham firefighter Ryan Mehrhof looks at the section of the World Trade Center on display in the lobby at Adams Station. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

An exhibition reception will take place from 5-8 p.m. Sept. 10 at the Northville Art House, with Von Buskirk planning to attend, Kaltenbach said. In addition to learning about the mural, a moment of silence is also expected to honor those who lost their lives on that day.

## Pieces of the tower

Perhaps some of the most impactful memorials across the region include actual remnants of the destruction caused that day. All across the country are pieces from the World Trade Center, shipped across the world to serve as memorials and reminders. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey completed its distribution of the pieces back in 2016, sending pieces of the towers to all 50 states, as well as other nations such as the United Kingdom and Brazil.

One of the most prominent pieces in the region can be found in a quiet area outside of Farmington City Hall. There a rusted piece of metal, believed to be part of an elevator rail, affixed to a large granite memorial that tells a story if visitors know what they're looking at.

The monument, dedicated in 2014, serves not only as a memorial but tells the story of that day: the monument serves as a timeline and dedicates one square inch of granite per life that was lost on 9/11, said Councilman Steve Schneemann, a member of the committee who helped in the memorial's design.

"Those are sized similarly to capture and commemorate the innocent lives lost as well," he said. "There's a lot of information and data embedded."

Schneemann said it's a monument he still sees visitors stop to look at. Having an office nearby, he'll walk by the monument on a regular basis.

Even with a description nestled near by of what the monument is meant to convey, Schneemann said it's important to him that visitors come to their own conclusions when visiting.

"I want people to interpret it in the way they interpret it," he said. "There's lots of different ways to look at it."

## 'They decided to protect as many people as they could that day'

Tucked away in less public spaces are two more pieces of the Twin Towers in

the region. Pieces rest in the lobbies of fire stations in both Birmingham and Bloomfield Township in small displays that serve as subtle reminders of the sacrifices made by first responders.

It's been roughly 10 years since Birmingham acquired a piece of the towers. After a public discussion on how best to display it, it was taken to the fire station headquarters at 572 S. Adams. There, it rests behind glass as a silent tribute to those who died.

Chief Paul Wells said it's something the fire department and its members hold in high regard.

"To me, it's very important. And we all look at it that way," he said. "It reminds us to train hard and know our jobs so we can come home safely to our families."

While it doesn't get seen by many of the members of the public, everyone who applies to become a firefighter in the city spends time with the artifact in the lobby as they wait for their interview.

It's a piece, Wells said, that will sometimes be discussed by up by potential firefighters in their first meeting with department representatives.

"It comes up in our interviews," he said. "It's a serious job to get into."

A similar display is in the lobby of the Bloomfield Township fire station at 4200 Telegraph. Chief John LeRoy said.

The piece, part of an I-beam of the towers, sits in the lobby on a display that memorializes the 343 first responders who died trying to save as many people as possible before the towers collapsed.

Also hanging down the hallway is a letter from the New York firefighters union, thanking the department for donations it sent to help support families in the wake of the disaster.

Both serve as a reminder to the fire department of the sacrifices made by their fellow firefighters on that historic day.

"Those individuals, especial on the fire department side, they decided to protect as many people as they could that day," he said.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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# Farmington Hills fire lieutenant walked nine days, 755 miles in the wake of 9/11

Susan Vela | HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills Fire Lt. Jim Etzin still remembers the thousands of first responders who joined his cross-country journey recognizing 9/11 and the first responders who lost their lives trying to save those trapped inside the burning towers.

He started his journey a month after the tragedy, laying down his first footsteps at the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit and not stopping for nine days and 755 miles until he made it to the Brooklyn Bridge in New York.

Then a firefighter-paramedic, Etzin walked from bridge to bridge with an ever-changing group of fellow first responders. He kept walking while some dropped from the route and others joined him along the way, walking and driving in his procession, expressing support through five states.

There also were "countless" supporters who asked Etzin and his followers to pass along their sentiments, blessings and donations.

Etzin is convinced those who came out needed an outlet for their emotions.

"It wasn't as if they were supporting us," he conceded. "We were just a conduit. We were just a mechanism in which they could reach out to the people in New York."

"People would ask me what I was feeling at the very end of it. It was very, very emotional. It was really a culmination of (nine) days where you're working toward this goal and you realize that at the other end of it is so much sadness and sorrow and loss."

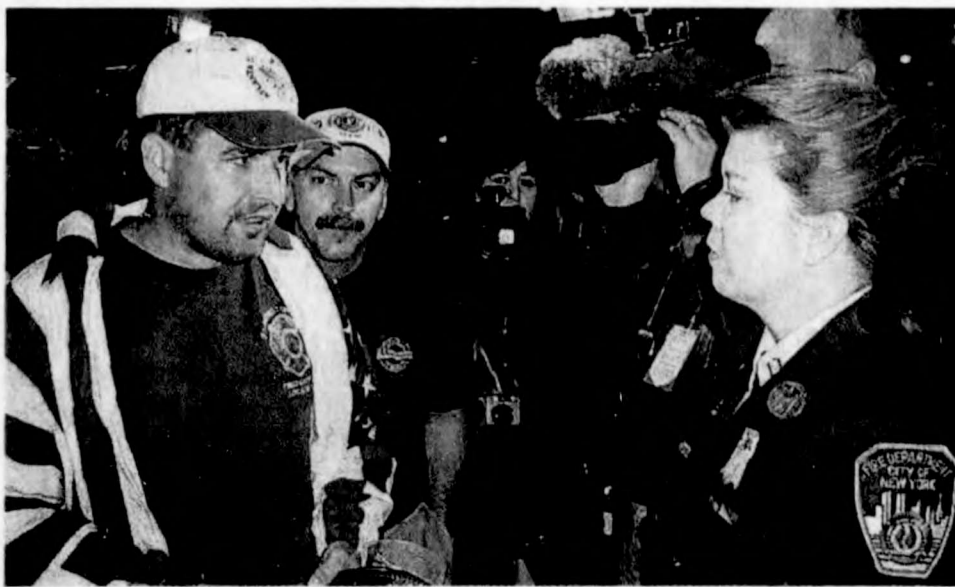
Financed by the Ford Motor Company Fund, Etzin's walk raised about \$40,000 for the widow's and children's funds for New York City's fire and police departments.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed on Sept. 11, 2001, and more than 300 were firefighters. Police and Port Authority officers also lost their lives at the World Trade Center.

Since then, more firefighters have died because of their injuries and appar-



James Etzin is emergency medical services coordinator for the Farmington Hills Fire Department. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE



Etzin and his contingent presented three commemorative helmets from emergency responders in Michigan to those in New York City to conclude their bridge-to-bridge walk. COURTESY OF JIM ETZIN

"People would ask me what I was feeling at the very end of it. It was very, very emotional. It was really a culmination of (nine) days where you're working toward this goal and you realize that at the other end of it is so much sadness and sorrow and loss."

James Etzin

ent health consequences. Etzin pays attention to the ramifications, which he said include psychological problems.

The former military man also has spoken publicly about 9/11, urging "THESE SURVIVORS MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN!"

He remembers watching a morning TV program at his home when the show was interrupted because of the attack on the World Trade Center.

"We watched in shock like everyone else did," he said. "Everyone has a right to be affected or unaffected by certain seminal events, but I think anyone who was a firefighter at that time or had a firefighter in their family will always look at that day in a special way. Really, it's sacred day for us."

He recalled vivid 9/11 images of people running from the World Trade Cen-

ter "as they should."

He reminds everyone that emergency responders were doing the opposite - running toward the towers and up the stairs, knowing their possible fate.

"And yet their sense of duty (and) their public service trumped everything," Etzin explained. "They put it in front of their own personal survival, their families, (and) their future and said, 'This is who I am. This is what is expected of me.'"

"Every emergency responder out there - every firefighter, every police officer - would like to believe that they have that courage within them. Those amazing men and women, they were tested that day and they passed that test with flying colors, unfortunately at the cost of their lives."

As the 20th Sept. 11 since the Twin

Towers' collapse approaches, Etzin expects the country to revisit the grief and loss they felt that day.

He'll be able tap into the first responders he met and the communities he visited and appreciated while walking through Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

"It was very, very powerful," he reminisced. "Also the sense of unity which is so rare in this country because things are so divisive right now and so polarized."

"... I think it was the one time in my life, more than any other, where I felt that everybody in the country was truly united. They were on the same page. They had shared concerns and love of country and shared grief."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

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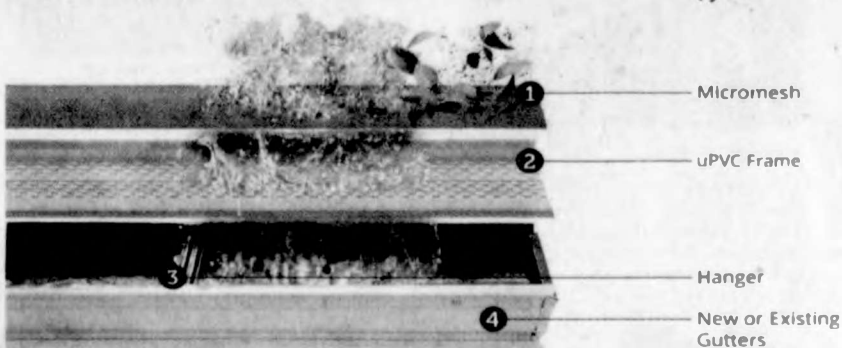
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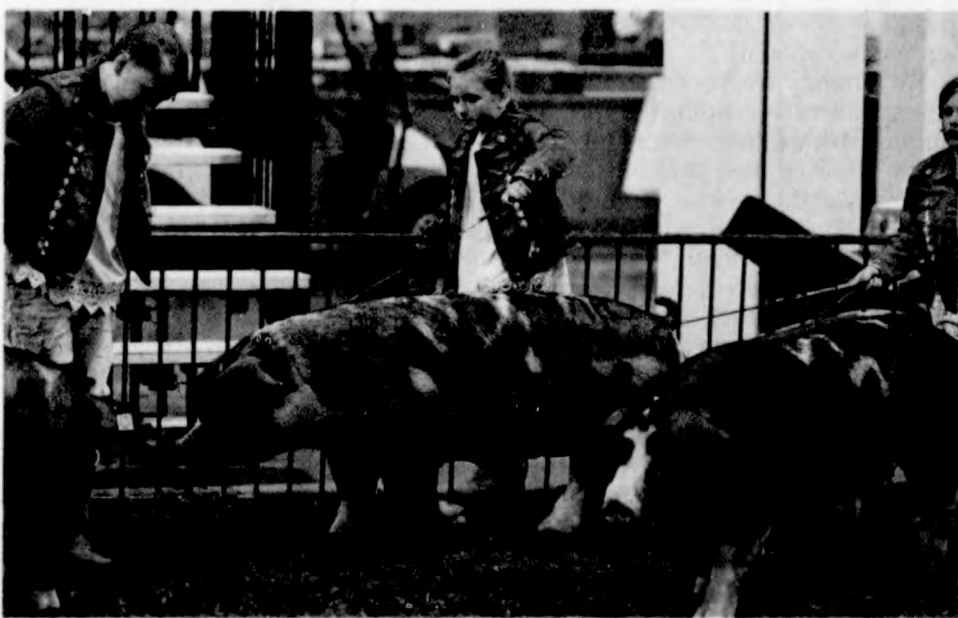
Crowds hit the midway Sept. 2 during the Michigan State Fair at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. The fair will continue through Labor Day on Monday and runs until 10 p.m. except Monday, when things will begin to close up around 7 p.m. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



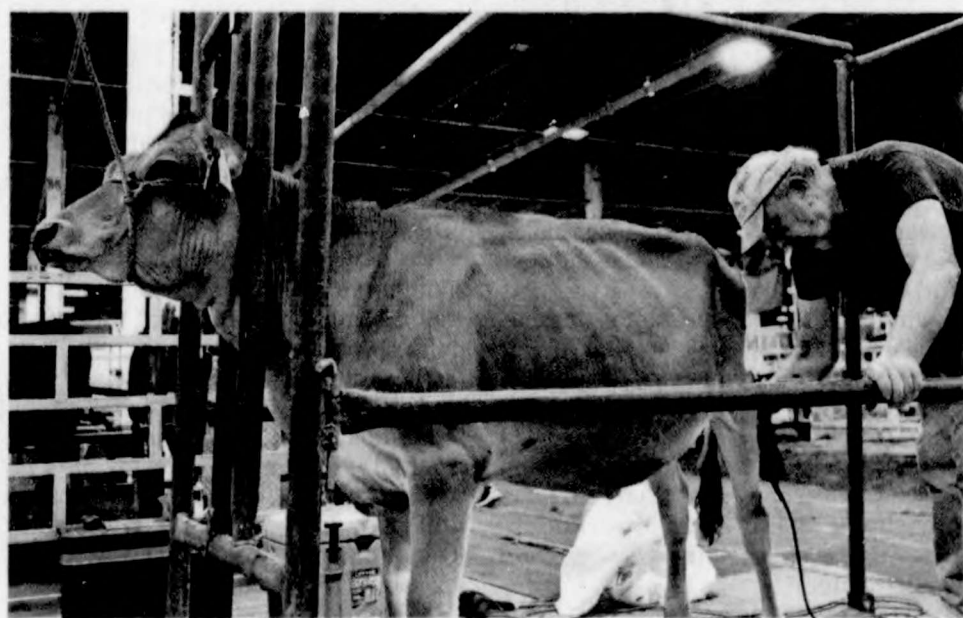
Visitors to the Michigan State Fair enjoy the swings ride.



Sisters Vera and Teagan Pianski check out a muscovy duckling held by volunteer Jim Tesen.



A trio of young ladies shows off their pigs in the competition ring.



Eric Bastal prepares his Jersey cow for competition by shaving its summer coat.

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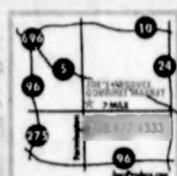
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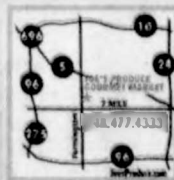


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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Hartland quarterback Brad Sollom winds up for a pass. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Hartland steals momentum from Novi to secure victory

Colin Gay HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi's offense thought it had something brewing.

Trailing 12-0 late in the fourth quarter, junior quarterback Luke Aurilia took the ball at his own 13-yard line, immediately throwing a pass that led to a Hartland pass interference call, giving the Wildcats some room to work with.

After a dropped pass in the middle of the field by senior Bacari Scott, Aurilia didn't slow down.

The next snap, he saw a wide-open receiver in senior Tyler Patrick in the bubble, taking it 72 yards for their first

score of the game.

Momentum had not been on Novi's side up to that point. Trailing by five with four minutes left, the Wildcats had hope.

Sam Clay squashed that hope immediately.

The Hartland wide receiver and defensive back took the kickoff to the house for a touchdown, securing the Eagles' 19-7 win against Novi.

"When we gave it up there, we had some momentum and the kids were starting to believe a little bit. And so was I," Novi coach Jim Sparks said. "I had a good feeling there. ... They didn't quit, but it was a tougher sell."

## One catch favors Hartland

For the majority of the first half, Hartland and Novi held each other to a defensive stalemate.

But Hartland senior quarterback Brad Sollom had to try something.

Facing a second-and-10 from the Novi 27-yard line, the Eagles' quarterback threw up a ball to the end zone, trying to capitalize on a one-on-one. Sparks said Scott, the defensive back, did everything he could: getting inside leverage and getting both his hands on the ball. But as he tumbled to the

See MOMENTUM, Page 2B

## Four HS football questions ahead of Week 3

Colin Gay HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The high school football season rolls on.

With Week 3 upon us, here are a few key storylines for teams in the Hometown Life coverage area to keep an eye on.

## Will Livonia Churchill keep up with Belleville?

Many expected Churchill's 2021 season to start the way it has.

Facing Salem and John Glenn, two bottom-of-the-barrel KLAA teams, the Chargers offense feasted, combining for 91 points, including 53 against a Rockets defense that allowed 495 yards in Week 2. With seniors loaded at each offensive skill positions — from quarterback Taj Williams to wide receiver Bailey Brooks — Churchill seems to be clicking.

But the Chargers' first test will be a big one: Belleville. The Chargers are 0-3 against the Tigers in school history, losing 35-14 in both 2019 and 2020, while falling 48-24 in their first matchup in 2018.

Belleville hasn't lost a step heading into 2021 either, outscoring Plymouth and Dearborn 11-7 in the first two games of the season.

This is where Churchill's experience is expected to come in handy. Will knowing what to expect overcome the amount of talent the Tigers have in their locker room? That's what Churchill needs to figure out if it wants its first-ever win against the KLAA East powerhouse.

## How does Lakeland respond to first test?

Lakeland's 2021 season has been smooth sailing.

The Eagles' offense is on fire, scoring more than 40 points in back-to-back games for the first time since 2014 and allowing less than three touchdowns in each of their wins.

While South Lyon and Waterford Mott both head into Week 3 with undefeated records along with Lakeland, the Eagles will face its first true test of the season on the road against Walled Lake Western.

The Warriors earned their first win of the season Sept. 2 against Walled Lake Northern, beating the Knights by

See QUESTIONS, Page 2B

## Northville begins KLAA slate with eyes on Battle Creek

Colin Gay HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Juliana Imbuzerio's cheering section was a bit louder than usual.

As the Northville senior setter prepared for the Aug. 31 KLAA opener, a sign passed from the parents to the small student section in the middle of the wooden bleachers at Livonia Churchill High School with the words, "Happy Birthday Jul!" written on white poster board. At the Mustangs' first set break, that section led the crowd in the "Happy Birthday" song, something Imbuzerio responded to with a bow.

But on this birthday, Imbuzerio got something that she's extremely excited about: a reason to hope.

"This is our first game — and I know we have so much room for improvement — but we are so strong already," Imbuzerio said, helping Northville to a three-set sweep of Livonia Churchill on the road, 25-12, 25-8 and 25-7.

This excitement was what brought Safah Lindstrom to Northville in the first place.

The first-year head coach knew some of the Mustang volleyball players from the club circuit, also knowing the expectation of the sport at Northville, having graduated from Novi.

It was the depth of talent and the depth of potential that made Lindstrom sign on to lead the Mustangs in May, replacing Rick VanDerVeer after his two seasons in the post.

"They have definitely bought into the type of coaching that we coach, which sometimes can be hard as a coach even though some of them knew me before,"

See NORTHVILLE, Page 7B

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An Oak Park defender brings down Churchill wide receiver Bailey Brooks. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Questions

Continued from Page 1B

a touchdown. While Walled Lake Western's high-octane passing offense hasn't blown anyone away yet — scoring 28 points in each of its first two games — Drew Viotto and company do have that potential.

Lakeland's first test will be defined through its ability to make the Warriors offense one dimensional, something the Eagles had trouble doing in their last meeting: a 41-16 loss in the 2019 opener.

### Will Canton turn it around?

Canton came into the 2021 season aiming to make a run for its second-straight KLAA West title. Instead, it hasn't been too pretty.

The Canton offense has not scored more than three touchdowns in a game against either Dearborn Fordson or Howell. Its defense had difficulty stopping either one: allowing a combined 79 points in two games.

This isn't normal for Canton, who comes into the third week of the season without a win for the first time in 23 years.

Prior to the start of the season, head coach Andrew LaFata said there would be a learning process to see who would

develop into leaders on this roster. After two weeks, it remains to be seen who will lead Canton to victory.

Canton has a chance to get into the win column Week 3 against a Plymouth team that's seen its own share of struggles over the past two seasons.

### How will Livonia Stevenson respond?

Livonia Stevenson had a memorable season opener, holding on for a one-point victory against Northville, helped by an impressive performance by running back Matthew Gazzarato.

Week 2 gave the Spartans a bit of a wake-up call.

The Spartans struggled to contain a Dearborn Fordson offense that gave Canton fits in the season opener with senior quarterback Alex Osman and senior Antonio Gates Jr., who's a weapon on both sides of the ball.

With an experienced quarterback in Kyle Brown, the Spartans will have a chance to regroup against John Glenn. Look for the defense to be challenged by the Rockets' passing game: their bread-and-butter under second-year head coach Calvin Griggs.

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

## WEEK 3 FOOTBALL PICKS

Sports reporter Colin Gay, sports contributor Ben Szilagyi and editor Phil Allmen make their weekly picks, battling against the mighty coin flip to see who finishes with the best record.

Games (home team listed first):	Colin Gay	Ben Szilagyi	Phil Allmen	Coin Flip
Livonia Churchill vs. Belleville	Belleville	Belleville	Belleville	Belleville
Dearborn vs. Livonia Franklin	Dearborn	Dearborn	Dearborn	Livonia Franklin
Livonia Stevenson vs. Westland John Glenn	Livonia Stevenson	Livonia Stevenson	Livonia Stevenson	Livonia Stevenson
Wayne Memorial vs. Dearborn Fordson	Dearborn Fordson	Dearborn Fordson	Dearborn Fordson	Wayne Memorial
Canton vs. Plymouth	Canton	Canton	Canton	Plymouth
Howell vs. Northville	Howell	Northville	Howell	Howell
Salem vs. Novi	Novi	Novi	Novi	Salem
U-D Jesuit vs. Brother Rice	Brother Rice	Brother Rice	U-D Jesuit	U-D Jesuit
Detroit Catholic Central vs. Naperville Central (IL)	Detroit Catholic Central	Detroit Catholic Central	Detroit Catholic Central	Detroit Catholic Central
Walled Lake Northern vs. Milford	Walled Lake Northern	Walled Lake Northern	Milford	Milford
South Lyon vs. Walled Lake Central	South Lyon	South Lyon	South Lyon	South Lyon
Waterford Mott vs. South Lyon East	Waterford Mott	South Lyon East	South Lyon East	Waterford Mott
Walled Lake Western vs. Lakeland	Lakeland	Lakeland	Lakeland	Walled Lake Western
North Farmington vs. Groves	North Farmington	North Farmington	North Farmington	North Farmington
Rochester vs. Seaholm	Rochester	Rochester	Seaholm	Rochester
Waterford Kettering vs. Bloomfield Hills	Bloomfield Hills	Bloomfield Hills	Waterford Kettering	Waterford Kettering
Farmington vs. Troy Athens	Troy Athens	Troy Athens	Troy Athens	Troy Athens
Genoa Country Day vs. Detroit University Prep Science and Math	Detroit Country Day	Detroit Country Day	Detroit Country Day	Detroit Country Day

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## Momentum

Continued from Page 1B

ground with Hartland receiver Alex Yon, the referees conferred, saying Scott lost possession and gave the first touchdown of the game to Hartland.

"It was huge," Hartland coach Brian Savage said. "It was like a defensive juggernaut out here. Nobody could do anything. That was obviously giving us a little momentum and didn't spark us tremendously, but it gave us enough of a spark to get things going and finally figure it out in the second half."

The Novi defense remained stout in the final 24 minutes, allowing 124 yards of offense and forcing a fumble on the Eagles' second drive of the third quarter — following up two first-half interceptions by Cam Bloom and Blake Ellison.

"The first half, they couldn't move the ball on us at all," Sparks said. "They have a very good quarterback. I think we held him under check for the most part. We defended the deep balls. They hit a couple underneath, had a couple PIs, but overall, every aspect of our defense played very well."

But Hartland still found a way, using two field goals — a 51-yard bomb and a 42-yarder by senior and LSU commit Nathan Dibert — and the kickoff return touchdown to keep Novi at arm's length.

### Novi's offense goes dark

Novi's first offensive play from scrimmage didn't set the tone it was looking for. Aurilia took the snap, fumbling with possession and falling on it for a 12-yard loss.

From that point forward, a Wildcat offense that scored 28 points in its season opener against Wayne Memorial had a reality check.

Novi recorded 213 yards of offense — 72 of which came from Aurilia to Patrick in the fourth quarter — turning the ball with three interceptions by Clay, senior linebacker Aiden Martino and senior defensive back Isaiah McPherson, along with four turnovers on downs.

"We got kids that make plays," Savage said. "Sam Clay made I don't know how many plays out there. Aiden Martino had a pick on a key third-and-long. Our defensive line just swarmed the ball and they just played as a unit and did a great job."



Novi High fans lean in for a group selfie during the Sept. 2 game at Hartland. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

As time ticked down, Sparks saw that hope in his offense. He saw what it did against Wayne Memorial in the season opener: watching his junior quarterback find a way to set up a veteran receiver for a big play.

But he knows his defense is ahead of the offense. He knows that Novi was facing a defense that didn't allow a single point to a Livonia Franklin team that had a lot of experience coming back on its offense.

Sparks doesn't know specifics, but he knows Novi has work to do to get back to the feeling the Wildcats were introduced to a week ago.

"We won a game last week. You get that feeling and you learn to love winning," Sparks said. "The kids never quit. It sounds very cliché, but they played hard."

Novi will look for its second win of the season on the road at Salem, while Hartland takes its undefeated record on the road against Livingston County rival Brighton.



Hartland's Benatham Deman, left, tries to put pressure on the Novi quarterback.



# Howell football wins 'cage match' by beating Canton at its own game

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HOWELL — August Johanningsmeier might be the best football player in Livingston County, as his coach insists.

He's certainly on a very short list of candidates.

But there's no doubt he faces the toughest workload of any player in the county.

It would be more than enough for most players to carry the ball as often as he does, but this year he's added extra duty as a starting defensive end, the position he's projected to play at Western Michigan.

Johanningsmeier carried the ball 26 times for 201 yards and two touchdowns Thursday night in Howell's 41-21 victory over Canton, the defending KLAAs West champion and perennial state power.

"It will be great to have a day off," Johanningsmeier said. "It will be really nice."

His touchdowns came on 4-yard runs, but he set up three touchdowns with runs of 67, 58 and 33 yards.

"I believe he's the best player in Livingston County," Howell coach Brian Lewis said. "He showed that tonight. Not only does he play offense, he plays defense as well. He plays a physical position on defense."

"Where some of those guys on the outside can go run around a little bit and not get the pounding or play as physical, August is being physical every single moment of every game. That's what was impressive tonight, was he had those eyes to him. He had that look that he wanted the ball. He made some big-time runs, and that's why he's a Division I player."

It was a statement victory for Howell (2-0), which hasn't won a division championship in 11 years. Canton, meanwhile, has missed the playoffs only once in the last 21 seasons.

"Playing Canton, every year it's a great game," Howell quarterback Nolan Petru said. "They're one of the top (teams) in the division. They won it last



Howell's August Johanningsmeier cuts behind a block by Noah Ramonaitis, gaining some of his 201 yards in a 41-21 victory over Canton on Sept. 2.

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

year. We love playing top competition. We were pumped to play this game. It's what we expected to do."

The Highlanders rolled up 320 yards on the ground, but their opening salvo was a 53-yard pass from Petru to Jackson Kovarik on a flea-flicker on the first

play from scrimmage. Petru pitched the ball to Johanningsmeier, who tossed it back to the quarterback.

"We were hoping everyone would be keying on August," Petru said. "He's such a great player. ... Jackson got that much separation and it worked."

With Johanningsmeier setting the table, senior Noah Ramonaitis had three 1-yard touchdown runs as Howell's most reliable finisher in goal-line situations. He scored twice on fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line in the first half.

"We knew it was going to be a cage match," Ramonaitis said. "When you're head-up like that, we knew it was coming. So, we're just trying to get as many guys up there and push it through as an entire team."

Howell led 27-7 at halftime. Canton scored touchdowns on its first two possessions of the second half, but the Highlanders responded each time with clock-draining scoring drives.

After getting a fourth-down stop with 6:18 left in the game, Howell ran out the clock from there.

"They're just tough," Canton coach Andy LaFata said. "They're tough. They play a great brand of football. Just being a fan watching, it's what you love to see. Power-I, running it up there. It's our brand of football. Credit to them, their kids, their line. They run hard, they're coached well. They deserve everything. They're going to have a lot of wins this year."

The Chiefs are off to an 0-2 start for only the second time in the last 23 years, losing to quality Dearborn Fordson and Howell teams.

"A lot of the things we see are fixable," LaFata said. "It's getting back to the drawing board, getting back to work. Two great teams from Fordson and today coach Lewis and Howell. They came and played our brand of football and beat us at it."

It was meant as a compliment, but Lewis views Howell's smash-mouth performance through a different prism.

"To me, that's Howell football," Lewis said. "That's what we're about. Everybody keeps talking about Canton, but Howell showed what we've got tonight. That's what it's about. We worry about us. That's what we put on the field. We had a bunch of guys believing in the mission tonight, and it was fun to watch."

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# Little-known receiver had big impact on Lions' GM

Dave Birkett Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Lions were considering potential upgrades for their receiving corps when director of pro scouting Rob Lohman approached general manager Brad Holmes with a name to consider.

"He comes to me and says, 'Have you seen this Denver receiver?' " Holmes said Thursday. "I said, 'Who?' And he said, 'Trinity Benson.' And I had the same response as probably everybody else had and I said, 'Who the hell is Trinity Benson?' "

A little-known receiver from East Central University in Ada, Ok., (student body: 3,900), Benson did big things for the Broncos this preseason.

He led the Broncos with eight catches for 80 yards, scored two touchdowns and took a turn returning punts and kicks.

And when it became obvious Benson was on the roster bubble in Denver, Holmes made a move to acquire the speedy receiver and upgrade a Lions receiving room that looks to be the team's weakest position.

"When I first watched the tape, I was like, 'Wow,' " Holmes said. "He just popped off. He had juice, he had explosiveness. His upside as a route runner, it gets you really excited for a young guy. And then the more work you do from an intangible standpoint, he's a tough kid that's a hard worker, he's smart, does things the right way, so that's kind of when I called (Broncos GM) George (Patton) and kind of see if we could get something worked out."

The Lions were seventh in the waiver priority, but Holmes was not interested in waiting to see if the Broncos released Benson — they were deciding between Benson and Dontae Spencer for the No. 5 receiver job — and trusting that the six teams in front of the Lions would not claim him on waivers.

(The Jaguars, who were first in the waiver order, did claim a receiver off waivers, Tyron Johnson from the Chargers.)

Benson's role is to-be-determined this fall in the Lions' unheralded but crowded receiver room.

The Lions have seven receivers on their 53-man roster: Starters Tyrell Wil-



Lions receivers Kalif Raymond (left) and Tyrell Williams go through drills during training camp in July. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DFP

liams, Kalif Raymond and Amon-Ra St. Brown; Benson and waiver claim Khadare Hodge; and backups Quintez Cephus and Tom Kennedy, who won jobs with strong training camps.

While keeping a seventh (and maybe even a sixth) receiver seems like a luxury for a Lions team thin on talent, Holmes disputed the notion the Lions have a subpar receiving group.

"I know they say these aren't the superstars that are jumping off the table, but (Lions coach) Dan (Campbell) and I see the narrative probably a lot definitely than probably the outside," Holmes said. "We feel really, really good and we have faith in the group that we have."

Hodge, who signed with the Rams as an undrafted free agent in 2019 — when

Holmes was the team's college scouting director — and later played for the Browns when Lions exec John Dorsey was GM, is another explosive receiver with special teams ability.

Both he and Benson should compete for gameday roles in Detroit, though Cephus and Kennedy were two of the Lions' most productive pass catchers in the preseason.

Holmes said the Lions kept seven receivers not to make a statement about their talent at the position or the importance of the unit as a whole, but simply because they were seven of the best 53 players they could assemble, regardless of position.

The Bills, Jets, Ravens and Washington are the other NFL teams with seven

receivers on their current 53-man rosters, according to depth charts compiled by OurLads.com. The Cowboys, Colts and Titans also have seven or eight receivers, but have one or more players at the position on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

"We're not going to eliminate a good football player because it's an overkill at a position," Holmes said.

"So when you look down and you get to Tyrell and Kalif and St. Brown, and then you get to Cephus, then you get to Tom Kennedy, and it's like, 'Well, Tom Kennedy, he's had a hell of a camp.' It's not like, oh, we get to Tom Kennedy. 'Well, you can't keep him because now you're at five and six.' No, Tom Kennedy, earned it. He had a great camp."

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# Catholic Central soccer looking to follow up 2020 state title with another

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Detroit Catholic Central head soccer coach Gene Pulice has always been focused on his team's culture.

To him, it's never been stagnant. It's always grown, evolving since he took the position 10 seasons ago. And it's not even about soccer. Pulice feels it's about the belief that players can grow together into one strong unit.

The Shamrocks are one unit that's been to the mountaintop.

"We have a bit of swag to us. And it's OK," Pulice said, leading a team that's coming off an undefeated 2020 season and the program's second Division 1 state title in four years.

"You have to be confident in who you are and know who you are."

But while CC soccer remains at that peak heading into the 2021 season, Pulice knows that makes his team easier to spot.

Each game won, he said, leads to a bigger target, a bigger bullseye. It's something Salem and Canton have already taken advantage of in 2021, beating the Shamrocks in the final two games of the season-opening Balconi Tournament: CC's first losses since the 2019 regional final.

And even with the goal of back-to-back state championships in mind, it's not something that has happened often. No team in the division has repeated as state champions since East Kentwood in 2007 and 2008, with seven different teams taking the last 12 championships, including Catholic Central in 2017 and 2020.

To Simon Sawyer, it's almost easier to block out what happened a season ago. But his sophomore season is already completely different than his first with the Shamrocks.

Sawyer is the first sophomore captain in program history, learning from Catholic Central's eight seniors who graduated after the 2020 season, including captains Jack Leuker and Chad Ewing.

The sophomore defender was a



The Detroit Catholic Central soccer team begins to celebrate their state title over Traverse City West on Nov. 7.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

sponge a season ago, learning to play varsity soccer in high-leverage situations. Now he's experienced. He knows what it takes to get to that state title.

"We just make sure that they are always game ready and always in the right state of mind," Sawyer said. "When we are warming up, all we are talking about is game tactics and who's going to play where and what we are going to do differently. There's no fooling around and they all have really adapted to that and are understanding that very well."

Sawyer is one of four captains on Pulice's roster, joining senior Vincent Stockton, junior midfielder Drew Pier-

son — brother Ryan was a captain on the Shamrocks' first state title-winning team — and junior Henry Grybas.

Their job is simple: to be that tangible example for Pulice of the culture he hopes to instill with the players that have only previously seen it from afar.

"They are really, really good people, first and foremost," Pulice said. "They are compassionate, they lead by example not by rule. They believe in the guys and the guys believe in them. They are my go-between."

In time, that culture will grow and engulf those first-year varsity players who are experiencing true CC soccer for the

first time, just by following in the footsteps of their leaders who are following the footsteps of the leaders before them.

Pulice knows nothing is given. He remembers 2018, losing in the regional final to Grand Blanc in a quest to repeat. While it's the same atmosphere surrounding the 2021 squad, it's a different team, one that needs to focus on the day-to-day, to get to that overarching goal: that 2021 Division 1 state title.

"You never take any game for granted," Pulice said. "Today you're the hero. Tomorrow, you're not."

"This whole thing is you can't rest on last year's wins."

## Taylor on 'top of the world,' wears Little League crown

Frank Witsil Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Thousands of residents — no one knows how many for sure — lined the streets of Taylor to welcome home the Little League World Series winners as they rode down Goddard to Pardee, and then to Heritage Park.

There were dads in Taylor North jerseys and women in "baseball mom" T-shirts. Little kids with their Taylor North gear bounced up and down, full of excitement, as the parade inched toward them. One shouted: "They're coming, they're coming."

There were plenty of grandparents, too.

Donna Johnson, 73, and her daughter, Stephanie Padden, 50, set up chairs along the route, along with Johnson's best friend, Ruth Keathley, 69. Johnson and Keathley were Little League moms in the 1980s and have been friends and fans ever since.

"We followed them along the way," Johnson said. "We watched every game."

Police vehicles led the parade, their lights flashing and sirens blaring. They were followed by a cycling group, Taylor High School cheerleaders and the marching band, dance groups, and many Little League teams.

A chopper buzzed overhead.

The stars, of course, were the Taylor North champs — Chauncy Adkins, Noah Boren, Lucas Farnier, Jakob Fukas, Kale Harris, Max LaForest, Jaxon Shufeldt, Jackson Surma, Cameron Thorning, Gavin Ulin and Ethan VanBelle — who tossed candy at the crowd from the back of shiny pickups.

And their coaches: Rick Thorning, Guido Ulin and Jason Surma.

At Heritage Park, where a big flag flew from the back of a towing truck in the parking lot and more fans had gathered on a berm to watch the parade pass, there were special remarks and festivities.

"We're super excited, super proud," Taylor Mayor Rick Sollars, who followed the team throughout the tournament, said. He traveled to see them compete in South Williamsport — twice. "It was an honor to see them play."

The coaches said what made the win even sweeter for them was that they



Taylor North players Cameron Thorning, far left, Lucas Farnier, center, and Gavin Ulin wave at the crowd during a parade Sept. 2 to celebrate the team's Little League World Series championship in Taylor. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

each also had a son on the team. What father doesn't want to see their boy recognized as one of the nation's best baseball players?

"It's crazy," said Thorning, who played baseball when he was a kid and works as a corrections officer. "Not only did we have this special experience of winning the Little League World Series, I got to do it with my son, Cameron."

During and since the games, Thorning said, he has gotten at least a thousand calls and text messages. He tried to respond to them all. The parade, he added, was a chance to see people face-to-face, shake their hands and thank them for their support.

Cameron, a catcher who started playing baseball at 4, said that at the beginning of the year, even he didn't think the team would be going to the World Series, but after they started winning, he, too, started to believe.

"It's a dream come true," he said, adding "I want to go to the Big Leagues."

In truth, no one really expected the Little League team to actually win. Just getting to South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, where the games are played each year, was more than they imagined.

When the Taylor North team became

champions, it was as if no one ever had any doubt.

Since the team won, they've been feted in ways they never imagined.

In addition to the parade, other celebrations and surprises have been planned for the boys. A local eatery is planning to create a giant photo collage of the young champs in action.

And now, wherever they go, younger kids want their autographs.

Before the parade even started and as spectators began setting up their lawn chairs, the team gathered at the city's recreation center to take photos with 7-year-old Xander Kraft, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

They autographed a baseball for him. Earlier last week, the Little League team was honored by the Tigers at Comerica Park.

One of the Detroit team's stars, Miguel Cabrera — a 500 home run hitter — gave each Little Leaguer a fist bump, and congratulated them, telling them to their faces that they did a good job.

Tigers general manager Al Avila said the Tigers should take a cue from the boys and become champions of the big league World Series. In jest, he even mentioned something about contracts.

Little League baseball was started to give kids moments like this.

Sports teaches them to work together. It allows them to dream big and to lose gracefully, but, as one of the coaches said, to also realize when they win they really "can do anything."

Carl Stotz — who had no sons of his own, but played ball with his young nephews — started Little League in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, in 1939. He said he just wanted to provide an organization for kids to play with some adult supervision.

Little League expanded throughout Pennsylvania, and then to New Jersey and other states, and within a decade it had corporate sponsors. By 1955, there was a Little League team in every state.

That same year, George W. Bush — a future owner of the Texas Rangers and U.S. president — played for a Little League team in Midland, Texas. The organization continued to grow internationally.

Eventually, the Little League World Series had teams from all over the globe.

This year, however, Little League Baseball decided to hold its World Series tournament with no teams outside the United States for the first time since 1975 because of the pandemic.

The only other time a Michigan city won the Little League World Series was in 1959.

That was the same year the last two stars were added to the American flag. Players from that Michigan team were from Hamtramck. The ones that are still around were invited to ride in the Taylor parade, too.

Billy Heald, a right fielder on the first championship team, recalled when they played it was in a new stadium, the same one where the Taylor team won. The rules were different, he said, but the result was the same.

When they won, the state "treated us like royalty."

Heald, who is now 74 and lives in Clarkston, said Hamtramck's mayor gave them a day off school. When they were 12, that was a big deal. And they threw them a parade down Joseph Campau. Dodge Main supplied the convertibles.

And, Heald recalled, the auto plant did something else: It flew them all to Disneyland.



## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Salem junior ready to take on area's top competitors

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Dave Gerlach had to hear about Isabell Kulick from Salem cross country's captains.

The Rocks head coach leaves many of the summer runs to his team leaders, laying everything out for them in advance. About a week or two into training ahead of the 2019 season, Gerlach heard about this freshman finding her way into the top pack.

Kulick didn't know what to expect. With so few freshmen on the team when she joined, she convinced herself to keep up with those third- and fourth-year returners, something that became easier as the summer went on, which shocked Gerlach continually.

"(I was) a bit surprised that somebody that young would all of a sudden be like... no fear, type of thing and just come right in," the head coach said. "I knew she was decent in middle school. She wasn't a superstar, but she was decent in middle school, but she just came around that corner and was like 'I'm going to be good and I'm going to train my butt off and will myself to stay with these top kids.'"

Now heading into her junior season, Kulick is Salem's top kid, setting the tone for what she could do in 2021 at the Lamplighter Invite, placing first with a time of 19:19.8 — a 6:13 mile pace.

"I keep reminding myself it's the beginning of the year, so it was pretty exciting for me because I know that I can just keep improving, hopefully," Kulick said.

When she first joined Salem, Kulick really didn't know where she would fit in, initially setting her goal to break 20 minutes at some point during her freshman season.

She broke that goal in her first race, later breaking 19 minutes and later setting a personal record of 18:31.8, securing herself as one of Salem's top four runners.

In 2021, after COVID-19 and other health issues held Kulick back in 2020, the junior's goal is to return to that same trajectory, see that same level of progress she made as a freshman.

To Gerlach, that starts with a mindset encouraging her to see herself as the top runner on the track, running as a leader and without fear.

"I think that's one thing we worked on a lot last year was confidence and knowing she belongs there. I think she now kind of realizes it, especially after how well she ran last Friday," Gerlach said. "I've been preaching to her all summer: 'Here's what I'm looking for, here's what I need you to do, here's what we



Salem junior Isabell Kulick started 2021 with a first-place finish at the Lamplighter Invite. COURTESY OF TROY KULICK

## Athlete of the Week results

Kulick won Hometown Life's Athlete of the Week poll the week of Aug. 23, earning 2,246 of the 2,650 votes cast — 84.75%.

The Salem junior finished ahead of South Lyon golfer Gabriella Tapp, Northville golfer Samantha Coleman and South Lyon East soccer player Manaki Watanabe.

want, here's our goals, and I know you can do it."

"She has this little twinkle in her eye right now where she's started to believe that and know it at the same time."

Kulick also applied lessons she's

learned from older runners Olivia Millen and Reagan Justice, Salem's top two runners from 2020, who went on to graduate and run at Michigan State and Wayne State, respectively. The junior learned hard work and dedication from those two, but also that it's OK to slow down when necessary.

"It's important, if you are having a bad day, encourage someone else and make it so someone else is having a good day; to not get down on yourself because everyone has bad workouts and bad races," Kulick said. "The main thing I learned was to not let that affect you. Work as hard as you can, and the next day, they would just move on and do better that day."

Kulick admits she's not as outgoing as Justice and Millen, but is encouraged to use her ability as a tool to bring other

runners in the pack along in the same way those two did for her.

Now in her third year with the Salem program, she's hoping to help the team make its 10th-straight state meet, while also qualifying herself, aiming for an overall personal best under 18:30.

Gerlach said his expectations for Kulick have risen since Lamplighter, but it's something he's not going to put on her. She just needs to remain aggressive and build on what she started under the lights.

"Her job, I guess, is to key on other people's number one's and see if she can beat them," Gerlach said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

## Northville

Continued from Page 1B

Lindstrom said. "But I see this team having the highest ceiling of any team we have seen this year. We're very deep."

Depth was something that defined the Mustangs' play on the road against the Chargers, using 15 of 18 available players — including four sophomores and two freshmen — in some capacity while also not breaking its offensive momentum: recording four runs of five-straight points or more against the Chargers, including a 12-point swing in the third set.

It's an atmosphere, Lindstrom said, that her players have bought into, pointing to Imbuzerio, the Mustangs' primary setter, as one who holds the team accountable, something the head coach said she relies on.

However, the coaching change has led to a change for Abby Reck. The junior was a middle hitter for the Mustangs a year ago, earning All-American honors in the position at the club level. But Lindstrom needed Reck outside, something she said the junior's responded to well.

"A lot of people think that if you're a hitter, you can just hit in all positions, but it's so not true," Lindstrom said. "She's taken on a lot and she was also voted captain this year. She's a huge part of it."

To Lindstrom and to the rest of the team, it's all about getting to Battle Creek.

It's somewhere Northville felt it should have been last season, losing to rival Novi in the first round of district play in five sets. It's somewhere Lindstrom has been before, admitting that once you go once, all you want to do is go back.

The Division I state semifinals and fi-



The Northville volleyball team circles up prior to its first KLAA game of the season against Livonia Churchill.

COLINGAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

nals are not something Northville is sweeping under the rug. Instead of a jinx, it's a rallying cry, getting the Mustangs through exhaustion and keeping them from cutting corners.

"We talk about Battle Creek every single day so that when push comes to shove and we are in playoffs, it's not a 'Oh my God, what if?'" Lindstrom said.

Even though it's a long way away, Battle Creek is something Lindstrom, Imbuzerio and the rest of the Northville team speak into existence.

After a dominant road win against Churchill on her birthday, all Imbuzerio could think about is what comes next.

"We are just super strong and excited to improve more because we know we can," Imbuzerio said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

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Rev. Thomas Scherger

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Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.

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[www.fpcnorthville.org](http://www.fpcnorthville.org)  
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Sunday School for all ages, 10:30 am  
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Sunday 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.  
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Religious Education 348-2506  
Rev. Dennis Theriault, Pastor

**First United Methodist Church**  
(248) 348-1144  
777 West 8 Mile Road  
(8 Mile and East Road)  
Northville, Michigan  
Worship Times: Sunday 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.  
Memorial Day - 10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Marissa Mikolajczyk, Lead Pastor  
[www.firstunited.org](http://www.firstunited.org)



For more information regarding this directory, please contact Kadiah Brack-Rowley at [kbrackrow@localiq.com](mailto:kbrackrow@localiq.com)

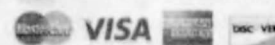
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## Unemployment Insurance Job Search Requirements Explained

### Why You Should Start Your Job Search Now

By ZipRecruiter.com

About 12 million Americans are currently receiving unemployment benefits. In some states, they stand to lose them if they don't actively search for work. That's because some states have reimposed work search requirements that were waived in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fortunately, job search activities can be safe and socially distant in ZipRecruiter's online employment marketplace. While the requirements can be fairly minimal, unemployed Americans can find better opportunities and speed up their return to work by going beyond what's required and really 'leaning in' during their job search process.

#### Active Work Search Requirements

Work search requirements differ across states. But typically, they involve job seekers making a minimum of between one (in Delaware) and five (in Florida) "work search contacts" per week with employers who might reasonably be expected to have openings.

States also typically require claimants to fill out a "work search log." Some states require claimants to submit those logs weekly or monthly, whereas others require that claimants keep them on file in their own records for one year with the expectation that they may be requested at any time.

#### Examples of Active Work Search

There are several kinds of activities that qualify as work search activities for the purpose of maintaining eligibility for

unemployment benefits. Each state's unemployment handbook provides specific details. But qualifying activities typically include:

- Applying for a job online, in person, or by mail
- Registering for work and reemployment services with a state career center
- Interviewing with potential employers in person, by phone, or by video (whether on-demand or live)
- Registering for work with private staffing agencies
- Attending job search seminars, career networking meetings, or job fairs

#### Meeting Work Search Requirements is Easier Now than Ever Before

The coronavirus pandemic has made face-to-face job search activities more challenging. Many stores and offices are closed, and transportation options may be limited, making it harder to make in-person visits to employers.

But *online* and *mobile* job search have dramatically expanded since the last recession and are easier now than ever before. ZipRecruiter's smart matching technology, for example, simplifies and improves the job search experience for millions of people every month in a number of ways:

- **Speed.** Once job seekers create their profiles, our powerful matching algorithm creates instant matches between job seekers and nearby jobs using information about a job seeker's skills and location. It then sends a notification to the matched candidate encouraging them to apply quickly. Employers may also reach out to the job seeker directly,

inviting them to apply.

- **Transparency.** Job seekers are informed when their resume has been viewed or has been rated 'thumbs up' by a hiring manager.

- **Opportunity.** ZipRecruiter helps job seekers ladder into jobs and industries they may not have considered by mapping transferable skills and matching them to jobs accordingly.

- **Mobile first.** We have optimized our job search product for mobile, which is increasingly the platform of choice for job seekers. ZipRecruiter is the #1 rated job search app on iOS & Android.

#### Why Every Unemployed American Should be Searching for a Job Right Now

Most states have now reinstated their work search requirements. Even before the requirements go into effect, however, there could be benefits to beginning your search early.

Job seekers who are active, engaged, and responsive now will have a distinct advantage over those who wait and rejoin the labor market when it is more competitive. That's because job search intensity

has been fairly low since COVID-19 outbreaks began in the U.S.

The pandemic made some forms of work more dangerous, public transit risks and restrictions made getting to work more difficult, and school closures made business as usual untenable for many working parents. Expanded unemployment benefits also eased the pressures on unemployed workers to find new jobs immediately.

Furthermore, the vast majority of people who lost their jobs were on temporary layoff and didn't see a need to find something new because they expected to go back to their old jobs.

Over a year into the crisis, however, many temporary layoffs have turned permanent. And it is becoming clear that other temporary layoffs will last longer than initially expected. With many layoffs likely to outlast unemployment benefits, workers will need to find new opportunities—even if only in the interim. And while the current labor market environment is tough for job seekers, we expect it will only grow more competitive in the coming months.

*Details are up-to-date as of August 17, 2021.*



GETTY IMAGES

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MILFORD BOWERS HILLS: Subdivision Sale, Pontiac Trail, E. of South Hill Rd. Thurs thru Sun Sept 9-12, 9am-5pm. 1986 Kenmore sewing machine w/cabinet, antique Singer sewing machine, 17" analog TV w/vcr, various holiday decor, baby and kids clothing & toys, books, movies, music, kitchenware, much more.

Redford-13560 Royal Grand, 9/8-9/12, 10am-5pm. Multi-Family Sale! Large variety, too much to list!

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**Adopt Me Pets**  
find a new friend...

**Lost**



To the person who adopted Tasha, 1 yr old purebred black/white German Shepherd, from the Humane Society in Ann Arbor at the end of December 2020. I would like to offer you \$12,000.00 for returning Tasha to us. I will also cover her umbilical hernia repair if you had the surgery performed. I was planning when Tasha was 1 1/2 yrs. to have her spayed as well as her hernia repair and gastropexy (breed prone to bloat). Also to follow up on her spleen and blood work. Her two aunts had splenomegaly (had the spleen removed with treatment) and HYPERTHYROIDISM with treatment. I was misdiagnosed for asthma leaving another condition untreated (I have since recovered). This led me to believe along with the doctor I had allergies to Tasha and Eve. The Allergist/Immunologist who also misdiagnosed me said the dogs were making my asthma worse. This is why I brought Tasha and Eve to the Humane Society. So excruciating painful! I later tested negative for asthma and properly treated. No words to describe how I feel giving up Tasha & Eve was preventable if I was diagnosed properly. Each provider followed the original doctors misdiagnosis. (Medical records available) The family who adopted Eve returned her to us and she offered for you to call her. I will give you her number. We love Tasha and Maize (We kept the name the family gave). We would also love to have them reunited and playing together again. My health is back to normal. If it was an issue I certainly would not have taken Maize back nor ask for Tasha. I never would have given Tasha and Maize up if I had providers who diagnosed me correctly. Maize had her gastropexy, blood work and spleen exam on 8/9/2021. We have always taken excellent care of our animals and with vet care. I hope you will consider my offer for Tasha's return. We love Tasha and are heartbroken. Thank you! Please Respond to: [findshepherd.com](mailto:findshepherd.com)

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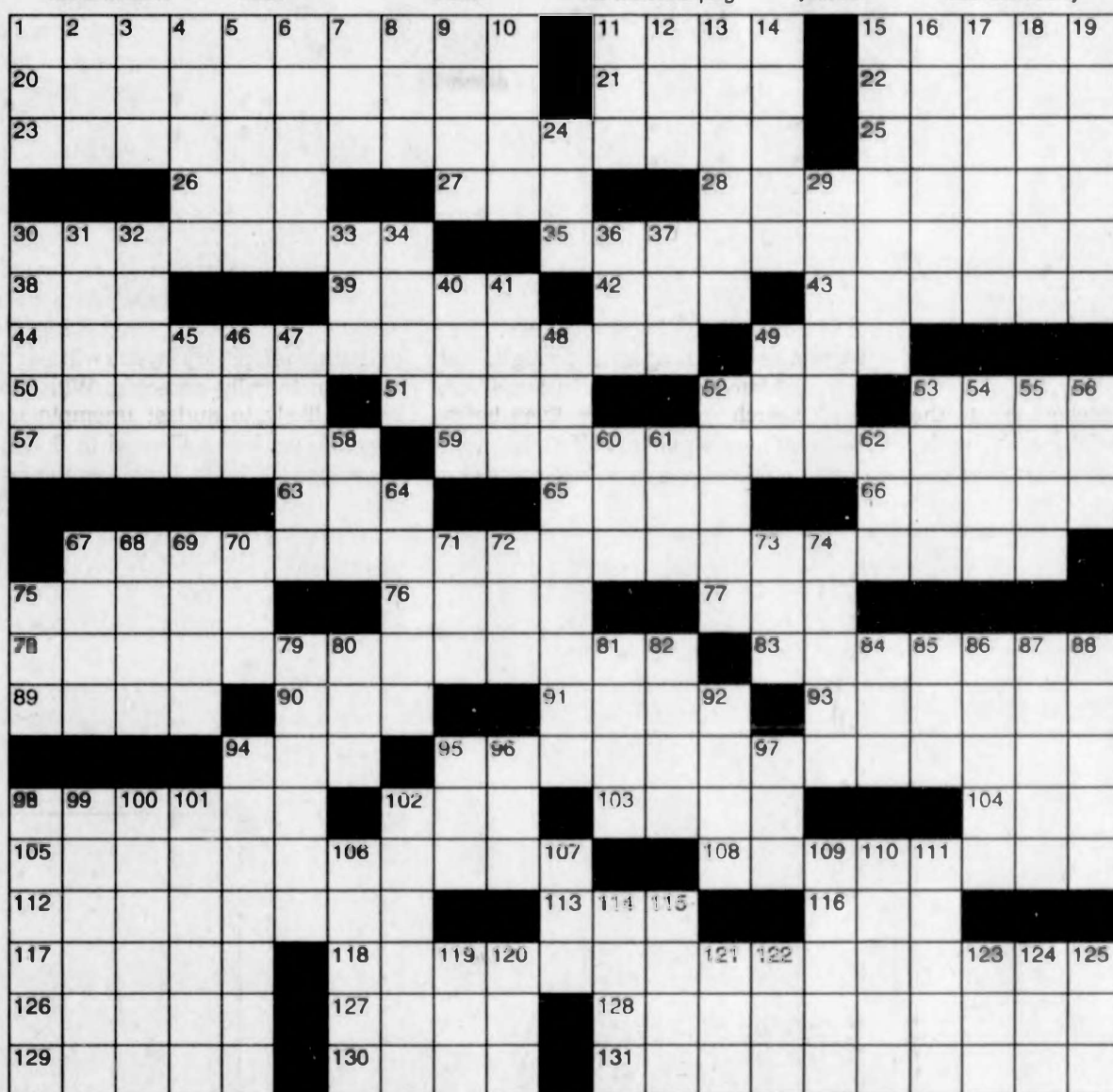


# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

- ACROSS**
- 1 Didn't move any closer  
11 Swedish retail giant  
15 Frets  
20 Book you can't stop reading  
21 Pupil's book  
22 Palmer of golf, to fans  
23 Additional person called on to peruse something  
25 Ebb and flowed, as water  
26 Premaritaly named  
27 Rant in golf  
28 Curative stuff  
30 Fills with a crayon, say  
35 Feel hopeless about  
38 — Grande  
39 Bring to ruin  
42 Authorize to  
43 Tony winner Bernadette  
44 Longtime "Masterpiece Theatre" host  
49 Increases  
50 Corporation combination
- 51 Malicious  
52 Start for historic  
53 "I'm out!"  
57 Practice exam, maybe  
59 Legendary title figure of a 1999 horror film  
63 Granola bit  
65 Invalidate  
66 Bards' Muse  
67 Some schoolkids' judged constructions  
75 Startle  
76 D.C. VIPs  
77 Outback bird  
78 Bit of jewelry with a single diamond  
83 English class concern  
89 Skirt borders  
90 Hagen of the stage  
91 Egg, in Paris about  
93 "Lawrence of Arabia" star  
94 '60s hallucinogen  
95 "Main Street" novelist  
96 How silverware is often sold  
102 Hip-hop producer Gotti
- 103 String after J  
104 O'Hare abbr.  
105 Times of trouble with tresses  
108 Has a helping of humble pie  
112 Explosion fragments  
113 Qty.  
116 Pi-sigma link  
117 "I — Say No" (song from "Oklahoma!")  
118 State flower of Iowa  
126 Sporting site  
127 — about (circa)  
128 Foldaway bed or table, e.g.  
129 — arms (old soldier)  
130 Gps. such as Oxfam and CARE  
131 Ducted cooling system (and what nine answers in this puzzle have)
- DOWN**
- 1 UV ray-blocking stat  
2 Sticky sealant  
3 Cake candle count  
4 Like some simple questions  
5 Old anesthetic  
6 Swindles  
7 Lingerie top  
8 Darth Vader, as a boy  
9 "Juno" actor Michael  
10 McDonald's honcho Ray  
11 Suffix with Gotham  
12 Essential  
13 Off the hook  
14 Really baffled  
15 Lampoons  
16 Ribbed cloth for dresses  
17 Option for bitter greens  
18 Frankfurter  
19 Jewish feasts  
24 Nourished  
29 Ladle  
30 Runner's pain  
31 OPEC vessel  
32 Tours' river  
33 Dictator Amin  
34 Average  
36 Wapiti  
37 Witness  
40 "Rhyme Pays" rapper  
41 Ark "captain"  
45 Mil. bigwig  
46 Masters peg  
47 Fiery felony  
48 A unified goal for the future  
49 Mentalist Geller  
52 Gil's chaplain  
53 Mag. sales stat  
54 "Leave — that"  
55 Doesn't delay  
56 "Well now!"  
58 Tic-toe link  
60 Div. of NYC  
61 Cup's edge  
62 Minuscule  
64 — cotta  
67 Gin flavorer  
68 Not flustered  
69 Camera part  
70 CPR teacher, maybe  
71 Service cost  
72 Rainy mo.  
73 "U can't b serious!"  
74 Hearer of court evidence  
75 Fire residue  
79 Texas capital  
80 "— be a pleasure"  
81 Guitar part  
82 Aquatic bird  
84 Ocean off Fla.  
85 A Stooze  
86 It cuts grass  
87 Samuel of justice  
88 Cut again, as lumber  
92 Star status  
94 Pounced on  
95 Lady of Sp.  
96 Climbing vine  
97 — funk (sad)  
98 1978-80 FBI sting  
99 African desert  
100 Best Actor winner Brody  
101 "Pacific Blue" actress Moakler  
102 Like engines in neutral  
106 Took back, as one's title  
107 Sticky stuff  
109 Hearer of court evidence  
110 Tom Jones' "— Lady"  
111 Reef material  
114 Richie's mom, to Fonzie  
115 Sticky stuff  
119 John, across the pond  
120 OR workers  
121 John, across the pond  
122 Sales check: Abbr.  
123 Female cells  
124 Six, in Italy  
125 Go astray



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

## SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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!

## HEAR THAT?

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.

SRUMBLERACKETCWOLW  
NDISTINCTNEPATTERC  
AHSIWSBNUGNAWTDDEE  
PARLXOILGROANUESSL  
PURRNDPWHIIRROLECOG  
TINGRAUNCHDLTCURNR  
GNICREIPILCSHMPUAU  
OTBOMUBPOPIUSHNNG  
BHOERUSYGHMFHKOCTC  
DSCNLTATTWFRLLYNHDL  
NEPEELOTLLEWGLYOTU  
UBLBLAREIEOGFLIHHM  
OUHKAEEZDKRNMWAURWP  
SRSPNSESGLAOTMIGNH  
ZBASPIHPREHMPETNOS  
ZLRNIKTARUMRUMIITH  
UECDNHECRGNABTSUCO  
BOOMGHSJSDEEPYETQK

BANG  
BEEP  
BELL  
BLARE  
BONG  
BOOM  
BURBLE  
BUZZ  
CHIME  
CLIP  
CLUMP  
CRASH  
DEEP  
DIN  
DISTINCT  
DRONE  
ECHO  
EUPHONY  
FAINT  
GLUG  
GRAUNCH  
GROAN  
GROWL  
GURGLE  
HEARING  
HISS  
HONK  
HOWL  
LOUD  
LOW  
MUFFLED  
MURMUR  
MUTE  
MUTTER  
NOISY  
PATTER  
PIERCING  
PING  
PLUNK  
POP  
POW  
PURR  
QUIET  
RACKET  
RAP  
RESONANT  
ROAR  
RUMBLE  
RUSTLE  
SCREAM  
SCRUNCH  
SHRIEK  
SHRILL  
SNAP  
SOUND  
SPLASH  
SWISH  
THUMP  
TICK  
TING  
TINKLE  
TONE  
TVANG  
WHIRR  
WHISTLE



HEAR THAT?

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

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PACK

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