



NORTHVILLE RECORD

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NORTHVILLE

Downtown streets to stay closed for good

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

An idea born out of helping businesses survive the COVID-19 pandemic is now a permanent fixture in downtown Northville.

The closures of Main Street and Cen-

ter Street in the heart of the city will remain closed to motor vehicle traffic permanently. The decision by the city council at its Aug. 1 meeting comes less than two months after the council voted to extend the closures downtown through early November.

After reviewing more information

and taking in more details, the city council addressed the street closures issue again, making the decision to keep the roads closed to cars, allowing pedestrians and diners to continue using the street.

Supporters of the closures said they were helping attract and retain younger

residents and visitors, something they said the city should continue to do.

"I'd submit that we need to roll out the welcome mat to families," Councilman Andrew Krenz said. "To me, that is something that is enviable to any of my

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Novi woman's homicide goes unsolved for 3 years, leaving family upset

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Tia Joe had birthday visitors in July when her mother and young son visited her Grand Lawn Cemetery grave in Detroit.

Joe's burial site has a new headstone where son Braxton sang "Happy Birthday."

He was weeks away from his fourth birthday. His mother would have been 25 years old if she had survived the bullet that ripped through her Oakland Glens manufactured home three years ago in Novi.

"He was like, 'This is Mommy, my mommy,'" Joe's mother, Trina Bennett, said. "He said he wanted to open the top of it up to see Mommy. Then he put his ear to it and said, 'I can't hear her.'"

Now living in Oak Park, Bennett finds strength in her grandson while her daughter's homicide remains unsolved.

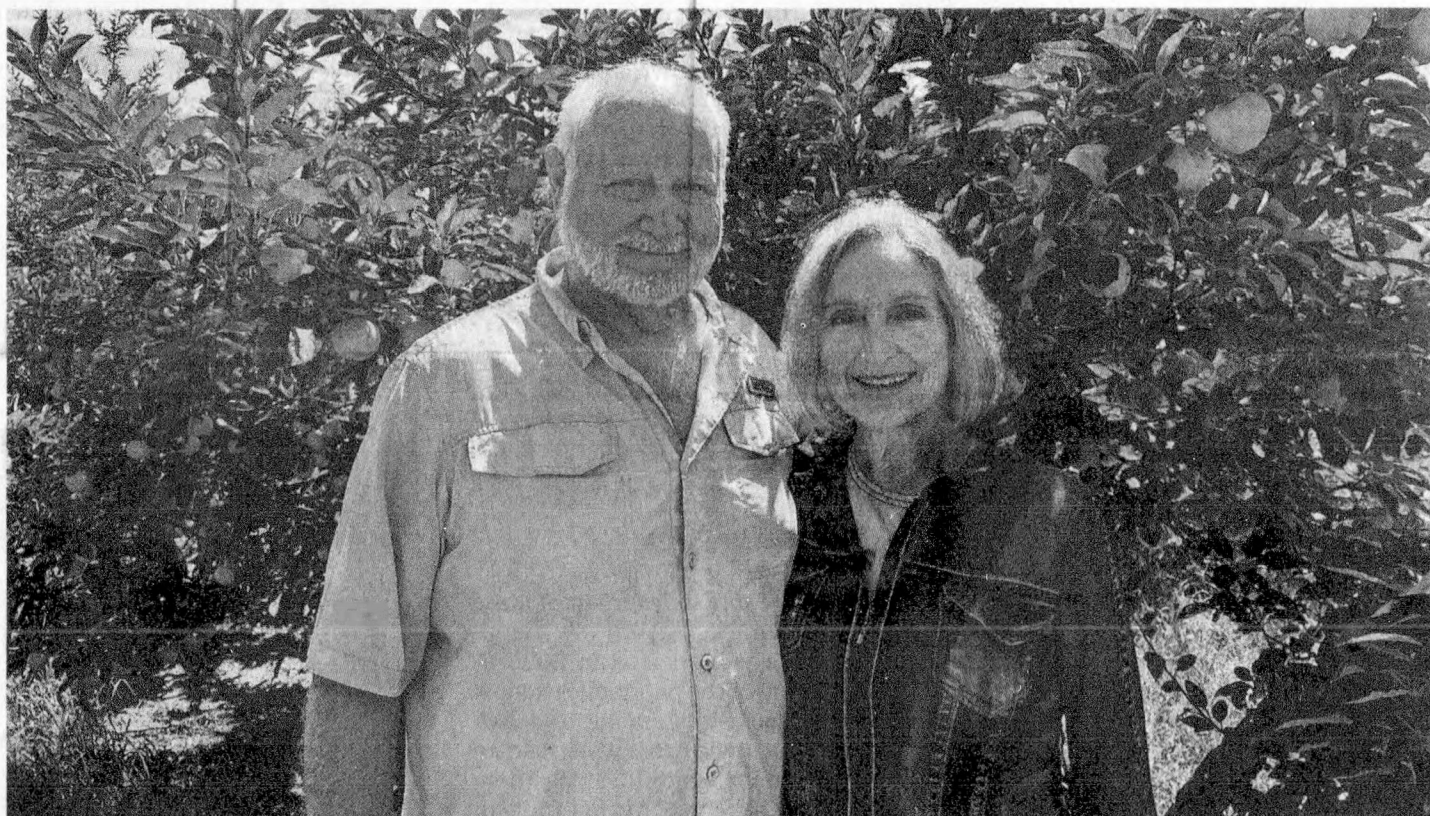
Braxton wears a brace on his left leg because of his own gunshot wound and consequent nerve damage. The young boy played and wandered past his grandmother as she shared more about their loss.

"I know I have to be strong for him," she said, holding on to sweet memories while frustration with Novi police occasionally gets in the way.

Tia Joe was working at Walmart and had been studying to become a certified nursing assistant when she and her son lived with Bennett at Oakland Glens near Novi and 13 Mile roads.

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Apple of their eye



Erwin Orchards owners Bill and Linda Erwin with the last crop of apples grown under their care. The couple, who have owned the orchard for more than 50 years, has now retired. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Erwin Orchards owners share memories as they prepare to say goodbye

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Bill Erwin began farming when he was about 12-years-old, making 50 cents an hour digging up weeds at the orchards owned by his grandfather.

Three days later, James Nelson Erwin fired his grandson.

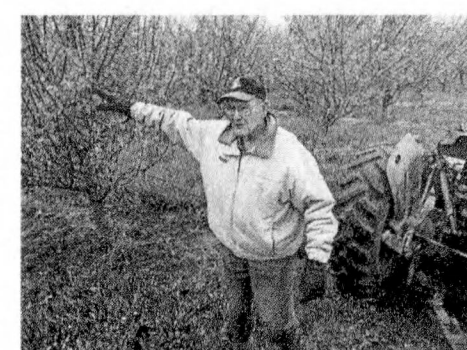
"He said I wasn't worth what I was getting paid," Bill Erwin, now 77, recalls with a wry smile. "He thought I wasn't working hard enough. I told my dad, 'I don't have to work. He fired me, but my dad sent me back to work.

Grandpa didn't fire me after that. Before he died, he changed his mind about keeping me around."

Bill Erwin continued farming for the next 65 years, maintaining with great success the Erwin Orchards legacy begun by his grandfather in 1920, and which Bill has owned with wife Linda for the past 50 years.

"This is a special kind of life," Bill Erwin said. "It's a whole different world, and most people have no idea what goes on. But it's all I know. It's been a great life."

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Edward Erwin at Erwin Orchards in Lyon Township. Edward founded the business in the 1940s with his father and brother. He died in 2019. SUBMITTED

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Self-storage building planned east of downtown Northville

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Some new life could come to a commercial area near downtown Northville.

The Northville Township planning commission is reviewing plans for renovating a building to add a self-storage facility.

The building, located at 807 Doheny St., would see major renovations and the addition of dozens and dozens of individual storage units.

Renovations would take place in the western part of the building formerly occupied by the Jack Doheny Company. The eastern portion — currently occupied by Jim's Oil Depot will remain with an existing lease in place.

"All the changes to the building itself for now will take place west of the oil change," building owner Jon Hutto said. "We don't know what the long term is for Mr. Davis. That's his decision."

Major facelift on the exterior is planned, as well as work inside to convert the building into the storage facility. The building would have about 28,000 square feet for storage units of varying sizes, Hutto said.

The facility would be the latest owned by Hutto, who also is an owner of Country Storage in Lyon Township.

Jennifer Frey, township planner, said the plans, which call for a some additional landscaping to be added to the property, would fit well with a the special land use proposed.

"It's a developed site," she said. "Adding landscaping is going to help introduce some green space back to the site."

The planning commission voted unanimously July 26 for approval of the special land use.



A rendering of what the building could look like after renovations.

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CITY OF NORTHVILLE NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 07-18-22

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Northville City Council has adopted **Ordinance No. 07-18-22**. The ordinance amends Chapter 86 Utilities, Article III Stormwater in the Code of Ordinances. It adopts the Wayne County Stormwater Engineering Design Standards for stormwater management by modifying Sections 86-106 Adoption of county storm water management ordinance, and 86-109 Applicability, and add the following Sections: Sec. 86-122. Maintenance required, Sec. 86-123. Transfer of property, Sec. 86-124. Record drawings and certification, Sec. 86-125. Periodic self-inspections required, Sec. 86-126. Notice, and Sec. 86-127. Additional remedies.

The ordinance was introduced for first reading on July 18, 2022 and was adopted by the City Council on August 1, 2022. The ordinance shall become effective on August 12, 2022. The complete text of the ordinance is available for public inspection at the City of Northville Municipal Building, 215 W Main Street, Northville, MI 48167 and on the City website www.ci.northville.mi.us.

DIANNE MASSA, CMC, MPMC, CITY CLERK

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Tia Joe.

Homicide

Continued from Page 1A

Wanting to be a good mom, Joe brought home a piece of cake and put Braxton in a new outfit to celebrate when he reached 6 months of age.

It wasn't long after when gunshots startled Bennett awake during the early morning hours of April 7.

"He was crying," Bennett said. "I went to the room. I tried to turn on the lights. All the lights were out. The smoke detector was going off."

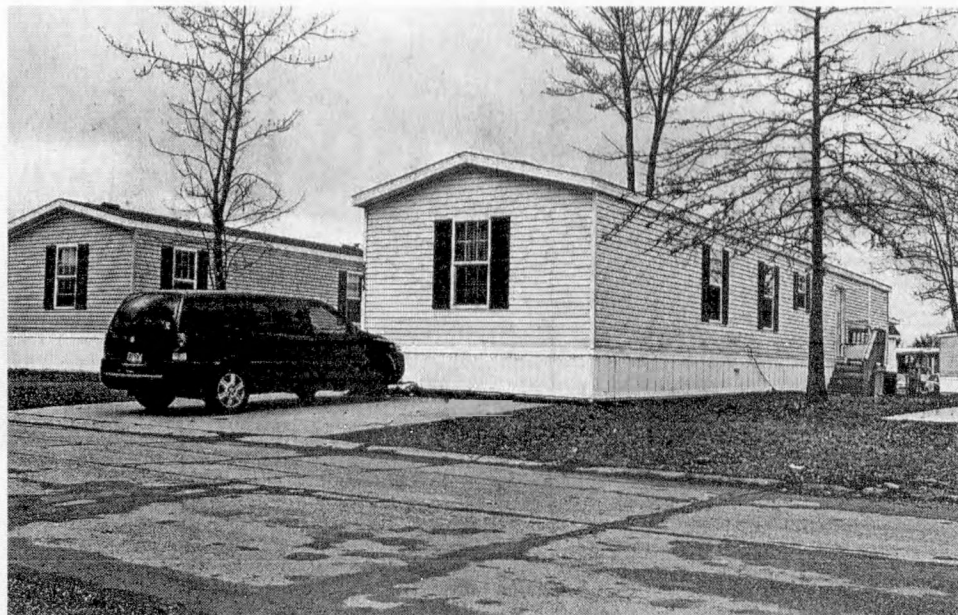
"When they ran out of the house, they knocked the utility pole in the yard down. They shot her in the house."

Neighbors have said they heard screaming and calls for help before first responders arrived and pronounced the pregnant woman dead. Her surviving son would spend nearly three months receiving hospital care.

Tia Joe's older brother would suspect men she had been involved with. Her best friend would be unable to name anyone wanting to harm the woman she had known since middle school.

Three years into the investigation and Novi police detectives still contact the family every few months for an update and to check on Braxton.

"I can share their frustration," Detective Mike Marchetti said. "With it being an open investigation, there's



Novi police found Tia Joe fatally shot inside this Rousseau Drive home in 2019. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

not much more. I can't give you specifics just because it's open and ongoing."

Tabrian Joe misses his little sister. Heck, he even misses their fights and those times she would mess with his mood.

"She was a sweet person. She was a fighter. I mean ... She was everything to us," he said. "It has been three years. Given that it was Novi, it should be a faster process. They should have caught the person by now."

Dajjah Hayes met Tia Joe when they were middle school students attending George Washington Carver Academy in Highland Park.

Tia Joe was the new girl. "She was really, really quiet," Hayes said. "One day, we just started talking. We literally just clicked and we just stayed friends. We had a lot of stuff in common. We did a lot of stuff together."

Their birthdays were a day apart. The girls grew into women, and Hayes said her friend loved being a mom and was striving to be the best mom possible.

Hayes suspects the person who shot Tia Joe knew her and the layout of the manufactured home she shared with her mother and son.

"I never thought it would be unsolved," Hayes said, noting that she saw her friend about a week before the shooting. "She was fine. She was normal. She was upbeat. She was happy."

"She was just so vibrant. She was caring. She was loving. If she could help you, she would help you. She was a sweetheart."

Bennett said her daughter was doing her best to become a great mom. The Detroit high school graduate had prior experience working in the dining room of a Brookdale senior home and had finished CNA coursework to return to such an environment.

Things big and small could make her smile.

Before she died, Tia Joe told her mother she wanted Braxton's first birthday to have a safari theme. Bennett had wanted a LEGO theme, but she honored her daughter's wishes with a "safari" birthday and "a ton of people" at Brookdale.

Braxton turns 4 in September, and his grandmother wants him to have a good day.

"He's my strength," she said. "I tell everybody he's my strength. I know I have to be strong for him."

Crime Stoppers of Michigan is offering up to \$2,500 for information that could help solve Tia Joe's case. Contact Crime Stoppers of Michigan at 1-800-773-2587 or 1-800-SPEAKUP.

According to a flier, "Tia Lanae Joe and her infant son were found shot on Sunday, April 7, 2019, in the city of Novi. They were discovered at 4:10 a.m. in the 29000 block of Rousseau Drive near Carousell Street."

"The homeowner believed an intruder had entered the residence. Tia Joe was deceased and her infant son survived his injuries."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

Streets

Continued from Page 1A

friends that come in from out of state or out of town."

The roads were closed in 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic to allow for better social distancing and add more seating since there were restrictions on indoor seating. Since then, the closures have become hot topic of discussion in the community, with many different opinions on how to move forward with the streets. A survey on the issue completed by thousands was also conducted.

After gathering more information, the council voted 4-1 to permanently continue with the closure of Main Street between Center and Hutton and 3-2 to keep Center Street closed between Main Street and Dunlap.

Worry about lack of use in winter months

Mayor Brian Turnbull, who voted against both resolutions, said he plans to do what he can to support the closures. He said the downtown will most likely stay active through the end of the year, but said the challenge will come in January, February and March to keep the downtown active.

"It will be outstanding throughout the end of the year. There is no question. January, February, March, we will



Main and Center streets will remain closed to cars for good after a recent vote by the Northville City Council. DAVID VESELENAC/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

have to work this extremely hard," he said. "We will now have to work with our business owners to see how we make this work through the winter."

He said it's crucial special events take place to keep the downtown activated, especially during the colder months.

That low activity in the winter was one reason many residents have said they want to street to reopen to cars. One such resident was Teresa Folino, who supported the closures initially but said it was time to allow vehicles to travel the two roads at least part of the year.

"I would like to speak in favor of compromise. I dislike the streets being closed all the time. I think that our community should be open," she said. "I'm not opposed to change but I think it needs to be a compromised change."

Part of that compromise, one local business owner said, should include extending the closures to include other parts of the street. Karry Bazzi, owner of The Lava Grille on Main Street between Center and Wing streets.

She said it would benefit her restaurant and others on the western side of downtown.

"I completely understand why the businesses in the closed area want it closed. I think there needs to be a fair playing field," she said. "If you're going to keep it closed, please consider expanding the closure to include the Lava Grille, the coney island and the Garage or open it back up completely."

Lost road funding with street closures

Some of the new information considered by the city council on the road closures had to do with funding. If the roads remain closed permanently, the city loses Act. 51 dollars for those stretches. That amounts to more than \$3,100 annually.

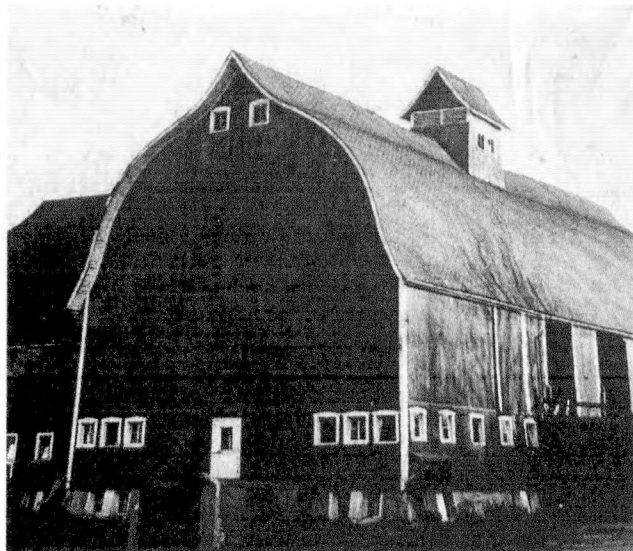
"If the roads are closed, there's less wear and tear on the roads," City Manager Pat Sullivan said. "On the other hand, you're now maintaining roads that you want to make sure pedestrians don't trip on, so there's a little bit of a higher standard of maintenance than just maintaining an open street."

The bigger consequence could be if major repairs are needed: the closures also mean those portions would not be eligible for federal funding for construction, an amount that can encompass as much as 80% of a project.

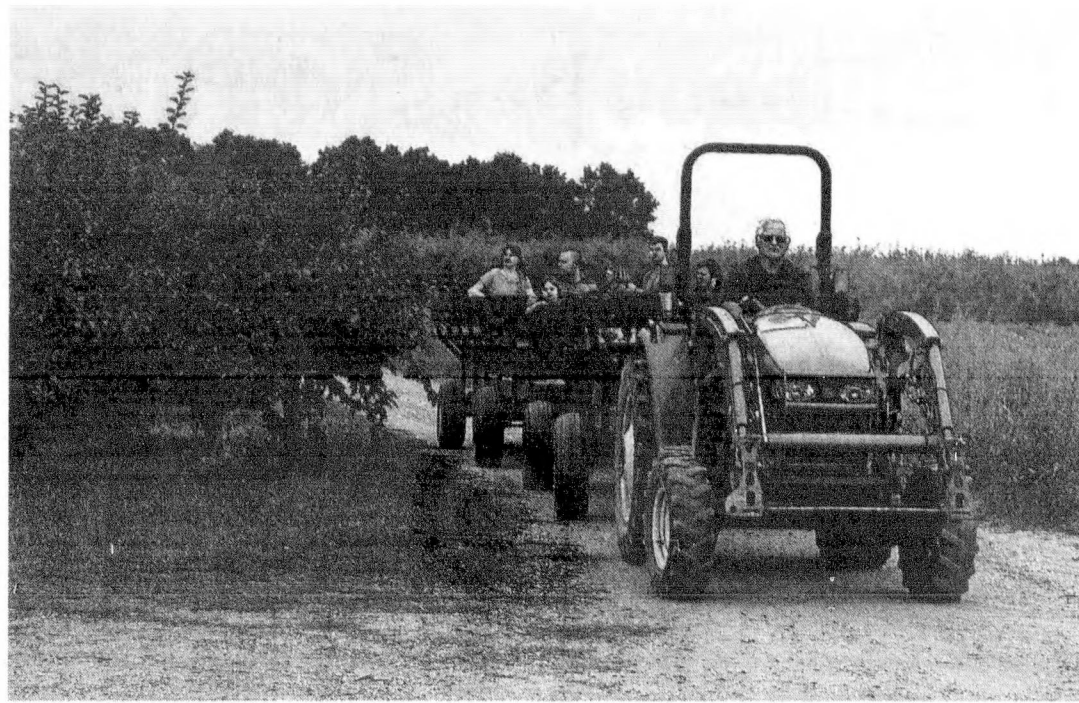
Krenz said the loss of the Act 51 funds is something the city can absorb.

"That's less than the contingency on that epic new printer that we signed up for in June," he said, referencing an agenda item taken up during the June meeting where the street closures were last discussed. "That's (money) that, one way or another, I think we can absorb even if we lose that funding. To me, that's a non-factor."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.



The old barn at Erwin Orchards in Lyon Township stood 109 feet high at its peak and could be seen from the expressway for years. It was razed due to fear of fire that would result in the loss of crops. COURTESY OF BILL AND LINDA ERWIN



Visitors to Erwin Orchards can travel by tractor to get to and from apple trees. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Erwin Orchards owners Bill and Linda Erwin at their home in Lyon Township. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Ericka Kruegel lifts up her daughter Madelyn, 4, so she can pick some ginger gold apples in 2021.

Memories

Continued from Page 1A

Last month, the couple retired, selling their 180-acre farm, a portion of which will be kept as orchards and run by Blake Farms, but keeping a bushel of memories.

"We're retired, and every day is a Saturday," Linda Erwin said on a recent sunny afternoon at the couple's home on Silver Lake Road, across from the orchard they tended for so many years. "We can get up and do whatever we want and don't have to worry about the responsibilities of this place."

But longtime friends and customers know "this place" won't be the same without them.

Erwins as a farming family

Bill Erwin is a fourth generation farmer with his great-grandfather, William Erwin, growing apples in the area. But it was James Nelson Erwin who obtained 160 acres of land at 10 Mile and Novi roads in a tax sale in 1920 and subsequently asked his sons JW (Bill's father) and Edward to join him, adding smaller pieces of land around the area.

The family purchased 350 acres of land in Lyon Township in 1950 and at one point the Erwin family had 650 acres total. However, some parcels were sold off as family members got out of the business until about 180 acres remained at Silver Lake and Kent Lake roads where the orchard is now.

Bill Erwin has fond childhood memories of sledding on those roads and playing hide and seek in a red barn that was 109 feet at the peak and could be seen from the expressway.

That barn was taken down as a preventive measure after an arsonist burned another structure on the property.

Also gone is the house where Bill Erwin grew up and at which he and Linda had their wedding reception.

The pair were both South Lyon High School graduates and met while she was still a 16-year-old student, working at Grimes Market where Bill delivered apples. The two married Nov. 18, 1967.

"We've been through the good and bad and managed to endure," Linda Erwin said with a laugh. "Bill says when you work with your spouse, you double the number of years, because working together is hard."

Farming life is a labor of love

Linda Erwin said it helped that they worked different parts of the farm and didn't have time to clash. She was in retail and started off serving cider and doughnuts that they purchased before putting in their own cider mill. She later initiated a school tour program, at the height of which ushered through 18,000 children in a season.

Meanwhile, Bill Erwin was focused on caring for the trees and growing the apples, a year-long endeavor.

In winter, it was pruning trees every day and cleaning up the wood. When the leaves began to show up on the trees in spring, it was ensuring the trees were free of fungi and insects seven days a week.

When the apples were ready in late summer and early fall, they would start picking at 7 a.m. and quit at 7 p.m., sorting the apples by good, bad and size.

Variety is the spice

The apple varieties, the size of the trees, the way they are harvested, the technology and treatments have all changed dramatically through the years.

Bill Erwin said in the early days of the orchard his grandfather grew Wagner, Winesap, Steel Red, Portland and Snow apples.

McIntosh was a mainstay, but when the Erwins began planting their own trees, they added Red Delicious and Golden Delicious. Every year, they planted a few more trees.

"My uncle used to say, 'If you aren't planting trees, you're dying,'" Bill Erwin recalled. "We replaced varieties when they weren't as popular. ...

"A tree will last as long as you want it to, but that's only as long as people are interested in that variety."

Honeycrisp is one of the favorites now. McIntosh has always been favored for pies, but Northern Spy also gained in popularity as that is what Linda Erwin preferred to use.

"We made hundreds every year," she said. "Nobody knew what Northern Spy was, but we coined 'Spies for pies' and it became one of the most popular apples."

The Erwins eventually began planting smaller "dwarf" trees to replace the 20-30-foot tall apple trees, enabling "U-pick," which started on land they farmed in New Hudson.

"Carrying a 24-foot ladder around all day was no fun," Bill Erwin said. Smaller trees and u-pick meant less time for employees to pick, less time to prune the trees, less time to spray them.

Changes through the seasons

When they began farming, the yield was 30-40 bushels of apples from a single tree, with 135 trees to an acre. At one point, he adds, there were 55,000 apple trees in Erwin Orchards. Now there is closer to 40,000.

For the past 25-30 years, Bill Erwin has used integrated pest management, which is defined by the USDA as "a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks."

One of these tools is to emit scents that confuse male and female insects, preventing them from finding each other.

Mother Nature can't always be fooled, though — weather is the ultimate boss and in no year was that more evident than in 2012. That April, the entire apple crop was lost in 22-degree weather following an early budding from unseasonably warm March temperatures (80 degrees).

The Erwins had a foreboding of the coming loss that March when vacationing with friends in China and learned that temperatures in Michigan were 80 degrees.

"We knew we were in trouble," Bill Erwin said, recalling they would find a single apple that had survived.

Besides the weather, finding labor was always a challenge. At one point, the orchard had more than 100 employees, many of them seasonal laborers from Mexico.

U-pick was a game changer for the Erwins in the early '80s. Although it cost more for start-up in buying the smaller trees, the costs were recouped quickly.

Thanks for the memories

For the past decade or more, the Erwins have welcomed about 250,000 visitors per year at the orchards and cider mill, and they never fail to be amazed by the generosity and love they've been shown. Their orchards have been the location of wedding proposals and the nuptials themselves, as well as annual family fall pilgrimages spanning multiple generations.

Visitors have made the trek from as far as Australia just to get their fall fruit, and of course, the cider and doughnuts.

Linda Erwin admits that when they opened the cider mill in 1997, they didn't know what they were doing. It seems they figured it out rather quickly. Erwin Orchards won best cider in the state for four consecutive years, 1999-2002, thanks to their master cider maker, William Emery, who would end up working for them a total of 45 years.

"He just knew the taste people would like, and he started playing with the variety," Linda Erwin said. "People love the different ciders and he would freeze them in October or September and then produce and choose."

And of course, they loved the doughnuts, the exact recipe of which will remain confidential.

"We would have to kill you if we told you," Linda Erwin said with a laugh when asked for the secret of delicious doughnuts. "The recipe is going to stay with us, not because we wouldn't share it, but because not everyone wants to make pumpkin. We do wish the Blakes the best."

Still, she gives some clues for home bakers — the flour comes from Barrett's Doughnut mixes, but some special ingredients are added in.

What does their next season of life hold?

Linda Erwin is looking forward to more travels with their daughter, and she and Bill expect more visits to California to see their only child. She also plans to write a children's book about the orchard, in which she will feature their dog Harley, a Coton de Tulear.

As for Bill Erwin, he maintains once a farmer, always a farmer. He wants to travel to other orchards and spend time among the trees, perhaps revisiting a favorite pastime when he would pause among the work and take a moment for gratitude.

"Sometimes in spring or summer, I would take a blanket out there in the orchard and lay down and look up and say, 'The Lord has done a nice job.'"

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



MICHIGAN PRIMARY

Which millages passed Tuesday?

Sophia Lada Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK

Green Oak Charter Township has the green light to construct a new headquarters for its fire department and purchase a fire truck, following the approval of a bond proposal Tuesday.

The Green Oak Charter Township won approval of a \$12.5-million bond to fund construction of a new station. The proposal passed, 3,451-1,693.

Tracy Chamberlain, the deputy chief of the Green Oak Charter Township Fire Department, said they're hoping to start building this winter.

"We're appreciative of the community support and we're excited to get the project started," he said.

The current fire station was built in 1992. Chamberlain said staffing has increased since then and they need more space.

The proposed facility will be 18,500 square feet, with more room for staff quarters and a large training room.

The bond also covers the cost of a new ladder truck.

The bond will be paid off over 20 years with an estimated millage of 0.5905 mills in the first year.

The new station will be built behind the current station at 9384 Whitmore Lake Road.

Other millages that passed include:

- A road millage renewal for Cohocah Township for 2023 to 2026. The millage is for 1.5 mills and will provide dust control, improvements and maintenance of roads. The levy will raise about \$167,908 in its first year. It passed 625-220.

- The Cromaine District Library has proposed a millage renewal that would not exceed 1.4313 mills for 10 years, from 2023 to 2032. It will raise about \$2.2 million in the first year. It passed 4,595-2,648.

- Fowlerville had a mosquito control program millage proposal of up to 0.75 mill. In its first year, the millage will raise about \$45,000. It passed, 371-94.

- Fowlerville Community Schools asked district residents to approve a Headlee Amendment tax override to restore the district's operating millage to the full 18 mills. In addition, the district asked for the millage to be increased an additional 0.6682 of a mill. The additional millage will be levied if the Headlee Amendment reduces the operating millage and allows the district to maintain the full 18 mills. The millage will raise about \$3 million. It passed, 1,950-1,494.

- A millage proposal for the Hamburg Township library for 2022 to 2029 will raise about \$1 million in its first year. The

levy is 0.90 mill, which is an increase of 0.1386 mill from the recently expired tax. It passed, 3,711-2,510.

- Howell Township had a road millage renewal proposal for 0.9019 mill. The millage will go toward improvement and maintenance of roads, starting Jan. 1, 2023, and ending Dec. 31, 2026. The levy will raise about \$243,287 in the first year. It passed, 1,202-516.

- The Howell Area Fire Authority sought an increase from the current 1.5 mills. The new request was for 2 mills for eight years, starting in 2023. The millage will raise \$4.3 million in the first year. It passed, 8,053-3,030.

- Putnam Township had a fire department millage proposal to increase the current levy by 0.25 mill. The increase will make the millage 1.8959 mills for six years, 2023 to 2028, to fund operating and equipping the department. The levy will raise about \$809,000 in its first year. It passed, 1,363-937.

One millage did not pass.

Dexter Community Schools asked for a recreation millage for 20 years, from 2022 to 2041, for up to 1 mill. The levy would have raised \$1.4 million in the first year. It failed, 4,696-3,352.

South Lyon voters pass \$18.4M bond to fix roads

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A majority of South Lyon voters agreed the roads need to be repaired in the city and they are willing to pay for it.

An \$18.4 million bond proposal on Tuesday's ballot passed with 1,535 yes votes to 1,121 no votes.

The estimated millage to be levied next year is 1.9946 mills and the simple average annual millage rate to retire the bonds over the next 10 years is 4.0894 mills.

The council has grappled with a road improvement plan the past few years. The total estimated cost of fixing all of the roads in the city exceeds \$40 million and is continually increasing.

About two years ago, a PASER study found that the condition of 97% of the city's roads were rated poor or very poor.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

Milford OKs 2-mill increase for fire department, raises for council

Susan Bromley and Susan Vela
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Milford will be getting a full-time fire-fighting staff after voters approved a 2-mill increase for the fire department.

The measure won by a comfortable margin with 2,822 yes votes to 2,114 no votes.

Among the yes votes was Nancy Fanfair.

"When you come down to it, how much more are you actually paying to support the fire department?" she

asked. "It's like - what? - a nice dinner out. It's not that much, and if it's to help support our community, it's kind of a no brainer."

"You definitely don't want to be living in an area where the houses burn down, and nobody could have helped them."

The 3.25 millage for 10 years will fund 12 new full-time firefighters, as well as all other needs for the department, including expensive equipment such as custom-made fire trucks to replace aging engines.

Fire Chief Tom Moore had sought the increase after struggling for years to

keep a paid on-call firefighting staff with consistent responses to emergencies.

Stephen LaFave, who has lived most of his life in the Milford area, voted no.

"We keep adding more and more taxes, (and) it's hurting the little people," LaFave, 28, said. "That's why I voted no. Some people just can't afford that."

"I'm proud that people come and vote for these local elections. (But) I definitely think people need to think about what will be affected and who will be affected by whatever they vote on."

Besides the fire millage, Village of

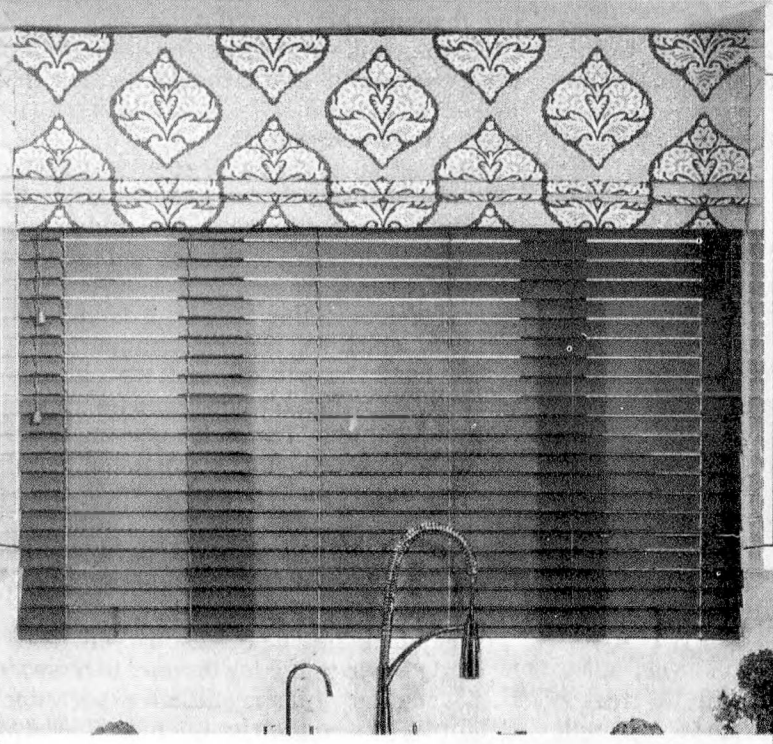
Milford voters also approved, although by a slimmer margin, a measure to amend the village charter which increases council member's pay from \$7.50 per meeting to \$50 per meeting. The council had never received a pay increase. Total pay per council member will be capped at \$1,500 per year.

The proposal passed with 1,084 yes votes to 952 no votes.

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

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Lyon Twp. may ask voters to double fire millage

Susan Bromley [hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lyon Township voters may see a millage request for the fire department on the November ballot.

The millage under consideration, which first came before the township board just last week, is for 3 mills. It would replace the 1.58 mills voters approved in 2014 and which expires in two years.

Fire Chief Ken Van Sparrentak cited tremendous residential and commercial growth in requesting a millage that is nearly double the existing one.

"We're looking at an increase in the millage to focus on staffing and aging buildings and consideration of future growth," he said, adding that the township is considering a third station and possibly even a fourth which would also need equipment and personnel.

Some board members had expressed surprise at see the fire millage resolu-

tion on the board's Aug. 3 agenda.

Despite increasing scrutiny on the fire department's needs, including possible locations for new fire stations for quicker response times discussed last month, and the decision to hire full-time firefighting staff three years ago, the millage request was a new, sudden discussion.

"This literally came in front of us two days ago," Trustee Kristofer Enlow said. "This would be the largest tax increase we would be asking residents to approve. We've had two days and a work session. To me, it's an extreme time crunch. This is a huge decision and obviously, this board has always supported you. I don't want to screw you over, I want it funded and done, but it's tough to figure this out."

Supervisor John Dolan said the township needs a higher millage to run the fire department, but didn't know how much. He noted there had been a lot of conversation on building a third

station and he was unsure how they could staff it without additional funds.

"We have to get an operating millage passed before we build a third station, we're still having trouble manning the stations we have," Dolan said.

Treasurer Patty Carcone said getting the millage on the ballot now is important for several reasons.

"They are not going to have enough money for the next two years," she said, adding that the measure should be on the gubernatorial or presidential ballot to get the best turnout.

There is no general election next year and to hold a special election would cost the township roughly \$60,000. Carcone noted that waiting until 2024 would put the fire millage on the same ballot as a police millage for the township that will be over 3 mills.

"Forgo this and we go to the 11th hour in November 2024," she said. "If they don't get it passed then, there's no money coming in. Zero."

Trustee Sean O'Neil observed that when the 2014 millage passed, the township wasn't doing what it is now with adding full-time fire staff.

"It's no secret it costs more money," he said. "We don't have enough revenue coming in. If it goes on the ballot, that tells us what (voters) want. What is the number? I don't want to ask for more than we need, but what we need."

Van Sparrentak agreed that more discussion should occur and that officials did have "a window."

That window is quickly closing for this year's ballot. The board will meet at 5 p.m., Aug. 11 to discuss the fire millage proposal.

The deadline for submitting the ballot language is August 16. If it is approved, it will join a Lyon Township Library millage request on the November ballot.

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

Roundabout construction will shut down intersection for 3 months

Jennifer Eberbach [livingstondaily.com](mailto:jeb@livingstondaily.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A busy intersection in Green Oak Township near U.S. 23 closed to traffic for more than three months beginning Aug. 8.

Construction of a single-lane roundabout was set to begin at the intersection of Rickett and Winans Lake roads, located south of Brighton near the Legacy Center Sports Complex.

Livingston County Road Commission Managing Director Steve Wasyk told Livingston Daily that all traffic, including emergency vehicles, will have to detour around the construction.

Posted detours will shift traffic to Whitmore Lake, Maltby and Hamburg roads.

Winans Lake and Rickett roads will remain open to local traffic, but will completely close at the intersection.

The roundabout will be completed about Nov. 15, according to a road commission advisory.

The intersection currently has a stop sign on Rickett Road; traffic on Winans Lake Road doesn't stop.

Members of the Road Commission Board of Directors approved a bid from Battle Creek-based Hoffman Bros Inc. for more than \$1.65 million.

The project will be funded by a 50/50 split between Green Oak Township and the road commission.

Green Oak Township Supervisor Mark St. Charles said the township has a road improvement agreement with several developers in the area to share part of the township's portion of the cost.

St. Charles said invoices will be sent to each party in the agreement.

He said the township has already committed \$250,000.

"That will leave us approximately \$100,000 short, which I will be asking the board to make it up possibly out of (American Rescue Plan Act) funds," he wrote Livingston Daily in an email Aug. 1.

Avoid traffic citations

Several years ago, the Livingston County Sheriff's Office reported dozens of motorists ignored an intersection closure at Chilson and Coon Lake roads in Genoa Township, where a roundabout was constructed.

Some motorists were cited for driving through that construction zone, risking damage to their own vehicles and the construction zone itself.

"It's a closed construction zone, and it's closed for a reason," Wasyk said. "You could damage your vehicle or damage what has been constructed, and it would need to be redone, if you went through fresh concrete, for example."

He said the road commission sometimes has to call on the sheriff's office for special traffic enforcement around construction zones.

About 11,560 vehicles use Winans Lake Road daily, and about 4,590 travel on Rickett Road, according to the road commission.

Traffic, residential development increasing

"It was always planned for a roundabout at that intersection once the traffic delay warranted," Wasyk said.

He said residential growth in the area has contributed to more motorists.

Representatives of Shelby Township-based Lombardo Homes recently revived plans for a 579-unit residential development on the north and south sides of Winans Lake Road.

Green Oak Township Planning Commission members voted last month in favor of the development. The township board is expected to review plans at a future board meeting.

Wasyk said the original plan was to construct the roundabout next year.

The project got pushed up because of the Michigan Department of Transportation's upcoming extension of the U.S. 23 Flex Route from south of M-36 to Interstate 96, which is set to begin earlier than MDOT originally planned.





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Chemical spill sets off alarms for Huron River

Keith Matheny Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

State officials are urging the public to avoid all contact with Huron River water in a stretch of the river in Oakland and Livingston counties, after learning of a company's release of potentially harmful hexavalent chromium into the Wixom sewer treatment system that outflows into the river.

The Michigan departments of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy and Health and Human Services recommended Tuesday afternoon that until further notice, people and pets avoid contact with Huron River water in an area from North Wixom Road in Oakland County to Kensington Road in Livingston County. In Oakland County this includes Norton Creek downstream of the Wixom Wastewater Treatment Plant and Hubbell Pond, also known as Mill Pond. The potentially affected area also includes Kent Lake in Oakland and Livingston counties.

For the described area, residents and their pets are encouraged to avoid drinking water directly from the Huron River; swimming or wading in the river; watering plants or lawns with Huron River water, or eating fish caught in this section of the river. A "do not eat the fish" advisory was already in place for this area because of contamination with the nonstick chemical PFOS.

Chemical released, hexavalent chromium, is a known carcinogen

Tribar Manufacturing, an automotive trim manufacturer in Wixom, informed state officials Monday afternoon that it had released several thousand gallons of a liquid containing 5% hexavalent chromium into the sewer system. Company officials said they discovered the release Monday but indicated it may have started as early as Saturday morning, according to Wixom city officials. It is believed that much of the contaminant already made its way through the Wixom treatment plant by the time the release was discovered.

"This is a significant release into a large, much-loved waterway," said EGLE Director Liesl Clark in a statement. "Our



Officials are urging the public to avoid all contact with Huron River water in a stretch of the river in Oakland and Livingston counties after learning a company had released a potentially harmful chemical into the Wixom sewer treatment system.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

teams are in the field now assessing the situation. We will stay on the job as long as it takes to ensure residents are safe and impacts to the ecosystem are minimized."

Hexavalent chromium is a known carcinogen that can cause a number of adverse health effects through ingestion, skin contact or inhalation. OSHA's website says "chromium metal is added to alloy steel to increase hardenability and corrosion resistance."

Kensington Metropark closes lake

Staff at Kensington Metropark east of Brighton directed beachgoers out of the waters of Kent Lake on Tuesday afternoon and closed boat launches upon learning of the spill from an EGLE news release. Beaches and water access points will remain closed until further notice out of an abundance of caution, park officials stated on the Metropark's website.

"We are disappointed that this announcement did not come sooner and directly from state agencies, and Metro-parks will continue to monitor the situation and seek clarification from those agencies," park officials stated.

EGLE was taking river water samples Tuesday from multiple areas downstream from the treatment plant and was working with local and state health officials to assess the extent of the contamination. Testing is also taking place within the Tribar facility and the Wixom wastewater treatment plant. Monitoring will continue in coming days and weeks.

Results from sampling may take days to receive, officials said.

No threat seen to drinking water

The state advisory "is being made to help protect the health and safety of families who live, work and play in the Huron River in the affected area," said

MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. "As we gather additional information through sampling, this recommendation may change or be expanded."

Officials stressed that they saw no immediate threat to drinking water. The closest drinking water intake is in Ann Arbor. Time-of-travel modeling indicates it would take the contaminant at least several weeks to make its way to the city's water intakes.

The city has been notified of the release and is also taking steps to monitor incoming water.

Tribar Manufacturing was identified as the source of PFAS contamination to the river system in recent years, and installed additional filtration to help address that problem.

State regulators said they will investigate the circumstances of the weekend release at the facility, but stressed that the immediate concern is ensuring the protection of the environment and public health.

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

Australian Open	Eureka Tower	Merri
Bars	Gatum	Metropolitan
Bass	Genoa	Reservoir
Bays	Graffiti	Richmond
Bell	Greta	Rosanna
Box Hill	Hesse	Rye
Bulleen	Kew	Skye
Cold	Kooyong	South
Cool	Lakes	Sprawl
Cup	Lara	Sunshine
Dallas	Lurg	The Age
Elsternwick	Macleod	
Epping	Melton	

TODAY'S ANSWER

Some quirky locations

Trip around Melbourne

METROPOLITANSOE
WEKBARSSALLADMS
GIRREMSOUTHOEQS
ENGRETALLIHXOBE
NUOEYRBULLEENCH
OISYABREKGNIPPE
ANEPONAILARTSUA
MACLEODYLLEYKSE
SUEUREKATOWEROG
PECANOTLEMTAG
LTKITIFFARGRULE
ALWARPSUNSHINEH
RIOELSTERNWICKT
ARICHMONDDLOCNS
RESERVOIROSANNA

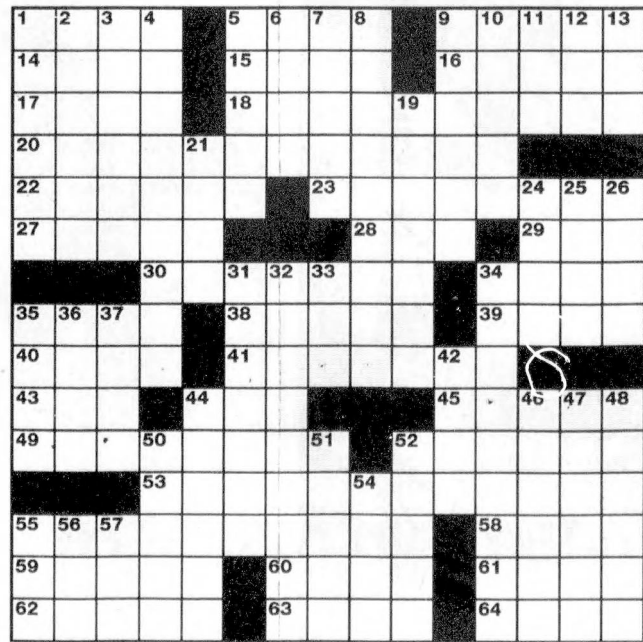
NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Programs that *Forbes* ranks
5 Cuts off
9 Force out
14 Settled down
15 Verb used in codes
16 Product of forging
17 "Beauty is neither an appearance nor being": Sartre
18 What Germans call *Weissburgunder*
20 French president's term
22 Gone now
23 Sushi bar array
27 Far from the usual
28 Common contents of bookcases
29 Boston-born literary lion
30 Hershiser in '88, Pujols in '04
34 "Honorable" acronym added by Merriam-Webster in 2019
35 Snail cousin
38 Medal of Freedom recipient
39 Keeps going, and going, and going
40 Marking on some mugs
41 "Father" to "pere," per Wikipedia
43 Further
44 Charades category
45 Celebratory writer
49 Certain stay-at-home spouse

DOWN

- 2 One wearing a "horsy" helmet
3 Kona Snorkel
4 Tour participant
5 In a sorry state
6 Fair pair
7 In which *aroha* means "love"
8 Stood
9 Its Toffee Crunch was launched last January
10 Cop op
11 Speed or spree
12 Spins, for short
13 Board for a trip
14 Berry Cookie
15 Cups ingredient
16 Project
17 projection
18 Know how
19 Special handling
20 America's #4 most-consumed seafood
21 "travail" ("Too much work!": Fr.)
22 Louise Suggs
23 Rookie of the Year awardee
24 Observation invitation
25 Gets fixed
26 Loud buzzers
27 Weather-related anagram of STORM + GALE
28 "City" stat
29 One concerned with your points of view
30 Word in the etymology of "checkmate"
31 Automotive advice columnist
32 BBC Asian Network language
33 Battery, for example
34 #1 vote getter for MLB's All-Century Team
35 "Psst!" follower
36 One of four in *Romeo and Juliet*
37 Museum pieces
38 Renounced, with "off"
39 Pioneer of realistic fiction
40 Paper recycling machinery
41 DC's CBS station
42 B&B facilities
43 Take sides, say
44 Yours truly



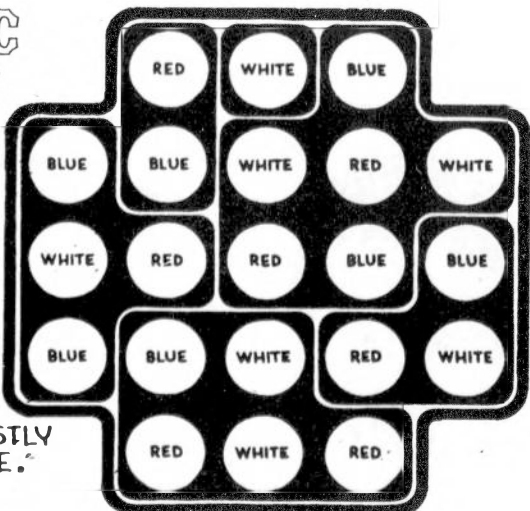
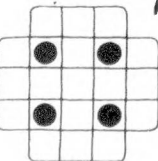
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PUZZLES & POSERS

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REARRANGE THE SIX PUZZLE PIECES TO FORM THREE DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS. FOR EACH SOLUTION CREATE A COLOR SQUARE, ILLUSTRATED BELOW, WHICH IS

ALL RED, ALL WHITE AND LASTLY ALL BLUE.



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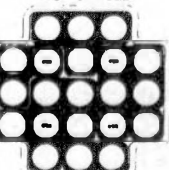
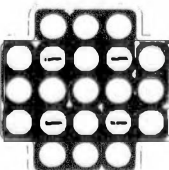
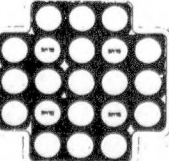
Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) RATING: BRONZE

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

TODAY'S ANSWER



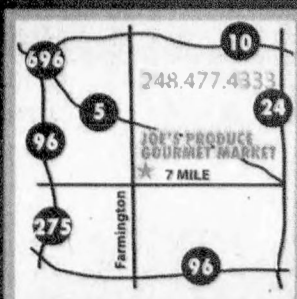


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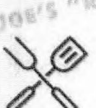
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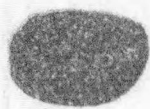


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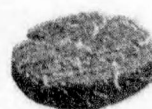
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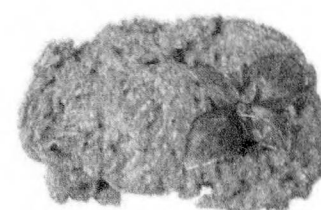
USDA PREMIUM CHOICE ANGUS NEW YORK STRIP STEAK

\$13.99/LB.



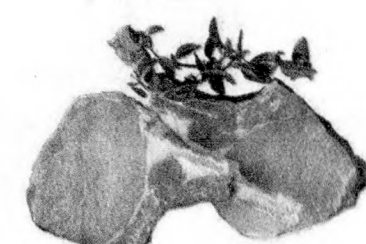
USDA PREMIUM CHOICE ANGUS PEELED TRI-TIP

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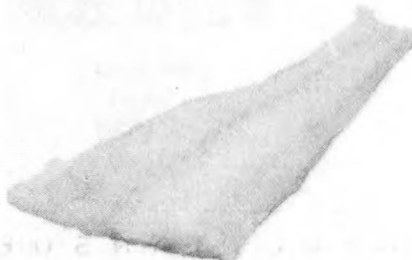
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Seafood



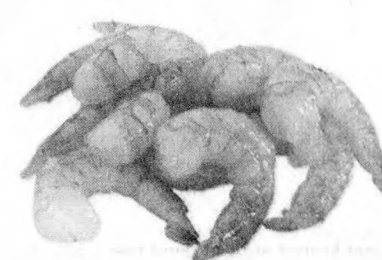
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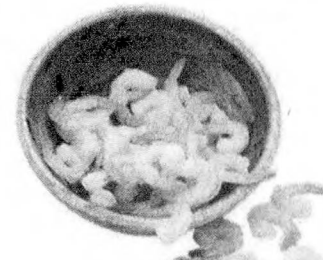
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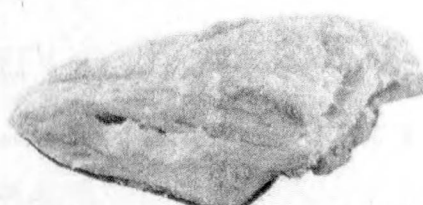
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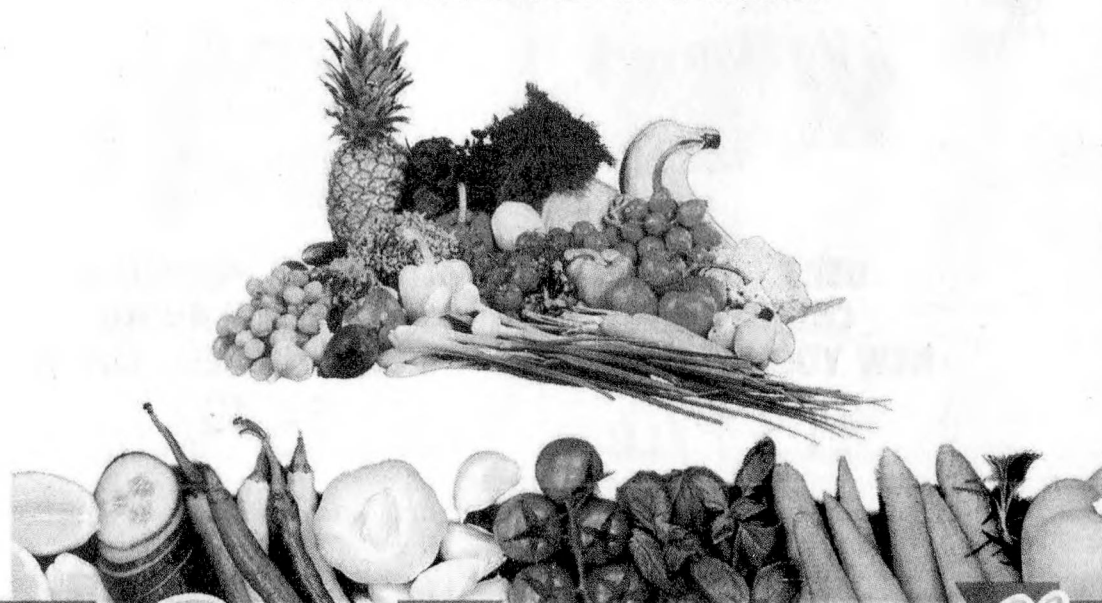
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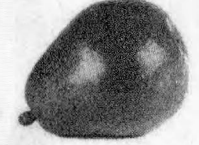
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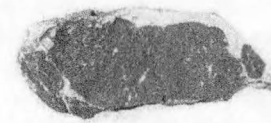


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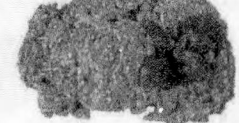
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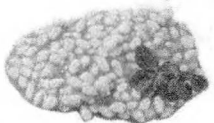


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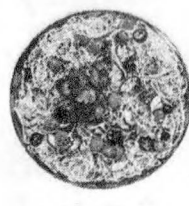
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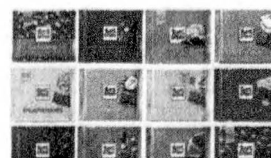


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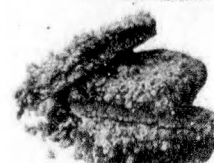
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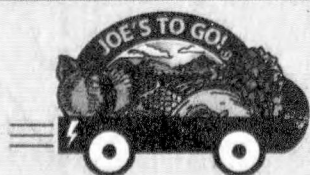
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SPORTS



Hartland's Benathan Deman brings down Novi quarterback Luke Aurilia last season. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Five predictions about KLAA football season

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

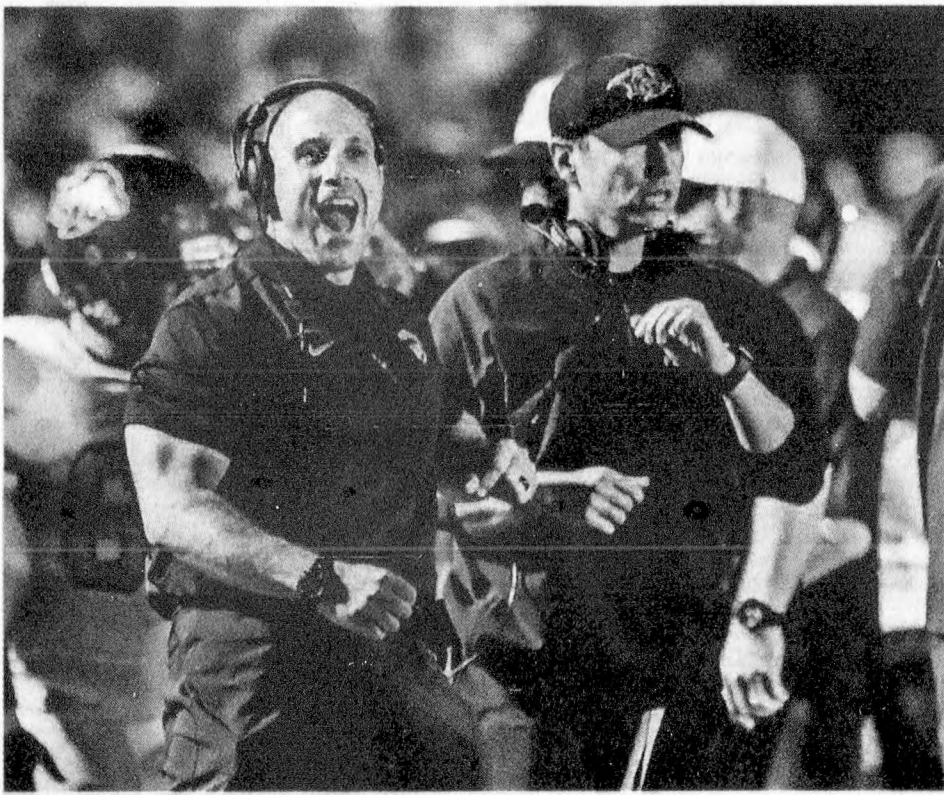
With high school football teams returning to practice this week, here are five bold predictions about the upcoming Kensington Lakes Activities Association season:

Novi will take a step toward winning the KLAA championship

You must've been blind if you didn't see success coming for the Wildcats in 2021 after the school announced it had hired Jim Sparks as its new coach.

Under Sparks' leadership for 19 years, Clawson punched well above its weight and was a consistent playoff qualifier as one of the smallest schools in the Macomb Area Conference. And don't let his wins in the Bronze, the worst division of the MAC, fool you. The Trojans always scheduled hard non-league games. Anyone crazy enough to schedule Marine City on an annual basis definitely wants to improve as a program.

See KLAA, Page 3B



Plymouth football coach Greg Souldourian on the sidelines at a game in 2019. COURTESY OF MICHAEL VASILNEK

Hartland national champion wants more for women's wrestling

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If Eliana Bommarito was a male wrestler, she would be heading to Iowa, Michigan, Ohio State, Oklahoma State, Penn State or some other national powerhouse.

Those are expected destinations for a two-time national champion and four-

time state champ.

But as a female heavyweight wrestler, options are limited for the 2022 Hartland High School graduate.

She will be taking her considerable talents to Indian Hills Community College in Iowa because there isn't a place for female heavyweight wrestlers at the NCAA or NAIA level.

Bommarito recently won the 225-

pound junior (18-and-under) national championship in Fargo, N.D., for the second time, doing so in her typical dominant fashion.

She used the platform to advocate for a 235-pound weight class, holding her award in one hand and a sign that read "Add 235 wt. class, #GrowWomen'sWrestling" in the other. Currently, the heaviest weight class is 191 at four-year

schools and 235 for junior colleges.

Her desire to see a heavier weight class in college isn't entirely selfish.

"I feel it for other people who are coming in to wrestle," said Bommarito, who is ranked seventh nationally pound for pound by USA Wrestling. "I can imagine some of the friends I have in the

MHSAA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

All games kick off at 7 p.m. unless individually noted otherwise.

Week 1 Thursday, Aug. 25

Catholic League

Clinton Twp. Chippewa Valley at Detroit Catholic Central
Brother Rice at Macomb Dakota (Wayne State University), 4 p.m.
Cranbrook at Livonia Clarenceville

Independent

Cranbrook at Livonia Clarenceville
Detroit Country Day at Detroit Loyola (Warren Fitzgerald)

Kensington Lakes Activities Association

Northville at Wayne Memorial
Salem at Dearborn
Howell at Livonia Stevenson
Hartland at Westland John Glenn

Lakes Valley Conference

Walled Lake Western at South Lyon (LVC)
South Lyon East at Walled Lake Northern (LVC)
Milford at New Boston Huron
White Lake Lakeland at Waterford Kettering (LVC)

Oakland Activities Association

Bloomfield Hills at Birmingham Seaholm
Birmingham Groves at North Farmington

Ypsilanti Lincoln at Farmington
Western Wayne Athletic Conference
North Branch at Redford Thurston
Linden at Garden City

Friday, Aug. 26

Kensington Lakes Activities Association

Novi at Belleville (Wayne State University)
Canton at Livonia Franklin
Plymouth at Livonia Churchill (University of Michigan), 12 p.m.

Michigan Independent Athletic Conference

New Haven at Lutheran Westland
Western Wayne Athletic Conference
Redford Union at Pewamo-Westphalia

Week 2 Thursday, Sept. 1

Catholic League

Detroit Catholic Central at Davison
Dearborn Divine Child at Cranbrook, 5 p.m.

Independent

Parma Western at Detroit Country Day
Livonia Clarenceville at Dundee

Kensington Lakes Activities Association

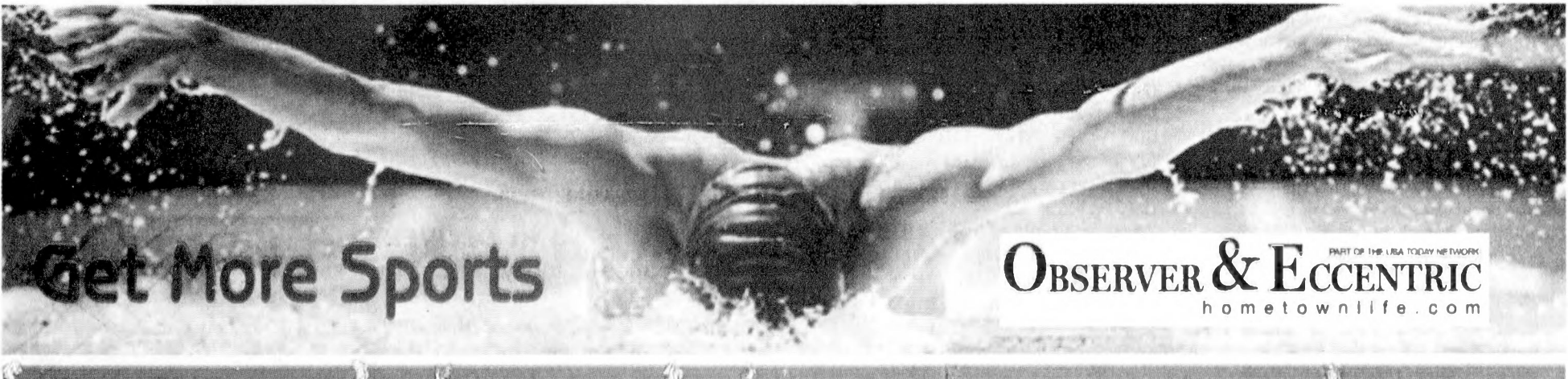
Hartland at Novi (KLAA-West)
Northville at Plymouth (KLAA-West)
Howell at Canton (KLAA-West)
Salem at Brighton (KLAA-West)
Westland John Glenn at Livonia Churchill (KLAA-East)

Livonia Franklin at Wayne Memorial (KLAA-East)
Dearborn Fordson at Livonia Stevenson (KLAA-East)

Lakes Valley Conference

Milford at South Lyon (LVC)
Waterford Kettering at South Lyon East (LVC)

See MHSAA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE, Page 2B



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MHSAA FOOTBALL
SCHEDULE

Continued from Page 1B

Walled Lake Central at White Lake Lake-land (LVC)
Michigan Independent Athletic Conference
University Liggett at Lutheran Westland
Oakland Activities Association
Bloomfield Hills at Rochester Hills Ston-ey Creek
Detroit U-D Jesuit at Birmingham Sea-holm
Farmington at Royal Oak
Western Wayne Athletic Conference
Melvindale at Redford Thurston (WWAC)
Garden City at Romulus (WWAC)

Friday, Sept. 2

Catholic League
Brother Rice at East Kentwood, 6 p.m.
Oakland Activities Association
Birmingham Groves at Oxford
Caledonia at North Farmington
Western Wayne Athletic Conference
Redford Union at Dearborn Heights
Crestwood (WWAC)

Week 3

Friday, Sept. 9

Catholic League
Detroit Catholic Central vs. DeWitt
Brother Rice at Brownstown Wood-haven
Cranbrook at Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes
Independent
Warren Michigan Collegiate at Detroit Country Day
Kalamazoo Loy Norrix at Livonia Clarenceville
Kensington Lakes Activities Associa-tion
Salem at Novi (KLAA-West)
Howell at Northville (KLAA-West)
Canton at Plymouth (KLAA-West)
Livonia Churchill at Belleville (KLAA-East)
Dearborn at Livonia Franklin (KLAA-East)
Livonia Stevenson at Westland John Glenn (KLAA-East)
Wayne Memorial at Dearborn Fordson (KLAA-East)
Lakes Valley Conference
South Lyon at Walled Lake Central (LVC)
Waterford Mott at South Lyon East (LVC)
Walled Lake Northern at Milford (LVC)
Walled Lake Western at White Lake Lakeland (LVC)
Michigan Independent Athletic Confer-ence
Lutheran Westland at Rochester Hills
Lutheran Northwest (MIAC)
Oakland Activities Association
Rochester at Bloomfield Hills (OAA-White)
Birmingham Groves at Oak Park (OAA-White), 6 p.m.
Auburn Hills Avondale at Birmingham Seaholm
Farmington at Troy Athens (OAA-Blue)
Troy at North Farmington (OAA-Blue)
Western Wayne Athletic Conference
Dearborn Heights Crestwood at Red-ford Thurston (WWAC)
Dearborn Heights Annapolis at Redford Union (WWAC)
Melvindale at Garden City (WWAC)

Week 4

Friday, Sept. 16

Catholic League
Detroit Catholic Central at Detroit U-D Jesuit
Brother Rice at Warren De La Salle (CHSL-Central) (Wayne State)
Independent
South Lyon at Detroit Country Day
Livonia Clarenceville at Macomb Luther-an North
Kensington Lakes Activities Associa-tion
Novi at Brighton (KLAA-West)
Northville at Canton (KLAA-West)
Plymouth at Howell (KLAA-West)
Hartland at Salem (KLAA-West)
Livonia Churchill at Livonia Franklin (KLAA-East)
Livonia Stevenson at Dearborn (KLAA-East)
Wayne Memorial at Belleville (KLAA-East)
Westland John Glenn at Dearborn Ford-son (KLAA-East)
Lakes Valley Conference
South Lyon at Detroit Country Day
South Lyon East at Walled Lake Western (LVC)
Milford at Walled Lake Central (LVC)
White Lake Lakeland at Waterford Mott (LVC)
Michigan Independent Athletic Confer-ence
Whitemore Lake at Lutheran Westland
Oakland Activities Association
Bloomfield Hills at Birmingham Groves (OAA-White)
Troy Athens at Birmingham Seaholm (OAA-Blue)
North Farmington at Farmington (OAA-Blue)
Western Wayne Athletic Conference



Stevenson's Ar'Jon Thompson rushes against Franklin last season. DAVE DONOHER/SPECIAL TO HOMEOWNLIFE.COM

Redford Thurston at Dearborn Heights Annapolis (WWAC)
Romulus at Redford Union (WWAC)
Garden City at Dearborn Heights Crest-wood (WWAC)

Saturday, Sept. 17

Catholic League
Cranbrook at Madison Heights Bishop Foley (CHSL-Intersection 1), 4 p.m.

Week 5

Friday, Sept. 23

Catholic League
Detroit Catholic Central at Brother Rice (CHSL-Central) (Lawrence Tech)
Independent
Detroit Country Day (Open Date)
Livonia Clarenceville at Dearborn Divine Child
Kensington Lakes Activities Associa-tion
Canton at Novi (KLAA-West)
Brighton at Northville (KLAA-West)
Plymouth at Hartland (KLAA-West)
Howell at Salem (KLAA-West)
Dearborn at Livonia Churchill (KLAA-East)
Livonia Franklin at Westland John Glenn (KLAA-East)
Wayne Memorial at Livonia Stevenson (KLAA-East)
Lakes Valley Conference
White Lake Lakeland at South Lyon (LVC)
Milford at Walled Lake Western (LVC)
Oakland Activities Association
Oak Park at Bloomfield Hills (OAA-White)
Southfield A&T at Birmingham Groves (OAA-White)
Birmingham Seaholm at North Farming-ton (OAA-Blue)
Farmington at Troy (OAA-Blue)
Western Wayne Athletic Conference
Redford Thurston at Garden City (WWAC)
Redford Union at Dearborn Heights Robichaud (WWAC)

Saturday, Sept. 24

Catholic League
Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard at Cranbrook (CHSL-Intersectional 1), 1 p.m.
Lakes Valley Conference
South Lyon East at Paw Paw, 2:30 p.m.
Michigan Independent Athletic Confer-ence
Lutheran Westland at Sterling Heights Parkway Christian (MIAC), 1 p.m.

Week 6

Friday, Sept 30

Catholic League
Orchard Lake St. Mary's at Brother Rice (CHSL-Central) (Lawrence Tech)
Independent
Livonia Clarenceville at Taylor
Kensington Lakes Activities Associa-tion
Novi at Plymouth (KLAA-West)
Northville at Salem (KLAA-West)
Canton at Brighton (KLAA-West)
Dearborn Fordson at Livonia Churchill (KLAA-East)
Livonia Stevenson at Livonia Franklin (KLAA-East)
Dearborn at Wayne Memorial (KLAA-East)
Belleville at Westland John Glenn (KLAA-East)
Lakes Valley Conference
South Lyon at Waterford Kettering (LVC)
South Lyon East at Walled Lake Central (LVC)
Waterford Mott at Milford (LVC)
Walled Lake Northern at White Lake Lakeland (LVC)
Michigan Independent Athletic Confer-ence

Lutheran Westland at Dearborn Heights Star International
Oakland Activities Association
Southfield A&T at Bloomfield Hills (OAA-White)
Harper Woods at Birmingham Groves (OAA-White)
Troy at Birmingham Seaholm (OAA-Blue)
Pontiac at Farmington
North Farmington at Troy Athens (OAA-Blue)
Western Wayne Athletic Conference
Dearborn Heights Robichaud at Redford Thurston (WWAC)
Garden City at Redford Union (WWAC)

Saturday, Oct. 1

Catholic League
Macomb Lutheran North at Cranbrook (CHSL-Intersectional 1), 3 p.m.
Independent
Flint Powers Catholic at Detroit Country Day, 1 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 2

Catholic League
Warren De La Salle at Detroit Catholic Central (CHSL-Central) (Boys Bowl), 1 p.m.

Week 7

Friday, Oct. 7

Catholic League
Detroit Catholic Central at Orchard Lake St. Mary's (CHSL-Central)
Brother Rice (Open Date)
Cranbrook at Walled Lake Central
Independent
Detroit Country Day at Detroit U-D Jesuit
Pottersville at Livonia Clarenceville
Kensington Lakes Activities Associa-tion
Howell at Novi (KLAA-West)
Northville at Hartland (KLAA-West)
Salem at Canton (KLAA-West)
Plymouth at Brighton (KLAA-West)
Livonia Churchill at Wayne Memorial (KLAA-East)
Dearborn Fordson at Livonia Franklin (KLAA-East)
Belleville at Livonia Stevenson (KLAA-East)
Westland John Glenn at Dearborn (KLAA-East)
Lakes Valley Conference
South Lyon at Walled Lake Northern (LVC)
South Lyon East at White Lake Lakeland (LVC)
Waterford Kettering at Milford (LVC)
Michigan Independent Athletic Confer-ence
Dearborn Advanced Tech at Lutheran Westland
Oakland Activities Association
Bloomfield Hills at Harper Woods (OAA-White)
Birmingham Groves at Rochester (OAA-White)
Birmingham Seaholm at Berkley
Farmington at Ferndale
North Farmington at Auburn Hills Avon-dale
Western Wayne Athletic Conference
Romulus at Redford Thurston (WWAC)
Redford Union at Melvindale (WWAC)
Dearborn Heights Annapolis at Garden City (WWAC)

Week 8

Friday, Oct. 14

Catholic League
Brother Rice at Detroit Country Day
Cranbrook at Riverview Gabriel Richard (CHSL-Intersectional 1)
Independent
Brother Rice at Detroit Country Day
Tecumseh at Livonia Clarenceville
Kensington Lakes Activities Associa-tion

Novi at Northville (KLAA-West)
Hartland at Canton (KLAA-West)
Plymouth at Salem (KLAA-West)
Livonia Churchill at Livonia Stevenson (KLAA-East)
Livonia Franklin at Belleville (KLAA-East)
Wayne Memorial at Westland John Glenn (KLAA-East)
Lakes Valley Conference
Waterford Mott at South Lyon (LVC)
Milford at South Lyon East (LVC)
White Lake Lakeland at Gibraltar Carl-son
Michigan Independent Athletic Confer-ence
Lutheran Westland at Ecorse
Oakland Activities Association
Oxford at Bloomfield Hills
Berkley at Birmingham Groves
Farmington at Birmingham Seaholm (OAA-Blue)
Lake Orion at North Farmington
Western Wayne Athletic Conference
Redford Thurston at Redford Union (WWAC)
Garden City at Dearborn Heights Rob-ichaud (WWAC)

Saturday, Oct. 15

Catholic League
Detroit Catholic Central at Cincinnati La Salle (Ohio), 4 p.m.

Week 9

Friday, Oct. 21

Catholic League
Detroit Catholic Central in Prep Bowl/CHSL crossover matchup
Brother Rice in Prep Bowl/vs. Detroit Cass Tech
Cranbrook in Prep Bowl/CHSL crossover matchup
Independent
Livonia Clarenceville at Flat Rock
Kensington Lakes Activities Associa-tion
TBD East opponent at Novi (KLAA crossover)
TBD East opponent at Northville (KLAA crossover)
TBD East opponent at Canton (KLAA crossover)
TBD East opponent at Plymouth (KLAA crossover)
TBD East opponent at Salem (KLAA crossover)
Livonia Churchill at TBD West opponent (KLAA crossover)
Livonia Franklin at TBD West opponent (KLAA crossover)
Livonia Stevenson at TBD West oppo-nent (KLAA crossover)
Wayne Memorial at TBD West opponent (KLAA crossover)
Westland John Glenn at TBD West op-ponent (KLAA crossover)
Lakes Valley Conference
South Lyon at South Lyon East (LVC)
White Lake Lakeland at Milford (LVC)
Michigan Independent Athletic Confer-ence
Lutheran Westland at Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard, 4 p.m.
Oakland Activities Association
Bloomfield Hills at North Farmington
Birmingham Seaholm at Birmingham Groves
Utica at Farmington
Western Wayne Athletic Conference
Swartz Creek at Redford Thurston
Redford Union vs. TBD CHSL opponent
Garden City at Pontiac

Saturday, Oct. 22

Independent
Detroit Country Day at Traverse City St. Francis, 1 p.m.

Week 10
Round 1 Playoffs
Friday, Oct. 28

TBD

KLAA

Continued from Page 1B

And that type of mentality is what Sparks brought to the Wildcats in his first season. They ripped off four wins in an incredibly tough West division and also beat Wayne Memorial in the season opener to finish 5-5 overall, the best record Novi had posted since 2016.

Sparks should push the Wildcats closer toward competing for a league title now that he's had a real off-season to help his players improve, one that wasn't marred by COVID-19 or social distancing.

Plus, he returns arguably one of the best dual-threat quarterbacks in the league, senior Luke Aurilia, who's back for one final season.

Plymouth should add the finishing touches to its game-day mentality

The Wildcats weren't going to make the playoffs entering Week 9 a year ago, but coach Greg Souldourian wanted them to end the season on a two-game winning streak and have something it could build off entering the off-season.

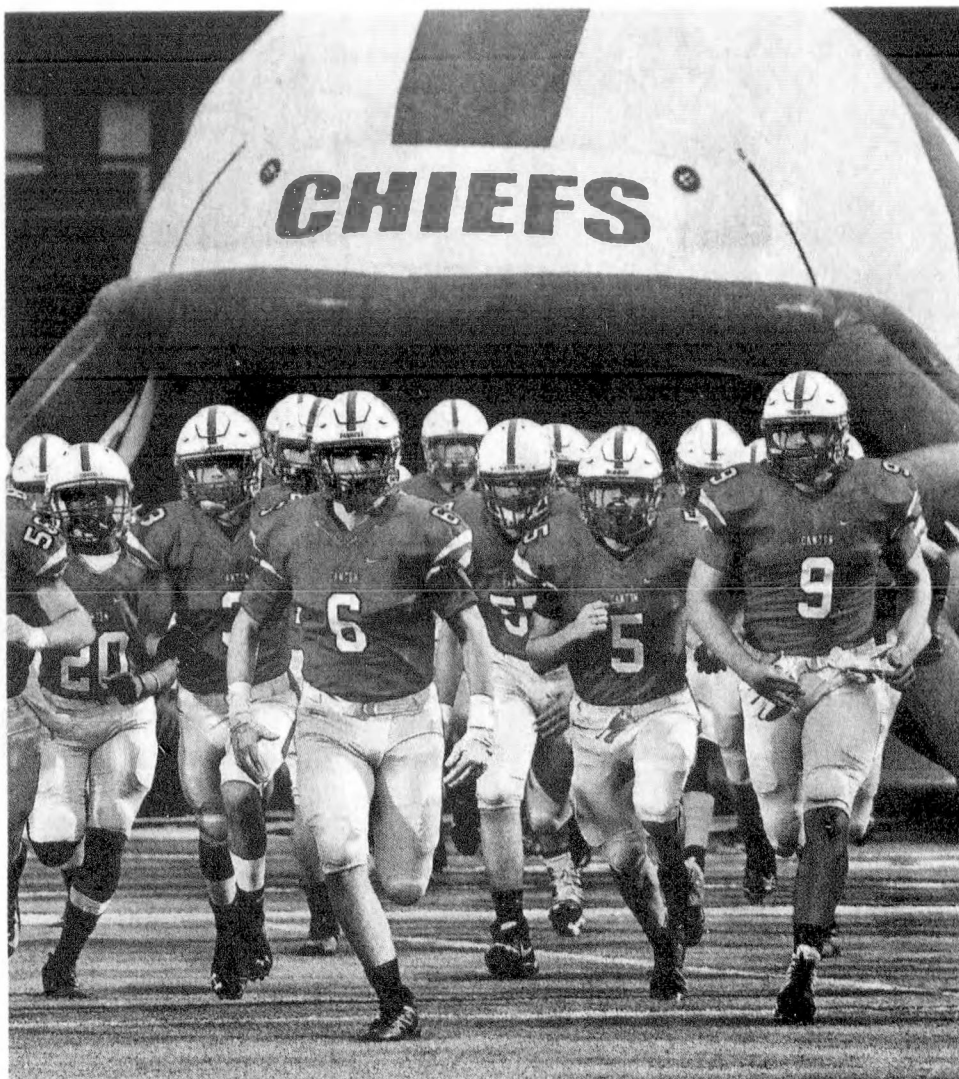
Instead, they came up short against Westland John Glen in the season finale, 20-13. The culprit? A lack of finishing.

Whether it was finishing tackles, finishing routes or finishing blocks, the Wildcats just didn't do any of it, especially late in the game when doing those things mattered the most. And, obviously, that upset Souldourian.

The mantra for the team this summer has been to actually finish the things they start. And Souldourian has found creative ways for them to do so, including drawing some inspiration from the video game "Fortnite."

Take the game of tag they played a few weeks ago. Every player put flags on their hips. The last player standing with the most flags in their hands went down as the winner. And the catch? Every few minutes, Souldourian would shrink the playing surface a la "Fortnite" so that individual battles were emphasized even more.

Souldourian said the competition never waned, even when it got down to the final two contestants. Now that's how you inspire your players to finish strong.



The Canton football team runs out before its game against Brighton last season. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The Livonia City Championship is wide open

Attrition might not force Livonia Churchill or Livonia Franklin to take a step back after both had successful seasons a year ago. But the players both teams lost to graduation will definitely even out the playing field when it comes to the Livonia City Championship, especially with how many studs Livonia Stevenson returns.

Churchill and Franklin, respectively, are both starting new quarterbacks with Taj Williams headed to Adrian College and Zach Olesuk preparing to play on both the football and baseball teams at Alma College. And Stevenson brings back ArJon Thompson, arguably one of the most athletic players in Michigan. The junior can play wildcat quarter-

back, receiver and defensive back, plus he can return kicks or run the ball if needed.

How quickly Churchill and Franklin can retool their rosters in preparation for its rivalry matchups will likely determine the City champion. But perhaps Stevenson already has a leg up in the competition?

Westland John Glenn's rebuild won't take as long as you might think

You don't need to watch a single practice to know Jason Mensing was the perfect hire for the Rockets. Just take a look at his Twitter account. The former Ottawa Lake Whiteford coach has spent the entire summer promoting John Glenn's off-season efforts.

Almost all of his posts about the program have championed the buy-in the players have already given him. Plus, he's kept them accountable by touting publicly the players who've shown up to each off-season activity. Doing so clearly shows which players elected to stay at home and skip practices and which showed up and did the work. You wouldn't want to be the one guy in your class not present in one of Mensing's photos, would you?

The Rockets won't be an overnight success, but this isn't looking like a 5- or 10-year rebuild either. Mensing is doing it the right way, building his program brick by brick, and a winning product on the field is something the John Glenn community has deserved for years. Expect the next few seasons to be fun on Marquette Avenue.

Who will win the KLAA?

Obviously, you all are here — reading this story — because you want to know who Hometown Life expects to win the KLAA. So let's break this down by division.

In the East, Dearborn Fordson and Belleville have been two of the best powerhouses in the state, and that shouldn't change this season, especially in the divisional race. Only the Tractors must replace seven of the top-125 2022 recruits in Michigan, according to 247Sports' rankings, which included receiver Antonio Gates Jr. and four Division 1 offensive linemen. While Belleville graduated 14 players ranked by 247Sports a year ago, the Tigers should have an edge, talent-wise, over Fordson. Assuming one of the Livonia schools or Dearborn doesn't upset Belleville, the defending state champions in Division 1 should win the East.

In the West, it should be a toss-up between Hartland, Howell, Novi and Canton (and maybe even Northville) to see who makes it to the KLAA championship. These squads will likely take turns beating each other up and trading wins and losses and it could very well be a coin flip to see who captures the West title. For the sake of selling newspapers locally, we predict Canton to face Belleville in the title game, with the Tigers likely winning it all in Week 9.

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

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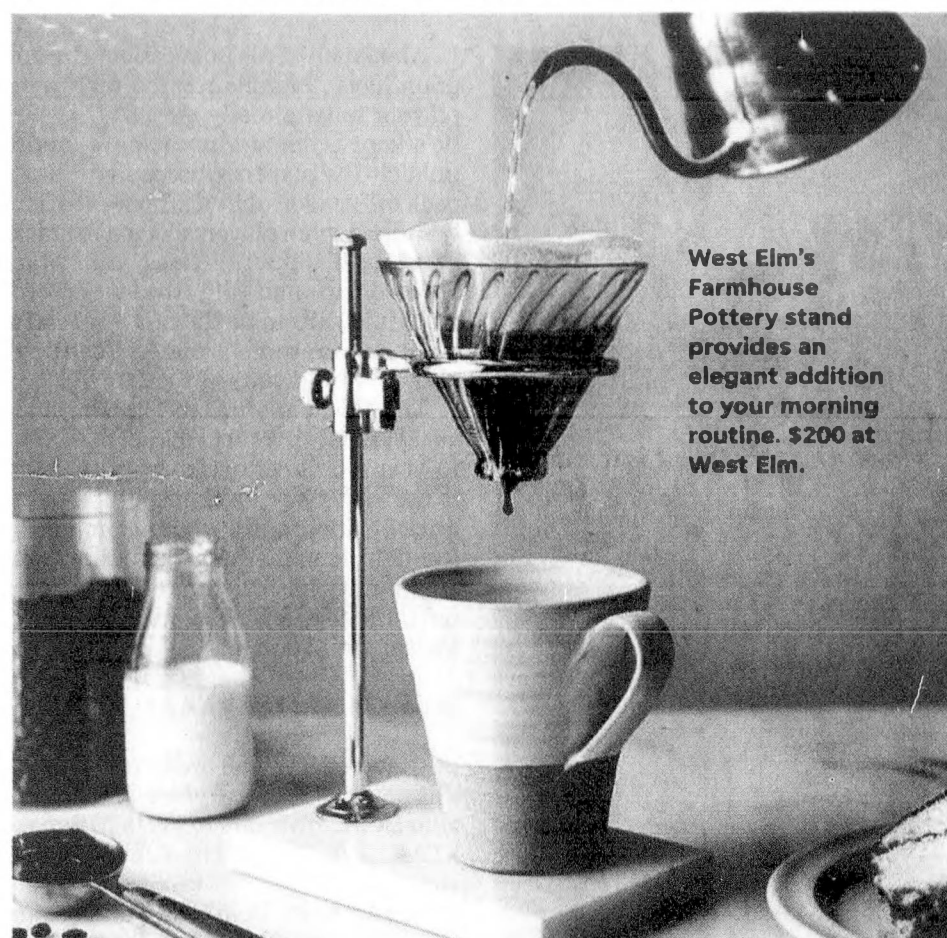
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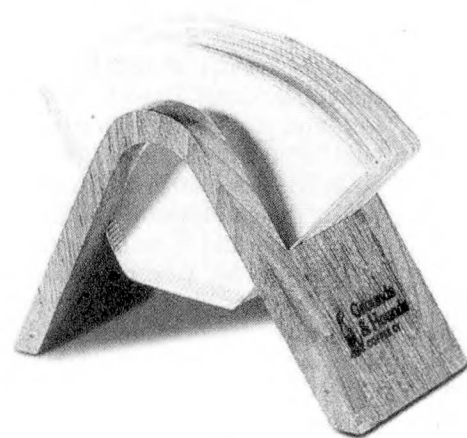
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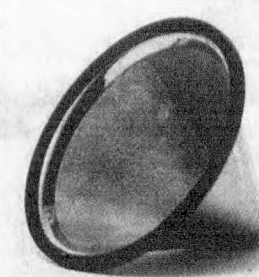
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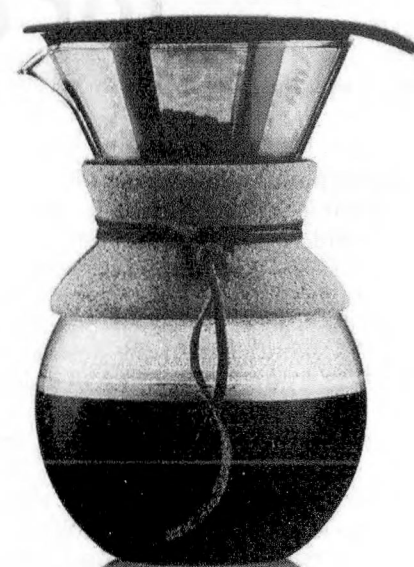
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An Amazon worker in a warehouse closes up a box for shipment. The company has delayed or canceled plans to open as many as 16 warehouses. PROVIDED BY AMAZON

Amazon pauses big plans for expansion

Amanda Pérez Pintado
USA TODAY

After expanding its fulfillment network during the pandemic, Amazon has delayed or canceled the launch of more than a dozen warehouses across the country, a company spokesperson confirmed.

Amazon's distribution center in Cocoa, Florida, won't operate until at least some time next year, Florida Today, part of the USA TODAY Network, reported this week.

Last month, the freight industry trade publication FreightWaves reported that Amazon had canceled or delayed plans to open at as many as 16 warehouse facilities in 12 states this year.

The company confirmed the accuracy of those numbers to USA TODAY. The Cocoa location is in addition to the sites the publication reported.

"Amazon so far this year has canceled, closed, listed for sublease or put on hold more than 25 delivery stations and fulfillment centers across the U.S. and has delayed opening 15 more, according to MWPVL data," the Wall Street Journal reported.

Amazon closes or pauses more new sites

Amazon declined to answer questions from USA TODAY regarding how many new jobs were slated to open in

the facilities that will no longer open this year or how jobs would be affected by a company pause in site openings.

The company also did not answer questions about whether it will continue paying property taxes on the sites or how local and state subsidies used to attract Amazon to each area would now be affected.

"In total, Amazon has canceled, closed, delayed or put on hold more than 40 centers across the country, according to supply chain consultancy MWPVL International," FreightWaves reported.

Amazon didn't say whether it plans to reopen all of its paused sites and launch them at a later date.

"We weigh a variety of factors when deciding where to develop future sites to best serve customers," Amazon spokesperson Alisa Carroll said in an email.

"We have dozens of fulfillment centers, sortation centers and delivery stations under construction and evolving around the world," she said.

"It's common for us to explore multiple locations simultaneously and adjust timetables based on needs across the network."

Carroll also declined to answer questions about whether recent efforts to form unions at some of its warehouse facilities had an effect on the decisions to pause or cancel site openings.



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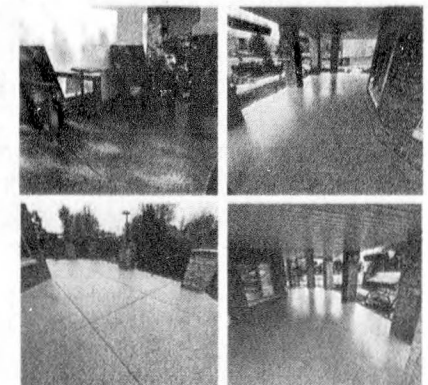
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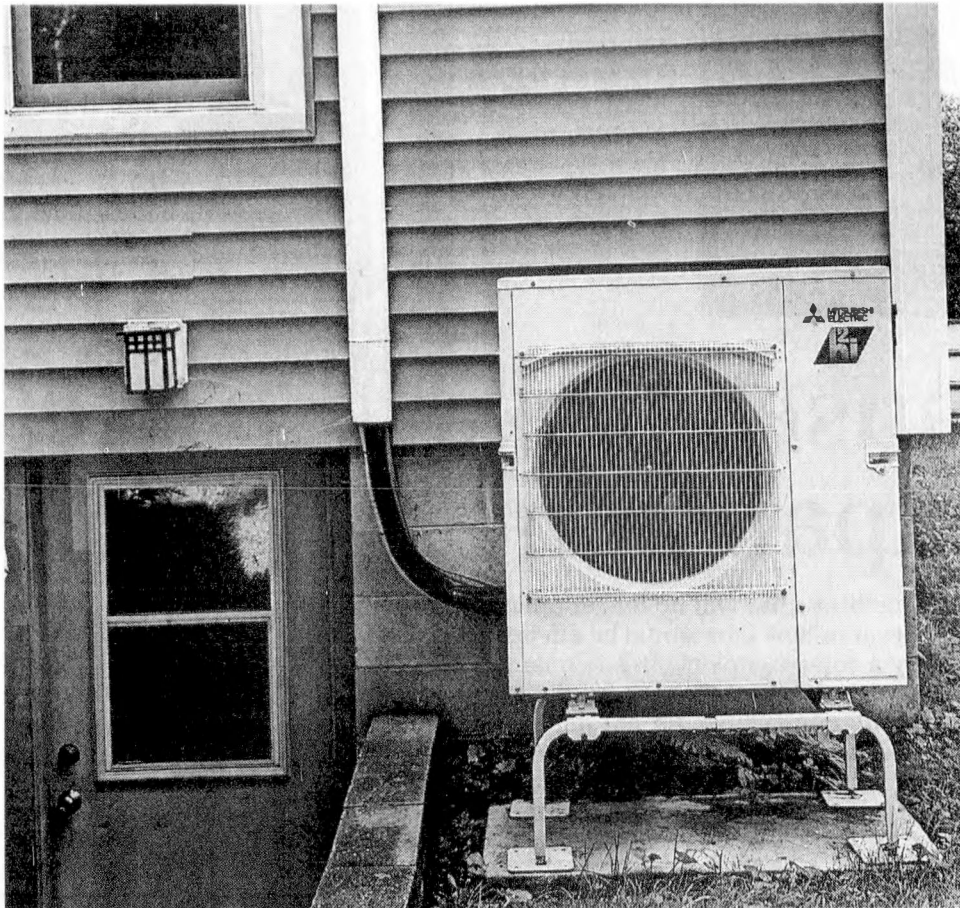
Savings over long term touted amid rising costs

Sara Edwards
USA TODAY

Air conditioning bills are spiking and as climate change starts to impact more parts of the country, air conditioners are running for longer periods. Now millions of Americans are starting to install heat pumps into their homes, a sustainable heating/cooling system that doesn't burn fossil fuels to operate. According to Statista, 3.42 million air-source heat pumps were shipped to the U.S. in 2020. The technology that fuels heat pumps has been used in mild climates, such as the South, for decades. But the technology has advanced to dramatically improve performance in colder climates like the Midwest, says Jeff Vivant, a sales manager at Minneapolis-St. Paul Plumbing, Heating and Air. In June, the Biden administration proposed new energy-efficiency standards that "will save consumers billions on annual energy bills, reduce emissions and build on actions to support heat pump deployment." The proposal is part of 100 actions from the administration "to save the average family \$100 a year," according to a release on the Department of Energy's website.

What is a heat pump?

A heat pump provides cool air in the summer and heat in winter. In cooling mode, a heat pump works like a refrigerator, using a refrigerant to cool hot air pulled from outdoors. To provide heat, it draws warm air from outdoors, even in low winter temperatures. A heat pump can serve as both an air conditioner and a heater. During cooler temperatures, the heat pump pulls heat from the cool air and moves it inside the home. In warmer temperatures, it pulls cool air from the heat all while using a refrigerant to move the heat around. "(Heat pumps) are basically a magic box," said Sam Calisch at Rewiring America, a nonprofit promoting electric power for commercial and residential use. "Even though it feels cold outside, there is heat out there that the heat pump can harvest and concentrate to raise the temperature and put it in your house to function like a furnace, except it doesn't burn any fuels," Calisch said. Owners of historic homes that lack



Heat pumps cool in the summer and warm in winter. PROVIDED BY EMILY TELLER

ducts can opt for a ductless heat pump, Vivant said.

How much does a heat pump cost?

Heat pumps are more expensive than traditional AC/furnace systems. The cost of a heat pump also can depend on the type of heat pump and the size of the house. In Minneapolis, Vivant said installing a heat pump for a single-family home can cost between \$14,000 to \$20,000. For ductless heat pumps, the most popular in Minneapolis, it's \$6,000 to \$7,000 per house zone, while forced air heat pumps cost between \$10,000 to \$20,000, depending on the model. A traditional forced-air system costs \$11,000 to \$18,000.

How much money could it save me? Will my electricity bill go up?

Probably, but according to a Rewiring America database, the average U.S. household would save \$356 on its energy bills and avoid emitting 166 million metric tons of greenhouse gases into the environment by using a heat pump. About 87% of U.S. households could save a combined \$37.3 billion a year on

energy bills using modern appliances. Calisch said heat pumps could offset inflationary prices hurting households. "In the face of rising fossil fuel prices and volatility, the added benefit is long-term stability in bills," he said.

How do I prepare my house for a heat pump?

Dar-Lon Chang moved his family to the sustainable Geos Neighborhood in Arvada, Colorado, after closing on their eco-friendly house in 2018. Chang, a former Exxon Mobile researcher, joined GeoSolar Technologies in January as an adviser for research and development. He sold a traditionally-heated home in Sugar Land, Texas. "At Geos, we have homes that are typically sealed to the point where you have about 20 hours before all the air in your house is leaked out," Chang said.

Do I need a furnace with my heat pump?

Chang said consumers should opt for adding insulation and sealing against drafts instead of a backup gas furnace.

"(A furnace) kind of defeats a lot of the purpose of a heat pump which is to eliminate the need for gas," Chang said. "Before a homeowner gets to the point of swapping out the gas furnace with a heat pump, the house needs to be better sealed and better insulated." A heat pump as a primary heating source may not be able to provide sufficient heat during extreme, below-zero temperatures, Vivant said. "In our area, it's not code to install a heat pump as a primary heat source without a backup heating source of some kind like a forced air furnace or electric baseboard heating, for example," he said. Chang said homeowners should also consider installing a recovery ventilation system, which turns on after its sensor detects a certain level of carbon dioxide and trades the stale air inside for the fresh air outside. "It's better than just opening the windows because when you do, you're bringing in fresh air but you're losing all that heat and cooling inside your house," he said. By using the recovery system, the home can bring in fresh air as if a window has been opened, but the cool air or heat already produced stays in the house. That method is preferred for heat pumps in colder climates where excess moisture in the home like condensation is much more common. An energy recovery ventilator is preferred in warmer climates. They both move fresh air through the home without losing heat or cool air.

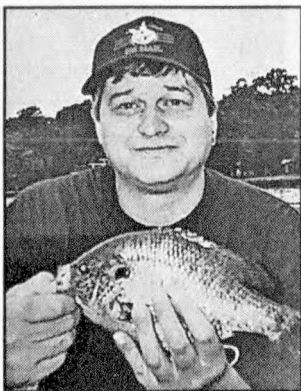
What is the downside to a heat pump?

Vivant said the initial investment cost and the demolition work that comes with some installations are the main drawbacks. He said the process of installing a heat pump can be somewhat invasive due to the drilling and demo work with the walls that can take place for some of the installations. Chang said one of the obstacles keeping heat pumps from being widely adopted is the lack of experience from many service providers and contractors. While the market for heat pumps has ramped up, he said there are not enough service providers to keep up with the demand. "(We need) some kind of training program that gets contractors up to speed and incentives to promote builders and contractors wanting to adopt heat pumps," Chang said.

Obituaries

Donna M. Doyle (nee Albright)

HIGHLAND - Donna M. Doyle (nee. Albright), a longtime resident of Highland, MI, passed away on Thursday, July 28, 2022. She was 88 years old. Donna is preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, James H. Doyle (d. 2019) and is survived by her three children, Beth (Ed) Morris, Jim Doyle and Diane (Eric) Smith; her beloved grandchildren, Emily and Katie Morris, Molly (Nathan) Cowdin, Alex Brizard and Brendan Smith, and Brett and Ryan Doyle; her sister, Martha (Thomas) Hibbert as well as many close friends and extended family members. Donna graduated from Wayne State University in 1956. She and Jim enjoyed a long and loving marriage and made their home in Allen Park before moving to Highland in 1983. There they made many new friends and enjoyed a wonderful retirement with winters in Florida and time in Michigan spent with their children and grandchildren. Funeral services were held privately. For further information, please contact, Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit LynchAndSonsMilford.com



Edward "Alan" Morbitzer

MILFORD - Edward "Alan" Morbitzer, of Milford, passed away on July 22nd, 2022. He was 62 years old. Son of the late Edward and Sylvia Morbitzer, Alan is survived by his siblings, Kimberly (Kurt) Bowman and Robin Denise (Vince) Maher; nieces and nephews, Krystal (Alex) Pulido, Kevin Bowman, and Amber (Aaron Adams) Morbitzer; great nieces and nephews, Maxwell and Aiden Pulido, Dominic and Kingston Bowman, Zaiden and Maewyn Adamorbitzer; also many extended family and dear friends. Alan is also preceded in death by his brother, Brian Dean Morbitzer.

South Lyon East wrestler storms back to become All-American

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

How's this for an underdog story? It was the double-elimination portion of the USA Wrestling 16U Women's Freestyle National Championships last month in Fargo, North Dakota, and South Lyon East's Isabella Cepak had lost her first match. She shook it off but then found herself trailing, 8-0, just 1 minute into the second round of her next 117-pound bout, this time against Melanie Val from Tennessee. All Val needed to do was score two points, and the match was over. And in the process, Cepak's run at North Dakota State University would be over as well. The points never came for Val, who was pinned by Cepak with 1 minute, 21 seconds left in the round. The comeback victory proved to be just the shot in the arm Cepak, who just wrapped up her freshman season wrestling for the Cougars, needed to rip off an incredible run on the national stage. Cepak went on to pin her next five opponents to qualify for the medal round. And then in the seventh-place match, she pinned Jessa Joiner from Missouri in just 2:23 to become the first South Lyon East wrestler, boy or girl, to become an All-American. What's more, she left the tournament with the most pins out of all 518 girls competing at the FargoDome. "When we had a minute to talk with coaches, (Alma College coach Kaitlyn Pizzo) told me to just bring it back," Cepak told Hometown Life. "I



South Lyon East wrestler Isabella Cepak placed seventh during the USA Wrestling 16U Freestyle National Championships in July. COURTESY

looked at the scoreboard and knew I had to slowly do whatever I could to score points or do what I usually do, which was go for the pin to get the match over with. It's probably the easier thing to do in that situation, and it just feels better to get the pin anyway." It was a trip of a lifetime for Cepak, as she represented Michigan and competed under some of the top women's coaches in the state. That included Pizzo, Michigan Revolution's Mario Flores (Highland), Michigan national team coach Jaime Stenz-Smith and Albion College assistant Zach Wood. She suffered just two losses. The first was to Ashley Naranjo from Washington. See EAST, Page 7B

In Memory Of

East

Continued from Page 6B

ton, who placed fourth. The other was to Kira Cole from Ohio, who was the fifth-place finisher.

"At the end of the tournament, I was like, 'Wow, I actually did *THAT*,'" Cepak added. "I can't even remember the last time I came back from a (point deficit) that was that bad. But I just remember I wasn't too stressed out about it. And now it definitely feels like an honor because I couldn't believe it when it happened. It really took me a second to think about what I had achieved. Not a lot of people get to do it, and I feel honored to do that."

It's been quite the summer for Cepak since her admirable effort for the Cou-

gars during last winter's Michigan High School Athletic Association state tournament.

In March, she finished third in the state in the 115-pound girls division after losing in the semifinals to Fowlerville's Margaret Buurma, who went on to win the individual state championship. Coincidentally, Cepak and Buurma are training partners at Michigan Revolution in Highland. And Cepak actually traveled with the Buurma family to Fargo because her father, South Lyon East coach Matt Cepak, couldn't make the trip because of work responsibilities.

Cepak went on to win the 122-pound division at the Ohio Tournament of Champions. And then she went undefeated during the Tulsa Team Duals while representing Team Michigan.

She followed up those outings with a third-place effort at the Central Region-

al Championship in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which qualified her for the Freestyle National Championships in Fargo.

Counting her three wins and two losses in the Junior Division tournament, she went 9-4 in North Dakota.

Cepak's older sister, Olivia, who wrestled at the University of the Cumberland in Kentucky, went 1-2 when she represented Michigan at the Freestyle National Championships years ago. And their brother, Matthew, who currently wrestles for Siena Heights, never made it out west because he doesn't focus on freestyle.

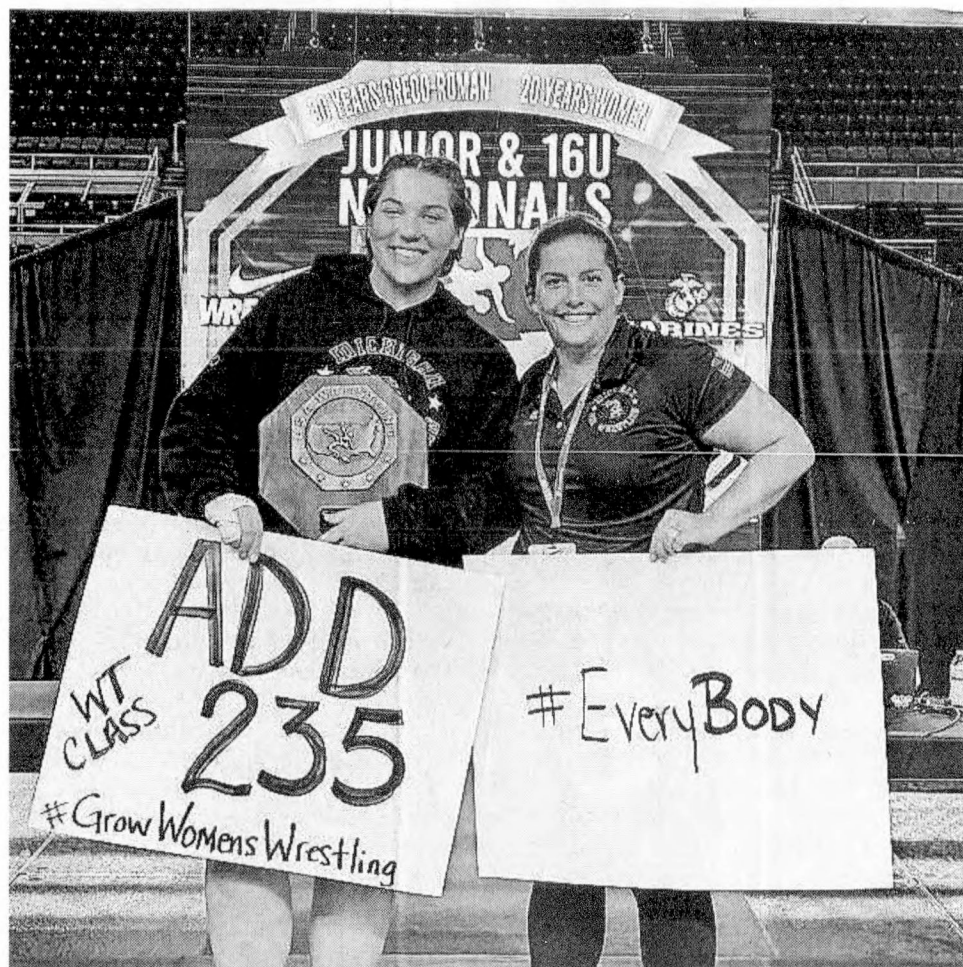
So it's been a heck of a year for the Cepaks, especially for Coach Cepak, who also guided East sophomore Tyler Swanigan to a girls state championship at 130 pounds in March at Ford Field.

"It's just amazing. Just amazing," said Coach Cepak, who's entering his

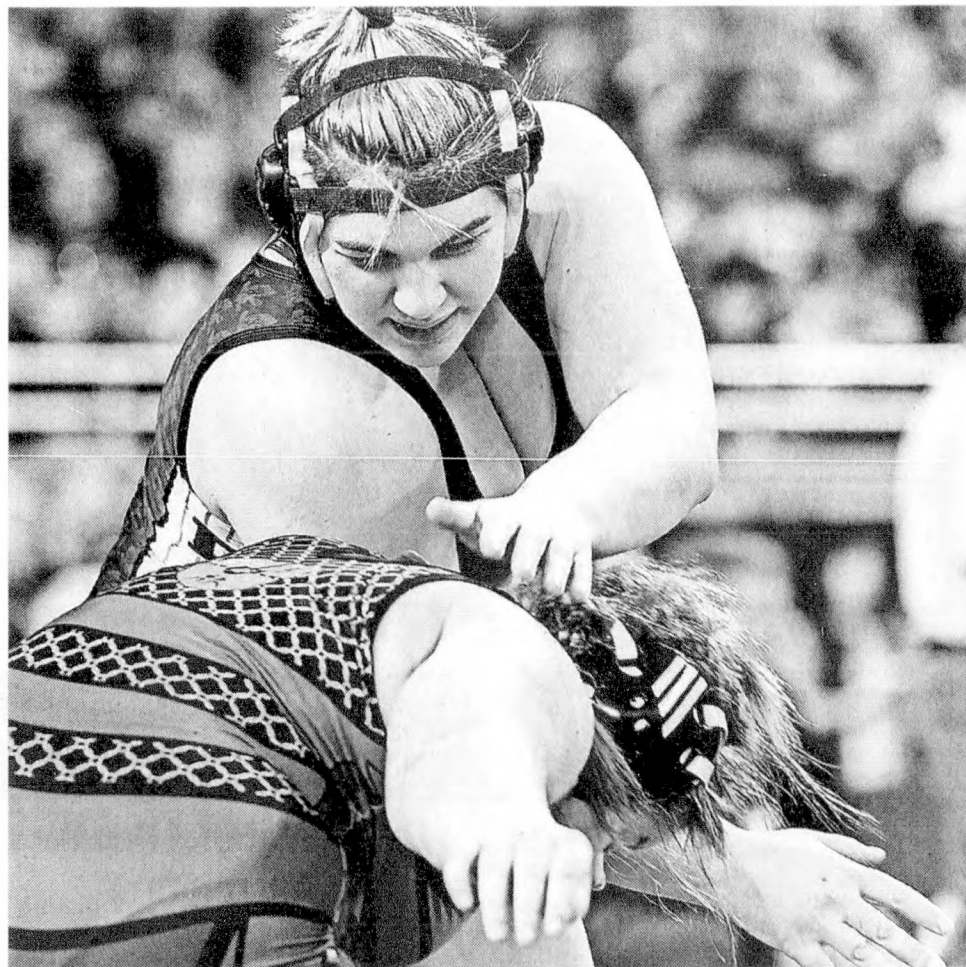
fifth season leading East. "That feeling you get when one of your wrestlers achieves something at that level... words can't even explain it. It took us a little bit of time to realize exactly what Bella did at Fargo by becoming an All-American there. Tyler got to be a state champion, and now Bella is an All-American. It's just great for our program."

Bella said her goal is to win a state championship over the next three seasons. And, of course, she'll have to get through Buurma, one of her close friends, to achieve that. But now she's got the confidence of becoming an All-American to inspire during her journey to get back to downtown Detroit.

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



Hartland graduate Eliana Bommarito (left) poses with Jaime Smith, the head coach at Frankfort High School, after winning a national wrestling championship in Fargo, North Dakota. COURTESY



Bommarito added a second national wrestling championship to a resume that also includes four state titles.

Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

lower weight classes who are so obsessed with wrestling. I think about girls in my weight classes. I get angry for them because they're so invested in the sport. There needs to be something for them."

Bommarito said there is a stigma attached to being a heavier female athlete.

"Nobody considers girls can be as tall and as strong and equal in weight to men without being overweight and inactive," she said. "That's something others need to realize."

Hartland coach Kyle Summerfield hopes a change is made before it's too late for Bommarito to compete beyond her two years at Indian Hills, the two-time defending national junior college champion.

"She pinned her way through nationals, pinned every girl in the first period," Summerfield said. "She's the Gable Steveson of girls wrestling but, yeah, they don't have a weight class for her right now in D1 or D2."

Stevens won an Olympic gold medal last summer before returning to win his second NCAA heavyweight championship at the University of Minnesota.

Bommarito is prepared to move on if an opportunity doesn't open up in two years.

"I'm able to consider my other options," she said. "I could start focusing on my career choices or go to rugby if I wanted. I could do sports on the side with my club team for fun and could focus on my future career. I'm still undecided (about a career). I'm thinking more towards medical forensics or something about fitness training."

Bommarito was dominant against the top wrestlers in the nation in Fargo.

She pinned her first three opponents by the 40-second mark and got the pin in 1 minute, 20 seconds in the semifinals. She allowed a rare four-point move to Dasia Yearby of South Carolina in the championship match, but quickly regrouped to get the pin in 1:21.

A year ago, she won her four matches in Fargo with two pins, an 11-0 decision and an injury default.

"This is my last year," she said. "It's kind of nerve-racking. I wanted to finish it out with a good ending. I didn't really want to lose. There's that pressure. I never stress out too much about it. I always have my coaches. They're very

"This is my last year. ...

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Eliana Bommarito

clear about being OK with whatever happens and are just very supportive."

Also repeating as a national champion in Fargo was Sabrina Nauss, who is entering her junior year at Brighton. This time, however, Nauss was a double champion, winning the 16-and-under and junior titles at 180.

Nauss cruised to the championship match in both divisions before facing strong competition for the titles. She won her first four 16-and-under matches with three pins and a first-period technical fall and her first five junior bouts with three first-period pins and two technical falls.

In the 16-and-under final, she trailed 8-7 to Kali Hayden of Oklahoma before getting the pin in 2:28.

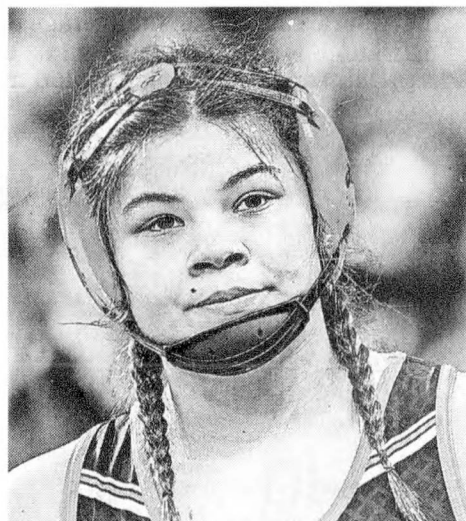
Nauss was down 8-5 against Alivia White of Washington before rallying to get the pin in 3:25. A year ago, Nauss lost 14-13 to White in the junior quarterfinals before taking third place.

"It was great, especially, since last year I fell short of my goal," Nauss said. "To get both feels really good."

"For my 16U, I'd never seen the girl before. I didn't know how to wrestle against her style. That was one of the challenges with her. In juniors, I wrestled that girl quite a few times. It was a matter of not letting her defend me."

Bommarito and Nauss were two of the three Michigan girls to win national championships, the other being Romeo junior-to-be Mishell Rebesch at 152. Rebesch also won both divisions. All three train together at Michigan Revolution Training Center.

"You can share the victory with someone else on your team," Bommarito said. "It's just another experience to be able to see your team grow with you and succeeding alongside you. It's a family kind of creation. You're happy to see everyone grow around you."



Brighton's Sabrina Nauss won the 16-and-under and junior national wrestling championships in Fargo, North Dakota. PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY ARRICK/ FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY



Hartland's Eliana Bommarito. BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

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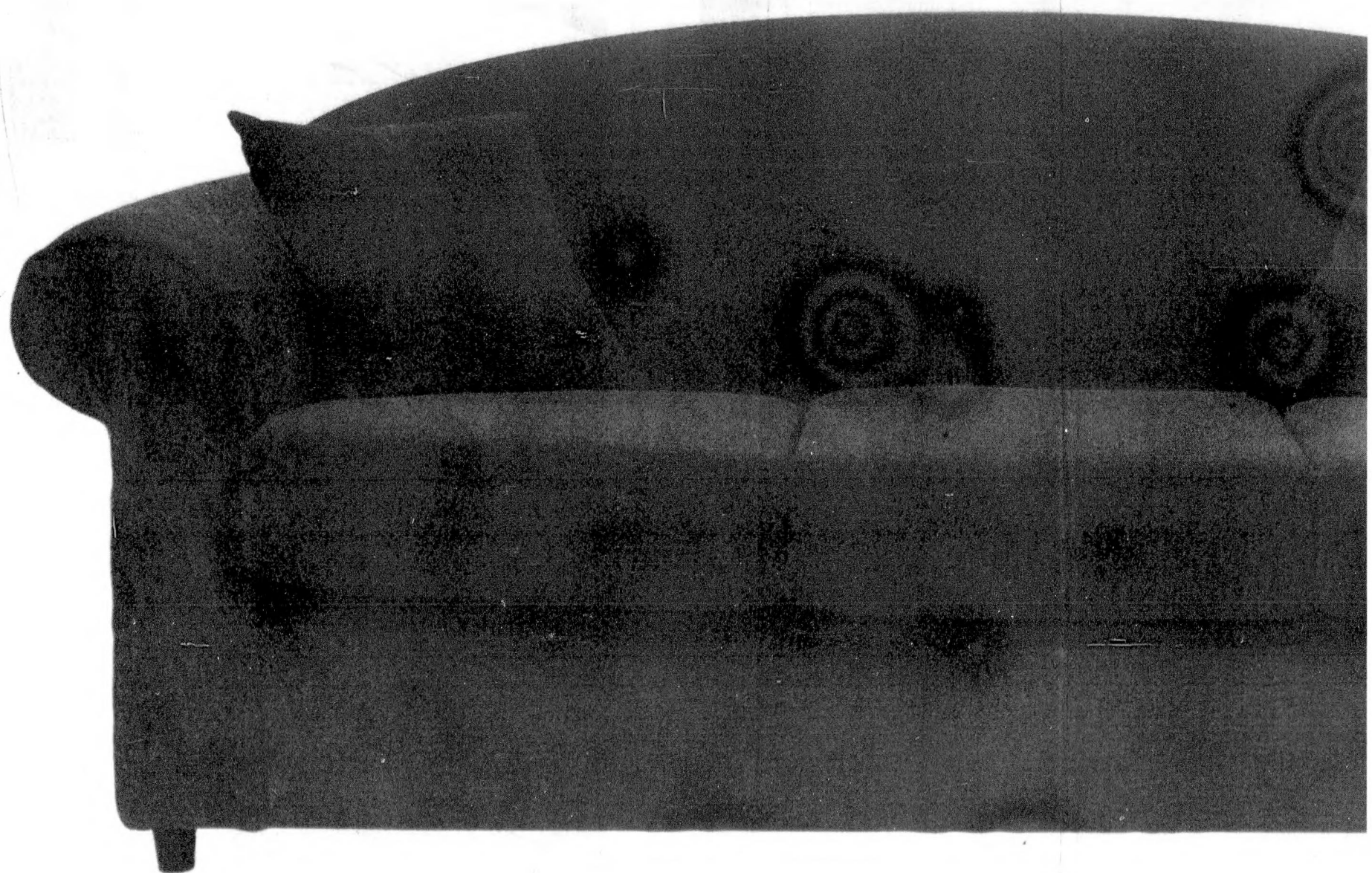
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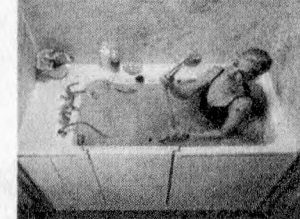
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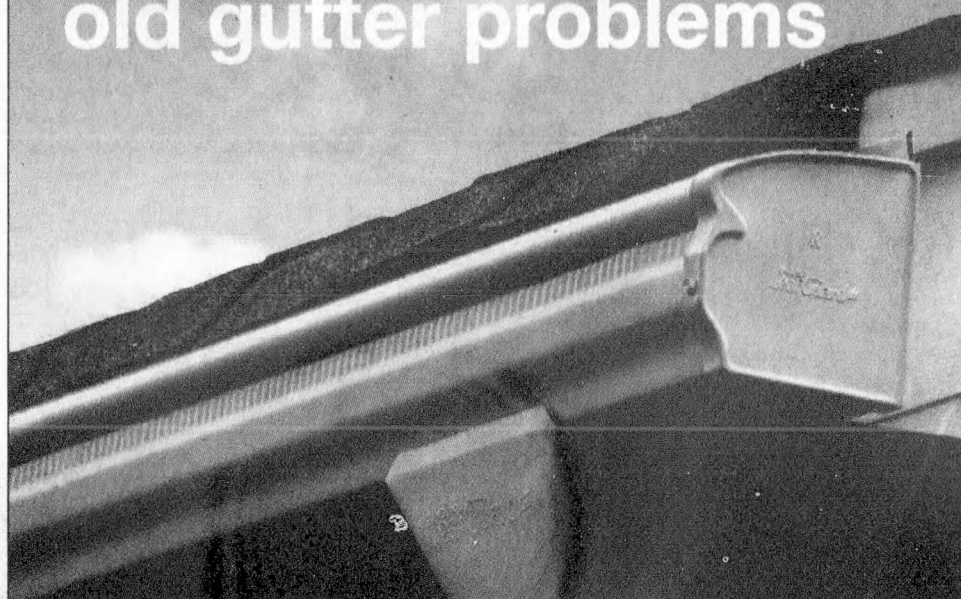
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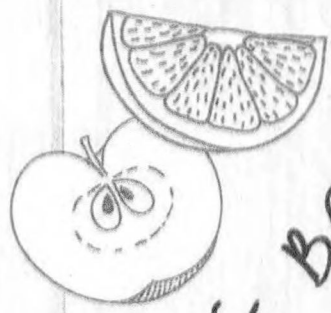
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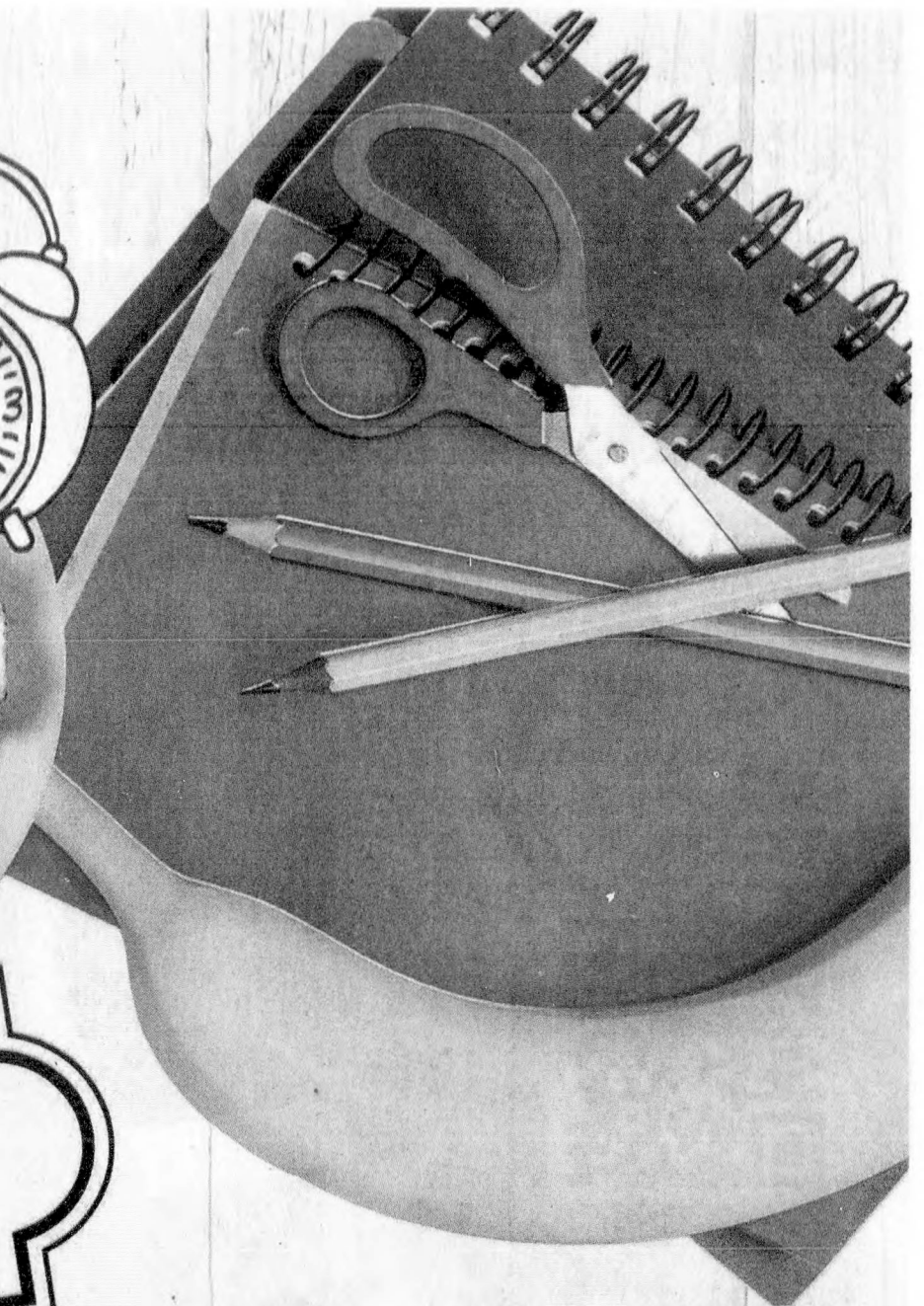
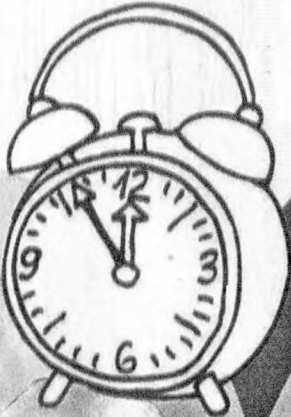
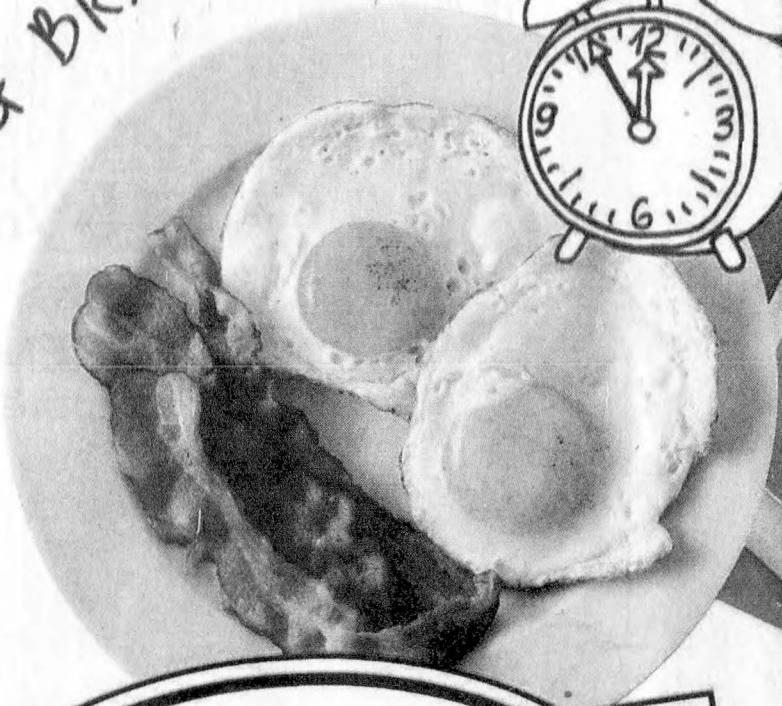
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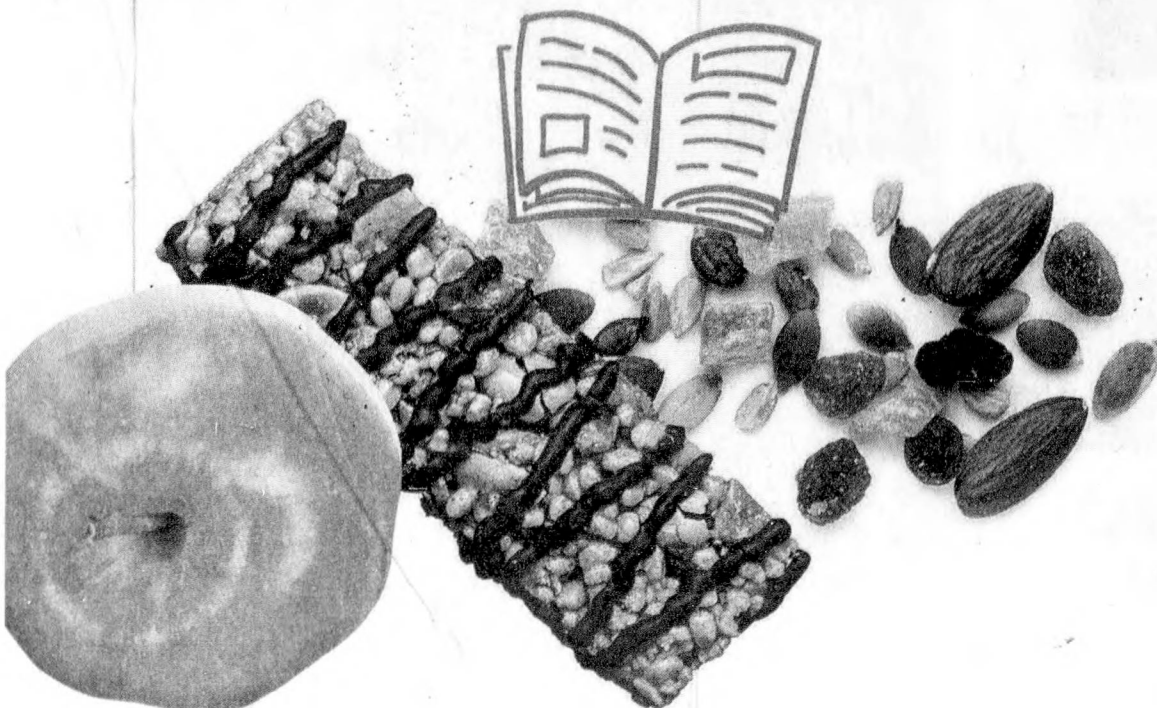
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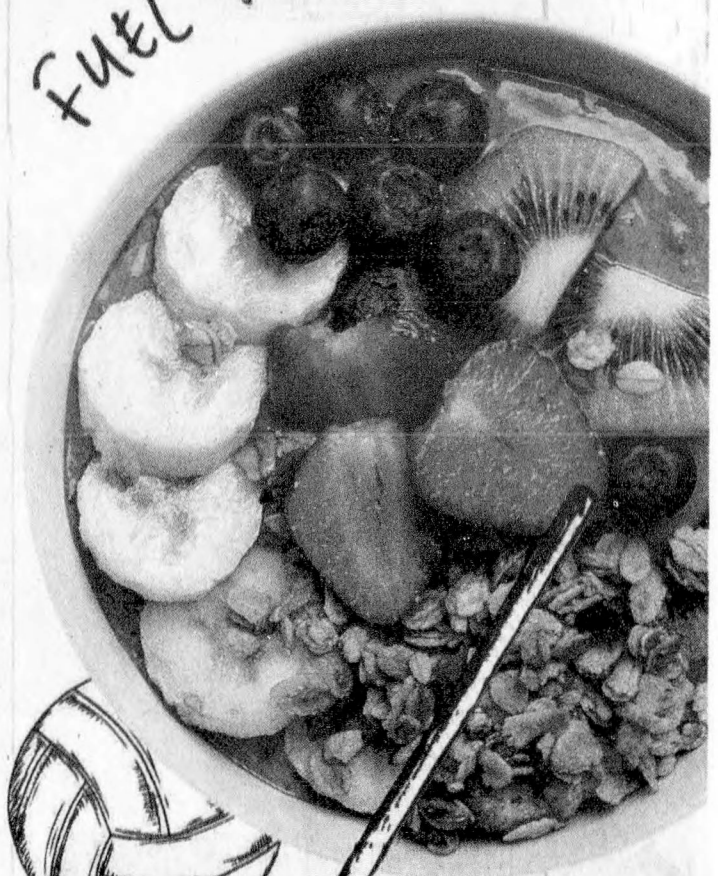
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