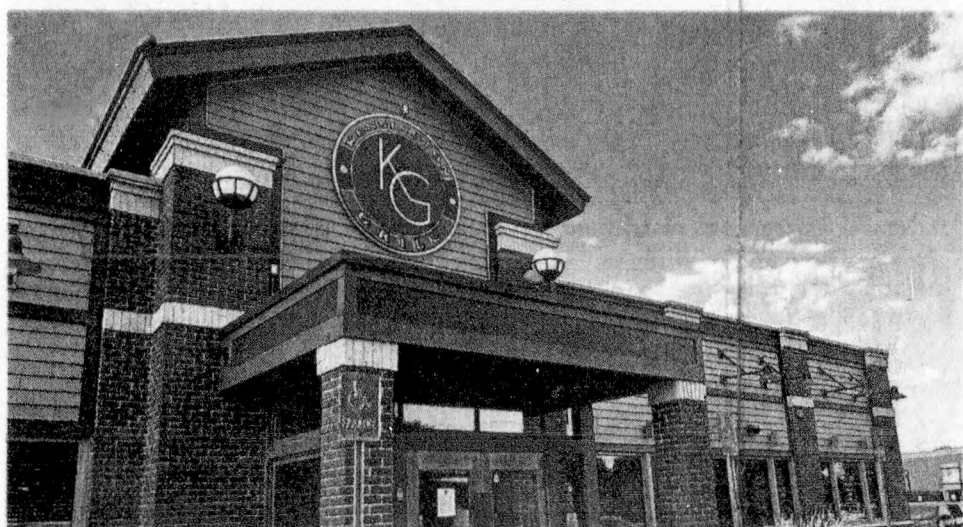




NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM K2

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Kensington Grill, 30712 Lyon Center Drive East in New Hudson, is permanently closing Sept. 10, 2022, after 10 years in business. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Kensington Grill closes after more than a decade

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Joyce and Rick Eathorne have dined three or four times per month at Kensington Grill since it opened more than a decade ago in New Hudson.

But Sept. 10 was to be their last time enjoying their favorite dishes, which include chicken fingers and the mac and cheese with pulled pork, as the restaurant closed its doors permanently at the

end of the day Saturday.

"I'm sad," said Eathorne as she sat at the bar awaiting a carry-out order. "I know they struggled through COVID, but last week they were so busy. I thought they were over the hump. Their food has gotten progressively better over the years."

Don Kokoszka, who visits a couple times per month to see his favorite bartender, Wanita, agreed and told owner

See GRILL, Page 1A

Novi company has 62-acre wildlife habitat that only employees can visit

Aida Dennis

Wouldn't it be nice to walk through a lush birch tree forest, wetlands full of wildlife, and see native pollinator flowers buzzing with bees and butterflies all next to a nice gravel winding path on your lunch break? Well, at ITC Holding Corp. in Novi, that's the case for its employees.

ITC was again awarded for its continued wildlife corporate conservation. In addition to this year's award, ITC now holds 14 WHC (The Wildlife Habitat Council) Conservation Certifications.

"The committee was especially impressed by the coordination and cooperation of employees to successfully manage and perform the intensive work required," said Chief Marketing Officer of WHC, Monica Keller. WHC recognized ITC during the WHC conservation conference in Detroit on June 15. ITC received the 2022 WHC Gold Tier Program Award and WHC Forests Project Award for its continued conservation leadership at its corporate headquarters.

ITC won the Gold Tier Program Award by demonstrating the overall depth of one exceptional program. For ITC, this looks like 12 conservation projects within seven categories: Forest, Landscaped, Wetlands, and Water Bodies, Avian, Invasive Species, Pollinators and Reptiles, and Amphibians.

The Forest Project Award is awarded to one of the highest scoring projects in this theme. The project must use appropriate techniques and be monitored at least once yearly, with results evaluated to create more.

"We were honored to receive that award, and it just goes to kind of validate a

See HABITAT, Page 1A

Northville's new school superintendent ready to roll



RJ Webber looks at a gift given to him after he taught in Nigeria several years ago in his office in downtown Northville. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Despite being located just miles away, RJ Webber admits he didn't know extensively about Northville when applying for the school superintendent position.

A longtime assistant superintendent in the neighboring Novi Community School District, Webber remembers sitting in on his interviews and connecting with others in the commu-

nity about all the positive things he heard.

"After my first interview, I contacted people in the community and said 'is what I'm hearing true?'" he said. "And every single person did not hesitate at all and said, 'Absolutely. That is our board, that is our community.'"

That was enough for Webber. After successfully navigating the interview process set up by the school board, Webber was named the leader of Northville Public Schools this summer giving him some time to get his

bearings and prepare for the start of a new school year last week with students.

A native of Perry in Shiawassee County, Webber's career in education has taken him across Michigan and the globe. Beginning with a year of teaching in Nigeria, he came back to teach in Michigan, taking jobs in Saginaw, Ithaca and eventually South Lyon.

It was there he began to work his way up the educational ladder, becoming

See WEBBER, Page 1A

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Ford's Garage to add 4 more Michigan restaurants, including Novi

Susan Selasky
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ford's Garage, the Dearborn hot spot just west of Ford World Headquarters, is expanding. With its 1920s service station and prohibition ambience, the restaurant is known as a place for a burger and brew served with a side of automotive history.

Billy Downs, the franchise partner of the Dearborn location, which opened in 2017, announced this week plans for four more Ford's Garage restaurants to open.

"With people ready to put the pandemic in the rearview mirror, they're back out dining again and looking for entertainment. People enjoy great food and energy in a restaurant that is comfortable, unpretentious, and unique to the casual dining space," Downs said in a news release. "As it turns out, the Ford Motor Company's rich history as one of America's most important manufacturing companies also translates to a pretty cool dining experience. I'm excited to be bringing more of the Ford's Garage experience to the Detroit area."

The second Michigan Ford's Garage is expected to open next year at the Fountain Walk in Novi. Construction on the Novi location is set to begin this month.

Site selection for the other three locations has also begun, according to a news release.

Ford's Garage was founded in 2012 in Ft. Myers, Florida, where Henry Ford had a winter home. Since then, it's grown to 20 franchise locations in Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Texas. Ford's Garage is an official licensee of Ford Motor Co., which allows them to outfit the inside and exterior of the restaurants with Ford brand imagery, including the iconic Ford blue-oval logo.

While Ford's Garage restaurants are modeled after a 1920s service station, they're also filled with Ford memorabilia, including vintage fixtures and gas pumps, as well as a Model T or Model A car suspended above the center bar.

The restaurants are decidedly vintage, mixing Prohibition-style elements like brick, richly colored woods and a copper bar top that's hammered by hand.

While Ford's Garage is known for its half-pound, hand-pattied, Black Angus beef burgers, the menu also offers comfort foods, entree selections, soups, salads, sandwiches and appetizers. It also has an extensive craft beer selection, wine and cocktails.



Ford's Garage restaurants are known for their hand-pattied Black Angus burgers. PROVIDED BY FORD'S GARAGE

hometownlife.com

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist
Mobile: 248-396-3870

Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

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State Fair celebrates 10th year in Novi

Sarah Raza
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Curious crowds gathered around the dozens of livestock exhibits for a chance to pet animals at the Michigan State Fair in Novi. The sounds of cows, goats and pigs filled the air at the 10th anniversary of the event.

Dave Coon, 52, is among those who have attended the event every year since the fair moved to Novi in 2012. Coon brought his animals from his Udderly Nutz farm in Lyons and was working the popular Beginning of Life exhibit, where fairgoers can pet young rabbits, ducks and goats. For him, the most rewarding aspect is getting to educate ordinary folks who don't often get to see farm animals.

What keeps him coming back?

"When kids come up to you with smiles on their faces," he said as two young girls asked to pet the 1-month-old rabbit in his arms, "that's what's really cool to me."

The State Fair first began in 1849 in Detroit, and was held at the State Fair Grounds on Woodward Avenue in Detroit until 2009, when it was discontinued due to budgeting issues. In 2012, it moved to the Showplace in Novi, where it has been held since.

Sue Kayl, 70, attended Novi's State Fair for the first time with her senior center's group of over 30 attendees. Comparing it to the Woodward Avenue location, she said she "appreciated the indoor and outdoor aspect so you can escape the heat for a while." Inside the Showplace, fairgoers can enjoy the livestock exhibits, while the carnival, beer tent and contests are outside.

Her husband, Bob Kayl, 72, was impressed by some of the records on display, particularly the pumpkin weighing 1,638 pounds.

Linda Coon, 53, and her daughter, Laura Bowman, 26, at the Udderly Nutz exhibit, said they enjoy the lively atmosphere of the fair and answering questions about their goats. This year, the family brought 17 American Lamancha goats to the fair.

"We go to fairs all year round, but there's nothing like this," Bowman said, adding that most shows only have a few species of animals, whereas the State Fair has a wide range, from cows to tortoises.

The Coon family has been exhibiting their animals at the State Fair for the last 10 years and commended the organizers for their respect and flexibility toward exhibitors.



Johnny Gutierrez, of San Antonio, Texas, dives from a 33-foot ledge into a pool of water while on fire as part of a Watershow Productions Inc. diving show at the Suburban Collection Showcase in Novi during the first day of the Michigan State Fair. PHOTOS BY RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS



From left, Stan Cullimore, of St. Clair Shores, Estelle Duncan, of Redford, and Antonia Moulard, of Livonia, react as diver Clark Kocourek of Omaha, Neb., dives 80 feet into a pool Thursday.



People flock to the Michigan State Fair midway at the Suburban Collection Showcase in Novi on Thursday, the first day of the 2022 fair. The State Fair continues through Monday with new attractions like the Pork Chop Revue and the Cool Zoo.

Missing Commerce Twp. teen found safe in northwest Detroit

Chandra Fleming
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Missing Commerce Township teen Laken Lewis, 15, was found safe Sept. 3 in northwest Detroit by police and has been reunited with family after being missing for two weeks.

Laken had been missing since Aug. 18 after she went for a walk in the Stratford Villa mobile home park in Commerce Township.

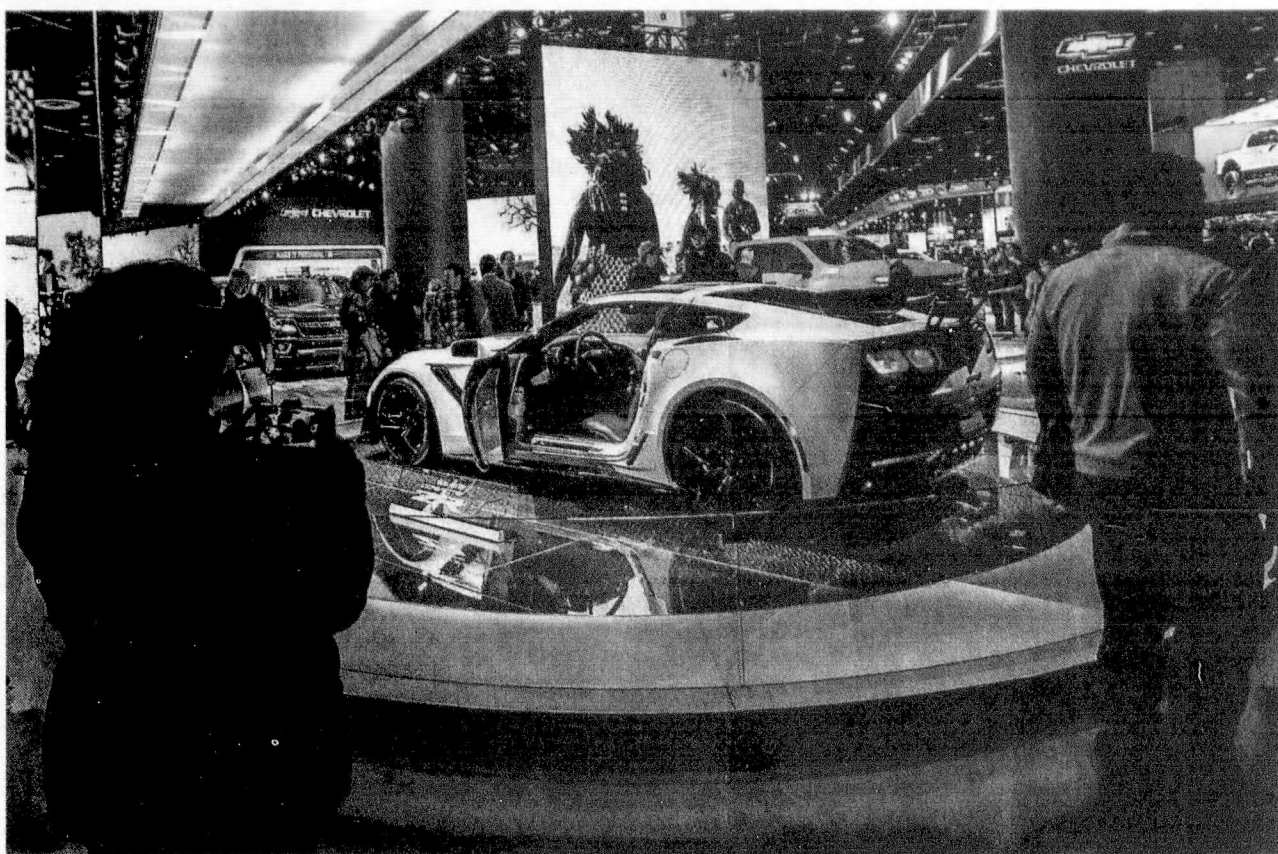
She said she would be home two hours later but never returned.

She was found Sept. 3 by Oakland County Sheriff's Office detectives from the Special Investigations Unit and the Fugitive Apprehension Team with help from the Detroit Police Department. A tip regarding her whereabouts helped detectives locate Laken, who was found in the company of several people.

"We appreciate the feedback we received from the public and the hard work of our Detectives that located this missing young girl and recovered her safely in Detroit," Sheriff Michael Bouchard said in a news release.



Missing Oakland County Teen Laken Lewis was found safe in northwest Detroit on Saturday. OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



The Corvette ZR1 greets attendees as they enter the doors of the 2019 North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit on Jan. 19, 2019. KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL, DETROIT FREE PRESS

Your guide to the 2022 Detroit auto show

Emma Stein

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK -
MICHIGAN

The Detroit auto show — one of the largest in the world — kicks off in just a few days.

Formally known as the North American International Auto Show, the event has historically brought hundreds of thousands of people to the motor city. This year, the multi-day event is meant for everyone — car fanatics and those who are less passionate. From flying cars (yes, you read that right) to rock stars to food trucks, the exhibits appeal to a wide range of interests.

This year, the show is placing an emphasis on the electrification of the industry.

With so many pit stops, it can be hard to know where to start. Here's your comprehensive guide to the event:

When is the 2022 Detroit auto show?

The show is open to the general public from Sept. 17-25.

From Sept. 17-24, hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Sept. 25, it's open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Other events:

- Industry Tech Days and AutoMobili-D, a chance to preview emerging technologies and new start-ups, are on Sept. 14 and 15.

- The Black Tie Charity Preview, a fundraising gala, is on Sept. 16.

Where is the 2022 Detroit auto show?

The event will be scattered across downtown Detroit. It will be both indoors and outdoors for the first time in the show's history.

Locations include Campus Martius, Huntington Place, Hart Plaza and Spirit Plaza.

Detroit auto show 2022 ticket prices

For the public show, tickets are \$20 for adults, \$12 for seniors 65 and older and \$10 for children ages 3-12. Children 2 and under can get in for free. A family pass is \$50.

Tickets for the Industry Days, meant for those who work in the mobility industry, are \$75 per person.

Black Tie Charity



Monster Truck Throwdown in Hart Plaza will include the world's first battery-powered monster truck. PROVIDED BY THE DETROIT AUTO SHOW

Preview tickets cost \$400 each or \$700 per pair. This includes access to the entire show and the VIP Ribbon Cutting Ceremony inside Huntington Place.

Take flight

The future has become reality with the auto show's air mobility exhibits — from jet packs to flying car technology.

"This exciting addition to the show is a natural extension of the evolving transportation ecosystem, especially as people continue to look for creative ways to expand personal mobility," said Detroit Auto Show Chairman Joe Lunghamer. "We'll give auto show audiences a taste of the future today with a look at the whole spectrum of mobility — from the thrill of human propulsion to amphibious vehicles you can keep in your backyard to EVs leading the industry's transformation."

Electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) companies including AIR, Airspace Experience Technologies and AERWINS Technologies will display their aircrafts. Visitors can fly in the cockpit of AIR ONE through virtual reality.

A jet suit from Gravity Industries lets humans fly, and Omni is bringing the world's first-ever flying hoverboard.

Family fun

The Detroit auto show is taking families on a blast to the past with the Dinosaur and Off-Road Vehicle Encounter.

A Jurassic walk-thru experience at the Huntington Place Ballroom features more than 80 life-like dinosaurs, a band, crafts and fossil digs.

While you're there, you can check out the one and only Flintmobile — the car used in the 1994 feature film "The Flintstones."

Meanwhile, attendees can watch a Monster Truck Throwdown in Hart Plaza, including the world's first battery-powered monster truck. The world's largest rubber duck, standing at 61 feet, will also be on display at Hart Plaza.

A hot spot for family fun, an arcade on wheels will be parked at Hart Plaza where visitors can play Xbox, Nintendo Switch and PlayStation, with hundreds of games to choose

from.

Music

Grammy-winning musician Nile Rodgers and CHIC are the headline performers at this year's Black Tie Charity Preview at Huntington Place in Detroit.

Rodgers, a Rock & Roll Hall of Famer, co-founded CHIC and is co-founded CHIC, which is best known for dance favorites like "Le Freak" and "Good Times."

Performances open to the public will be at Hart Plaza 6-11 p.m. Sept. 16.

The public show will feature themed days in Hart Plaza, from Motown Tuesday to Saturday Family Day and

See AUTO, Page 3A

Wayne County, Oakland County homes for sale fall in price in August

Mike Stucka
and Sean Lahman

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK -
MICHIGAN

A typical Wayne County home listed for \$159,900 in August, down from \$160,000 a month earlier, an analysis of data from Realtor.com shows.

The median list home price in August was down about 9.7% from August 2021. Wayne County's median home was 1,265 square feet for a listed price of \$127 per square foot.

The Wayne County market was busy, with a median 36 days on market. A month earlier, homes had a median 32 days on market. The market added 2,384 new home listings in August, compared with the 2,500 added in August 2021. The market ended the month with some 4,069 listings of homes for sale.

The median home prices issued by Realtor.com may exclude much, or even most, of a market's homes. The price and volume represent only homes that are single-family homes, condominiums or townhomes. They include existing homes, but exclude most new construction as well as pending and contingent sales.

Information on your local housing market is available through the USA TODAY Network, with more data from Realtor.com.

Oakland County home prices drop 3.8% to \$404,120

Oakland County's

home prices fell 3.8%, to a median \$404,120, from a month earlier. The typical house was on the market for 31 days, from 24 days a month earlier. The typical 1,976-square-foot house had a list price of \$207 per square foot.

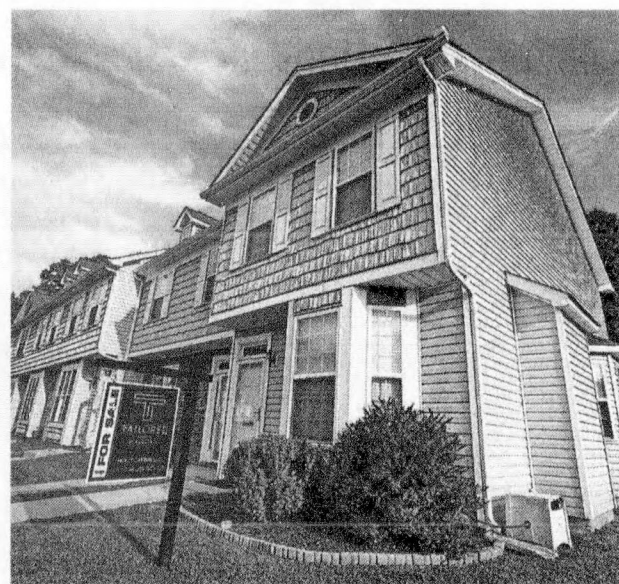
Across metro Detroit, median home prices fell to \$274,500, down 2% from a month earlier. The median home had 1,536 square feet, at a list price of \$174 per square foot.

Across all of Michigan, median home prices were \$275,000, falling 3.5% from a month earlier. The median Michigan home for sale had 1,629 square feet at list price of \$165 per square foot.

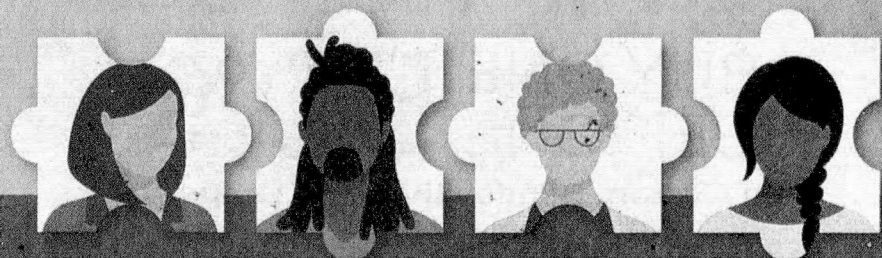
Across the United States, median home prices were \$435,050, down 3.1% from a month earlier. The median American home for sale had 1,890 square feet, listed at \$222 per square foot.

The median home list price — the midway point of all the houses or units listed over a period of time — is used more often in this report instead of the average home list price because experts say the median offers a more accurate view of what's happening in a market. In finding the average price, all prices of homes listed are added and then divided by the number of homes sold. This measure can be skewed by one low or high price.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from the Realtor.com residential listings database.



A townhome for sale in August in Dallas, North Carolina, is shown. Median prices in August were lower in 37 states than they'd been a month earlier, Realtor.com data shows. MIKE HENSILL/THE GASTON GAZETTE



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Eye-popping, trendsetting new vehicles are on the way

Mark Phelan
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Whether you're a frustrated shopper or a car lover eager to see the latest technology and styles, the North American International Auto Show will have plenty for you to see when it opens to the public Sept. 17 at Huntington Place convention center on Detroit's riverfront.

Auto show organizers expect about 30 brands to be on the show floor, including an array of new vehicles that either aren't on sale yet or are in such short supply you're more likely to find a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow than any of them on a dealer's lot.

Add to that the announcement of about 30 semifinalists for North American Car, Truck and Utility of the Year, and Huntington Place will host the most impressive collection of new and hard-to-find vehicles since the pandemic struck in early 2020.

EVs, muscle cars, pickups — you name it

Curious about electric vehicles? Where else are you going to see a Cadillac Lyriq, GMC Hummer SUV and pickup, Ford F-150 Lightning, Hyundai Ioniq 5, Polestar 2 and Porsche Taycan?

How about the Genesis GV60, the EV that uses facial recognition to let its owner enter and drive?

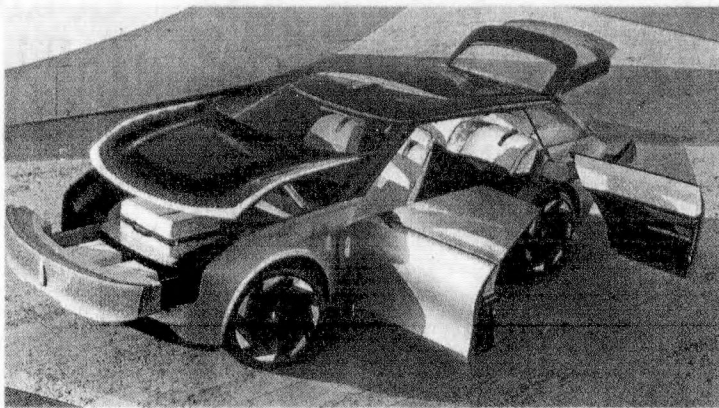
Not to mention such yet-to-be-released models as the electric Chevrolet Equinox, Blazer and Silverado. Those three mainstream models — compact SUV, midsize SUV and full-size pickup — are the proof points for GM's "EVs for everybody" promise to make the technology widespread and affordable. All three should go on sale in 2023.

There will also be revelations about other beloved models making the transition to electric power.

Get ready for your first look at Toyota's all-hybrid Crown sedan, which aims to split the difference between SUV and sedan. The new Sequoia large SUV will also be present.

Acura's new Integra, the little sport sedan that recalls the brand's origins, will be on the show floor, too.

Ford's ever-expanding, business-building niche models for its pickups and SUVs will be well represented. Models that aren't



A Lincoln concept called the Star EV, shown, will be at the North American International Auto Show with a finished interior. Lincoln's Model L 100 is also listed among the vehicles expected.

PROVIDED BY LINCOLN

in dealerships yet but present at the show will include the Bronco Raptor, Bronco Everglades, Maverick Tremor and F-150 Raptor R.

Chevrolet will respond with its Silverado ZR2 Bison off-roader, a full-size pickup with advanced shock absorbers, and five skid plates tailored to protect crucial low-hanging parts, including its front and rear differentials, transfer case and fuel tank.

Almost unimaginably, the Dodge stand will have a sporty Dodge Hornet plug-in hybrid developed with Alfa Romeo, and the controversial and innovative Daytona Charger SRT concept — billed as the first electric muscle car. If not from Dodge, who?

Did I mention the debut of the dramatic new 2024 Mustang — likely the last ever internal combustion powered version of the original pony car? And the Lincoln Model L 100 concept car that stopped traffic at the recent Pebble Beach luxury-brand extravaganza?

Yeah, they'll be there, too. Here is a list of highly anticipated vehicles expected at the Detroit auto show:

- Acura Integra
- Cadillac CT5-V Blackwing
- Cadillac Escalade-V
- Cadillac Lyriq
- Buick Wildcat concept
- Chevrolet electric, Blazer, Equinox and Silverado
- 2024 Ford Mustang
- Ford Maverick Tremor
- Dodge Charger Daytona SRT concept
- Dodge Hornet GT
- Genesis GV60
- GMC Hummer electric pickup and SUV
- Hyundai Ioniq 5
- Lincoln Model L 100
- Polestar 2

- Range Rover
- Toyota Crown
- Toyota Sequoia
- Toyota NASCAR race car

Unique experiences

Also not to be missed, a pair of stunning concept cars:

- Buick Wildcat
 - Lincoln Model L 100
- Those concepts will never be built, but they set the tone for their brand's future vehicles and features.

Lincoln's earlier Star concept will also be on the stand, this time with a finished interior.

The Detroit Auto Dealers Association, which puts the show on, pulled every string its well-connected members could reach to make this a show worthy of the agonizing three years since Detroit held its last auto show.

Huntington Place will also hold off-roading SUV demos inside. For the first time, the show will also include flying electric "cars" and "motorcycles" — they're coming, and sooner than you expect.

Toyota's Lexus luxury brand's stand won't have the all-new 2023 RX, but the SUV may be present in the display of North American vehicles of the year semifinalists.

"This display of award semifinalists at the 2022 Detroit auto show is a first and will certainly contain a diverse selection of a couple dozen interesting new vehicles," jury president Gary Witzenburg said.

Among the vehicles in the running to be semifinalists:

- Audi Q4 e-tron
- BMW ix Drive 50i
- Genesis G80
- Honda CR-V

- Kia EV6
- Mercedes-Benz C-class
- Mercedes-Benz EQE
- Nissan Z
- Toyota GR Corolla

A variety of exotic and luxury cars are expected as well.

Multiple brands will offer test drives on the riverfront course of the 2023 IndyCar Detroit Grand Prix.

Moving from NAIAS's old dates in the dead of winter opened the door — literally — to outdoor experiences, including an electric monster truck that will crush jalopies in Hart Plaza and photo ops for Jeep owners with the world's largest rubber duck.

If you're a Jeep owner, you know what that is all about. If not, Google it.

Partial list of brands expected at the Detroit auto show:

- Acura
- Alfa Romeo
- BMW
- Buick
- Cadillac
- Chevrolet
- Chrysler
- Dodge
- Ferrari
- Fiat
- Ford
- Genesis
- GMC
- Honda
- Hyundai
- Jeep
- Kia
- Lamborghini
- Land Rover
- Lexus
- Lincoln
- Mazda
- Nissan
- Polestar
- Porsche
- Ram
- Subaru
- Tesla
- Toyota
- VW
- Volvo
- Wagoneer

The public show runs Sept. 17-25. Go to naia.com for information about show hours, tickets and more.

Contact Mark Phelan at 313-222-6731 or mmphelelan@freepress.com. Follow him on Twitter @mark_phelelan.

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Grill

Continued from Page 1A

Mark Mitra as much.

"I hate to see you go," Kokoszka said. "I love your food."

Mitra admits it is bittersweet for him to close the restaurant, a former Chili's he purchased more than 10 years ago at 30712 Lyon Center Drive East.

Kensington Grill was a dream project for the former Arby's franchisee. He sold several of the fast food restaurants and focused on making great barbecue at his new restaurant, which he said was, and still is, his baby.

But Mitra, 67, is getting older and facing a hard truth.

"The fact is, you can't turn back time," he said. "Time is the one thing you can't get back or buy and I want to make the best use of days and opportunities in front of me."

He is looking forward to traveling with his wife Diane, including visits to extended family in India and Croatia, and even cooking — perhaps just for him and their family, which includes their two children.

While Mitra has contended with long hours for many years, he and other restaurant owners have faced increasing pressures during the pandemic which may have also contributed to a quicker exit from the industry.

He reluctantly cites labor shortages, supply shortages, and inflation that has doubled and even tripled meat and fish costs.

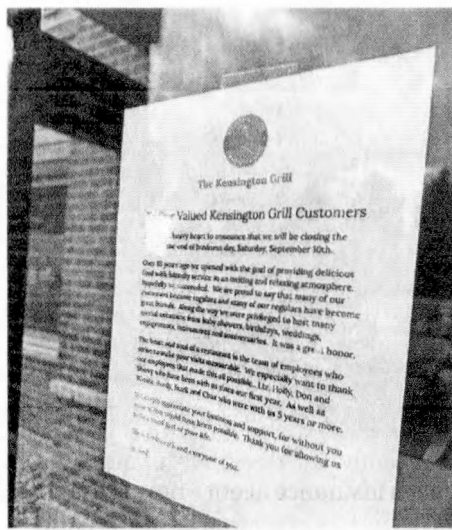
"All of these things added to the challenge and the craziness of running a business," Mitra said. "Ultimately it is just our time to step away."

Reflecting on the years, Mitra said he is most proud of his employees, many of whom had been with him from the start of Kensington Grill, and who had been like family.

Those employees made a difference with the level of service and care they showed each and every customer, he said.

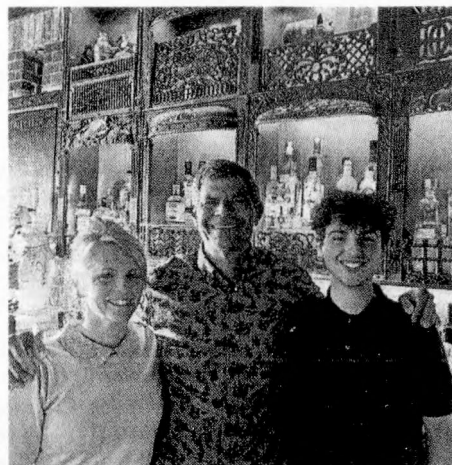
That service, as well as what Mitra said was some of the best barbecue in the state, resulted in many customers who also became regulars and friends.

"To our customers, I just want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve you and hopefully we provided you the



A letter to Kensington Grill customers lets them know the New Hudson restaurant would close its doors Sept. 10, 2022, after 10 years in business.

SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Kensington Grill Owner Mark Mitra, along with General Manager Holly Godwin and server Chaz Godwin, were busy last week, Kensington Grill's final days in business, before closing for good.

SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

hospitality to relax and enjoy yourself," he said. "To my employees, I just want to thank each and every one, current and former, that helped the Kensington Grill be not just a restaurant, but a meeting place for the community."

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

Webber

Continued from Page 1A

ing an assistant principal, a middle school principal and then principal at South Lyon High School. He attributes that rise to something former South Lyon superintendent Bill Pearson saw in him early on in his teaching career.

Despite his rise to become a top school district official, Webber said he always keeps his primary objective in the forefront: making sure students get a quality education.

"When somebody asks me, 'what do you do for a living?', my answer is always an educator," he said. "Doesn't matter if I was a teacher or an assistant principal or principal, assistant superintendent, superintendent, I'm an educator. It's what I do."

That passion has already shown even before school starts: Webber recently found himself at the freshman orientation for Northville High School, interacting with students to learn more about them.

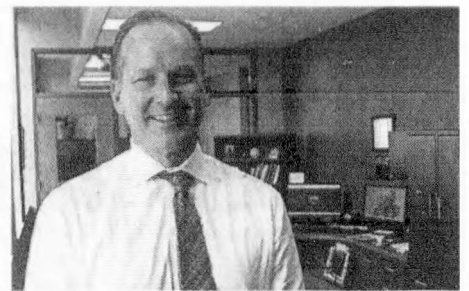
That care especially extends to the seniors at the high school, who have had nothing but chaos since all schools were shuttered in March 2020 during their freshman year. Their entire high school career has been marred by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with this upcoming the best chance for a sense of normality. That's something, Webber said, he's sensitive to.

"This year, if you think about it, is the first year our seniors have a chance at a normal high school year," he said. "I would argue that post what we've just been through that we need to focus on listening to our students and our staff members and understanding that they're coming through a difficult time."

Time for listening

Webber said he's excited at the chance to spend more time learning about the people that make up the district, which covers parts of several communities such as Northville, Northville Township, Novi, Novi Township and Lyon Township.

Despite the geographic closeness of both the Novi and Northville districts, Webber said there was not a lot of connections made between the two over



"This year, if you think about it, is the first year our seniors have a chance at a normal high school year," said Northville Superintendent RJ Webber. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the years. He plans to spend a good chunk of his first year learning and listening.

"Living in Novi for six years now but serving there for 12 and serving in South Lyon and so on, I had no idea the amount of things available to students and families here. And this is even beyond the district," he said. "As I'm introduced to all these opportunities, I'm like, 'We need to let the world know about this.'" Sharing those stories is a goal of Webber's during his first year. He does not plan to change much from the top — he attributes the work former superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher did, as well as other previous leaders of the district — but said the message of what Northville schools is all about can be amplified.

"There are always ways to get better. What I'll say is, you don't have to be sick to get better," he said. "And there are always ways we can get better. And what I would like to do."

Webber is aware of the challenges facing him — "I will make mistakes, I'm human," he said — but being surrounded talented staff will help him better become a leader the district needs.

"My job right now is to earn the trust of this community and I will try my best every day. I really just can't tell you every day I walk in how lucky I feel," Webber said. "I am exceptionally grateful to be here and to serve beside the employees of Northville Public Schools and to serve the community. I would just simply say thank you, thank you, thank you."

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

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These tips will minimize risk when disaster, family emergencies occur



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Last week's storms in southeast Michigan should remind us all how unpredictable life can be and the importance of understanding risk. Whether it is risk in our portfolios or the risk of an unexpected family emergency, the key is to understand that although it is impossible to eliminate risk, it is possible to manage it. With regards to the recent storms and subsequent damages, it is important to identify your losses and ensure that your homeowner's insurance policy is up to date to cover those losses.

We all know that the weather in Michigan is unpredictable. Because of this, I believe it is important that everyone create a current video inventory of their home and assets. This gives you a reminder of what

you own in the event of an emergency. After living in a home for several years, it is nearly impossible to remember everything that you own, particularly during a crisis, when our minds are not thinking clearly. Therefore, a video inventory of your home and premises allows you to refresh your memory in a time of crisis.

When creating your video inventory, I recommend that you film your entire premises, from the floors to the ceilings and everything in between. In addition, I recommend that you narrate your way through the video as you record it, describing things as clearly as possible.

Another benefit of a video inventory is that if you ever did have a claim on your policy, it can provide additional evidence to the insurance company of any losses. In that regard, if you have any collectibles and you have receipts or appraisals, I also recommend that you include those in your video inventory.

The other aspect of good risk management is an ongoing review of your home-

owner's insurance policy. Unfortunately, most people purchase their homeowner's insurance policy at the time they purchase their home, and never update it. This is a big mistake. As we enter another season of unpredictable weather, it is important to review your policy to ensure you have the coverage you need.

I recognize it is difficult for most of us to read and understand our homeowner's policy. After all, they are written by lawyers for lawyers. That is why if you have not recently sat down with your homeowner's insurance agent - now is the time to do it. Most homeowner's insurance agents that I know encourage their clients to meet with them to make sure their coverage is up to date. If your homeowner's insurance agent does not want to sit down with you to discuss your policy, then it's a clear indication that you need a new agent.

One of the mistakes many homeowners make is that they assume all homeowner's insurance policies are the same.

However, there are several differences across companies. Different policies and different companies work better for different situations. The key is to have the policy that matches your individual situation.

I also believe it is important to shop around for your homeowner's insurance policy. There is nothing wrong with getting competitive bids to see if you can lower the cost of your insurance. Remember, the lowest bid isn't necessarily the best bid, however, price is always a factor.

It would be nice if we could eliminate risk from our lives; however, that is impossible. The best we can do is be prepared in such a way that when a crisis occurs, we have the proper tools to manage it.

Good luck.

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

Habitat

Continued from Page 1A

lot of efforts we've done over the past 12 to 14 years here at the campus," said environmental specialist Mike McNulty.

McNulty has been with the company since 2008 and has seen many changes with the program and campus.

"I enjoy the pollinator garden cause that was our very first special habitat project here. And I just like to see the way it's changed throughout the years," said McNulty.

There is much to show within the 92 acres of ITC's headquarters, with 62 acres actively managed for wildlife. The campus features a 1-mile path for only employees to walk on because of safety precautions.

The grounds are maintained year-round under sustainable environmental principles like native plantings, invasive species removal, wildlife trail cameras, and annual surveys to add to statewide data.

"ITC will have a biologist come out and do a couple of different monitoring days looking for amphibians," said McNulty. "We submit that data to a statewide database for reptiles and amphibians."

The path goes through wetlands, woodlands, open green space, and a large pond. While walking the trail, there is lots to see, including native pollinator plants, bird, duck, and bat boxes, lots of wildlife, and a natural corridor that is very popular with bluebirds.

"A highlight of the program is the on-site transmission right-of-way demonstration garden. This area is used as an example of safe corridor vegetation plantings for rural areas and more formal plantings for residential areas. This unique garden offers homeowners options to consider when landscaping their properties within transmission corridors," said Keller.

ITC started the program at WHC in 2008 after building the headquarters. "It kind of just came organically after we built the building," said McNulty. "Then these special projects came about a couple of years after occupying the building because we joined membership with the Wildlife Habitat Council."

WHC is a nonprofit that partners with industry and corporations on creating and enhancing biodiversity and wildlife habitats on corporate lands. It has more than 1,000 certified programs across 48 states and 25 countries. It helps identify potential projects and encourage companies to con-

nect with members of your community through conservation.

"Our vision is a world in which nature is fully integrated into all aspects of the business (operations, corporate citizenship, and management)," said Keller.

The ITC corporate headquarters grounds are maintained not only by an ecological firm but also through master gardeners, Ducks Unlimited, Michigan State Tollgate Farm and Education Center, Eagle Scouts, and Girl Scouts of America.

"We had 20 Girl Scouts and some parents that are chaperones and all that, and they came here to ITC, and we built the boxes, bought the materials, we got it pre-cut for them," said McNulty. Other parts of the grounds are cared for by ITC employees through volunteer events. The company also hosts events to come out and do things like pulling invasive species and educational walks.

ITC owns and operates a good portion of the Midwest electrical grid, with 16,000 miles of power lines and several hundred substations.

Besides being a partner to WHC, it has partnered with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Metropark System in southeast Michigan. It has created prairie and pollinator habitats as well

as removed invasive species.

It also has done special projects like the Arboretum in Clinton Township. It created a prairie habitat and some training materials for the arboretum, where native and invasive species can now be identified.

"The reason why we do a lot of this is, you know, we are in these communities," said McNulty. "We are in people's backyards, literally. We want to be good neighbors, good community partners, and good stewards of the land."

ITC has warehouses where it has built rain gardens, captured stormwater, controlled stormwater, and created habitats. Since ITC travels across the land, it has ensured that the ITC in Novi is not the only place to be environmentally conscious for the company. There are 14 other WHC-certified locations throughout Michigan and Iowa.

"We have a responsibility. We manage such a large amount of land. We want to manage it in a responsible way," said McNulty. ITC is always working behind the scenes, helping provide a good portion of the Midwest with power and responsibility.

Aida Dennis, an incoming freshman at Grand Valley State University, is a Detroit Free Press Summer Apprentice.

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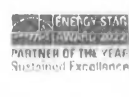
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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

australianwordgames.com.au

Abeam	Charts	Funnel	Overlap	Sprit
Ahoy	Clew	Heave	Pacific	Spume
Alarm	Club	Jet boat	Ocean	Stars
Alee	Cutter	Keel	Plot	Steer
Atoll	Debris	Lake	Raft	Stow
Axis	Decks	Launch	Safety	Tide
Back	Deep	Liner	Sail	Trim
Bags	East	Luggage	Seal	Turtle
Bank	Fill	Metre	Sheet	Unity
Cabin	Foreign	North	Ship	Vessel
cruiser	Free	Open	Spar	Yawl

TODAY'S ANSWER

Perfect conditions

Yacht race

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

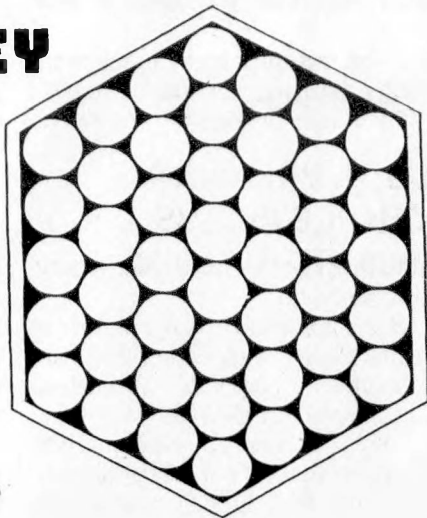
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SUDOKU | CREATORS

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

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

		6	3		2	1		
	7		8		6			
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NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

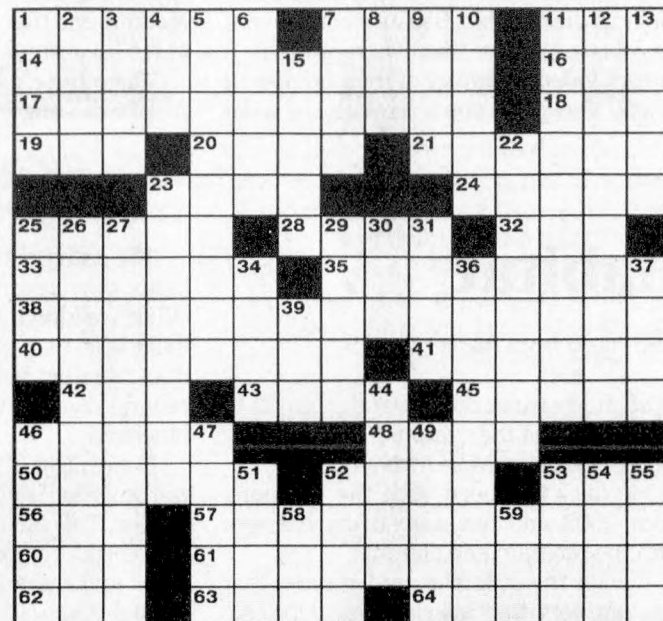
ACROSS

- One making service calls
- With 7 Down, brewed line Starbucks sold to Unilever
- Spring center
- Really drag
- Mohamed Zakariya designed a Forever stamp for it
- Sport that Brits call "footy"
- Where 56 Across wouldn't go
- BYU sponsor
- Sound from a dropper
- Boaster's comeback
- Letter written by Tolkien
- Didn't release
- "Remarkable!"
- What may precede a Q & A
- Speak for
- Go where one isn't wanted
- Wouldn't move on
- Paradoxical parting words
- Ultra-extreme
- What you must provide for a kid's cable car kit
- Read Across America sponsor
- Texter's "I didn't have time for it"
- Playwright source for Shakespeare's *King John*
- Rust removers
- Didn't give up
- Gave up
- Fishing
- Foul confines
- 40-time *Sports Illustrated* cover subject (1963-2016)

DOWN

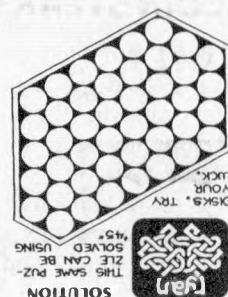
- Key missing ON & O
- Glorify
- Tests that the FAA requires of pilots
- Column heading for NBA stats
- End of some offering statements
- Common hour follower
- See 7 Across
- Column heading for PBA stats
- Abductor on a Greek 2-euro coin
- 110th Birthday limited edition for 2022
- Stepping stone for many a president
- One in a recital trio
- IT VIP
- Drive away
- Listed at sea
- Highest-paid woman in rock, c. 1978
- Longest west-flowing tributary of the Mississippi
- Alchemist's "little person" statue
- Make an indelible impression
- Stuck
- Mardi Gras accessory
- What a tabletop might do

- Oppozitsiya* pronunciation
- Highly hoppy refreshment
- per square centimeter (pressure measure)
- Its rivals include MIA and ATL
- Part of five European country's borders
- Dismantled
- Most of Europe abolished them by 1861
- Deep sea diver's initial concern
- Altruistic allotment
- Body language?
- Made like some bee products
- farm
- Front
- Audible crack
- Moby Dick's mother



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TODAY'S ANSWER



Green Oak mall fills five storefronts within months

Jennifer Eberbach

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK

Within the last couple months, an outdoor shopping mall between South Lyon and Brighton has filled five storefronts.

Green Oak Village Place shopping center is filling up quickly, with just a few storefront vacancies - and a Halloween store is temporarily filling one of those for the season.

"We're approaching maximum occupancy there. We only have a few spaces left," said Sean Valentino, director of retail operations for the center and Southfield-based real estate firm Redico.

The shopping center recently announced two more stores will open soon, in addition to three stores announced in June.

National retailer Spencer's is expected to open a new location in the shopping center by the end of the year.

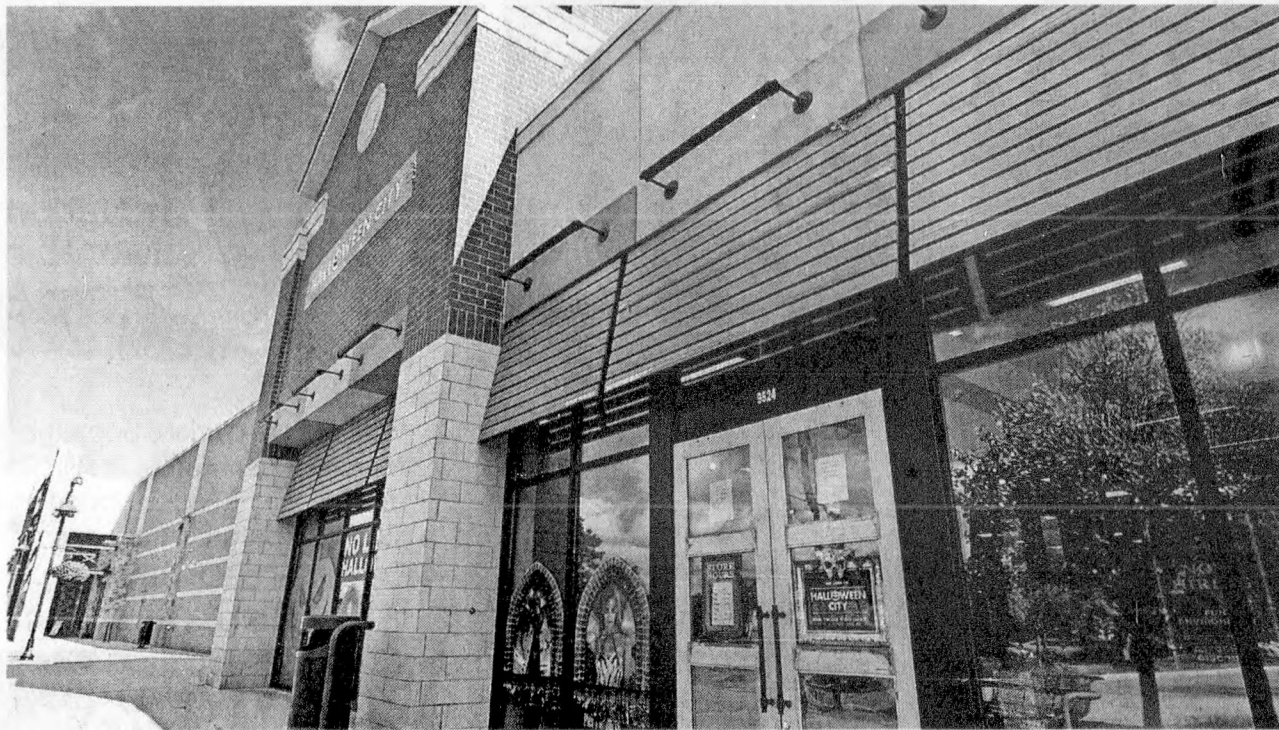
Spencer's, known for gag gifts, graphic T-shirts, adult toys and novelty décor such as lava lamps, will occupy a more than 2,500-square-foot storefront. The space was previously occupied by Kay Jewelers, which closed in 2020, amid nationwide location shut-downs.

"Spencer's is typically a traditional mall-based tenant, but they are looking to expand with outdoor access like we offer, and some indoor malls have closed," Valentino said. "You'll see more and more of the mall-based locations are moving to outdoor malls. It's easier for people to park, with a curbside option, and it gives them more flexibility to set their hours."

Also recently announced, a European Wax Center will open in a storefront in the shopping center that has never been occupied before.

"We're seeing an expansion of new retailers in health and beauty," Valentino said. "This will bring new life in (a storefront) that had not been previously occupied. That square footage (about 1,700 square feet) has been popular because smaller spaces are becoming more limited, and new centers are not being constructed."

Two more stores recently opened and another is set to open soon. Athleta, an



A Halloween City store is temporarily filling a former Pier 1 for the season at the Green Oak Village Place mall, shown Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY
GILLIS
BENEDICT/
LIVINGSTON
DAILY

athletic apparel brand owned by Gap Inc. opened in August. F45 Training, an Australia-based fitness franchise, is expected to open a location this fall.

US-Mattress, which is headquartered in Brighton, also opened a new showroom this summer. Founded online in 2000, US-Mattress has opened more than 20 new brick-and-mortar stores in the last few years, growing from five to 27 in about two years, district manager Cody Quint said in June.

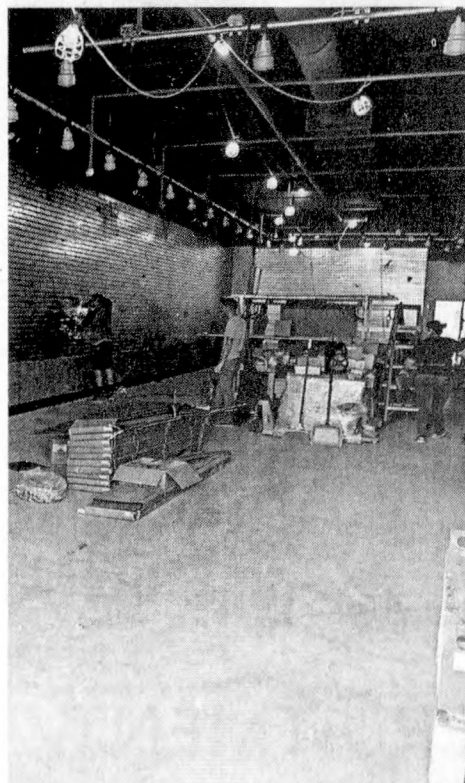
The shopping center had been struggling after some national retail closures, including Pier 1, which went out of business following pandemic closures.

While the shopping center works to fill that space, Halloween store Halloween City has set up temporarily in the former more-than 9,800-square-foot Pier 1 for the second season in the row.

Valentino said retailers have shown interest in the storefront and he hopes to have it filled in the coming year.

In the meantime, he said, Halloween City has been a draw that also complements the shopping center's annual trick-or-treating event, Boo Fest.

Contact Livingston Daily reporter Jennifer Eberbach at jeberbach@livingstondaily.com.



Work is underway Wednesday on what will be a Spencer's store at the Green Oak Village Place shopping center.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY



Athleta, shown Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022, is a recent addition to the Green Oak Village Place mall. GILLIS

BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

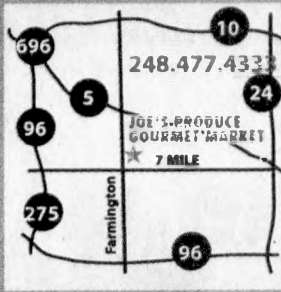


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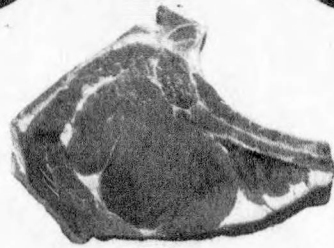
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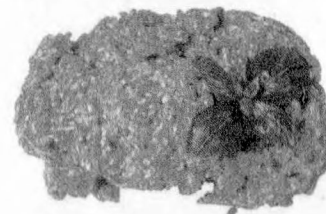
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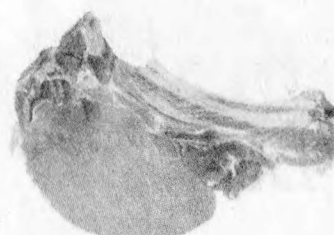
USDA PREMIUM
CHOICE ANGUS
GROUND SIRLOIN
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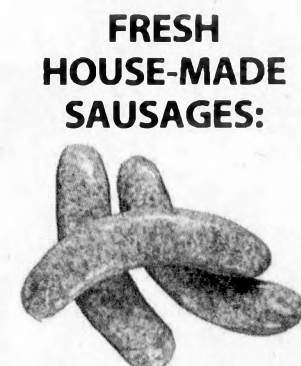
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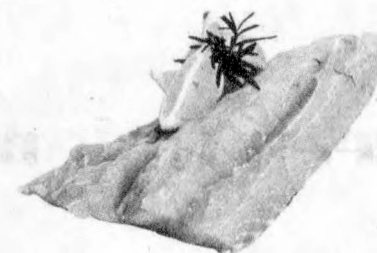
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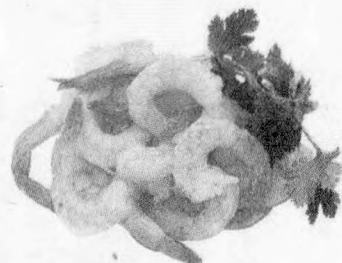
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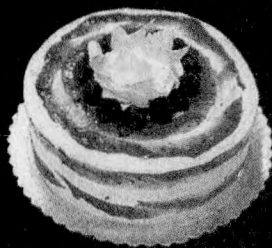
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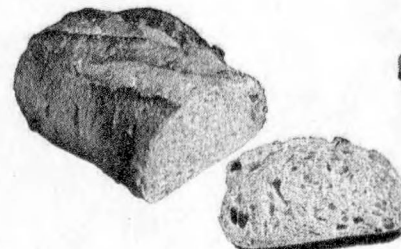
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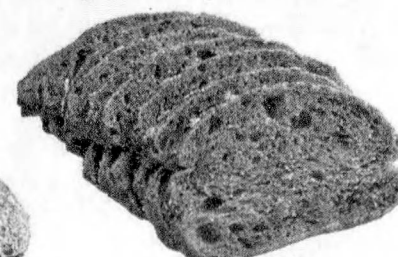
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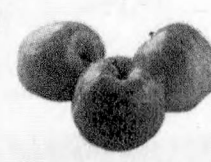
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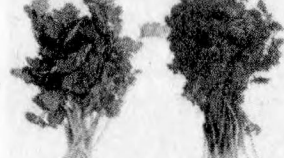
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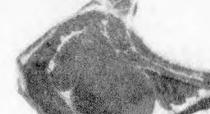
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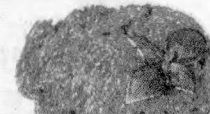
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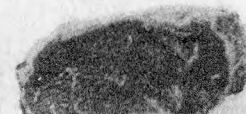
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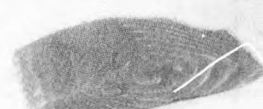
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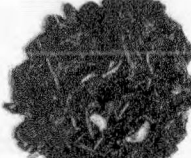
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SPORTS

ArJon Thompson left it all on the field for the Spartans



Livonia Stevenson's ArJon Thompson drives for a touchdown during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at Westland John Glenn. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was the second time in 3 weeks that ArJon Thompson has been in serious pain.

While the Livonia Stevenson quarterback clutched a bottle of Gatorade Gatorlyte in his left hand, he barreled over, placed his palms on his knees and fought back his vomit.

He was woozy.

He was absolutely spent.

And he almost threw up on his teammates in the post-game huddle Friday

night at Westland John Glenn.

And while this pain was more severe than what he endured in Week 1, the dual-threat QB will take this type of nausea any day of the week.

That pain he felt in Week 1? That was emotional pain. That was realizing the Spartans could've done more. They could've made fewer mistakes. They could've fought back. Instead, they lost to Howell, 18-0.

Vomiting sucks. But feeling heartache with your teammates is much worse.

And that's what was going through Thompson's mind late against the Rockets.

Stevenson trailed, 20-14. There was only 1:29 remaining. And it was fourth and 1 near the goal line.

"We didn't have an option," Thompson said of the moment. "The other team (John Glenn) might have an option to lose. We don't have an option to lose. After that first game, we told ourselves we were never going to feel like that again. We were never going to feel (embarrassed from defeat) again."

"A 20-7 loss? Nah-uh. We're going to fight back no matter what. We're going to fight back until they physically kick us

See SPARTANS, Page 3B

Does Novi have a new QB? 4 Michigan football questions entering Week 4

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom asks the important questions entering Week 4 of the Michigan high school football season.

Have the Wildcats found their next quarterback?

With a comeback in Week 1's Xenith Prep Kickoff Classic well out of reach, Novi brought in backup quarterback Caleb Walker to close out the game.

And in Week 2, the junior led the Wildcats to a late-game upset against Hartland. Walker tossed a 5-yard touchdown to Boden Fernsler to secure the 13-10 victory.

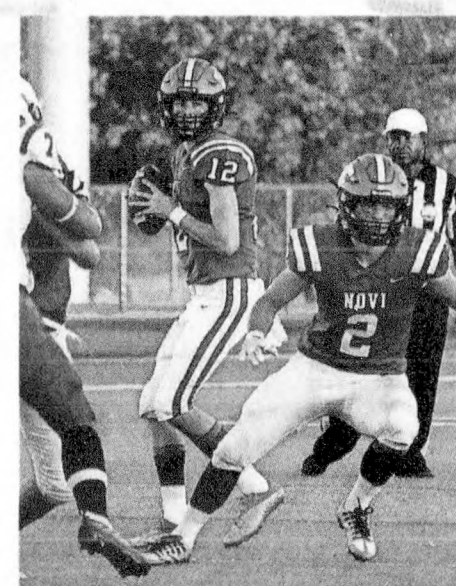
Week 3 proved to be Walker's breakout performance. Novi downed Salem 43-10 thanks to the QB finishing 21 of 32 passing for 408 yards and a staggering six TDs. And on the receiving end of one of those TDs? Luke Aurilia.

When Jim Sparks took over the program a year ago, Aurilia was the new coach's safety blanket. Aurilia brought both a passing and running threat to the QB position. Plus, he's been a heck of a leader. If you didn't see that side of him on the football field, you for sure saw it on the basketball court.

He entered this fall as one of the top returning QBs in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

But it's clear the Wildcats have a better chance to win the KLAA-West with Walker behind center. And that's not a slight at Aurilia. Aurilia is a pure athlete. He could play running back, fullback, tight end or receiver if need-

See WEEK 4, Page 4B



Novi's Cole Shire (right) blocks for QB Caleb Walker (left) during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West football game against Salem on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022. RAYVON DELMONTA, SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

This Northville senior is one of 10 finalists for Miss Volleyball

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville senior Abby Reck was driving with her sisters, sophomores Molly and Mallory, to a club practice at Legacy Volleyball Center in Novi when one of them broke the news to her.

The Northeastern commit was recently named one of 10 finalists for

Michigan's Miss Volleyball Award.

Which was saying something because that list is a who's who of some of the best players not only in the state but across the country. Six of them are committed to a Division I school.

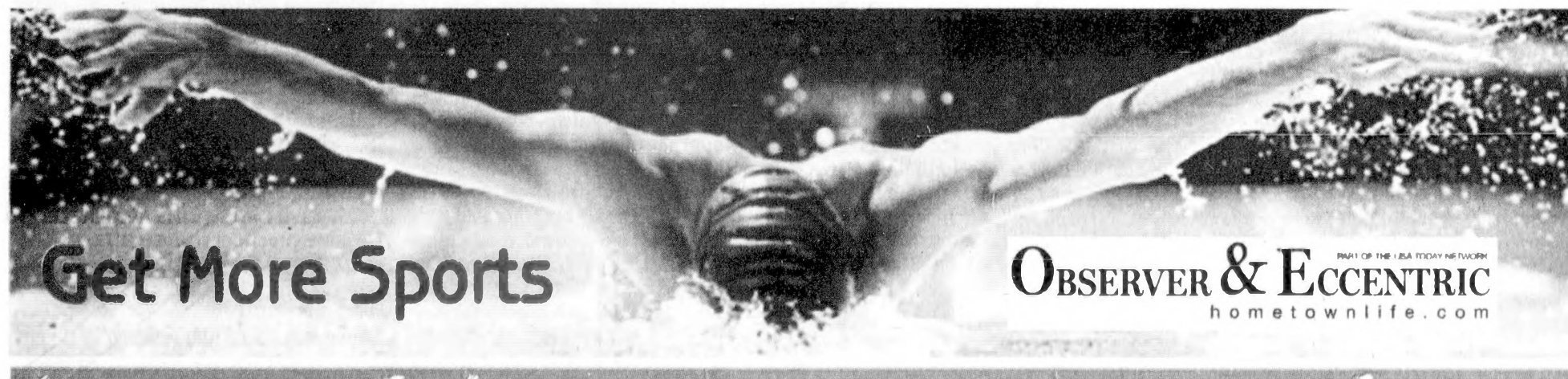
What's more, six of them have been club teammates of Reck's over the past four years. And eight of the 10 have played for Legacy at one point in their careers.

The other finalists included Detroit Country Day middle hitter Lauree Abraham (Yale), Novi outside hitter Sarah Vellucci (Long Beach State), Bloomfield Hills Marian setter Ava Sarafa (Kentucky), Marian OH Ella Schomer (Wofford), Lake Orion OH Nina Horning (Cincinnati), Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern OH Kennedy Louisell (uncommitted), Macomb Dakota setter Erin Madigan (uncommitted), Marshall libe-

ro Ella McAllister (uncommitted) and Ann Arbor Skyline OH Harper Murray (Nebraska).

"It's just been a lot of hard work," Reck said following the Mustangs' 3-0 victory Sept. 8 at Plymouth. "It doesn't really matter to me how long you're in the gym. It's how long your mind is in the gym. You could be in the gym for 6

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 6B



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Wanna see some football? These are the five best Week 4 games

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom breaks down the five biggest matchups taking place during Week 4 of the MHSAA football season.

All games kick off at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16.

Livonia Churchill (1-2, 0-2) at Livonia Franklin (3-0, 2-0) (KLAA-East)

The first matchup for the Livonia City Championship doesn't have as much sheen as we'd like.

Livonia Franklin and Livonia Churchill have been trending in different directions.

The Patriots have followed up last year's Division 2 state semifinal appearance by ripping off three-straight wins, including beating two solid teams in Canton and Dearborn.

The Chargers couldn't have looked better in their opening week victory over Plymouth during the Battle at the Big House. But they've since dropped back-to-back games, getting upset by Westland John Glenn in Week 2 and losing to defending state champion Belleville a week ago.

Churchill needs this win more than Franklin, but that doesn't mean the Patriots are going to roll over and die. This should be a great Week 4 matchup, despite the Chargers entering on a two-game losing streak.

Livonia Stevenson (2-1, 2-0) at Dearborn (1-2, 0-2) (KLAA-East)

During the post-game huddle following last week's 21-20 comeback win at Westland John Glenn, one of the Spartans jokingly shouted, "Let's win the Dearborn City Championship next week!"

Even if that comment was tongue in cheek, Livonia Stevenson can do just that in Week 4.

Dearborn is coming off back-to-back losses to Belleville and Franklin, arguably the two best teams in the KLAA-East. And Stevenson has proved it can play as a unit and fight through adversity since losing 18-0 to Howell in the opening week.

Coach Randy Micalef admitted the Spartans were almost caught sleep-



Livonia Stevenson's Alex Bowser rushes during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at Westland John Glenn. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

walking early on against the Rockets, but they pulled through by erasing a 20-7 deficit in the second half.

If they can play a full four quarters, expect them to win to be the next mayor of Dearborn.

Novi (2-1, 2-0) at Brighton (3-0, 2-0) (KLAA-West)

Outside of Novi and Northville, no team has looked as impressive as Brighton in the KLAA-West.

This should be quite the test for the Wildcats, who are coming off a 6-TD performance from new QB Caleb Walker. There's no doubt about it: If they want to win the division title and have a chance to rematch Belleville in the KLAA championship, they must get past the Bulldogs, who edged Hartland 9-7 in Week 3.

Brighton has blowout wins against Dearborn Fordson and Salem to open the season. And only scoring nine points against Hartland says the Bulldogs are human. But this would be another statement win for the Wildcats if they can go on the road and pull off the upset.

North Farmington (1-2, 1-0) at Farmington (2-1, 1-0) (OAA-Blue)

The Raiders finally picked up a win after edging Troy, 9-0, in Week 3. But their defense is once again getting a serious test, this time against rival Far-

mington.

Cameron Pettaway has proven to be one of the top running backs in the Oakland Activities Association, and QB Dominic Pesci has been able to air it out each week for the Falcons.

That's trouble for the Raiders, who were gashed both on the ground and through the air against Caledonia two weeks ago.

Yes, it's a rivalry game, so throw out the records. But unless North Farmington's defense shows up, this game could get out of hand.

South Lyon (2-1, 2-1 LVC) at Detroit Country Day (3-0)

The Yellowjackets enter this matchup undefeated, but they haven't faced a team as challenging as South Lyon, which beat Detroit Country Day 31-7 a year ago.

Running back Tommy Donovan has continued to make a push to be named Hometown Life's Player of the Year. He's getting it done on the ground, through the air, on defense and in the return game. He's too good to take off the field.

If the Yellowjackets can't stop a future Division I running back such as Donovan, it'll be a long night for their defense.

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

Hometown Life's Michigan high school football picks for Week 4

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom picks the winners from the five biggest matchups of Week 3 of the MHSAA football season. He went 3-2 picking games last week and is 10-5 on the season.

All games kick off at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16

South Lyon (2-1, 2-1 LVC) at Detroit Country Day (3-0)

With the way the Lions have been playing since their Week 1 loss to Walled Lake Western, they appear to be pretty much unbeatable.

A year ago, they had no trouble beating the Yellowjackets at home. They should get a similar result in Week 4 on the road.

South Lyon senior Tommy Donovan has scored on the ground, through the air and in the kicking game. Can he get a TD on defense next?

Folsom's pick: South Lyon 45, Detroit Country Day 10.

Novi (2-1, 2-0 KLAA-West) at Brighton (3-0, 2-0 KLAA-West)

Novi and Brighton have at least one thing in common: Both teams have already played tough nail-biters against Hartland, last year's Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West champion.

The Wildcats' offense is starting to find its rhythm, especially coming off a six-TD performance by QB Caleb Walker in Week 3's win over Salem.

But Brighton has the advantage as the home team.

Flip a coin in this one. It should be that close.

Folsom's pick: Brighton 17, Novi 10.

Livonia Churchill (1-2, 0-2 KLAA-East) at Livonia Franklin (3-0, 2-0 KLAA-East)

The Chargers haven't lost three-straight games since opening the 2013 season 0-3.

If they can't slow down Livonia

See PICKS, Page 3B

Who's at the top? Check out Folsom's Week 3 football rankings

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom is back with his Week 4 top-10 football rankings:

10. Birmingham Seaholm (3-0; Last week: Unranked)

During the entire nine-game season in 2021, the Maples scored only 136 points. They enter Week 4 having already scored 122 points and will likely eclipse last year's point total against Troy Athens. And the season is only 1/3 finished. Welcome to the rankings, QB Colton Kinnie and the boys. I'm looking forward to watching you play in person in Week 9.

9. Birmingham Groves (2-1, 1-0 OAA-White; Last week: No. 5)

The Falcons beat a tough Oak Park squad that has made the postseason in nine of the past 10 seasons. Which was a great way for them to start the Oakland Activities Association-White. They have another winnable game against Bloomfield Hills in Week 4. But back-to-back games against Southfield A&T and Harper Woods await them in Weeks 5 and 6. So the schedule is going to get tougher.

8. Northville (3-0, 2-0 KLAA-West; Last week: Unranked)

The magic number for the Mustangs was three. That's how many games they've won in each season in four of the past five years. With them winning their first three games to open 2022, they've already met that threshold, and they have a handful of winnable games coming up. Welcome to the rankings, QB Luca Prior and the boys. I can't wait to watch your rivalry game against Novi in person in Week 8.

7. Detroit Country Day (3-0; Last week: No. 9)

For the second-straight week, the Yellowjackets escaped with a close-call win in Week 3, this time beating Warren Michigan Collegiate, 28-20. They'll have their hands full this week when they welcome South Lyon to 13 Mile. The Lions are the second-best team in the Lakes Valley Conference and will likely win out to finish the regular season.

6. Milford (2-1, 1-1 LVC; Last week: No. 7)

Linebacker Wyatt Lesnew has joined Novi's Niko Krall and Detroit Catholic Central's Brayden Courser in the pantheon of elite linebackers playing on the west side of metro Detroit. If you get a chance to watch the Mavericks play this fall, pay close attention to No. 52. He flies to the ball better than most can.

5. Novi (2-1, 2-0 KLAA-West; Last week: No. 8)

The Wildcats continue to take care of business, winning two straight after getting skunked by Belleville in the season opener. They face their toughest test yet since taking on the Tigers, though. Week 4 is a trip to undefeated Brighton. The winner of this one gains a game on the other in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West standings.

4. Redford Union (3-0, 2-0 WWAC; Last week: No. 4)

The Panthers didn't have the kind of offensive output they expected in their 21-8 win over Dearborn Heights Annapolis in Week 3. But they're still one of the best Division 4 teams in Michigan. They have more winnable games against Romulus and Dearborn Heights Robichaud coming up. But that Week 6 matchup against Garden City will hopefully be a must-see.



Detroit Catholic Central's Spencer Lyons rushes during a football game against Chippewa Valley on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

3. Livonia Franklin (3-0, 2-0 KLAA-East; Last week: No. 3)

Is there a better one-two punch than Cordell Mabins Jr. and Tyler Garrett? The Patriots' offense is producing statistics you'd expect from someone playing Madden NFL 23 on rookie mode. They face Livonia Churchill for the first Livonia City Championship matchup of 2021 in Week 4, but I've got my eye on that Week 5 game at Westland John Glenn. Damon Powers and Xavier Spadacini vs. Mabins Jr. and Garrett. Sign me up for that.

2. South Lyon (2-1, 2-1 LVC; Last week: No. 2)

If running back Tommy Donovan would stop scoring touchdowns, football fans would pay more attention to just how great the Lions' defense is. In the last two weeks, the starters have given up just 13 points, which includes big wins over Milford and Walled Lake Central. It's a shame South Lyon had to play Walled Lake Western in Week 1 because that game would be a toss-up if it were played later in the season. The defense has things figured out

now.

1. Detroit Catholic Central (2-1; Last Week: No. 1)

Had the Shamrocks not given away a win to Chippewa Valley in Week 1, they might be considered one of the five best teams in Michigan. After going on the road and upsetting Davison in Week 2, they responded by beating DeWitt with an impressive overtime effort this past week. They've played three recent state champions to open the season, and they're 2-1. No one has played a tougher schedule through three weeks. Now things get easier for CC over the next two weeks.

Out of the top-10 rankings: Brother Rice (1-2), Livonia Churchill (1-2, 0-2 KLAA-East).

Also being considered: Livonia Clarenceville (2-1), Livonia Stevenson (2-1, 2-0 KLAA-East), South Lyon East (3-0, 3-0 LVC), Westland John Glenn (1-2, 1-1 KLAA-East).

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

Spartans

Continued from Page 1B

off this field."

It was Thompson who dove over a pile of defenders for a 2-yard touchdown that kept the Spartans in it during the first half.

And then he raced 27 yards down the far sideline for a TD to turn a 13-point deficit into a 20-14 score with 9:28 left.

Facing fourth and 1 with the game on the line, it was a no-brainer who was going to win it for Stevenson.

Out of a shotgun set, running back Alex Bowser picked up a block on the edge. And then receiver Nathan Patterson pushed his defender deep into the end zone. Thompson raced full speed to the right pylon and snuck into the end zone for the winning score, ensuring the Spartans a 21-20 comeback victory.

"I just had to go," Thompson added. "Everything that was left in me, I left it out there on that play right there. ... At that time, at this place in the game, it was clutch. We just fought back from a bunch of adversity throughout the game. We knew there was everything on the line then, and we just had to do it."

Coach Randy Micallef said the Spartans (2-1, 2-0 KLA-East) sleepwalked through most of the first half and early on in the third quarter.

John Glenn running back Xavier Spadacini punched in a 1-yard TD on the game's opening drive. QB Nick Wetmore tossed a 5-yard score to Connor LeCourt to put the Rockets (1-2, 1-1) ahead 14-7 entering halftime.

And then Wetmore raced 7 yards on a keeper play to make it 20-7 with 3:53 left in the third.

The Spartans needed answers quickly. They got just that from their defense and Thompson.

"I'm so proud of the kids," Micallef said. "We made some mistakes, and they (John Glenn) played really well, taking advantage of some of the stuff they run really well. But our kids just hung in there. They kept on battling and battling and battling."

"ArJon is a special player. Last year, he was a special player. This year, he's maturing into a leader. We know when he's got the ball in his hands, good things are about to happen. He's playing both ways. He barely comes off the field."

And that was true as well after Ste-



Livonia Stevenson's Owen Reed, Johnny Morris and Blake Zoro (l-r) celebrate a defensive stop during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at Westland John Glenn. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

venson's winning TD.

The Spartans and Thompson had to make one final defensive stand to sew up the victory.

John Glenn started from its own 20-yard line and moved the ball toward midfield. And the coaches on its sideline were hollering for someone to find the kicking block. The Rockets were just 10 or 15 yards from field goal range.

And then Wetmore dropped back for a pass but was quickly met by Stevenson linebacker Owen Reed, whose sack forced a fumble that defensive tackle Blake Zoro jumped on.

"We were just playing with heart," said Zoro, a sophomore. "We were giving it all we got, 100% every play. Just never giving up. We started off slow, and then we started to get hot. We knew we had it. It's just the fear of losing."

Added Thompson: "Right as I think he's (Wetmore) going to throw the ball, I hear, 'Ball! Ball! Ball!' I see the guy on the ground. I see the ball on the ground. I see the pile. And I just had faith that we were going to get the ball. And the next thing you knew, we were in our victory formation and winning the game."

Thompson winced in pain while being interviewed for this story. Sometimes he held his belly in fear of throwing up. But that bright smile never left his face. The come-from-behind win was worth the pain.

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

Picks

Continued from Page 2B

Franklin running back Cordell Mabins Jr. and slot back Tyler Garrett, they will, indeed, be on a three-game losing streak. They've lost back-to-back outings to Westland John Glenn and defending state champion Belleville.

The undefeated Patriots should have the advantage in the first Livonia City Championship matchup of 2021. But, like most rivalry games, throw the records out. This game could go either way.

Folsom's pick: Livonia Franklin 35, Livonia Churchill 21.

North Farmington (1-2, 1-0 OAA-Blue) at Farmington (2-1, 1-0 OAA-Blue)

The Raiders' defense didn't have many answers for Caledonia two weeks ago, as the Fighting Scots' offense got it done both passing and running.

The Falcons' offense isn't as dynamic as Caledonia's, but they have QB Dominic Pesci and running back Camer-

on Pettaway.

If North Farmington's defense can't come up with stops, it's in for a long night in this crosstown rivalry game.

Folsom's pick: Farmington 42, North Farmington 21.

Bloomfield Hills (0-3, 0-1 OAA-White) at Birmingham Groves (2-1, 1-0 OAA-White)

The Black Hawks have given up 38 points or more in each of their first three games. And the magic from last year's 9-0 regular season and OAA-Blue championship just hasn't sparked yet. But they have QB CJ Jackson back for his senior year.

Bloomfield Hills should score points, but can it slow down the Falcons' offense? Birmingham Groves running back Mario Campoy-LoVasco has been unstoppable, and QB Cayden Hardy has plenty of weapons at his disposal.

Folsom's pick: Birmingham Groves 28, Bloomfield Hills 17.

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



Livonia Churchill's Jonathon Lytle-Montgomery rushes during the Battle at the Big House football game against Plymouth on Friday, Aug. 26, 2022, at Michigan Stadium. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



North Farmington's Mill Coleman returns a kickoff during a football game against Caledonia on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Week 4

Continued from Page 1B

ed. And he knows all the plays for each position.

Walker is more of a traditional QB. He's not a threat to break off 80-yard runs like Aurilia. But he's got a cannon for an arm. Having him throw the passes allows Sparks to use Aurilia as a gadget guy in his fun-and-gun offense.

Hey, this kind of setup worked for the New Orleans Saints with Drew Brees and Taysom Hill. Now it appears to be working for the Wildcats, who just got stronger on offense by moving a few pieces around their chess table. That just speaks to Aurilia's selflessness. The 'we' is definitely bigger than the 'me' at Novi.

Will the Cougars actually make the playoffs?

Without counting the COVID-19-shortened season in 2020, when every team in Michigan was allowed to compete in the playoffs, Garden City hasn't made the postseason since 2018.

That's why coach Thomas Michaelson is putting his team in a position to get there this season.

The second-year coach went for the win in the Cougars' 29-27 victory over Melvindale in Week 3.

After the Cougars punched in a TD late in the fourth quarter, Michaelson elected to go for two points, both entrusting his offense to secure the win and giving his defense a little breathing room should the Cardinals attempt the comeback.

Garden City QB Nathan Wasil pitched to Jessey Chavez to score the two-point conversion.

Melvindale scored on the ensuing possession with 2:08 left. But it was forced to go for two to knot the score. Cougars lineman Paul Wint plugged the hole, which allowed Travis Hartwell and Christopher Kosniewski to swarm to the ball and wrap up the ball carrier just short of the goal line.

Michaelson's gamble paid off. Now Garden City is 2-1 overall and undefeated in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference. And it's likely the second-best team in the league behind Redford Union, last year's WWAC champions.

There's a lot to like about this Divi-



Garden City's Nathan Wasil rushes during a Western Wayne Athletic Conference football game against Redford Union on Friday, Oct. 8, 2021. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

sion 4 squad, including do-all running back Owen McGraw, and now the Cougars have games coming up against D-2 Dearborn Heights Crestwood and D-3 Redford Thurston. Wins over the next two weeks will yield plenty of playoff points. They likely need five or six wins to get in.

"We're improving, and the kids are getting excited around here," Michaelson told Hometown Life. "The team is really unified. They're buying in and learning the game. To get winning results is encouraging for us going forward. We have a long ways to go, but we're trending toward making the state playoffs."

"Now we've got a couple of great opportunities to beat some bigger schools and put a ton of playoff points in the bank."

Who else can make plays for the Spartans?

Livonia Stevenson quarterback Ar-Jon Thompson wasn't a surprise entering the fall.

The dual-threat junior turns likely sacks into TD runs. He bounces a likely 3-yard gain into an 80-yarder. And, when given time behind the line, he can laser passes down the field.

But he cannot do it alone if the Spartans (2-1, 2-0) expect to keep winning games. He scored all three of their TDs



Livonia Stevenson's ArJon Thompson rushes during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at Westland John Glenn. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

on the ground in Week 3 at Westland John Glenn, willing them to a 21-20 comeback victory.

They used running back Alex Bowser in spurts. And a handful of receivers hauled in chains-moving catches.

But Stevenson is missing a playmaker or two.

You only have to look across town to see what I'm talking about. Livonia Franklin has running back Cordell Mabins Jr. running for hundreds of yards, Tyler Garrett catching passes and racing for TDs and QB JD Bates finding his rhythm. Livonia Churchill has running back Jon Lytle-Montgomery, receivers Jayden Allen and Johnny Pallozzi and QB Evan Snead.

Bowser does a good job of keeping defenses honest. Defenses can't only pay attention to Thompson.

But who else can be a stud playmaker on Stevenson's offense? Hopefully, we find out in Week 4.

Can the Wildcats keep this going?

In Week 3, we finally saw the type of Plymouth team we were expecting to see entering the fall.

The Wildcats (1-2, 1-1 KLAA-West)

took their foot off the gas in the Battle at the Big House, playing only about one half of solid football against Churchill in the opening week. And then they just fell apart against Northville in Week 2.

But they finally put it all together against rival Canton in the first Park game of 2022.

The Chiefs elected to ride its running attack once again, and Plymouth stayed disciplined. Canton had three 100-yard rushers in Week 2, but the Wildcats didn't let any of them reach 100 yards in this one. What's more, they didn't even give up a single point, posting a 16-0 shutout in the Week 3 matchup.

That's the effort we've been expecting. But keeping it going might be tough. They have Howell in Week 4, and then the schedule gets incredibly challenging with games against Hartland, Novi and Brighton in back-to-back-to-back weeks. All three of those squads are vying for the KLAA-West title.

We've seen Plymouth play well. Now it needs to keep it going. For all four quarters.

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

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Walled Lake Western rolls over Lakeland, 52-7

Brad Emons

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You have to pick your poison when trying to defend Walled Lake Western's dynamic duo of running back Darius Taylor and quarterback Drew Viotto.

White Lake Lakeland found out both poisons were fatal as the Minnesota commits spearheaded a 52-7 win in the Lakes Valley Conference matchup on Friday in White Lake.

Taylor, who plays offense, defense and returns kicks, ran for 284 yards on 26 carries and two touchdowns, while Viotto threw three TD passes as the Warriors (No. 6, Division 3) improved to 3-0 overall and in the LVC.

"Darius had a great game ... man it didn't even feel like 284 (yards rushing), but that's what you get when you get a kid that good," Western coach Kory Ciuroch said. "And Drew had a great game today, too. Really carried our offense. We were balanced and that's where we want to be."

After leading 21-7 at halftime, Western exploded in the third quarter scoring 17 unanswered points to put the game out of reach.

The Warriors scored on their first possession of the third on a 20-yard field goal by Max Kirk. Darrell Jones Jr. returned the kickoff 47 yards and on a key fourth-and-5 play on the series, Viotto wormed his way out of a sack and threw a shovel pass to Taylor for a 26-yard gain and a first down to lead to the field goal.

"They brought two linebackers on a blitz and one of them didn't get picked up, so I had to make them miss, and then as I was being tackled I saw Darius at the last second and I just flipped it to him," Viotto said. "That was kind of like playing backyard football out there."

Taylor, who has run for nearly 800 yards in his first three games, then scored on a 3-yard TD run with 5:26 to go in the third to give and the rout was on as the 6-foot-4 Viotto followed a 16-yard scoring pass to Ryan Boyce to make it 38-7 after Joey Hawkins pounced on a pooch kick that stayed inbounds at the Eagles' 32.



Walled Lake Western running back Darius Taylor (1) runs against White Lake Lakeland during the first half at Lakeland High School in White Lake on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022. JUNFU HAN, DETROIT FREE PRESS

"We really just wanted to have time and we knew what had to do the second half," Taylor said. "We just came out strong and I came out ready to run. I can run anywhere, but our scheme this week was to run it between the tackles. That was the bread and butter for this week."

Donovan Triplett added a 1-yard TD run in the fourth quarter to start the running clock. Backup QB Jaxon Lippert then scored on a 36-yard TD run.

"I felt pretty good and let the younger guys play," Taylor said. "But it was a good opportunity to let them grow and get better."

Viotto finished the game 9 of 19 passing for 184 yards, but may have had a higher percentage had it not been for four drops.

"We were definitely clicking on all cylinders I felt offensively," he said. "And Darius rushes the ball like that every game, he's a really good running back ... our receivers stepped up today and they did last week and they stepped it up today and played great. We were balanced."

During the first quarter, Taylor carried most of the load with five carries for 51 yards, but it was Viotto tossing a 31-yard TD pass to a wide-open Lippert

See FOOTBALL, Page 6B



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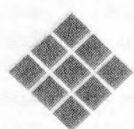
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Meet the top 10 finalists

Tom Lang

Special to Detroit Free Press

Ten high school players have been named finalists for Miss Volleyball 2022 in Michigan.

Only seniors are considered for the award, sponsored by the Detroit Free Press since 2003.

Finalists are selected by the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association. This year's nominees include, in alphabetical order:

Laurece Abraham

School: Birmingham Detroit Country Day

Position: Middle blocker

Height: 6-foot-1

2021 stats: 44 aces, 100 blocks, 103 digs, 273 kills

The buzz: Abraham broke the school record with 11 aces in one match. She also has the record for most kills and most blocks in a season. Now a four-year starter, she earned all-region and second team all-state last season. Led Country Day last year to district and regional titles and reached the state quarterfinals in 2021. She carries a 3.5 grade-point average.

College plans: Yale

Nina Horning

School: Lake Orion

Position: Outside hitter

Height: 6-5

Career stats: 210 aces, 122 blocks, 572 digs, 1,227 kills

The buzz: Horning was second team all-state as a sophomore and first-team last season. She has been in the six-player rotation her entire career and has led the team in kills since a freshman. OAA conference and district champions last season. She has a 3.67 GPA.

College plans: Cincinnati

Kennedy Louisell

School: Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern

Position: Outside hitter

Height: 5-11

2021 stats: 65 aces, 216 digs, 402 serves received, 589 kills

The buzz: Earned all-region and second-team all-state honors as a junior. She



Northville's Abby Reck celebrates after her team scored a point against Canton during the Division 1 volleyball district final on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

led Forest Hills Northern to a record best of 32-9-3 last year. Career kills total in three seasons is 1,382. Co-founder of the Fellowship for Christian Athletes chapter at her school. She has a 3.87 GPA.

College plans: Undecided

Erin Madigan

School: Macomb Dakota

Position: Setter

Height: 6-2

2021 stats: 31 aces, 779 assists, 60 blocks, 177 digs, 94 kills

The buzz: Last season, Madigan earned all-conference, all-county, all-region and second-team all-state. She led Dakota last year to a 28-3-2 overall record, for championships in conference, district, regional and a state semifinal appearance. She has a 4.1 GPA.

College plans: Undecided

Ella McAllister

School: Marshall

Position: Libero

Height: 5-6

2021 stats: 459 digs; 50.1 dig/set avg. per match.

The buzz: McAllister earned all-region and first-team all-state in 2021. As a sophomore, she led Marshall to a 33-8 record, and last year a 27-19-1 mark, winning district championships all three seasons of her career. She has a 3.83 GPA.

College plans: Undecided



Bloomfield Hills Marian's Ella Schomer serves against Davison during the Division 1 volleyball state quarterfinal on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021, at Royal Oak. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Harper Murray

School: Ann Arbor Skyline

Position: Outside hitter

Height: 6-2

2012 stats: 82 aces (289 career), 35 blocks, 312 digs, 656 kills (1762 career).

The buzz: Murray was the catalyst to the best Skyline season in the school's short history. The team was the Division 1 state runner-up to Birmingham Marian last season, after a state semifinal appearance in 2019. She has been first-team all-state the past two years, and second-team as a freshman. She has a 3.752 GPA.

College plans: Nebraska

Abby Reck

School: Northville

Position: Outside/middle hitter

Height: 6-1

2021 stats: 50 aces, 33 blocks, 148 digs, 590 kills.

The buzz: Reck led Northville to a 49-5 record, district and regional championships in 2021. She was voted all-conference, all-region and second team all-state as a junior. She has a 3.75 GPA.

College plans: Northeastern

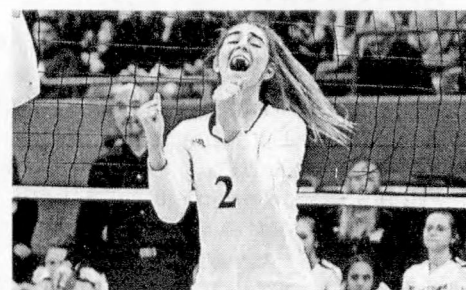
Ava Sarafa

School: Birmingham Marian

Position: Setter

Height: 6-0

2021 stats: 1,444 assists for third consecutive season of 1,000-plus.



Bloomfield Hills Marian's Ava Sarafa celebrates a point against Ann Arbor Skyline during the Division 1 volleyball state final on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, at Kellogg Arena. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The buzz: Sarafa is one of the top setters in the nation. Her set totals each of the last two years led the state of Michigan. Her 1,267 sets in 2020 was No. 1 in the nation in the sophomore class, and her 1,444 last year ranked No. 2 among juniors. Sarafa was the lead setter for the last two Division 1 state championship teams and last season she assisted five teammates to 180 kills or more. She has a 3.8 GPA.

College plans: Kentucky

Ella Schomer

School: Birmingham Marian

Position: Outside hitter

Height: 6-1

2021 stats: 63 aces, 119 blocks, 522 digs, 439 kills.

The buzz: Schomer was integral part of the last two Division 1 state championship teams. All-region the last two years, and all-state as a junior. Team record last year was 53-1 with a No. 2 national ranking. She has a 3.9 GPA.

College plans: Wofford

Sarah Vellucci

School: Novi

Position: Outside hitter

Height: 6-0

2021 stats: 45 aces, 39 assists, 23 blocks, 307 digs, 362 kills.

The buzz: Novi reached the Division 1 state semifinals in Vellucci's sophomore season and won the conference and district titles the last two seasons. She earned second-team all-state as a junior. She has a 3.8 GPA.

College plans: Long Beach State

Volleyball

Continued from Page 1B

hours but unless you're focused, it's not really doing anything for you."

At 6-foot 2, it's a no-brainer why she made the cut.

When Northville coach Sarah Lindstrom took over the program in 2021, one of the first things she did was move Reck from the middle to the outside. Reck brought too much power, verticality and pin-point accuracy to be left as a blocker near the net. Plus, Reck isn't a liability on defense in the back row. She can dig with the best of them, despite being one of the most towering hitters on the floor.

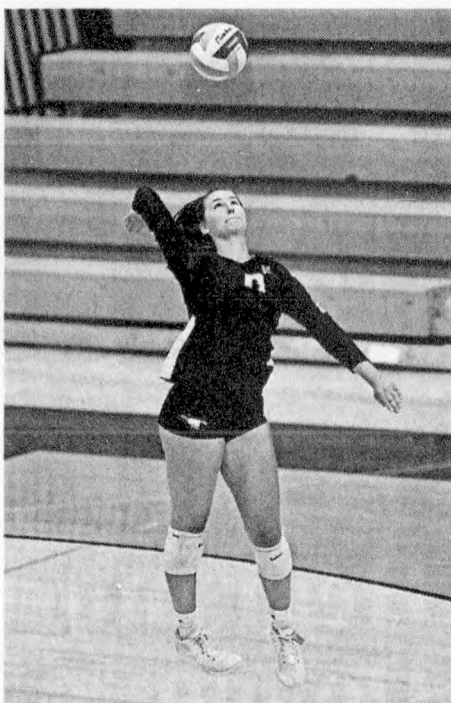
Reck is Northville's first Miss Volleyball finalist since Emily Martin in 2016. But she's Lindstrom's first since she coached Christina Porada in 2013 at Dearborn Divine Child.

Lindstrom, who has coached six of the 10 Miss Volleyball finalists at the club level, first coached Reck when she was a freshman, her first year at the club level. And she's been part of Reck's development for three of the past four years now that she's her high school coach.

"For me, to see her go from her first year playing high-level volleyball to this (becoming a Miss Volleyball finalist), it just makes me so proud, especially knowing her background, history and worth ethic," the second-year coach said. "She deserves it, and she's more than deserving to be with that group of people."

"Physically, she's gotten faster. She's always been a hard worker and has been very coachable. She was originally in the middle for me, but we moved her to the outside because she scores in high school. And if we're out of system, we can still get her the ball. She's definitely matured a lot. She's worked hard in the weight room and her vertical has increased by a ton, which I think that physical side of the game has definitely changed and has helped her."

While Miss Volleyball is an individual award, how well the Mustangs



Northville's Abby Reck serves during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West volleyball match Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022, at Plymouth. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

(9-0, 2-0 KLAA-West) do as a team will dictate how many votes Reck receives from the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association at the end of the regular season.

And Northville is thinking about winning a Division 1 state title this fall.

In Lindstrom's first season, the Mustangs were two points away from forcing a fifth set against third-ranked Ann Arbor Skyline, the eventual state runner-ups, in last year's state quarterfinal. It was just 17 points away from advancing to the final four at Battle Creek.

Lindstrom admitted some of her players didn't believe they could make it that far a year ago. But now that everyone has been in her system for two full off-seasons, the confidence has grown inside the locker room.

"I think that's a huge difference," the coach said. "We tried to make that present (that Northville is a championship-caliber program) when we came in, but it's hard to get people to

buy in to what you're selling. This year it started off from the very beginning. You can see when we're talking in huddles that they're nodding their heads, and you can see it in their body language. You can tell that they believe in us. And last year, getting that close, that's when they were like, 'Maybe we could get there?' And now that we've gotten that close, and they've gotten that taste of it, we're right there. We were one set away from Battle Creek. Now they know they can do it, and that gives them confidence."

Counting Reck, the Mustangs have just five seniors, but they're chalked full of future college players. From liberos Greta McKee, Ashlee Gnau and Taryn Rice to setters Anna Wilds and Ella Craggs, outside hitters Ava Thomas and Molly Reck and middle blocker Avry Nelson, among many others, they're ready to compete for a state title and help Abby become Miss Volleyball.

And Lindstrom has been the catalyst pushing the team forward.

"Sarah's just been really great, and as soon as she came into the program, she's just set a new standard and made sure practices were intense," Abby said. "She made sure everyone was focused and working hard. She kind of just reset the community we have in the gym. That's been super great for all of us. We hang out all the time. We love our team. It's just been really great to be close with my teammates, and I think that's what makes our team work really well together."

It's taken years of hard work for Abby to be recognized as one of the best players in Michigan. So it wasn't a surprise she heard she had become a Miss Volleyball finalist while she was driving to practice.

If she's driving to practice when she finds out who won the award in mid-November, that's great for the Mustangs. That means they're still alive in the playoffs and likely headed to Battle Creek.

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

Football

Continued from Page 5B

over the middle to give the Warriors a 7-0 lead with 1:47 left.

While Lakeland (2-1, 2-1 LVC) was stymied by a pair of big negative losses, along with a dropped pass, the Warriors increased their lead to 14-0 with 6:09 left in the half on a Viotto 20-yard TD pass to Michael Bailey. The key play 13-play drive came when the Warriors converted a fourth-and-4 pass to Bailey for a first down.

The Eagles finally showed some offensive life when Braxton Godin returned the ensuing kickoff 87 yards down to the Western 3 and Mike Mahaney III carried it in to cut the deficit to 14-7 with 5:07 left in the second period.

But just 17 seconds later, Taylor ripped through the heart of the Lakeland defense for a 68-yard TD run to put the Warriors back up by two possessions.

Sean Latham's 50-yard pass and a Western late hit put the Eagles inside the 10 just before halftime, but the Warriors stopped the threat when Bailey hit the Lakeland QB from the blind-side and recovered the fumble at the 12.

Two costly first-half turnovers and giving up over 400 total yards rushing led to Lakeland's demise.

"Halftime conversation was pretty clear, we shot ourselves in the foot the first half," Lakeland coach Jim Calhoun said. "We did compete for the first half, but then the better team won. It was pretty obvious. They got away. They kept going and kept executing and we got to grow up and we've got to get it together."

And Taylor was just too much in the overall scheme of things.

"Darius is a player," Cioroch said. "I'm not sure what the stats were, but we executed on all pieces of our offense today, throwing the ball, running the ball. And we really played well on defense. Outside of that long kick return and touchdown, we were shutting people down."

Who were Week 3's top performers? These guys right here

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Week 2 of the Michigan high school football season is in the books.

Let's take a look at the stat leaders around the Hometown Life coverage area.

Is your team missing stat leaders? Encourage your coaches to send stats to sports reporter Brandon Folsom at bfol-som@hometownlife.com.

Catholic League

Detroit Catholic Central 45, DeWitt 38 (F/OT)

LB Brayden Courser came up with the game-saving sack in OT for the Shamrocks (2-1).

Brother Rice 26, Brownstown Woodhaven 0

QB Blake Marrogy rushed for three TDs, including one on a 15-yard option play, and also tossed a TD to Henry Garritty. The Warriors are 1-2 overall.

Cranbrook 34, Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes 14

QB Preston Washer was 14 of 25 passing for 139 yards and four TDs for the Cranes (1-2). John Kersh led the defense with 10 tackles (one for loss) and one sack.

Independent

Detroit Country Day 28, Warren Michigan Collegiate 20

The Yellowjackets improved to 3-0 overall.

Livonia Clarenceville 34, Kalamazoo Loy Norrix 23

The Trojans improved to 2-1 overall.

Kensington Lakes Activities Association

Novi 43, Salem 10 (KLAA-West)

QB Caleb Walker was 21 of 32 passing for 408 yards and six TDs for the Wildcats (2-1, 2-0). TeJohn McGowan caught four passes for 123 yards and two TDs, while Boden Fernsler hauled in four passes for 109 yards and two scores. Andrew Kummer and Luke Aurilia each caught TDs. Niko Krall led the defense with 15 tackles (four solo), Thaddeus Lawler and Andrew Abler each had eight and Preston Johnston added six. Lawler, Abler, Cole Shires, Niko Hertrich and Austin Washington had one sack apiece and Preston Phimister recovered a fumble.

RB Robert Jones rushed 19 times for 96 yards for the Rocks (0-3, 0-2). Lawson Shields hauled in a 30-yard TD pass from Brayden Alexander, who was 2 of 2 passing for 34 yards. Shields paced the defense with eight tackles (seven solo, 2.5 for loss), and Aidan Moore added seven (four solo). Muhammad Qasim recorded a sack, and Tyler Bond broke up a pair of passes.

Northville 21, Howell 0 (KLAA-West)

QB Luca Prior was 8 of 12 passing for 64 yards and a TD to Angelo Rodriguez. The Mustangs (3-0, 2-0) got 16 carries for 73 yards and two TDs from Caleb Moore and five carries for 68 yards from Prior. Hunter Ladach led the defense with 10 tackles, Cooper Hoffman added eight and Hassan Elzayat totaled seven. Vaibhav Chigullapally and Elzayat each had sacks.

Plymouth 16, Canton 0 (KLAA-West)

RB Jaxon McCaig rushed 28 times for 188 yards and two TDs for the Wildcats (1-2, 1-1). Camden Short caught two passes for 17 yards, and Luc Damiani booted in a 28-yard field goal. Evan Cosgrove led the defense with seven tackles (five solo), Damiani added 6.5 tackles (five solo) and Garard Noel and Orlando Daniels had six apiece.

The Chiefs (1-2, 1-1) got 79 yards rushing from Dillon Calhoun, another 78 from Devon Pettus and 29 from Caleb Williams.

Belleville 59, Livonia Churchill 8 (KLAA-East)

QB Evan Snead was 6 of 15 passing for 75 yards for the Chargers (1-2, 0-2). Jon Lytle Montgomery rushed 19 times for 55 yards, Massiah Amerson rushed for a 2-yard score and John Pallozzi caught three passes for 55 yards. Amerson and Blake Chafin had three tackles apiece, while Chafin also recorded a sack.

Livonia Franklin 50, Dearborn 33 (KLAA-East)

QB JD Bates was 8 of 11 passing for 114 yards, two TDs and one interception for the Patriots (3-0, 2-0). Cordell Mabins Jr. rushed 29 times for 205 yards and three TDs, Dominic Simpson had six rushes for 51 yards and a score and Tyler Garrett scored on a 13-yard carry and caught three receptions for 53 yards and two TDs. Jacob Gorla led the defense with five tackles (one for loss), and Jon Jasionowski-Anderson nabbed an interception.



Livonia Stevenson's ArJon Thompson dives for more yards during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at Westland John Glenn. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Livonia Stevenson 21, Westland John Glenn 20 (KLAA-East)

QB ArJon Thompson rushed for three TDs, including the game-winner on a 1-yarder, for the Spartans (2-1, 2-0). Blake Zoro fell on a game-clinching fumble on the Rockets' final drive.

QB Nick Wetmore rushed for a 7-yard score and tossed a 5-yard TD pass to Connor LeCourt. The Rockets (1-2, 1-1) also got a 1-yard TD from Xavier Spadacini.

Dearborn Fordson 45, Wayne Memorial 0 (KLAA-East)

The Zebras fell to 0-3 overall and 0-2 in the KLAA-East.

Lakes Valley Conference

South Lyon 35, Walled Lake Central 6 (LVC)

QB Braden Fracassi was 4 of 10 passing for 71 yards, one TD and one interception for the Lions (2-1, 2-0). Tommy Donovan rushed 14 times for 121 yards and one TD and also returned a kickoff for a 95-yard TD. Fracassi and Wyatt Douglass each rushed for TDs, and Ben Radley caught a 27-yard TD pass. Zackary Nowell led the defense with six tackles (three solo, one for loss), Radley and Andrew Richards each added sacks and Nicholas Stoyanovich and Ryan Henderson each nabbed interceptions.

Milford 44, Walled Lake Northern 0 (LVC)

QB Ryan Allen was 15 of 22 passing for 190 yards, three TDs and one interception and rushed 14 times for 81 yards and a score for the Mavericks (2-1, 1-1). Ethan Phipps caught two passes for 98 yards and one TD, while Peyton Chamberlain and Josh Tobias each caught TDs. Tanner Petru rushed for a score. Wyatt Lesnew led the defense with 14 tackles (four for loss), two pass break-ups and a blocked punt, Danny Sternberg had seven tackles (two for loss) and two sacks, Jon Motes and Justin Gross each had five tackles and one sack and Luke Siterlet recorded a safety.

Walled Lake Western 52, White Lake Lakeland 7 (LVC)

RB Mike Mahaney III rushed for a 3-yard score for the Eagles (2-1, 2-1). Braxton Godin returned a kickoff 87 yards to set up Lakeland's lone TD.

South Lyon East 42, Waterford Mott 19 (LVC)

QB Nico Campo was 11 of 13 passing for 178 yards and three TDs for the Cougars (3-0, 3-0). Daedricco Fizer totaled 90 of the team's 179 rushing yards and added two TDs, while Jordan Newbill caught four passes for 89 yards and a TD and also rushed for a 47-yard score. Drew Moyer and Angelo Ljuliduraj each caught TD passes. Jayden LaPerna led the defense with 6.5 tackles, followed by Dante DeGrazia with 5.5. Connor Marsac had 4.5 tackles and a half sack, Nick Dashner added four tackles and one sack, Jack Toth had four tackles and 1.5 sacks and Newbill had an interception and blocked an extra point.

Michigan Independent Athletic Conference

Lutheran Westland 20, Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest 13 (MIAC)

QB Noah Etnyre was 5 of 8 passing for 70 yards and two TDs for the Warriors

(2-1, 1-0). Micah Lavigne caught a 49-yard TD pass, while Nathan Klann had an 11-yard TD reception. Aiden Sexton rushed for 47 yards and a TD. Ben Wright and Klann led the defense with seven tackles apiece, Sexton had six and Mark McCormick added five. Lavigne pulled down an interception.

Oakland Activities Association

Birmingham Seaholm 63, Auburn Hills Avondale 19

QB Colton Kinnie rushed for three TDs and threw another to Penn Roberts for the Maples (3-0). Granden Kinnie added two TDs on the ground, while Sean Emerson, Kyle Robbins and Roberts each rushed for one score.

Farmington 28, Troy Athens 14 (OAA-Blue)

RB Cameron Pettaway rushed for 156 yards and one TD and had 61 yards receiving and two TDs for the Falcons (2-1, 1-0). Owen Matteson caught a 70-yard punt return for a TD, while the defense held the Red Hawks to just 175 yards of total offense.

North Farmington 9, Troy 0 (OAA-Blue)

RB Anderson Sculati punched in a 9-yard rushing TD for the Raiders (1-2, 1-0).

Birmingham Groves 23, Oak Park 18 (OAA-White)

QB Cayden Hardy was 8 of 13 passing for 126 yards and two TDs for the Falcons (2-1, 1-0). Mario Campoy-LoVasco rushed 22 times for 101 yards and one score, Jack Wainer caught five passes for 90 yards and one TD. Braden Hall led the defense with four tackles (one for

loss) and a sack, while Josh Woods added three tackles and a safety.

Rochester 41, Bloomfield Hills 20 (OAA-White)

QB CJ Jackson totaled three TDs for the Black Hawks (0-3, 0-1). The senior threw a 20-yard TD to Aaron Zekman and an 18-yarder to Ahmad Taylor. He also rushed for a 5-yard score.

Western Wayne Athletic Conference

Redford Union 21, Dearborn Heights Annapolis 8 (WWAC)

QB Cory Chavis was 9 of 13 passing for 208 yards, three TDs and one interception for the Panthers (3-0, 2-0). Javerious Shepherd rushed 17 times for 149 yards, Kyren Ware added four receptions for 88 yards and one TD and Jeremiah Alston and Dematthew Dixon each caught a TD.

Garden City 29, Melvindale 27 (WWAC)

QB Nathan Wasil punched in a short-yardage TD and tossed a 40-yard TD to Owen McGraw, who also rushed for a 50-yard TD and returned a kickoff 50 yards. Also helping the Cougars (2-1, 2-0) were Kaden Williams with a 2-yard TD plunge and Jessy Chavez with the winning two-point conversion run.

Dearborn Heights Crestwood 35, Redford Thurston 13 (WWAC)

The Eagles fell to 0-3 overall and 0-2 in the WWAC.

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

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The Job Market Keeps Firing on All Cylinders

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With 528,000k jobs added in July, the job market persevered like a bird in the wind, despite a 75-basis-point interest rate hike, \$5 gasoline, and a bear market. Amid stiff headwinds and rising uncertainty, strong consumer spending continued to drive robust demand for labor and buoy the labor market. Job gains remain well above their 2011–2019 pace, when 194k payrolls were added per month, on average.

Profound and pervasive gains

- The economy added 528k jobs in July. That's the largest gain in 6 months. A key figure in this report is the diffusion index, which came in hot at 68.6, signaling that job gains were very broad-based. Healthcare (96.6k), leisure and hospitality (96k), and professional and business services (89k) led the gains.
- In the few industries with job losses, the losses were very small. For example, at the high end, motor vehicles parts manufacturing lost 2.2k jobs.
- Despite the huge slowdown in the housing market and in mortgage applications, employment in the real estate industry was unchanged, and credit intermediation activities lost only 700 jobs.

Almost no recession warning signs

- Despite a steady stream of layoff announcements over the past two months, the unemployment rate fell to 3.5% and the median unemployment duration stayed the same at just 8.5 weeks. The share of unemployed people who lost their jobs within the last 5 weeks fell from 38.3% to 36.9%. That suggests the labor market is tight enough that people who are being laid off are able to find new jobs quickly.

- The unemployment rates ticked down for prime-age workers (from 3.0% to 2.9%) and for women (from 3.6% to 3.4%).

- Two measures in the report tend to be leading indicators of recessions: the number of people working part-time for economic reasons, and the number of temporary help services jobs rose. The first moved in the wrong direction, increasing by 303k to 3.9 million, with more workers forced to take part-time jobs because of difficulty finding full-time work. But the second moved in the right direction. Temporary help services workers tend to be first in, first out—the first terminated during times of economic uncertainty when companies are hardening themselves against the risk of a recession and

trimming costs. But that industry posted gains of 9.8k jobs—more than in the prior month.

The labor market is doing better than we thought

- Upward revisions to the prior 2 months tell us that the job market was even better in the second quarter than we thought. The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for May was revised up by 2k, from 384k to 386k, and the change for June was revised up by 26k, from 372k to 398k. With these revisions, employment in May and June combined is 28,000 higher than previously reported.



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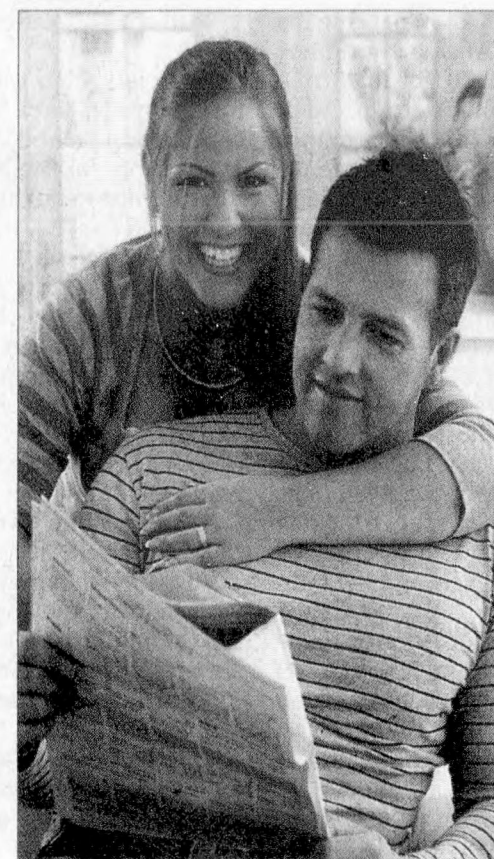
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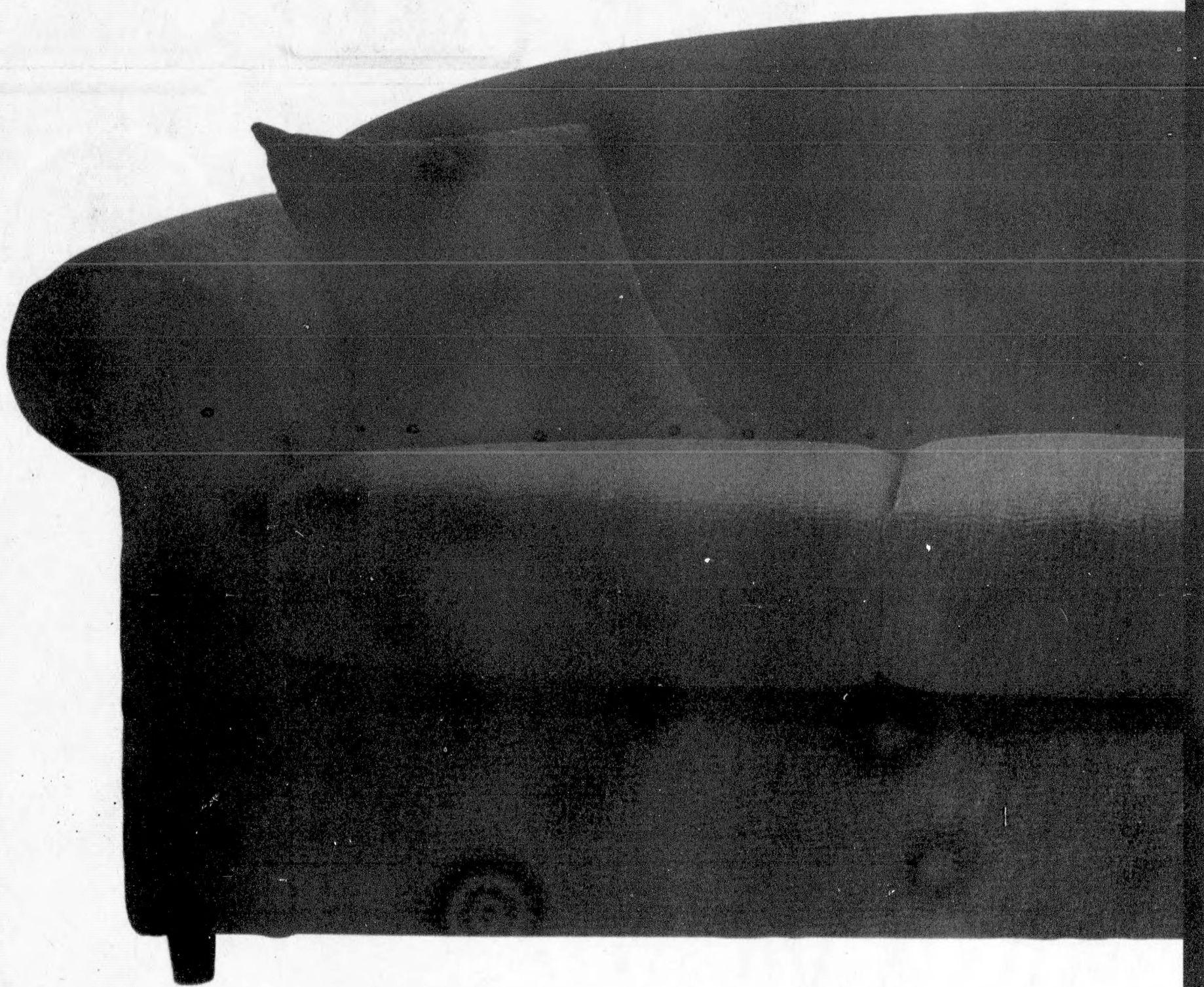


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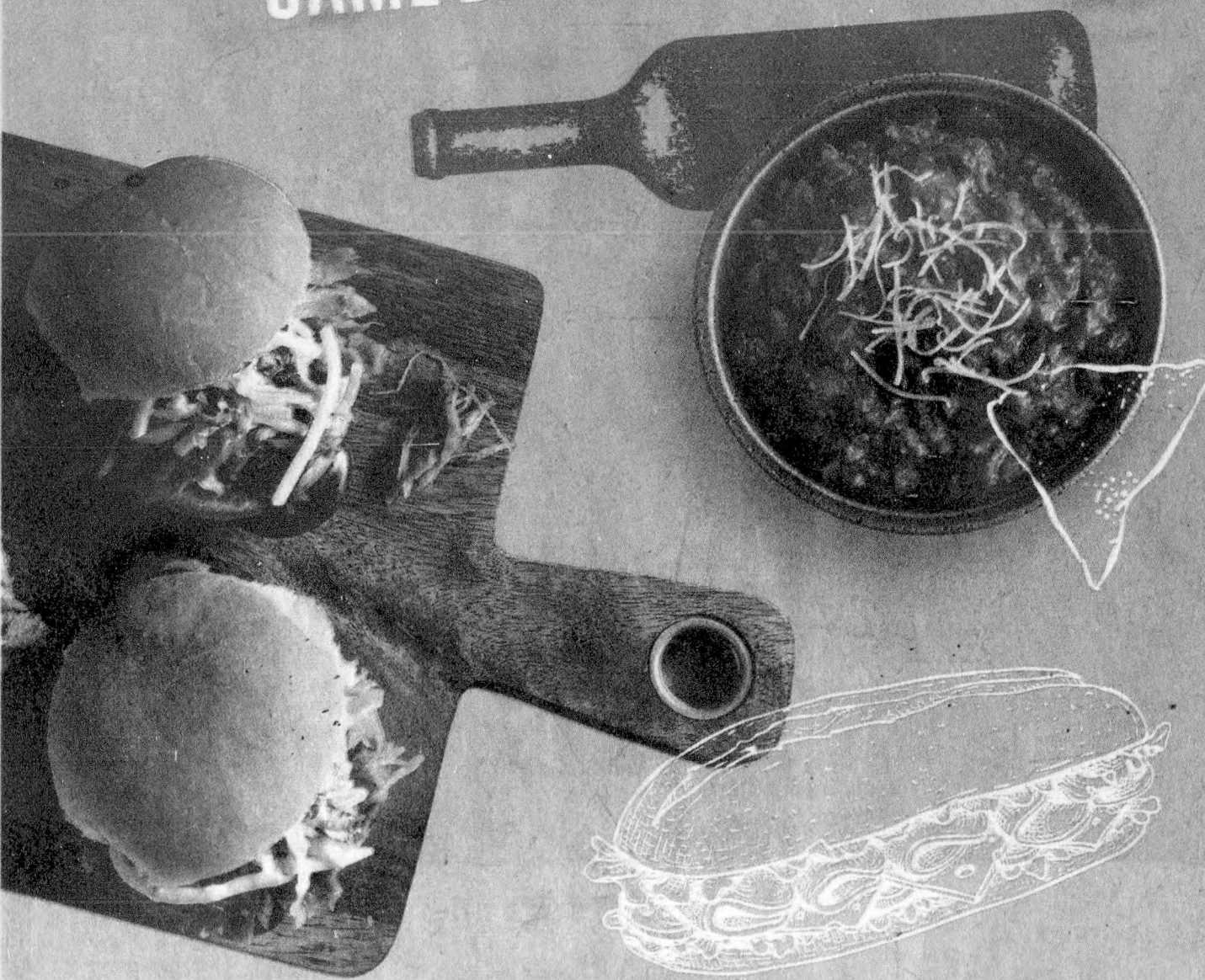




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