# HVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Partners in crime no more as police chief retires

**Susan Bromley** Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Chris Sovik and Doug Baaki know the meaning of brotherhood.

In 30 years of working together on the South Lyon Police Force, they have had each other's backs through the good, the bad, and the crazy. This month, they will bid a fond farewell to their unique partnership but keep their memories and their bond.

Sovik is retiring as South Lyon Police Chief on Nov. 30. Replacing him will be longtime Lieutenant Baaki, who has spent years watching his friend doing what needed to be done, never afraid to

get his hands dirty or believing anything was beneath him.

"It's been a great experience working with him and he will be missed," Baaki said, jokingly, "for at least a week."

Sovik joins in the laughter. There is an easy, comfortable banter between the two, honed like their trust in one another from years of working side by side

for the greater good.

The pair joined the City of South Lyon force within a year of each other -South Lyon High graduate Baaki hiring on part-time for \$7 per hour in December 1990 after graduating from the Washtenaw Police Academy.

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## **Loved ones flood** social media with memories of Northville couple

Miriam Marini

**Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK** 

Through tears, he recalls his favorite memories with his little sister — after all, she's been his best friend since she was two days old.

Bassam Kadry lost his best friend suddenly in a car accident just after midnight Saturday. Manal Kadry, 40, and her husband, Omar Salamen, 46, were driving home from a friend's house when a tricky turn in the road proved fatal.

"They just had a gift of understand ing people and meeting them where they are, and being open-minded, never really judging," Bassam Kadry said in a conversation with the Free Press. "Manal in particular was relentless about not giving up, almost to a fault."

The couple was fun-loving and spontaneous. She was an interior designer operating her own design firm and he was an oral surgeon at Dexter Oral Surgery. Together, they were a perfect pair. She was magnetic, her smile was infectious and her heart knew no bounds — a trait that she carried in every endeavor she took on throughout her life, Kadry said.

Northville police are continuing to investigate the incident, which occurred on Bayberry Way in the area of Seven Mile and Napier roads in Northville Township, but preliminary findings indicate the driver was attempting to navigate a curve, left the road and struck a tree. Both were pronounced dead at the scene.

In the days since the incident, family and friends have flooded the social channels with tributes to Manal's

See MEMORIES, Page 2A



Debbie Hughes, owner of Village Toy Shoppe in downtown Milford, talks about readying the store for holiday shoppers. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## IT'S ALMOST TOY TIME!

## Stores preparing for their busiest season of the year

**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It can be a heavy load for Santa Claus to deliver all the presents around the world on Christmas Eve. Luckily, some local elves can help.

This time each year, toy stores all over the area ramp up for the biggest season of the year, preparing for the parents and grandparents lining up to

find the hottest new toy of the season to shops, which have become more rare. In put under the tree.

"Once they get through Halloween, people are like 'Oh my gosh, the holidays are coming.' It kind of hits and triggers that," said Elle Dare, who owns Genuine Toy Company in downtown Plymouth with her husband, Charles. "When you think about it, we have seven weeks.

And then it's over." The last two months of the year bring the most activity to the locally-owned

recent years, many toy shops have closed, including Adventures in Toys in downtown Birmingham last year and the Doll Hospital and Toy Soldier Shop

in Berkley in 2018. It's a time to do business for the shops that remain open, but also bring excitement. Shops begin to fill with all the products they've ordered earlier in

See TOY STORES, Page 6A

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## Historical marker will honor Revolutionary War soldiers

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ambrose Orvis and James Wilsey are unique occupants of the New Hudson Cemetery.

Of all the individuals buried there, they are the only ones known to have served in the Revolutionary War. However, few people today are aware of these patriots who migrated to Lyon Township near the end of their lives and died within four months of each other in 1844.

"Most Revolutionary War soldiers are buried on the East Coast," Kristi Mulligan, a historian for the Grand River Trail Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, said. "Some that made it out west are very special. ... We are hoping to bring attention to these two gentlemen. It's special to have them here."

Local chapters of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution have obtained a grant for a historical marker honoring Orvis and Wilsey as part of the National Society's effort honoring Revolutionary War soldiers ahead of the 250th anniversary of the United

The historical marker with information on the soldiers will be on each side of a 4-foot-by-2½-foot plaque mounted on a post at the New Hudson Cemetery. In May, a similar historical marker was installed in Highland Cemetery.

This will be the only historical marker of its kind in Lyon Township, Milford or Walled Lake, as Mulligan said Orvis and Wilsey are the only two known Revolutionary War soldiers in the Grand River Trail Chapter

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Northville Record (USPS# 396880) is published weekly (Thursday) by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 160 W Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226. Periodicals postage is paid at Detroit, MI and at additional mailing

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Customer Service, PO Box 5830

**Newsroom Contacts:** Phil Allmen, Content Strategist

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**Subscription Rates:** Newsstand price: \$1.50

\$65 per 12 months home delivery

**Home Delivery: Customer Service: 866-887-2737** Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon Afterhours, leave voicemai

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Mulligan recently received permission from the Lyon Township Board to proceed with the historical marker, although there is significant work still to be done. She is currently in the midst of confirming historical information she has on the two.

Among the details she has learned so far:

Ambrose Orvis was born January 7, 1758 in what was at that time the New Hampshire colony. In 1776, at the age of 18, he volunteered as a musician and for three months served with a military unit that worked on roads and bridges in New England. Four years later, in August of 1780, he enlisted again. He was a private in the 2nd Massachusetts Regiment, serving in various locations in New Jersey. In January of 1781, the regiment was called to New York "to help keep the enemy out and to suppress a mutiny." He was discharged on Feb. 10, 1781.

The following year, he married Rebecca Galpin in Massachusetts and they had three children. Rebecca died around 1824, shortly after the family had settled in New York. In 1832, Ambrose Orvis applied for his Revolutionary War pension and a decade later, he moved to the new state of Michigan to live out his final years with his only son.

He died Aug. 30, 1844 at the age of 86, and has one of the oldest original gravestones still standing in the New Hudson Cemetery. Nearly a century later, in 1935, the General Richardson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a bronze marker on his headstone, honoring him as a Revolutionary sol-

James Wilsey was born Sept. 13, 1758 in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York. He was only about 17years-old in 1775 when he volunteered in the New York Militia. He served as a militiaman and scout for a total of about five months that spanned 1775 and 1776.

In 1777, he enlisted in a regiment that marched in February to the west side of Saratoga Lake, where timber was collected before the ice broke. "The logs were used to then construct a barrier that was sunk under the water of the Hudson River, intended to pierce and sink any British ships that passed over it.'

Following his discharge in late 1777, Wilsey went on scouting parties until the end of the war in 1783.

Wilsey married his first wife Salley in about 1791 and they had two children. Salley died around 1810 and he remarried six years later to Dorothy Benson Hutchinson, a widow who was 27 years younger than him. They had three children together.

In 1832, Wilsey applied in New York for his Revolutionary War pension and six years later, he and Dorothy moved to Michigan to live with their children. James Wilsey died Dec. 11, 1844 at the age of 86. His original headstone in the New Hudson Cemetery has not survived, but he has two replacement markers denoting his burial location, including a miliary headstone dedicated by the DAR General Richardson Chapter in 1956. Dorothy, who died nearly 30 years after her husband, is buried next to him.

Mulligan has more information in what she calls the "simple" biographies of Orvis and Wilsey, but researching the history of individuals who lived in the 18th and 19th centuries is not a simple endeavor.

Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution know this well, as they have to prove their own lineage in order to be accepted into the National Society. The resources Mulligan used in researching her own family's history are similar to what she is using to ascertain facts on the lives of Ambrose Orvis and James Wilsey. Those resources include newspaper articles, community and county histories, and pension, census, and military service records.

Piecing all of the information together to form a picture of an individual and their descendants is Mulligan's favorite kind of puzzle, one that holds endless fascination.

"It's really cool to see all the things that had to happen for you to be where you are right now," she said. "There's a lot of hardship that happened, and somehow, you are where you are now.... History is a mys-

Once Mulligan finishes her research on Ambrose Orvis and James Wilsey, she will submit documentation to the NSDAR in Washington, D.C.

## **Memories**

Continued from Page 1A

memory as part of a social media campaign started by Bassam Kadry, who posted the call to action to combat the torrent of automated — and at times, false - reports he saw online.

"(Manal) was a beacon of light for so many," Bassam wrote in the post asking loved ones to reclaim the digital narrative. "She spoke truth to power. Her courage, compassion, and character were defining hallmarks of her DNA. She was a gift to us all."

He asked, and dozens answered.

"You cannot help but be drawn to her. She has a beautiful aura that captivated everyone," one post reads.

"She was one of the most beautiful souls to live on this earth, and her

"(Manal) was a beacon of light for so many. She spoke truth to power. Her courage,

compassion, and character were defining hallmarks of her DNA.

She was a gift to us all."

**Bassam Kadry** 

smile said it all," another reads.

"She was so full of life, love, and passion for art and her students, and she was such a sweet, genuine, fun-loving spirit," said another.

In a Facebook post,

Mona Haydar recalls connecting with Manal as a fellow artist and described her as a "beam of sunshine," who had the rare gift of making you feel like the only person in the room when her attention was on you.

"She let her light shine on so many of us and if you ever had the blessing of being around her, you know what I'm talking about," Haydar wrote. "She sparkled. She smiled. She was sweeter than honey and funnier than anyone.

"She believed in the power of art to heal, to transform and to change lives for the better and she lived it and taught it, passing on her conviction to so many of her students."

The #MyManalStory campaign is not just to drown out the falsities. but also to compile an archive of stories for the couple's survivors, Salamen's two teenage sons

and their shared children both under the age of 4. Bassam Kadry said he wants the kids to remember their mother as the multifaceted artist with a hunger for life that he grew up alongside.

He wants their story to live in the hearts of everyone — not just those who were close to the couple.

"They just loved their family, friends, jobs, their community, their country, the world, and I think there are a lot more commonalities on that front than anything else," Bassam said. "I'm praying that their story and their legacy will resonate — beyond language, beyond religion beyond everything - because it resonates with what it means to be human."

A LaunchGood campaign for the couple's children has been established by Bassam Kadry, who intends to give the proceeds to the kids on Manal's birthday Nov. 21.

## City of Novi - Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 28, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider Proposal for Approval of Resolution authorizing submission of a grant application to the Spark Grant Program for Wildlife Woods Park Pickleball Court and Parking Lot Expansion.

The proposed park improvements include four additional pickleball courts and expansion of the parking area. The park is located at 26442 Wixom Road, Novi, MI 48375

A conceptual plan for the improvements is available for examination and review at the Parks. Recreation and Cultural Services office at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M, or by contacting Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services at the following email address: imuck@cityofnovi.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 12:00 P.M., Monday, November 28, 2022

> **Cortney Hanson** CITY CLERK

Publish: November 24, 2022

City of Northville **Notice of Public Hearing Oakland County** Community Development Block Grant Funds PY2023

Notice is hereby given that the Northville City Council will hold a public hearing on December 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to hear public comments on the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the CDBG Program Year 2023 application, in the approximate amount of \$7,000, to fund eligible projects. All interested citizens are requested to attend the public hearing.

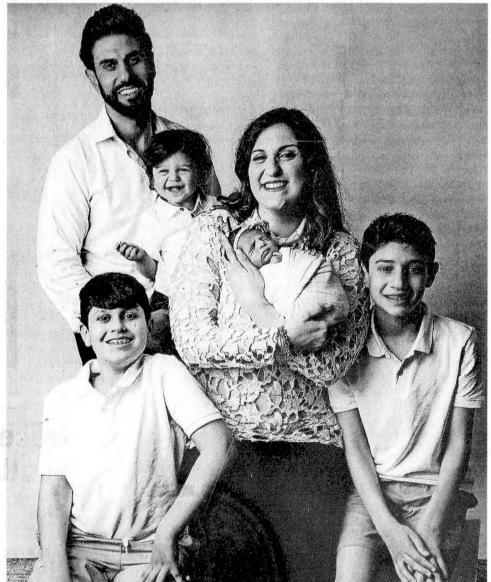
Meeting Location and Participation

The public hearing will be held at the City of Northville Municipal Building - Council Chambers, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9905. A Zoom public participation link option will also be posted on the City website www.ci.northville.mi.us.

**Written Comments** 

Written comments pertaining to the use of the CDBG funds for the Program Year 2023 application must be submitted by 4 p.m., December 4, 2022, to Nate Geinzer, Interim Housing Director 401-A High Street, Northville, MI 48167, or emailed to atdirector@ci.northville.

Nate Geinzer, Interim Housing Director Northville Housing Commission



Manal Kadry, 40, and her husband Omar Salamen, 46, died in a car collision Nov. 12. The couple was driving home from a friend's house when a tricky turn in the road proved fatal. COURTESY OF SUMAIYA AHMED SHEIKH

Continued from Page 1A

#### Staffing, training, equipment change over the years

Around this same time, Sovik was attending the Oakland Police Academy in Auburn Hills and meeting a fellow student wearing a South Lyon Hotel jacket. He researched the city, applied, and was hired as a patrolman Nov. 21, 1991, to serve a city with a population of 6,000 on a force that had 14 officers, half full-time and half part-time. The city has more than doubled in population in that time and now has a completely full-time force of 16 officers, although that is two fewer than the department had a few years ago.

Those aren't the only changes they have seen. Sovik and Baaki note advancements in police equipment and training with many more tools available now, including tasers, cars and interview rooms equipped with cameras, automated external defibrillators and naloxone.

The latter has saved lives from overdoses of Vicodin, Oxycontin, heroin and fentanyl. Baaki and Sovik said the use of these drugs has increased in the city.

The decriminalization of marijuana has led to fewer arrests related to that substance. The rise of ride-share services like Uber and Lyft has also resulted in fewer drunken driving arrests, a welcome change for the department and for Sovik, who Baaki called a "drunk driving master" back in 1996 when he arrested 101 motorists for driving under the influence. Among them: an entire family, with a mother, father, and son all arrested on separate occasions for drunken driving that

#### A long career with memorable cases

Sovik has saved lives, but with such a long career in law enforcement, he thinks about the ones he couldn't, which continue to haunt him.

When asked about which cases were most memorable, he recalls investigating the death of Madison Olivia McBurney, 11-months-old, whose father was ultimately found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to 30 years in prison in 2006.

It is one of the few murders Sovik and Baaki have seen in the city, a tragedy from which they said they learned a lot about police procedures to secure convic-

Some convictions in his career have been easier to come by, even if at first they wouldn't seem to be.

Sovik recalls an armed robbery at Showerman's IGA grocery store in November 1997 in which the thief initially escaped with tens of thousands of dollars. For months afterward, South Lyon police officers would visit the store nightly to reassure employees of their safety while they counted cash.

Sovik noted it seemed unlikely the robber would strike twice in the same place, but on an April night in 1998 when Sovik happened to be on duty there, the

The employees had turned the lights off as Sovik was in the rear of the store making his way to the front. He heard a woman scream and saw a person wearing a mask. Sovik thought for a moment it was a sick joke before realizing it was an armed robbery in process as the suspect herded employees into a back room.

Sovik took cover behind a counter as he called for which he notes he never goes back on. backup and made eye contact with the suspect, who asked who else was in the store. Sovik recalls hoping the employees wouldn't say "a sergeant" and possibly prompt a hostage situation. He was relieved when the suspect mistook him for a scared stockboy. Two officers shot the thief in the heel and back of the thigh as he fled the building.



South Lyon Police Lt. Doug Baaki, left, and Chief Chris Sovik have worked together for more than 30 years. Sovik is retiring Nov. 30 and Baaki will become the city's new police chief. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Kevin Todd Alexander, a Farmington Hills psychic and palm reader, was charged with several counts of armed robbery.

"He didn't see us coming," Sovik laughs.

And while technology may have brought rise to more identity theft and computer crimes, it has also sometimes been an assistant in apprehending criminals, such as in the case of a 2015 bank robbery at the Vibe Credit Union.

In that instance, the robber got more than \$25,000, but was seen leaving the scene in a Ford Explorer, which was described by police in a Facebook post. A tip came in within a half-hour of the post that the suspect vehicle had been seen at Brookfield Apartments.

Baaki recounts the man's mother didn't want to give him up, but his stepfather was nodding in response to police queries, and throwing the hat and sunglasses his stepson had worn in the robbery off the balcony.

#### Relationships key to Sovik's career

Sovik has gained respect over the years from criminals, too.

He remembers catching a guy with an arrest warrant, and wrestling him to the ground to the exhaustion of both.

Sovik asked the man what he was doing and told him to stop, then struck a deal even as the tussle continued.

We were both getting tired," he said. "I told him, 'If you stop, I won't charge you with resisting arrest.' He said, 'Do you swear?' and I said, 'Absolutely!"

Sovik laughs at the memory, but stuck to his word,

If I promise that you will come in the front door and go back out the front door, you will," he said. "In these many relationships, I've always kept my word."

The most important relationships of course, are the longstanding ones in which trust has been proven over and over again. And with no one is that more evident than with Baaki, who will succeed Sovik as chief.

The succession plan has been in place for more than

"Doug knows what he is doing, he's solid, he always puts the department first, he's very unselfish," Sovik said. "That is why he is going to be the next chief."

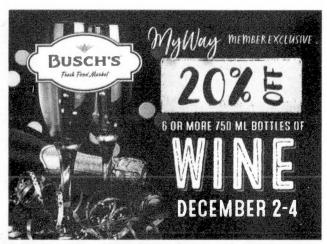
Sovik, meanwhile, is currently looking for his second career in law enforcement with another agency. At almost 55, he still feels young and is keeping a commitment to pay for his three children's schooling up through their bachelor's degrees.

The City of South Lyon has been the Howell resident's home away from home for 31 years now, and he leaves the city with a good feeling in his heart.

"It has been a win-win for both parties, affording me to have a life and raise three kids while giving the city 31 years of solid law enforcement," he said. "I have no regrets. I am sad to leave the people I work with, but it's a win-win for my family and the City of South Lyon."

As for Baaki, he is excited to take on new challenges, including the completion of the department's accreditation, with a great start after 31 years working alongside his partner in crime.

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









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## Michigan expected to have best year for real Christmas trees in a decade

Mike Ellis Lansing State Journal USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When it's 90 degrees outside and his hands getting sticky shearing Christmas trees and the bees are threatening to run him off, Ed Carpenter thinks of where the trees will end up once the snow starts falling.

"I wonder, 'What family is this tree gonna be a part of?'" said Carpenter, from Peacock Road Family Farm near Laingsburg.

It should be a great year to buy a live Christmas tree in Michigan, Carpenter and other industry experts said.

The weather was just right, so expect maybe a little bit more thickness than normal, and the number of trees is expected to have returned to the levels last seen a decade ago, said Amy Start, executive director of the Michigan Christmas Tree Association.

That means there should be enough supply, said Bert Cregg, a Michigan State University horticulture professor who has studied or worked in the Christmas tree industry for 46 years.

"If you want a real tree, you're gonna find one," he said.

It may not, however, be at the first spot you choose, Carpenter said.

They grow their own trees but not enough for what the farm sells so they also buy from suppliers. Several years ago, Carpenter could call a supplier and get 100 new trees in a pinch. Now, it'd be too late and he'd have to close up early because the wholesale trees are all spoken for by the time spring comes.

While a particular lot or farm may sell out, there are a whole lot of Michigan trees, Carpenter said.

But Christmas trees, like so much else, will likely cost more this year.

Trees get shipped on semi trucks that use diesel, which was selling for about \$5.50 a gallon in Michigan this week, up nearly \$2 a gallon from a year ago, according to AAA.

And producers and retailers are dealing with labor shortages that are plagu-



Christian Voorhies, general manager of Peacock Road Family Farm in Laingsburg, checks out an area where Christmas trees grow at the business Nov. 16. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

ing many Michigan businesses.

A good price estimate is around \$10 to \$12 a foot, with higher prices in urban areas and lower prices in rural areas. There will be premiums for all the sleigh bells and whistles at full-service spots that include experiences, Start said.

While people go home with a tree to display, the real product being sold is most often tradition and nostalgia, she

Board, based in Howell, found almost half of real Christmas tree buyers opted for a real tree for the smell. "Christmas tree" is the most holiday of scents, ahead of cookies, cinnamon and hot cocoa, according to the same study.

Michigan's Christmas tree economy is big business. A Michigan State University analysis in 2006 found it was a \$100 million industry. That number is likely much higher due to inflation and A study by the Real Christmas Tree an industry that has increasingly

shipped trees across the nation.

Only two states - Oregon and North Carolina - grow more trees and their crops don't have as many varieties.

There are a few new trends in the old business, like potted or living trees, which people can rent and return or buy and later plant. There are more exotic types in Michigan than anywhere else, including Start's favorite, concolor fir.

See TREES, Page 5A





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A truck hauling Christmas trees heads north on US-127 on Nov. 10. MATTHEW DAE SMITH/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

## **Trees**

Continued from Page 4A

But overwhelmingly the Christmas tree business is simply nostalgia and classics such as a Douglas Fir or Frasier Fir, she said.

The trees come with sap, a piney scent and rings that tell its history.

Peek at those rings and you'll see a typical tree has been in the ground about eight to 10 years, growing about 10 inches a year, said Kate Dodde, a project manager at Missaukee County's Dutchman Tree Farm, one of the state's larg-

A majority of people people don't buy real trees. About two-thirds of customers prefer an artificial tree for their main tree, according to a 2021 survey by Rocket Homes.

It's why the experience and the nostalgia are so important to the industry, Dodde said.

The trees planted today will be bought a decade from now when those 10-year-old, 11-year-old, 12-year-old kids who get wowed this year come back to buy when they get their first tree, she said.

That means tree farmers had to predict, a decade out, how many trees people would be buying this year. That tree is in effect a paper record of Michigan's

So if you're wondering about getting a real tree this year, ask these questions.
Will the trees sell out early? Can I wait?
Will they go up dramatically in price?

Will they go up dramatically in price? And look back 10 years ago to 2012 for

The economy in Michigan at the time was well on its way toward recovering from the 2008 recession. So there should be more trees now than in the last few years, Start said. There was a bad drought about a decade ago that also cramped supplies, Carpenter said.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, conducts a survey of Christmas tree farms every five years. It is currently underway. The latest surveys showed a drop, from 1.7 million trees in 2012 in Michigan to 1.5 million in

That's expected to be reversed when the 2022 survey is released, Start said. She is expecting this season to be between 1.7 million and 2 million trees.



The tip of a Christmas tree growing in a field at Peacock Road Family Farm.
NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Up to 30 million trees are sold nationally and at least 1.5 million of those are from Michigan.

Missaukee County, between Cadillac and Grayling, is clearly the leader in Christmas trees in the state, selling more than half a million trees a year, more than a third of the state's sales.

Dutchman Tree Farms began selling trees 50 years ago.

Those trees were planted years before the first sale, said Dodde. The farm is now building a new greenhouse to grow seedlings, that's one of the potential chokepoints for the industry in Michigan, Cregg said.

But like the rest of the business, it'll take a few years to pay off, quicker than full trees but still two or three years.

full trees but still two or three years.

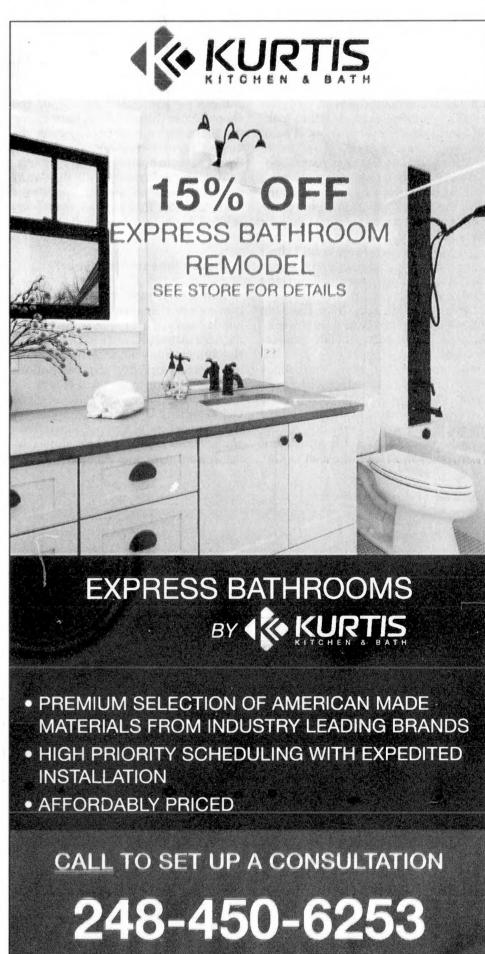
The Dutchman farm is largely wholesale but they do retail sales in the same

classic format that's across the state.

There's a red barn, white picket

fences, Santa Claus by the fire and plenty of flannel.

It's about tradition and nostalgia and it's the kind of tradition that Start, Dodde and the other tree growers hope will keep people coming out to cut the trees this year. And into the next decade.





Jenna Klar talks about Toniebox, a hot toy this holiday season, at the Toyology store in Bloomfield Township. PHOTOS DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## **Toy stores**

Continued from Page 1A

the year. Dare said she begins ordering for the holidays in September, with other shops ordering earlier than that.

Debbie Hughes, owner of the Village Toy Shoppe in downtown Milford, begins ordering in the summertime after she heads to trade shows in places like Atlanta. There, she looks to find what could be hot toys for the year.

"That's when I really starting looking," she said. "It's a big show. It's not just toys, it's everything."

While shops begin to see more shoppers in November, come the week after Thanksgiving, crowds really pick up. Once the turkey and stuffing are gone, shoppers pivot toward getting ready for the holidays.

That requires toy stores to shift gears as well, including adding hours, something Hughes plans on doing during the holiday season.

"With Thanksgiving from there on out, we'll be open seven days a week," she said. "We're pretty steady Thanksgiving on."

For one area toy store, the holiday season also depends on the Hebrew calendar. Toyology - with locations in Bloomfield Township, West Bloomfield Township and Royal Oak — will see big shopping leading up to Christmas, but also Hanukkah as well, said Jenna Klar, who handles social media and community outreach for the company.

If Hanukkah falls earlier in the season, the stores will typically be busier then as well, she said.

"We've been busier when Hanukkah's earlier," she said. "We have our Hanukkah paper as well as our Christmas paper, and it's both being used."

Hanukkah begins Dec. 18 and ends

When's the best time to beat the crowds? Probably during the week, if you can swing it. Saturdays fill up the shops across the area, with Dare saying the Saturday in mid-December is the busiest day of the season for the shop on Forest Avenue in downtown Plymouth.

"I think our busiest day is the Saturday two weeks before Christmas," she said. "Because that is when everybody is like 'Uh-oh, two weeks left. I have to move."

#### Is there a 'hot toy' this year?

Admittedly, most of the area shop owners say there isn't an "it" toy this holiday season everyone wants. Nothing rises to the level of Tickle Me Elmo or Hatchimals this year, shop owners said, but there are plenty of great options kids are flocking to for the holidays.

One piece Klar will gush about if you visit Toyology is Toniebox, an interactive, screenless electronic that allows younger kids to play and hear stories using special figurines. Each starter box



Elle Dare looks over the board games inside Genuine Toy Company in downtown Plymouth. Board games are one of the bigger items the shops sells.

comes with a figure that can be placed on the box to play music or tell stories. Additional figures can be bought that are characters such as PJ Masks, Peppa Pig and more.

"It's a screen-free toy and what's so cool about it is it's kid friendly," Klar said. "It's soft, it's all kid-driven."

Genuine Toy Company is known for its massive wall of board games, ranging from classics such as Monopoly to new classics such as Ticket to Ride and other newer ones. Stuffed animals are also a hit from the store as well, Dare

The classic toys that were popular decades ago are also popping up in shopping carts as well.

"People recognize them from their childhood, and get them for their kids," Dare said. "So it becomes part of their childhood too. It kind of becomes a timeless thing."

### Shop local keeps stores around

While it's easy to simply grab something from the shelf at Target or online through Amazon, local shops hope customers keep them in mind.

With the challenges facing retail, more shops hope the little things they offer will keep customers coming in the

That includes personalized help, a wide selection and gift wrapping, often complimentary.

"We want to wrap for free, because

that's the Toyology difference of why we want you to come here instead of Target to get your birthday or holiday presents," Klar said. "If they don't shop local and support us, especially this holiday season, we're not going to be able to be in these communities.'

That's the case in Plymouth as well at Genuine Toy Company.

"It's a lot of fun, it's very fast-paced," she said. "Especially when they're shopping local, they're in a good mood. they're shopping in their city."

Given downtown Milford's cozy feel, Hughes said she's found people are more likely to come in now than before the COVID-19 pandemic.

She said shoppers will discover her shop, including during events such as Milford Memories in the fall, and make the trip back to purchase something from her.

Being in business 28 years, Hughes has weathered plenty of challenges. Despite all that, she finds customers still want to bring their Christmas shopping to her space.

"I have found people very supportive, especially since COVID. I think they just really appreciated that the stores were back open," Hughes said. "I feel like they try to support downtown and it's local.

We have a nice town, and we want to keep it that way."

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

39 They're part of

Beer logo

is a \_\_ for misconception":

dissolves in

billowing sails

who cowrote

Nashville"

El Diario

banner

60 Read Across

sponsor

America Day

58 Article in

playlist org.

59 Excerpt from a

classroom wall

Jerusalem: Song

of Songs (1981) "Fresh From

vinegar 49 Eels for bento

Juvenil

44 "Stupidity

Poe

46 Gem that

meals

53 Sound of

the Mug Root

43 Growths of grass

## **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. King each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 11 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

	-		
Alert	Eels	Lake	Sawfish
Alvey	Emperor	Lead	Sea ear
Angle	Esky	Lega!	Shoal
Annexe	Floppy	length	Snag
ANSA	Ford	Maps	Sold
Bays	Freeze	Nacre	Sport
Boat	Grunter	Navigate	Steer
Borer	Hook	Nets	Storms
Break	Hungry	Plpi	Sweep
Bridge	lke jime	Plug	Tiger
Cast	Inlet	Relaxing	prawi
Clam	Item	Rivers	Tuna
Dorsal fin	Jigs	Sand	Turrum
TODAY'S	ANSWE	R	

Fruits de mer

## Fish 'n' chips

Н	В	D	F	L	E	G	A	L	L	E	N	G	Т	H	
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F	K	K	Α	E	S	E	S	1	R	1	N	R	R	C	
W	Υ	Α	L	L	R	A	X	0	G	1	A	U	U	R	
A	S	E	Α	S	C	В	R	E	X	S	V	N	М	E	
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1	E	В	H	Α	P	P	L	1	S	N	G	E	T	T	
D	N	Α	S	M	R	E	Ε	Υ	D	A	A	R	Α	S	
Y	F	Ν	Ε	A	R	М	Α	P	R	G	T	L	L	R	
P	Α	R	W	Α	1	В	D	1	0	G	E	Α	V	E	
P	S	N	E	J	R	N	S	P	F	R	N	D	E	V	
0	S	W	E	E	P	E	L	1	T	G	М	U	Y	1	
L	Α	K	E	E	Z	U	E	E	L	K	0	0	Н	R	
F	1	T	Ε	M	G	E	E	E	T	В	0	A	T	R	

## PUZZLES & POSERS

## WORD WORLD

EACH BOX IS A DIFFERENT PUZZLE. FOR EACH BOX YOU MUST SELECT A SINGLE LETTER AND POSITION IT IN EACH WORD TO CREATE 3 NEW WORDS. WORD WORLD IS AN EXAMPLE.

HEIQ UNIONS 

CANAI

SHAM

## **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: BRONZE

## **TODAY'S ANSWER**

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

## **NEWSDAY CROSSWORD**

1 Boston Marathon sponsor since

7 What you may

get out of your refrigerator

10 Letters on

Octane Booster 13 When Hamilton

begins 16 Central principle

of Chinese

martial arts 17 Not before that

specific moment 19 Focus of a

Belgrade museum

20 Word from Malay DOWN for "sheath"

21 Capital by the

Red Sea 24 It means

"made of

26 Legendary lamenter

27 University town near Acadia

28 Work in progress 30 Mel Brooks

Transylvania

31 Literary

33 "Curses!"

A name of

Eliot's

43 Inspire 45 Word associated

50 What precedes many an oath

51 Takés no

**62** Document detailing

olay platforms 63 Home of

64 "The signature

worldwide' 65 Some roots of

1 Serve (as)

2 Latter-day

4 Infomercial order

5 Intense, as some

6 Deviltry

archetype of

40 Start back

with parties and

breed

52 Many Wookieepedia subjects

8 Deliveries from Google

9 Many a Central

10 Excursions with

shooting stars

electronically

18 It's nothing, really

of pomegranates 55 Novelist

14 Spontaneously 15 Allowed to

check out

age 22 Major producer

23 Unimaginative

25 Conductors'

concerns

29 Start to trust

complaint

36 Bahamian

billionaire

nickname

38 "Well-groomed-

sounding" hair

remover of old

singer's

34 Show servility

32 Comics

escorts 11 Where to follow

12 Reached out

ground 56 Turnoff before

61 Bit of biocomputing

payments for

Lt. Lindbergh's

sponsors

of craft brewers

rock

"Darn!"

3 Creation

volcanique

exercise

7 Protective layer in the Hotel

reinvention since

35 Likely to result in bigger banks

42 Supplanted by,

47 Made calls 48 Japanese cattle

courses

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56

TODAY'S

SNOING

**ANSWER** COUNTRY VERST CONILEB IMAWS CARNAL

**MEXT FOXES** 



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# SPORTS

**HOMETOWN LIFE'S ALL-AREA FOOTBALL TEAM** 



Livonia Franklin's Cordell Mabins Jr. rushes against Westland John Glenn during a game in September.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Franklin RB Mabins Jr. named Player of the Year

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom is here to name his 2022 Hometown Life All-Area football team.

Hometown Life's coverage area spans over 10 cities on the west side of metro Detroit and includes 28 different football teams, ranging from Division 1 schools down to D-6.

Cordell Mabins Jr., Livonia Franklin

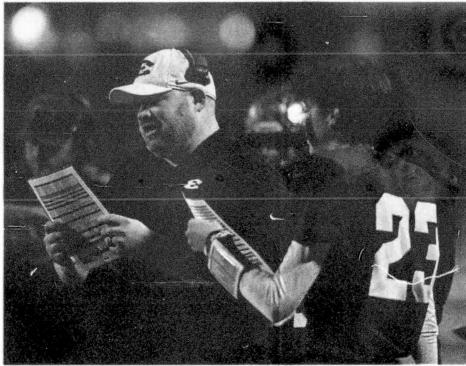
## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The first time I interviewed Livonia Franklin coach Chris Kelbert was in late September 2021. The Patriots had opened the season 1-3, and Kelbert told me, "We're just not a good football team right now." As you know, they turned around their season and pulled off upset after upset en route to playing in the Division 2 state semifinal.

They kept that momentum going into 2022. They won eight of their nine regular-season games and even took home another district championship trophy. I interviewed Kelbert again following their Week 5 victory at Westland John Glenn, and I asked him: How did the Patriots seemingly turn things around overnight and keep it going throughout the following fall?

Kelbert pointed at his running back, Cordell Mabins Jr.

"Because of him and his class," the 24th-year coach said.



South Lyon East coach Jacob Topp draws up a play with Grayson Roslinski. Topp has been named Hometown Life's 2022 Coach of the Year.

Mabins and his fellow seniors have just refused to lose. And when they do take a loss, they don't take it lightly. They're in the weight room afterward. They're studying the film. They're getting better day after day. It's a stubborn way to go about things, but it works.

And that translated onto the field. Mabins, a three-time All-Kensington Lakes Activities Association selection, rushed for 1,818 yards and 28 TDs this

past fall. That made him the all-time leading rusher in school history.

You want to talk about being stubborn after a loss. Mabins, who is 5foot-10 and 200 pounds, just runs stubbornly. He's a tank in a sprinter's body. He's the total package. He doesn't get tackled. And he's my Player of the Year.

See ALL-AREA, Page 2B

## Northville volleyball earns Cereal City sweep vs. Berkley in quarters

Brandon Folsom

ometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville volleyball coach Sarah Lindstrom huddled her players before they took the floor and defeated Berkley 3-0 during the Division 1 state quarterfinal Nov. 15 at Royal Oak Middle School.

"Raise your hand if you have been to Battle Creek as a player?" the secondyear coach asked them.

Only one hand went up.

It was assistant Keegan Flack, who was a starting outside hitter as a sophomore when Lindstrom coached Dearborn Divine Child to the Class B state semifinal in 2012.

The thing is: Lindstrom already knew the answer to that question.

A year ago, in Lindstrom's first season on the Mustangs' bench, she led them to district and regional championships. They advanced to the quarterfinal but lost 3-1 to eventual state runner-up Ann Arbor Skyline, which was led by Nebraska commit Harper Murray, who was actually named Michigan's Miss Volleyball just last week

That's right.

Northville was right there. Right on the doorstep of qualifying for the final four at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. And they let the opportunity slip.

And Lindstrom hasn't stopped reminding her players about missing out on a trip to the Cereal City.

"To get so close and to have that heartbreak was really difficult," she said. "That's something that is sometimes hard to rebuild on top of, but it's the first thing we talked about on the very first day of our first practice this

"We sat in the locker room, and I said, 'Some of you were so close you could taste it. We have to put everything we have into this starting today.' And we've talked about Battle Creek every single day since then. Some people think that's superstitious or something you're going to jinx. I don't think it's a jinx type of thing. It's a manifestation thing, right? Let's talk about what we want do do. Every single one of them has jumped on board with that, and I think that's the reason we're here tonight and we're going to go and, hopefully, do big things in Battle Creek."

What a way with words Lindstrom

"Some of you were so close you could taste it."

Since Day 1, Lindstrom has hung a sign in Northville's locker room with a picture of cereal box mascot Tony the Tiger playing volleyball. And on it is the acronym, "BCOB." Tony is obviously a nod to Battle Creek being the cereal mecca of the world. And BCOB means, "Battle Creek or Bust."

Before each player leaves the locker room, they must jump up and slap the sign. And when the Mustangs play road games, they bring the sign with

"It's just a reminder that we have a goal at the end of the season," Lindstrom added. "If you think about your

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 3B



## **All-Area**

Continued from Page 1B

#### **Tommy Donovan, South Lyon**

South Lyon coach Jeff Henson called this Illinois State running back commit "One of the best we have ever had." I've been doing this since 2010, and he's one of the best I've ever seen as well.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Tommy Donovan's easily comparable to NFL star Christian McCaffrey with how he plays the game.

The 5-foot-11, 185-pound scatback rushed 143 times for 1,226 yards and 18 TDs. But he also caught 31 passes for 460 yards and six TDs, returned 13 kickoffs for 423 yards and two scores and had a handful of highlight-reel plays on defense.

I once joked that Donovan does everything for South Lyon but drive the team bus. And he would, too, if you asked him. But I doubt McCaffrey would be willing to do that for his team.

#### Niko Krall, Novi

### DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Statistically, this senior is the greatest linebacker in school history.

Niko Krall's 124 tackles this past fall ensured he'd leave the Wildcats with seemingly every defensive school record that matters. Most tackles for a career. Most tackles in a single season. You name it, and he did it.

Which is saying something because he's undersized at 5-foot-9 and 215 pounds. He's not your typical middle linebacker. But he had no trouble keeping up with the likes of Milford's Wyatt Lesnew and Detroit Catholic Central's Brayden Couser, statistically, all season long.

#### Nico Campo, South Lyon East

#### TATE MYRE COURAGE AWARD

It's unlikely any football player in Michigan will ever be as courageous and selfless as Tate Myre. It's just not going to happen.

But the spirit of his leadership can be found in many players all over the state. And you can definitely find it inside the heart of South Lyon East quarterback Nico Campo.

The Cougars just wrapped up the greatest season in program history. And who knows just how good they could've been had Campo not gotten hurt twice?

The senior had his team undefeated heading into the Walled Lake Western game. And he even had the juggernaut Warriors on the ropes before he left the game with an injury.

So he spent the following weeks acting as a player-coach, virtually tied to the hip of coach Jacob Topp. He was always leading the best he could in street DB - Chris Little, sophomore, Birmingham clothes and a sling. And he acted as a bigger brother to backup QB Dominic Giovannini.

Campo returned to the field at the end of the season. But he suffered another injury against South Lyon, this time it was definitely a season-ending

He didn't waiver. He was there cheering on his brothers the next week.

Want to know how much he meant to his teammates? Receiver Jordan Newbill wore Campo's jersey during the D-2 district opener against South Lyon. And Campo roamed the sideline with Newbill's uniform on as well.

I was covering South Lyon's game at Detroit Country Day in Week 4 when the news spread that Campo might be lost for the season. "Oh no, that's not fair. I love that kid," one Lion said halfway through the second half of their game, which was far from over.

South Lyon hates East. But the Lions loved Campo. Let that sink in.

How Campo handled losing his senior year was something special to watch from afar.

## Jacob Topp, South Lyon East -

## **COACH OF THE YEAR**

When Jacob Topp took over South Lyon East before the 2021 season, he was handed an almost impossible situation. Not only was he asked to turn around a team that historically was mediocre at best, but he was forced to do so in the middle of a pandemic.

And the Cougars took their lumps. They won just three games that season. Yet that didn't stop Topp from building his program.

And this past fall was a milestone year because of that perseverance.

This year's squad set single-season records for most wins (7) and points forced (284). What's more, their Week 9 upset over South Lyon went down as only the second time the Cougars had ever beaten their crosstown rivals since East started playing the sport in 2008.

I never heard an opposing coach say a bad thing about Topp. All of them said they respected the way he went about rebuilding the team. And they loved seeing East competitive because it made their teams better in the process.

And the best part? This is just the beginning for Topp and the Cougars.

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

#### **Hometown Life's 2022 All-Area Football Team**

#### First Team

QB - Cory Chavis, senior, Redford Union

QB - Ryan Allen, junior, Milford

RB - Cordell Mabins Jr., senior, Livonia Franklin

RB - Tommy Donovan, senior, South Lyon

WR - Jayden Allen, senior, Livonia Churchill WR - Jordan Newbill, senior, South Lyon East

WR - Kyren Ware, senior, Redford Union

TE - Jack Wainer, senior, Birmingham Groves TE - Connor LeCourt, senior, Westland John Glenn

TE - Drew Kelbert, junior, Livonia Franklin

ATH - Cam Pettaway, junior, Farmington ATH - ArJon Thompson, junior, Livonia

ATH - Tyler Garrett, senior, Livonia Franklin ATH - Owen McGraw, senior, Garden City

OL - Owen Hawley, senior, Livonia Franklin

OL - Avery Gach, sophomore, Birmingham

OL - Charles Mackley, senior, Brother Rice OL - Gavin Miller, senior, Farmington

OL - Justin Lynch, senior, Livonia Churchill

OL - Jamire Hall, senior, Redford Union

#### **DEFENSE**

DL - Jovon Massey, senior, Detroit Catholic

DL - Charlie Davidek, senior, Livonia

DL - Eryx Daugherty, senior, Brother Rice

DE - Caden Calhoun, senior, White Lake Lakeland

DE - Gabe Winowich, junior, Detroit Country OLB - Jeremiah Alston-Jackson, senior,

**Redford Union** OLB - Simeon Mardossian, senior, South

LB - Niko Krall, senior, Novi

LB - Wyatt Lesnew, junior, Milford

LB - Brayden Courser, senior, Detroit Catholic Central

LB - Damon Powers, junior, Westland John

LB - John Kersh, senior, Cranbrook

DB - Brady Blakita, senior, Detroit Catholic

DB - Luc Damiani, junior, Plymouth

DB - Jon Jasionowski, junior, Livonia Franklin

DB - Dominic Simpson, senior, Livonia

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K/P - Nick Stoyanovich, junior, South Lyon

K/P - Griffin Nowak, senior, Livonia Franklin

## COACHES

Jacob Topp, South Lyon East Brendan Flaherty, Birmingham Groves

## **Second Team**

## **OFFENSE**

QB - Luca Prior, senior, Northville QB - Colton Kinnie, junior, Birmingham

QB - JD Bates, senior, Livonia Franklin

RB - Joshua Woods, senior, Birmingham

RB - Jon Lytle-Montgomery, senior, Livónia Churchill

RB - Robert Jones Jr., senior, Salem

RB - Jordan Williams, senior, Livonia

FB - Granden Kinnie, junior, Birmingham

WR - Aaron Zekman, senior, Bloomfield Hills

WR - Angelo Rodriguez, senior, Northville

TE - Henry Garrity, senior, Brother Rice

TE - DaeMon Eubanks, senior, North

ATH - Gabe Zeldes, senior, Detroit Country

ATH - Alex Stoyanovich, senior, South Lyon

OL - Caleb LeBar, senior, Livonia Churchill

OL - Andrew Berg, senior, South Lyon

OL - Benny Leece, senior, South Lyon

OL - Mike Boyd, senior, Westland John Glenn OL - Graham Gilmartin, junior, Northville

DEFENSE

DL - Ferris Jordan, junior, Northville

DL - Preston Phimister, senior, Novi

DL - Brendon Rice, sophomore, North

DE - Ben Radley, junior, South Lyon

DE - Orlando Daniels, senior, Plymouth

OLB - Evan Deak, junior, Northville

OLB - Hunter Ladach, senior, Northville LB - Jayden LaPerna, senior, South Lyon East

LB - Evan Cosgrove, senior, Plymouth

LB - Sam White, senior, Livonia Franklin

LB - Kaden Williams, senior, Garden City

DB - Martez Langford, senior, Novi

DB - Caleb Williams, junior, Canton

DB - Tyler Freer, junior, Milford

**SPECIAL TEAMS** K/P - Christos Tzoumakas, senior, Cranbrook

DB - Caleb Gash, senior, South Lyon East

#### K/P - Kaemon Tijerina, sophomore, Redford Union

COACHES Chris Kelbert, Livonia Franklin

### Ian Iler, Redford Union

#### **Third Team OFFENSE**

QB - Cayden Hardy, junior, Birmingham

QB - Dominic Pesci, senior, Farmington

RB - Caleb Moore, junior, Northville

RB - Evan Haeger, senior, Detroit Catholic

RB - Devon Pettus, junior, Canton

FB - Jack Hulgrave, junior, Birmingham

WR - Luke Aurilia, senior, Novi

WR - Drew Moyer, senior, South Lyon East ATH - Nolan Thomson, senior, Northville

ATH - Noah Entyne, senior, Lutheran OL - Jordan Atkins, junior, South Lyon East

OL - Damani Robinson, senior, Livonia OL - Robbie Schuckel, junior, Northville

OL - Brady Flanigan, junior, Milford

OL - Marlon Jones, senior, Garden City

**DEFENSE** DL - Malachi Coleman, senior, Birmingham

DL - Ekene Uzosike, senior, Farmington DE - Josh Ross, senior, Detroit Catholic

DE - Jon Motes, junior, Milford

OLB - Graham Doman, senior, Detroit **Country Day** 

OLB - Michael Patsy, senior, Salem LB - Braden Hall, junior, Birmingham Groves

LB - Elias Kendra, senior, Birmingham Groves LB - Owen Reed, senior, Livonia Stevenson

LB - Jack Toth, junior, South Lyon East

DB - Josiah West, senior, Canton DB - Sean Emerson, junior, Birmingham

DB - Kyle Robbins, junior, Birmingham

DB - Eli Craig, junior, Livonia Clarenceville

**SPECIAL TEAMS** 

K/P - Jake Matigian, sophomore, Detroit **Catholic Central** 

K/P - Mori Miller, senior, Birmingham Groves

## COACHES

## Jason Mensing, Westland John Glenn

Matt Ladach, Northville

#### **Honorable Mention OFFENSE**

QB - Evan Snead, junior, Livonia Churchill QB - Nick Wetmore, senior, Westland John

RB - Jaxon McCaig, junior, Plymouth

RB - Nolan Ray, senior, Brother Rice

RB - Trevor Tschudin, sophomore, White Lake Lakeland

WR - Mill Coleman, junior, North Farmington

FB - Elliot Flake, junior, Westland John Glenn

WR - DJ Lee, senior, Detroit Catholic Central ATH - Spencer Lyons, senior, Detroit Catholic

ATH - Alex Yolles, senior, Cranbrook ATH - Jack Lewis, junior, Birmingham Seaholm

OL - John Jokisch, senior, Birmingham OL - Ben Rosenfield, senior, Birmingham Seaholm

OL - Jamari Powell, senior, Wayne Memorial

OL - Morgan Goldberg, senior, Birmingham

OL - Idrys Cotton, junior, Plymouth **DEFENSE** 

DL - Tyrell May, senior, Plymouth DL - Alex Smith, senior, Cranbrook

DE - Blake Zoro, junior, Livonia Stevenson DE - Massiah Amerson, sophomore, Livonia Churchill

OLB - Cole Shires, senior, Novi

OLB - Tyler Radley, junior, Westland John

LB - Nathan Klann, senior, Lutheran Westland

LB - Malachi Bratton, senior, Livonia Churchill

LB - Lawson Shields, senior, Salem

DB - Aidan Nolan, junior, Livonia Stevenson DB - Owen Pittenger, sophomore, Livonia

DB - Aaren McCray, senior, Farmington

DB - Dylan Wilczynski, senior, Livonia Churchill

#### **SPECIAL TEAMS**

K/P - Nolin Thompson, junior, White Lake Lakeland

KR/PR - Dylan Moore, senior, Westland John

#### Glenn COACHES

**OFFENSE** 

Jeff Henson, South Lyon

Andrew Micovich, Milford

**Special Mention** 

QB - CJ Jackson, senior, Bloomfield Hills

QB - Preston Washer, senior, Cranbrook QB - Nathan Wasil, senior, Garden City

QB - Caleb Walker, junior, Novi QB - Nick Warren, sophomore, Redford

Thurston

QB - Robert Ahlgren, senior, Salem QB - Braden Fracassi, senior, South Lyon

QB - Nico Campo, senior, South Lyon East

QB - Dominic Giovannini, sophomore, South

Lyon East QB - DeMarus Bird, freshman, Wayne

Memorial RB - Jackson Crane, senior, Birmingham

RB - Cashton Papadelis, junior, Brother Rice RB - Joe Najduk, senior, Canton

RB - Dontez Robinson, senior, Livonia Clarenceville RB - Peyton Chamberlain, junior, Milford

RB - Miles Ealy, senior, Livonia Clarenceville

RB - Lance Gailliard, junior, Novi RB - Daquan Davis, sophomore, Redford

Union

Union

RB - Dawaune Strickland, senior, Redford Union

RB - Javerious Shepherd, senior, Redford

RB - Charles Nelson, junior, Redford Thurston

FB - Echie Kemutambah, junior, Redford

RB - Xavier Spadacini, senior, Westland John

WR - Owen Matteson, junior, Farmington WR - Johnny Pallozzi, junior, Livonia Churchill WR - Joey Lavigne, sophomore, Lutheran

WR - Aiden Sexton, sophomore, Lutheran

WR - Quinn Parpart, senior, North

WR - Boden Fernsler, junior, Novi

WR - Colin Masterson, senior, Novi

WR - Dematthew Dixon, junior, Redford

WR - Nick Mullin, senior, Salem ATH - Jalin Samuel, senior, Birmingham

ATH - Chase Dawkins, sophomore, Detroit

**Country Day** 

ATH - Keichean Wilson, Farmington ATH - Dwayne Jones, junior, Wayne Memorial

OL - Paul Wint, sophomore, Garden City OL - Niko Hertrich, senior, Novi

OL - Jorgito Shqau, junior, Plymouth **DEFENSE** 

DE - Brenden Barrett, senior, Birmingham

DE - Ahmad Taylor, senior, Bloomfield Hills

DE - Travis Hartwell, senior, Garden City OLB - Danny Sternberg, senior, Milford

OLB - Malique Wilson, senior, Redford Union LB - Nic Emond, sophomore, Garden City

OLB - Caden Besco, junior, Northville

LB - James Bigelow, senior, Lutheran Westland DB - Aiden Leung, sophomore, Birmingham

DB - Mendal Broaden, sophomore, Livonia Franklin

DB - Josh Tobias, senior, Milford DB - Owen Mitchell, senior, South Lyon

COACHES Jim DeWald, Birmingham Seaholm

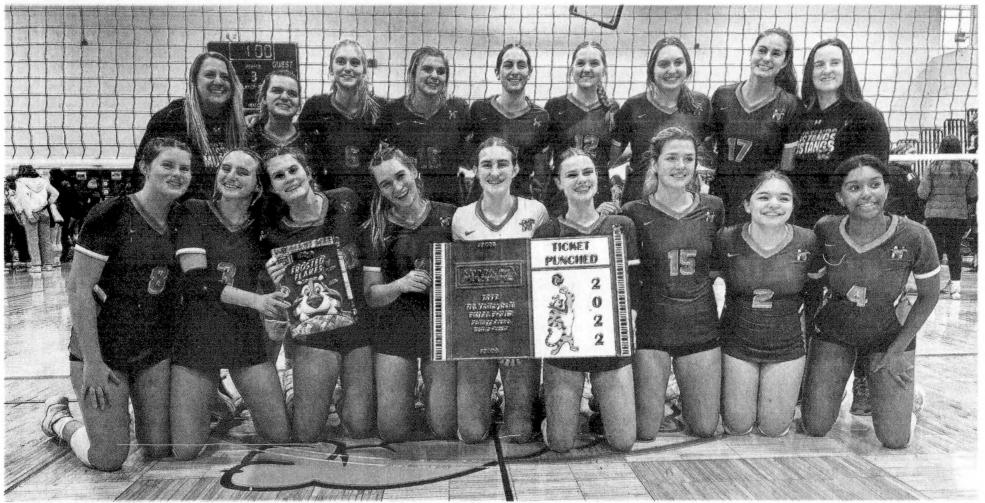
Bill DeFillippo, Livonia Churchill Andy LaFata, Canton

Jason Albrecht, Farmington

Dan MacLean, Detroit Country Day

Dan Anderson, Detroit Catholic Central Thomas Michalsen, Garden City





Northville celebrates winning the Division 1 volleyball quarterfinal Nov. 15 at Royal Oak Middle School. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Volleyball

Continued from Page 1B

goals daily you're more likely to achieve them. You're more likely to stay on your path, and I didn't want these girls to lose their path. Had we had that focus last year, maybe we could've pulled that match off (against Skyline in the quarterfinal). It just makes it a lot more be-

And, you bet, that sign was there in Royal Oak, hanging from the back of Lindstrom's chair on Northville's bench.

So, too, was a larger sign that read, "BCOB," that sat against the wall next to the Mustangs' service line.

But there were also a few other props the players didn't know about.

There are trophy celebrations following the district and regional finals. There are no trophies handed out during the Elite Eight round.

Lindstrom thought that was lame. Northville worked too hard to get this far. And after sweeping Berkley 25-13, 25-12 and 25-14, the Mustangs needed some sort of way to celebrate.

So when it came time to take a team picture at the volleyball net, she unveiled a box of Frosted Flakes as well as a Tony the Tiger-inspired banner that read, "TICKET PUNCHED."

Lindstrom said it was an idea she had after chatting with Flack, whose Divine Child team celebrated its quarterfinal win in 2012 with boxes of Frosted Flakes and Froot Loops after Flack had slammed home the winning kill to push the Falcons past Haslett, 3-1.

"We just thought maybe if we bring it back, it'll give us some luck, and (Tony the Tiger) is our school colors," Lindstrom added. "So that's why we chose

For Northville's four seniors, Abby Reck, Anna Wilds, Taryn Rice and Lauren MacKellar, last year's heartbreak hasn't been forgotten.

It was on Rice's mind when she toed the service line for the match point in the final set.

"The pressure kind of takes its toll, but, in the end, it's kind of just knowing that I know what we're capable of doing as a team," said Rice, who signed with Northern Iowa last week. "I'm just thinking, 'We're going to get to Battle Creek.' We've been saying it all year, and it's just a great feeling to finally get

Before Rice sent up her serve, Northville's crowd started chanting, "Battle Creek! Battle Creek! Battle Creek!"

The starting libero's serve safely landed in play, but Berkley volleyed it

That set up MacKellar, Northville's 6foot right-side hitter, to blast home the winning point and advance Northville to

the state semifinal against Saline. "This was huge. We've been looking forward to it. I mean, BCOB! Battle Creek

or Bust!" the senior said. "This is huge. This is the game we got knocked out of last year. But this year we came back and wanted it, and we gave it all that we got. Coming into the season, I wanted Battle Creek. I wanted a ring on my finger. This is something I've been talking about at school. I've been telling my teachers we are going to win tonight, and this was huge."

And to laser in the winning point?

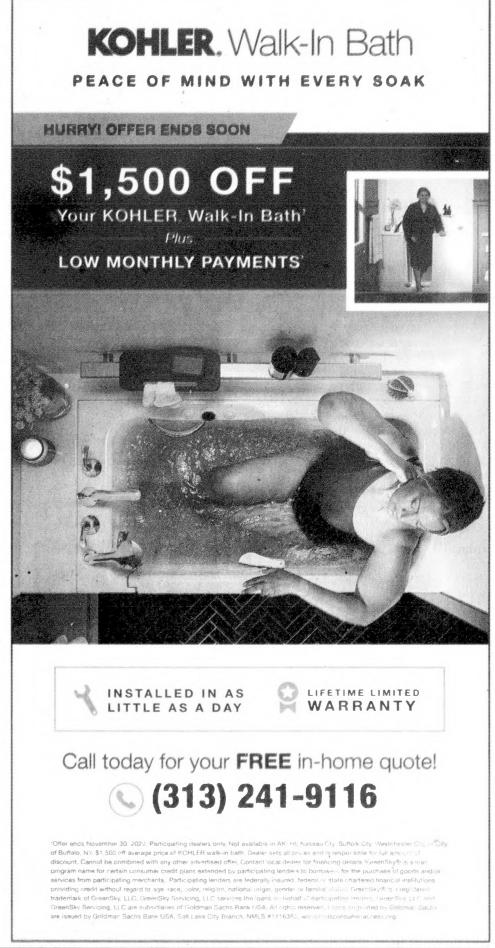
"A feeling like no other," said MacKellar, who Lindstrom tabbed as the Player of the Game following the match. "I can't even describe it. I really wanted it. As soon as I saw the ball coming to me, in my head, I was like, 'This is it. This is how I'm going to punch our ticket to Battle Creek.'

The second MacKellar's spike hit the hardwood, Northville's fans started up the "Battle Creek!" chants one final time.

The goal had finally manifested. Follow Brandon Folsom on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

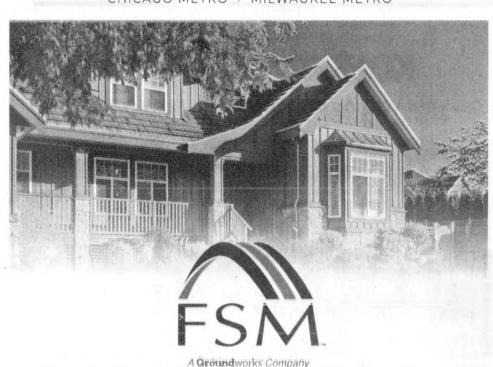


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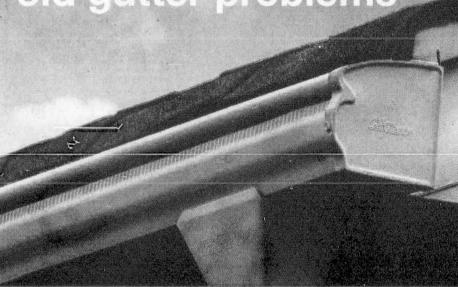
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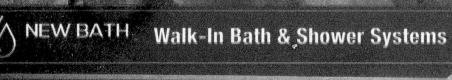
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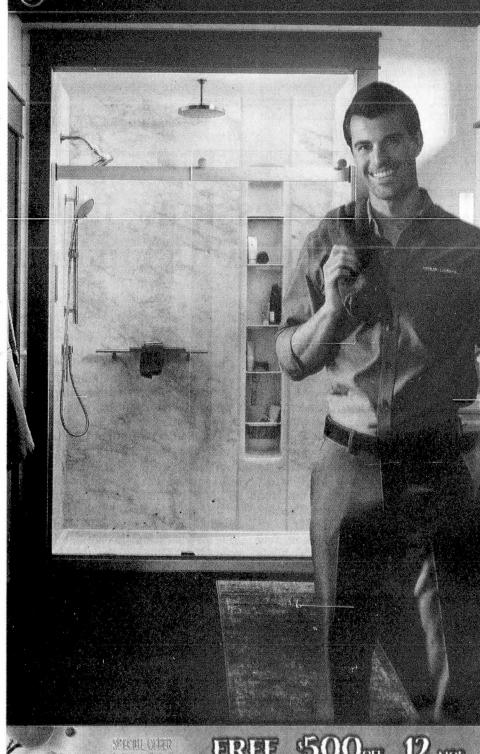


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## Remote workers can balance life, show value



Johnny C. Taylor Jr. Columnist

Johnny C. Taylor Jr. tackles your human resources questions as part of a series for USA TODAY. Taylor is president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest HR professional society and author of "Reset: A Leader's Guide to Work in an Age of Upheaval."

The questions are submitted by readers, and Taylor's answers below have been edited for length and clarity.

Question: As a remote worker, my day never seems to end. The boundaries between work and not work are blurred and often seem nonexistent. Working remotely, I find it challenging to show my value and work ethic to leadership and my colleagues. I often work extra hard to compensate for this perception. How can I set expectations in my work life and still be a team player? - Dale

Answer: You aren't alone. Most of us want a fruitful personal life and productive work life, but competing demands tend to push us in one direction or another. While many seek work-life balance, it is better to think of it as work-life integration. Employees are pursuing the flexibility to have a choice of where, when and how work gets done, and of course, opportunities to prioritize what is important in life - both personally and professionally.

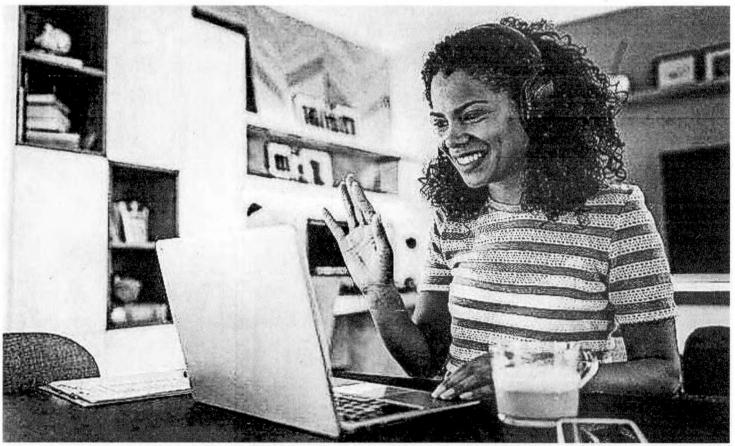
Visibility as a remote employee can often be challenging. In fact, SHRM research has shown in-person workers are five to seven times more likely to believe remote employees are less productive and work fewer hours than they do. Understandably, you feel the pressure to put in extra effort and hours. However, the research also shows this perception is incorrect. In fact, more in-person workers (27%) feel excluded from opportunities at work than remote workers (20%), and more onsite workers (30%) feel passed over for promotions than remote workers (24%).

Here are a few ideas to help you with your work-life fulfillment as a remote employee:

• Schedule "me" time. It can be difficult to log off, especially if you are already home. Make plans to see friends, family, or do a fun activity after work. It can help to have a change of scenery and take a true break from work.

• Create a separate workspace in your home. Avoid working in common areas like your living room. A separate workspace or office makes it easier to walk away at the end of your workday.

 Take a break. Eating lunch away from your computer or taking a short



Eating lunch away from your computer or taking a short walk outside can help you be more productive and feel more energized to finish your workday strong. GETTY IMAGES

walk outside can help you be more productive and feel more energized to finish your workday strong.

To demonstrate your work ethic to leadership and your colleagues, and continue to be a team player, keep these

• Be available. Use technology to your advantage – it can help your co-workers know when you are available and find easy and efficient ways to reach you.

• Communicate. Provide updates on your work to your manager and offer to help with any ongoing projects or tasks. Reach out to colleagues and offer help and feedback too. The best way to be "seen" in a remote work environment is to leverage your communication chan-

• Meet Deadlines. Be consistent and reliable. Your hard work can easily be seen when you complete tasks and projects well and in a timely manner. People will see you as a reliable, valued team member.

• Collaborate. Be open to other coworkers' ideas, and brainstorm new ways of doing things. Always be respectful, even if you disagree.

• Show your value. Do more than the bare minimum of what your job requires. Look for professional development opportunities and assignments to help you grow in your career.

Remember, as a remote employee, you aren't alone, working on an island. Being intentional and implementing some of these strategies can help you

showcase your work ethic while also preserving work-life integration.

A couple of my employees have posted negative or unflattering comments about work on social media. I am already short-staffed so firing them isn't a great option. Plus, they are generally solid performers. How should I respond? Should I deal with them individually or should I address the entire team? - Dewey

It depends on what is being said. For better or worse, social media ap-

pears to be here to stay. In many ways, social media is an extension of water cooler talk or a coffee break, but with a broader reach.

Surprisingly, many employers, like yourself, don't have much authority over what employees post on their social media. Employees have the right to discuss work conditions, for instance, safety, compensation, and benefits. This is what's considered a protected concerted activity under the National Labor Relations Act. However, employees can't be completely reckless on social media, making untrue or maliciously disparaging statements, or bad-mouthing their employer with broad-stroke commentary.

1. Consult with your legal counsel, your state laws and the labor regulations to ensure you're not addressing things (on employees' social media) that shouldn't be addressed.

2. Employees may be addressed individually or as an entire team. However, if there is a specific concern with an individual, you can speak to them directly and in private.

3. If federal or state laws don't protect the social media post, it boils down to company policies and practices. Some employers specifically have a social media policy to address these issues with predetermined consequences of such actions.

4. Termination should often be a tool of last resort. Provide channels for communication with solid performers about their dissatisfaction. After hearing from employees, decide whether coaching, counseling, training, or disciplinary action may be more appropriate. Get an idea of what is working well and what is not working well for employees. Make some adjustments if and where possi-

5. Ask HR to help you conduct employee engagement surveys to gauge employee attitudes and satisfaction. If solid performers are dissatisfied, there may be reasons worth investigating. This can help you retain high-performing employees and benefit talent acquisition and retention, especially in today's competitive labor market.

With some intentional effort and gathering more information, you can move forward positively with your em-

## Obituaries

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## Velma Marie (Evans) Smith

In loving memory of Velma Marie (Evans) Smith Velma was born April 22, 1926 in Plymouth to George and Mabel (Avery) Evans, and passed away peacefully on October 31, 2022 at the age of 96, after a long, full life. She was an avid golfer, card player and traveler. Velma would never turn down an invitation, and knew how to have a good time wherever she was. She had many treasured friends and never met a stranger.

Velrna was employed by Anchor Coupling and Gold Seal Photo Company and was a school bus driver for Plymouth schools. She was a member of New Hudson United Methodist Church.

Velma was preceded in death by her husband of 46 years, Robert R. Smith, who passed away August 2,1993, her parents and her brother Harold Evans. Velma is survived by her two children, Raina Allegra, partner John, and Ken Smith, wife Moira. She was a beloved grandmother and great grandmother to Chad and Christine Allegra (Caedon, Cylus, Cruz and Cash), Brett and Hannah Allegra (Jordan and Graham), Kyle and Ashley Smith (Andi and Karter) and Erica and Russell Bellomy (Payton). She had many loved nieces and nephews.

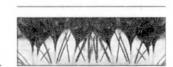
Phillips Funeral Home in South Lyon, Michigan is handling the arrangements. A memorial service is to be held on April 22, 2023. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the New Hudson United Methodist Church.

## **Larry Hoyt Sixbey**

Larry Hoyt Sixbey passed away peacefully at 11:50am on Wednesday, October 26th at the age of 75. He is predeceased by his brother Eugene Sixbey and sisters Gail Hartley and Marion Sixbey. He is survived by his brothers Ernest Sixbey and Victor Van Yorx.

Larry is lovingly remembered by his daughters Carolyn Randolph and Yvette McKay, grandchildren Mason, Quintin, Leslie, Francisco, Ethan, and Elliot as well as many nieces, nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephews.

Larry will be honored with a Naval Service and Interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery on November 28 at 12:30pm.



## In past recessions, firms suspended 401(k) match

tions," she said.

**Elisabeth Buchwald USA TODAY** 

In past recessions, many companies looking to cut costs and poten-

suspended 401(k) matches. In the most recent recession, Ascensus, a retirement plan administrator, said that 21% of employers that use its 401(k) services suspended their contributions from March to September 2020, The Wall Street Journal reported. Vanguard reported a much smaller share of cuts, 7%, dur-

tially avoid having to lay off workers

ing the height of the pandemic. Despite fears of a recession, few plans have suspended 401(k) matches even though a growing list of companies have announced massive headcount reductions, Fidelity Investments and Vanguard, two of the larg-

est 401(k) providers, told USA TODAY. Even though many companies including Exxon that suspended 401(k) matching during the pandemic eventually brought it back, the lapse can be

unsettling and confusing for workers. Here are some questions that may be on your mind:

### Should you contribute to a 401(k) if you won't get a match?

"You should still contribute as much as you personally can," said Lisa Forsythe, a private client adviser at J.P. Morgan Wealth Management.

On top of which if you've already

been making regular contributions to

ing through a 401(k) with or without your employer's contribution, meaning the money from your paycheck that flows into your 401(k) will not be taxed. The Internal Revenue Service recently announced that the contribution limit for 401(k) plans will increase by \$2,000 to

your 401(k), "you may be used to living

off your current paycheck amount,

which already factors in your contribu-

advantage of the tax benefits of invest-

Importantly, you'll still be able to take

\$22,500 for 2023 because of inflation. "Do not lose sight of that," said Michael Liersch, head of advice and planning for wealth and investment management at Wells Fargo

There's a behavioral benefit to contributing, he said. If you get out of the habit of doing so and the match comes back, you could miss out.

#### Should you prioritize emergency savings over retirement?

If your company suspended its 401(k) match there's a good chance layoffs could be around the corner.

To prepare for potential layoffs, Brian Robinson, a financial adviser and partner with SharpePoint, recommends making sure you have enough money to get by on a strictly bare-bones budget for three months.

If you don't, put your retirement savings on hold but make sure you resume vour contributions once you hit your emergency savings goal, said Voris.

## Brighton fueled by loss in state championship game

**Bill Khan** 

Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brighton's hockey team practiced its own brand of social distancing after losing to Detroit Catholic Central in the state Division 1 championship game last

Nobody from Brighton wanted to get anywhere near the state runner-up trophy. Coach Kurt Kivisto didn't accept it and the players reluctantly took a mandatory team photo with it, but got up without touching the hardware they earned by winning their four previous postseason games.

The unwanted wooden mitten might still be on the ice at USA Hockey Arena if Brighton athletic director John Thompson hadn't picked it up to bring back to the school's trophy case.

The statement being made that night was that Brighton isn't satisfied with anything less than state championships. With five state championships and three other finals appearances, the Bulldogs weren't happy just being there.

"You hope it hurts and you hope you grow from that pain and remember it and don't forget it," Kivisto said. "It should drive you to put in the work throughout the season and hopefully not experience it again."

Brighton will make a run at its first state championship since back-to-back titles in 2017 and 2018 with a roster that includes three first-team all-staters. The group of nine returning players includes four of the top six scorers from last season and two goaltenders who had successful sophomore seasons.

"We had a lot of fun last year," allstate goalie Levi Pennala said. "It was good to get to the state finals, but obviously with that tough loss it's a big learning experience for the team.

"Obviously, the goal is to get back to (USA Hockey Arena) and hopefully get back to the state championship game every year. Every time we're in the weight room, every time we're on the ice, that's what we're working toward every time we step out there.'

The Bulldogs' other returning all-staters are junior forward Cameron Duffany and senior defenseman Mattix McMullen, who made an impact in their



Brighton defenseman Mattix McMullen made first-team all-state last season after scoring six goals and 16 assists. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

first seasons of high school hockey.

"It was a bunch of fun," McMullen said. "I kind of met my group of brothers doing that. It was a great run, and just falling up short was sad for us, but it gives us something to work for this

Brighton graduated leading scorer Nick Baker, but has plenty of firepower

in Duffany (19 goals, 28 assists), junior Lane Petit (23 goals, 22 assists) and senior Evan Wohlart (12 goals, 14 assists). Duffany and Petit skated on a line with Baker, whose 52 points were the most by a Bulldog since Mr. Hockey winner Jake Crespi in 2016-17.

McMullen is the only returning defenseman, though junior Aiden Seiter can play up front or on defense.

"We should be pretty strong up front," Kivisto said. "We lost five defensemen; Mattix is the only one back. We have to fill some holes in there. We're obviously strong in net.

"Nick's a big loss. It's a big hole to fill. Hopefully, those guys who contributed pretty well as sophomores take a step and the new kids on the team can step up, as well.'

In net, Pennala was the No. 1 goalie last season, going 13-6-1 with a 1.99 goals against average and .915 save percentage. Ryan Nickerson was impressive as the backup, going 9-0 with a 1.68 GAA and a .927 save percentage.

"It benefits both of us," Pennala said. "We both work off each other, we talk to each other, we have a really good relationship with each other. We're fortunate to have that and we're fortunate we're both good enough to step in and fill the role of netminding for the Brighton hockey team.'

Senior forwards Dylan Hunt (6 goals, 8 assists), Winston Lerch (1 goal, 5 assists) and Nathan Daavettila (4 goals, 1 assist) are Brighton's other returning players.

Junior forward Charlie Burchfield, sophomore defenseman Ryan Watkins and senior forward Dominic Vincent are expected to make an impact as first-year varsity players.

Regardless of returning talent, making it back to the state championship game this season will be even tougher for the Bulldogs. The Michigan High School Athletic Association reconfigured the hockey postseason to spread out the co-op programs evenly among the three divisions, which results in some of the top Division 2 schools being bumped up to Division 1.

"It will make the state finals a lot better than what it's been the last number of years," Kivisto said. "There's more teams that will have a shot at it this year. That'll be a good thing overall."

Brighton will open its season against Novi at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Kensington Valley Ice House

Some of the highlights of the Bulldogs' schedule are games against Detroit Catholic Central Dec. 10 in Livonia, at Howell on Dec. 17 and at Hartland on Jan. 20.

## Ann Arbor Skyline's Murray named Miss Volleyball

Special to Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

There was a coaches' voting process to complete over the weekend, but it sure seemed a forgone conclusion who would win the 2022 Miss Volleyball award, a joint effort between the Detroit Free Press and the Michigan Interscholastic Coaches Association.

Ann Arbor Skyline star Harper Murray — the No. 1-ranked player in the country, headed to play college volleyball at perennial powerhouse Nebraska - is the 2022 recipient of the prestigious award. She received 325 voting points and second place was Ava Sarafa of Bloomfield Hills Marian at 213. No one else received more than 80 points.

A 6-foot-2 outside hitter, Murray recorded 2,425 kills in her four-year career at Skyline.

"What makes her special in our opinion, and a rare recruit, is she's a pure, six rotation outside hitter," Nebraska coach John Cook said by phone just moments before Murray was surprised with the award. "Meaning, she can do every skill well, and what really, finally convinced me of all this: I went to a practice a couple years ago and the coaches just had her be a setter for that practice - and I think she can be a college setter. She's just a real, well-rounded, true volleyball player that does very well, and she's a dynamic athlete."

The leadership skills Cook needs from her are something Murray worked on her senior season.

"She learned this year how to be a leader," Skyline coach Chris Christian said. "She had everything else, her skills were all there. What I wanted her to get out of this year is to be that leader I knew she could be.'

Murray said high school and club volleyball gave her that opportunity to im-

"I think I did a good job, and I can continue that going to Nebraska, and I look forward to learning a lot there," Murray said after the awards ceremony where the school duped her into thinking she had to re-sign her letter-of-intent papers due to a clerical error.

And skills she has. In addition to the career kills, Murray collected 130 blocks,



Teammates pose with Ann Arbor Skyline's Harper Murray, center, who was awarded Miss Volleyball by the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association. MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS

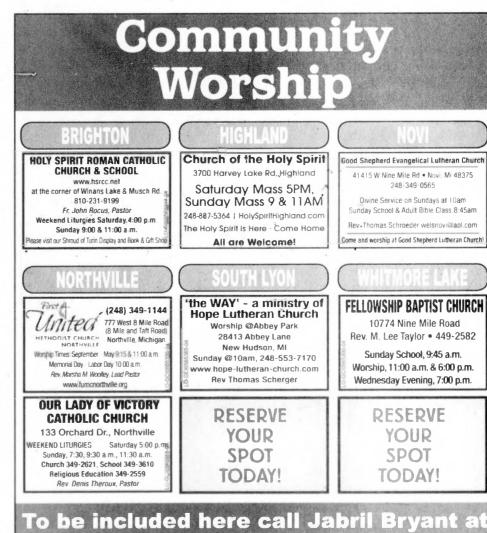
1,423 digs and 362 aces. Her tall and athletic frame was an imposing sight across the net for opponents, especially her final two seasons. Skyline finished runner-up in the Division 1 state finals last year to Birmingham Marian, but this year was bumped out of the regionals by Okemos.

"Even though we didn't make it to Battle Creek like we wanted to, we also have a great relationship and I think we all were happy with how we finished and how we fought," Murray said about her teammates. "Obviously winning Miss Volleyball is a great accomplishment, but at the same time I am super proud of the team."

Murray was clearly wiping away tears, of both joy and sadness, when holding the trophy and greeting her supporters. Many know that her father, Vada Murray, died of lung cancer when she was just 6 years old. She plans to honor him by wearing the No. 27 he wore for Michigan football. Nebraska will give her that number to wear; it gives her a sense he is with her on the court.

Sarah Murray, Harper's mom, had to choke back the emotions talking about the friends and family that attended the Miss Volleyball presentation Monday morning at Skyline.

"These are friends of her dad's and he was really loved, so this is a big day, and it would have been a big day for him," she said. "So, having people closest to him here, to support her, is really important to me and her."



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