

Novi's record-setting LB says farewell to football

**SPORTS, 1B** 

# NORTHVILLE

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Felician Sisters to convert part of Livonia convent into senior housing

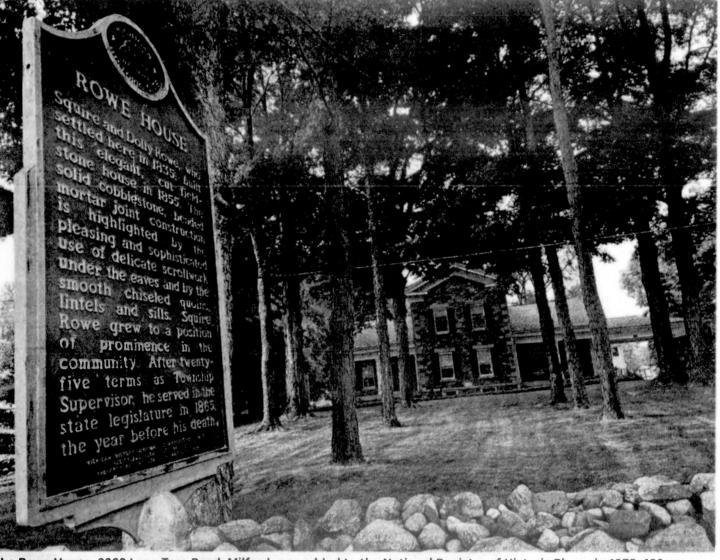
Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — A big change is coming to the Felician Sisters convent at Madonna University.

The Felician Sisters of North America are creating plans to transform the western portion of Madonna's convent, 36800 Schoolcraft Road, into a senior living facility. The convent, originally built for 800 Sisters, now houses fewer than 100 women.

"While we are in the early stages, we want the community to know that any proposed use of the convent will fulfill a community need in the greater Livonia area, where we have faithfully served for decades," said Sister Janet Marie Adamczyk, provincial vicar for the Felician Sisters of North America, in a release. "We prayerfully consider this opportunity through the lens of our organization's values and look at ways to provide potential synergies with existing ministries on the campus."

The Sisters determined a senior living facility would best suit Livonia's population. According to U.S. Census data, roughly 21% of the city's residents are 65 or older.



The Rowe House, 2360 Lone Tree Road, Milford, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, 120 years after it was built. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Here's a peek at four local historic places on the National Register.

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

According to Marcia Wallander, the Sisters' chief mission advancement officer, a committee will develop plans for the facility over the next year. The committee anticipates some modifications will be needed to make the building suitable for senior living.

"It's being thoughtful of what we have and using it to serve others," Wallander said.

Sisters living in Livonia won't be displaced from their homes. Those who remain will continue to live in the eastern portion of the convent at Madonna, a university the Felicians started in 1937.

"They continue to evolve to meet the needs of the time," Wallander said. "They've done that since the beginning."

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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.

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#### Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hoping to see some history in your travels this summer?

You don't have to look far.

Nearly every county in Michigan has landmarks that have found a spot on the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of properties deemed worthy of preservation by the National Park Service.

"All of these places go a long way in helping people understand who we are," according to Jim Craft, chairperson of the Oakland County Historical Commission. "We are our history in every single way and there are ways to preserve that history, so you can see and appreciate we came from somewhere and that the past has to a large extent determined who we are.

#### There are rules to getting on the elite list, including age, integrity and significance criteria for nominated places. An application and evaluation process ensure worthiness, and also bring potential benefits like tax breaks and incentives.

Oakland County alone has 50 locations on the list, including some designed by famous architects like Frank Lloyd Wright. Some locations include historic districts, such as downtown Clarkston, while others include businesses, such as the Grand Trunk depot in Birmingham, schools, like Central School in Pontiac, and even a portion of the Kalamazoo-Clinton Canal.

Here are four local treasures, three private homes in Milford, and a Washtenaw County church believed to be one of a kind:

#### **The Rowe House**

Squire and Dolly Rowe's fieldstone home was built in 1855, 20 years after the couple settled in the Milford area. Squire Rowe was prominent in the community, serving as a longtime township supervisor and raising a company for the 13th Michigan Regiment in the Civil War. He was also a state legislator in 1865, but died the following year.

He left behind Dolly and eight children, and at least one infant grandson, Grant Rowe, who would later be a successful businessman involved with the Milford Times newspaper.

The home was in the possession of the Rowe family until 1908, and returned to the family when Earl and Margaret Mastick purchased it in 1953 and

See REGISTER, Page 4A

## **Ruckus Taco set for July opening in Canton Township**

#### Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON TWP. — Taco enthusiasts rejoice. A new eatery featuring freshmade tacos, burritos, nachos and more is set to open in July.

Ruckus Taco Co., owned and operated by Jeremy Kalmus of Plymouth, will open in the former Olympus Coney Island in the shopping plaza at the southeast corner of Joy and Morton-Taylor roads.

Kalmus founded Ruckus Taco about

### eight years ago after attending culinary school in Charleston, South Carolina, and returning to Michigan to work as an executive chef at a number of restaurants in the Metro Detroit area.

"I wanted a change of pace," Kalmus said, noting he started the business with about \$3,500 in his bank account and has worked to build it through word of mouth. "I wanted to work for myself, and working with food has been my entire career since day one. I love what I do."

See RUCKUS, Page 2A



Ruckus Taco features fresh-made street tacos, along with burritos, nachos and more.

COURTESY RUCKUS TACO COMPANY

CONTACT US: Call 866-887-2737. Press 1) for Classified, Death Notices; 2) Retail Advertising; 3) Billing, Subscription, Back Copies, Delivery Issues; 4) leave message for newsroom. Send press releases, calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com Volume 153 | No. 49 Home delivery pricing inside ©2023 \$1.50



2A I THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023 I O& EMEDIA (NR)

## Livonia company creates luxury woodworking, European-inspired furniture

#### **Shelby Tankersley**

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — Kelly Victor-Burke and Barry Burke love to show people furniture as they've never experienced it.

The couple opened Burke Architectural Millwork in 2016 planning to create woodworking projects for bars and restaurants. But the 1,800-square-foot showroom in their new division, Bespoke Closets and Organized Spaces, is like a high-class IKEA.

Bespoke Closets offers a combination of European and native Michigan products that create unique spaces with luxury furniture. Some materials come from places like Germany, Italy and Spain.

"We want to show people something they haven't seen before," Victor-Burke, the company's majority owner, said. "We are very intrigued by trends that are happening right now in Europe, especially in Italy."

#### Creating luxury, one-of-a-kind spaces

Victor-Burke said she loves the creativity and functionality that go into woodwork. The company's design team draws out plans for a space and customizes furniture to a client's needs. Bespoke Closets is targeted toward luxury residential clients and developers.

"Because we make everything here, we control everything," she said. "If a client wants to have a certain material lining the bottom of their drawer, for instance, we can do that for them without any problem."

The showroom, affectionately called Casa di Burke, features examples of a mud room, wine cellar, kitchen, closets and more. To ensure a truly one-of-akind space, the company has a slate of professional collaborators featured throughout the showroom that people can turn to for luxury accessories or appliances.

"We try to incorporate European design into everything," Victor-Burke said. "Making spaces more organized and creating streamlined living is really what we're all about. It's helping people with organizing their spaces."

Victor-Burke said Burke Architectural Millwork has done well in Michigan, but she hopes Bespoke Closets will take the company to homes across North America.

## Pushing woodworking toward the future

The Burkes, who live in Livonia, and



Kelly and Barry Burke with some of their custom-made tables at Burke Architectural Millwork in Livonia. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

their employees make everything at the Livonia shop, 30940 Industrial Road. The company utilizes Industry 4.0 technology like mechatronics and computer-aided design to create custom furniture clients can't find anywhere else.

Local examples of their work include the dining room at Cantoro Italian Market and Trattoria in Livonia and Rocky's of Northville. Victor-Burke said local projects like Cantoro and Rocky's, where she and Burke are customers, hold a special place in her heart.

"They're like children to me; I love

them all," she said.

Burke Architectural Millwork also launched the first woodworking apprenticeship approved by the U.S. Department of Labor in the 21st century, the woodwork manufacturing specialist program, in 2020. Victor-Burke said she hopes the program helps introduce a new kind of woodworking to youth.

"It's really important to showcase to the next generation that this is a great career and industry," she said. "You have a lot of creativity going on and you get to work with your hands."



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Subscription Rates: Newsstand price: \$1.50 \$65 per 12 months home delivery

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Kara and Jeremy Kalmus of Plymouth show off the renovated interior of the former Olympus Coney Island at 43315 Joy Road in Canton Township, where they plan to open Ruckus Taco Co. in July. LAURA COLVIN/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

## Ruckus

Continued from Page 1A

For Kalmus, the new Ruckus Taco, 43315 Joy Road, was the natural next

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PROVISIONS OF THE NOXIOUS WEED ORDINANCE

TO: All owners, occupants or possessors of subdivided lands or lots:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush, or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of eight (8) inches, growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City of Novi, shall be cut down, destroyed or removed as the case may be, at least twice in each year, once during the last half of the month of May and again during the last half of July of each year and more often as may be necessary.

If the owner or occupant, or any person or persons, agent, firm, or corporation having control or management of any subdivided land or lots or any other nonsubdivided parcel of land upon which any building or buildings have been erected shall fail, refuse, or neglect to comply with the above mentioned Code provisions, the city shall cause the weeds, grass, brush, deleterious, unhealthy growths, rubbish, to be cut down, destroyed, or removed. Provided, further, that any lands which are situated within the floodplains or any natural streams or watercourses, or any area between the lower or upper banks of such streams or watercourses shall be exempted from the provisions of such Code provisions. The expense incurred by the City in the cutting, destruction, or removal of same, together with an administrative charge established pursuant to resolution of City Council, will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

> Charles Boulard, Building Official City of Novi

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Publish: July 6, 2023

step for his operation, which includes a catering business and food truck — a converted 1969 Airstream trailer — inside Corktown's Detroit Axe.

#### The menu

The Canton menu will feature all the Ruckus Taco favorites.

"We do two different styles of tacos," Kalmus said. "When we first started, we just did the soft, corn style, which is more of a street taco. We found a lot of customers like the flour tortillas they were more familiar with, so we added those."

The flour tortilla-style tacos come with choice of protein and salsa, along with lettuce, cheese and chipotle sour cream, while the soft corn street tacos come with choice of protein and salsa, plus onion, cilantro and chipotle sour cream.

Ruckus Taco protein choices include adobo grilled chicken, seasoned ground beef, chorizo, beef barbacoa and carne asada. Chili lime cauliflower is available for those interested in a plant-based option.

The menu includes fresh-made nachos, burritos and burrito bowls.

Mexican fare isn't the only option: Ruckus Taco offers a crispy chicken sandwich with pickles, honey mustard slaw, roasted garlic mayo, along with a version described in the menu as "spicy AF."

A smash burger is another menu highlight.

"It's the fundamentals of a perfect

cheeseburger," Kalmus said. "Two patties, you just cook 'em on the grill, flatten 'em a little bit, then cheese, sauce, onions and pickles. That's it. The fundamentals. Let the burger talk.

"The type of stuff we serve is very casual, and it's fun," he added. "We find our clientele is the same. We always have a great connection with our guests."

#### **Brand new space**

Kalmus runs the business in partnership with his wife Kara Kalmus, who recently founded Sweet Bites, a dessert company featuring house-made ice cream sandwiches, along with churros and choco tacos.

Together, the couple went to lengths to create a new interior for the former Olympus Coney Island. Upgrades include a bright color scheme, refurbished furniture from a friend's restaurant and even a couple of pinball machines.

"We even gutted the whole kitchen," Kalmus said. "Everything is brand new down to the sinks and plumbing."

The walls feature works by local artists, and a neon sign offers the perfect background for a selfie: "Feed me tacos and tell me I'm pretty."

The couple and their daughter live in Plymouth.

"We can't wait to meet more of our neighbors," said Kalmus, noting he plans to open the eatery next month.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com or 248-221-8143.

# Livonia man arrested for felony count of ethnic intimidation toward minor

## **Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA – A Livonia man is being charged with felony counts of ethnic intimidation and resisting arrest and a misdemeanor count of aggravated assault because of an encounter with a

child at Kirksey Recreation Center.

According to Livonia police, Moeez Irfan, 29, was at the 15100 Hubbard St. community center on June 8 when he physically bumped into a 13-year-old boy. Irfan then allegedly struck the teen multiple times in the head and shouted racial slurs at him. Police say Irfan also resisted arrest and needed to be subdued by multiple officers.

The teen Moeez is accused of assaulting was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Livonia police announced the arrest June 26

Irfan was arraigned on the felony and misdemeanor charges June 16 at the 16th District Court in Livonia. He's cur-

rently being held at the Wayne County Jail. Bond is set to \$50,000 with the option of 10%, which court records indicate has not been paid.

Irfan was scheduled to appear at the 16th District Court June 29 for a probable cause conference.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

## Smoke from a distant fire choking Michigan

**Experts:** Pollutant levels worse than ever but get used to it

#### **Keith Matheny**

**Detroit Free Press** USA TODAY NETWORK

For the second time this month, smoke from Canadian wildfires is causing an acrid haze over the Great Lakes region, prompting air quality alerts showing southeast Michigan with smoke-related pollutant levels that are "very unhealthy" or "hazardous."

The Free Press sought answers for why this is happening, what people can do to protect themselves, and what the future might hold.

#### **Canada has wildfires every** summer. Why is their smoke so bad over our region this summer?

Two reasons: The historic scope of the Canadian wildfires and an unusual summer weather pattern for the Great Lakes region.

This has been no ordinary Canadian wildfire season. The same high temperatures and dry conditions that made Michigan a tinderbox in late May and early June have dominated in Canada as well. More than 8.1 million hectares of area have burned in wildfires across Canada, the most the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre has ever recorded. The previous high was 7.6 million hectares burned in 1989 - over an entire, April-through-October fire season

"It's been unprecedented," said Jennifer Kamau, communications manager for the center.

Kamau said Canada has 482 active Is all of this wildfire wildfires right now, including 239 fires



The Detroit skyline is cloaked in haze from smoke from Canadian wildfires drifting over Michigan. Residents are warned to take precautions because of the health hazards from the high pollutant levels. MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS

That takes us to the Great Lakes weather. Normally in summertime, the jet stream, the prevailing wind pattern in the upper atmosphere, takes warm, moist air from the south and west into the Great Lakes region. But this summer, the jet stream is often flowing from the north and east - and bringing Canada's wildfire smoke with it.

"I just don't remember the last time we saw smoke drift from the Canadian Maritimes back to the west into the Great Lakes region - from a meteorology, climatology standpoint, that's pretty hard to do. But we saw it this year," said Jeffrey Andresen, a meteorologist and climatologist with Michigan State University's Department of Geography.

smoke harmful to health?

irritation and inflammation over longer periods of exposure, Bagdasarian said. But she noted that these high levels of smoke pollution "can change day to day, hour to hour, minute to minute.

Dr. Daniel Oullette, interim department head for pulmonary critical care medicine at Henry Ford Health, said the pulmonary clinic is seeing more patients with breathing-related problems this spring and early summer.

'The quality of the air is one factor, but the warm winter and spring have also led to high pollen counts, and this contributes as well," he said.

### What can people do to protect themselves?

First, understand the quality of the air where you are. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides continually updated air quality monitoring results at airnow.gov, and through a free, downloadable telephone app. Local air quality is measured there on both a 1 to 500 scale, and with color-coded guides. The higher the number, the more pollution in the air and the greater the health concern.

air conditioning unit may provide additional filtration.

The air filtration and purification devices many bought during the COVID-19 pandemic may help with wildfire smoke pollution as well, Bagdasarian said. Check to see whether the device filters PM 2.5 particles.

Those who can't avoid outdoor activity are urged to wear a protective mask that tightly seals to the face and is designed to filter out tiny particles.

People should avoid wood stoves, wood fires and any other "things putting extra pollutants into the air," she said.

### What does the rest of this summer look like?

In the short term, the Great Lakes region is expected to get more frequent chances of precipitation, Andresen said. But longer-term forecasting into September calls for warmer-than-normal mean temperatures and below-normal rainfall.

The lack of rainfall over much of the past month means there's little moisture stored in the soil, which ordinarily provides a kind of reserve for plants for hotter, drier periods of the summer.

"This year, we don't have that because it's been used in the last two months," he said.

#### What does the future look like? Is wildfire smoke our new summer normal?

**Environment Canada meteorologist** Steven Flisfeder predicted wildfires will become "more probable" as human-enhanced climate change from fossil-fuel burning continues.

"The likelihood of forest fires becoming a bigger concern in coming decades is something that is consistent with climate change," he said.

considered out of control.

Last year at this time, only 1 million hectares of Canadian forests had burned in wildfires.

All of Canada's firefighting resources have been put to use, and the nation has now turned to other countries for help with its wildfires: The U.S., Mexico, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Portugal, France and Costa Rica have all provided personnel and equipment to help, Kamau said.

Wildfires have been particularly pronounced in the Canadian provinces of Alberta in the west and Nova Scotia in the east, and now large wildfires have ignited in Ontario and Quebec.

## It can be.

"We are most concerned about the very, very tiny particles that can get down into the deepest portions of your lungs," particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in size, known as PM 2.5, said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. "It can cause lung inflammation and other chronic issues over longer periods of exposure, but also acute and immediate issues, especially in those with underlying heart or lung disease, the young and the elderly, and pregnant women."

Lungs can become damaged from the

People can also sign up for air quality notifications for their area at the EPA's www.enviroflash.info.

Reducing the amount of time spent outdoors during bad air quality days is the key, Bagdasarian said.

"Make sure windows and doors are tightly sealed," she said. "Turning on an

Andresen noted the Great Lakes region is now having longer growing seasons by a couple of weeks - which means it also has longer fire seasons. This year, Michigan experienced an "extremely rapid transition from what was almost excess moisture as recently as early April" to rainless conditions for weeks. That can cause a lot of greening in the forest that then dries, dies and turns into fire fuel.

Said Bagdasarian, "Folks out west have dealt with wildfire smoke and air quality issues related to it for much longer than we have. "... Monitor the (air quality) websites, download the app."

kmatheny@freepress.com

#### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE **ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023 CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN**

#### TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NOVI:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the City of Novi who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the City Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is Monday, July 24, 2023.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the City of Novi Clerk's office, located at 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 at the following times:

Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 5, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

· Election Day, Tuesday, August 8th from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Novi Community School District voters will be voting for purposes of voting on the following proposals:

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL 19 MILLS FOR 11 YEARS EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW, AND 5.49 MILLS FOR 11 YEARS ON ALL PRINCIPAL

**RESIDENCE AND OTHER PROPERTY OTHERWISE EXEMPTED BY LAW** 

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC RECREATION AND PLAYGROUNDS 0.9365 MILL FOR 10 YEARS

Full text of the ballot propositions may be obtained as the administrative office of Novi Community School District, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan, 48374-2423, telephone: (248) 449-1200

A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Clerk's Office.

Cortney Hanson, MMC, MiPMC II City Clerk

Publish: July 6, 2023

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## **CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN** NOTICE OF OFFICIAL PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Clerk's Office will conduct a Public Accuracy Test of the Optical Scan tabulating equipment to be used for the Election to be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. The test will be conducted at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law. This test is open to all interested parties. For further information, contact the Novi City Clerk's Office at 248-347-0456.

> CORTNEY HANSON, MMC, MiPMC II CITY CLERK

Publish: July 6, 2023

## **CITY OF NOVI** NOTICE OF ADOPTION **ORDINANCE NO. 18.302**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCENO.18.302 TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVICODE OF ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE 14-271, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: ARTICLE 3.0, "ZONING DISTRICTS," SECTION 3.1, "DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED" AT SECTIONS 3.1.1 THROUGH 3.1.5, "RA RESIDENTIAL ACREAGE" DISTRICT AND "R-1" THROUGH "R-4 **ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS"; ARTICLE 4.0 "USE STANDARDS,"** SECTION 4.3, "SCHOOLS"; AND ARTICLE 7.0 "ADMINISTRATION, APPEALS AND ENFORCEMENT," SECTION 7.1 "NONCONFORMITIES" IN ORDER TO UPDATE THE STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS AND MAKE OTHER MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO NONCONFORMING PROPERTIES.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, June 26, 2023, and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after its publication. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Publish: July 6, 2023

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## Register

**Continued from Page 1A** 

restored the home at 2360 Lone Tree Road.

According to a 1975 nominating statement of significance on file with the National Register of Historic Places, "the Rowe House is a pleasing reminder of the taste and prosperity of a community-minded, 19th century rural family. The Rowes' insistence on craftsmanship, sturdy construction, elegance, and preservation has resulted in this fine interpretation of the Greek Revival style into cobblestone."

#### **The Foote House**

The Foote House is a Greek Revival style structure and has stood at 213 W. Huron St. in Milford since 1858 when it was built for Dr. Henry K. Foote, the village's first physician, and a prominent local politician and Civil War surgeon.

The home is significant both for its original occupant and for its architecture, which has been kept in nearly original condition.

According to documents on file with the National Register of Historic Places, Foote was only able to enjoy his home for about four years before the Civil War took him to the field to fight and then serve as a surgeon.

He died soon after, in February 1863, from pneumonia, while in Maryland. He was just 59. His widow, Minerva, lived in the house until her death in 1882.

The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

#### **Hubbard-Kesby House**

Little is known about the first namesake on this home at 1965 W. Dawson Road constructed around 1835.

According to the statement of significance, Samuel Hubbard purchased a vacant section of land in Milford Township for \$350 in 1833 and four years later sold 80 acres of the parcel to Horace Hubbard for \$1,000, with the price indicating the Greek Revival structure now known as the Hubbard-Kesby home, was already on it. Horace and his wife Almeda Hubbard sold the home to John Kesby in 1841.

Both John Kesby and his wife, Betsy Moore Kesby, were from England and



The Dr. Henry K. Foote House was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

settled temporarily in New York before moving to Milford and helping to develop a farming community.

Betsy's son, John Moore, from her first marriage, would later become a prosecuting attorney, the mayor of Saginaw, and a Democratic candidate for governor in 1868.

Betsy Moore Kesby died in 1860 and John Kesby remarried. He died in 1875 and his widow sold the house.

In 1905, the house was remodeled and enlarged by then-owner Jonathan Phillips, with retention of the essential character of the home and only minor changes seen over the ensuing decades. The home was listed on the registry in 1996.

See REGISTER, Page 5A



The Hubbard-Kesby House, located at 1965 W. Dawson Road in Milford, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.



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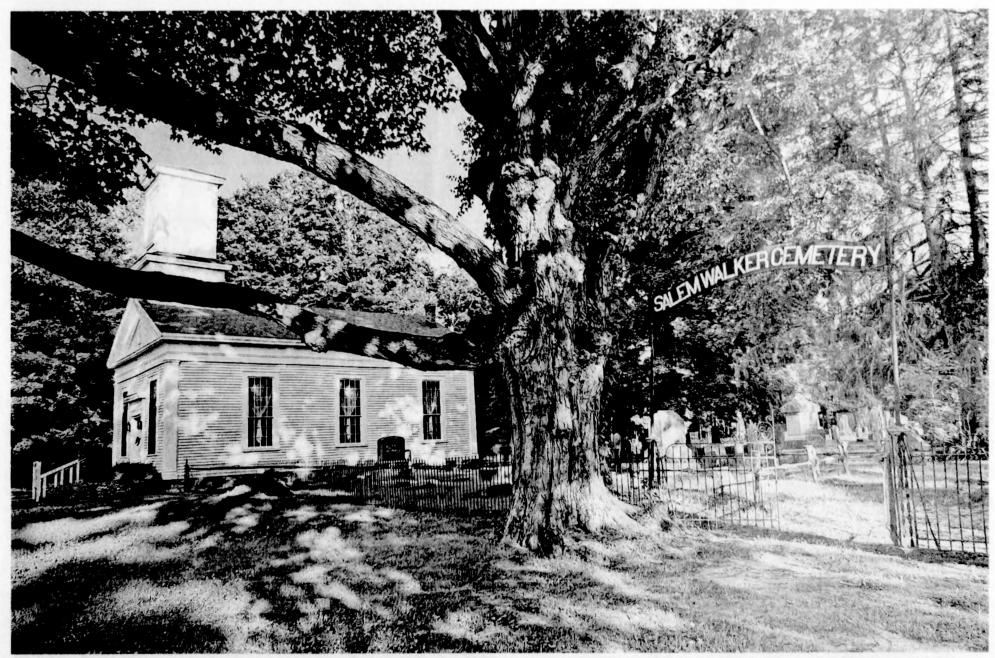
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The Salem Methodist Episcopal Church, along with the accompanying Salem Walker Cemetery at 7150 Angle Road, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Register

Continued from Page 4A

### Salem Methodist Episcopal Church and Salem Walker Cemetery

Salem Walker Church and its accompanying cemetery are found at 7150 Angle Road in Salem Township.

According to the documentation that landed the site on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992, the church is

important because it may be the only Greek Revival church in Michigan that has remained virtually unaltered since its construction in 1864, including the interior, which retained mid-19th century pews, an original plaster ceiling, and old-grain woodwork.

The cemetery predates the church by at least 30 years, with records indicating the earliest burial was that of Amina Bennett, who died Sept. 15, 1834, at the age of 8. The graveyard was owned at that time by Otis Walker, for whom the cemetery is named, and who died and

was buried there in 1844, a year after his wife Sarah.

In 1864, seven individuals acting as trustees purchased a half-acre of land for \$5 to build the church adjacent to the burial ground. The church was dedicated the same year. Services continued at the church until 1912.

A cemetery association that formed in 1908 for the Salem Walker Cemetery purchased the long-unused church and its contents in 1930 for \$200 through a quit-claim from the Methodist conference.

According to the National Register of Historic Places, the association has maintained the church since that time. Vandalism and thefts were reported in the 1960s and '70s, with damage quickly repaired, but church furnishings stolen in 1974 have never been recovered.

At the time of its listing in 1992, local gatherings and wedding rentals helped generate income for maintenance.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @Susan-Bromley10.

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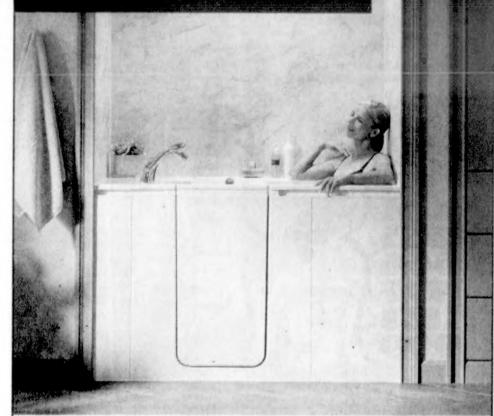


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**USA TODAY SPORTS** 

# SPORTS

## Leadership duties a 'big adjustment' for Warriors star Warren Marshall

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Brother Rice boys basketball coach Rick Palmer could only smile before last month's DC Elite Summer League game against Detroit Edison after being asked how Warren Marshall is handling his new leadership duties.

"He's in for a big adjustment this year," the fifth-year coach said.

The Warriors just graduated three of the top 10 players in Michigan in four-star Curtis Williams (Louisville), three-star John Blackwell (Wisconsin) and forward Xavier Thomas (Toledo).

Marshall wasn't a role player as a junior by any means. He certainly had his share of big-time moments, gamewinning shots and clutch plays in some of the most-watched games in metro Detroit. But he wasn't asked to lead the team, especially with three future college basketball players as teammates who were all a year older than him.

Well, they're gone now. This is Marshall's team. We all know that he can play. Heck, he was the No. 2 selection on Hometown Life's All-Area boys basketball team last season. It wouldn't be a surprise if he becomes a darkhorse candidate for the Michigan Mr. Basketball honor. It's not a question of whether he'll play Division I college basketball. It's which team will he pick? He's got plenty to choose from in the Mid-American Conference and Horizon League as well as a handful of schools interested in him down south.

What will likely determine how well his senior year goes is how he embraces being the leader.

"It's been an adjustment, for sure,"



Novi's Niko Krall gets up after a play during the MHSFCA all-star football game Saturday, June 24, 2023, at Lawrence Tech University. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# **Novi's record-setting LB says farewell to football**

## **Brandon Folsom**

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

That's it for Niko Krall. The senior leaves Novi football as

one of the best middle linebackers in Rockford quarterback Mac

This was his farewell to the game. Krall, alongside fellow Wildcat Martez Langford, represented the East in the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association all-star game June 24 at Lawrence Tech University.

Rockford quarterback Mac Vandenhout, who's signed with Davenport University in Grand Rapids, punched in a 1yard TD for the winning score late in the fourth quarter, as the West topped the East, 26-14.

business and finance. He will not play the sport at the next level despite being one of the top defenders in the state and good enough to make an all-star game roster filled with plenty of other future college players.

"I love the sport, but I didn't want it to

Marshall said. "The biggest adjustment has been just being more vocal. Last year, I was just kind of evenkeeled with the team, and I didn't have much to say. If somebody's emotions flared up, I'd be the one to ease it. But now I have to control everyone, so it's going to be an adjustment."

See MARSHALL, Page 2B

the program's history.

This past fall, he totaled 124 tackles and broke seemingly every defensive school record that matters, from most tackles in a career to most tackles in a single season. And if he didn't finish No.1 in a statistic, he was likely No.2 or at least in the top five. That's why Hometown Life named him its Defensive Player of the Year for 2022.

But Krall got to take in the gameday environment as a player on the field one final time.

He's done. He's elected to attend Michigan State University to study become a job," said Krall, who totaled 4.5 tackles during the exhibition. "I could've tried it, but I didn't have the right opportunity. But I don't regret it. I've enjoyed every minute of it."

So why not play in college?

Krall wanted to attend a big Division I school for the experience. He wants to

See FAREWELL, Page 2B

## There's just one problem being Canton Prep's star girls soccer player

## **Brandon Folsom**

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Most soccer players can only dream about having the season Lilley Vesperman just had for Canton Prep.

Not only did the Chargers win their second straight Detroit Metro Area Conference championship, but the sophomore set the school record for most goals scored in a season with 24.

Naturally, her sights should be set on bigger and better things, right? Like helping Canton Prep win a Division 3 district championship and pursuing playing opportunities at the next level.

And those are, indeed, goals she's set for herself.

But her main goal for next spring? "Hopefully to just have a team," Vesperman told Hometown Life recently.

## That's right.

The Chargers just wrapped up 7-2-3 season, which is saying something because only 11 girls came to tryouts. They played over half their games at least one player down. But between injuries and some players not having rides to away games, there were times when they had only nine on the pitch.

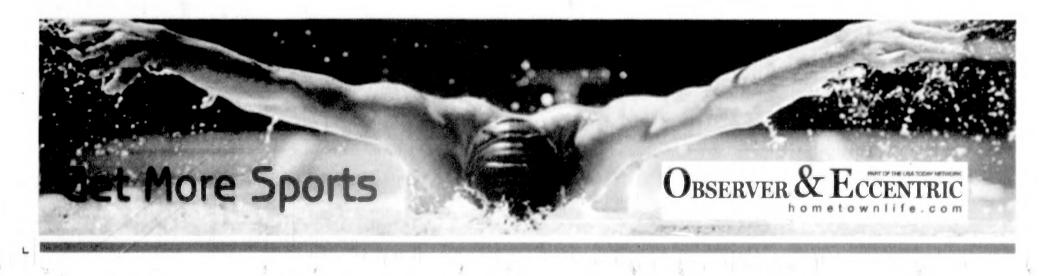
For those unaware of how soccer is played, each team can have 10 on the field and a goalkeeper. Canton Prep was lucky if it had 10 players. Period. It had no reserves, yet the squad found a way to repeat as league champions while playing shorthanded.

"It's very tiring because you have to cover more of the field, and you get out of breath a lot from running up and down so much, especially if the other

See CANTON PREP, Page 2B



Canton Prep girls soccer player Lilley Vesperman poses for a picture inside the Chargers' gymnasium Friday, June 23, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/ HOMETOWN LIFE.COM



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## Farewell

Continued from Page 1B

make lifelong connections while studying business. He wanted to know what it's like to attend a top university. He wanted to ensure his future is taken care of with a degree from a good school.

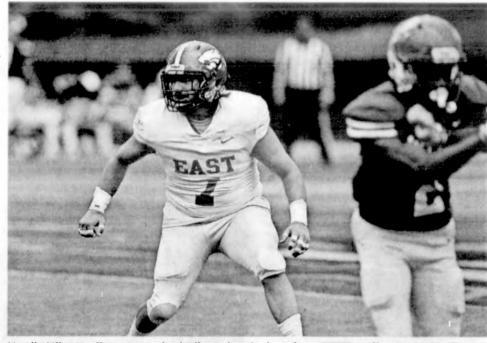
He probably could have found that experience at a handful of FCS or bigger Division II schools, but the right opportunity never came along during the recruiting process. He's happy with attending MSU and just being a kid in college.

"I want to go to college for the college experience," Krall added. "I want to go to a big school, work on my future, study and get to work. I didn't want to go to a small D-II school. I knew I wanted to go to a D-I school."

Krall hasn't ruled out becoming a college walk-on, but there aren't too many 5-foot-9 linebackers in the Big Ten. And that's always been the only knock on his game. He has the heart to chase down ballcarriers on every play. College scouts just didn't like his size.

He's at peace with the all-star game likely being the last time he plays football in his career.

"Yeah, it probably is," he said. "I'm glad I got the opportunity. It was really



Novi's Niko Krall pursues the ball carrier during the MHSFCA all-star football game Saturday, June 24, 2023, at Lawrence Tech University. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

fun meeting these guys and playing with a bunch of really great players from all across the state. I wanted to see what it'd be like to play in college, and I got to see a little bit of what that was like this week."

Had it not been for Novi coach Jim

Sparks, Krall would've been the only Wildcat playing in the game.

A few days before practices began, a player from the East dropped out, which opened up a roster spot. Sparks, a longtime member of the MHSBCA's executive board, nabbed that spot for Lang-

ford.

"I got a text Tuesday or Wednesday, and, I mean, I've been training, of course, so I was prepared," the 6-foot-2, 190-pound defensive back said. "Coach Sparks texted me and asked to play, and I said, "Yeah."

Despite being given short notice, Langford made the most of his opportunity.

He wasn't even listed in the game program, but he started at cornerback, totaled 4.5 tackles (four solo) and allowed just one reception all game, which was a 14-yard catch just a few minutes into the opening quarter. He locked down his receivers for the rest of the afternoon.

"The receivers here were pretty good, but it's nothing that I haven't seen before," the senior said. "But it was really fun. Being at Lawrence Tech, the experience was really fun, and I liked it."

Langford picked a good day to look great on film.

He still hasn't ruled out playing in college and says there are some small universities as well as some junior colleges interested in adding him to their team before the fall arrives. His effort in Saturday's game against future college receivers might be enough to prove that he's talented enough to make it at the next level.

Twitter: @folsombrandonj.

## Marshall

#### Continued from Page 1B

Marshall has welcomed the challenge. And, in time, all of this won't be an issue. His teammates look up to him already. He's one of the most revered players in Michigan. No one has anything bad to say about the 6-foot-5 combo guard. He's just a nice guy.

Until he finds his footing as a captain, he's going to rely on advice he received from Williams, Blackwell and Thomas over the past three years as well as encouragement from Palmer.

"They told me to watch out for certain things," Marshall said. "Being the main guy, players are going to want to come after you. Teams are going to want to scheme for you. At first, it was a big adjustment. But coach Palmer, he's been a good coach in my ear, just telling me to keep going. There have been times when I've struggled, and he just tells me, 'You're this good for a reason, just keep working.'

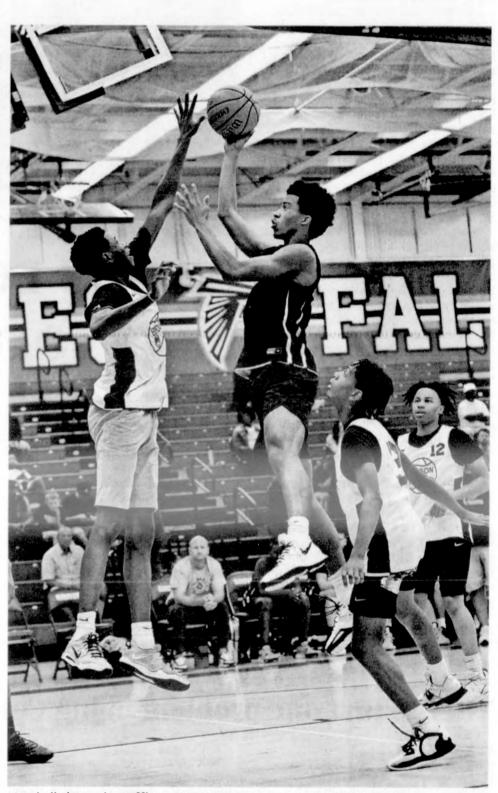
"I've just been trusting what he's said and it's been working out."

On the court, things shouldn't change for the Warriors.

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 to Brother Rice's Warren Marshall dribbles during a DC Elite Summer League boys basketball game against River Rouge on Monday, June 26, 2023, en at Birmingham Groves.

#### the helm.

"It's totally different now," Marshall added. "We had a lot of talent last year, so to lose three of the top seniors in the state, it's been an adjustment, but I'm enjoying everything about it. I mean, miss those three at times, especially with the connection we had in the locker room and the workouts we'd do. But, aside from that, we've got people who are filling the voids of those players, and we're doing well against big-time teams. I like it." Practice officially begins on Nov. 13. Marshall's game won't change much. In fact, he's only gotten better with another offseason of travel ball and summer league under his belt. But what will be different is Marshall's role, and that should be exciting for fans of the Warriors to watch.



They should still be a top-10-ranked team in Division 1. They should still compete with Catholic League powerhouses such as Warren DeLaSalle, Orchard Lake St. Mary's and Detroit U-D Jesuit as they attempt to repeat as Central and CHSL tournament champions.

Yeah, they lost a wealth of talent, but they bring back a few role players such as power forward Luke Salkowski and combo guard Jeremiah Caffey, who both should see increased minutes this winter.

What's more, they welcome in a few transfers, including former Okemos forward Trevor Smith and Elijah Williams, the 6-foot-6 son of new Detroit Pistons coach Monty Williams.

The makeup of the team will look different, but the success should remain the same. Especially with Marshall at It's finally his turn to lead.

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

Marshall shoots in traffic. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## **Canton Prep**

**Continued from Page 1B** 

team has 11," Vesperman said. "One of their players is always going to be open. We had some girls come out for the team, but some of the girls that came out realized they couldn't do it. It was just too much and that they weren't athletic enough to do it."

To tell the rest of this story, we have to go back six years to when Sam Makki started the program at Canton Prep.

The Chargers had just eight players all season, but they chose not to forfeit matches. They showed up and played three down each night. It wasn't uncommon for them to have seven on if a player needed a quick water break.

They continued to play shorthanded as a program, but during the 2018-19 spring, they won their first league title.

They were on a strong trajectory to improve until three seasons ago when Makki, a former professional player and member of the Lebanese National Team, stepped down to assist the Lebanese women's team overseas. The spring he wasn't around, Canton Prep didn't win a single game.

Last spring, Versperman and her older sister, Delaney, showed up on Makki's doorstep and begged him to return to coaching the Chargers.

He came back, and Delaney set the school record for most goals scored in a season with 22, they won just their second league title in program history and went a perfect 9-0 during the regular season. Their lone loss was 3-0 to Catholic League power Wixom St. Catherine in the district tournament.

"We lost one game because of no subs," said Makki, who says he likes to coach underdogs instead of picking up a coaching gig at a bigger high school where roster depth isn't an issue.

And that brings us to this past spring when the Chargers did it again, only this time they were without Delaney, who graduated in 2022.

A year ago, Makki had Lilley play on the back line to, one, halt an opponent's attack, and two, stripe passes through the midfield to Delaney to boot in goals.

Lilley continued to do that for teammate Nancy Chouman this spring, only sometimes Chouman couldn't do it alone. There were times when Makki would move Lilley to striker or place her in the midfield to help drum up offense. It wasn't uncommon for Lilley to

score goals off set pieces from corner or free kicks

It's remarkable she broke Delaney's scoring record playing only part-time on offense. Had she been in the midfield from Day I, which is where she plays for the Wayne-Westland Arsenal travel team, she likely would've netted 30 or more goals. Had the team not needed her defensively, she likely would've been on pace for a 100-goal career, which is pretty unheard of in high school soccer.

"I think Lilley can play Division I (in college) if she continues training," Makki said. "She has everything. She has the drive. She just needs the people around her. Like this year, we just lost three seniors, so I hope we can get some freshmen to play, otherwise we'll have only six players. But we're never going to stop the program. We're only going to continue. Even if we have players who haven't ever played soccer, we will always come out and try for a good result." Lilley is hoping to recruit a few girls from the track and field team to play soccer next spring.

This was the first school year Canton Prep had a track team. She was asked to join the program, and she did. She split her time between the soccer pitch and the track, competing in the 100- and 300-meter hurdles, plus she was part of a relay for the upstart Chargers.

She said she signed up because the extra conditioning would help her in soccer, and it did, but she believes her effort in the hurdles, arguably the toughest event in the sport, drummed up good faith with her track teammates.

It's hard enough to score 24 goals in practice let alone while playing a man or two down in actual matches. It'll be a lot harder for Lilley to replicate that kind of success if the Chargers have only six players next season. But that's not going to stop her or Makki from giving it their best shot.

Can Canton Prep three-peat in the DMAC? Only its roster size is standing in the way.

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

## Bloomfield Hills' Rusty Oddo, Jack Friesen play in MAC vs. OAA game

## Brandon Folsom

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's no surprise college baseball coaches were pursuing Bloomfield Hills catcher Rusty Oddo.

The senior just spent the last six seasons catching for Michigan commit Brandon Newland.

Not only does catching for a pitcher of that caliber help make him a better player but it certainly meant plenty of scouts were watching him behind the dish as Newland, a 6-foot-6, 200-pound junior, delivered strikes.

Oddo is headed to Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio.

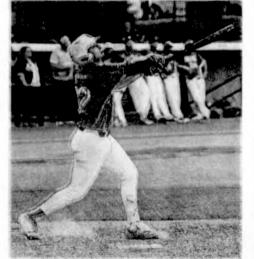
"The coach there (Chad Fitzgerald) reached out to me, and he just said he liked my game," Oddo said following the MAC vs. OAA all-star game on June 20 at Jimmy John's Field in Utica. "They had open spots at catcher, and I really liked it there. I want to play there for four years and possibly go further if I can and play pro ball at some level."

Oddo, alongside fellow Black Hawk shortstop Jack Friesen, got a taste of being in a pro ball environment throughout the all-star game, as Jimmy John's Field is home of the United Shores Professional Baseball League.

Oddo caught the last few innings of the exhibition, including the final three outs of the ninth inning, which ensured both the Macomb Area Conference and Oakland Activities Association would settle for a 10-10 tie.

Friesen, who's off to Olivet College in the fall, got on base with a bloop single to center field in the fifth inning. Moments later, Royal Oak catcher Brady Schrems, who was later named the game's MVP, drove home Friesen with a standup double.

"It's really good to have someone I'm



Bloomfield Hills catcher Rusty Oddo during the third annual MAC vs. OAA All-Star baseball game Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at Jimmy John's Field in Utica. TOM BEAUDOIN/ SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

close to be out here with me, and I can bond with him," Oddo said about playing alongside Friesen in their final high school game. "We had a small group of seniors this year (at Bloomfield Hills), but it was just a good time."

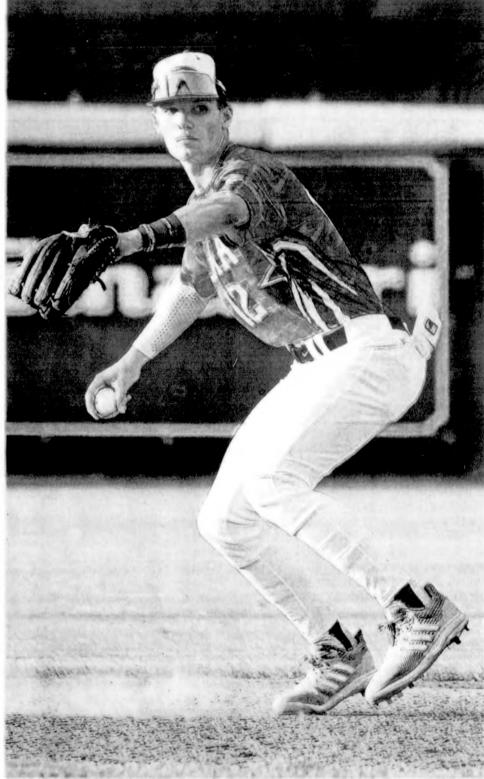
Bloomfield Hills went 23-11 overall but lost to Utica, 6-3, in its Division 1 playoff opener.

Coincidently, it was Oddo, Friesen and Newland who picked up All-OAA and all-district honors after the season.

As a senior, Oddo carried a .493 batting average and drove in 17 RBIs, while he also picked off nine runners and caught eight others stealing.

While his postseason was cut short, he made plenty of memories with the Black Hawks, including catching for one of the best arms in the state.

"I've been friends with Brandon since



Bloomfield Hills infielder Jack Friesen throws to first base. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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kindergarten, so I'm pretty used to him," Oddo said. "I caught him for 5-6 years now. It's a little hard, but it's a lot of fun catching for a guy at that level." Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.





**Birmingham Groves pitcher Luke Zeff, Falcons coach Shawn Morrison, Bloomfield Hills catcher Rusty Oddo, Birmingham Seaholm outfielder Jack Hulgrave and Bloomfield Hills infielder Jack Friesen before the third annual MAC vs. OAA All-Star baseball game Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at Jimmy John's Field in Utica.** TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Falcons' Luke Zeff, Shawn Morrison participate in MAC vs. OAA game

#### **Brandon Folsom**

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Jimmy John's Field in Utica, home of the United Shores Professional Baseball League, is the place Birmingham Groves pitcher Luke Zeff saw his high school career end twice.

The senior suffered a season-ending injury there on May 25 while the Falcons beat Port Huron 5-2 in a neutral site game.

While sliding into second base, his right shoulder popped. It turned out to be an AC joint sprain.

He missed Groves' final five games, including its 7-2 loss to fourth-ranked Brother Rice in the Division 1 district opener two weeks later. Zeff finally returned from the injury in time for summer ball. In fact, last week he played in a tournament for his travel team, Oakland Bulldogs Baseball. He felt like his old self, but, as he later learned, he overdid it in his first appearance back.

And that proved bad timing, as Zeff was set to play in the third annual MAC vs. OAA all-star game only a few days later. Of course, that game was at Jimmy John's Field.

The Clark University (Massachusetts) signee was forced to watch from the dugout as his teammates from the Oakland Activities Association played their counterparts from the Macomb Area Conference to a 10-10 tie June 20.

See FALCONS, Page 4B

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# **Farmington QB showcases strong arm in MHSFCA all-star game**

#### **Brandon Folsom**

Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

Farmington senior Dominic Pesci was never a secret in the Oakland Activities Association.

For one, it's hard to miss a 6-foot-6, 215-pound quarterback with an absolute rocket for an arm.

And, secondly, look at what he just accomplished. This past fall he led the Falcons to an OAA-Blue title, despite rival North Farmington being predicated in the preseason poll to win it all and Birmingham Seaholm entering the Week 8 matchup against Farmington with an undefeated record.

The problem with the Ashland University (Ohio) signee? He wasn't well-known outside of metro Detroit. He wasn't talked about as much as Warren DeLa-Salle's Brady Drogosh (Cincinnati), Southfield A&T's Isaiah Marshall (Kansas commit) or Waterford Mott's Kalieb Osborne (Toledo commit), to name a few fellow OBs

Well, they're talking about Pesci now.

He was 16 of 25 passing for 181 yards, including a 54-yard touchdown pass to West Bloomfield's Deonte Pippen Jr., during the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association all-star game June 24 at Lawrence Tech University.

At times, he looked dominant. Whether it was finding receivers down the field or hitting running backs such as Livonia Franklin's Cordell Mabins Jr. for bubble screens or check downs. He looked poised and in control. He appears ready to take his game to the Division II level he's headed to.

What's more, he did all that while sharing time behind center with Detroit Edison dual-threat Micale McClure, who also tossed a 16-yard TD pass to Madison Heights Bishop Foley receiver Adam Kidder.

Their East squad came up short to the West, 26-14, but Pesci proved he was indeed one of the top arms in the state this past school year. It's a shame more fans didn't know about him while he was in high school.

"It's a great accomplishment," Pesci said. "I'm very thankful and grateful for the opportunity to be put on this stage. It was just a great experience, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

And the best part?

Pesci looks like he is in the best shape of his life.

He said he's lost 12 pounds, got leaner and feels stronger. That should make him more mobile in the pocket when he's vying for time for his receivers to get



Farmington's Dominic Pesci passes during the MHSFCA all-star football game Saturday, June 24, 2023, at Lawrence Tech University. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

open on broken plays.

That's a testament to his effort in the weight room, plus he's been following a strict diet as well as the

workouts provided to him by Ashland's coaching staff. All of that came together for a solid outing during

the exhibition game, something he's not going to forget anytime soon.

"We just worked our butts off and came out firing,"

Pesci said. "It's just been a great experience working with these guys. We only worked together for three days, but it feels like we've been together for weeks. I'm extremely pleased that I got to play here, and I had a hell of a time.

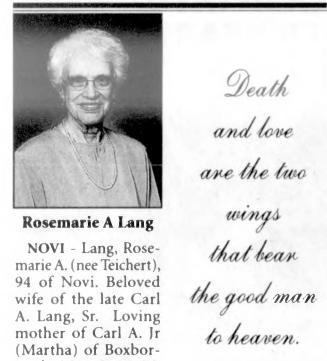
Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.



## **Obituaries**

CAPRESE

**MICHELANGELO** 



## **Falcons**

**Continued from Page 3B** 

"I'm hoping to get back soon and be strong again, but I should be out 2-3 more weeks, maybe," Zeff told Home-

resent their school, play for pride and do what they can to showcase their talent in front of their conference."

Not being able to finish a game at Jimmy John's Field is just bad luck for Zeff. But not many people can say they said their



### **Rosemarie A Lang**

NOVI - Lang, Rosemarie A. (nee Teichert), 94 of Novi. Beloved wife of the late Carl A. Lang, Sr. Loving mother of Carl A. Jr (Martha) of Boxborough, MA., Joyce M. Clark (Bruce) of Milford, MI., Nancy M. Leemgraven (Gary) of Walled Lake, MI., and James C. Lang (Christina) of Linwood, MI. Treasured Granny of Britney A. Leemgraven (Kenny), Carl A. III and Colin J. Lang, Jordan Dzurka (Holly), Olivia J. and Sophia L. Lang and great-grandma to Carson and Garrett Dzurka, and Elanora and Stellan Leemgraven. Loving daughter of the late Max Kurt and Eleanor (Eckert) Teichert of Buffalo, NY. Loving sister of Gertrude E. Metz, Joan J. Reichert and the late Eugene C. Teichert and Virginia M. Morlock. Donations can be made to The Capuchin Soup Kitchen (cskdetroit.org) or the charity of donor's choice. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

Life following town Tuesday night's exhibition. "I got cleared for my travel tournament, so I'm glad I was able to play in that, but I think I over did it too much."

While seeing his career for the Falcons end in a game against Port Huron was tough, he was glad he got to see things end the right way by being part of an allstar team.

What's more, Zeff got to suit up alongside Groves coach Shawn Morrison, who was one of the assistants for the OAA.

"It's a great experience, even though I wasn't able to play in the game," said Zeff, a three-year varsity player at Groves. "I'm so glad I was able to be part of it and everything. It was a well-played game. And because Coach Morrison was here, it made the experience that much better."

Morrison, who took over Groves in 2016 and led the Falcons to a 22-17 record this past spring, got to head out to third base during a couple of innings to instruct base runners.

The experience was just as fun for him Tuesday night as it was during Groves' neutral-site game on May 25

"It is a really cool place for a high school kid to be able to play the game, for sure," Morrison said. "That's a really cool experience for somebody to be able to come out here and rep-

high school career ended twice inside the same professional ballpark. Fortunately for him, he'll get another chance to play again when he gets to Clark University in the fall

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

Birmingham Groves coach Shawn Morrison jogs out to third base during the third annual MAC vs. OAA All-Star baseball game Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at Jimmy John's Field in Utica. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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# **Strategies to improve your ability to focus**

Distractions have never been harder to resist. According to Deloitte's "2022 Connectivity and Mobile Trends Survey" (third edition), the average household in the United States now has a total of 22 connected devices. Things are a little less connected in Canada, where a J.D. Power survey of television service subscribers found that the average household has about 10 devices.

The prevalence and accessibility of devices can make it difficult to focus, but tablets, smartphones and other technologies are not the only culprits that can compromise the ability to concentrate. Harvard Medical School notes that underlying medical conditions, the side effects of medication and excessive alcohol consumption can each make it harder to focus. That's a significant detriment, as an ability to focus can help individuals be more efficient and perform better at work and in school.

Each individual is different, so efforts to improve focus might require a little trial and error until a person finds what works for them. In the meantime, the following are some effective strategies that can help people sharpen their focus and reap all the rewards that a heightened ability to concentrate has to offer.

• Turn notifications off. Notifications are a bigger distraction than people may realize. A 2015 study from researchers at Florida State University found that simply hearing the ping of a notification was as distracting as taking a phone call. Individuals may find the idea of answering as little as 20 or more phone calls per day unrealistic, but researchers have found that the average smartphone user receives around 80 push notifications per day. Such constant inflow of notifications



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is detrimental to smartphone users' ability to focus. Turning notifications off while in school or during the workday can help people avoid this seemingly endless stream of distractions, thus improving focus.

• Establish a distraction-free workspace. A survey from McKinsey & Company found that, after the acute phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, 58 percent of employed respondents have the option to work from home for all or part of the week. Remote working may be more convenient, but it also can compromise workers' focus in ways that are unique to working from home. For example, professionals' children cannot stroll into their offices when they aren't working from home, nor are distractions like television within arm's length in a traditional office setting. Professionals who are finding it hard to focus when working from home can do more to make their home offices distraction-free. Make your home a television-free zone during traditional working hours and remove a television or non-work tablet from your office so you aren't tempted to watch a show or a sporting event when you're supposed to be working. • Adopt a healthier lifestyle. The experts at Harvard Medical School note that many aspects of a healthy lifestyle can help people focus better. Researchers have discovered a direct link between exercise and a person's ability to pay attention, noting that exercise increases the availability of brain chemicals that reduce stress and improve sleep, among other things. Less stress and a good night's rest can make it easier to focus.

An ability to focus pays myriad dividends. Individuals can try various strategies to improve their concentration skills and ruap the rewards that such improvement provides.

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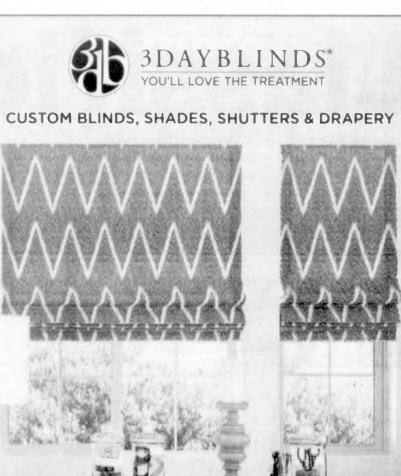


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