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NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Farmington's private Huron River dinner club turns 100

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON — Diners at the Huron River Hunting & Fishing Club experience food in the finest sense.

The exclusive dinner club features some of the best meats money can buy, allows guests to stay as long as they'd like and has a staff that can recite the menu verbatim.

Want a customized dish? You got it. Want a special tablecloth for grandma's birthday? That's not a problem.

"We treat people like gold," Laura Fox, club general manager, said.

The club, 22575 Farmington Road, is celebrating its centennial this year. What began as a hunting and fishing club to bring outdoor sports enthusiasts together has become a mecca for Michiganders who enjoy fine food.

Hunting, dining deep in the woods

The hunting and fishing club opened in 1923 in the Brighton area on 153 acres including 2 miles of frontage along the Huron River. Eugene and Rhoda Rennard, the couple who owned the property, allowed members to hunt and fish on the property and then enjoy their kills and catches in a two-story log cabin.

Everything was cooked on coal or wood from the surrounding forest.

"They'd skin everything and clean all the fish," Fox said. "Then you'd come in for the dinner part and sit at a big Thanksgiving-style table. That's how we originated."

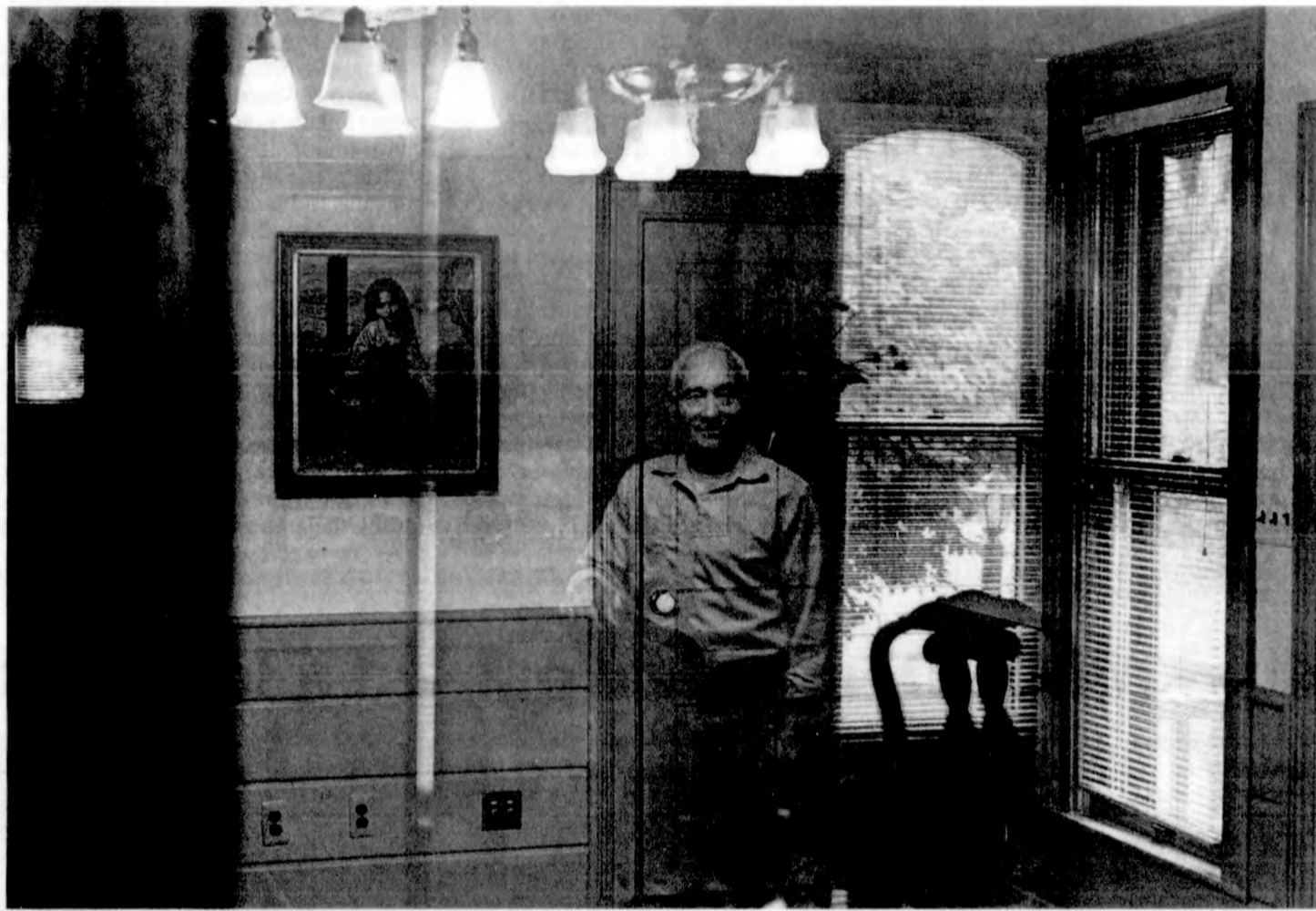
But, during Michigan's sometimes-brutal winters, the club was difficult to access. So, the owners moved to Farmington in 1934. In Farmington, the club gained a reputation for being all about good times.

"They packed the place, they drank like fish and they ate oversized food," Fox said. "The name on the street was the 'Hunt and Grunt.' People still ask if that's us."

City officials eventually condemned the club, which had sunken-in floors from all the dancing, and they told the owners to either fix it or move to a new building. So, the current location on Farmington Road was opened in 1970.

The club's current iteration includes some of the furniture and logs

See CLUB, Page 6A



Engineer John Berbiglia is reflected in the glass looking toward the front lobby of the historic 1860s home, known as the Pettibone House in Farmington Hills, that he has used as an office and where he said he had one run-in with a ghost. He said he heard a girl's voice in the front lobby that was so clear and inexplicable that he left. RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Historic building comes with perks - and maybe specters

Neal Rubin

Detroit Free Press

USA TODAY NETWORK

The building for sale on 12 Mile Road comes with a few things you don't normally see in office space. An antique claw-foot tub in one of the bathrooms, for instance, and 18-inch-thick stone walls in the basement.

Oh, and ghosts. John Berbiglia is also throwing those in for free, not that he has any choice.

An electrical engineer, he's run Ber-

biglia Associates Inc. out of a historic home in Farmington Hills for 28 years. At 68, he's winding things down, so the Gothic Revival farmhouse west of Drake Road is on the market.

"Historic 1860s," say the orange letters on the 12-foot-wide banner out front. "For sale by owner. Ghosts must stay."

In case you're in the market for a handsome 2,800-square-foot structure large enough that he's had as many as a dozen employees working in it, the sign also provides his phone number, 248-302-8606.

In case you're wondering why a seller would fess up to paranormal squatters, it seemed like the honest thing to do, and they've always been harmless. Plus, it's smart marketing.

"A little 'For Sale' sign is hard to see on 12 Mile," Berbiglia noted. An advisory about ghosts is an attention getter. Assuming you believe in ghosts, that is.

Berbiglia isn't evangelical about it, but he knows what his employees said over the years — and he knows what he heard.

See RUBIN, Page 3A

Michigan budgets \$10M for Five Mile rebuild

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LANSING — A \$10 million grant included in Michigan's 2024 budget will help fund a much-needed rebuild of the Five Mile Road corridor straddling Northville and Plymouth townships.

The grant is part of the \$81.7 billion state budget the Legislature passed.

"Five Mile Road has been neglected for decades because it was empty, contaminated prison property on both sides of the road," Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise said. "With new development coming in on both sides of Five Mile, Plymouth Township, North-

ville Township, Wayne County and the State of Michigan all recognize that Five Mile needs to be completely rebuilt."

The Five Mile corridor between Beck and Napier roads runs through property formerly owned by the Detroit House of Corrections, now the Michigan

See REBUILD, Page 6A

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\$14M in state grants will fund new projects in Canton Township

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON TWP. — State grants totaling \$14 million are expected to mean a new fire station, a youth center and significant reconstruction of certain roads and sidewalks in Canton Township.

The three grants are part of the \$81.7 billion state budget sent Wednesday to the desk of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. She has yet to sign the legislation.

"I'm really excited our team was able to get this done," said Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak. "I know these projects are going to help a lot of residents in Canton and the region."

Fourth fire station for Canton Township

At \$7 million, the largest of the three grants is earmarked for construction of a new fire station — Canton Township's fourth — on township-owned property near the southwest corner of the Michigan Avenue and Lilley Road intersection.

During a study session with the Canton Township Board of Trustees in 2021, Fire Chief Christopher Stoeklein said that close to 25% of his department's calls come from the southeastern corner of the township, leading to higher-than-acceptable response times due to the

proximity of the closest station.

A fourth fire station would help provide additional service to the region, Graham-Hudak said, noting Canton firefighters and EMTs are often summoned to provide assistance in the surrounding communities of Van Buren Township, Wayne and Westland, as well.

Currently, the township operates fire stations at 1100 S. Canton Center Road, next door to township hall, at 41500 Warren Road and at 520 N. Denton Road, near the western edge of the township.

The Warren Road station underwent a \$6.5 million rebuild in 2021. Graham-Hudak said she anticipates the township will use the same plans for the new fire station, with the potential addition of alternative energy.

Replacement of faulty concrete

A \$5 million state grant will go toward repair of roads and sidewalks in some of Canton's subdivisions.

"In the late 80s and 90s, the government mandated use of a certain concrete to build roads," Graham-Hudak said. "So a lot of our older subdivisions were built with a type of concrete that broke down very quickly over the years."

The same concrete was used in the original construction of Canton Center Road, she added, leading to complete replacement of the stretch between

Ford Road and Warren Road last year.

The grant funds will be added to Canton's existing roads millage program to determine subdivision priorities. Graham-Hudak said details for specific subdivisions would be announced when plans are finalized.

New youth center

The third grant earmarks \$2 million in state funds for the transformation of the former Canton Township hall on Geddes Road just west of Sheldon. The building was used as a Western Wayne Narcotics location after the township moved to its current home on Canton Center Road, but has now stood empty for several years.

"There's actually jail cells in there where they would keep prisoners," Graham-Hudak said. "It's in really bad shape inside. It's pretty used."

The plan, she said, is to remove the jail cells and renovate the building so it can accommodate the Growth Works, an organization that provides support to youth and families dealing with substance abuse and juvenile delinquency.

Once renovations are complete, the organization will move from its current location in the township's Cherry Hill Village area.

"We want to move services like (Growth Works) closer to the at-risk areas in Canton," said Graham-Hudak, noting the area where the new building

will be located includes much of the township's lower income housing.

"Growth Works doesn't just serve Canton, it serves the whole area," she added. "We want to have it closer to the youth who really need it right now. Maybe we'll be able to get some other programs down there that will help the residents, too. We're seeing mental health cases skyrocket lately."

Legislative support

The Canton Township grants were sponsored by Sen. Dayna Polehanki (D-Livonia) and Rep. Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton).

In a statement to Hometown Life, Puri said he "wakes up every day excited to serve Canton Township."

"The impact of these investments will ripple through every aspect of Canton's fabric, benefiting all residents, irrespective of their background or political affiliation," Puri said. "Our new fire station will enhance public safety, ensuring that our families and neighborhoods are protected. The allocation for local road repairs will improve transportation infrastructure, making commuting safer and more efficient. And the revitalization of our youth center will provide a nurturing environment for our future leaders to thrive, empowering them with opportunities for growth and development."

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Busy Mich. Dems have passed a lot of bills on wish list

Clara Hendrickson

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Democratic lawmakers in Michigan have used narrow legislative majorities to pass key priorities during their first six months in power. But not every one of them voted with their party while some Republicans bucked their caucus to advance key Democratic priorities that stalled under past GOP control.

Democrats flipped both chambers of the state Legislature in last year's mid-term election, delivering a Democratic trifecta in state government for the first time in nearly 40 years.

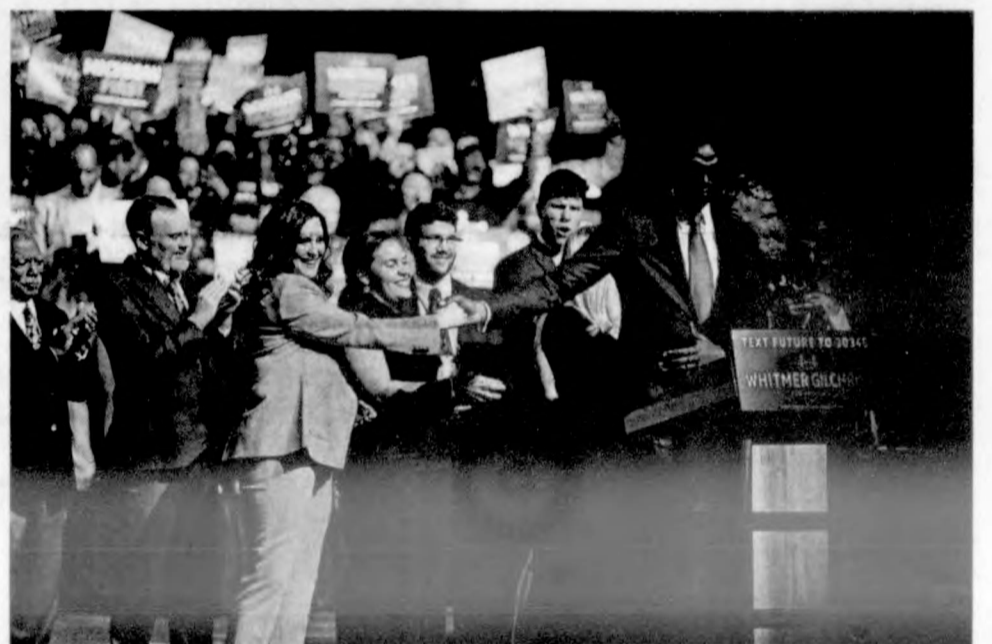
Lawmakers left Lansing for a summer recess after passing the state's 2024 budget. The vote allocating \$81.7 billion capped a busy start to the legislative session. In their first three months in power, Democrats moved at a rapid pace to repeal GOP laws, fast-tracking key bills on their policy wish list.

Democrats had to rely on some GOP support

Democrats stuck together most of the time, but freshman state Rep. Dylan Wegela, D-Garden City, defied his party when he refused to support economic development spending to give millions to corporations in exchange for new jobs. He calls the money corporate handouts.

On three bills, Democrats had to depend on Republicans to land the legislation on Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's desk.

The first bill signed into law by Whitmer — a supplemental spending bill — included \$150 million for the state's Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) Fund, the pool of money the state uses to subsidize auto companies planning to build electric vehicle battery plants in Michigan. Four GOP lawmakers in the state Senate voted for the bill: state Sens. John Damoose, of Harbor Springs; Mark Huizenga, of Walker; Dan Lauwers, of Brockway Township, and Ed McBroom, of Waucedah Township. And five in the state House voted for the legislation: GOP state Reps. Cam Cavitt, of Cheboygan; Greg Markkanen, of Hancock; Mike Mueller, of Linden; David Prestin, of Cedar River, and Curtis VanderWall, of Lu-



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II take the stage to speak to a crowd while celebrating her reelection during the Michigan Democratic watch party for the midterm elections at the Motor City Casino Sound Board in Detroit in the early morning on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022. Democrats flipped both chambers of the state Legislature in the election, delivering a Democratic trifecta for the first time in nearly 40 years. RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

dington.

Another supplemental spending bill specifically provided almost \$630 million to support a Ford battery plant near Marshall. Damoose, Mueller and VanderWall voted for the bill along with a few other GOP state lawmakers: state Sen. Joseph Bellino, of Monroe; Phil Green, of Millington, and Kathy Schmaltz, of Jackson.

Mueller was the only GOP lawmaker to vote in favor of Whitmer's tax plan aimed at lowering the bills of low-income earners and retirees, which included a provision diverting over \$1.4 billion in tax revenue to the SOAR fund.

While supportive of the tax changes Wegela remained sharply critical of the economic development spending. But Democrats obtained enough GOP support to pass the supplemental spending bills and tax overhaul without him.

Democrats stick together on key priorities

Despite slim majorities that appeared poised to test Democratic cohesion, lawmakers from the party remained united to undo GOP labor laws, establish new gun safety measures and repeal abortion restrictions. For their part, Republicans also stuck together to vote in opposition.

Democrats repealed Michigan's "right-to-work" law allowing those in unionized jobs to opt out of paying union dues or fees and reinstated a law requiring union-level wages and benefits for state-funded construction projects.

They also expanded background checks to all gun purchases and created a new "red flag" law allowing courts to temporarily take away guns from those

who pose an imminent threat to themselves or others.

On abortion, Democrats passed a pair of bills on a party-line vote: one that repeals a law that makes it a misdemeanor to publish or sell pamphlets or books with "recipes or prescriptions for drops, pills, tinctures, or other compounds" for contraception and abortions and another that allows employers to discriminate based on an individual's decision to terminate a pregnancy.

Because Republicans voted against the bills, Democrats didn't obtain the GOP support needed for the changes to take effect immediately.

GOP lawmakers back measures that previously stalled

Not all Democratic bills aimed at curbing gun violence and protecting abortion access saw unified GOP opposition. Some Republicans joined Democrats on bills previously blocked under GOP control of the Legislature.

Two — GOP state Reps. Thomas Kuhn, of Troy, and Donni Steele, of Orion Township — voted with Democrats to repeal the state's unenforceable 1931 abortion ban. Meanwhile, three Republicans in the state Senate and eight in the state House voted to codify LGBTQ+ civil rights protections against discrimination in housing and employment.

While Republicans largely opposed Democrats' gun safety measures, five GOP lawmakers in the state House voted for bills that require gun owners to store their firearms in a locked container or use a locking device if they have a child in the house or take their gun somewhere a child could gain access to it.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on the following request in regard to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance: To consider variance requests on premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District, located at 239 High St., Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-002-01-0483-000. The applicant is seeking a variance to erect a 6.5-foot tall fence in the side yard, within 10 feet behind the front face of the building, that is 2.5 feet taller than permitted in this area, erect this fence with the finished side facing the applicant's lot, and erect a 6.5-foot tall fence 20 feet ahead of the front face of the building line to match the location of their neighbor's fence. These variances are requested from the requirements of Section 18 09 of the Zoning Ordinance.

The public hearing will be held on August 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building - Council Chambers, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the variance requests.

The variance application is available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, local prevailing time, or on the City website www.ci.northville.mi.us (Services, Building and Planning, Board of Zoning Appeals).

Written comments to the BZA pertaining to the proposed variance request must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., July 28, 2023, to the City Clerk at the above address, or using the City Hall drop box, or emailed to msmith@ci.northville.mi.us.

RYAN MCKINDLES, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

'Friends' experience at Great Lakes Crossing brings beloved sitcom to fans

Duante Beddingfield
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Nineties TV lovers may want to pivot their weekend plans to include a trip to "The Friends Experience" at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets, 4780 Baldwin Road in Auburn Hills.

The popular attraction, originally created in New York City for the hit NBC sitcom's 25th anniversary, is now traveling the country with metro Detroit as its latest stop, opening to the public Friday.

The Experience, voted one of USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice New Attractions of 2021, features multiple room, activations and recreated sets including Monica's kitchen, Central Perk and the famed fountain from the show's opening credits. An on-site "Friends" store will be open to both ticketed and non-ticketed guests, selling exclusive products.

The experience is an officially licensed one created by Warner Bros. Discovery Global Themed Entertainment, Original X Productions (OGX) and Warner Bros. Television Group.

"I think 'Friends' is one of those iconic shows that so many people love in a big way, and in a consistent way over the years," said Stacy Moscatelli, co-president and chief strategy officer of OGX. "People have been really excited when they show up, and they're really happy to be here. Sometimes, they're so happy they cry. We've had almost 200 proposals across all of our locations since we



Cephianne Clarke of Lathrop Village and her daughter Jerianne Clarke of Lathrop Village pose for a photo in Monica's kitchen scene while visiting "The Friends Experience" on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills. The experience features rooms and props from the TV show "Friends."

PHOTOS BY RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS



Kristin Lacopelli, right, of Wyandotte and Kasey Brown of Wyandotte sit in the scene for Central Perk while visiting "The Friends Experience."

started. It's great to see people bring that kind of enthusiasm to the experience."

And just how did they manage to recreate all those sets?

"We're fans of the show, which helped a lot," Moscatelli said, "because we had to go back and rewatch from beginning to end and take a lot of notes. But we also had support from the Warner Bros. studio archives team, who keep track of everything and had a number of things in storage that we were able to access — props and costumes. To

be able to sit on the couch with a cup of coffee in your hand ... you feel like you are there."

Moscatelli said there might be future potential for other classic series to get similar immersive treatment, such as "Frasier," which ran during the same period on NBC and broke Emmy Award records.

"That one comes up more often than you would think," she said. "I'm realizing that show is really beloved."

Perhaps a trip from New York's Central Perk to Seattle's Café Nervosa might

be shorter than ever imagined.

The "Friends" experience will remain at Great Lakes Crossing through Sept. 24. Timed entry tickets can be purchased for \$27 plus taxes and fees at FriendsTheExperience.com/Detroit. Guided group tours are also available for six to 10 guests.

Fans can prepare for their visit by logging into HBO Max, where the 2021 reunion special and all 236 episodes of the series are available for streaming.

dbeddingfield@freepress.com

Rubin

Continued from Page 1A

A well-chosen gift

Another bit of shrewd marketing helped John and Cathie Berbiglia buy the house in the first place.

They live on a lake in West Bloomfield, but in 1995 they were raising three kids in Farmington Hills, and John was in search of a new office when he saw a for-sale sign in front of what he recalls as an insurance agency. It turned out that a deal with another potential buyer was nearly finalized, so Cathie bought a \$150 gift basket, John tucked in his financial information and a note, and they had it delivered to the owner.

Sold. For \$315,000, they took possession of what the local historical marker on the lot calls the Pettibone House.

Most of the home had been built around an existing house in 1867 by Judson Pettibone, the brother of the original homesteader, Levi Pettibone. The front section was added 13 years later by John P. Pettibone, Levi's son, who grew grain and fruit and operated a dairy.

In those days, Cathie pointed out, funeral homes didn't drive up and collect bodies when someone died, and visitations took place in living rooms. Maybe Judson or John P. or Levi had something to do with the peculiar incidents generations later.

More recently, when the house was still a home in the 1960s, a Pettibone descendant died in an auto crash before he had even finished high school.

The voice John Berbiglia heard, though, belonged to a young girl.

Creating a believer

It was 15 years ago, and it was late, around 10:45 p.m. Everyone else had gone home.

He was in his private office, the former parlor, with its bay windows looking out to 12 Mile. Behind him, he said, he heard a voice in the lobby. A clear voice, though he doesn't recall what it was saying.

Who can that be, he thought, and how did she get in here? But when he checked, there was no intruder to confront.

Alone and unsettled. "I grabbed my keys," he said, "and I left."

The cleaning woman left, too. The timelines are murky for incidents stretched across three decades, but she was working on the first floor after hours, and she told Berbiglia she distinctly heard someone walking upstairs.

Another lone late night, an engineer said he heard footsteps in the hallway, then saw a reflection in his computer screen of someone walking past. An employee who spent most of his time upstairs in the print room said someone who looked like a farmer came up the stairs, brushed past him and disap-



"Historic 1860s," say the orange letters on the 12-foot-wide banner out front. "For sale by owner. Ghosts must stay."

PHOTOS BY RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS



A sign marking for the Pettibone House in Farmington Hills.

peared.

A pocket knife with the blade open was moved and found with the blade closed. A bookkeeper using the first-floor lavatory said a hand reached in and grabbed the towel bar.

Nothing constant, nothing menacing. Perhaps nothing that can't be explained, or simply dismissed by a skeptic — which is what you'd expect Berbiglia to be.

He's precise and fact-oriented, a Detroit kid who grew up to help craft hospitals, factories and a 75-story building

in Abu Dhabi.

"Some people are predisposed to embellish. I'm not like that," he said. "I just know what happened."

Nothing amiss next door

Keep in mind, Cathie said, that whatever may have happened didn't happen often. Nobody screamed, nobody quit and it's still a nice building on a leafy 1-acre lot in a great location.

The asking price is \$750,000, about what another historic-home-turned-

workplace is listed for a few feet to the west.

Tom Wilson of Tom Wilson Insurance Agency owns the cut stone Harger House from 1837 and the adjoining Hamilton Jones House from 1844, both of which had been moved from other spots in the city. He finds himself with enough room in the newer old house to consolidate tenants, so Harger is on the market.

Because it's a small and sometimes eerie world, Wilson, 73, was a classmate of Rich Pettibone, whose fatal crash was memorialized in the North Farmington High yearbook.

Wilson has owned the two houses next door to Pettibone's for 20 years, he said, with no sign of anything otherworldly.

He is selling through a broker. The Berbiglias are selling the Pettibone House themselves, with help from their neighbor; though they're not listed on any commercial property websites, they figure anyone who visits the Harger House will notice theirs, too.

They've had some lookers in the six weeks since they planted the sign about the non-portable ghosts, but no offers.

They're not worried, John said. With a stately old home, you never know who'll show up.

Neal Rubin has enjoyed ghost pepper hot sauce, but has never seen an actual ghost. Reach him at NARubin@freepress.com, or via Twitter at @narubin_fp.



Sky Leigh Rocheleau, 8, left, listens to her mother, Jessie Rocheleau, 40, of Waterford, wish her good luck with her race as Bentley Tripp-Campbell, 5, is locked in and focused before the start of a kids' Power Wheels race during the TNT Demolition Derby's Wexford Warzone Weekend at Wexford County Fairgrounds in Cadillac on June 10. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

These Michigan men damage their cars over and over again — on purpose

Eric Seals
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sometimes, for metro Detroiters, driving on the Lodge can feel like a demolition derby.

For the past 20 years, Nathan Fry, 41, of Hamilton, Michigan, has known that

feeling all too well. But for him, the white-knuckle, grip-the-steering-wheel-tight kind of driving is all legal — and actually fun.

Fry is one of many men and women who race in demolition derby and bump-and-run races on summer weekends in small towns and county fairs throughout Michigan — like the TNT

Demolition Derby's Wexford Warzone Weekend, held at the Wexford County Fairgrounds in Cadillac on June 10.


Racing in a heavily modified 1975 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme, on a dirt track in front of hundreds watching in the grandstands, Fry lives for bumping and pushing his way through the field in the 10 to 20 races he competes in during

the year.

"I had a motorcycle years ago, and I used to get in a lot of trouble with that so this is a little bit safer and I can get away with doing it legally," Fry said.

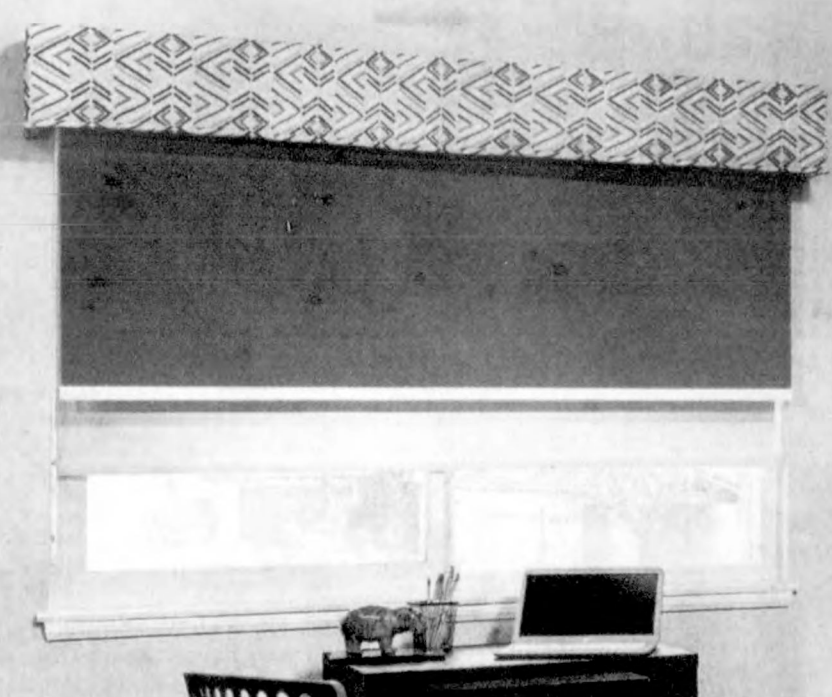
Banging into other cars for the enjoyment of others — and try to win first

See CARS, Page 5A



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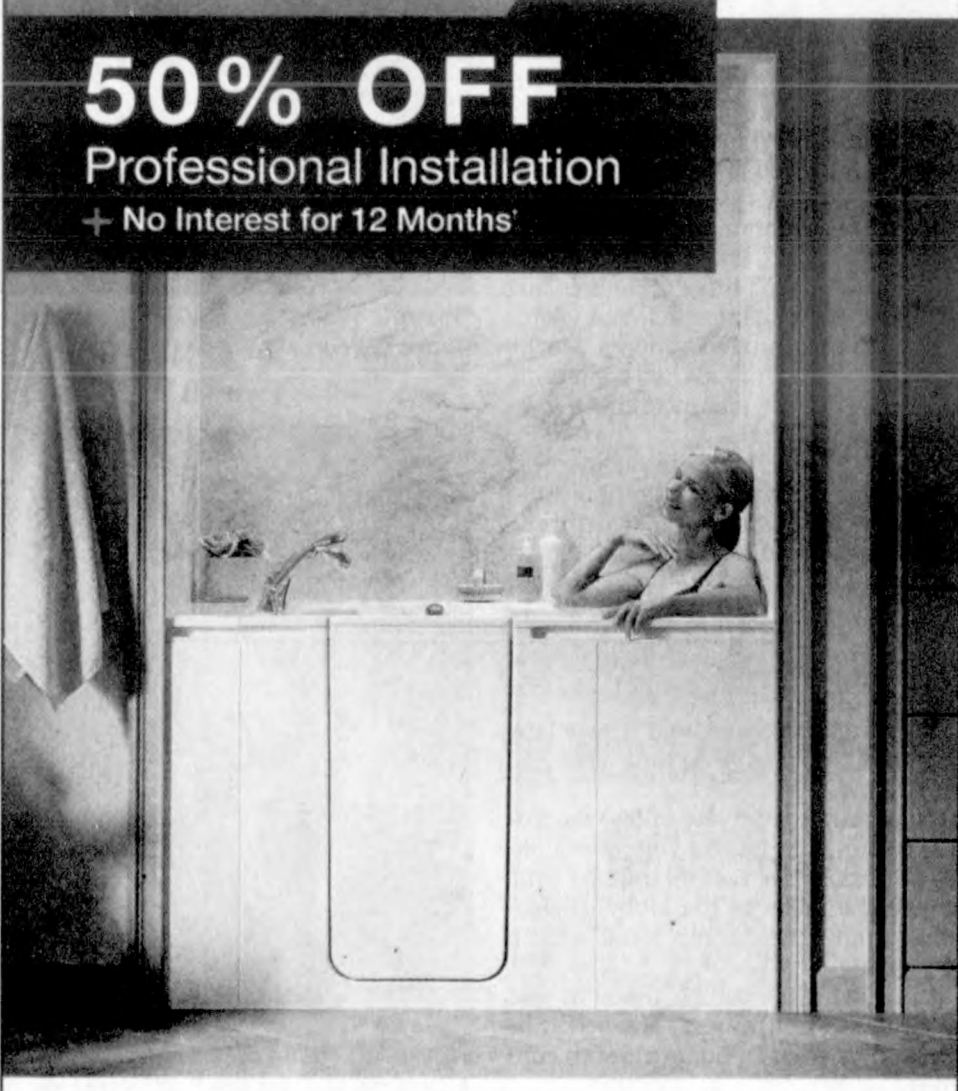
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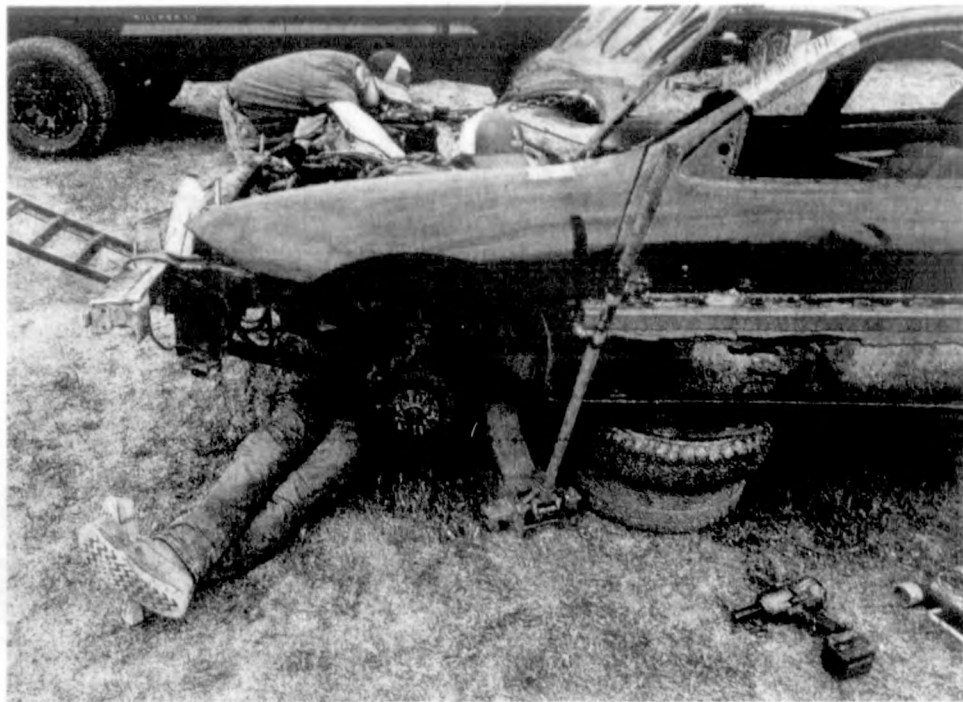
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Nathan Fry, 41, of Hamilton, Michigan, not only won first place and \$1,500 in the the Big Car Bump and Run feature race with his modified 1975 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme but got a kiss from his wife, Jewl Fry, afterward at the TNT Demolition Derby's Wexford Warzone Weekend at Wexford County Fairgrounds in Cadillac on June 10. PHOTOS BY ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS



Jim Forbing, 48, of Bay City, looks down through the engine as he helps his son, James Forbing, 22, of Bay City, fix up his car so he could continue to race in the stock class bump and run series.

Cars

Continued from Page 4A

place and some prize money — is “definitely an adrenaline rush. It’s a good way to be a defensive driver, but you get to have fun doing it,” said Fry, whose mother, Carmen Fry, competed in demolition derby for 12 years. “So that got me hooked when I was younger.”

David James, 37, of Charlevoix, has been racing for eight years. He also fell in love with cars when he was younger, and he turned that love into a passion. That weekend, he found himself wrecking his green 1999 four-cylinder Toyota Celica over and over again. One of the moments he always looks forward to is climbing in, buckling up his five-point harness and waiting for the start of a bump-and-run race.

“As we’re sitting in line waiting to race, and that flagman comes by to check on everyone, I’m like a nervous little puppy,” James said. “The nerves are just going absolutely crazy as I’m looking around at the competition, and I’m going ‘OK, I know I can beat this car,’ or ‘I know this car is going to be difficult’ or ‘This car is always winning,’ and doing it in this little car is just everything.”



A crowd stands on a large hill of dirt to watch the action as cars crash into each other. More than 2,500 fans came to the event to watch the various categories of cars compete during the two-day event.

And, as his dad, 60-year-old Traverse City resident David Leusink, who also raced that weekend, likes to say about

their cars, “They’re self-insured. You wreck it, you fix it.”

Fry ended up winning the Big Car

Bump and Run feature race that Saturday evening, and took home a first-place plaque and \$1,500. That helped him pay for the entry fee, car parts to be replaced or fixed for future races, and a hotel for his family. But the hugs and kisses from his three kids and his wife, Jewl Fry, at the winner’s circle made the experience all worth it.

“To have my kids and my wife be a part of it, it’s special. And to see their dad is successful at it means a lot,” he said. “I don’t always win, but I try to have a good time, and I hope they’d realize to never give up, always try to be positive, be a good sport about it and try to be the better person.”

Unfortunately, James didn’t win this go-round, but says there’s a lesson to learn in bump-and-run racing, and, in a way, with life: “No matter how much someone can bully you out on that track, you’re just having fun. It’s just a car, it’s just parts, you can fix the parts. It’s nothing to get angry about, and at the end of the day, you guys can shake hands.”

To see whether any TNT demolition derby and bump-and-run races are coming to your area, go to tntdemolitionderby.com or its Facebook page, [facebook.com/tntdemolitionderby](https://www.facebook.com/tntdemolitionderby) for more information.

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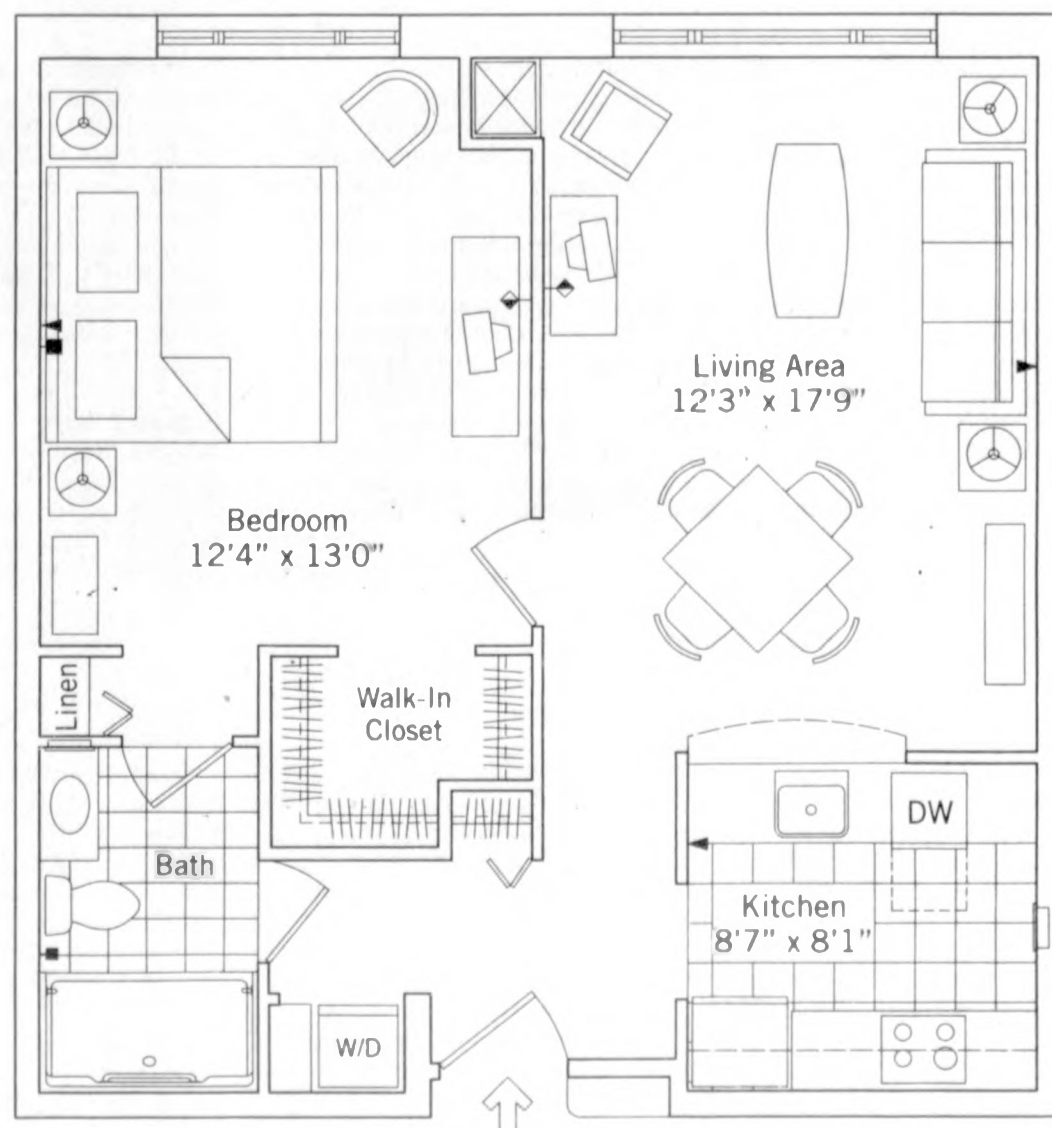
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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

- Aura Dive Icon Quiet Surf
Avoca Doze Lidle Races Tent
Ball Dunk Ukula Relax Tour

TODAY'S ANSWER

Time for a holiday

Getting away from it all

T R A U T S F H T R O N N Y S
O T L E E S O A E B I W A L K
U I L C S A O M U A A T S E R

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

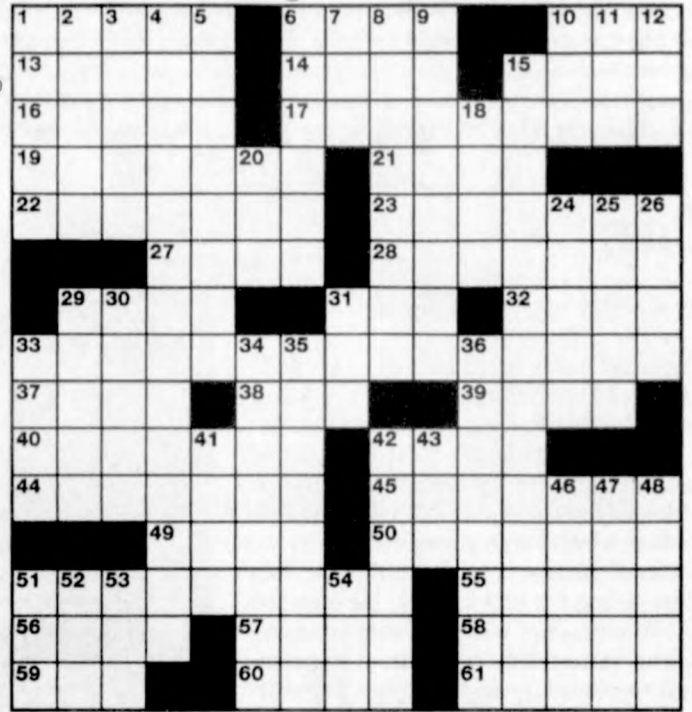
- 1 Doesn't handle well
6 Agency with a BankFind search tool
10 Farsighted hunter

DOWN

- 1 Impairs
2 Treaty of Versailles prohibition
3 AFI's #6 Male Screen Legend

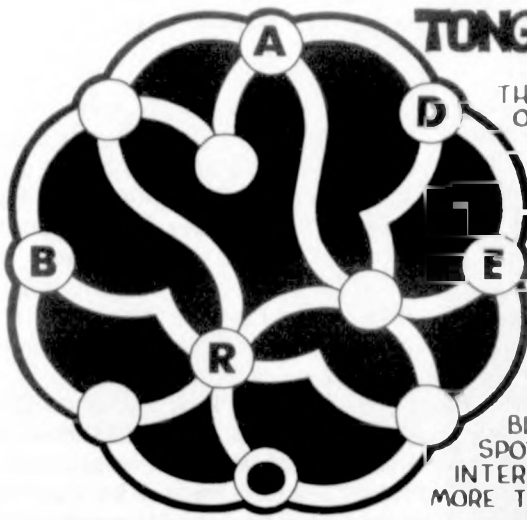
- 9 Happen without much help
10 See 11 Down
11 All we demanded

- 33 It adjoins China in Risk
34 Dramatizes, perhaps
35 Weeper



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANKWORDS@AOL.COM 7/8/23

PUZZLES & POSERS



TONGUE TWISTER

THIS PUZZLE CONSISTS OF TWO SEPARATE CHALLENGES:
1. SEE HOW MANY DIFFERENT WORDS YOU CAN UNSCRAMBLE WHICH CONTAIN ALL THE LETTERS AT LEFT.

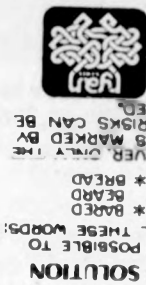
SUDOKU | CREATORS

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

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

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

TODAY'S ANSWER



M U F F S F I D I C O W L
A B O R E E U R O Q U A Y
I O N I A R E I M B U R S E

Eastbound I-96 ramp to Novi Road closes for summer

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — Summer construction is ramping up in Novi. As of July 8, the eastbound Interstate 96 ramp to Novi Road is closed for re-

building. The closure will last through late August.

The work is part of the \$269 million I-96 Flex Route project in western Oakland County, which began more than a year ago and involves rebuilding ramps and widening freeway shoulders to create an additional lane during high traffic

volume times.

The improvements don't come without complications.

During the eastbound I-96 ramp to Novi Road closure, motorists who want to reach Novi Road should exit the freeway at southbound Beck Road, then take eastbound Grand River Avenue to

Novi Road.

For more information on the project, visit the Simple Resurfacing page in the "Road Projects" section of the RCOC website, www.rcoc.org.

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

Rebuild

Continued from Page 1A

International Technology Center, a collaborative redevelopment project between Plymouth and Northville townships.

Heise said a complete rebuild of the 2-mile stretch of road, which is under the jurisdiction of Wayne County, is estimated at \$25 million. The timing of the construction project has not been determined.

The MITC has received partial state and federal funding over the past several years to cover costs related to consulting, engineering and infrastructure for the Five Mile corridor. The \$10 million state grant gives the project an important boost.

"I am confident the county will match that with their own funds, another \$10 million," Heise said.

Meijer, Northville Downs and more

Recently, several projects — including the proposed Northville Downs in Plymouth Township horseracing facility — have ignited an outcry from citizens concerned, in part, about the already-heavy traffic in the area.

Although the Northville Downs project is still under consideration, the Plymouth Township Planning Commission in June rejected a proposal from Meijer based largely on the inability of Five Mile Road to handle additional traffic. The Grand Rapids-based retailer was proposing a 159,000-square-foot supercenter on Five Mile west of Beck Road.

Heise said news of the funding from the state could potentially put the Meijer proposal back on the table.

"Meijer has certain appeal routes that are well known to all parties," he said. "The fact that the road now is getting this critical funding may be game changer for Meijer. It certainly removes

one of the issues that was raised at the planning commission meeting, which was the traffic."

On the north side of Five Mile corridor, Northville Township is currently under contract for 25 acres to Northville Lumber, 15 acres to Verità Telecommunications Corporation and 39 acres to Schafer Development.

Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo called news of the grant "great news for MITC and Northville Township.

"The improvements proposed will add value to the MITC properties and help us achieve our objectives of diversifying tax base and creating jobs," Abbo said.

Support from Wayne County, Lansing

Both supervisors said they were grateful for support from Wayne County CEO Warren Evans and Wayne County

Commissioner Terry Marecki, and also for the work of state Sen. Rosemary Bayer, D-West Bloomfield, along with state Rep. Matt Koleszar, D-Plymouth, and Rep. Jason Morgan, D-Ann Arbor, who sponsored the funding.

"I am proud to see these investments being made into our communities," Bayer said in a release. "These projects will help Plymouth (Township) and Northville (Township) to continue to be welcoming communities and provide much needed investments into infrastructure."

"This investment in Northville and Plymouth townships is going to be transformational for our communities," Morgan said. "We are investing in the road infrastructure needed to make the MITC corridor a success and to support our local economic development."

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

Club

Continued from Page 1A

from the original cabin near Brighton and places an emphasis on fine dining. Members and their guests can order from a recited menu that waitresses memorize and order some of the finest seafood, according to Fox, available in Michigan and Ohio.

"It's a dining club," said Marty Shoushanian, a member for 23 years. "It's a different experience here."

Food, service that's

rare in Michigan

Fox said the Huron River club's menu is what makes it different. Dishes like South African lobster tails, frog legs, Alaskan king crab and Colorado lamb chops can be difficult or impossible to find anywhere.

But at the Huron River club, they're on the menu all year and they're served in "oversized" portions.

"It's a consistently good meal," Fox said. "We have veteran chefs who do their own work at their own stations. We're kind of old school in the kitchen. The allure and the attraction we've kept here is that we've stayed with our tradi-

tions."

The food is so fancy, in fact, that menus are devoid of pricing. People are also expected to dress in at least business casual when they dine.

Shoushanian, the club's unofficial community ambassador, said he enjoys meeting new people, in addition to the excellent food. The club is only open to members and their guests — even new members need to be sponsored by a current member. The club is one of just a handful like it in Michigan.

"In my view, the best part of being here is that it's like home," he said. "It's comfortable. You know everybody and everybody knows you."

The club has hosted a variety of events this year to celebrate its centennial. An annual clam bake this September with a Great Gatsby-themed party will top off the festivities.

Huron River is approaching its slowest time of year. It closes for July so management can work on the building. But, come August, the club will continue its 100-year tradition of good food, good times and good friends.

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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.



A rendering of the apartments proposed for the American Legion property in Farmington. COURTESY OF CITY REALTY

Developer proposes apartments at Farmington American Legion

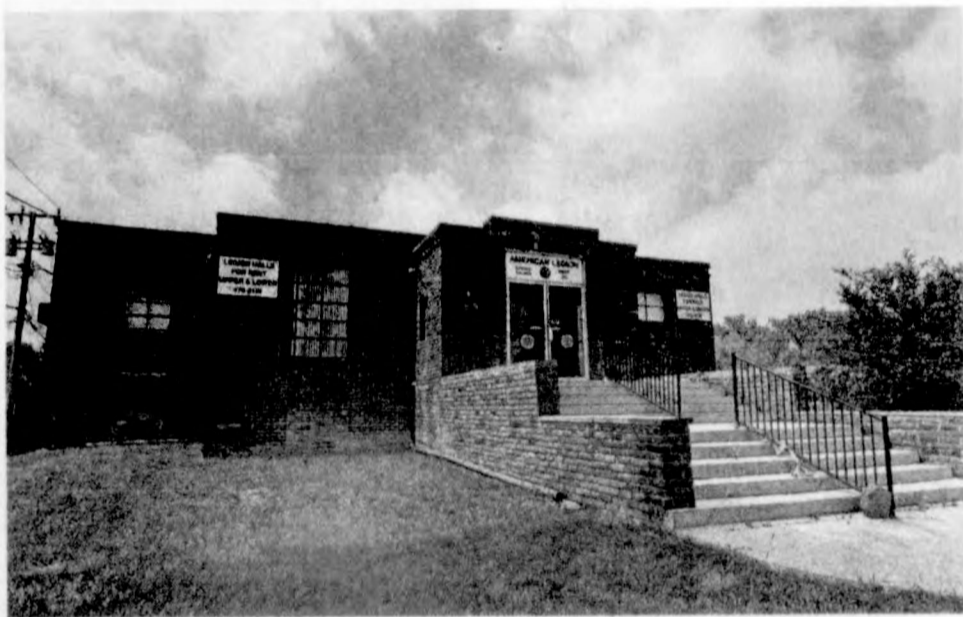
Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON — Developers hope to turn the American Legion property on Grand River Avenue into an apartment complex.

Livonia-based Cervi Construction is proposing 32 apartments in four buildings at the 31775 Grand River Ave. site. The American Legion is still open, but its members are searching for a new home because of the building's deteriorating condition.

City Life Realty co-owner Todd Craft, who is working with Cervi Construction on the project and chairperson of Farmington's Downtown Development Authority board, said he thinks the project will bring in-demand housing to the city.

"It's walkable to downtown, and that's why we're really excited about it," Craft said. "It brings more people downtown and will fill that middle market niche of people who aren't necessarily



The American Legion at 31775 Grand River Ave. in Farmington.

SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ready to buy a home yet but want something that's nice."

The apartments would be 1,500 square feet and rent at about \$2,000 per

month. Cervi Construction is set to appear before the planning commission July 10 for a public hearing and still faces an approval process for its planned unit development plan. Barring delays, a final decision on the project could be made in August or September.

If the project is approved, Craft said completion would take about two years.

To meet its demand for housing, Farmington officials also are considering a townhome development at the former Maxfield Training Center by Robertson Brothers Homes.

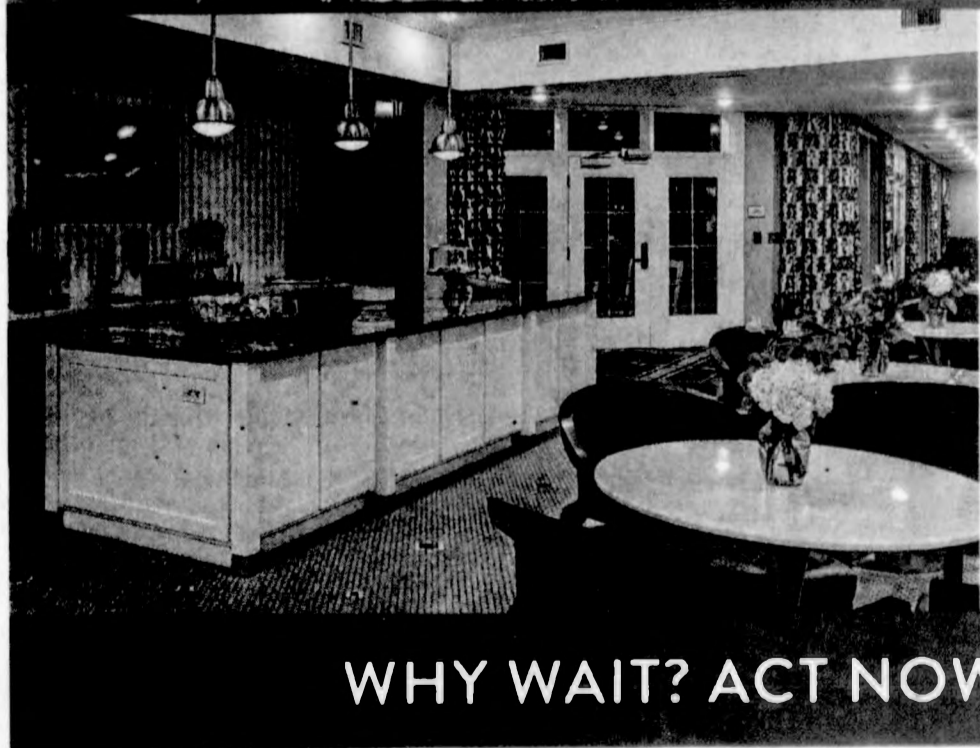
"We're excited that Robertson Brothers is doing a similar project downtown because the more people we get in the area, the more economic opportunity we can provide," Craft said.

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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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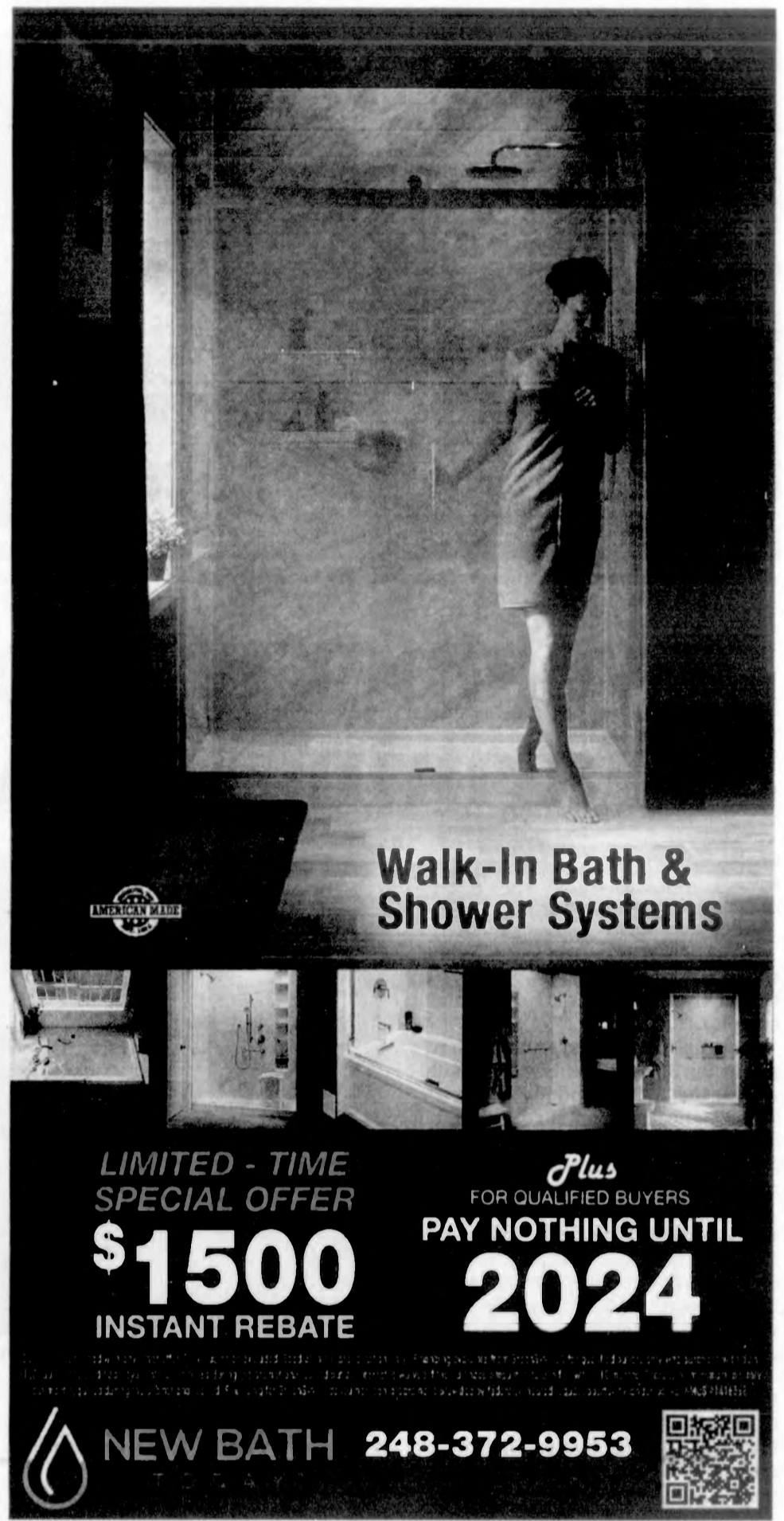
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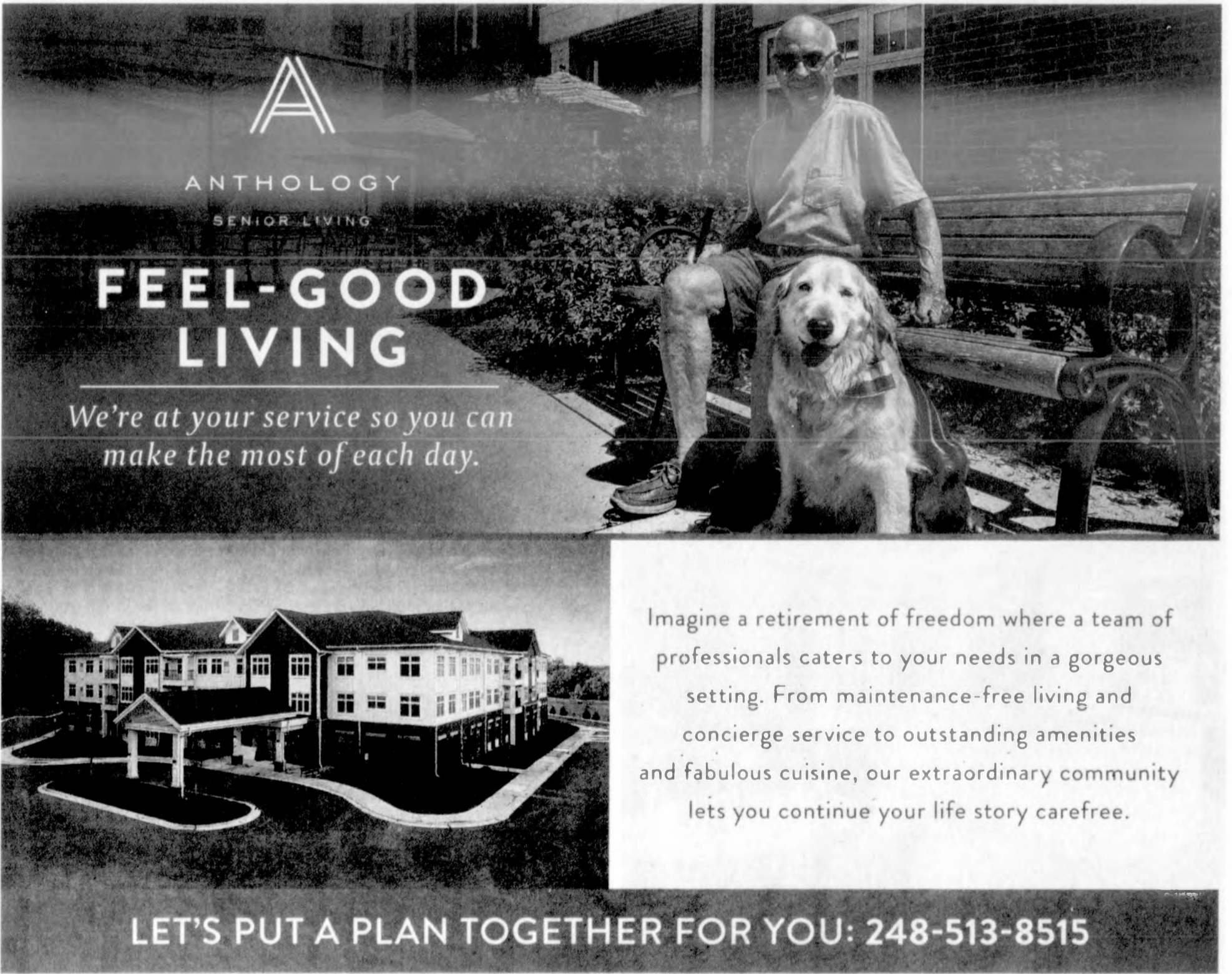
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SPORTS



Novi's Aaron Lauer brings the ball up the floor during the Livonia Franklin Shootout on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Aaron Lauer helping Novi boys basketball improve

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's no doubt Te'John McGowan was one of the most important players in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association a season ago.

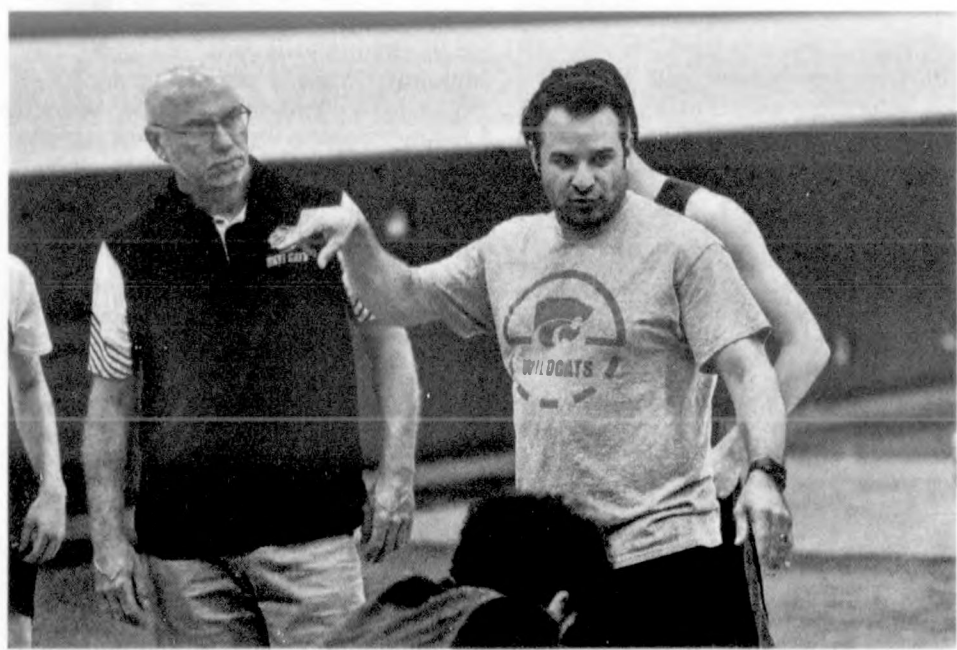
If the game was on the line, everyone knew which Novi boys basketball player was getting the ball.

If the Wildcats needed to turn the momentum in their favor, it was usually him getting them going. Whether that was the third-year point guard taking a steal the distance or knocking down a crucial jumper. That's a big reason why he was a second-team selection on Hometown Life's All-Area boys basketball team this past winter.

Well, he's gone. They lost him to graduation. And it'd be unfair to ask incoming junior Aaron Lauer to replace the type of production McGowan had in the backcourt.

So Lauer isn't going to be *that* guy. He's not going to be the ball-dominant, drive-to-the-hoop dynamo that McGowan was. But that's OK because his playing style complements the brand of basketball Novi's been playing all summer.

This is a fundamentally strong team. The type of team that doesn't let the ball touch the floor a single time on a fast-break or during a press break. And the best part? It's an unselfish team. The ex-



Novi coach Chris Housey talks to his players during the Livonia Franklin Shootout on Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

tra pass is always being made. The proper screens are being set. Defenders are boxing out when a shot goes up.

And it appears Lauer is just the person for the job when it comes to leading the offense. He safely brings the ball up the floor and gets it to his teammates. He knocks down open shots when he gets them. And he's becoming a vocal leader on the floor.

Lauer got a taste of playing on the

varsity in the middle of last season. Thanks to injuries, illnesses and winter break, the Wildcats were without a handful of key players. Lauer was called up from JV and helped the team out.

A few weeks later, he earned a permanent promotion to the varsity and even secured a starting role.

See NOVI, Page 2B

With 4th coach in as many years, Milford searching for stability

Rachel Pierson
Special to Hometownlife.com

The seniors on the Milford girls basketball team aren't about to win their fourth straight Lakes Valley Conference championship or Division 1 district title.

But the Mavericks are about to begin a fourth straight season with a new coach.

They tabbed former Howell coach Tim Olszewski to take over the program at the beginning of the summer. Olszewski stepped down as Howell's coach after eight seasons. He won 129 games and two district titles there.

The Mavericks, who were 11-12 overall and 8-8 in the league a year ago, hope this hire sticks.

"Us seniors have had a new coach every year, so we have adjusted to being flexible to new coaches," said Riley Mitchell, one of the six seniors expected to play for the Mavericks this winter, during last week's Summer League Shootout games at Canton. "But as long as we as a team stick together, that's all that matters."

Taking over the Mavericks was an easy decision for Olszewski, who has coached two of Milford's players, seniors Maddie Stevens and Mira Kelley, on the TC Elite AAU basketball team in the past.

"As soon as I got ahold of them, I knew that there was some raw talent,"

See MILFORD, Page 2B

MHSBCA all-star game MVP honors go to Livonia Franklin's 'Devin' Davis

What a terrible time for the public-address announcer to flub a player's name.

But that's what happened during the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association all-star game June 28 at Jimmy John's Field in Utica, home of the United Shores Professional Baseball League.

Livonia Franklin senior Kevin Davis, representing the East squad in the East vs. West matchup, approached the plate with the score knotted at 1 in the bottom of the fourth.

And the stadium's announcer called him, well, "Devin."

Devin Davis from Franklin High School.

And, of course, everyone laughed, hooted and hollered after it happened. Davis' family was perched in the front row behind home plate. They let him hear it.

See ALL-STAR GAME, Page 2B



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All-star game

Continued from Page 1B

So did Franklin coach Matt Fournier, who was sitting with his colleagues from the MHSBCA executive board in the suites section.

"Let's go, Devin!" Fournier jokingly hollered from his seat.

And, sure enough, moments later, Davis crushed a pitch about 316 feet down the left-field foul line for a two-run home run that put the East back ahead of the West, once and for all, 3-1.

The East went on to win, 8-3, and Davis, who was 2-of-3 batting, was picked as his team's MVP.

"I think it was just meant to be, ya know?" said Davis, who also smacked a one-run single toward left field in the opening inning. "They called me the wrong name. And I was like, 'OK, guys, let me show them who I really am. I am Kevin Davis.' So it's unreal, man. I can't even describe it. As soon as I hit it, I was like, 'Alright, that maybe has a chance.' And then I heard the cheers, and I was like, 'Oh my gosh,' because it felt so surreal."

Davis, who's signed with Lansing Community College, was met by a group of future college players at home plate, including tapping helmets in celebration with Clintondale's Shane Keys, who Davis drove in on the play.

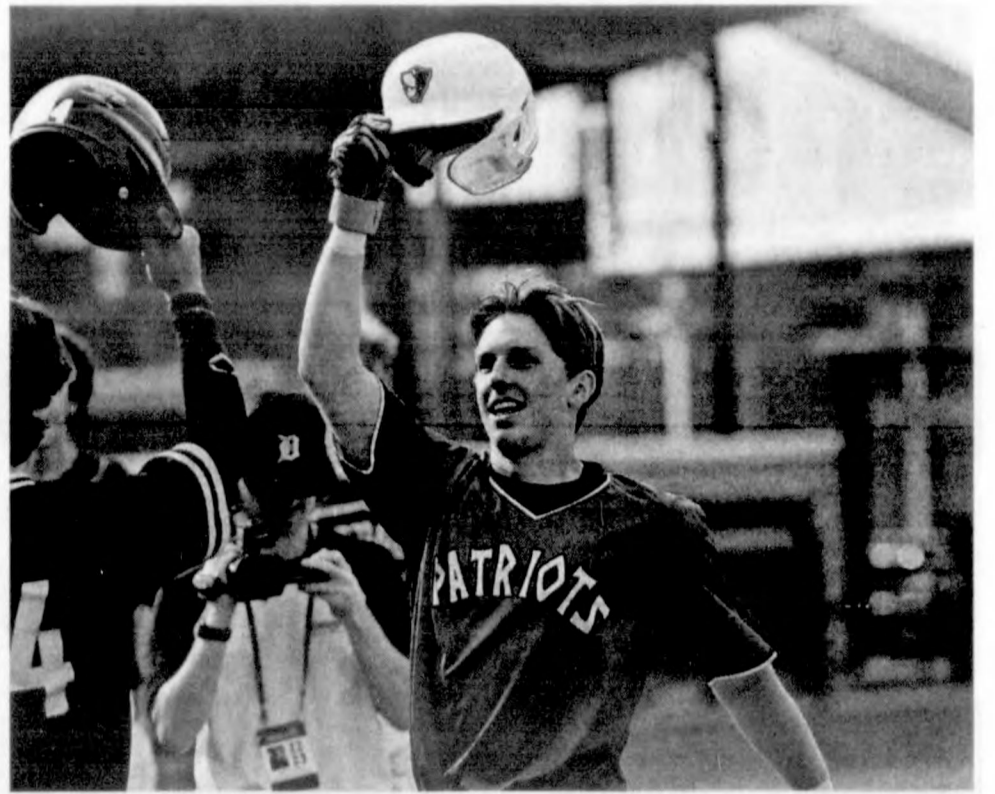
"It's awesome for him, and it's cool



Livonia Franklin's Kevin Davis celebrates with his teammates during the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association all-star game Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at Jimmy John's Field in Utica. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

for us (the Franklin baseball program)," Fournier said. "To see him succeed in that situation, it was just awesome to see.... He is the epitome of what we look for in a student-athlete at Franklin High School. From everything he does within the classroom to everything he does within the community, and then just the leadership he provides on the field. We're not going to be able to replace him. You just hope what he has done will rub off on the next kids who come through as well."

Of course, during Davis' next at-bat in the sixth frame, the PA announcer called him "Devin" one more time.



Davis celebrates hitting a home run.

Fortunately, while Davis was receiving his MVP plaque at home plate after the victory, the PA announcer finally got it right.

"From Livonia Franklin," the announcer said, "Kevin Davis!"

"This has been one of the best times I've ever had," Davis said of the exhibi-

tion. "I met a whole bunch of new guys I never would have met had I not played here. It's probably one of the best times I'll ever remember in my life."

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

Milford

Continued from Page 1B

Olszewski said. "We started really working and they started playing so well. They ended up being really good, and I enjoyed coaching them.

"It was about then I got the phone call asking if I would be interested in coaching for Milford. I also know that because of the quality of Kelley and Stevens, it would be a great place to coach. Ever since then, it has been awesome."

Establishing stability in a program that has lacked it is no easy feat, but Olszewski has already made big strides in doing so through the first month of Summer League.

The positive connection between him and his new team has been undeniable so far.

"He brought us (together as a) family, and he always says 'toughness together', and it just stuck with us," Stevens said.

Between the constant high-fives Olszewski gives to every girl as they come off the court or the chants his teams break huddles with, he's already done a great job inspiring the Mavericks.

"He is always motivating us to do our best, and he does not get mad at us for mistakes either," said Kelley, an almost 6-foot center. "He tells us to go full speed and try your best, and it is refreshing knowing that it is a new start."

Turning the Mavericks into a consistent winner will be a challenge. They've had just two winning seasons over the past decade, which includes going 8-7 during a COVID-19-shortened season in 2020-21.

But Olszewski isn't defining his team's success by wins and losses. It's all about how hard the girls play.



Pictured are Milford girls basketball players Maddie Stevens, Riley Mitchell and Mira Kelley.

PHOTOS BY RACHEL PIERSON/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Tim Olszewski, Milford.

"We strive to be successful and that doesn't mean wins, it means with every possession we consider it as a championship possession," he said. "This season we are going to play hard and the right way."

"If anyone walks into the gym, they shouldn't know if we are up by 10 or down by 10 (judging) by how we are playing because we should be playing the same way. We are going to be a transition team, and we are looking to push the ball. But our staple is our defense. Our goal is to not let the other team get over 40. It's all about toughness and hard work."

That's something the seniors can get on board with. It's unfortunate Mitchell, Stevens, Kelley, Samantha Mudge, Jane

Thompson and Justice Yang haven't had stability within their program over the years, but they have a chance to be Olszewski's foundational team, the one that turns the trajectory of the program around once and for all.

BRIEFLY: The Mavericks are hosting their summer youth camp for girls in third through eighth grade from July 12-14 at Muir Middle School.

The cost is \$90 per camper. Varsity players and coaches will lead the drills. Campers should bring their own basketball if they own one.

To register, visit <https://rb.gy/c45yu>. Rachel Pierson is the summer sports department intern at Hometown Life. Follow her on Twitter at @rachelmpiererson.

Novi

Continued from Page 1B

"He's a hard worker, and so is this group as a whole," Novi coach Chris Housey said following Tuesday's games at the Livonia Franklin Shootout. "He gets it. He doesn't think that he should come up (from the JV) and expect to be the man. When he came up here last year, he fit into our system. He did what he was supposed to do. And that's what we want from him. And that's the thing with all of our guys."

Being around players such as McGowan, 6-foot-7 forward Rodney Hackman and captain (and consummate leader) Luke Aurilia was a boon for Lauer because he learned what it takes to be a reliable part of the team.

"It was just a good, overall experience, getting to play with the older guys," Lauer said about his debut with the Wildcats' varsity. "Playing against the bigger, more physical talent compared to the JV, I just felt like it made me a better player overall, physically and with my basketball game itself.... Those guys were a big help. They're great mentors, showing me the ropes. Te', especially with him being the point guard, he was showing me how to handle the pressure and stuff. Luke was a great leader, a great upperclassman to look up



Novi's Chase LeFevre shoots during the Livonia Franklin Shootout on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

to. With me being an upperclassman now, I want to set that example for the younger kids, too."

There are no returning all-stars on this team. In fact, the only All-KLAA selection coming back is Thad Lawler, and he has spent most of his summer help-

ing the baseball team win its first state championship in school history.

Plus, some of the Wildcats play football and have been away training for the fall. But that's given extra court time to some of Novi's up-and-coming players.

There are no superstars or five-star

basketball recruits suiting up for Novi. But this is still a dangerous team. The Wildcats were 11-12 overall last winter, and that was their best season in years. It wouldn't be a surprise if this season is the first time they have a .500 winning percentage since 2017-18.

"Our guys have played together forever. They're a great group of kids," Housey said. "They play hard, they play together and they play unselfishly. They do everything that we ask. I'm proud of the way they're doing the fundamental things we do during the season and carrying that over and sticking to that in the summer...."

"These guys will tell you we don't really have a lot of great skill guys, but we have a great group together. They play well together. Both our seniors and our juniors have been playing together forever. It's fun when they come together."

Right now, Novi doesn't have a name like McGowan that opponents will go out of their way to gameplan against. But that's right now. Come this winter, there should be more guys such as Lauer who continue to grow into their new roles and help turn their program into a winner. It's only a matter of time until the Wildcats put it all together.

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

Livonia Public Schools rivals line up as teammates in MHSFCA game

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Chuck Davidek finally got to see what it's like having Cordell Mabins Jr. as his running back.

The two have been rivals since their Little League football days, with Davidek playing for the Livonia Eagles and Mabins Jr. being on the Orioles.

And that carried over to high school with Davidek starting on both lines for Livonia Stevenson and Mabins Jr., Hometown Life's Player of the Year in 2022, starring at running back for Livonia Franklin.

That rivalry will end come August when both report to Saginaw Valley State University's training camp.

But, on June 24, the two got a glimpse of what it'll be like to be teammates over the next four years, as the duo from Livonia Public Schools represented the East in the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association all-star game at Lawrence Tech University.

The West edged them, 26-14, but both played pivotal roles for the East.

Mabins Jr. only rushed for 28 yards, but he had a big conversion on 4th-and-1 and looked dominant in the passing game. He caught four passes for 54 yards from Farmington quarterback Dominic Pesci during a two-minute drill to end the first half.

He also threw a lead block that knocked off a defender's helmet.

"This feels good. This is what I worked for, to be able to play in games like this and play at the next level and compete," said Mabins Jr., a three-time All-Kensington Lakes Activities Association player who rushed for 1,818 yards and 28 TDs this past fall. "I came in here and just wanted to provide for my team and produce. I've just got to stay on my grind before I go up there (to SVSU) and compete and try to get my spot that I want."

The exhibition was a boon for Davidek, too, who got to play out of position and tally up the stats.



Livonia Stevenson's Chuck Davidek records a sack during the MHSFCA all-star football game Saturday, June 24, 2023, at Lawrence Tech University. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Normally, he'd play nose tackle for the Spartans, as his main job was to clog up the middle. In fact, he had just one sack all season last fall.

The 6-foot-3, 275-pound senior got to play all across the defensive line during the all-star game. He even got to rush the passer from the outside. He finished with four tackles (two solo, one for loss), three quarterback hurries and a sack.

"In a three-front, you've got to take on as many double teams as possible and free up linebackers, so basically you don't get a free rush at a quarterback any time," said Davidek, who was a first-teamer on Hometown Life's All-Area team. "So, yeah, it was great. I was sup-

posed to play the three-tech, but one of our guys didn't show up, so I had to move to a seven. It was nice being able to play the edge."

Not only did Mabins Jr. and Davidek contribute plenty to the East, but they got to grow closer as future teammates. They spent some time together during the two days of practice and workouts leading up to game day.

"I'm excited to be teammates with Cordell," Davidek added. "He was always beating up on us at Stevenson and a little bit in Little League, too, so I'm excited to finally get a chance to play with him."

Twitter: @folsombrandonj.

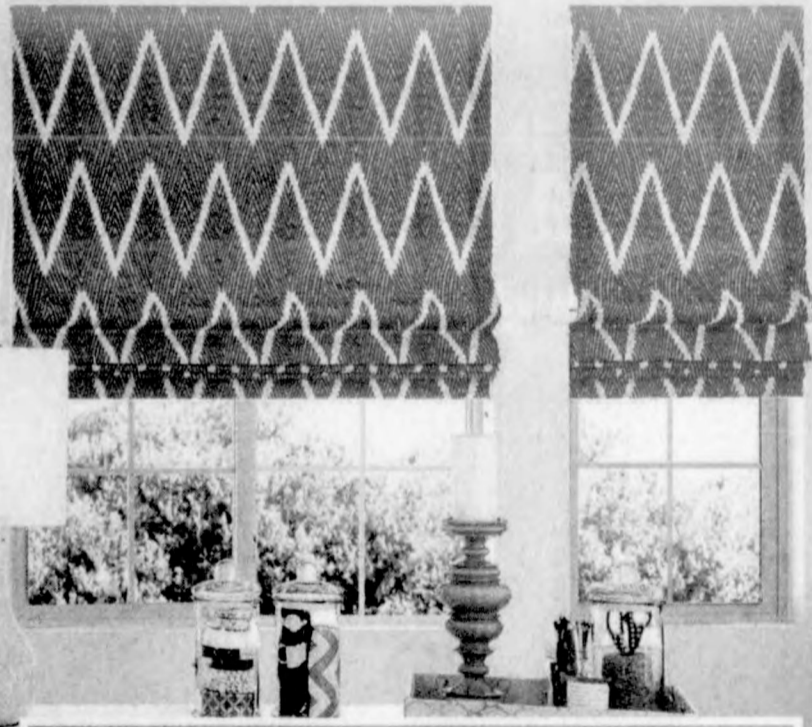


Livonia Franklin's Cordell Mabins Jr. rushes during the game.



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Rockets lineman shows brains and brawn during MHSFCA all-star game

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As Westland John Glenn coach Jason Mensing pointed out from the sidelines of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association's all-star game, you have to be smart if you want to be an engineer.

And Rockets senior Michael Boyd Jr. is certainly smart.

He lined up at four different positions throughout the exhibition. That included him playing right tackle on offense, both defensive end spots and, what came as a surprise to him, defensive tackle.

This is an all-star game. It's more of a celebration that the school year has come to an end and most of the seniors are on their way out the door and preparing for college football than anything else.

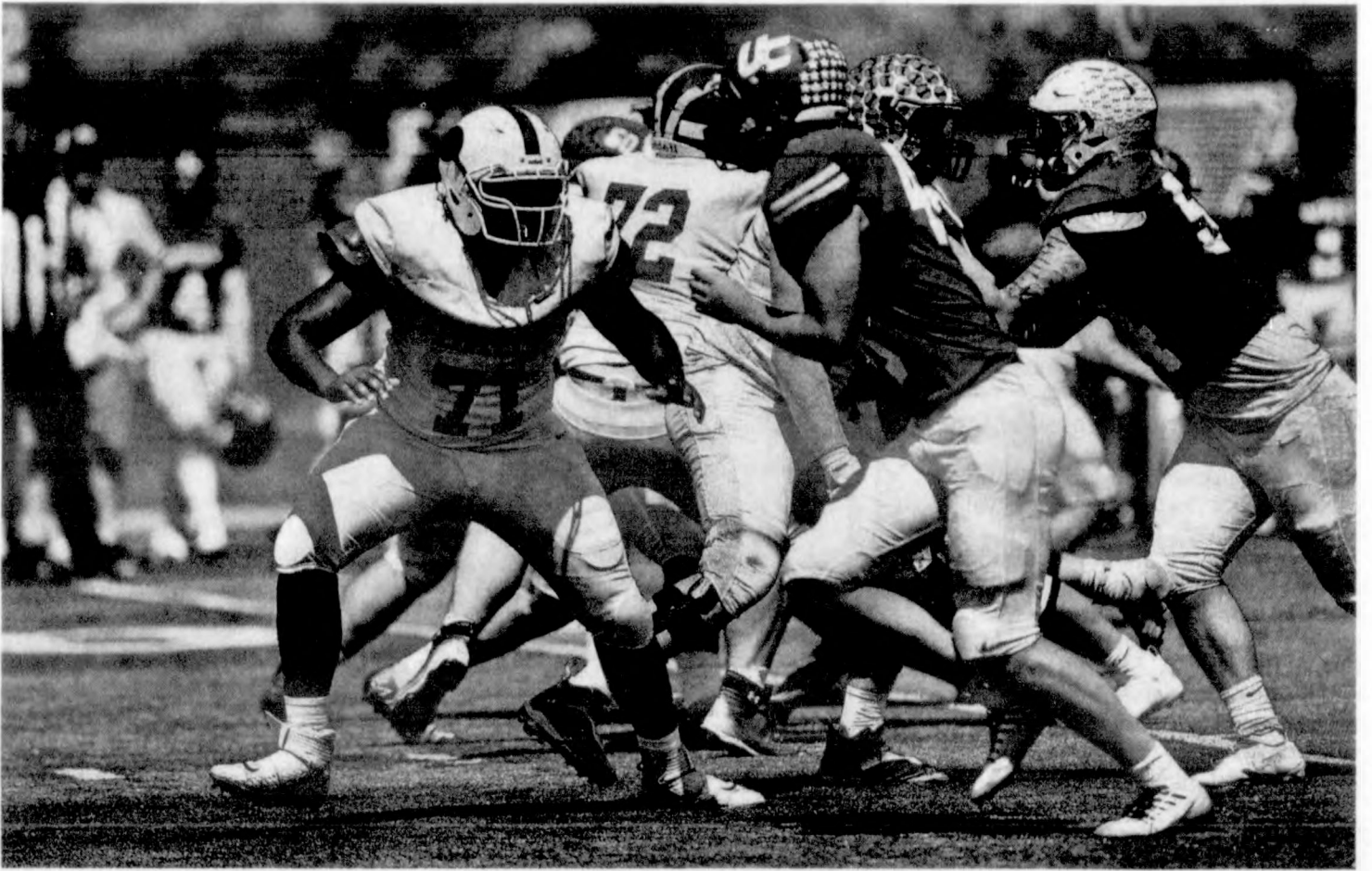
Sure, both teams want to win but this is all for fun.

But that didn't mean Boyd Jr. didn't take preparing for his role in the game seriously.

"It's honestly what I'm used to," Boyd Jr. said after his East squad came up short against the West, 26-14 on June 24. "I know one of my greatest talents is versatility. I'm able to bounce between multiple positions. I was prepared to go in at both tackle positions and both defensive ends. Defensive tackle was a last-minute position. Coach asked me if I was ready, and I wasn't going to turn that down, and I did my best. I trained a little bit for it, but I mostly focused on defensive end (leading up to game day). I did make sure that I knew every position I could just in case I had that opportunity."

With an attitude and work ethic like that, it's no surprise that Boyd Jr. exits John Glenn as one of the foundational players the program based its turnaround on this past fall.

Boyd Jr. had three coaches over the past four seasons, including, most recently, Mensing, a former state champi-



Westland John Glenn's Michael Boyd Jr. blocks during the MHSFCA all-star football game Saturday, June 24, 2023, at Lawrence Tech University. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

on coach from Ottawa Lake Whiteford. Mensing came in last summer and provided the Rockets with stability and a vision to work toward that wasn't necessarily there in past years.

When John Glenn returns to the glory days it once had with former MHSFCA Hall of Fame coach Chuck Gordon, it'll look back at players such as Boyd Jr. as the reason that return even happened.

"Yes, it was a unique experience going through as many head coaches as I did in my four years," Boyd Jr. said. "I was glad I was able to help build a foundation, help my teammates and the underclassmen be better and set a great

example."

That's also part of the reason why Wayne-Westland Community School District recently named Boyd Jr. its Male Student-Athlete of the Year at John Glenn.

There were plenty of talented athletes helping the Rockets have success over the school year, but Boyd Jr. was a no-brainer for the honor because he got it done both on the field and in the classroom. It's something athletic director Jason Malloy often praises during school assemblies. The student comes before the athlete in the term "student-athlete."

Boyd Jr. wants to study engineering

when he gets to Lawrence Tech University to play football in the fall. Coincidentally, Saturday's all-star game was held at LTU, his future home.

"It was a beautiful experience just being able to play on the field that I'm going to be able to play on in the future and go against superior talent, go against people I might see at the next level," he said. "It was a beautiful thing."

Boyd Jr. finished the all-star game with two tackles (one solo) and a QB hurry.

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



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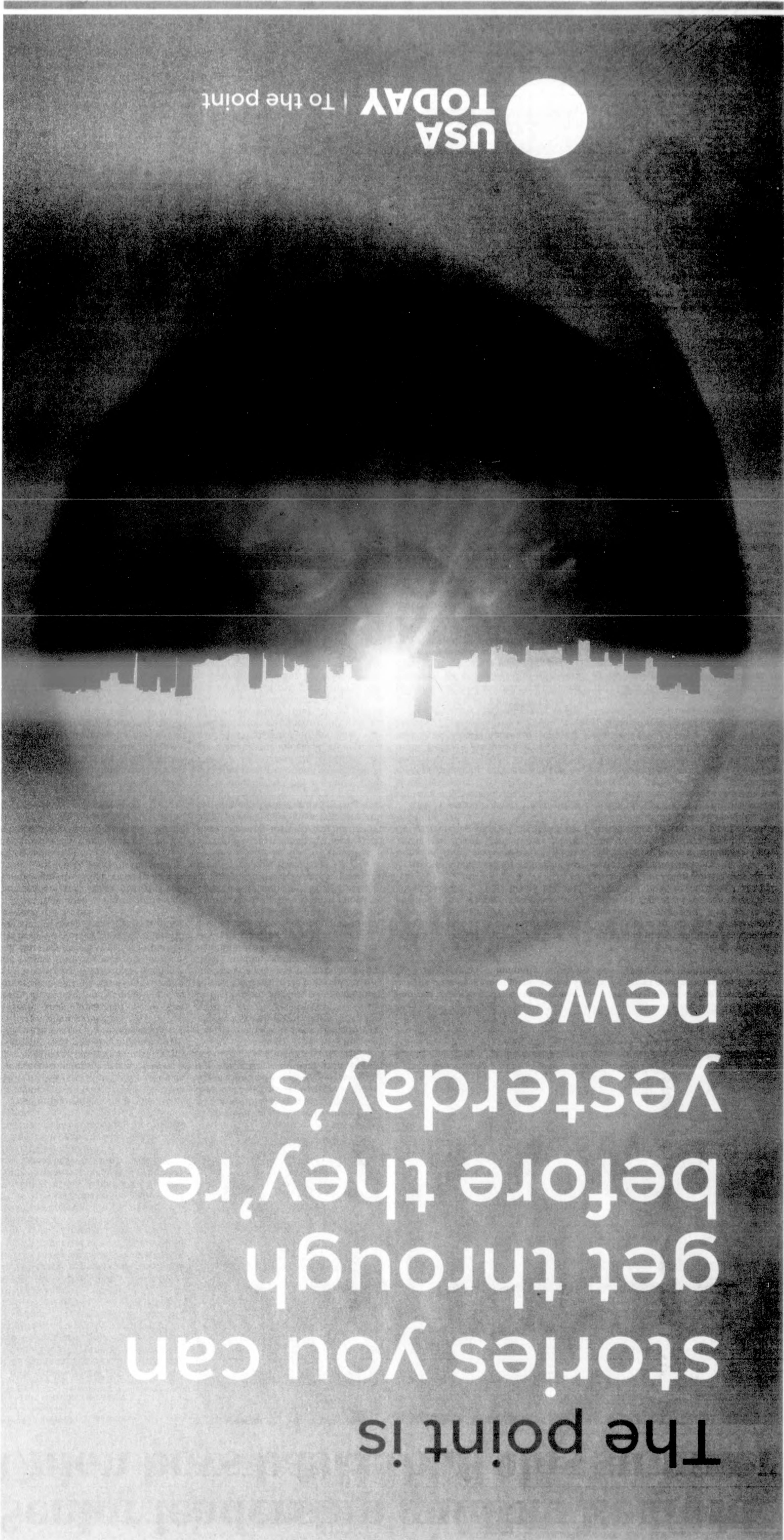
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Senior leadership guiding Redford Union boys basketball this summer

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Mike Myles sailed a pass into the post that should've gone for two points during a DC Elite Summer League boys basketball game June 26 against Detroit Pershing.

Instead, the post player fumbled the possession out of bounds after trying to catch the pass with one hand.

Normally, Myles immediately races back on defense. This time, though, the Redford Union senior paused to explain why it's important to catch passes with both hands above your chest. He then demonstrated it with his own hands.

This all happened in the middle of a game. It wasn't malicious. He wasn't screaming at his teammate. He was calmly explaining what to do the next time a pass is sent to him down low.

That's leadership.

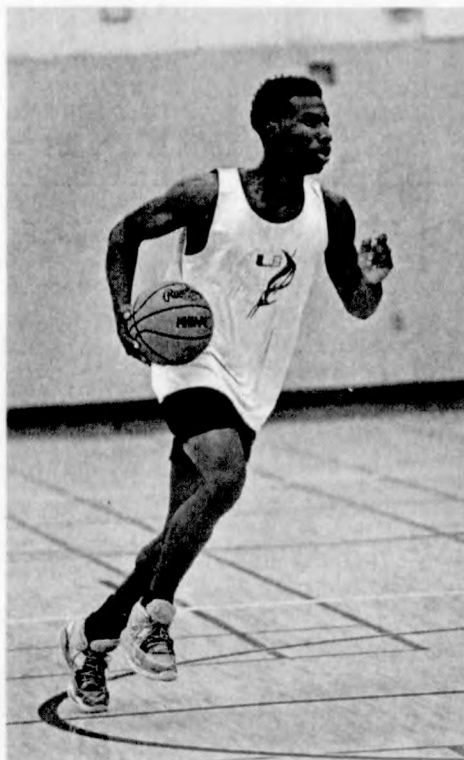
And that's exactly what coach Randall Taylor has been looking for this off-season.

The Panthers are coming off a 2022-23 campaign in which they won the Western Wayne Athletic Conference championship, took home a Division 2 district title and faced Romulus Summit Academy North in the regional final. They were just three wins shy of playing for a state championship.

Yeah, they graduated some key pieces from last year's squad such as Jeremiah Alston-Jackson and Jamire Hall, who signed with Central Michigan and Wayne State, respectively, for football. But they have a swath of former JV and first-year varsity players coming up that should make them just as exciting to watch this winter.

What they need to figure out is who their leaders are outside of Myles and Amare Slaughter-Taylor, two seniors entering their fourth years on the varsity. When neither is on the floor, who will step up and use their voice to help the younger players get into the right spots, make the correct plays and ensure the team continues to have success?

"As far as leadership and toughness, it's expected that Mike Myles and Amare both step up their roles," Coach Taylor said. "We've got guys like Charles Knuckles, who was with us last year, who needs to increase his role. We're looking for guys to really just step up, do more and develop from within. As far as Mike and Amare and their leadership, both of those guys, it's a major thing for us. We're glad to have those guys back with us. That's major, and we have Kay-



Redford Union's Amare Slaughter-Taylor dribbles during a DC Elite Summer League boys basketball game against Detroit Pershing on Monday, June 26, 2023, at Birmingham Groves.

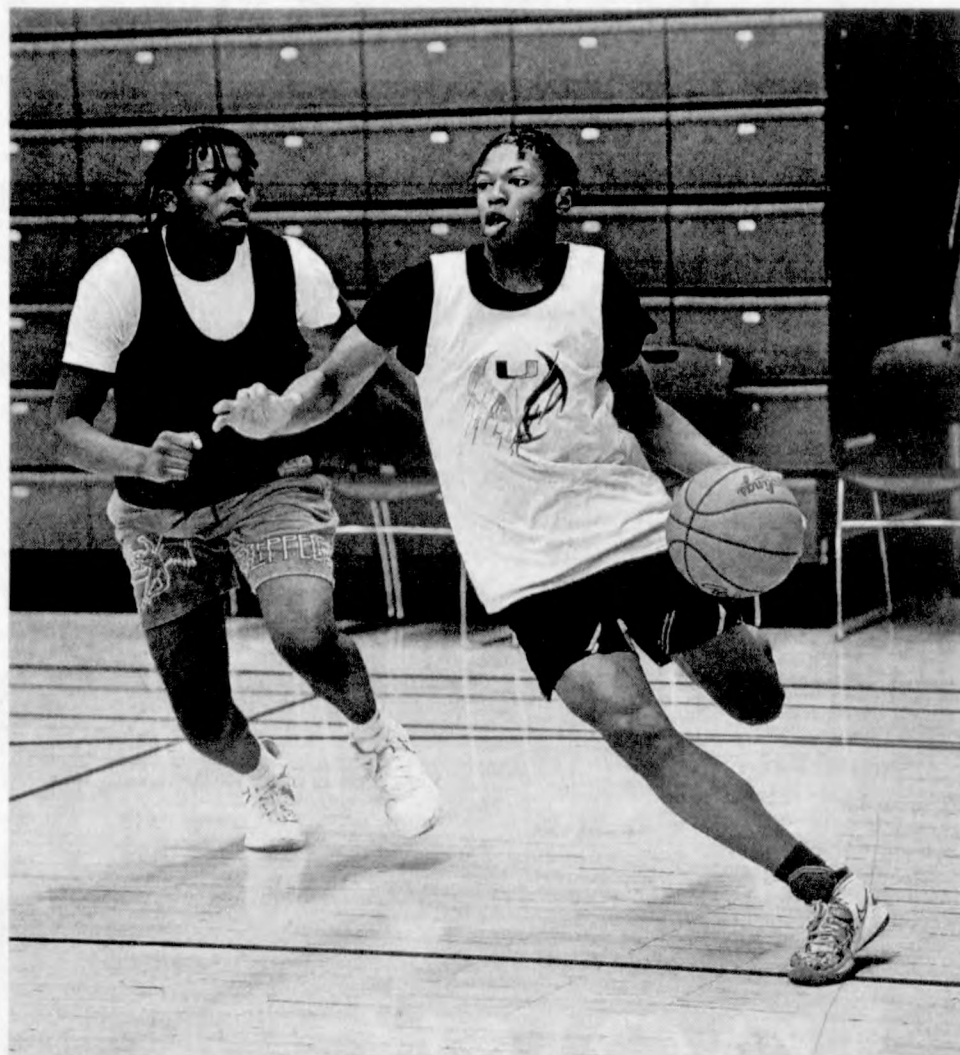
den Turner back. He'll be a second-year varsity guy and was a starter for us last year."

Right now, there's no questioning Myles' leadership. He's not taking any moment for granted, not even some ho-hum random summer league game against a team the Panthers will likely never face during the actual season.

As a sophomore, he sat out after suffering ACL, MCL and quad injuries. He knows what it's like to have the game taken away from him. This is his last hurrah at Union. He wants to make the most of his final season.

That's why he doesn't hesitate to speak up when a teammate needs guidance. He wants to be a bigger brother for all of the younger guys who are still learning what the speed of varsity basketball is like.

"Leadership, it's big, it's big. It's everything, really," the point guard said. "It starts in the classroom, of course. I've got to make sure I'm ahead in there so I can take that stress off my shoulders, and then my mind can be strictly on basketball when that time comes around. With leadership, everything is on the line. I learned that from my parents and just playing for sports teams since I was a kid. I was always taught to



Redford Union's Kayden Turner attacks the basket during a DC Elite Summer League boys basketball game against Detroit Pershing on Monday, June 26, 2023, at Birmingham Groves. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

listen to what's being said, not how it's being said to you and to just understand what's being taught. Through that, I was able to build a strong mindset and take accountability for myself and get better."

Accountability and discipline are big things at Union, regardless of the sport. You'll see those two things shine through on the football field and the wrestling mat.

And Slaughter-Taylor has been showing accountability and discipline since he got to high school. He's the most physically fit on the team and he doesn't miss a session in the weight room. Heck, he's added five pounds of muscle since his junior season ended in March.

He's arguably the best player in the WWAC right now, and he'll likely be playing college basketball for a Division II school (or better) by the time he's done with the Panthers.

He leads by example. It's his attendance at workouts, practices and scrimmages. It's his effort to lift weights. It's the time he spends going to individual and team camps.

While he's not a rah-rah guy when it comes to being a leader, he can use his voice on the floor to get players in the right spots to ensure the offense produces. The only knock on the 6-foot-4, 190-pound combo guard is that he isn't vocal enough off the floor.

"He (Coach Taylor) has been talking

about that since freshman year, being a better leader and setting an example," Slaughter-Taylor said. "I've got to get better at that, and I've been working on that right now. Sometimes I struggle with it, if I'm being honest, but sometimes I get better at it."

The good news is Slaughter-Taylor and the other Panthers have the rest of the summer to work on being vocal, as Monday's game against Pershing was Myles' last night with the basketball team. Myles is expected to be a two-way starter for coach Ian Iler on the football team, so he'll be preparing for the fall for the rest of summer break. That gives others an opportunity to become vocal leaders.

That'll be key in helping Union take the next step as a program and, hopefully, get the Panthers to a state quarterfinal. It's a pivotal season for the program, one the seniors don't want to mess up because someone didn't speak up in a huddle or point out something that could help the team improve.

"This season means a lot," Slaughter-Taylor added. "I've been working for this moment, getting better every day and putting in the work. We're just trying to make some noise. We made it to the regional finals, now we're trying to get a state title."

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

Obituaries

Patricia J. Davis

NORTHVILLE - Age 80, of Northville, passed away June 23, 2023. She was born on May 12, 1943 in Buffalo, New York; daughter of Donald and June (Thompson) Davis. Pat moved with her family to Livonia in 1954 and graduated from Bentley High School, class of 1961. She continued her education at Eastern Michigan University where she received both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts, majoring in History, Geography, and Art Humanities. Pat worked at Livonia Parks and Rec to put herself through school.

Her dedication to Livonia and Livonia Public Schools was immeasurable. Pat was a teacher for over 29 years with the Livonia Public Schools. She taught upper elementary at Old Johnson Elementary for 14 years and first grade at Hull Elementary for 15 years. During her teaching career she helped develop curriculum and was actively involved with the Livonia Education Association serving as an officer. Pat was also a delegate to the Michigan Educational Association and the National Education Association, traveling all over to represent the LEA union.

After retiring in 1994, Pat worked at Stampedler Plus in Northville where she showcased her artistic talent. She enjoyed painting and creating paper sculptors. Pat was an avid reader and a world traveler, traveling to Europe, Mexico, and the Caribbean. She was a wonderful mentor, teacher, and friend.

Pat is survived by her cousin Kathleen Thompson and her devoted friends Barbara Quinn and Aimee Sexton. She is also survived by many other friends. Pat will be laid to rest at River View Cemetery in Aurora, Indiana.

Memorial contributions to Seedlings Braille Books for Children, PO Box 51924, Livonia, MI 48151.

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How to master modern job hunting

Quitting a job might never seem like the best option for established professionals, but it's a route that was taken by an incredibly high number of workers in recent years. According to the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 50.5 million people quit their jobs in 2022. Improved job prospects undoubtedly contributed to that high turnover, but professionals who left their jobs without another one already lined up may need some help finding their next gig.

Significant layoffs in the early months of 2023 coupled with tens of millions of individuals leaving their jobs voluntarily in 2022 could potentially make the competition for new jobs more competitive. Professionals confronting that situation can consider these tips as they seek to master the art of modern job hunting.

- Use LinkedIn to your advantage. The professional social media platform LinkedIn is an invaluable resource, especially for professionals looking for a new job. Even professionals who are still working but hoping to land a new job can utilize LinkedIn to their advantage, as many recruiters embrace the strategy of passive recruiting, which involves scouring LinkedIn for professionals who are not actively looking for a new job but might be interested if the right opportunity presents itself. Professionals who aren't already on LinkedIn should join and create a profile that highlights their experience and skills. Workers who are already on LinkedIn can periodically up-

date their profiles and use the platform to stay up-to-date on the latest trends in their industries.

- Create a portfolio of your work. Landing an interview may be the first goal, but professionals also must be ready to master that interview should the opportunity arise. A portfolio that showcases past work and accomplishments can help candidates present themselves in the best light possible. Utilize a free or inexpensive service like WordPress that hiring managers and others can visit quickly and easily to see your work.

- Identify who you want to work for. Experienced professionals who are still working may have the luxury of patience when beginning their job search. That luxury ensures professionals can wait for opportunities at companies they want to work for. Targeting specific companies can take some of the frustration out of modern job hunting, which often requires scouring a seemingly endless string of job openings. Out-of-work professionals can still target specific firms, but they also can utilize down time to research other organizations in an effort to widen and expedite their search.

- Work with a recruitment agency. Much like job seekers grow frustrated at sifting through job postings, organizations may not have the will or the resources to devote to finding worthy



candidates for their openings. That's why organizations often turn to recruitment professionals, who do the leg work when companies are looking to hire new people. Recruitment professionals earn their money from the companies doing the hiring, not the person

getting hired. So there's no downside to utilizing recruiting professionals in your search.

Modern job hunting can be difficult. But various strategies can help talented professionals land rewarding jobs.

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- Prevents water damage to your home
- Offers easy installation and a customized design to perfectly fit your home

PROTECTS AGAINST



20% Thicker Aluminum

One-Piece System

Liquid Adhesion



LeafGuard has been awarded the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval for 16 straight years.



75% OFF LABOR**

Call now for your free estimate!
Financing available
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*Offer does not include cost of material. Discount applied by representative at time of contract execution. Offer ends 7/31/2023.

**Offer valid from 7/1/2023 until 7/31/2023. Minimum purchase required. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Leafguard or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Previous future purchases are not eligible for a discount or sale price adjustment. Sales tax does not qualify for discount. This offer cannot be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon, and/or offer. This promotion has no cash value. Leafguard reserves the right to end any promotion at any time without notice.

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for 1 year!

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50% off

Windows & Doors!

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DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 7/29/2023. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 50% off, and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 7/2/2023 and 7/29/2023. 50% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts; no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. ©2023 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

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