

Team chemistry paramount as new Northville coach takes over

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHVILLE RECORD

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Farmington parents, staff say Black students treated differently

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON — Tramaine Seay lives in Farmington, but she won't send her kids to Farmington's public schools.

Seay, a Black mom of four, homeschools her two youngest children. Her eldest attends Cass Tech High School in Detroit, and her second-born will also enroll there.

Diversity is part of the Farmington Public School District's branding. Many people in the community say it's something they love. But Seay said Detroit is a better place for her children to get an education.

"When we first arrived when my oldest was in kindergarten, it seemed good," she said of Farmington. "The principal was really nice and everything was cool, but I started to notice the teachers and other people didn't know how to treat our kids, especially the boys. It was as if their level of aggression was heightened."

Seay's concerns are shared by some Black parents, former staff and at least one school board member as another school year approaches.

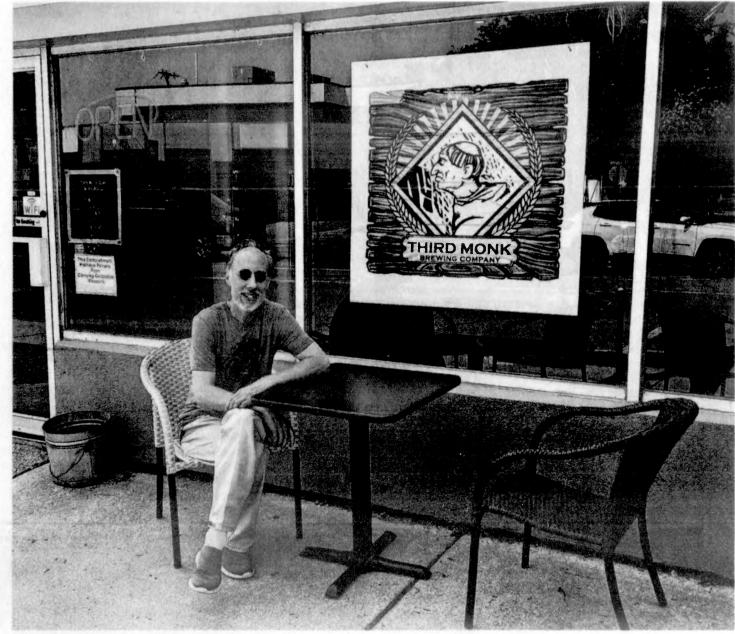
Like many American school districts, Farmington has an achievement gap between Black students and other groups. Critics say the gap paired with cases of verbal abuse Black students have experienced attending Farmington schools is a problem that urgently needs fixing.

"We have to start admitting when we do wrong," said Angie Smith, a Black school board member and mother of three Farmington graduates. "Nobody wants to do that."

A spokesperson for the superintendent said the administration was unaware of any serious culture and race issues in the district. The new school year begins Aug. 28.

Superintendent Chris Delgado declined to be interviewed for this story. In a statement submitted to Hometown Life, Delgado said issues of racial bias by staff, an academic gap between races and more are inherited. He's been on the job for about two years.

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Jeff Robinson, owner of Third Monk Brewing Company, has declined to participate in the forthcoming South Lyon social district, citing concerns about public safety. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

This South Lyon brewery wants no part of social district. Here's why.

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

SOUTH LYON — Brewery owner Jeff Robinson has turned down an invitation for his business to be part of the South Lyon social district, citing safety concerns over firearms and liability.

Robinson, who owns Third Monk Brewing Company, objects to a requirement that participating businesses must carry the city on their insurance policy, and hold the city harmless if something goes awry. His concerns are elevated, he said, by the potential mix of alcohol and guns.

"I don't want to insure a gun zone," Robinson said, speaking at his business on Tuesday afternoon. "How can I hold the city harmless? I hope it's a safe community, but you don't know. In here, you can't have guns. Why are you having guns in an outdoor drinking area?"

The South Lyon social district, branded "The Sidecar," was approved unanimously by the city council recently and will allow patrons to purchase alcoholic beverages inside participating establishments within the core downtown and then consume those drinks outside in the district's designated common areas.

Third Monk was one of six establishments invited to apply to be part of the South Lyon social district and is the only one not participating, South Lyon DDA Executive Director Nate Mack said.

Two establishments, Dua Vino and

Twisted Cork Winery, have already submitted applications. Three more, Corner Social, Lake Street Tavern and the South Lyon Hotel, are gathering the documents required to apply, Mack added.

Mack said the requirements to insure and hold the city harmless are standard practice for all social districts in the state, which now number more than 100 since the concept was signed into law in 2020.

"It's like wearing a seatbelt when you get in the car — it's a common action taken by municipalities across the state," Mack said. "Other establishments haven't had these concerns."

David Barton, owner of Twisted Cork

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New police, fire, DPW buildings in works for Northville Twp.

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE TWP — Plans for a \$36 million construction project at the site of a former state psychiatric hospital include a new police headquarters, fire station, public works garage and recreation building.

Township officials say the new "essential services complex" to be located on Seven Mile Road, west of Haggerty Road, is sorely needed.

"Our police station is obsolete and we need a second fire station to improve response time in the northeast portion of the township," Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo said. "We are one of the few communities of our size that only has one fire station."

The complex will be situated on a 15-acre parcel in what is now the 350-acre Legacy Park, where the last of a psychiatric hospital's 22 buildings were recently demolished. The four new facilities combined will measure approximately 60,000 square feet.

"Most of Northville Township's growth is behind us," Abbo added. "Now we must find an appropriate service level for a developed community, rather than a developing community. So that's what we're doing."

The township's current fire station at 45745 Six Mile Road will remain in use once the new station opens. The new police station will replace the current one at 41600 Six Mile Road. A public works garage at the site will replace the

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Brewery

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Winery and a DDA member, said he pushed for the social district to help with the growth of South Lyon, noting the city is surrounded by communities that have social districts, including Northville, Novi, Brighton and Ann Ar-

"We're in competition," Barton said. "A social district helps us make a choice to bring business to South Lyon... Carrying a weapon has never come up as an issue in those districts."

Farmington DDA Executive Director Kate Knight said there have been no public safety issues in her city's social district, in which 10 businesses that sell alcoholic beverages participate. She believes the city has also erred on the side of caution with insurance requirements for participating businesses similar to those in South Lyon, but only one business that was invited to be part of the district declined to participate.

Robinson said the district should forbid weapons as he does in his business where, next to the front door of Third Monk, is a sign that states, "This establishment prohibits patrons from carrying concealed weapons."



David Barton, owner of **Twisted Cork** Winery in South Lyon, is excited about the city's forthcoming social district. SUSAN BROMLEY/ HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

"If I had to prioritize, guns are a big-"It's not like people can have a gun in ger public safety threat than alcohol," one hand and a drink in another and it's Robinson said. "You don't want the two OK," he said. "If you are going to be combined. I was in Chelsea (which has a drinking, you can't have the weapon on social district) and nothing was posted your person. They have to follow the about no guns, but if I have to post no regulations for a CPL permit. The social guns at my front door, it seems like in a district doesn't have anything to do with social district you have to do the same." that. The social district allows you to State law forbids carrying a conhave an open container, but not a weap-

> Mack, who expects the social district to be in operation sometime in August, pending final approval from the state liquor control commission, is disappointed Third Monk is not participating, but respects Robinson's decision and said Third Monk would be welcome to participate in the future

Overall, Knight said the Farmington social district, known as "The Syndicate," has been a huge success since its implementation on New Year's Eve 2020, the second in the county after Lake Orion. One of the participating businesses, Farmington Brewing Company, sells an average of 25 to-go beverages per day.

"The restaurateurs think it's a fabulous model." Knight said. "Some credit it with keeping them in business through COVID. It's been a really critical additional point of revenue... You can't walk out with trays of beer, but you can take beverages to go to a common area in the park where we host concerts. We've seen growth in those programs and it's an effective way to bring people togeth-

Robinson notes he was one of the original supporters of a social district in South Lyon early on in the pandemic. Then, as now, public safety was his priority, he said.

He adds that he understands the enthusiasm about the social district and he would be excited to participate with some alterations.

"I just want parity," he said. "If they treated the outdoor drinking area like I have to treat my indoor drinking area, I'm fine. Meaning, no guns."

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Buildings

Continued from Page 1A

township's current public works facility on Beck Road.

The new recreation building will include a 100-space parking lot to serve park patrons.

"The ultimate expectation is that we have trailheads on the eastern and the western portions of Legacy Park," Abbo said.

Abbo said township residents won't see an increase in tax bills to foot the bill for the new facility. Instead, he said, the township expects to issue approximately \$17.5 million in bonds to cover a large portion of the costs.

"We have some bonds that were outstanding from when we built township hall that are now fully paid off," Abbo said. "We're using the money we used for that debt service to pay for the current bond issue. That's why \$17.5 million in bonds will have little effect on our budget. We're substituting bonds that were fully paid for bonds that we will soon be issuing.

The remainder of funds will come from various sources: \$7 million from the township's water and sewer fund. \$4.5 million from its capital projects fund, \$3 million from American Rescue Plan Act funds, \$1 million from public safety funds and \$500,000 in parks and recreation money. Potential grants could also factor in.

The township board, Abbo said, "has been very supportive, every step of the way."

Township Manager Todd Mutchler said he expects the project to go out for bid in the weeks ahead, with work beginning in the fall and continuing through the winter. The township is eyeing fall 2024 for anticipated completion.

"This is going to change the face of service delivery for public services," Mutchler said.

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Black students

law enforcement.

Continued from Page 1A

"We celebrate each student, employee and community member as part of our extended family," he wrote. "Despite some inherited past challenges, FPS is committed to moving forward positively, professionally and with a goal of helping each student find success and living into our new mission, vision and profile of lifelong learner."

cealed weapon into a business "where

the primary source of income of the

business is the sale of alcoholic liquor

by the glass and consumed on the prem-

ises," but exempts owners or employees

of the business, as well as members of

regarding guns in the social district.

Mack said he won't be posting signs

'It starts with the achievement gap'

According to MISchoolData, 38.7% of Farmington's Black students are below average academically in English courses. MISchoolData's most current test score data is from the 2021-22 school year.

In Farmington Hills, about 62% of residents are white, 18% are Black and 14% are Asian. In Wayne-Westland, which has more Black students, the achievement gap is wider than in Farmington. In Warren and Plymouth-Canton, which have similar Black student populations to Farmington, the gap is smaller.

"We need to have open conversations that might be hurtful." Smith said. "There would be some crying and there would be some truth, but we need to do more than just put a Band-Aid on things."

Smith attributes the gap to a lack of diversity training. Like many interviewed for this story, she said Black and white students don't have the same school experience in Farmington, and interactions between Black students and teachers can be challenging. According to staffing statistics, Black students see few teachers who look like them.

According to MISchoolData, 8% of the district's teachers are Black, and at least 85% are white. On the administrative level, 20% of staff are Black, and 79% are white.

When Farmington Public Schools hires you, leave your personal opinions on the other side of the door," Smith said. "I think what it all boils down to is that we need diversity training with the board and the staff."

Seay and Thomas Hull, father of three students and president of the **Farmington African American Parent** Network, or FAAPN, think improving diversity on staff would also help bridge the gap.

"If you have to keep talking about diversity, you really don't have it or you don't understand it," said Lester Thomas, former FAAPN president and father of two Farmington graduates. "If true diversity was going on, you would see it in the numbers with the teachers."

One of FAAPN's chief goals is to close the achievement gap. FAAPN started as a tutoring resource and also offers things like budgeting courses and college preparation resources.

Tera Shamey, senior director for school improvement for Detroit Public Schools Community District and a former Farmington employee, said Farmington's internal Northwest Evaluation Association data shows Black students in Farmington are also more likely to experience academic decline



School board member Angie Smith at the Farmington Public Schools' Lewis JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Schulman Administrative Center on Shiawassee on March 29, 2021.



Thomas Hull, President of the Farmington African American Parent Network

SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Tera Shamey, a former teacher and administrator in Farmington. Shamey worked for Farmington Public Schools for 17 years. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

over the course of a school year.

Shamey has presented her findings to district administration and groups like FAAPN. Due to her 17 years of experience in the district, Shamey thinks racial bias from teachers plays a large role.

"A white student and a Black student do not have the same experience in Farmington Public Schools because of our structures," she said.

'We need people who treat all of the kids like kids.'

Farmington has openly struggled with race issues in its schools. Members of the school community were upset in early 2022 when a substitute teacher described a Black student as "cotton picking" and protests erupted over an optional diversity challenge the district held. Meanwhile, the district's former assistant superintendent for diversity, equity, inclusion and student services continues to pursue a federal lawsuit alleging discrimination

Shamey, who founded a nonprofit to help minority students, said she regularly witnessed teachers demonstrate racial bias. She recalls seeing a colleague call a Latino student "Mr. Mexico" and regularly saw Black male students accused of behavior issues.

Hull said he feels the district has begun to act more quickly when classroom issues arise. But, Hull and Thomas also think too many issues are treated as

"learning opportunities." Seay said an environment where dis-

crimination occurs is one that, as a mother, she doesn't want to subject her children to.

"I struggle now with my younger two," she said. "I don't know if I'm ever going to send them. There's so many things in the system that just don't work in their favor. I just don't want their lights to be put out."

'We need to have open conversations.'

Parents, former staff and Smith are all in agreement: The district needs to do some listening.

As a taxpayer, Seay said it's frustrating to feel like she can't send her kids to school down the road

"It's annoying, but it's what we have to do," she said. "I think the reason why it's not as frustrating is that I found a solution that works for now ... I would rather them be in a place where the odds are not against them."

According to Hull, Delgado has reached out to FAAPN about hosting listening sessions, which the district confirmed. From FAAPN's perspective, there's still work to be done.

"I think the first thing you have to do is regain confidence with the people you serve," Thomas said.

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Plymouth restaurant owners band together over city's proposed changes

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife com

USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

PLYMOUTH — A group of restaurant owners say they will collectively close their outdoor dining spaces if the city implements a plan to inflate fees and cut available patio space in the downtown

City officials emphasize that no such decisions have been made, but restaurant owners said they were "blindsided" when members of the Plymouth City Commission at their July 17 meeting discussed raising outdoor dining fees from an annual \$1.50 per square foot of patio space to \$15 per square foot of patio space, a 900% increase.

Restaurants also pay an annual flat fee for outdoor dining, which could increase under a new policy, as well.

John Corsi, an owner at Pizza e Vino and Barrio Cocina Y Tequileria, said he attended the meeting at Rotary Park and was surprised city officials did not speak to the restaurant owners before holding a public discussion. City Commission meetings are held at various city parks throughout the summer.

"As I sat there listening, I was just shocked that they could come up with a number like this without even consulting us or asking (restaurant owners) literally anything about it," Corsi said. "The number they came up with is completely illogical. They're not even thinking it through in terms of how it would hurt us – to the point where it doesn't even make sense to open (the patio)."

After the meeting, eight downtown restaurant owners banded together in hopes of generating community support. A statement issued by the group said \$15 per square foot is unreasonable, especially with the substantial investments restaurants already make to create the vibrant atmosphere downtown.

Restaurants in Northville and Ferndale pay \$1.50 per square foot, for example, while Ann Arbor proprietors pay \$1.

Sidewalk clearance

The commission's discussion also included bumping the required pedestrian sidewalk clearance from 6 to 9 feet, which means patio sizes would need to be reduced to accommodate the extra sidewalk space requirements.

For Landon Garrett, an owner at Park Place Gastro Pub on Main Street, that would mean losing about 30% of the space on the new outdoor dining space he spent \$35,000 to build, along with \$75,000 for the patio at Ironwood Grill on Ann Arbor Trail, where he is also an owner.

Garrett said he probably would not have spent the money if he'd known about the proposed changes.

"We had city approval for everything



From left, downtown Plymouth restaurant owners gather Wednesday, July 26, 2023, on Main Street: Sam Khashan of Sean O'Callaghans Public House; Ryan Yaquinto of Compari's, Sardine Room and Fiamma Grill; Billy Farwell of Penn Grill & Bar; Dean Rovinelli of Barrio Cocina Y Tequileria; John Corsi, Pizza e Vino and Barrio Cocina Y Tequileria; and Landon Garrett of Ironwood Grill and Park Place Gastro Pub. LAURA COLVIN

we built," he said, "We talked about color, we talked about railings, everything."

"It's blindsiding," he added, noting he and many of the other restaurant owners were not opposed to a reasonable increase in the outdoor dining fees.

Ryan Yaquinto, owner of Compari's on the Park, Sardine Room and Fiamma Grille, all on Main Street, said the new policy could also require him to move his patios away from the outside wall of the buildings, where they've been located since he opened in 2000.

"What's concerning is the possibility of moving all three patios nine feet away and creating a busy thoroughfare for all of our staff and customers to get through," Yaquinto said, noting he also has concerns over a potential increase in fees. "If it's not broke, lets not fix it."

At Barrio Cocina Y Tequileria, owner Dean Rovinelli said he found the wording in the city documents "aggressive," particularly taking issue with the city's statements that "outdoor dining spaces are meant to supplement, not replace, indoor dining," and that restaurants are "using public property for private economic gain."

"We're not replacing indoor dining," Rovinelli said. "The guests prefer to sit outside. And for them to say we are using it for private economic gain, that's not embracing and understanding the effort that goes into having a patio. The labor, the cost, the insurance, all for something the city benefits from. The vibrancy created by outdoor dining is part of the branding of the city."

No decisions made

But Plymouth Mayor Nick Moroz emphasized that the discussion at the July 17 meeting was just that: a discussion.

"No decisions have been made, whatsoever," Moroz said, noting the city commission has been working with the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority and the city administration to create framework for an outdoor dining policy following several years of changes and adjustments stemming from the pandemic and other considerations.

Currently, he said, the city has two sets of policies related to outdoor dining: one for parking spaces or non-sidewalk spaces used by the restaurants, one for the sidewalk spaces. The city approves the guidelines on an annual basis but would like to create a single policy that provides "a longer runway" for the business owners, the city and everyone who visits the downtown area.

"A new policy should balance the need for walkability in public spaces with the need for outdoor dining," Moroz said, noting he met with the restaurant owners for a "productive" meeting and expected to have additional dialogue at the Aug. 7 meeting.

"lexpect that we'll certainly push forward on having more discussions that get us toward some sort of resolution," he said.

The next meeting of the Plymouth City Commission is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7, at Caster Park.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com.

Farmington Hills 'Hockey Doc' to stand trial for sexual assault

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON HILLS — A Farmington Hills judge has ordered Zvi Levran to stand trial for accusations of sexually assaulting boys and young men.

At a court hearing Tuesday, July 25, Judge James Brady of the 47th District Court bound Levran's case over to the 6th Circuit Court in Pontiac.

Levran, 66, faces 22 counts of criminal sexual conduct in varying degrees. In April, 11 men testified in Farmington Hills about Levran's alleged abuse, which they claim took place during medical appointments at his home in Farmington Hills.

During the first date of the bind over hearing in June, prosecutors argued Levran used his position as a hockey team physician and yoga instructor to manipulate his accusers. Many of the doctor's accusers recalled Levran watching them urinate, asking about their sexual activity and touching them inappropriately.

"They trusted the defendant and the defendant used that trust to violate them," assistant prosecutor Rob Van-Wert said.

Levran, a urologist, volunteered as a team doctor for youth hockey programs around Michigan and Minnesota for more than two decades. His accusers include men who graduated from Livonia, Novi and Farmington high schools.

ovi and Farmington nigh schools.

Jonathan Jones, Levran's attorney,



Zvi Levran, right, being escorted into a Farmington Hills courtroom April 11.
SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

argued witness testimony did not meet the standard needed for the charges to head to trial. Jones said Levran's actions were either not for sexual purpose and, in most cases, for a medical or athletic purpose.

"I've said before that I'm representing an eccentric gentleman" Jones said. "He may seem odd, but odd is not a crime"

Levran is being held at the Oakland County Jail. His bond is set at \$3 million. Judge Yasmine Poles of the Sixth Circuit Court will hear Levran's case.

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

INVITATION TO BID NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS STADIUM BLEACHER REPLACEMENT & PAVING

The Board of Education of Northville Public Schools is accepting firm prime contractor trade specific bids for all labor, materials, equipment and all other services to complete the stadium bleacher replacement and paving work at the Northville Public Schools.

Plans and specifications may be obtained electronically and are available for review at the office of AUCH Construction, 65 University Dr., Pontiac, MI 48342 on or after July 25th, 2023. The bidding documents consist of plans and specifications as prepared by Foresite Design. Complete sets of printed documents may be purchased from ARC Document Solutions, 1009 W. Maple St., Clawson, MI (248-288-5600) or email Michigan.troy@e-arc.com. Contract Jasmine Jefferson or Kirsten Vincent for download instructions at 248-334-2000.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at the Stadium site (Tom Holzer Football Field $-\,682$ Baseline Rd., Northville, MI 48167) on August 1st, 2023 at $3.00 \mathrm{pm}$. This meeting is not mandatory, but highly recommended to all bidders.

Bids will be accepted via Building Connected (electronic bid submission). Hard copy sealed bids will be accepted, however, we strongly encourage using Building Connected submission process. Please upload the appropriate proposal forms provide by the construction manager in the submission. If hard copy bids are delivered they must be sealed bid on the forms provided. An envelope must show your company name, project name and category of work. Hard copies can be delivered to Northville Public Schools at 405 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167. Bids are due no later than August 10th. 2023 at 12;00pm NOON. Any late bids will not be considered.

Bids over the State threshold of \$28,048 must be accompanied with either a certified cashier's check or a U.S. treasury listed security bond in the amount of 5% of the bid amount. Include this in the submission. Bids received without this guaranty will not be read or considered. Electronic scans of the cashier's checks are not accepted. All cashier's checks must be delivered prior to the due date and time. Cashier's Checks will be returned to the bidder upon execution of the contract. All proposals shall be firm for a period of ninety (90) days.

All contracts to be entered into by the Northville Public Schools must and will comply with the equal opportunity laws of the State of Michigan.

All bidders must provide familial disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid proposal. The bid proposal will be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Northville Public Schools, Board of Education or the Northville Public Schools, Superintendent. The District will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this form.

Bids will be opened and read at a public meeting convened on August 10th, 2023 at 1:00pm via Zoom.

Successful bidders whose proposal of \$50,000 or more will be required to furnish a satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of their bid. The cost of this bond shall be included in each proposal.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award contract to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the owner.

Kimberly Campbell-Voytal, Secretary Northville Public Schools, Board of Education

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CAMINAL SOLD

Meijer, apartments proposed for old Livonia Kmart property

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — The long-vacant Kmart site at the corner of Seven Mile and Farmington roads is the subject of a new development proposal.

The corner, vacant since 2017, is seen by officials as one of the premier development opportunities in the city. It's also noted as a prime location for a mixed-use, downtown-like development in the Livonia Vision 21 Master Plan.

Schostak Brothers and Company, which owns the 16.5 acre site, is proposing a Meijer and four-story apartment building on the property. The company estimates the project would cost \$60 million. At a planning commission meeting Tuesday, July 25, a large group of residents who live nearby urged the commission to vote against the proposal as it stands.

"If you throw a pebble into a stream, you forever change the character of that stream," resident Roger Stacey said during a public comment period that lasted for over an hour. "We're asking that you not let this project be that pebble."

The commission ultimately moved to table the proposal indefinitely with a 4-2 vote. Chair Ian Wilshaw and Vice Chair Glen Long voted against tabling.

Density concerns

Residents expressed concerns about the proposed apartment building on the western end of the old Kmart property. The building would hold roughly 200 units over four floors and include amenities like a pool, gym, dog park and balconies.

The apartment portion would take up just under 7 acres of the site. The current proposal is about 62 units over what the master plan recommends for a site that size. Critics think the proposal is too dense.

"I think the development is due. I've



A rendering of a proposed apartment complex near Seven Mile and Farmington roads in Livonia.

IMAGES COURTESY OF SCHOSTAK BROTHERS AND COMPANY



A rendering of the proposed Meijer at the former Kmart in Livonia.

looked at that site and wondered why somebody isn't doing something with it," resident Jack Parr said. "But I think someone could develop a smaller density residential development."

Jeff Schostak, president of Schostak Brothers, said the apartments would be high end and cost \$2,400 or more a

"They'll be the nicest apartments in Livonia," he said.

More concerns

Residents were also concerned with the traffic a grocery store would bring.

"The roads over there are horrible," resident Jay VanAtter said. "Having those (delivery) trucks going by there is going to be a disaster."

The proposed store would be smaller than the average Meijer. According to Schostak Brothers, the store would only offer daily needs like food and health supplies. The concept, called Meijer Grocery, is already available at stores in Macomb and Lake Orion.

Some residents argued Livonia, which already has a wide selection of large and small grocery stores, doesn't need another Meijer. Others, in a small minority, said they just want to see the empty corner redeveloped.

"I think you've got to look to the future," resident Nancy Savageau said. "50 years ago when they were considering the Kmart, nobody wanted it. It came, and everybody enjoyed it."

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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. you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 10 letters left over. They spell out

Anneze	Coral	Goby	Plug
ANSA	Crmb	Hand	Port
Bake	Dalwa	Hilling	Radio
Banana	Depth	Necks	Rods.
prawns	Disappointment	Item	Ropes
Bass	Dive	Jigs	Set nav
Bays	Dory	Land	Sharks
Boat	Eels	Line	Spin
Bone	Esky	Lare	Squid
Barer	Fees	Mullet	Tasty
Bridge	Fish	Nibble	Tuna
Chips	Files	Oysters	Rend
Chub	Fork	Patience	Worms
Cobia	Gaff	Pike	
Co-op	Gear	Pipl	

TODAY'S ANSWER

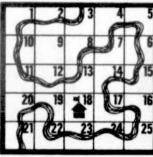
What a catch!

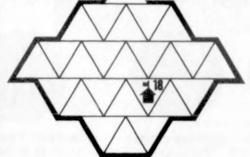
Gone fishin

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PUZZLES & POSERS

THIS PUZZLE CHALLENGES YOU TO TRANSFER THE COURSE OF THE RIVER FROM THE GRID SQUARE MAP TO THE TRIANGULAR MAP. ~AS A STARTER THE SCHOOLHOUSE HAS BEEN CORRECTLY, TRANSFERRED.





SUDOKU | CREATORS

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

TODAY'S ANSWER

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NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Lays back

6 Chart-topper

returnee in 2022 (after 40 years) 10 It has a "What Can I DOWN

Bring?" web page 13 More than a little

15 Shameless remark 16 It holds drafts

all year 17 Effuse 18 Squirt

19 See 42 Down 20 Heralds

21 On target 22 Untold

23 Going quietly 24 Deals with,

after delaying 27 Give out too soon 30 Sultana analogue

31 Get set 32 Excellent reception 36 Not necessarily

precisely 37 Subject of a 2021 Supreme Court antitrust decision

38 Last surviving of AFT's Top 25 Female stars

39 Focus 43 Legacy of a sort 44 Very difficult to move

45 Metaphorical menial 48 She met King Abdullah in 1948

49 Words before an entrance 50 "Yeesh!" 51 Regard

inappropriately 52 Mainstay of protein engineering 54 Thinks of unhappily 55 Steepness warning 10 Gave to receive

56 As in 57 Tuft stuff 58 Striker's stances

1 Scale model 2 Transcend 3 Type of invasive

plant 4 Marcel's mighty 5 Evidence of unhappiness

6 They're in coffeehouses' dress codes 27 Dress __

7 Nursery rhyme singers' evocations 8 Engendered

9 World's busiest hub in '22

"boy's tutor"

29 What Disney called its "most dramatic motion picture

33 Posturing 11 Summarized, say

15 Middle name of

20 Stock market

24 Bert alternative

25 Less than rare

26 They may be

28 Literally.

pulling for you

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Breyer's successor antagonizers 42 With 19 Across 22 "Bitter" beverage compound 23 Conifer creation

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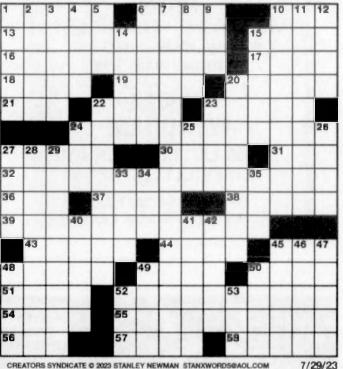
habitat

connection 45 Chinwags 46 How lunch is often

47 Spain's Oscars 48 Bite on the trail 49 Relishing

50 Not necessarily precisely

52 Faint 53 Hit with a snowball



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CDC: Toxic blue-green algae infecting humans, pets, wildlife in Michigan

Mika Travis

Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Harmful algae blooms in Michigan and other states are spiking during the summer in freshwater bodies such as lakes, according to a recent CDC report.

Harmful algae blooms are often caused by a rapid growth of cyanobacteria, known as blue-green algae, a naturally occurring bacteria. Gary Kohlhepp, Lake Michigan unit supervisor of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, said that a small amount of cyanobacteria is a safe and natural part of the water system, but it can become toxic when it begins to cluster in large quantities and creates blooms. Toxins produced in these blooms can lead to illness in humans and animals.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, bluegreen algae blooms are a common occurrence in the Great Lakes, specifically Lake Erie.

CDC report results

The CDC report collected voluntary data from public health agencies across 16 states on harmful algae bloom events in 2021, referred to as harmful algal blooms in the report. Here were the findings:

• Most reported events occurred during the summer, with a peak in August (25% of reported events).

• Most of the events (90%) reported were in lakes, reservoirs or other freshwater bodies.

• A third of the reports of human illness occurred in June.

• The most common symptoms in humans were gastrointestinal, generalized (headaches and fevers, for example), and dermatologic.

• Reports of animal illnesses occurred primarily in August (86%), mostly involving wildlife.

• The most common symptoms in domestic pets were gastrointestinal, such as vomiting, and generalized, such as lethargy.



In this Sept. 20, 2017 photo, a catfish appears on the shoreline in the algae-filled waters of Lake Erie at the end of 113th Street in the Point Place section of North Toledo, Ohio. Annual algae blooms are primarily fueled by nutrient runoff pollution from farm fields. ANDY MORRISON/AP

• A harmful algae bloom event in Washington killed 2,000 bats.

• There were 368 harmful algae bloom events reported, resulting in 117 human cases of illness and at least 2,715 animal cases of illness. (Animal cases are underrepresented because some group animal reports did not provide the number of total animals impacted, or indicated that the number they gave was an underestimate.)

Kohlhepp said that EGLE had seen an increase in reporting on harmful algae blooms, though that may not indicate an actual increase in the quantity of blooms in the state.

"I think some of that increase is just that people are more aware of it and more likely to report it," he said.

Spotting harmful algae blooms

These harmful algae blooms can appear as accumulations of algae that coat the surface of the water or as a neon green color in the water.

Kohlhepp said that if there aren't any visible signs of a harmful algae bloom in the water, there's a good chance it's safe, though the only certain way to tell whether a body of water is toxic is by testing

In one instance, Kohlhepp's team tested a clear spot in a lake that had a harmful algae bloom in another part of it. In the spot that appeared clear, there was only a miniscule amount of cyanobacteria picked up.

"The good news is, generally, if you don't see a bloom, the toxins are not present," Kohlhepp said. "There's almost always an indication that there's something going on when the toxins are present, either that bright color or the surface accumulation."

Symptoms of exposure

According to Michigan Sea Grant, the most common type of blue-green algae in the Great Lakes is microcystis, a bacteria which produces a liver toxin and skin irritant.

When exposed to these harmful algae blooms, humans often develop a rash. Other possible symptoms include nausea, headache and fever.

Animals, such as dogs, who experience symptoms may appear sluggish. Other symptoms found in animals include vomiting and dark urine.

Steps to take after exposure

Because humans usually experience dermatologic symptoms, Kohlhepp recommends washing off as soon as possible after coming in contact with a harmful algae bloom. If they notice symptoms, they should visit a doctor for next steps.

Dogs and other animals should also be rinsed off after exposure, though symptoms may still arise if they ingested the algae-filled water. Pet owners should watch for symptoms and take them to a veterinarian if they notice any symptoms.

How to report a harmful algae bloom

EGLE collects reports of harmful algae blooms through email at algae-bloom@michigan.gov. They recommend sending a photo alongside the report, so that they can more easily identify algae blooms and send someone to test the water.

Free outdoor fitness park opens in Westland for teens, adults

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

WESTLAND — Teens and adults looking for ways to exercise outside have a new option at their disposal.

The City of Westland, in partnership with Priority Health and the National Fitness Campaign, recently opened an outdoor fitness court at Jaycee Park, 34399 Hunter Ave.

The court is designed for teens and adults 14 or older. All seven stations on the court allow people to use their own body weight to complete a circuit-style workout — no extra equipment required.

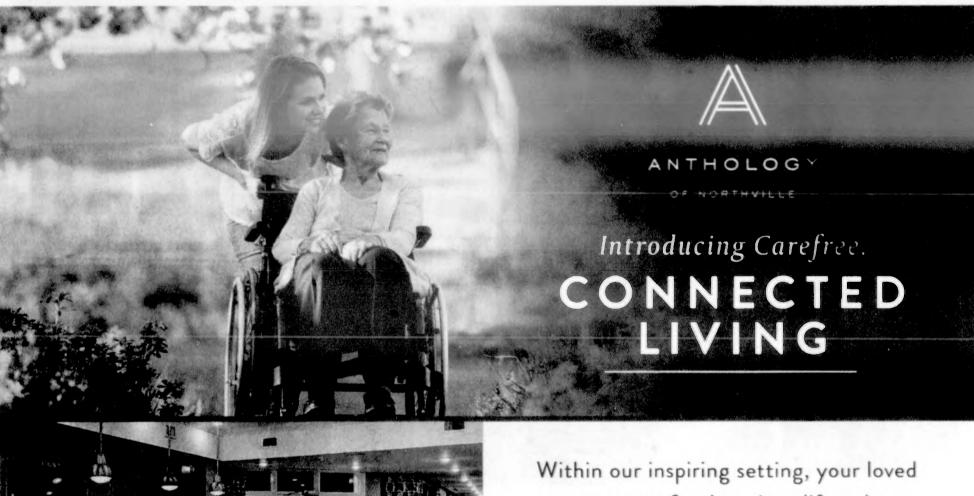
People who want some guidance during their workout can download a free National Fitness Campaign app on their phone, downloadable by scanning a QR code at the court.

"At Priority Health, we believe all people have the right to a healthy life and that's why we are committed to investing in the community to help reduce barriers to free, accessible fitness and improve wellness for the neighbors of Westland," said Joyce Chan Russell, senior vice president of government markets at Priority Health, in a release. "We are excited to partner with the city of Westland and the National Fitness Campaign to open this Priority Health Fitness Court as we continue to expand on this initiative across the state."

Nearby, Claude Allison Park in Redford Township has an identical fitness court that opened in 2021.

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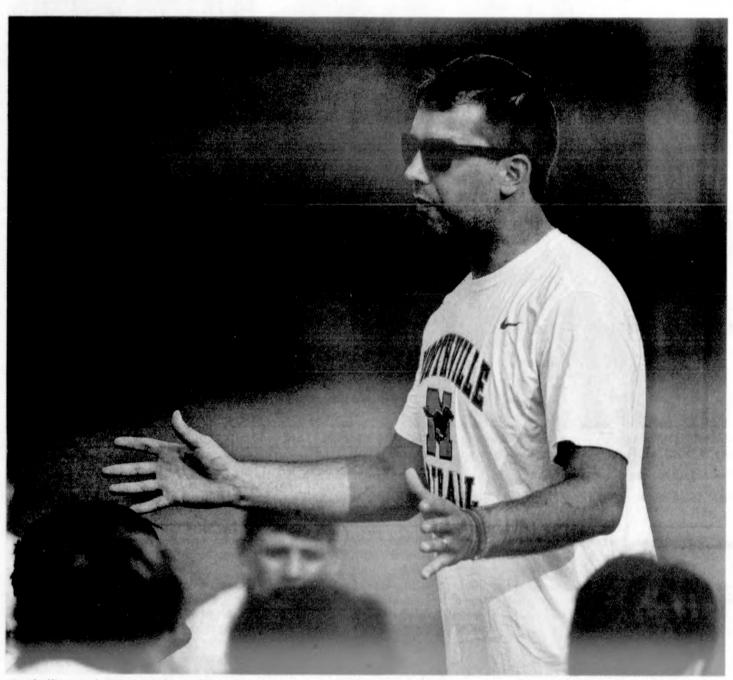
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SPORTS



Northville coach Brent Luplow talks to his players during a 7-on-7 football scrimmage July 25 at North Farmington. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Team chemistry paramount as new Northville football coach takes over

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Creating team chemistry has been priority No. 1 for first-year Northville football coach Brent Luplow.

Longtime coach Matt Ladach retired following last year's 8-3 campaign. With the Mustangs returning 15 starters and

having a talented enough roster to compete for a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West championship, a strong relationship between the players and the new coaching staff will be key.

That's why the former Brighton assistant recently took the Mustangs on a three-day retreat to Bluffton University in Ohio. They spent time together in the dorms, participated in team-bonding exercises and endured hours of intensive practices each day.

All of that should have them better prepared to play as a team when they open the season against Clarkston on Aug. 25 during a Battle at the Big House showcase game at Michigan

See COACH, Page 2B

McLeod's leadership helping smooth Marian's rebuild

Brandon Folsom

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

Molly McLeod is the leader of the Bloomfield Hills Marian girls basketball team.

You can't question that. It's blatantly obvious when you watch the Mustangs play in summer league.

Which is saying something because she hasn't even started her junior year

But when you've faced the types of challenges she has, it's easy to see why her teammates look up to her.

A year ago, she was placed into an almost impossible situation, yet she somehow helped the Mustangs (10-14) find success before their season end-

Just look at what she's been

through. Longtime coach Mary Cicerone, who led Marian to six state championships, retired following the 2022 season. One of her assistants, Michelle Lindsey, took over the program, but only four of her returning players had varsity experience. And, really, Butler University commit Mackenzie Swanson was the only one who played serious minutes under Cicerone.

Lindsey was asked to orchestrate a full program rebuild. Struggles were expected for the Mustangs. And, sure enough, they came. At one point last winter, they lost eight straight games. In the past, it would've been shocking for them to lose eight games over the course of two or three seasons com-

What's more, Lindsey didn't have a point guard, so she tabbed McLeod to

See LEADERSHIP, Page 2B

Finally, Jonathon Jefferson Jr. gets to play QB for Garden City

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It doesn't matter what it is.

College camps. Scrimmages and 7on-7s. Workouts at Legacy Center. Private instruction with local quarterback gurus Alex Grignon, Donovan Dooley and Kyle Short.

All you need to know is Garden City senior Jonathon Jefferson Jr. just eats, sleeps and breathes football.

All day long. Rain or shine. That's why it's a shame the QB has hardly gotten a chance to play in high

school He was part of New Boston Huron's program as a freshman. But when his grandfather got cancer, Jefferson Jr.'s family was forced to move to the Garden City area to make caring for his grandfather easier.

Of course, that meant Jefferson Jr.

had to sit out his sophomore year because of the MHSAA's transfer rule.

Last year was finally going to be his time to shine for the Cougars. Except late in their Week 1 game against Linden, three-star Rutgers commit Monte Keener got a clean shot at Jefferson Jr. and banged up the QB's right knee.

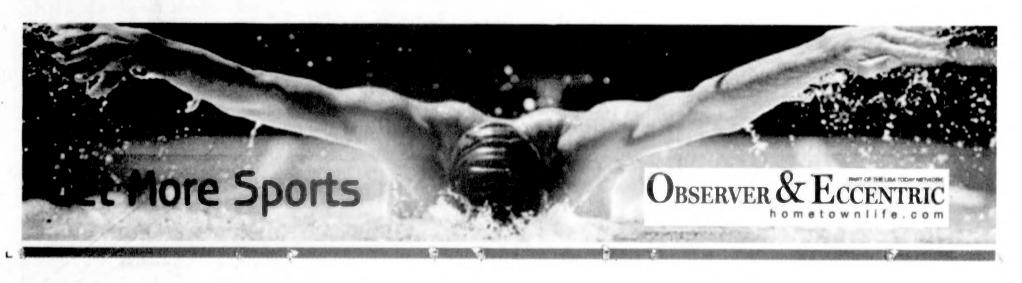
One week later, in the league opener against Romulus, Jefferson Jr. rolled out on third-and-5 and attempted to throw to Nathan Wasil but got his cleat stuck

in the turf. That's all it took to end his season. That knee injury from the week before turned into a full-blown medial collateral ligament (MCL) tear.

Jefferson Jr. missed the rest of the 2022 season rehabilitating following knee surgery.

It's been a long road for him to get back with his team, but he's done it. And just in time, too. Garden City, 6-4

See GARDEN CITY, Page 6B



Leadership

Continued from Page 1B

direct the offense despite the fact that McLeod is actually a true shooting guard. McLeod excels at hitting midand long-range shots. It's what she does for her travel teams, and it's what she was hoping to do in high school.

So to recap: McLeod played an unfamiliar position as essentially a brand new varsity player for a brand new head coach in arguably the best conference in Michigan — the Catholic League-Central — as only a sophomore.

Yikes.

McLeod took her lumps, but Marian figured it out. They closed out the season winning six of their final seven games, which wasn't a surprise. This was a Marian basketball team after all.

But what was a surprise was McLeod and Swanson leading the Mustangs to a Division 1 district championship over Birmingham Seaholm. That solidified it for McLeod: It wasn't a wasted season for her. It wasn't some ho-hum rebuilding year. The team actually achieved something worthwhile.

"Going into the year, my dad and I talked about it being a learning experience and just taking it one day at a time," McLeod told Hometown Life following a pair of Summer League Shootout games earlier this month. "So I was very lucky. If you win every game, what would I learn? I wouldn't haven gotten better. So I got a lot better, and I learned some new things. It has definitely helped me become a better leader, and it'll make this year so much easier. Our game schedule is going to be harder, but I think we're ready for it."

How McLeod and the Mustangs finished the 2022-23 season is how good they should be when this winter comes around.

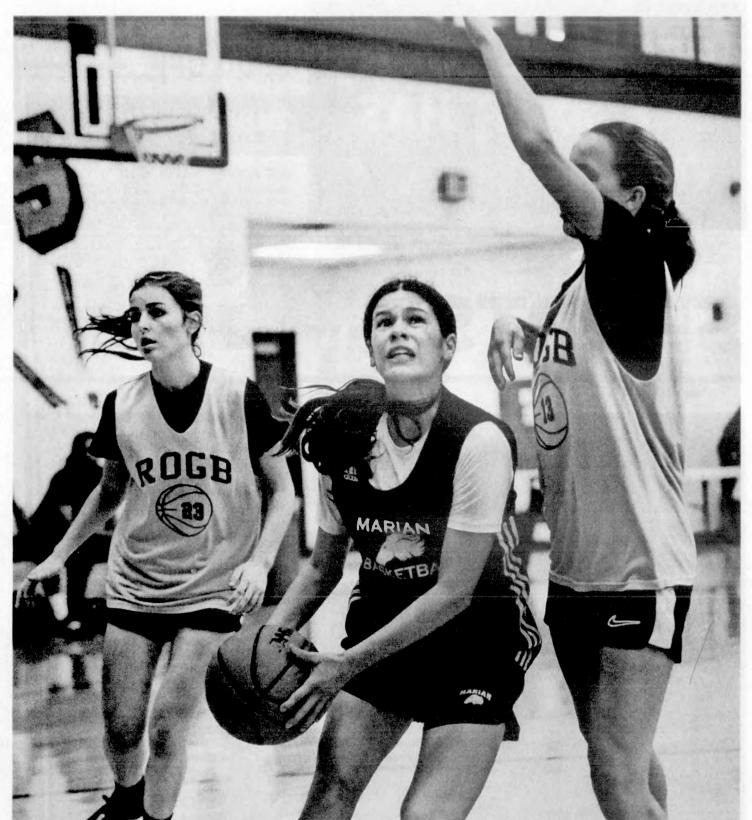
But that doesn't mean it won't be challenging.

Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard will have one of the deepest and most-talented rosters in the state. It's expected to compete for a D-2 state championship and defend its CHSL tournament title.

Farmington Hills Mercy graduated three key seniors in Fran DeNardo, Maya White and Lauren Smiley, but they bring back their new dynamic duo in Aizlyn Albanese and Emily Walker. And Albanese has already proved she's one of the top players in the entire league. She was the No. 3 selection on Hometown Life's All-Area team as only a sophomore.

And, of course, the big question mark is how will the CHSL-Central teams compete against the three new schools from Ohio who are joining the league? That's Toledo Central Catholic, a co-ed school with an enrollment of just under 600 students, and the two all-girls schools in Notre Dame Academy and St. Ursula Academy (Note: There are also two all-boys schools joining as well in St. Francis de Sales School and St. John's Jesuit).

"We're excited," Lindsey said. "I feel where we're at now compared to where we ended, we're a little higher (skill-



Bloomfield Hills Marian's Mack Reid attacks the basket during a Summer League Shootout girls basketball game Thursday, July 14, 2023, at Novi Fieldhouse. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

wise). If we just keep building, I feel like the girls have a lot of confidence now that they've got that year under their belt. Not only the girls but me as well in my first year of coaching. (Rebuilding was tough), but I think it was perfect timing for when I came in. It was a good experience. I'm so glad and blessed after last year. The record didn't say much, but they're all great kids. Having everyone back, we're just all excited. We have some new pieces that can help fill in the puzzle. The girls are just all meshing much better this year already."

And some of that has to do with McLeod's leadership.

She has helped bring along four new freshmen that Lindsey is considering bringing up on varsity this winter. Plus, she's been an ally for current players who are already well established as solid contributors. Aside from Mackenzie Swanson, that includes Ella Swanson,

Mackenzie's younger sister and an upand-coming post player in Ruby Jansen, the daughter of former NFL player Jon Jansen, who has proved she can be a physical forward and Abby Landa and Charlie Bingham, who both also saw plenty of playing time. And don't be surprised if freshman Cece Murray becomes a battler in the post this winter as well.

The best part about the new makeup of this squad is that McLeod won't be asked to be the full-time point guard. Freshman Mack Reid has helped McLeod with that job. Depending on matchups, having Reid on the floor could allow McLeod to line up on the wing for some catch-and-shoot 3-pointers.

"She's been out there pushing all the young ones," Lindsey said of McLeod's effort this summer. "Just her leadership, she knows what it takes, and she's pushing. The young ones are serious

freshmen basketball players. In our open gyms and summer leagues, they've already been top notch, and it's been impressive. And (McLeod) has been helping them out."

Is it fair to consider Marian a CHSL-Central contender today? Probably not. But it's safe to say the rebuild is closer to being completed than many expected. And that's a testament to players such as McLeod, who have sacrificed minutes, points and accolades for the program's health.

Now that's a true leader.

"I wasn't used to being the leader, obviously, but I think we were really lucky to be in the position where we all could learn a lot last year," McLeod said. "It wasn't the easiest at times, but I don't think I could have grown as much as I did without going through it."

Follow Brandon Folsom on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

Coach

Continued from Page 1B

"We left camp a heck of a lot more tight-knit than when we got there," said Luplow during Tuesday's 7-on-7 games at North Farmington. "That was important, that was special. We've had some really good turnouts, and we're getting better. It's been a whirlwind last five months, but I've gotten to know a lot of people in the community and within the football program, and we're ready to rock and roll."

But it hasn't been an easy transition between coaching regimes.

Half the coaching staff is brand new, which includes new coordinators in all three phases of the game. They're installing new schemes on both defense and offense.

While the Mustangs are a veteran team with about 55 players expected to make the varsity roster, this summer has been a lot about learning new con-

"It's been a huge reset, and we've done a lot of new things they've never done before," Luplow said. "But there's some new energy in the program. But it has been an intensive summer of putting in new schemes and learning. I think we're starting to see the work show in some of these competitive events like 7 on 7s. We're going to look a little bit different than past teams, but we've got some pieces to work with, and the cupboard is not empty by any means."

eans. That's certainly true across the



Northville's Cullen Murphy races for a first down during a 7-on-7 football scrimmage July 25 at North Farmington. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

board.

The Mustangs return four All-KLAA first-team selections in running back Caleb Moore, linebacker Evan Deak and linemen Graham Gilmartin and Jordan Ferris.

But they also have other returners who will take on more prominent roles, including backup quarterback Isaac Pace who should move into the starting role, among others.

A year ago, a three-point loss to Brighton kept the Mustangs out of the KLAA championship game. But being one of the best teams in the league generated plenty of mojo amongst the players. It's inspired them to get better this off-season. Now they're ready to build off of the success they enjoyed in 2022.

"It's been really great," said captain Drew Rankin, a junior defensive back. "We have a lot of returning guys, so it's still a family. These guys (the new coaching staff) have come in and just embodied what we're doing here, so it's been really great so far. Obviously, we still have some work to do, but we're really confident. We're just going to keep working. By the time Clarkston comes Week 1, we'll be ready."

The goals are simple for Luplow in

He wants to change the way outsiders look at the Mustangs. He doesn't want them to be considered soft by opponents and wants to see more grit on the field.

Luplow believes they can compete for a division title. And they should. While defending state champion Belleville is in the league, the Tigers are in the East. Northville should have what it takes to compete with the likes of Hartland, Howell, Brighton, Salem, Plymouth, Canton and rival Novi for the West title. Anything else is just gravy.

And, most importantly, he wants the Mustangs to have back-to-back winning records for the first time since 2016. The only way to make the team a consistent winner is to go out there and, well, win consistently. The program can't continue to bounce back and forth between winning seasons and laying an egg anymore.

Luplow has high hopes for Northville. And he should. The school wins in almost everything it competes in, from rowing to soccer and track and field. Why not football, too?

"That's a huge step we need to take, having back-to-back winning seasons," Luplow said. "We need to prove that we can consistently win. We want to be a championship-level program. We don't want to say that we just play football. We're not out here just to play. We want to believe that we can win championships. We want to believe we can win division and league titles."

Follow Brandon Folsom on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

Hartland's Mattord dominant on football and lacrosse field

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Jim Carl was under no obligation to offer unsolicited praise for Hartland senior Joey Mattord.

It would be understandable, even expected, if Mattord's own coach raved about him after a four-goal performance May 10 during a 15-6 lacrosse victory over Brighton.

But Carl coaches the rival Bulldogs. He didn't have to go out of his way to proclaim Mattord "the best athlete in the county" — but he did.

Carl is not only familiar with what Mattord could do on a lacrosse field, but had a chance to watch him the past three falls as a member of Brighton's football staff.

The Livingston Daily is affirming what Carl said that night, selecting Mattord as Livingston County's Male Athlete of the Year for the 2022-23 school year.

Mattord was the county's leading rusher for the second straight season and was a first-team all-state selection in lacrosse. He helped the Eagles make the state football playoffs a program-record three straight seasons and reach the state semifinals in lacrosse after winning the Division 1 title his junior year.

"Joey's a tremendous athlete, a really natural athlete," Hartland lacrosse coach Nick Levanti said. "He's got size, speed, toughness. He's crazy athletic in terms of how shifty he is and body control. A lot of what he does as a running back translates to what he does on a lacrosse field."

While lacrosse is the sport in which Mattord won a state championship and made all-state, he put away his stick following a 10-9 loss to Detroit Catholic Central in the state semifinals on June 7.

Just 12 days later, he was moving into his dorm at Eastern Michigan University where he will play running back as a preferred walk-on. The next day, he was at a 5 a.m. football workout.

He is taking two summer classes and trying to absorb as much as he can to prepare for his first season of college football.



Hartland's Joey Mattord is Livingston County's 2022-23 Male Athlete of the Year. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

"I was ready to move on, play some college ball, a different atmosphere, get new coaching, learn new stuff," Mattord said. "Honestly, it's good, but my brain's kind of scrambling through all the new stuff being thrown at us, which is normal for us as freshmen."

Mattord's summers were typically spent traveling to the east coast to play the best lacrosse competition possible and get exposure to top college programs. He gave that up last year once he realized he was more passionate about playing football in college.

"I miss going out to the east side of the country, just seeing what's new, playing with my boys and some of the new faces, stuff like that," Mattord said. "I had a good time, especially with my dad on long drives out there.

"I kept my options open. They couldn't talk to us at the time, because I was still going into my junior year. On the day when they could call or text us, a few called and texted me. I told them I'm keeping my options open and looking at football."

Mattord began playing lacrosse when he was 9, but got an even earlier start than most playing football in an instructional league when he was 4.

"I kind of feel free playing football," he said. "I don't have to think about much; it comes naturally. Just being an athlete out on the field is nice."

During his three-year career at Hartland, Mattord rushed 386 times for 2,655 yards and 32 touchdowns. He was the county's only 1,000-yard rusher the past two seasons, running 174 times for 1,109 yards and three touchdowns as a junior and 191 times for 1,322 yards and 17 touchdowns as a senior.

"He's just a great athlete who we used quite a bit," former Hartland coach Brian Savage said. "He's probably one of the most dynamic running backs I've seen in a long time. He made plays happen. He was just a lot of fun to watch. He ended up being a pretty good defensive player, as well. He's one of the best football players in the county, for sure."

In lacrosse, Mattord scored 28 goals and 18 assists this spring. He had 70 goals and 51 assists during his three-year career, making second-team all-state as a sophomore.

"Lacrosse helped a lot with my conditioning, running around the field," Mattord said. "When you dodge with lacrosse, it's basically like running around a defensive back."

Hartland has produced the county's Male Athlete of the Year five of the last six years. Lacrosse star Reece Potter won in 2017-18 and 2018-19 and recordsetting distance runner Riley Hough won in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Male Athletes of the Year

1996-97 — Drew Henson, Brighton (football, basketball, baseball)
1997-98 — Drew Henson, Brighton

(football, basketball, baseball) 1998-99 — Frank Garcia, Brighton (golf, hockey, baseball)

1999-2000 — Eric Walters, Howell (cross country, basketball, baseball)

2000-01 — Ben Tecmire, Howell (football, wrestling, track & field)
2001-02 — Zach Douglass, Fowler-

2001-02 — Zach Douglass, Fowlerville (football, basketball, track & field) 2002-03 — Sean Hoorelbeke, Hartland (football, baseball)

2003-04 — Chris Elsey, Brighton (football, basketball, track & field) 2004-05 — Ian Boyle, Pinckney

(cross country, track & field) 2005-06 — Zach Nichols, Brighton (football, basketball, track & field)

2006-07 — David Emery, Pinckney (cross country, track & field)

2007-08 — Ryan Ross, Fowlerville (football, basketball, baseball) 2008-09 — Kyle Summerfield, Har-

tland (football, wrestling, baseball) 2009-10 — Bryce Lindberg, Howell

(football, baseball)
2010-11 — Adam Coon, Fowlerville
(football, wrestling, track & field)

2011-12 — Adam Coon, Fowlerville (football, wrestling, track & field)
2012-13 — Adam Coon, Fowlerville

(football, wrestling, track & field) 2013-14 — Nick Brish, Brighton (football, wrestling, lacrosse)

2014-15 — Nick Brish, Brighton (football, wrestling, lacrosse)

2015-16 — Joey Clifford, Brighton (football, hockey)
2016-17 — Caleb Balgaard, Howell

2016-17 — Caleb Balgaard, Howell (swimming and diving, baseball)
2017-18 — Reece Potter, Hartland

(football, wrestling, lacrosse)
2018-19 — Reece Potter, Hartland
(football wrestling lacrosse)

(football, wrestling, lacrosse) 2019-20 — Luke Stanton, Brighton

(football, wrestling) 2020-21 — Riley Hough, Hartland

(cross country, track & field) 2021-22 — Riley Hough, Hartland (cross country, track & field)

2022-23 — Joey Mattord, Hartland (football, lacrosse)

Former Detroit King star QB Dequan Finn now thriving at Toledo

Jenna Malinowski

Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Toledo quarterback and Detroit native Dequan Finn was back in his hometown recently for the 2023 MAC football kickoff.

Although it had been a while, it was not his first time at the Fox Theatre.

Finn reflected fondly on the memory of seeing "Sesame Street Live" as a kid and said returning now is a full circle moment.

The former Detroit King star took a big leap in his past two seasons as the starter.

He threw for 2,260 yards and 23 touchdowns last season to lead the Rockets to the MAC championship.

"I did a good job, as far as helping the team accelerate to a better level but, there's always work to be done," Finn said on July 20. "I'm just trying to improve my game to help the overall team get better as one because that's what we always talk about, living as one, like I said, just improve my game to put my head down, just stick to the X's and O's and you know, developing as a better player."

Finn credits the connection he formed with head coach Jason Candle while he was at King as to what led him to Toledo.

However, at first glance, Candle didn't think he was going to be the guy to lead the team.

"I watched him play a game as a high school junior and (came) away from that game thinking like, no way this guy can play quarterback for us," Candle said.

Things changed a year later, partly due to circumstances outside of Finn's control.

"The game that I went to his senior year, the visiting team was actually late in getting to the game. So the start time got pushed back a little bit," Candle said. "Watching him go out on the field without his coaches forcing him to do that

pregame and then work through the passing route tree with his guys and getting them ready and how his teammates responded to him really solidified to me that this guy can be a guy that could just lead our program, and his maturation process at Toledo has been consistent with that."

Finn has kept those same characteristics since coming to Toledo, something Candle believes has made him the quarterback he is today.

"He's won the job here because his teammates rallied around him," Candle said. "And that didn't happen without authentic relationships and strong connections with guys in the locker room, so any quarterback at any level that's had any successes, that's the foundation of where it begins. Then ultimately, the result of that is really good play on the field."

The other trait that has made Finn so successful, according to Candle, is his ability to step up in big moments. He pointed specifically to the team's matchup against Kent State last season where the Rockets fell behind early, 21-0.

Finn brushed it off to match a program-record six touchdown passes and rushed for one himself to give Toledo a 52-31 win.

Entering his senior season, Finn believes his personal goals stem from team goals.

For example, he wants to improve his turnover ratio by taking better care of the football.

The main goal as a team is to win another conference championship, and to achieve that, he would like to throw for more than 3,000 yards and 30 touchdowns.

Even if he doesn't reach those stats, he'll be happy doing whatever it takes to hoist that championship trophy once again at Ford Field, just a short walk away from Fox Theater and a short ride from his old high school.

The Rockets open the season Sept. 2 at Illinois (7:30 p.m., Big Ten Network).



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Daugard leaves indelible mark at Howell

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If Howell senior Sophie Daugard competed in only track and field, she would still have a strong case for Livingston Daily Female Athlete of the Year.

No other sport offers the opportunity to showcase as wide an array of athletic talents as the sport much of the world refers to as "athletics."

How many state champion shot putters are also regional champions in the long jump while also qualifying for the state meet in the 100-meter dash and 1,600 relay?

It takes a range of athletic ability that few possess, which is why Ball State University recruited her to compete in heptathlon, which consists of seven events.

Daugard was also one of the top basketball players in the area last winter and played golf in the fall, though admittedly at not as high a level as her other sports.

It all added up to make Daugard Howell's first county Female Athlete of the Year since Anna Patritto in 2006-07.

Perhaps the most significant "first athlete since" achieved by Daugard was her first-place finish in shot put at the state Division 1 track and field meet.

She was the first girl from a Livingston County school to win a state track and field championship since Brighton's Julie Stowers took first in the 800-meter run in 1998. Daugard is one of only four county girls to win state titles in that sport, joining high jumper Ellen Dempsey (1974) as the only champs from Howell.

Now she is heading off to college to compete in a sport she assumed she would be giving up once she graduated high school. A four-year varsity basketball player, Daugard initially focused on getting to the next level on the hardwood.

"My lith-grade year, that's when I started honing in on basketball," Daugard said. "My stats went way up from my 10th-grade to lith-grade year, because I put so much more effort in. I tried that for a year. All those rolled ankles and everything, lots of things hap-



Howell senior Sophie Daugard, a three-sport athlete, is the 2022-23 Livingston County Female Athlete of the Year.

DAN ZEPPA/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

pened. Then track came around. I was like, 'This could be good for me.'"

Daugard became only the second girl from Livingston County to break 40 feet in the shot put when she threw 41 feet, 10.75 inches at the Highland Games Invitational on April 22.

The other? Her sister, Lily, who broke the barrier two years ago and set the county mark of 43-5.

Sophie chased Lily's record the rest of the spring, but came seven inches short

Daugard picked up shot put her junior year because of an ankle injury suffered playing spring basketball. Before that, long jump was her strong event. She won the regional meet in that event with a leap of 17 feet, 4 inches.

She was also the regional runner-up in the 100 before running a personal-best 12.74 seconds in the state meet. She extended her range to 400 meters to run on the 1,600 relay team with three distance runners.

"I don't think I've coached an athlete this versatile with so many tools in her toolbox and her mentality and her work ethic," Howell track and field coach Chris Gadjev said. "She's the best I've personally coached."

In basketball, like in track and field, Daugard could do many things well. She averaged 10.5 points, 5.6 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 2.4 steals. She had a teamhigh 59 deflections and, despite being undersized at 5-foot-6, would often guard the opposing team's big girl. Daugard earned first-team all-county.

"She's a fierce competitor," said Tim Olszewski, Howell's former girls basketball coach. "She's somebody who doesn't like to lose and is willing to put forth the extra effort needed to be a champion in all that she does. People like that are few and far between."

It was while watching another sibling, older brother Gage, that Daugard was inspired to play basketball at Howell.

"I used to think it was so cool when my brother would play basketball, because they dimmed the lights in the gym," she said.

Howell lost to Hartland in the district championship game each of Daugard's first three seasons. The Highlanders finally turned the tables this season, beating the Eagles to win their first district title since 2016.

"It was pretty cool, a good way to leave basketball season going into track," Daugard said. "... (Losing in districts) was so frustrating, because we'd see other teams like Wayne Memorial make it far. We're like, 'Oh, my goodness, we're so much better than them."

Before Daugard had the chance to showcase herself in her two primary sports, the first sport she played in a Howell uniform was golf. She was looking for a fall sport after trying cross country and volleyball in middle school.

It was an eye-opening experience not being one of the best athletes. As a senior, her lowest scores were 100 for 18 holes and 49 for nine.

"It was cool to learn," she said. "I didn't play golf until my ninth-grade year; the first day of tryouts was my first time. I try to use golf as learning to let go and not take things so seriously, because I have a habit of doing that in my career. Being in a sport where I'm not the best and I'm not going to be the best unless I put a lot more time into it, I had fun and was able to fail and be OK."

Livingston County Female Athletes of the Year

1996-97 — Julie Murray, Howell (bas-

ketball, volleyball, softball)

1997-98 — Libby Voshell, Brighton (basketball, volleyball, softball)

1998-99 — Libby Voshell, Brighton (basketball, volleyball, softball)

1999-2000 — Stephanie Benear, Howell (basketball, softball)

2000-01 — Kristen Cullen, Hartland (basketball, softball)

2001-02 — Brittany Fulks, Brighton

(basketball, volleyball, softball) 2002-03 — Brittany Fulks, Brighton

2002-03 — Brittany Fulks, Brighton (basketball, softball)

2003-04 — Katie Gonta, Brighton (basketball, softball)

2004-05 — Adrianne McNally, Pinckney (basketball, volleyball)

2005-06 — Adrianne McNally, Pinckney (basketball, volleyball, track & field)

2006-07 — Anna Patritto, Howell (basketball, volleyball, softball)

2007-08 — Emily Williams, Fowler-ville (volleyball, softball)

2008-09 — Lindsay Meyer, Pinckney (volleyball, soccer)

2009-10 — Avery Evenson, Hartland (cross country, swimming, track & field) 2010-11 — Avery Evenson, Hartland (cross country, swimming, track & field) 2011-12 — Avery Evenson, Hartland

(cross country, swimming, track & field) 2012-13 — Lindsey Pajot, Hartland (swimming, basketball, softball)

2013-14 — Jenna Sica, Brighton (cross country, skiing, track & field)

2014-15 — Maddie Pogarch, Hartland (football, basketball, soccer)

2015-16 — Jenna Sica, Brighton (cross country, track & field)

2016-17 — Michelle Moraitis, Hartland (cross country, basketball, track & field)

2017-18 — Jackie Jarvis, Fowlerville (volleyball, basketball, soccer)

2018-19 — Jackie Jarvis, Fowlerville (volleyball, basketball, soccer)

2019-20 — Celia Cullen, Brighton (volleyball)

2020-21 — Katie Carothers, Brighton (cross country, track & field)

2021-22 — Emmy Sargeant, Hartland (basketball, track & field)

2022-23 — Sophie Daugard, Howell (golf, basketball, track & field)

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@ gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @BillKhan.



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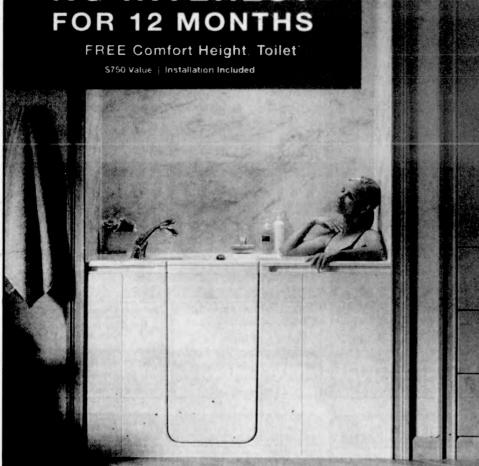
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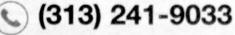


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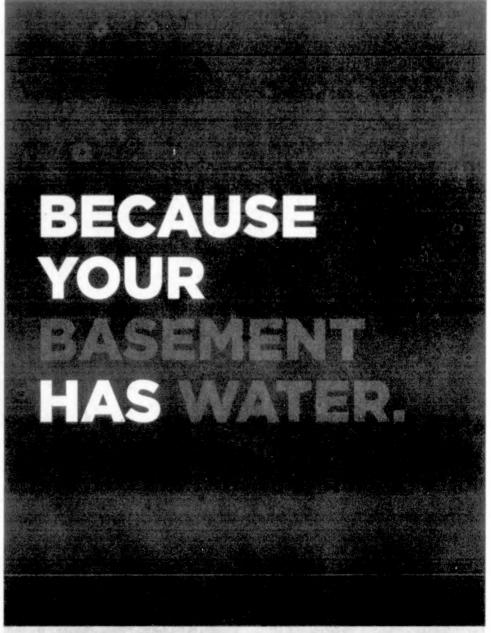


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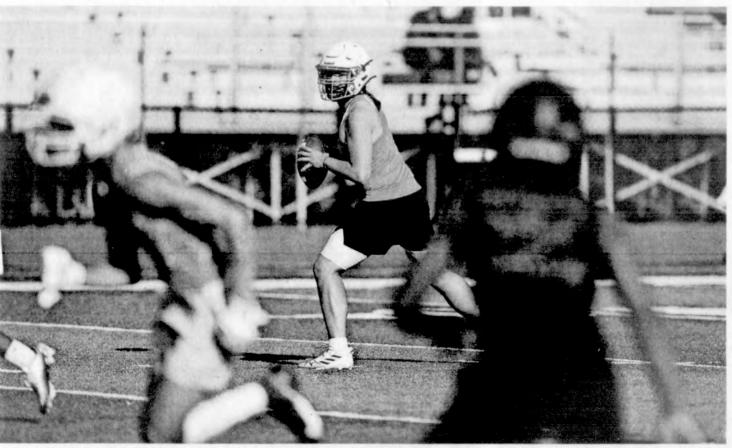
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Garden City's Jonathon Jefferson Jr. passes during a 7-on-7 football scrimmage Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at Plymouth. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Jefferson Jr. passes during a 7-on-7 football scrimmage at Plymouth.

Garden City

Continued from Page 1B

overall a year ago, graduated a handful of key starters, and that includes its star player in Owen McGraw, who chose to sign with Eastern Michigan University despite interest from Syracuse, Northern Illinois and Drake following a senior season that saw him total more than 2,000 all-purpose yards and 22 TDs.

With McGraw gone, Jefferson Jr.'s skillset under center is going to be needed for the Cougars to meet their two goals this season: They want to win a league title for the first time in about 30 years and host their first home playoff game in two decades.

"My goal is to get everyone motivated to play like Owen or somewhere near the level he was at," Jefferson Jr. said following a 7-on-7 scrimmage at Plymouth last week. "If we can do that, we could possibly win the league and be able to do some damage, for sure. Losing him was a big loss, for sure. But if I can get everyone's mentality to be like his, where he went out there and left it out there on every play, we'll be great. We need someone to step up, and that's going to take mentality and discipline."

Coach Thomas Michalsen was excited about having Jefferson Jr. starting for him a year ago. Doing so meant Wasil,

the team's QB in the past, could move around the offense and become a complement to McGraw.

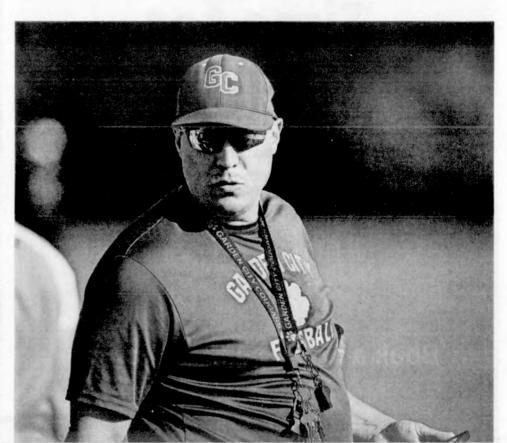
Instead, Jefferson Jr. couldn't finish out the season, and Wasil moved back to

The Cougars still had success. They lost only two games in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference and qualified for the Division 4 postseason for the third time since 2018. But not having Jefferson Jr. had some of the players and coaches wondering "what if?" by the end of the fall.

"When he got hurt, it was tough, but you just try to find the positive in it. He had another year. He was going to come back, hopefully," Michalsen said. "This is a kid who has really worked hard at being a quarterback. He's wanted to be a QB his whole life. He's put a lot of time and effort into getting ready for the moment to do that. I just think he has such a high football IQ and he understands defenses and knows where the football will be open to make the throws. He just understands how to read defenses, and if he can get us back to the playoffs, that'll be huge."

That's not to say Michalsen wants the 6-foot-1, 185-pound QB to go out there slinging every Friday night.

Though Garden City does have talented returners in Nic Emond, Raymond Emond and Jessey Chavez, this isn't a squad that's going to go five-wide and



Garden City coach Thomas Michalsen watches his players.

air it out. That's not the best way to make up for the workload left behind by McGraw graduating, nor is it the best way to keep Jefferson Jr. healthy all sea-

"He's our only QB," Michalsen said. 'We've got to protect him. We're not going to throw it a ton because it does us no good if he's knocked out in Week 1, misses four weeks and we end up going 0-4. We're going to have to do this by committee with guys like Nic, Ray and Jessey. They're going to be asked to be two-way guys. There will be a few guys getting touches."

Nevertheless, Jefferson Jr.'s leadership will be paramount. It doesn't matter if he's throwing for 200 yards or 20. The Cougars just need stability under center for a full season. It gives them the best chance to compete for the WWAC championship, as they should be one of the handful of teams in the mix for the league title.

Sitting out two seasons was rough, but watching from the sidelines was an eye-opening experience. Now he's ready to finally leave his mark on the

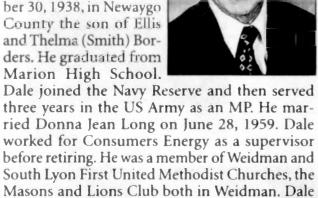
'Coming back, it's a lot more clear what we need to work on." Jefferson Jr. said. "I've learned a lot and have built a lot of chemistry with people on my team. This is my eighth year of being a QB, and I've been constantly doing 7on-7s with Legacy. I know a thing or two about reading defenses and what to look for. Every 7-on-7 we've had, we've been looking better and better. It's been a night-and-day improvement compared to last year. I'm excited to finally get my chance."

Obituaries

Dale Ellis Borders

ALMA - Age 84, of Alma, formerly of Weidman and South Lyon, passed away Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at the Masonic Pathways in Alma.

Dale was born November 30, 1938, in Newaygo County the son of Ellis and Thelma (Smith) Borders. He graduated from Marion High School.

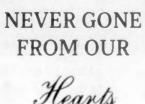


FL., golfing having shot three holes in one and loved his family dearly. He is survived by his wife Donna, children Dale "Scott" (Peggy) Borders, Brenda (Dennis) Bates, Kimberly (Douglas) Barber, grandchildren Joshua, Nick, Jessica, Jacob, Cody, Blake and great grandchildren Skye, Dominik, Lukas, Easton, Noelle

enjoyed hunting, fishing, wintering at Zephyrhills,

and Lainey. Dale was preceded in death by his parents Ellis and Thelma and brother Allen Borders.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 29, 2023, at 11 am at the Doig Chapel, Alma with Pastor Steve Swem officiating. Interment will be in Riverside Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation or the Charity of Choice. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lux-Moody-Wolfel Funeral Home, Alma. To view Dale's obituary or to leave a condolence for the family please www.luxfuneralhomes.com.





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In his masterpiece "Crime and Punishment," author Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote, "We sometimes encounter people, even perfect strangers, who begin to interest us at first sight, somehow suddenly, all at once, before a word has been spoken." The great Russian novelist is referring to the fact that impressions can be made even before conversations begin. This is an important notion to grasp and can do a job seeker a world of good in every interaction during the hiring process, including the interview.

Recruiters may have an understanding of you as an applicant from your résumé and other correspondences, but it is during the interview - whether it's in person or remote - that a hiring manager can really get a sense of your energy and professionalism. While no one wants to be judged on appearance alone, what you look like and how you dress affect others' first impression of you. Doing all you can to tip the scales in your favor may lead to favorable job outcomes. The best outfit to wear on an interview varies depending on the company and the job, according to The Balance: Money. But there are some guide-



lines for dressing to make the best impression.

• Follow the employer's .dress code. If you can gauge dress code in advance, dress to mirror what others are wearing and then take it up a slight notch. For example, while you wouldn't wear a suit if you're interviewing as a park ranger, you may eschew work boots and faded jeans for a collared polo shirt and khaki pants. For a tech start-up or creative company that favors casual wear, something that is more busi-

ness casual may be appropriate for the interview.

- Err on the side of caution. If you do not know the company dress code, it is always better to be overdressed than underdressed. A sports jacket and a button-down shirt for gentlemen and tailored pants and blouse for women may fit the bill
- Less is more. Distractions can derail an interview, and wearing too many accessories can be distracting

to the interviewer and even candidates during the interview. Keep jewelry to a minimum and mute all alerts on a smartwatch and smartphone. If you have piercings, you may want to remove them until you learn more about which types of body art are acceptable at the company, which you should be able to discern when visiting the office. Distractions also can include heavy or drastic makeup and hair styles. Tone things down until you have a firm understanding of dress policies.

- Choose neutral colors. Wear neutral or classic colors over more flashy options. You want to be judged on your qualifications, and neon shirts or a busy print dress could cause an interviewer to lose focus. During a remote interview, choose a high-contrast interview outfit so that you don't blend in with your background.
- Wear clean, tidy clothes. No matter how formal or informal the attire, it should be freshly laundered, free from wrinkles or damage, and fit properly.

Interview attire can make or break first impressions, so attention should be placed on what to wear.

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