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SPORTS, 1B

NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Amazon leads EV charge with Lyon Twp. proposal

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LYON TWP. — A proposal to install more than 200 EV charging stations at Amazon's Lyon Township center will set a record in Michigan and make the area a hub for electric vehicle infrastructure, if approved and built.

Representatives for Amazon have applied for a permit to install the chargers, the most at one Michigan site, at the company's distribution center at 28415 Automation Blvd., to serve its fleet of vehicles.

"It's a pretty big deal," township building official David Herriman said. "There will be a lot more discussion before they are allowed to do this. I've

talked to other building officials and they haven't seen anything that big yet."

While DTE provides power for Lyon Township, Consumers Energy Spokesperson Brian Wheeler confirmed Amazon's proposed project far surpasses other EV charger installations in the state.

"Amazon is going to set the record in Michigan for the most chargers in a sin-

gle location," he said. "We are following what is happening."

Consumers is also handling a Grand Rapids project for Amazon in which 300 EV charging stations are proposed. Wheeler noted no other public or private entity "is even close" to installing so many chargers.

See AMAZON, Page 7A

Lyon Twp. to get 6 license plate reader cameras

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LYON TWP. — Six cameras that scan license plates and capture other vehicle details will be installed throughout the township soon, part of a growing trend in law enforcement intended to help police spot suspects and deter crimes.

The township board recently voted unanimously to obtain the Flock Safety cameras, five of which will be in stationary locations and one that can be moved, at a cost of \$37,000 over a two-year contract.

Oakland County Sheriff's Office Lt. Leslie Whitfield, commander of the Lyon Township substation, made the request of the board, saying he believes it will be both "a good investigative tool and a good deterrent."

"This is the wave of the future," Whitfield said. "I think this may shorten response time. We will have a hit that a bad guy is in the community and move before they even know."

Officials say installing cameras could reduce the need for additional deputies while providing officers a tool to zero in on people who have committed crimes more quickly, track their vehicles and make arrests while not imposing on law-abiding citizens.

"It's an 'after-the-fact' to investigate crimes that have taken place and if we get a vehicle description, we can get a pattern," Whitfield said. "People usually take the same way to and from home. If we get a consistent hit, we can surmise they live in that area and determine how much resources to devote to catching that person."

See CAMERAS, Page 7A



The restored building at 173 West Liberty in Plymouth will feature retail space on the main floor and an office upstairs.

COURTESY ALEX BERNETICH

Kitchen shop moving into once-condemned building

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

PLYMOUTH — A condemned historic building in Plymouth's Old Village has been saved from its dilapidated state and will soon become home to a new specialty kitchen shop.

Built in the late 1800s as part of the city's original business district, the building at 173 West Liberty St. originally housed a drug store and has contained a variety of commercial tenants over the years. The building fell into

disrepair in the early 2000s and was condemned by the city in spring of 2022.

Last summer, Plymouth residents Alex Bernetich and Kelly Sugg purchased the building and brought it back to life.

"It had been neglected for a while," said Bernetich, an architect. "The roof caved in about two years ago and brought part of the second floor with it, and part of the first floor and the staircase."

The basement had filled with water from years of rain and snow, she said.

"We bought it a little blind, because there were only so many parts of the building we could get into," Bernetich added, noting she and Sugg, who are engaged, own another building on the street, where he runs a mechanical engineering business. "It's in a neighborhood that's pretty near and dear to our hearts."

In addition to the disrepair of the building itself, the space inside was filled with old beds, appliances and other trash that needed to be cleaned out

See SHOP, Page 6A

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South Lyon teen makes finals on 'American Ninja Warrior' TV show

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

SOUTH LYON — Riley Porter made a sweet 15 final run on NBC's "American Ninja Warrior" show which aired the night of Monday, Aug. 21.

The South Lyon teen "sailed through the first three obstacles, but then faced the jumping spider," as commentator Matt Iseman noted on the first round final of the 15th season of the extreme sports show.

Porter, who advanced to Las Vegas after defeating a friend in a Los Angeles semifinal, was one of five record-breaking 15-year-olds in the finals when the episode filmed in May and offered a behind-the-scenes take on Tuesday.

"I was really tired," she laughs. "That was the latest time I had filmed—it was 3 a.m. All the others, we had to do before midnight. It makes everything look better (to compete at night)."

Porter's segment was edited down, but the first three obstacles that she conquered without issue included the dipping boards, a balance obstacle which she ran across quickly, followed by the obstacle dubbed "three-ring circus," in which she grasped a ring, swung through the air to blindly grab a UFO-shaped disc before leaping to another ring to slide down a track and dismount. Next was the "roller coaster" obstacle.

"It was really fun and scary," Porter said. "It's 30 feet in the air or something crazy—it's a bar that you grab and it rolls down the track and you lache to the next bar."

After successfully making it through these three obstacles, essentially on "autopilot," Porter came to "Jumping Spider," in which contestants use a mini-trampoline to jump up between two walls and leverage themselves forward with legs and arms spread apart, gripping the sides.

An obstacle that Porter had practiced many times was not the one she was expecting to take her down, but she fell short and splashed into the frigid water below.

"I underestimated it, honestly," she explains. "I think the bounce is where it went wrong, I didn't get far enough into the spider wall. If I had jumped in farther, I could stick it. It's set up like a chute, the farther in you are, the closer the walls are together."

Porter's 15th year and season is now finished, but



Porter tackles the roller coaster obstacle. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

fear not fans—her sweet 16 has already started. The now 16-year-old was invited to season 16 of "American Ninja Warrior" and filming commenced in Los Angeles this spring. An air date has not yet been announced. Although she is not allowed to disclose details, Porter said she competed with determination.

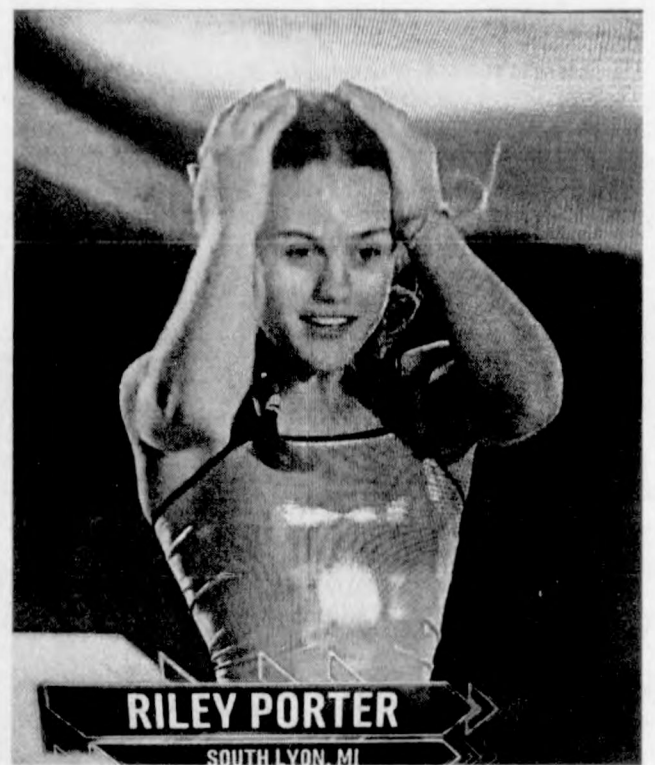
"I wanted redemption on the course and to not fall on any silly obstacles," she said, adding that she is continuing to train and in September will compete in New York City in the Ninja Sport Championship league. "I want to be on as many seasons as possible. I'm even looking forward to being on season 17 if there is one."

Lisa Porter, Riley's mom, is proud of her daughter, and happy that she had an experience that she wanted and worked toward for many years. This season, she added, has been a pivoting point for "American Ninja Warrior," with young kids making their mark on a show that has traditionally been dominated by those over 18.

"These kids are competing across the country and globe to do this as a sport, the same way kids do soccer, baseball and gymnastics," Lisa Porter said. "It's fun to see it on TV with the lights and glamour, but know behind all the lights and glamour was training and hundreds of hours in the gym."

On Instagram, follow Riley Porter, also known as Bookworm Ninja, @riley.porter.07

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



Riley Porter, a student at South Lyon High School, competes in the American Ninja Warrior finals in Las Vegas. The NBC episode aired on Aug. 21, 2023.

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Newsroom Contacts:

Stephanie Angel, Executive Editor
Office: 517-377-101
sangel@gannett.com

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Livonia Towing

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Small car auction held at Livonia Towing:
12955 Levan, Livonia MI 48150 on
Tuesday, September 12th at 8:00 AM

Publish: August 31, 2023

Tour de Livonia returns with improved course

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

LIVONIA — Calling all bike riders: The Tour de Livonia is back for a second year.

Bike riders of all ages and fitness levels will ride through the city Sunday, Sept. 17.

Last year's inaugural event drew over 400 riders, and organizers expect to double that number this year.

"When we originally came up with this, we wanted as many people as possible to come," said Chuck Dardas, President and CEO of Livonia-based AlphaUSA, the event's largest sponsor. "One of the main reasons for this is to showcase Livonia and showcase the parks. We have a lot of aspirations for the future."

All proceeds from the



Over 400 riders enjoyed the first Tour de Livonia in 2022. COURTESY OF LIVONIA KIDS AND FAMILIES

non-competitive event benefit Livonia Kids and Families. Funds raised last year helped expand food pantry offerings and engineering programs for Clarenceville School District. According to Veronica Cruz, the community involvement and government affairs executive for AlphaUSA, the event is shaping up to be the nonprofit's largest fund-raiser of the year.

Cruz, who runs Livonia Kids and Families as part of her AlphaUSA job, hopes to raise \$125,000 this year.

"We really want to expand the STEM labs into the middle school," Dardas said. "We want to build on what we've done there so Clarenceville can have more advanced learning tools. We'd really love to expand that presence for students."

Participants can participate in an 18-mile

course or a seven-mile option, both beginning at Bicentennial Park on 36000 W. Seven Mile Road. Dardas said he'd like to see a third course for small children added in future years as well. Organizers modified the route to take riders through part of the scenic Hines Drive this year along with other local landmarks.

All participants must wear a helmet and ride a traditional bicycle or an e-bike. Riders receive a police escort, and the included roads are blocked to vehicles.

According to Cruz, this year's event will include more vendors and raffles for people to enjoy. Aside from bringing their bicycles, people can also pack canned goods or lightly used shoes to donate to Livonia Kids and Families.

Cruz and Dardas hope

to see Tour de Livonia bring more and more people together for a good cause every year.

"I loved seeing everybody," Dardas said. "All of the people who participated had such big smiles on their faces. When you were there, you sure felt that community spirit."

People can register online at tourdelivonia.org.

Early bird registration lasts until Aug. 30 and costs \$25 for the seven-mile and \$35 for the 18-mile. Those who register early are also guaranteed an event t-shirt. Registration between Aug. 30 and Sept. 14 increases by \$10 per race, and same-day registration is \$30 more.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Historic District Commission (HDC) will hold a public hearing to receive public input on the proposed demolition of the existing building located at 509 Randolph St., Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-002-02-0453-001. The property owner is seeking HDC approval for demolition of the existing building on site, to allow redevelopment of the site and construction of a new building. Section 42-27 of the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance and the Guidelines for the Consideration of Applications for the Demolition or Moving of Structures within the Northville Historic District call for holding a public hearing that permits members of the public to make comments before considering demolition of a contributing resource in the district.

The public hearing will be held on September 20, 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 proposed demolition request.

The demolition 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.

Written comments to the HDC pertaining to the proposed demolition of the existing building must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., September 15, 2023, to the City Clerk at the above address, or using the City Hall drop box, or emailed to msmith@ci.northville.mi.us.

MICHAEL SMITH, CITY CLERK
CITY OF NORTHVILLE

Publish: August 31, 2023

LO-0008791349 3x4

Confidential files found in prostitution bust

Internal affairs investigator accused of running racket

Paul Egan
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Police seized confidential state files, found in a motel room mixed with a menu listing prices for various sex acts, when they busted a Corrections Department internal affairs investigator for running a prostitution racket, records the Free Press obtained under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act show.

Michigan State Police arrested Scott Matthew Fink, who has pleaded guilty to prostitution-related charges and awaits sentencing in Livingston County Circuit Court Sept. 21, inside a Hartland Township motel in Livingston County on May 19, which was a Friday. Police saw Fink, 44, and an East Lansing woman arrive separately at the hotel that morning, where Fink rented two adjoining rooms, and where police saw a series of suspected "johns" enter one of the rooms and stay for about an hour each before leaving.

Police arrested Fink and the woman at about 4 p.m. after she offered an undercover police officer a naked massage and oral sex in return for \$800 in cash.

The Free Press is not naming the woman, now 36, who does not appear to have been charged with a crime.

Fink and the woman had also advertised online for "dates" with her all day Wednesday, May 17 and Thursday, May

18, though the woman canceled her Thursday dates because she said she was not feeling well, records show.

Kyle Kaminski, a spokesman for the Michigan Department of Corrections, would not say whether Fink had booked those three days as vacation or other leave days, or whether Fink, whose job was to investigate suspected wrongdoing by other Corrections Department employees, was expected to be working those days.

Although Fink resigned shortly after his arrest, a Corrections Department investigation into possible work rule violations is ongoing and the department "cannot comment on an ongoing investigation," he said.

But Fink, who through his lawyer Spencer Bondy declined to comment for this story, had records from his state job with him at the hotel when he was arrested, according to incident reports and search warrant records compiled by the MSP.

Fink's backpack was among the items seized in one of the hotel rooms.

"Within the backpack I located a black in color leather binder," one of the officers wrote. Inside the binder, he found "administrative manifest(s), note pads with handwritten notes," and "individual case files for internal affairs investigations," one of the officers wrote in a report. In the same stack of documents, the officer found a folder containing "menus for sexual acts," he wrote.

The Michigan Department of Corrections considers internal affairs files to be confidential personnel records and has in the past refused requests from the

Free Press to release them under Michigan's FOIA.

Both Fink and the woman told police in interviews that they were dating and the activities at the motel evolved from their "swinger lifestyle," initiated by Fink. They advertise only the erotic massages, although the woman was not a licensed masseuse, and, despite the price lists that police found, payments for sex acts that clients agreed to came in the form of donations, police said.

Police seized a video baby monitor and cameras and among the charges Fink pleaded guilty to is "surveilling an unclothed person," which is a two-year felony. Fink told police he was there to provide security and that he and the woman have an open relationship and he "likes being a voyeur in this situation."

Fink also pleaded guilty Aug. 11 to transporting a woman for the purposes of prostitution and accepting earnings from prostitution, which are both 20-year felonies, using a computer to commit a crime, which is a five-year felony, plus a misdemeanor charge of aiding and abetting.

It appears Fink's involvement in prostitution had been ongoing for several months.

Fink's wife, from whom he is now estranged, hired a private detective and went to Milford police Feb. 27 after looking in Fink's backpack and finding "a list of hotels, women's names, client names, and a menu for sex acts," according to the police reports. Milford turned the investigation over to the MSP.

Investigators found Internet ads for

massage services posted by Fink going back to December 2022, the reports say. The woman told police she met Fink through social media in August or September of 2022, that she loves him, and that he serves as a father figure to her children, according to the police reports.

"The MDOC was not aware of this former employee's nonwork conduct until being notified of his arrest," Kaminski said. "Immediately upon receiving that information, the department placed Scott Fink on unpaid suspension and initiated its own investigation."

Kaminski said the department "is confident that investigations recently completed by this investigator were completed consistent with MDOC standards, but a review of some recent cases has been initiated to ensure they are consistent with MDOC investigatory practices and were not impacted by his nonwork conduct."

Fink, who worked for a state agency in which both prisoners and employees have alleged they have been subjected to racism, ran a prostitution operation in which Black people and those who looked "Middle Eastern" or "unkempt" were not accepted as clients, records show. Prospective clients had to send photos of themselves to finalize a "date," records show.

Fink "knows her type and knows she will be attracted to the men he sets up dates with," an investigator wrote after interviewing the woman.

"Additionally, she will not cater to African Americans, Middle Eastern clients, or clients who look unkempt."

Twitter: @paulegan4.

Top property tax payers in greater Farmington

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON HILLS — In Farmington and Farmington Hills, housing and real estate companies take up most of the top spots on city tax rolls.

Real estate managers, especially apartment complexes, are major taxpayers for the two cities. Service providers like DTE Energy and Consumers Energy are also among the cities' largest taxpayers.

Property taxes fund things like local schools, city services and some county services.

Apartment complexes major contributors in Farmington Hills

Oakland Management Corporation, also known as Beztak Properties, pays the most taxes in Farmington Hills. According to tax rolls from the last fiscal year, the company paid \$1,250,348. In Farmington Hills, Oakland Management owns two apartment complexes, two office properties and a retail park.

The company also owns a host of apartments, senior living communities and retail space around the country. Most of its properties are in Michigan and metro Detroit.

DTE Energy and Consumers Energy take the second and third spots. The two pay \$691,739 and \$626,158 respectively.

The only outlier on the city's tax rolls is the Nissan Corporation, which owns a technical center at 39001 Sunrise Drive. Nissan is Farmington Hills' eighth-highest tax payer at \$320,082. All of the city's other major contributors are real estate and housing developers.

Housing, real estate contributes lion's share in Farmington

In Farmington, eight of the ten major



Oakland Management Corporation on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

taxpayers are real estate developers or managers. Of those eight, four are apartment companies.

The top contributor is Standard Construction Co., which owns the Drakeshire, Farmington West and Jamestown apartment complexes. Standard Construction Co. paid \$183,253 during the 2022 fiscal year.

Burton Carol Management, \$102,995, and Beztak Properties, \$90,260, are the second and third-highest tax payers.

Farmington has seen an increased demand for housing over the years. A potential townhome development at the former Maxfield Training Center site at 33000 Thomas Street is also expected to be a significant tax contributor for

Farmington if it's approved by city council.

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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448.

Three charged in connection with Livonia hotel kidnapping

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

DETROIT — Three Detroit residents were arraigned Aug. 24 on charges related to the kidnapping of two newborns in Livonia that triggered an Amber Alert Monday morning, according to Wayne County prosecutors.

Curtis Lee Slay, 18, Davion Demetrius Sherman Chandler, 19, and Shantell Re-Azia Jones, 23, are facing kidnapping charges at the 16th District Court in Livonia.

"It is hard to imagine a worse scenario for a new mother," Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said in a re-

lease. "The evidence in this case will show that these defendants engaged in a scheme to dupe the mother of these barely two-week-old babies. They allegedly promised her some much-needed assistance to gain access to her children with the express intent on stealing them."

The twins, who were two weeks old at the time of the kidnapping, were allegedly taken from a hotel room in Livonia around 10 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20, when their mother, a 30-year-old Detroit resident, briefly left the room. The infants, named Matthew and Montana Bridges, were turned in to Detroit police on Monday, Aug. 21, and were reportedly unharmed.

Prosecutors allege Jones befriended the twins' mother, Jazlyn Morgan, with the intent to kidnap them. Slay and Chandler are charged with aiding Jones. According to prosecutors, each are facing two counts of kidnapping, two counts of unlawful imprisonment, three counts of larceny and one count of conspiracy to commit kidnapping-child enticement.

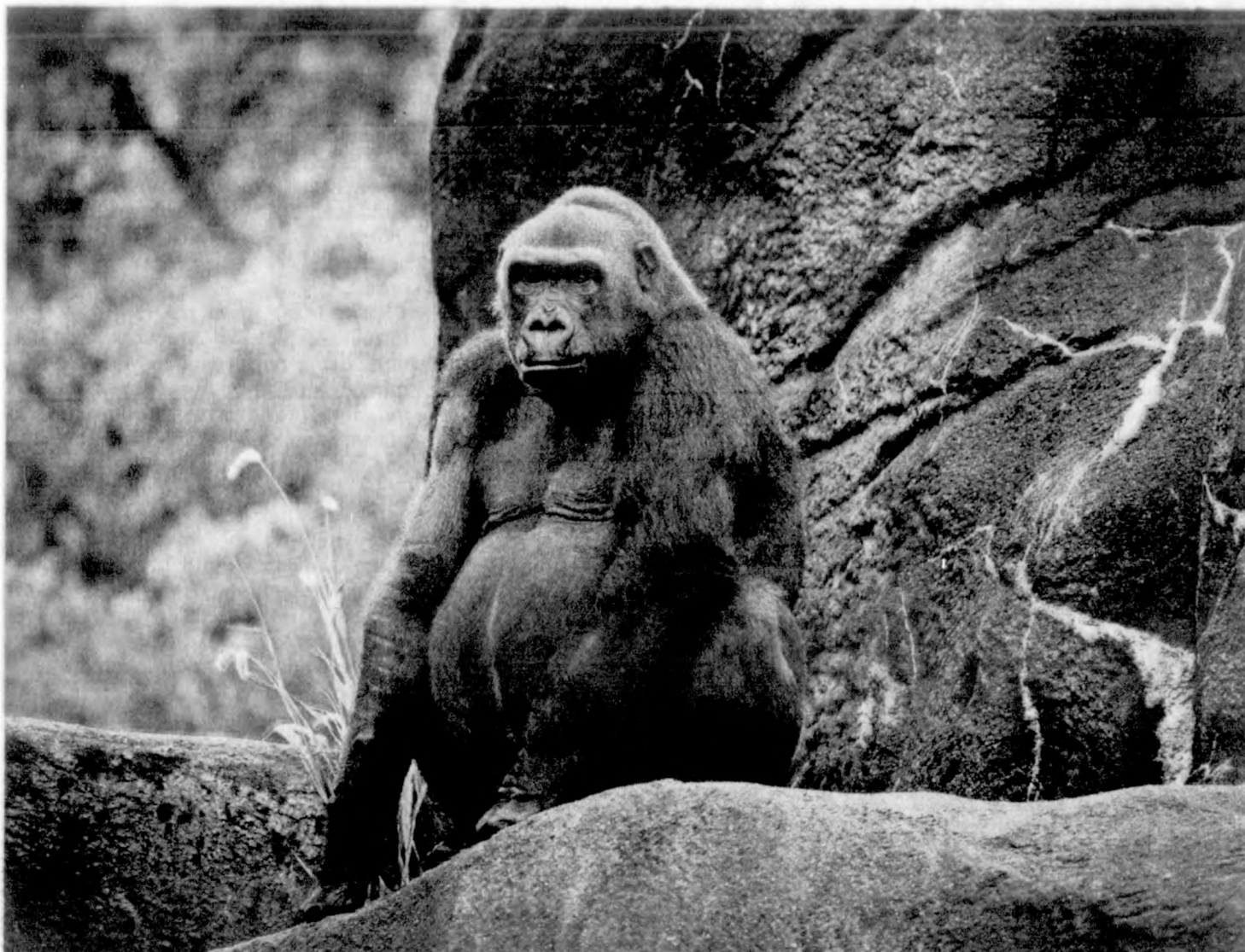
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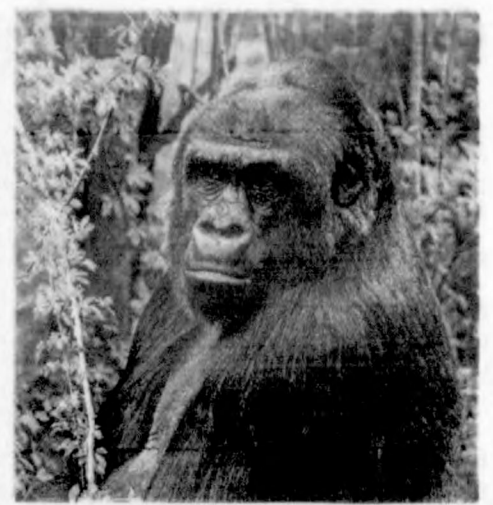


An AMBER Alert was issued in Livonia for twins Matthew Jace and Montana Alexander Bridges, both 14 days old, on Monday, Aug. 21, 2023.

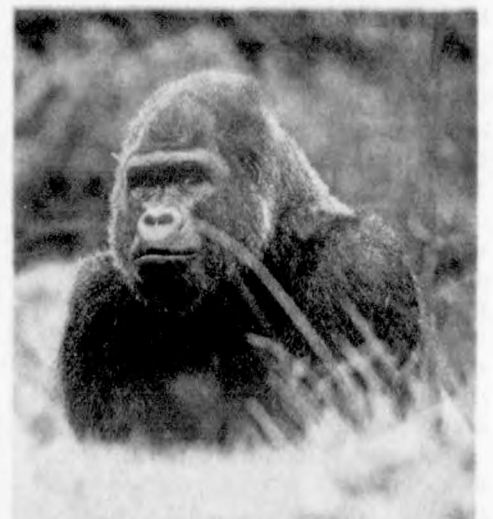
PROVIDED BY THE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE



Tulivu, a gorilla newly introduced to the Detroit Zoological Society in Royal Oak, finds a perch in her new habitat on Thursday. Tulivu and two other gorillas were transferred from the Cincinnati Zoo. PHOTOS BY MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS



Bandia's name means "homemade doll or image" in Swahili. DETROIT ZOO



Mshindi checks out his surroundings.

Detroit Zoo welcomes 4 new gorillas

Nour Rahal
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

After saying goodbye to three gorilla brothers earlier in the summer, the Detroit Zoo has welcomed four new gorillas — one male and three females.

"Three of the gorillas — Mshindi, Tulivu and Bandia — arrived from the Cincinnati Zoo, where they lived together in a troop since 2019," announced the Detroit Zoo in a news release. "The fourth, Nayembi, moved from Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo."

Mshindi, the new troop's sole male

gorilla, is a 35-year-old silverback whose name signifies "winner" in Swahili, according to the zoo. Among the females, there's 25-year-old Bandia, whose name stands for "homemade doll or image" in Swahili, 19-year-old Tulivu, which translates to "quiet" in Swahili, and 10-year-old Nayembi, meaning "to sing" in Lingala.

The previous three gorillas, Chipua, Kongo-Mbeli and Pendeka, were half-brothers who spent approximately two decades at the Detroit Zoo before their transfer to the Cincinnati Zoo in July, according to the release.

All the transfers were recommended

by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Gorilla Species Survival Plan.

The Detroit Zoo is hosting a welcome party on Sept. 2 and 3 to celebrate the arrival of Mshindi, Tulivu, Bandia and Nayembi.

Visitors will be able to learn more about the new gorillas from the zoo's animal care team during habitat discussions and special animal enrichments at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. on both event days.

Guests can find the three gorillas housed in the zoo's Great Apes of Harambee habitat, along with 13 chimpanzees. The 4-acre, naturalistic habitat

features indoor and outdoor viewing areas; the space underwent a series of improvements in preparation for the new troop's arrival.

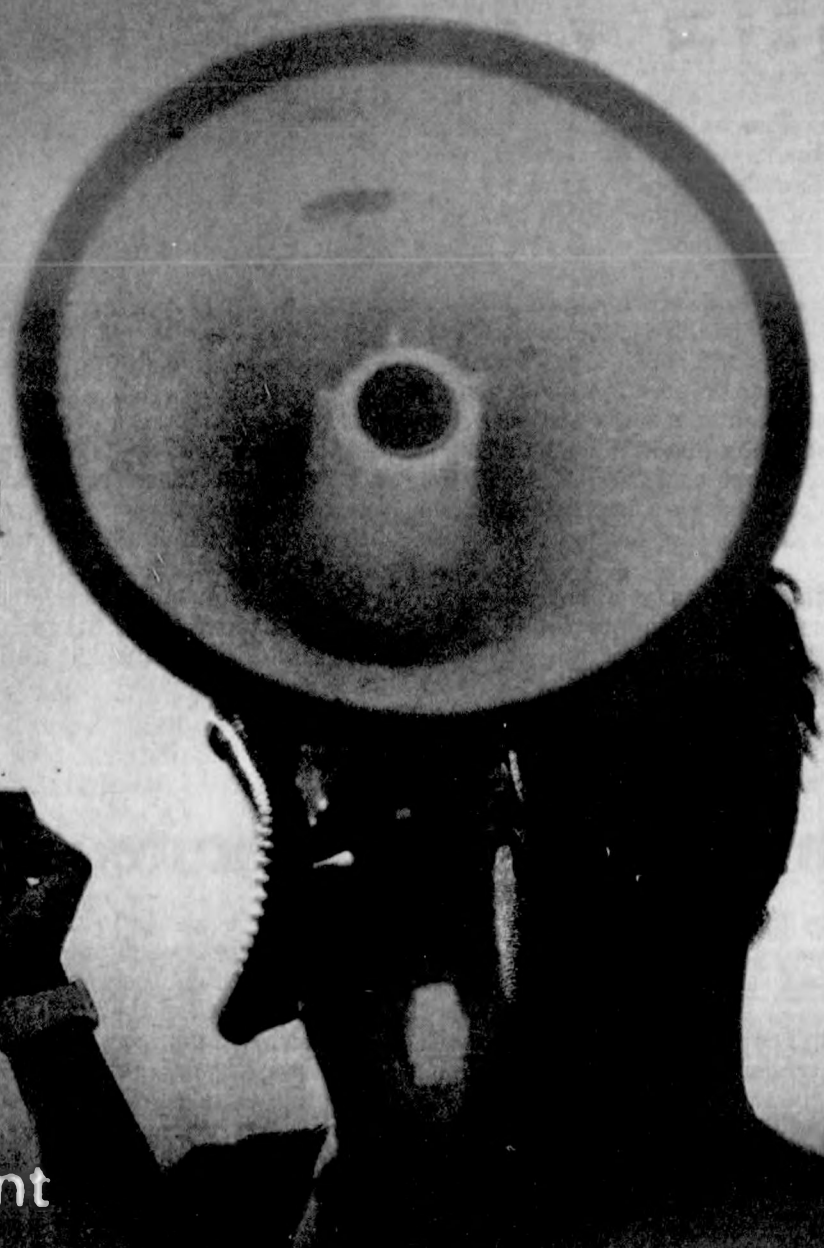
"The four new gorillas are already making themselves at home, and they are wonderful additions to the Detroit Zoo," said Tami Brightrall, associate curator of mammals for the Detroit Zoological Society, in the release. "They each have unique personalities, and we can't wait for our members and guests to get to know them."

Contact Nour Rahal: nrahal@freepress.com. Follow her on Twitter @nrahal1.

The point is
not saying
everything,
but everything
that matters.



**USA
TODAY** | To the point



Baby penguins dying amid climate change

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

Now climate change is coming for the penguins.

Due to the dramatic loss of sea ice, several colonies of emperor penguins in Antarctica face "quasi-extinction" in the decades to come, a study released Thursday reports.

"This paper dramatically reveals the connection between sea ice loss and ecosystem annihilation," said Jeremy Wilkinson, a sea ice physicist at the British Antarctic Survey. "Climate change is melting sea ice at an alarming rate."

The study found that emperor penguin colonies saw unprecedented and "catastrophic" breeding failure in a part of Antarctica where there was total sea ice loss in 2022. The discovery supports predictions that over 90% of emperor penguin colonies will be "quasi-extinct" by the end of the century, based on current global warming trends.

What does quasi-extinction mean?

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, quasi-extinction means that a "population essentially is still in existence, but reproductively speaking, there's no way in the world it can increase."

Thus, for emperor penguins, this means that even if individuals are alive, the population is sufficiently low that it can't recover and will ultimately become extinct.

Loss of sea ice imperils penguin chicks

The study found that last year, no chicks survived from four of the five known emperor penguin colonies in the central and eastern Bellingshausen Sea, which is west of the Antarctic Peninsula where there was a 100% loss of sea ice in November 2022.

Emperor penguins hatch their eggs and raise their chicks on sea ice. If the sea ice breaks up under them, the young chicks will drown or freeze to death.

What's new about the study findings is that "this is the first major breeding failure of emperor penguins at a region-



A new study found that emperor penguin colonies saw unprecedented and "catastrophic" breeding failure in a part of Antarctica where there was total sea ice loss in 2022. The discovery supports predictions that over 90% of emperor penguin colonies will be "quasi-extinct" by the end of the century, based on current global warming trends.

PETER FRETWELL/BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

al scale due to sea ice loss, and probably a sign of things to come," study lead author Peter Fretwell of the British Antarctic Survey told USA TODAY.

"We have never seen emperor penguins fail to breed, at this scale, in a single season," he added. "The loss of sea ice in this region during the Antarctic summer made it very unlikely that displaced chicks would survive."

Overall, of 62 known penguin colonies, around 30% were harmed by low sea ice levels last year – and 13 likely failed entirely, Fretwell said.

What is sea ice?

Sea ice is frozen ocean water that has an annual cycle of melting during the summer and refreezing in winter. Antarctic sea ice is typically at its smallest in late February or early March, toward the end of summer in the Southern Hemisphere. It floats on top of the ocean.

Over the past seven years, sea ice

around Antarctica has decreased significantly. By the end of December 2022, sea ice extent was the lowest seen in the 45-year satellite record. In the Bellingshausen Sea, the home of the penguin colonies in this study, sea ice didn't start to re-form until late April 2023.

The scientists examined satellite images that showed the loss of sea ice at breeding sites.

"We know that emperor penguins are highly vulnerable in a warming climate – and current scientific evidence suggests that extreme sea ice loss events like this will become more frequent and widespread," Fretwell said.

Huge amount of sea ice already missing

Sea ice continues to decrease in 2023. The missing area is larger than the size of Greenland, or around 10 times the size of the United Kingdom, according to the British Antarctic Survey.

"Right now, in August 2023, the sea ice extent in Antarctica is still far below all previous records for this time of year," said Caroline Holmes, a polar climate scientist at the British Antarctic Survey. "In this period where oceans are freezing up, we're seeing areas that are still, remarkably, largely ice-free."

Holmes added that the recent years of tumbling sea ice records and warming of the subsurface Southern Ocean "point strongly to human-induced global warming exacerbating these extremes."

A warning sign for humanity

Speaking about the penguin study, which was published in the journal Nature Communications Earth & Environment, Wilkinson concluded, "it is another warning sign for humanity that we cannot continue down this path, politicians must act to minimize the impact of climate change."

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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 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

Asale	Copha	Menu	Sale
Asked	Costly	Mousse	Sausages
Bargain	Counter	Olive oil	Suitcases
Basil	Cream	Omelette	Tags
Beans	Drinks	Pastries	Tier
Bliss	Eggs	Peaches	Tomato
Carrot	Fish	People	Total
Chat	Fruit	Pet food	Trade
Chicken	Grapes	Plums	Undecided
Chops	Mall	Queue	
Cocoa	Meat	Rush	

TODAY'S ANSWER
Inflation is biting hard

Grocery shopping

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

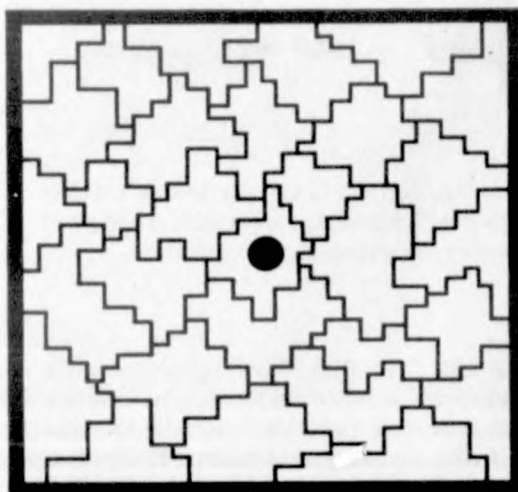
1 It's much higher than a D
6 Wrote to without paper
14 Relative of Betty and Bessie
15 "Pay less for college. For real." slogan
17 King born in Bethlehem
18 Employer of ushers
19 Essence of highlights
20 Breathless state
21 Big mess
22 Letter-ending letters
23 Discover serendipitously
27 Reckons to be
29 Word associated with jumps and umps
30 Slept in, say
31 Literary Long Islander
32 "Ditto!"
35 Experts in immobilization
36 Painters' purchases
37 Etymology sharer with "spade"
41 Bat man's specialty
44 Ring around some collars
47 Libraries have theirs every April
48 Writer next to Jung on the Sgt. Pepper cover
49 Write to without paper
50 Long chain
51 Go nowhere
52 Loan guarantor for Disneyland (1954)
53 Take a bath, in Britain

DOWN

1 Story-telling follower
2 Daycare establishment
3 Achieves, as a dream
4 Israeli army retirees as of 2003
5 Sorry
6 Former WNBA Eastern home court
7 Hammer home
8 GM exec who founded MIT's business school
9 Dragging
10 Strove for
11 Fully appreciate
12 Gushes
13 Superior these days
16 Minute
23 CNN2, these days
24 Concession start
25 It's home on the range
26 Progress report of a sort
28 Aunt of Maria Shriver
31 Part of the KFC logo
33 Letters used to 49 Across
34 Ostrich or orangutan
38 Disney Frozen Minis brand
39 Inner image aspiration
40 Letter-reading rituals
42 Leads on a farm
43 Permits
44 ___ of all
45 Takes it easy
46 It's south of Milwaukee
50 Not fancy at all
54 DoD branch since 2019
55 Noncontroversial
57 On the ___
58 Accented approval
59 "Man was made for joy and ___"; Blake
60 Sparkle

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PUZZLES & POSERS



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SUDOKU | CREATORS

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

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

TODAY'S ANSWER



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



A photo provided to Alex Bernetich by the Plymouth Historical Museum shows the building at 173 West Liberty St. as it stood in the late 1800s as part of the city's original business district. PHOTOS COURTESY ALEX BERNETICH

Shop

Continued from Page 1A

before the general contractor could get in to begin work.

"We're essentially replacing the whole building except for the side walls," Bernetich said. "There was so much of it that was so far gone that it needed to be a full replacement."

To ensure as much historical accuracy as possible, Bernetich did some research at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Historical photos and conversations with folks at the museum, she said, helped inform the details of the new facade.

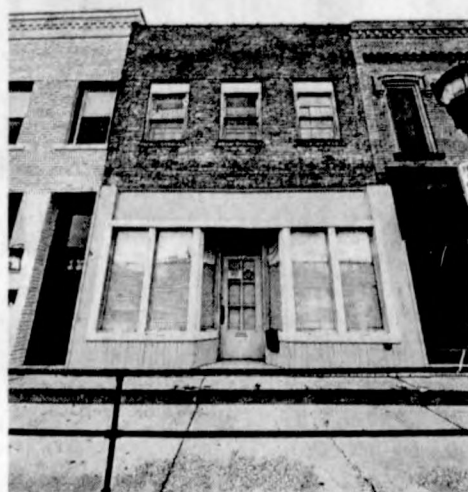
On the inside, new heavy timber beams reflect materials used when the building was originally constructed.

"We didn't want to just do a quick flip," Bernetich said. "We wanted to restore the building to its former glory."

People in the neighborhood, she said, have been overwhelmingly supportive of the project. Most of the work is now complete. The upstairs will be used for office space and the bottom will be home to a new retail store called East Elm Kitchen Co.

A new kitchen store

East Elm Kitchen Co. founder Rebecca Nicholson described the business as a specialty independent kitchen retail



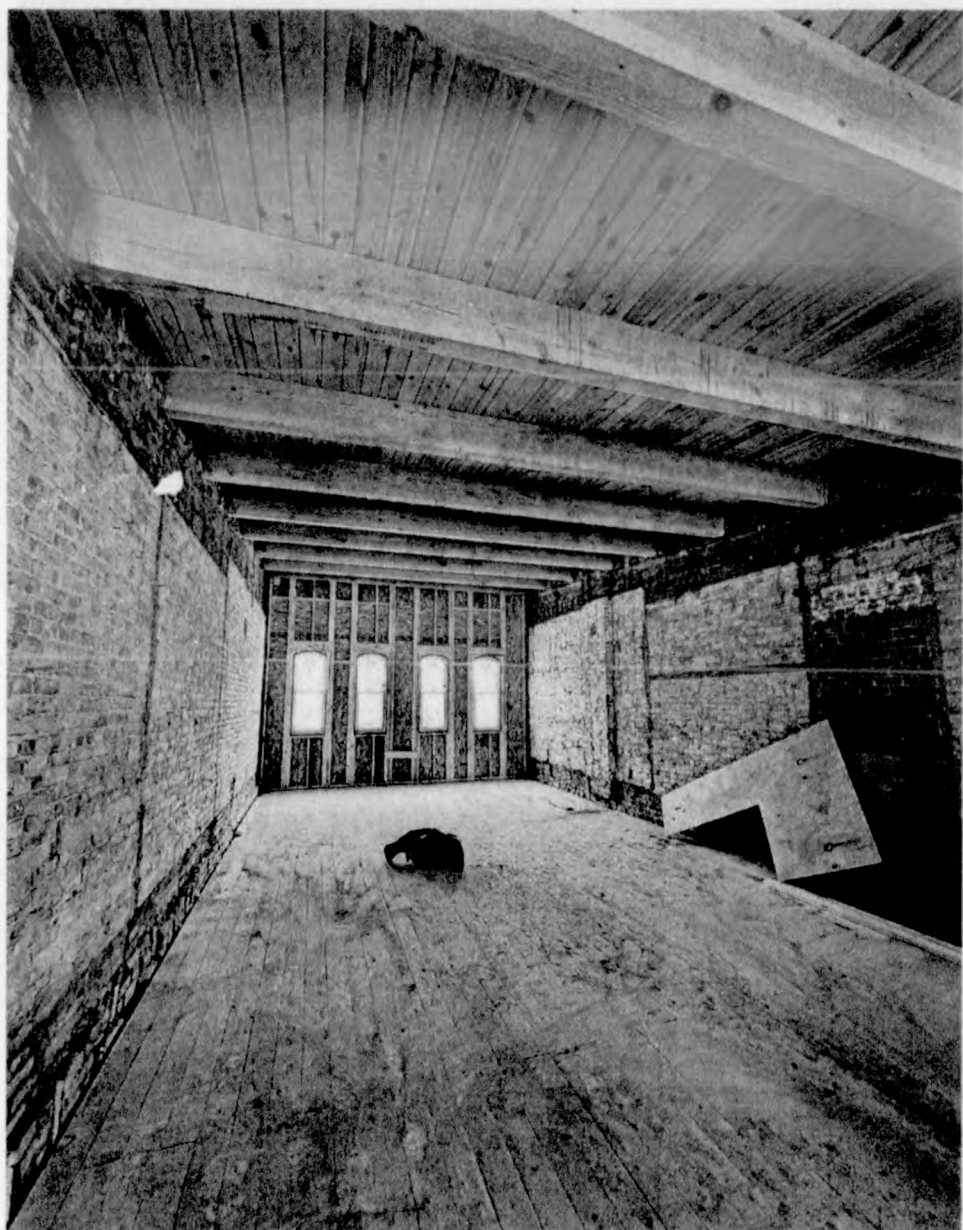
The property was condemned in 2022.

store offering high-quality home kitchen products such as cookware, bakeware, cutlery, tabletop textiles, coffee tools, barware and glassware. The store will also feature local artisan-made goods.

"Whether you're hosting a family occasion, or cooking up a dinner party for friends, or just trying to get that weeknight meal on the table, we're going to have what you need," Nicholson said.

A Plymouth resident, Nicholson said she is excited to contribute diversified retail to the Old Village area.

"I understand and value the commitment that small business owners make to their residential neighbors, to their



Part of the restoration included timber beams similar to the original materials.

fellow small-business owners, and to their city partners in operating a successful business that benefits the entire community," she said. "This is the type of business East Elm Kitchen Co. will be, and I am excited to share my love for food, fellowship, and community with this area."

Nicholson said the store will open in late October or early November, in time for the holiday season.

City approval

In a unanimous vote, the Plymouth City Planning Commission retroactively approved a site plan for the building at

its Aug. 9 meeting. City officials said the work was permitted to take place before a planning commission review because the building was blighted and a danger to the public.

"Thank you for saving that building," Commissioner Shannon Adams said. "I never understood that any of our buildings had gotten that far in disrepair."

Planning Commission Chair Karen Sisolak said she looked at the building during a recent walk in the neighborhood.

"I'm thrilled with the work I've seen being done there," she said.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com.

Cameras

Continued from Page 1A

The cameras, which can read license plates, provide 24/7 monitoring, are accompanied by a solar panel for power, have backup batteries and are connected to an FBI national database.

Whitfield explained the technology provides nearly "instantaneous" notifications that are invaluable in the event of crimes such as abductions and stolen vehicles.

"When Amber alerts happen... if that vehicle goes through our intersection, we will know that there is a person in our area that the whole state is looking for," Whitfield said. "We can save the day. With stolen vehicles, when the car goes through the intersection, it's almost instantaneous — this thing is stolen. The bad guys won't know that we know they're in town, but we know."

Cameras are in use in many places

Ryan Elswick, accounts manager for Flock Safety, said there have been no vandalism issues with the cameras,



The Flock Safety camera at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads in Farmington Hills is installed on a post with a solar panel above it. The camera scans license plates and vehicle details to assist police, but authorities say the cameras do not focus on vehicle occupants.

SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

which can be found in Detroit, Flint and Kalamazoo, as well as Oakland County communities, including Highland Township, Rochester Hills, Southfield and Farmington Hills.

Flock Safety now has cameras in more than 2,500 communities across the country, with more than 1 billion vehicles captured on camera every month.

Elswick said the cameras are installed about 12 to 15 feet off the ground, either on their own pole or utilizing road commission equipment with permission. Camera maintenance is included in the contract price and if repair or replacement is needed, one of four technicians stationed in Detroit will be out within a week.

How they will be used

Whitfield stressed the cameras are for vehicle and plate recognition; the technology does not offer facial recognition and will not be used for identifying vehicle occupants.

The information will not be used to catch speeders, drivers running red lights or for other traffic enforcement, Whitfield said.

The cameras won't be installed along Interstate 96, Whitfield said, because by the time a criminal gets to the freeway, "they're gone."

Instead, Whitfield told the board he is considering setting up cameras on southbound Milford Road near the freeway, as well as on southbound Kent Lake Road and eastbound Grand River Avenue.

Elswick said information gleaned from the cameras is only kept for about 30 days.

Being proactive on crime

Township Trustee Lise Blades said she likes being proactive with the cameras, rather than reactive.

"Several other communities are using this, I'd rather be on the beginning side," she said. "I know it's a big price tag, but I kind of like this."

Whitfield said installing cameras is less expensive than hiring another deputy. If, however, officials determine that the cameras are not a good fit, the contract can be canceled with a \$500 fee per camera.

Still, he has high hopes for the cameras, which he said have proven effective in other communities and which Flock Safety claims can reduce crime more than 70%.

"In a perfect world, we would have 20 of these things," Whitfield said. "We could have them in a row and track in real time, but I realize they are really expensive and wouldn't want to commit to that until we know they are a good fit. We are rural, but developing."

Amazon

Continued from Page 1A

When asked what would be needed for DTE to accommodate Amazon's proposed 207 EV chargers in Lyon Township, DTE Spokesperson Brynn Guster said the project is still in the works.

"We go step by step and decide what is needed for each site and customer," she said, declining to comment further.

An Amazon representative could not be immediately reached for comment.

A building permit for the EV chargers was submitted by a third party contractor on behalf of Amazon in July, and stated the work would include "Off Peak Level 2 (13 single chargers and 95 dual chargers) and Off Peak DC Fast Chargers — 2 dual chargers" to serve the company's private fleet.

But the building permit application included little other information and is considered incomplete by Herriman, who noted the application didn't even

have a signature.

The project required a meeting this week between Herriman and officials from DTE, the fire department and Amazon, the latter of which attended virtually.

"We need a complete plan," Herriman said. "It's a big deal where the power is coming from and we have to make sure they're not taking power from everybody else. We have to make sure that it won't compromise the rest of the community."

Among the information needed is specifics on wattage. For 207 chargers, Herriman estimates at least 100,000 extra amps would be needed and perhaps more in the future as the company continues to electrify its fleet.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, which counts 1,327 alternative fueling stations in Michigan with 3,095 available ports, there are three types of EV charging:

- Level 1 alternating current charging uses a standard 120-volt AC electric circuit, and requires no special equipment.

- Level 2 AC charging uses a 208- or 240-volt AC electric circuit, like a clothes dryer, and is much faster.

- Direct-current fast charger, sometimes referred to as a Level 3 DC charging, is the fastest of the three systems, and uses a 3-phase, 480-volt AC electric circuit, but delivers direct current to the vehicle.

Amazon has requested Level 2 and DC chargers in Lyon Township.

DTE encourages the use of electric vehicles and installation of chargers, offering rebates and incentives for individuals and businesses, as well as services "to accelerate fleet transformation," such as what Amazon is planning to do in Lyon Township, and has already done elsewhere.

Herriman said he would like to see a similar development to see how it works in person, but the lack of nearby charging sites of the same size has made that impossible.

Lyon Township lacks public charging stations, but Herriman said some newer industrial facilities in the township are

putting in pedestals in employee parking lots in preparation for the EV chargers. However, those setups typically have been for four or fewer chargers.

He expects to see more electric vehicle charger requests coming, as well as changes in the state code, including such things as requiring new house builds be prepped for chargers. Such a change could add \$1,000 to \$2,000 to the price of a home, Herriman said, regardless of whether the home buyer owns an electric vehicle.

For now, the building official is getting a unique lesson in EV charging station protocols.

"This is like no other process we've ever been through," Herriman said. "This is the first one of its kind. We have to take slow, small steps... We have rules and regulations and codes that we have to follow. And that is regardless of who it is — whether it's the little guy with the gas station or Amazon."

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

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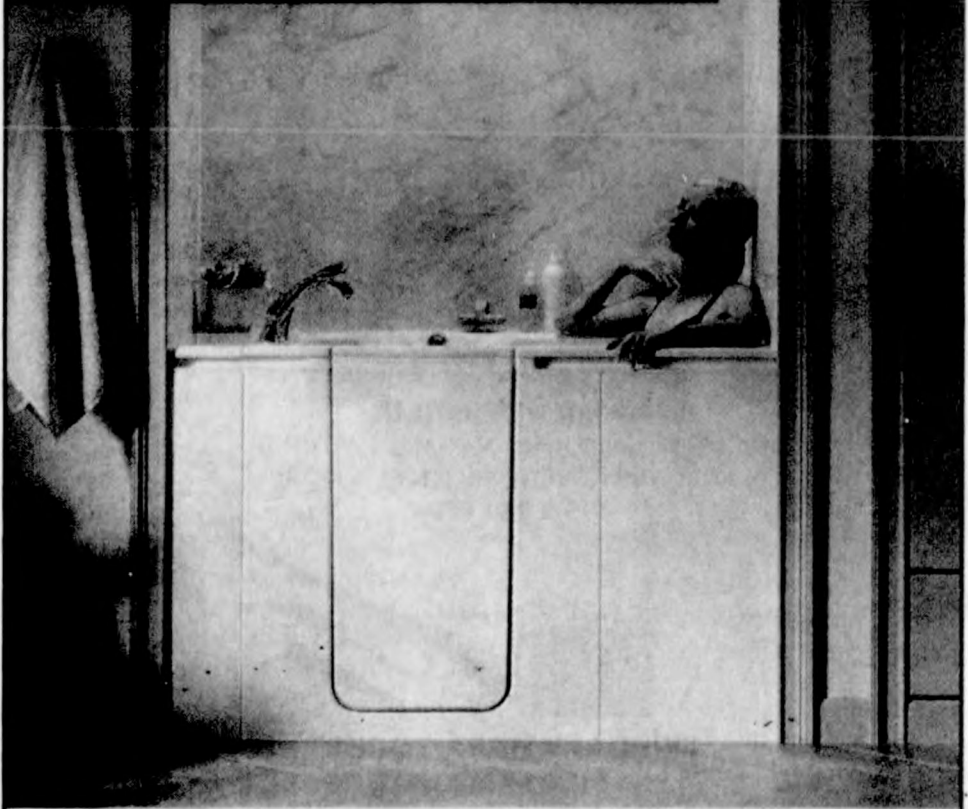
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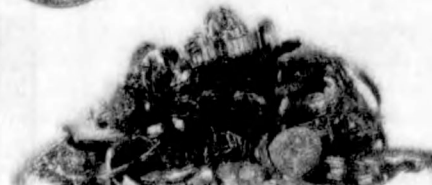
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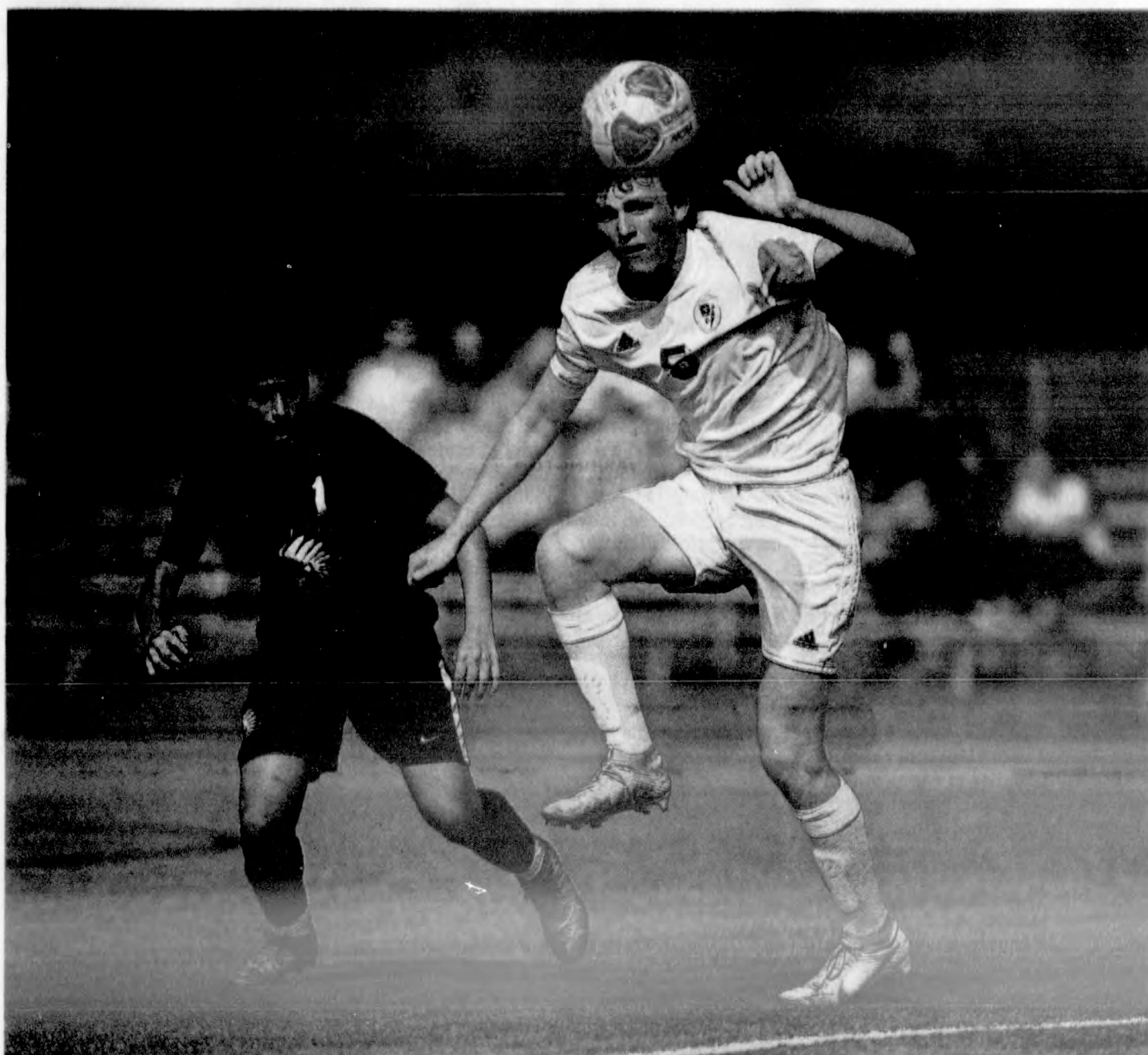
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SPORTS

No Pierson brothers? No problem



Detroit Catholic Central's Simon Sawyer juggles the ball during a Catholic League boys soccer match Wednesday, Aug. 23.
PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

Shamrocks still talented on soccer pitch

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

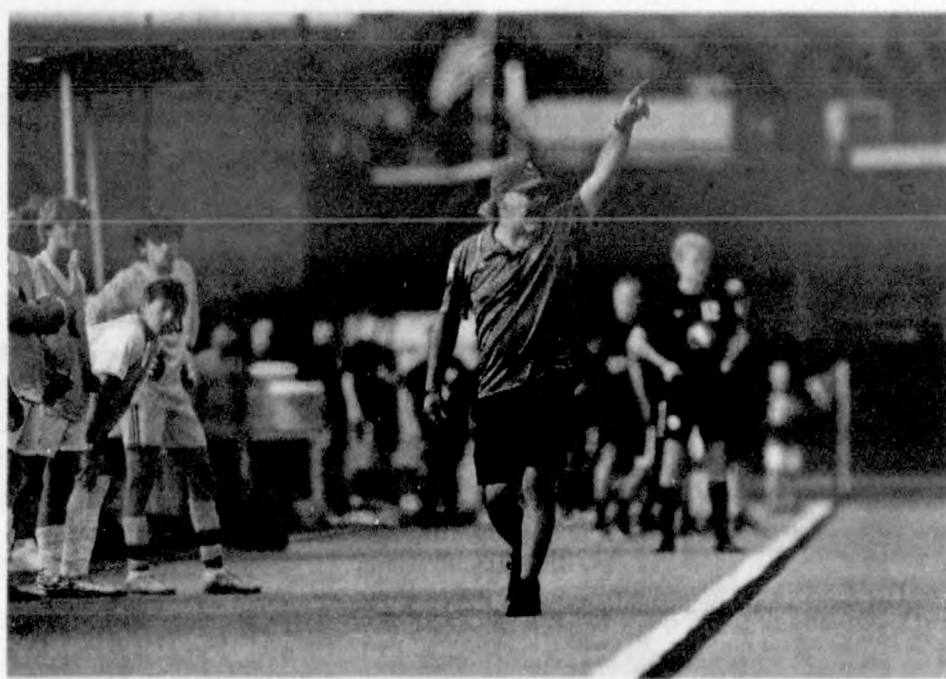
The Detroit Catholic Central boys soccer team should enjoy plenty of success because of how much talent, depth and leadership it returns.

And that's saying something because the Shamrocks graduated 15 important seniors from last year's Division 1 state semifinalist team.

That includes losing Kyle Pierson, the Michigan Gatorade Player of the Year who signed with Michigan, as well as his twin brother, Drew, CC's vocal leader on the back line who joined Detroit Mercy, midfielder Ali Jaffer (Oakland University) and goalkeeper Jack Rogers (Michigan-Dearborn), all of whom were Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association first-team all-state selections.

Plus, they lost midfielder Kellen Larson, a third-team all-stater, among many other key contributors.

It'd be easy to say this is a rebuilding year, but that's just not what this is.



Detroit Catholic Central coach Gene Pulice organizes the offense.

Some of the players who surrounded last year's stars are just as good. And now they're finally getting their chance to show it.

"We graduated a lot of great seniors

from a very good class," CC coach Gene Pulice said following Wednesday's 3-2 win at rival Brother Rice. "There's no

See SHAMROCKS, Page 2B

Northville senior: 'The 5K is like my archnemesis'

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

This is a story about confidence and trust.

Because, following the Aug. 18 Lamplighter Invitational, Brendan Herger admitted he sometimes lacks both in himself.

Yes, that Herger. The two-time state champion in track. The third-place finisher during last year's Division 1 state championship cross country meet. The Northville senior who will have his choice of premier colleges to attend following the four official visits he plans to take to Duke, Michigan, Michigan State and North Carolina over the next few months.

There he was, following a runner-up finish at the season-opening Lamplighter, nervously fumbling with an empty cup as he expressed just how hard it is for him to be good at running, something that should help him get a free education, or at least a considerable discount, before he wraps up a hall of fame career with the Mustangs.

"The 5K is like my archnemesis," he said after his jaunt around Ford Field in Livonia with a time of 15 minutes, 47.8 seconds, finishing behind only

See NORTHVILLE, Page 2B

Krayem, Hughes help Stevenson win Lamplighter Invitational

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Layla Krayem won the season-opening Lamplighter Invitational cross-country meet a year ago.

The Livonia Stevenson senior was unable to repeat as the individual champion Aug. 18 at Ford Field in Livonia, but she still sported a pretty big smile following her third-place effort.

Why?

While she didn't take first by herself, the Spartans actually won the meet as a team, as they scored better than both Warren Regina in second place and Mason in third.

Krayem's time of 19 minutes, 21 seconds shattered her time through the 5-kilometer course in 2022 by 37.2 seconds, which is a hat tip to the intense training she put forth this past off-season.

See LAMPLIGHTER, Page 2B



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Shamrocks

Continued from Page 1B

question. We had quality kids, quality players that we graduated. But at the end of the day, here, we still have a lot of talent on this team. The one thing we're fortunate of is we've got some depth and some commitment. The one thing you can't predict each year is chemistry on the team, and I would say that we have very good chemistry this year."

Obviously, there's no replacing Kyle Pierson's production. In just his one season with the Shamrocks, the striker scored 37 goals, tallied 21 assists and pushed his team to a 20-2-3 record. He was ranked as a top-100-rated recruit in the 2023 class by *PrepSoccer.com*.

There won't be a Shamrock scoring that many goals this time around, but that's OK. As they showed in their Catholic League opener against the Warriors, they should have no trouble scoring by committee.

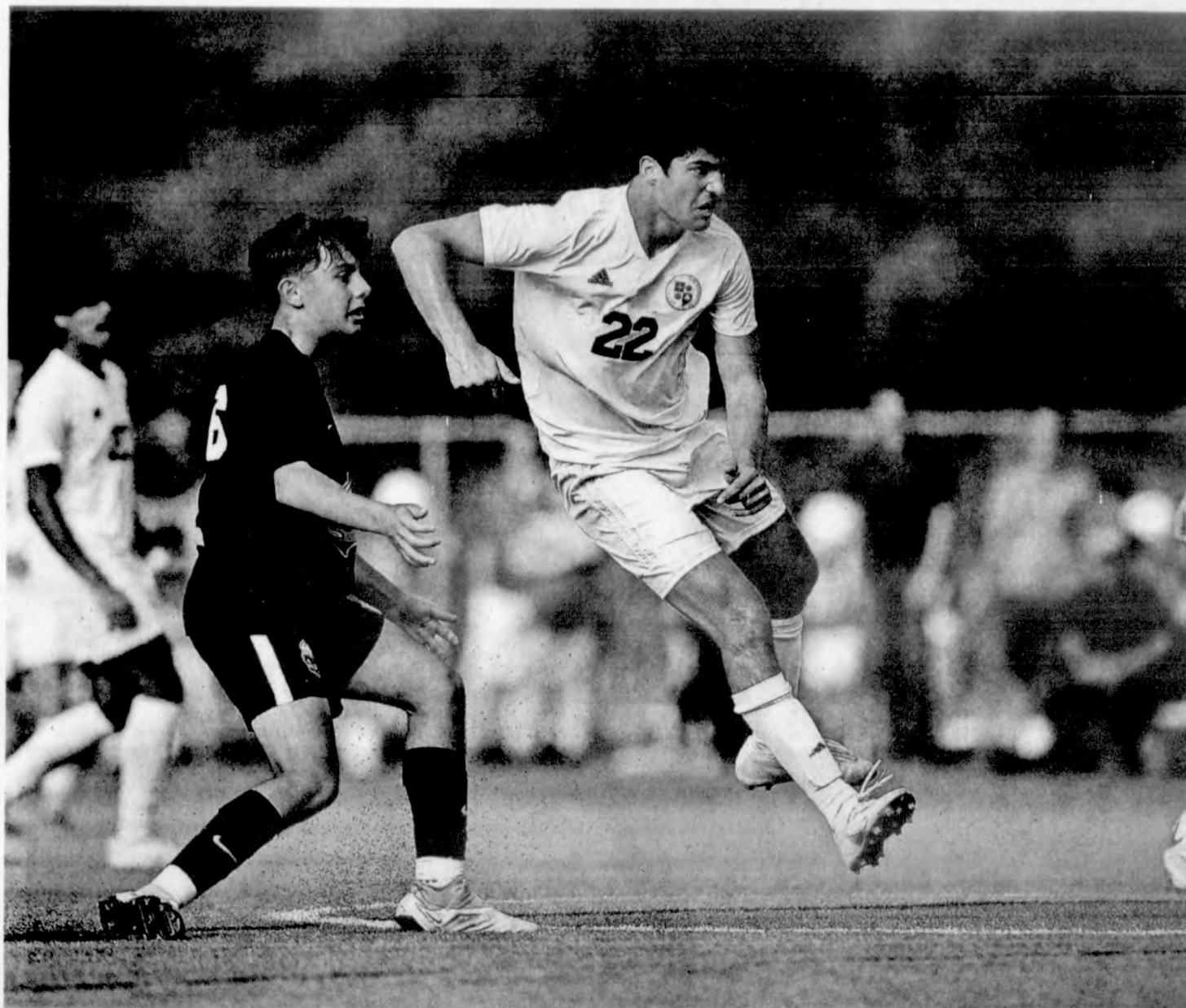
"It's exciting, ya know?" said senior midfielder Garan Vartanian, who smashed in a goal from the top of the penalty box 12 minutes into the second half. "You don't know who's going to break through and score. You see it (various players scoring goals) in practice, but that doesn't necessarily correlate to the game. But we're doing it. It's great to see multiple guys score in every game. ... It feels great that it isn't necessarily me scoring the goals for the team. Everyone is a part of it, and it's great to see rather than everyone being in the shadow of the star players on our last team."

Also scoring against the Warriors were Daniel Bravo, who snuck in the opening goal just inside the right post, and Grant Mooradian, who tapped in a bang-bang play off a throw-in to notch the winning score.

But it's not just the players in the attack leading the way.

CC (2-3) also has depth along the back line, including defender Simon Sawyer, a four-year veteran who isn't taking his role as one of the team's captains lightly.

"Following the legacy of brothers Ryan (CC's 2016-27 Gatorade Player of



Detroit Catholic Central's Garen Vartanian scores a goal during a Catholic League boys soccer match Wednesday, Aug. 23. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

the Year), Kyle and Drew Pierson, who I really think kickstarted this program, it's just great being one of the leaders," said Sawyer, who was a rookie in the program when the Shamrocks won their last state title in 2020. "I just think it's great to be part of this program because for the past decade or so we've been a great program. For me to start out as a freshman being one of the lower guys and slowly building my way up to now

leading the team, it just feels great."

One thing you'll notice about the Shamrocks is how frequently they substitute. They have a solid mix of underclassmen contributing this fall, such as Mooradian, James Giacomazza and Dhruv Naik, and they see plenty of time on the pitch.

Pulice takes pride in throwing out lineups, letting them go all-out for a small chunk of time and then letting an-

other slew of Shamrocks take their turn at giving it their all.

"We cycle people through, and we don't really skip a beat," Pulice said. "We have a smaller team than historically we have, but at the end of the day, I think we're in really good shape (with talent and depth). We'll just take it one day at a time, one game at a time."

Follow Brandon Folsom on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

Northville

Continued from Page 1B

meet winner Connell Alford of Chelsea (15:22.7). "It's hard to try your hardest — if that makes sense. I can exert myself for 2 minutes (in a middle-distance track event) a lot easier than I can for 15 minutes. It's the mental game, the mental side of things.

"I've got to get better at competing, and I've got to stop being afraid about leaving it all out there."

It's not that Herger likes cross country as a necessary evil that helps him stay in shape for track season. Because he certainly puts in the effort and miles to be one of the best in Michigan at traversing hills, tough terrain and trails to be the first to cross the finish line.

According to *Athletic.net*, Herger's time was the fastest in all of D-1 during Week 1 of the season (Alford and Chelsea compete in D-2).

And you don't just win the Kensington Lakes Activities Association (15:30.8) and D-1 regional (15:23.9) championships as a junior without loving the sport a little bit.

He just wishes he could overcome the mental blocks that keep him from actually being the best. That's what he does on the track. For two minutes, give or take, it's just him all-out sprinting. It's muscle memory at this point. He doesn't necessarily have to think about the runners in the other seven lanes.

When it comes to cross country, though, he has about 100 other runners and his own thoughts to worry about.

"It's just mental," Herger said. "I'm in my head all of the time. I think the best attribute to have as a cross country runner is to be able to tough it out, which I do, but I just hate it more than anyone else, if that makes sense. My hate for it makes it that much more rewarding when I perform well."

Herger said his goal for the Lamplighter was to keep pace with teammate Ethan Powell (15:57.9, fifth place) for the opening 2 miles and then see how well he could close out the race. He ran that last mile in 4:56 to ensure the Mustangs would win the meet as a team and finish considerably ahead of Romeo in second place.

Keeping up with the likes of Alford in the future, however, will require Herger to remove those mental blocks. And that's something he's vowed to work on over the course of this fall.

When the state championship meet rolls around Nov. 4 at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, he doesn't want negative or limiting beliefs getting in the way.

"I really want to fight for it," Herger said. "I want to go for the win. I'm not sure how possible it is, but if it's my last high school race, I think I can overcome my body and give it everything I've got."

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



Northville's Brendan Herger competes in the third annual Lamplighter Invitational cross country race Friday, Aug. 18, 2023, at Ford Field in Livonia. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Lamplighter

Continued from Page 1B

Mason senior Meghan Ford (18:58.5) won the race, while Pinckney freshman Jaelyn Ray (19:09.5) took second, the only two runners to finish ahead of the Spartans' No. 1 returner.

But this victory wasn't merely about Krayem. It was about how hard Stevenson has worked as a unit to ensure it could get as many top-50 finishers as possible to win this type of competitive meet, which included 25 teams.

"We've come a long way together," Krayem said. "This year, we've focused a lot more on the training itself and the pack mentality, staying close together and getting ourselves across the finish line with less of a gap. When we're at practice, we know that we're up early in the morning, and that's making a bond.



Above at left, Livonia Stevenson's Layla Krayem, and at right, Kaelin Hughes, compete in the third annual Lamplighter Invitational cross country race Friday, Aug. 18, 2023, at Ford Field in Livonia. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

That's a bond you can't get anywhere else, being up in the early morning, put-



ting in that kind of work." Stevenson showed that dedication in

its first meet.

Joining Krayem in the top five was junior Kaelin Hughes, who crossed the finish line in 20:05.2.

"It was nice because I just tried to keep Layla in my vision," said Hughes, who trimmed almost two minutes off her previous time at the Lamplighter. "We hoped we'd come out better than we did last year, and we ended up winning, which was very nice."

To round out the Spartan's top-six, Elaina Braunscheidel (21:52.4) took 30th, Gabriella Wilson (22:21.6) placed 38th, Nicole Young (23:12) was 57th and Breanna Hartmann (24:44.5) finished just outside the top-100.

Rachel Andree (24:46.3) and Emma BeBeau (25:41) also raced for Stevenson.

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

Hat trick helps Churchill soccer team win in new coach's debut

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Monday couldn't have been a better debut for the Livonia Churchill boys soccer team.

Career club player Benji Cook introduced himself to the Kensington Lakes Activities Association by scoring three goals in his first high school match.

First-year varsity players such as junior midfielder Colton Borg and sophomore forward Gentri Truni proved during the 3-0 victory over Westland John Glenn that they'll be vital additions to the Chargers' attack.

And new coach Chris Burnette planted his flag and officially proclaimed himself a Churchill guy.

It was just the season opener, but it was a statement win for the rebuilding program.

"Honestly, Churchill has been a good home for me," said Burnette, who has coached the Chargers' girls team since 2018 but took over for former boys coach Eric Puroll this past off-season. "I get along really well here. I like the students here. I think there is some opportunity here for us to be good."

The reason that's an eye-opening statement for Burnette to say is because he is a Livonia Franklin graduate.

In fact, all of his family members graduated from the rival Patriots as did his wife, her family members and their own children.

Burnette coached at Franklin for seven years, including a half-decade as the varsity boys coach. When he stepped down, he thought he was done coaching for good.

But the chance to coach at Churchill proved to be too good to turn down.

"I just thought there was some opportunity here," Burnette added. "I thought we'd be pretty good. So far we've got some guys from the youth programs such as Colton and Benji and some guys coming out of the AC Milan and Wolves (travel) teams and staff. We're the smallest school in the KLAA.



Livonia Churchill's Benji Cook shoots during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East boys soccer match Aug. 21.
BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

We're half the size of Northville. But we're getting kids to play sports. All of the other coaches here and I, we push to have dual-sport athletes. And we're getting them. I've even got two guys out who run cross country."

Getting travel players to spend the fall playing for their own high school should be a boon for Churchill because it has some great soccer talent roaming its halls during the school day.

Generally, though, they stick to playing for their clubs throughout the school year.

Cook, who Burnette has known since he was in elementary school, elected to give playing varsity soccer a shot as a junior. He didn't disappoint in his first start.

He banged in a goal off the frame just 13 minutes before halftime to give the Chargers a 1-0 lead over John Glenn.

Then he grabbed a rebound, deked Rockets goalie Jose Diaz and a pair of defenders for a point-blank goal just 12

minutes into the second half.

"Benji's a dribbler," Burnette said. "Everyone knows he's a dribbler. But it's still pretty hard to defend him. He's got a great touch on the ball and a good field presence. When he dribbles, dribbles, dribbles, dribbles and then distributes, he can be a top-notch player."

Cook earned the hat trick by getting his toe on a bang-bang play in front of the net about 10 minutes later.

"It's fun. It's a pretty direct (style of play), and there's less possession and a lot of running behind," said Cook, who normally plays year-round for the Michigan Wolves, about the high school game vs. travel ball. "I wanted to score today, but I didn't know I'd get three this early into my career, but I hope to score more in future games."

That shouldn't be a problem with the talent surrounding him.

Churchill should be a middle-of-the-pack-or-better program in the KLAA-East this fall. Can they keep up with the

likes of Dearborn Fordson or rivals Franklin and Livonia Stevenson? That could be a tall order for Burnette's first year. But should he stick around and help build the program, it could be a division contender in a few years.

"I'm liking it," Burnette said. "Even my girls (his children) have said that this is the most positive boys team they've seen me coach. These boys are super good to each other and they support each other."

The Chargers (1-0) face Dearborn next, but they should learn just how talented their team is when they host Stevenson for their first Livonia city championship matchup of the season Monday night. They're hoping they play just as well in that one as they did in their debut. With Burnette on the sideline, there's a good chance they will.

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

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BOYS SOCCER

Brighton newcomer dazzles in win over Novi

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — It took just one game for Colin Robertson to confirm he made the right decision by playing soccer for Brighton his senior year.

Playing for a fancy club team has its perks, but Robertson has developed his skills while playing in relative anonymity.

That changed Aug. 21 when he put on a show in front of his classmates and community in a 2-0 victory over Novi at Sloan Field.

"It was quite surreal," Robertson said. "I never had an environment like this in my life. I've always played club. I never had under the lights, I've never had kids show up to the game. It's a bit sad, but it was a dream come true. I really enjoyed it."

Brighton fans enjoyed what they saw from a player who chose to play for the Bulldogs this fall instead of the Michigan Wolves, his club team.

Robertson scored the game's first goal after being robbed on a shot three minutes earlier.

He was dynamic with the ball on his feet and unleashed several booming shots that were next-level for a high school player.

"I've always wanted to play high school," he said. "I always came to the games when I was younger. My club never allowed me to play high school, because it's a 10-year commitment. I was really happy I came out this year, my last year, so hopefully we can go far this year."

The expectations for Brighton are considerably higher with Robertson pairing up with junior Devlin McGinnis, the Bulldogs' leading scorer last season. McGinnis scored the other goal against Novi.

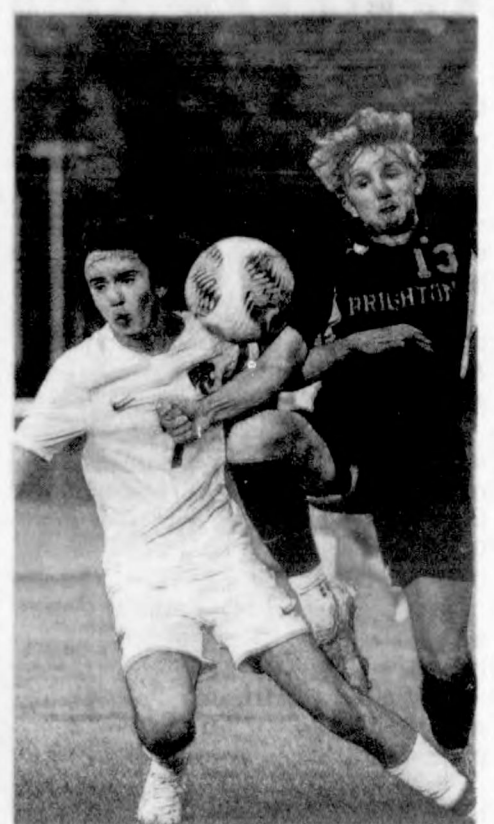
"Any time you add a player of his caliber coming from the academy, it just gives the guys a different level of belief and confidence that anything is possible," Brighton coach Mark Howell said. "We can achieve some great things."

Robertson played with several of his high school teammates about 10 years



Brighton's Anthony Klebba plays the ball in front of Novi's Yuto Shibata during the Bulldogs' 2-0 victory Monday, Aug. 21, 2023 at Sloan Field.

PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY ARRIK/ FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY



Brighton's Andrew Bowman and Novi's Jackson Brickey battle for the ball.

ago before moving to the Wolves, who are based in Livonia. Among them was McGinnis, who received all-state honorable mention as a sophomore last year.

"We played when we were real little," McGinnis said. "To be back out here again, he brings so much energy. I just love playing with the kid."

"So, it's a good reunion for the last year of high school to play with them again," Robertson said.

Robertson appeared to have his first high school goal ticketed for under the crossbar on a free kick with 22:30 left in the first half, but Novi goalie Nate Curtiss somehow shot up and got his left hand on a howitzer, tipping it over the crossbar.

Robertson pulled his jersey over his face in a brief display of frustration, but he didn't have to wait much longer to break through.

He picked up a loose ball in the mid-

dle of the field, dribbled to about 30 yards out and fired a shot inside the left goal post with 19:32 left in the first half.

"I've been practicing a lot with my shot," he said. "I decided to let one rip. The rest is history, I guess."

"Honestly, I never really had the freedom to take shots like that in my club. Having a little opportunity to open up like that and let one fly, I'm happy with it."

McGinnis made it 2-0 with 7:03 left in the first half on a shot that wasn't intended to be a scoring attempt. He dribbled toward the left corner and tried to pass the ball to the front of the net. Instead, it lofted over the outstretched hands of Curtiss.

McGinnis fell flat on his back in disbelief.

"To be honest, I was going for a cross and I just overhit it a little," McGinnis said. "I put in the work to get to the corner and sometimes it just licks out for

you. Obviously, I didn't expect to do it. It just shocked me that it went in."

Reece Meyer made three saves in the first half and Charlie Burchfield made five in the second half to share the shut-out.

Brighton could have easily scored five or six goals if not for some spectacular saves by Curtiss, especially in the second half.

"We knew they were going to be good," Novi coach Todd Pheiffer said. "We knew they were going to be much better than last year, just because there's going to be a lot of growth and they have a lot of returning players. They added (Robertson) to their team, who wasn't there last year. He's a very dynamic player out there. He creates a lot of offense."

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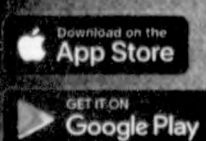


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**BECAUSE UNLIKE
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Observations from Brighton's opening football loss to CJ Carr, Saline

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — It wasn't any different this time around than it was when Belleville's Bryce Underwood or Grand Ledge's Shawn Foster came to town at the end of last season.

Brighton faced an elite quarterback for the third consecutive game Thursday night when Notre Dame recruit CJ Carr led Saline into the Bulldogs' stadium.

Brighton was saddled with another lopsided loss, 42-3, that leaves observers wondering if the Bulldogs were really that bad or if it was just what happens when high school kids face incredibly talented players at the most important position on the field.

Carr is ranked the No. 1 player in Michigan by the Detroit Free Press, Underwood is the top-ranked junior quar-

terback in the country and Foster is a dynamic athlete who is playing wide receiver at Grand Valley State.

Carr led the Hornets to touchdowns on five of his first six possessions, not including a kneel-down to end the first half. He threw one touchdown pass, an 80-yard catch-and-run by Ladainian Woods, and ran for a 5-yard touchdown.

From here on out, unless Brighton earns a shot at Underwood and Belleville in the KLAAs championship game, the Bulldogs won't face another quarterback remotely as dangerous as the last three who have led their teams to routs of Brighton.

"It's tough, because you play to stop the run in high school football all the time, but these guys can throw it as well as they can," Brighton coach Brian Lemons said. "You've got to have guys who can step up and win some one-on-one battles. Our kids are going to get out there and try it every time. We have to

put them in the right position."

Carr did throw one interception when a deflected ball was picked off by senior lineman Logan Weaver.

A perfectionist, Carr believes he can play better.

"Just understanding when I have to get the ball out," Carr said. "A lot falls on me. Just fixing those little mistakes. Obviously, when you put up 42 points, you're happy, but we can always improve."

As great as the opposing quarterbacks have been, it would help the Bulldogs if they could generate some offense.

In their three straight losses to Belleville, Grand Ledge and Saline, they've been outscored 122-9. All the Bulldogs could manage was one Braeden Chiles field goal in each game.

Brighton moved the ball fairly well in the first half, generating 12 first downs, but stalled deep in Saline territory twice

while the game was in the balance. Chiles kicked one field goal and missed another.

"Our offense was inconsistent," Lemons said. "The guys had a hard time consistently executing what was asked of them. I don't know if it's just a matter of us practicing it more or it's a personnel thing."

It might seem strange to single out one play in a 39-point blowout, but Carr's 28-yard pass to Caid Fox on fourth-and-12 in the second quarter may have been the backbreaker for Brighton.

Fox was wide open down the left sideline for the pass, which moved the ball to the Bulldogs' 5-yard line. One play later, Carr scrambled untouched for six to give Saline a 21-3 lead.

Had the Bulldogs made the stop, they would have been down 14-3 with the ball and some momentum. Instead, the rout was on.

Belleville QB halfway to state title four-peat

Mick McCabe

Special to Detroit Free Press

Belleville's first practice of the day was winding down and first-year head coach Calvin Norman was shooting the breeze with a reporter when a question popped into his head:

"Has any quarterback ever won four state championships?"

That possibility, at least, has existed six times in Michigan high school football: Farmington Hills Harrison (1997-2001), East Grand Rapids (2006-10) and Grand Rapids West Catholic (2013-17) each won five consecutive state championships, but none had one quarterback start four of them.

Three other schools — Ithaca (2010-13), Detroit DePorres (1981-84) and Muskegon Catholic Central (2013-16) — won four straight titles, though none of them had the same quarterback all four years, either.

Norman was not putting the cart before the horse, but he was naturally curious — because a year from now, that question could become quite relevant.

Belleville, the Free Press' preseason No. 1 team in the state, is coming off two consecutive championships and is the overwhelming favorite to make it three when it begins the season Friday against River Rouge at 7 p.m. in the Prep Kickoff Classic at Wayne State.

Norman's question is pertinent because Bryce Underwood is going for his third title and he is only a junior.

In 2021, Underwood was only a freshman when Belleville defeated Rochester Adams, 55-33.

"All I know is we won," Underwood said. "I had five touchdowns, that's it. That's all I remember."

That's enough.

Underwood put on an awe-inspiring performance for anyone, much less a freshman. He completed 12 of 21 passes for 284 yards and five touchdowns. He also carried the ball five times for 62 yards, including a 30-yard touchdown run.

Underwood's memory of last season's title game isn't much different.

"Three touchdowns, we won," he said. "That's all the matters."

A season ago, the Tigers drilled Caledonia, 35-17, as Underwood completed 15 of 25 passes for 155 yards and two TDs. A third touchdown came on a 48-yard run as he gained another 149 yards on 10 carries.

Underwood, who passed for 2,751 yards and 37 touchdowns last fall, is back, and his goal for his junior season is pretty much the same as it was for the previous two years.

"We win the state championship," he said.

While Belleville will be the red letter game on every opponent's schedule, he believes the Tigers are better than a year ago and so is he.

An inch taller and 15 pounds heavier, he's now 6 feet 4 and 210 pounds.

"He put on a lot of weight," said linebacker/running back Jeremiah Beasley, who has committed to Michigan. "He stayed in the weight room. He's reading defenses better, his leadership is better, just everything."

Norman replaces disgraced former coach Jermain Crowell, who was fired from Belleville after the Michigan High School Athletic Association suspended him from coaching for two years.

For the previous four seasons, Norman was a Belleville assistant after



Belleville quarterback Bryce Underwood hands off to running back Jeremiah Beasley during practices Tuesday, Aug. 15. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

serving as head coach at Detroit Coda from 2008-18.

He has had a bird's eye view of Underwood's growth as a quarterback since his freshman year.

"His confidence is way up, obviously," Norman said. "He's definitely working harder in the weight room, a lot more so than I've ever seen since he's been there. But I push the weight room."

New to the staff is offensive coordinator Spencer McCourt, who played at Bloomfield Hills Lahser and Northwood University before serving as a graduate assistant at Bowling Green.

Norman is delighted with what he has seen from McCourt since he began making tweaks to the offense, which is making a difference with Underwood.

"He's more accurate with his throws," Norman said. "He definitely understands coverages more, so not to make so many bad throws. Once again, with coach McCourt being around mentoring him, man, it's a big plus to have him, he picks up information really quick."

McCourt has never seen Underwood play in person. But he has watched a lot of game film on him, and, as everyone knows, film don't lie.

The allure to taking the quarterback coach job at Belleville is the opportunity to help Underwood reach his potential.

"He doesn't even know what he's capable of yet," McCourt said. "He's a horse. It kind of bothers me when people say it's God-given ability. He works really hard for it. That's cool to see when a kid's really talented."

The reason Belleville is ranked No. 1 is that Underwood is not the only "really talented" player on the team.

Beasley is a returning all-state linebacker, but he could be an all-state running back as well.

"I like linebacker better," he said. "Just being able to run around and hit people. That's what I like best about linebacker."

If you've watched Beasley carry the ball, it seems his mission is to run around and hit as many people as possible there, too — he doesn't run away from defenders, he runs into and over them.

"You know it's always good to get at running back and run the ball," he said.

"It's always fun to run the ball and get the crowd hyped."

With the depth Belleville has at running back, a coach might choose to limit him to defense to keep him fresh for that spot.

But keeping Beasley on the sideline isn't much of an option for Norman.

"We have, like, six running backs that can go, but Jeremiah runs in a way that, man, you've got to recognize him as a running back," Norman said. "Just his low center of gravity and how he runs and how he sees the hole — he sprints to it."

"Yeah, he's going to get a lot of touch-

es. He's going to be hard to bring down."

There is a lot more to the Tigers than just skill positioned players. Junior Lamar Fairfax will play offensive guard and defensive tackle; he is another weight room maniac, capable of squatting 500 pounds.

Add center/defensive tackle Ronald Jackson to the mix and there is the makings of a terrific line on both sides of the ball.

"Jackson's similar to Lamar Fairfax," Norman said. "These guys are strong, they're fast, athletic. They're not typically what you would normally see as a D-line spot because they're so athletic they can move. They're going to be really difficult to block."

Another standout is wide receiver/defensive back Adrian Walker, a two-way factor last season as a sophomore.

How Walker adapts to different situations amazes Norman.

"Some of these things are not on coaching, they just have this natural ability to know how to play the game of football," he said. "That's where he's at. His IQ of understanding his position, where he's playing at and what he needs to do, it's not so much coaching, he just has the ability."

"He's fast, he's so athletic so it's going to be difficult to cover him and it's also going to be difficult to throw on him."

One of the reasons it will be difficult to throw on Walker? He has to go against the consensus top junior quarterback in the nation each day in practice.

"It's not easy at all," Walker said. "His throwing ability is great. I know there's no quarterbacks better than him, so whenever I play I'm used to having him as the quarterback."

"He's the No. 1 quarterback in the country for a reason."

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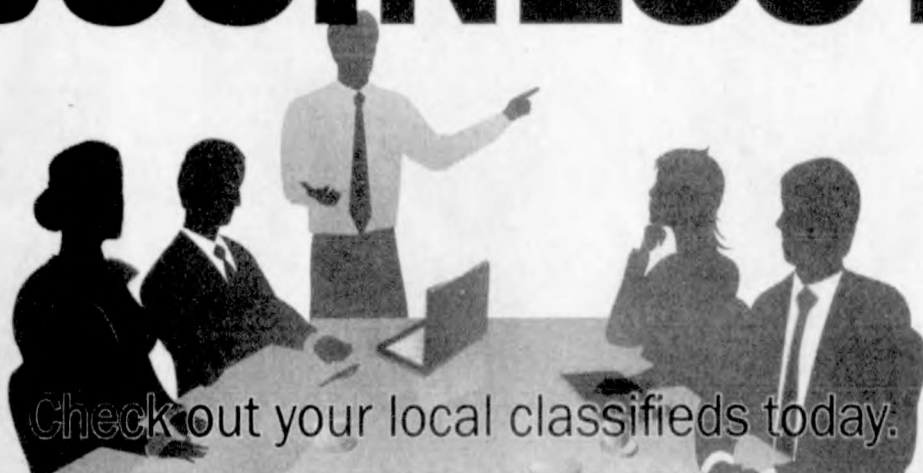
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Obstacles facing small businesses in the modern economy

Metro Creative

Small businesses are the economic engine that runs countries across the globe. Such businesses comprise a larger share of the economic landscape than big firms. Despite how essential a thriving small business sector is, such firms are vulnerable to the fluctuating economic conditions, particularly in the aftermath of the global pandemic.

According to ValuePenguin, powered by Lending Tree, 86 percent of small businesses are facing economic challenges as of 2022. The latest MetLife and U.S. Chamber of Small Business Index has identified issues that many small businesses are confronting in the current economic climate.

• **Inflation:** The Index indicated inflation is the number one concern for small businesses today, with 53 percent of firms reporting this is the biggest challenge they are facing. When the survey was conducted, inflation was up 30 percentage points year-over-year. Also, according to Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Small Businesses Voices survey, more than 76 percent of respondents said the financial health of their business had been

hurt by inflation in recent months.

• **Supply chain issues:** Larger corporations may be able to source their products from many different vendors to keep shelves stocked, but smaller businesses often experience difficulties when items become unavailable. An Oracle survey reported that 80 percent of consumers would stop buying from a brand entirely if they experienced delays or shortages in their orders. This has been troubling to small businesses who have found it harder to compete with larger firms amid supply chain disruption.

• **Revenue generation:** As the costs of supplies and labor has risen due to inflation, small businesses have struggled to generate revenue. The U.S. Chamber of Small Business reported that, in the fourth quarter of 2022, nearly seven in 10 small business owners said they raised prices to cope with rising inflation as a measure to help mitigate revenue lags. Even after raising prices, certain small businesses have been having trouble breaking even.

• **Rising interest rates:** Small business owners who rely on loans



and credit to finance their business operations have been hit hard by the rising interest rates the Federal Reserve has been implementing to stem inflation. These rising rates, coupled with revenue struggles, are added costs to doing business.

• **Recruitment and retention:** Finding and keeping quality employees has been challenging for some time. This has been exacerbated by the fact that everyone is feeling the pinch of rising costs, and individuals need jobs that will offer salaries and benefits that can

help them make ends meet. This means that employees may be lured away by the prospect of better pay at big box businesses that may have more available capital to pay employees. In addition, large firms can provide access to less expensive health care plans because they are servicing a greater number of employees.

Small businesses are facing considerable obstacles in the modern economy. Consulting with a business advisor may help entrepreneurs solve these issues.

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