



## Novi soccer gets confidence boost in win over South Lyon

SPORTS, 1B

# NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Suspect identified in 1982 murder of SL teen

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LANSING — After 41 years, police believe they have solved the murder of South Lyon teen Kimberly Louiselle.

Michigan State Police confirmed in a press release Thursday that Charles

David Shaw was identified as the suspect in the 1982 murder. Shaw, a 26-year-old Livonia resident who died in 1983, was identified earlier this year as the killer of Christina Castiglione, a 19-year-old Redford woman whose murder also went unsolved for 40 years.

Louiselle, 16, was last seen on March 20, 1982, near Eight Mile and Merriman roads in Livonia. Her body was found nearly a month later on April 14 in the Island Lake Recreation Area in Green Oak Township.

Michigan State Police and the Livingston County Sheriff's Department had no substantial leads for decades, but, in 2022, the case was reopened. MSP cold case detectives and students from Michigan State University's School of Criminal Justice resubmitted evidence for forensic testing.

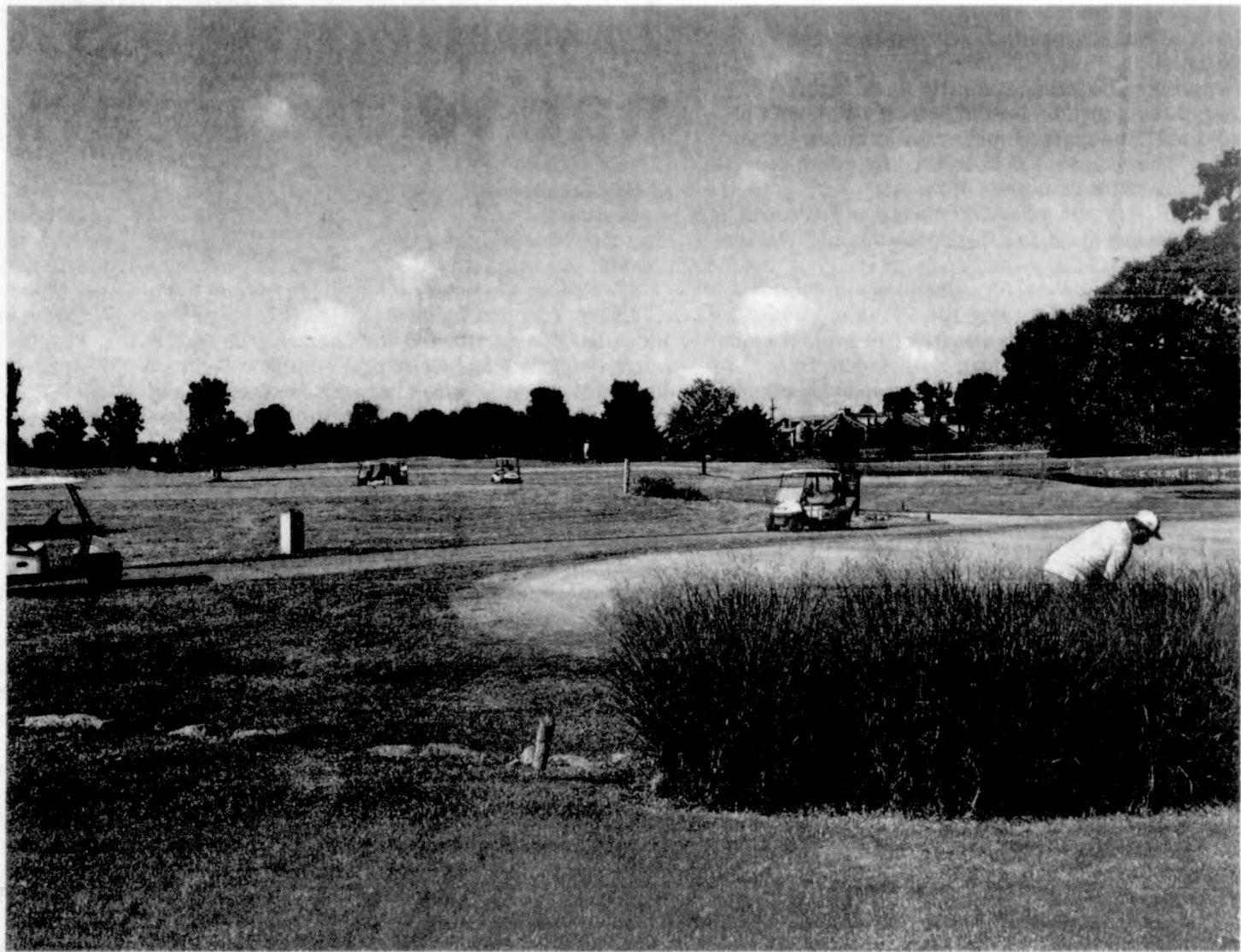
Simultaneously, the Livingston County cold case team was reexamining the homicide of Castiglione, who was last seen hitchhiking on Five Mile Road near Merriman in Redford on March 19, 1983, and was found strangled and sexually assaulted 10 days later in Livingston County. DNA found on her body was preserved and linked to Shaw through forensic genealogy, according to the release.

Shaw, who died in November 1983 from accidental sexual asphyxiation, never had his DNA previously submitted into the national Combined DNA Index System. It is now in the system and matches recovered evidence from both cases, state troopers said.

Detectives are exploring the possibility that Shaw is responsible for additional crimes. Anyone with information can contact Detective Sgt. Larry Rothman of the MSP at 313-407-9379.



Louiselle



The Lyon Township Planning Commission has recommended approval of a preliminary site plan for Settler's Ridge, a 289-unit housing development on the site of Coyote Golf Course. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Housing plan at Coyote Golf Course property moves forward

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LYON TWP. — A plan that would put 289 housing units on the site of Coyote Golf Club course has received support from the Lyon Township Planning Commission, despite citizens' objections over increased traffic.

In a 6-1 vote Sept. 11, the commission recommended approval of a preliminary site plan for the Settler's Ridge development, which includes 100 townhomes in 18 buildings; 86 single-family homes on 80-foot-wide lots; and 103 single-family homes on 95-foot wide lots spread across the 183-acre property at Milford and 12 Mile roads.

The vote came after a public hearing during which more than a dozen residents voiced concerns about a lack of road infrastructure to support more vehicles in the area. The plan for Settler's Ridge now goes to the township board for approval.

Shannon Jurincic, a resident of the township for 30 years, told the commission she can't make a left turn to get on to Milford Road to reach the expressway and noted the current traffic load is already too much just from people commuting to work, and taking their kids to school and daycare. She has seen emergency vehicles struggle to make it down Milford Road, she said.

"Every family today is a two-car family, so now we're talking 500 more cars trying to get out," Jurincic said. "I hate to

say it, but we need a traffic light. Nobody does the speed limit. It's only going to get worse with all the other subs going up — they have to go to work and get to (Interstate) 96. This whole thing is a horrible idea."

The plan, though, is far less dense than the 477-home development proposal the commission shot down in 2019, smaller than the 310-unit development floated last year, and is further reduced from the Settler's Ridge conceptual plan shown just a few months ago.

Jennifer Thomas of Lombardo Homes said if the project receives all final approvals, Lombardo hopes to begin construction in February.

Thomas noted in a presentation to

See HOUSING, Page 4A

## Raising Cane's proposes new Canton location

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON TWP. — Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, a popular fast food restaurant with a menu limited to chicken fingers, fries, coleslaw and Texas toast, could be coming soon to Canton Township.

The company is proposing a 3,700-square-foot restaurant with seating for 90 and a drive-thru at 44250 Ford Road, the current location of TGI Fridays.

While plans call for demolition of

the current TGI Fridays, manager Joe Bowker said the restaurant is still operating as usual and no date had been set for closing.

On Sept. 11, the Canton Township Planning Commission conducted a public hearing for a special land use permit requested by Raising Cane's, which is required under the township ordinance.

After more than an hour of discussion Monday, the commission voted 8-0 to defer action until additional plans for access management and other issues were submitted by the company for

See RAISING CANE'S, Page 4A



Raising Cane's is the nation's fastest-growing chicken finger concept with more than 700 restaurants in over 35 states and Guam. RAISING CANE'S

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# 107-year-old Floridian, former journalist stays ‘young at heart’ with tales to tell

**Matt Soergel**  
Jacksonville Florida Times-Union  
USA TODAY NETWORK

POINTE VEDRA, Fla. – Bobbie West was born in 1916, the bloodiest year of World War I. She spent years as a journalist, beginning as a 16-year-old “copy girl,” and then as a reporter for papers in her native New York state. She remembers interviewing hoboes hitchhiking rides on freight trains (they tried to make it sound romantic but it really wasn’t) and writing about the oldest bellboy in town.

She took up journalism again after she moved into a retirement community in Ponte Vedra, Florida, interviewing and writing about fellow residents who caught her interest. She continued her craft through her 80s, through her 90s, and then – after singing in a cabaret show she staged for her 100th birthday – well into her 11th decade on Earth.

A couple of months after her 107th birthday, it was her turn to be interviewed, outside in a welcome breeze in a favorite shaded spot near a fountain she can see from her apartment at Vicar’s Landing.

West gave a little smile, appraising the situation. “When I die, which is going to be tomorrow or the next day or the next, you’ll have a whole new angle.”

## Once a Journalist ...

She feels good, she says, at 107, and though her vision is poor and hearing is sometimes difficult, she’s still mentally sharp. “But I know my body is breaking down,” she said.

Later, she looks around the courtyard at the retirement center, where she’s lived for about 28 years.

“Can you think of a better place to end your life,” she said, “with a fountain and these flowers and this weather?”

West has already written her own obituary and planned her funeral service, during which Wendee Rogers, her longtime friend, bookkeeper and advocate, will read a letter that West wrote to her children.

“Wendee and I worked it out,” West said. “It’ll be great. My boys are going to sing. My granddaughter is going to sing. My grandsons are going to sing. It’s going to be a musical.”

She kidded her interviewer. “You want to come?” she said, breaking into another smile. Then she nodded briskly and gave this tip: “Watch the paper.”

## The Great War, Mussolini, a lifetime love

It’s 1918, and this, she says, is one of her earliest memories. Her mother is stricken by the Spanish flu, and her father is just home from the Great War. He is an architect, and the Army sent him to Europe to design barracks. But all the



**Bobbie West at 19.**  
PROVIDED BY BOBBIE WEST

barracks were already built, so he was made a lieutenant and given the job of deciding which pilots would fly missions each day.

But who was he to decide who would live or quite possibly die?

“It was his job to send out these young men, not knowing whether they would get back or not,” West said. “It was a terrible, terrible job. He hated it.”

Back home in Binghamton, N.Y., with his wife sick, his job now was to take care of their baby girl. He would rock her most of the day to keep her calm, humming the whole time. But if he stopped humming, Bobbie (born Barbara) would prompt him: “Daddy, hmm-hmm some more.”

Another memory: “At the age of 12 I met my future husband at dancing school. I finally nabbed him 10 years later,” she said. “I had my eye on him. He didn’t have a chance of escaping, once I made up my mind.”

Ward West was the one. “He was a beautiful dancer. He was good-looking, and he was a jock. He was everything wonderful,” she said. They married in 1940 and had 61 more years together.

Before the marriage, though, another memory: She’s 19, touring Europe with her father, who was big in Rotary International. That’s how she finds herself, on a hot summer day in Rome, inside a reception room, part of a group waiting to meet Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

He eventually reaches her. She’s eye-

to-eye with him, she says, and she’s just 5-foot-2. Outside the building, a big crowd has gathered, chanting for the dictator. Mussolini goes out on a balcony to address them and as he does he takes West by the arm, plucks a red rose from a vase, and gives it to her to hold as she joins him on the balcony.

He puts on a hat, steps on a box, and looks down on the crowd. It’s a festival day in Rome, and it’s broiling, and in the audience below him are many women in traditional costumes. Mussolini looks down at West and says, in English, “Poor things, they must be so hot.”

She’s told that story many times over the decades.

“Well anyway, that’s my claim to fame whether I like it or not,” she said. Then she chuckled. “My children think that’s the only thing I ever did my whole life.”

## A self-written obituary

West’s self-written obituary begins like this: “Barbara Cummings West 7/11/16 - ” leaving a space for another date still to come.

It continues: “Born in Brooklyn, NY but grew up in Binghamton, NY until marriage to A. Ward West in 1940. Attended the University of Rochester and Cambridge University in England. Had careers in journalism, radio, TV, advertising and public relations.”

She and Ward were married on Nantucket Island in Massachusetts and had a house there for years. They had four children, two boys and two girls; their daughter Anne, whom they called Andy, died in 2018.

Ward West died in a hospital on Nantucket in October 2001, just before he and Bobbie were due to return for the winter to Vicar’s Landing. They’d moved to the retirement community in 1995, after 15 years in Sea Island, Ga., so they could be closer to the Mayo Clinic, where he was receiving care.

After his death, Bobbie West kept busy. She socialized, led trivia events, sung, acted in plays and edited and published a book of the memories of the community’s World War II veterans.

At 105 she retired as “events reporter” for the Vicar’s Voice, the community newsletter, for which she also wrote an annual and much-awaited Christmas letter to her late husband. She began each letter with a “Dearheart,” and then filled him in on the things that, sadly, he was not there to see, from the fresh paint on the community buildings to a pandemic that was sweeping the globe.

And she’s been a frequent user of the Vicar’s Landing swimming pool, which on her 107th birthday was named after her.

She needs the time in the water. “It gives me some vigor. I can feel things coming back to life that I thought

weren’t working anymore. It makes you feel so good, to get in there.”

West said she’s always been active in sports and long enjoyed golf, tennis and skiing. “I was not great at everything,” she said. “But I did everything. Let’s leave it at that.”

That seems profound, she’s told. “You think so? Well, if you think so.”

## ‘Her calendar is crazy’

“Isn’t she a pip?” said her daughter, Sally West. “You can’t make this stuff up, it’s just unbelievable. Especially this last week when she was in the hospital with this and that. I thought, this might be it. But no, she’s back swimming and out for lunch.”

Her mother has always been strong-willed and confident, said her daughter, who turns 80 next month and splits her time between Cape Cod and New Smyrna Beach. “Trust me when I tell you, my mother is feisty and she stands up for what she wants.”

Rogers, her assistant, has known West since 1996 and marvels at her drive and toughness. West was hospitalized for four days last week but then was able to get back in the swimming pool for 50 minutes one day. On the next day she interviewed a 99-year-old Vicar’s Landing resident who’d been a friend of President Harry S. Truman’s daughter, Margaret, in front of about 15 people.

“Bobbie is driven. I’ve got to go read The New York Times, whether I can see it or not. I want to go the library. She has markers she wants to get done every day and makes sure she accomplishes them,” Rogers said. “Friends and relationships and social engagement are important to her. Her calendar is crazy.”

Local piano legend Gene Nordan is a longtime friend who helped her put on the cabaret show for her 100th birthday. She always wanted to be a saloon singer, she’s told him. Her favorite song: “Memories of You,” from 1930.

When she was in her late 90s, she was part of a group that went with Nordan on a cruise to the tip of South America. And when he started playing on the piano each night on the ship, West would start singing and practically the whole ship would gather around.

She’s always there too, singing, when he does his regular gig at Vicar’s Landing. “She’s an institution,” Nordan said. “Everybody at Vicar’s treats her like a general. Everybody knows Bobbie West. She’s 107 years old, loving and giving, but don’t underestimate her. I use the word strong. She can be blunt if she knows she’s right. A good blunt though – she doesn’t go too far.”

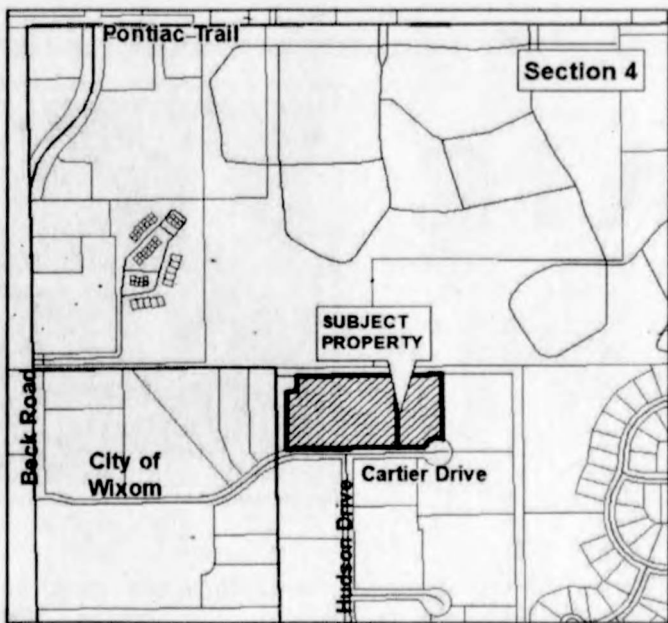
She can also charm, Nordan said.

“She says, ‘Gene, I know I’m 20 years older than you, maybe 25 years older, and I know I’ll go to heaven first, but it won’t be heaven until you get there.’”

## CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **JSP23-24 BLM GROUP EXPANSION FOR SPECIAL LAND USE, PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVALS.** The subject property totals approximately 7.62 acres and is located in Section 4, east of Beck Road and north of Cartier Drive. The applicant is proposing a 63,608 square foot addition to the existing 75,162 square foot building for the existing tenant's corporate office/manufacturing/warehouse use in the I-1 Light Industrial District.

Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department during regular business hours (8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.)



**Subject Parcel ID:** 50-22-04-151-036 & 50-22-04-151-035

All interested persons are invited to attend this in-person meeting. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., **Wednesday, October 11, 2023.**

**Published on September 21, 2023**  
Novi Planning Commission  
Michael Lynch, Secretary

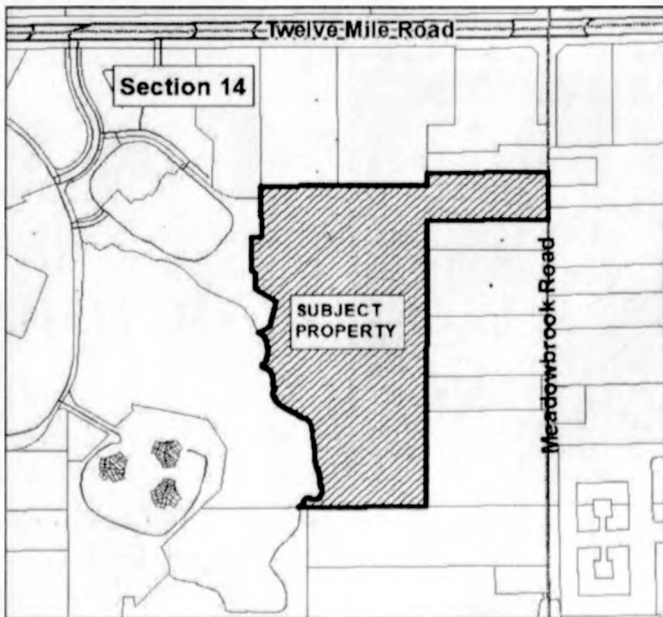
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## CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **JZ22-28 ELM CREEK FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR A PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY (PRO) CONCEPT PLAN ASSOCIATED WITH ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.737, TO REZONE FROM OST (OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY) AND RM-1 (LOW DENSITY MULTIPLE-FAMILY) TO RM-1 (LOW DENSITY MULTIPLE-FAMILY).** The subject property totals approximately 37 acres and is located west of Meadowbrook Road, south of Twelve Mile Road (Section 14). The applicant proposes to develop 134 residential units in two-story townhouse-style buildings.

Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department during regular business hours (8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.)



**Subject Parcel ID:** 50-22-14-200-043

All interested persons are invited to attend this in-person meeting. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., **Wednesday, October 11, 2023.**

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Novi Planning Commission  
Michael Lynch, Secretary

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# Livonia parents, officials fight for safer school crosswalks

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — Danielle Howell is a crossing guard and mom. When her son reaches high school, she's worried about how safe he'll be getting there.

"Even at an elementary school, a lot of cars take it upon themselves to drive past even if there's a crossing guard," she said. "It undermines what I, as a crossing guard, am doing and puts people in danger."

Other parents in the Livonia Public Schools district share Howell's concerns. One of those parents is City Council President Jim Jolly, who's asking city administration to add better pedestrian crossings and more stop signs near schools on city streets.

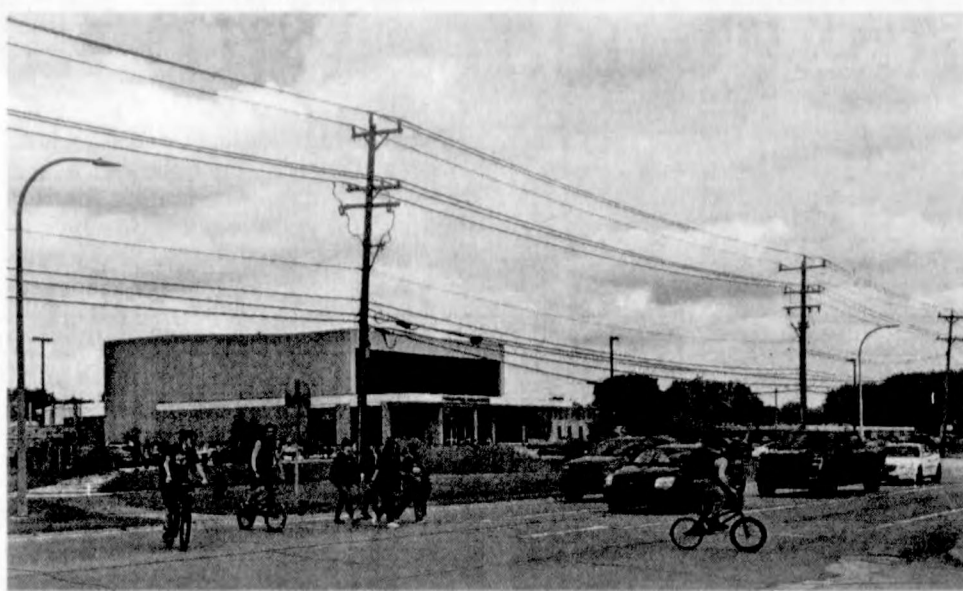
"This is a long developing problem," Jolly said. "On a lot of these streets near schools, there used to be stop signs. Between 10 and 15 years ago, they were all removed with the understanding that cars would drive slower if there were no stop signs. So all of these stop signs got removed and turned these residential streets into cut through points and half mile roads."

## Fighting for safer walkways

According to Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan, the city's traffic commission is set to explore flashing crosswalk signs near schools in a meeting this month.

"School crossings are critical safety issue," Brosnan said in an email.

But city officials can only do so much. Some of the district's schools are located on locally-controlled roads and others, including the three high schools, are



The faded crosswalk at Joy Road and Liberty Boulevard was described as one of the most dangerous in the Livonia school district.

SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

located on roads controlled and maintained by Wayne County. If any stop signs, crosswalk signals or painted crosswalks were to be added at some schools, Wayne County would have to do it.

Additionally, middle and high school students are not accompanied by crossing guards when walking to and from school.

Livonia school officials sent a letter to Wayne County Commissioner Glenn Anderson about getting a crossing beacon at Joy Road and Liberty Boulevard in front of Franklin High School.

According to Anderson, he's requested the county department of public services explore putting a beacon signal at that intersection, and feels that location would be a good candidate for grant

funding. Anderson said he has not heard back from the county.

"We have reached out to the city of Livonia and Wayne County, as recently as May 2023, with design options and a request for funding to install lighted crossing signage at the current (near Franklin) crosswalk," Superintendent Andrea Oquist said in an email. "We are pleased that our city partners see this as a priority as well. LPS is more than willing to work with the appropriate jurisdictions to make this happen for our students."

On the city's side, Jolly said he's advocating for wide-spread improvements. City and school officials stated they hope to avoid student-vehicle crash issues like those experienced in districts like Wayne-Westland Commu-

nity Schools.

"We need to have designated crosswalks with signals in front of the schools at a minimum," Jolly said. "As a dad, I think those stop signs should come back and we need those flashing signals."

According to multiple parents who reached out to Hometown Life, a Livonia Franklin student was hit by a car mirror while crossing at Joy and Merri-man roads last week.

"They need more stop signs, they need flashing crosswalks, they need to crack down on speeders and they need better lighting," said Collette Legal, whose son attends Franklin.

## Getting drivers to slow down

Crosswalks aside, parents say careless driving is also a major concern.

"People are rude," Howell, in her second year as a crossing guard, said. "They get up close to me and they huff and puff. Everybody is always in a rush. I've watched kids have to step back to miss a car. It's not safe."

Others agreed, saying drivers headed by schools should be especially careful.

Mike Testa and others argued better collaboration between the city, school district and county is needed to create a lasting solution to keep students safe.

"I've never hit anyone, but I double and triple check," said Testa, who has four children in the district. "There are a lot of near-misses."

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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448.

## Housing

Continued from Page 1A

the planning commission that the home developer reduced the density by nine lots, increased lot sizes and setbacks between homes, and connected cul-de-sacs.

"Our goal is to maintain the spirit and intent of the master plan of Lyon Township, be a good neighbor to all, and utilize the natural features on site," Thomas said.

While Commissioner Branko Mitkovski said he still wanted to see 30-foot spacing between homes, and subsequently voted no to the project, the majority of commissioners voiced support.

Carl Towne said he liked the project and believes it works.

"Roads will be an issue all along," he said. "What strikes me is 44% of open space will be left. I've played that course and it is beautiful and to keep that contiguous space in Lyon is what we are after."

Patricia Carcone, who will vote on the plan again as township treasurer when

the township board considers it, said she liked the 8 acres of property — including the clubhouse and parking lot — that the developer is gifting to the township as part of the project.

She acknowledged the residents' anger over the traffic, but explained that the Oakland County Road Commission has jurisdiction over roads and "they don't deny any development."

"People have property rights and, if they meet zoning requirements, we can't deny them," Carcone said. "Sometimes it's heartbreaking, but we can't put the township at risk for suing."

She also noted that in conversations with RCOC, she had learned that the cost to pave a mile of road has increased from \$1 million to \$3.7 million in the past few years and the cost to put in a roundabout is now between \$20 million and \$30 million.

For a township that gets only about \$1.5 million in road funding per year, such improvements are out of reach unless federal money is granted.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com) or 517-281-2412. Follow her on X: @SusanBromley10.

## Raising Cane's

Continued from Page 1A

review by township planners, engineers and the police department. Commissioner Nancy Eggenberger was absent.

Representatives from the company said they will return for a future meeting, but a date for that meeting was not immediately available.

During the Sept. 11 session, Canton Township community planner Patrick Sloan said he has concerns about plans for the site as submitted, most significantly over traffic and access management at an eatery that could generate a high volume of traffic.

"Most of the impacts relate to not just the traffic on the adjacent roadway system, but the impacts on traffic within

the site itself," Sloan said, noting the drive-thru plan submitted by the company shows enough space for 32 cars to queue, which far exceeds the zoning requirement for 10.

"Our concern is that we're not aware of any other Raising Cane's drive-thru restaurants in southeast Michigan. We're concerned the restaurant has the potential to generate every very high demand, being the only...Raising Cane's in the region."

Most Canton Township planning commissioners were generally supportive of the plan, but also expressed significant concerns over ingress and egress, traffic flow and other issues that need to be addressed.

"When you start to talk about queuing 20, 30, 40 cars, it seems like a lot," Planning Commissioner Brian Watkins said. "It's an extreme amount of traffic

on a parcel that is right now not developed, with Fridays on that site. Now you go from underdeveloped, with plenty of parking, to very, very dense."

Tom Szafranski, a civil engineer with Kimley-Horn, identified himself as the "traffic guy" for the proposed Raising Cane's location, and said the company's drive-thru is one of the fastest in the industry.

"It's only 2 minutes and 30 seconds from the time somebody places their order at the menu board to the time they're driving away with their food," he said. "This is mainly due to the limited menu."

The small menu, along with cameras in the drive-thru, said Crystal Ferrell, Raising Cane's property development manager, allows staff to serve customers quickly.

"When they you see you pull in, they

say, 'drop chicken,'" she said. "It's always going to be fresh. The chicken is never frozen. They make the coleslaw fresh every day. The commitment to quality is second to none."

According to its website, the company was founded in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1996 by entrepreneur Todd Graves, who worked 90-hour weeks in an oil refinery in Los Angeles and did commercial fishing in Alaska to save the money to open the business after he was told his idea for a restaurant focused on chicken fingers wouldn't work.

The restaurant chain is named after Graves' beloved yellow Lab, Raising Cane.

About 250 people waited in line for the Raising Cane's grand opening in East Lansing last fall.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at [lcolvin@hometownlife.com](mailto:lcolvin@hometownlife.com).



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# Michigan household income declines, census data shows

Kristi Tanner

Lansing State Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan households made less money in 2022 but a larger share of people had health insurance compared to the year prior, according to census data released Thursday.

## Michigan's median household income decreased slightly last year

Statewide, median household income was \$66,986 in 2022 — a 2% decline from the year prior, after adjusting for inflation. U.S. median household income dipped by 0.8% to \$74,755 during the same time period, according to American Community Survey data.

For communities with at least 65,000 residents:

- Detroit and Flint median household income dropped by 7% and 18%, respectively, to \$36,453 and \$33,036.
- Oakland County's household income declined by 3% to \$90,594.
- Bay County's income fell by 10% to just over \$55,000.
- Shiawassee County was the only area that experienced an increase, up 10% to pre-pandemic levels at \$61,564.

The percentage of Michigan residents with a bachelor's degree or greater increased by 0.4 percentage points to 32.1%, below the national rate which increased by 0.7 percentage points to 35.7%.

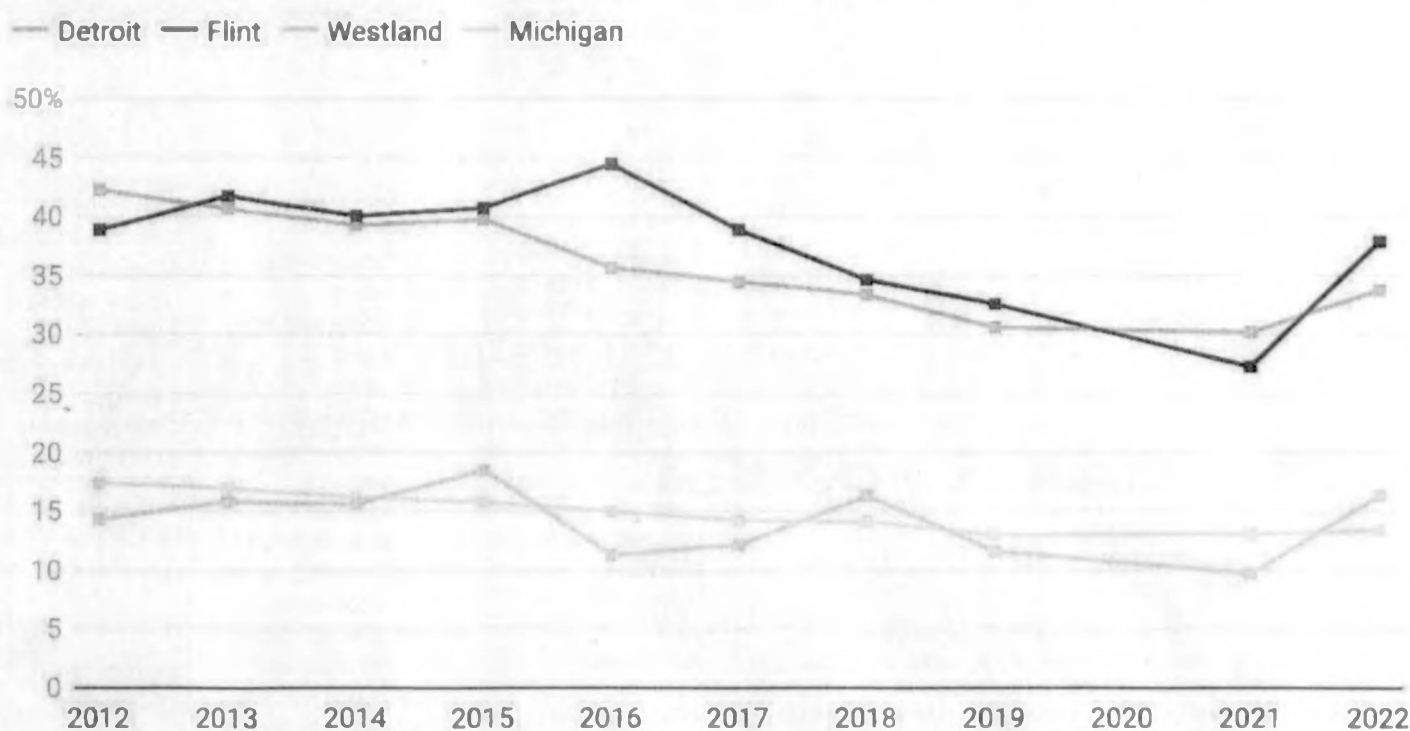
For bachelor's degree holders within the same field of degree, men still earned more than women. For example, male engineers earned about \$110,000 last year compared to \$90,000 for women, ACS data shows.

## Michigan poverty rates hold steady

Statewide, the share of people living in poverty last year remained statistically unchanged at about 13%. The child poverty rate was also flat at 18%.

Poverty rates increased in Detroit, Flint, Westland and Wayne County, but decreased in Rochester Hills, Clinton Township, Shelby Township and Macomb County. The 2022 poverty threshold for a family of four was \$29,950.

## Poverty rates up last year in Detroit, Flint and Westland



NOTE Percentage of the population living below the poverty level. Estimate not available for 2020.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1 year estimates • Created with Datawrapper

The percentage of residents living below the poverty rate increased in Detroit, Flint and Westland last year, according to U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey data. CREATED WITH DATAWRAPPER

The percentage of children living in poverty in Lapeer County increased by roughly 10 percentage points to 17%, according to annual estimates. And in Flint, the childhood poverty rate soared to 69.4% in 2022 — more than double the prior year's rate of 34.2%.

"I am deeply concerned about child poverty," Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley said in an email to the Free Press, "but Flint is a strong community because we come together to take care of each other." He cited a new program aimed at reducing the child poverty rate, Flint RX Kids, which is slated to begin in 2024. The program will provide cash payments to Flint families during pregnancy and the first year of a child's life.

"This has never been done before on a city-wide scale — to disrupt poverty when it's most toxic," said Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, director of Michigan

State University-Hurley Children's Hospital Pediatric Public Health Initiative, who leads the program in concert with Luke Shaefer, director of Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan. "We might literally be the first city that eliminates infant poverty."

A smaller share of children were living in poverty in Macomb, Marquette, Midland and Saginaw counties last year. The child poverty rate in Canton Township declined by 5.4 percentage points to 2.3% in 2022.

"While there is a great deal of variability, it is clear that communities with high levels of poverty and low levels of college graduates experienced increased poverty and decreased income in 2022," demographer Kurt Metzger said. "Unless we can work to eliminate the race/ethnic education gaps, we will continue to see divergent futures across

our communities."

## Michigan's uninsured rate falls

Michigan has one of the lowest uninsured rates in the country; just 4.5% of residents were uninsured last year, down from 5% in 2021. Nationwide, about 8% of residents went without health insurance coverage last year.

Between 2021 and 2022, the rate of public coverage like Medicaid or Medicare increased in 13 states, including Michigan. The share of Michigan residents with private coverage remained the same.

To see the latest data for your community, go to the U.S. Census Bureau website at <https://data.census.gov>.

Contact Kristi Tanner: [ktanner@freepress.com](mailto:ktanner@freepress.com). Follow her on X @midatalove.

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

Accrue	Crib	Luck	Rewards
Aces	Crown	Ludo	Rules
Adept	Deal	Million	Shake
Amuse	Debt	Move	Solo
Ante	Dice	Obsessed	Taps
Bankroll	Envy	Odds	The Star
Beat	Flush	Pace	Trip
Bingo	Gain	Pawn	Trump
Bluff	Gold	Payout	Two-up
Call	Heart	Pits	Unfortunate
Cash	Keno	Poker	Watch
Clubs	Land	Poker machines	Whist
Coffee	Lone	Prize	

## TODAY'S ANSWER

Gamble responsibly

## Place your bets

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

## PUZZLES &amp; POSERS

## THE MORSE DECODER — CHRISTMAS

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE CONSISTS OF DOTS, DASHES, & SPACES. HOWEVER, IN THIS PUZZLE AN INTERESTING PROBLEM HAS BEEN CREATED BY THE ELIMINATION OF ALL SPACES. ~TO SOLVE, EACH OF THE FIVE ROWS BELOW MUST BE PROPERLY SPACED TO FORM A WORD FROM THE ABOVE TOPIC. THE DOTS AND DASHES ARE IN THE CORRECT ORDER.

1. ○ □ □ □ □ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ □ ○ ○ ○
2. ○ ○ ○ ○ □ □ □ □ ○ □ ○ ○ ○ □ ○ ○ □ □
3. □ ○ ○ ○ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ □ □
4. □ □ □ □ □ ○ □ □ ○ ○ ○
5. □ □ □ □ □ ○ □ □ ○ ○ ○ ○

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

## 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

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

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

## NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

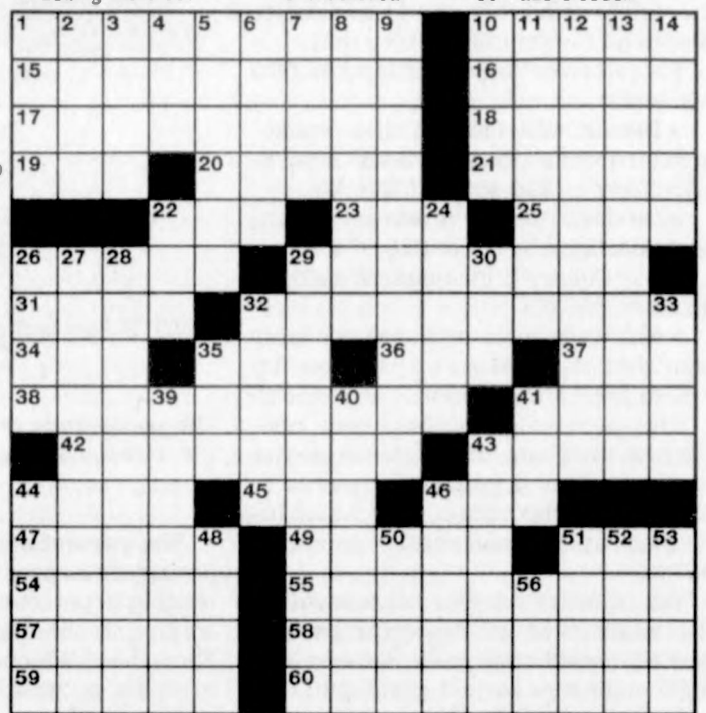
## ACROSS

- 1 Sharp-turn roller coaster
- 10 Hit the roof
- 15 Break for biscuits
- 16 Crude vehicle
- 17 Wheelless transportation
- 18 One of Africa's Big Five
- 19 Term of disappointment
- 20 Snap
- 21 Cause to snap
- 22 Aching
- 23 What's read in books
- 25 Clears
- 26 Far from famished
- 29 One answering questions
- 31 Accented encouragement
- 32 It's much better than "Good work!"
- 34 36 Across, picked up the wrong way
- 35 Psalms predecessor
- 36 Have something
- 37 Thing of beauty
- 38 Umbrella holder
- 41 Forceful impact
- 42 Spicy Quesadilla items
- 43 Looking sharp
- 44 Observe
- 45 Boarded
- 46 What a kit may become
- 47 Pass or perform
- 49 Space starter first seen in an '82 sci-fi story
- 51 Seasonal standout

- 54 Cool quarters
- 55 Means
- 57 Lowlands
- 58 One seen in seasonal snaps
- 59 Computer
- 60 Crown jewel

## DOWN

- 1 From Washington to Lincoln
- 2 Undesirables
- 3 Scottish soup staple
- 4 Something sold in a snap case
- 5 Went 1 for 2?
- 6 3 Down's close kin
- 7 Group concerned with grasslands
- 8 Letting more out
- 9 What you need
- 10 Most important
- 11 Hacker portrayer in the 2018 Ocean's
- 12 Collegiate quarters
- 13 Success in sexennial races
- 14 They're not too quick
- 22 Concurrent comment
- 24 \_\_\_ Scarlett O'Hara
- 26 Kind of cake
- 27 More than pleased
- 28 One not taking a shot
- 29 Summer academic workshop
- 30 Texter's nontheoretical
- 32 Decorator's suggestion
- 33 Coveted winged muse
- 35 Little bit
- 39 Motion follower
- 40 Kind of cake
- 41 Floor
- 43 Safe to put money in
- 44 Predominate
- 46 Old-school kind of guy
- 48 Don't save
- 50 Peevishness
- 51 Not for anyone else
- 52 Reviews, as books
- 53 TV "stories that move people"
- 56 Hazel's cousin



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANLEYWORDS@aol.com

9/16/23

## TODAY'S ANSWER

5. MANGER  
4. TONS  
3. DECEMBER  
2. MOLT  
1. JESUS

## NOLITOS



32/61/6



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# Milford Village Council seeks new member

**Susan Bromley**

Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

MILFORD — Steven Burke has resigned as a village council member, leaving an open seat that must be filled.

Burke, who was appointed to the sev-

en-member council in September 2019 and was elected to his seat the following November, recently announced he is moving out of the village and stepping down.

He has attended his last meeting.

Village officials are seeking a replacement to serve the remainder of Burke's term, which ends in November 2024.



Burke

villageofmilford.org.

Applicants must be residents of the village and submit a letter of interest by noon Sept. 25 to village Clerk Shannon Warner at 1100 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48381 or by email to swarner@villageofmilford.org.

The council will review applications and consider an appointment during its regular meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Civic Center, 1100 Atlantic St.

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

# Birmingham Bridal owner accused of fraud

Faces 9 charges after police say brides never got dresses

**Chanel Stitt**

Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The owner of Birmingham Bridal has been arrested and accused of fraud, according to the Birmingham Police Department.

Customers of Birmingham Bridal re-

ported to police that they paid thousands for dresses, but never received the dress or a refund, a news release said.

The store, which closed abruptly in June, allegedly provided customers with excuses about the status of the orders.

The customers then had to rush wed-

ding dress orders from other stores.

An investigation found that the business used payments from new orders to pay for old orders, the news release said.

Detectives also found that the owner of the store, Nadica Ristivojevic, had a gambling habit and was trying to win the money back to pay for these orders.

Ristivojevic, 58, of West Bloomfield, was accused of making fraudulent

charges totaling \$40,000 to \$50,000.

A warrant was issued for the owner of the store on Sept. 5 by the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office citing nine counts of false pretenses, which is one count for each victim, said the release. By Sept. 8, Ristivojevic was arrested and arraigned on a \$750,000 cash bond.

Victims of fraudulent charges at Birmingham Bridal can call Detective Rebekah Springer at 248-530-1895.

# WTC 'Survivor Tree' lives on in seedlings sent to Ukraine, NJ towns

**Bruce A. Scruton**

Newton New Jersey Herald  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A New Jersey town's annual 9/11 memorial ceremony this year featured a direct link to a survivor: a sapling from a pear tree found buried under the World Trade Center rubble and nursed back to health.

"It's taken nine years, but now we have one," Vernon Mayor Howard Burrell said, referring to the sapling, which has already been planted by Notchwood Landscape, a state-approved landscaping company.

That satisfied one of the requirements set out by the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, which provides saplings to just a handful of organizations each year.

According to the museum, it was almost a month after the 9/11 attacks

when workers digging through the pile of debris found the Callery pear tree. Extensively damaged, with its roots and limbs snapped and its trunk blackened and burned, the tree was moved to a nursery run by the New York City Parks Department, where it was cared for until it could be replanted.

The tree survives to this day outside the Freedom Tower, which is 1,336 feet tall, but with a mast that brings the total height to 1,776 feet.

Each year, the museum selects three communities to receive saplings grown from seeds of the surviving pear tree.

The other New Jersey recipient is Little Falls, which lost two residents in the 9/11 attack. Vernon lost three residents in the World Trade Center attack.

The 2022 recipients were Ukraine, which continues to fight for its freedom in a continuing war with Russia; Buffalo,

New York, which had its own domestic terrorism attack at a supermarket; and the Miami-Dade County community in Florida where there was the collapse of Champlain Towers South in Surfside.

After the battered and battered tree was recovered from the ruins in early October 2001 and rehabilitated by the Parks Department, it was replanted in 2010 at the site of the Sept. 11 memorial, on the grounds of the new tower.

Burrell said hundreds of requests for saplings are received by the museum each year from all over the world.

The mayor said each sapling is identified by a bronze medallion as authentication that it was grown from seeds from the Survivor Tree.

He added that the medallion will become part of a display inside Town Hall.



A medallion identifies this pear tree as a sapling from the World Trade Center's Survivor Tree. The sapling has been given to Vernon Township, N.J., by the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. The parent tree was dug out of the trade center ruins a month after the attack and nursed back to health. COURTESY OF VERNON TWP.



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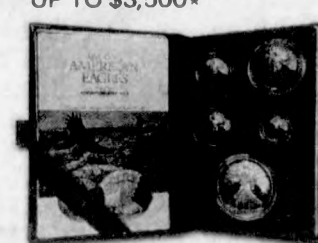
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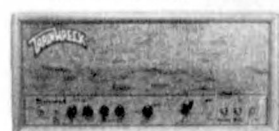
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SATURDAY 10AM - 3PM

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# SPORTS

## Novi soccer gets confidence boost in win over South Lyon



Novi's Yuto Shiwa celebrates a goal with Hiroto Fukagawa during a non-conference boys soccer match Monday, Sept. 11, at Novi Meadows Elementary. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### Wildcats claw 3-1 win from South Lyon

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

Finally, the Novi boys soccer team has some assurance its hard work is paying off. The Wildcats (2-4-2) are in second-to-last place in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West standings, but they haven't been playing like a bottom-of-the-barrel team. In fact, they've been playing pretty dominant. The results just haven't shown it.

They've lost four times in what were essentially one-goal games where momentum could've swung in either direction at any given moment. Two other times, they've played to ties. And likely the most infuriating game was their 1-0 loss to Hartland in which they controlled possession for about 90% of the match but let in an unfortunate own goal. Many coaches will tell you its most challenging to win a one-goal game because of how hard it is to keep the other team from tying it up or stealing the win with a late rally. Call it being unlucky or just getting unfortunate bounces, but Novi just hasn't been able to get those late-game rallies to steal some wins over the past month.

On Sept. 11, it didn't need to worry about making a comeback and sneaking away with a close victory. It was hands-down the better side as Yuto Shiwa netted two goals in the Wildcats' 3-1 win over visiting South Lyon. And that second win on the season couldn't have come at a better time. Later this week, they'll start another swing through the KLAA-West schedule, facing all six of their division rivals for a second time. They're hoping the convincing win over South Lyon in a non-conference match is just the shot in the arm they need as they look to improve their record in the conference before the postseason begins.

See NOVI, Page 2B

## Northville XC edges Brighton in clash of Division 1 champions

**Bill Khan**  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE — Luke Campbell didn't win the race, but he was in the mix, battling most of the way with two all-staters who helped Northville win the state Division 1 cross country championship last year. This is now where Campbell belongs, duking it out with the big boys rather than providing depth for Brighton a little further back in the pack. "Before, I could only maybe keep up with them in track," said Campbell, a senior and two-time state qualifier in the 3,200-meter run. "I've been putting in the work. Something good is coming out of it. We're all competing, and the guys are pushing me and I'm pushing them." Campbell finished in fourth place with a time of 16 minutes, 2.7 seconds in a tri meet that featured the last two Division 1 cross country champions Sept. 12 at Cass Benton Park. Defending champion Northville edged Brighton, which won Division 1 in 2019 and 2021, by a 27-28 score. Canton, the third team in the quad, lost 26-29 to Brighton and 24-31 to Northville. Campbell was returning to the scene of his greatest individual moment in cross country. Just two weeks earlier, he broke 16 minutes for the first time and earned his first varsity victory with a time of 15:58.2 in the Mustang Invite.

See NORTHVILLE, Page 3B

## Shamrocks learn lesson in boys soccer loss to Toledo St. John's

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

Coach Gene Pulice considers his Detroit Catholic Central boys soccer team to be the best in Michigan. And there's a good chance, regardless of the Shamrocks' 5-6 record, that they are. They're just one year removed from playing in the Division 1 state semifinal. And they're just three seasons removed from winning their last state championship. They're a quality program. But sometimes even the best teams need to suffer a couple of heartbreaking losses in the same fashion before they finally learn their lesson.

See SHAMROCKS, Page 2B

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## Shamrocks

Continued from Page 1B

The goal was to play hard-nosed, focused soccer for a complete 80 minutes.

But that's exactly what CC didn't do during its last-second 2-1 loss to Toledo St. John's on Sept. 13.

The game was similar to the Shamrocks' 2-1 loss to Evanston (Illinois) during their Midwestern Soccer Showcase match in late August in Indiana. It was a 1-1 game until Evanston caught CC sleeping in the waning moments and, boom, just like that, the Shamrocks let in the game-winner with just 64 seconds remaining.

Flash forward to Wednesday night, which was an even more important game. Not only was it the first time that Toledo St. John's and CC were facing off as conference opponents but points in the Catholic League-Central were on the line.

Seven minutes into the second half, Daniel Bravo played an excellent pass into the penalty box. Hudson Todd sprinted forward, got a toe on the ball and smashed in a goal that tied it at 1.

CC continued that effort, for the most part, for the next 31 minutes. The only problem? There were 33 minutes left in the match.

Off a corner kick, St. John's caught CC's defense napping. Jack Pelton powered in the game-winner toward the left post, and the Titans escaped Novi with a victory with just 92 seconds left in regulation.

"That's the same thing that happened to us when we were in Indiana," Pulice said. "There was a minute and some change left. They just kind of relaxed a little bit. ... First of all, that (Pelton's bicycle-like shot) was a world-class goal. That was a great goal. It was a great finish. But the ball went past 12 to 15 people before it got there. Was it a great finish for the kid? Absolutely. Give him kudos for that. I had everybody but one guy back, and we couldn't seem to get a piece of the ball."

"We have to stay connected for 80 minutes. A high school game is 80 minutes, so you have to stay connected for 80 minutes. If you let up for one second, that's what happens. It doesn't take but a second for that to happen, and that's our second goal we've given (up in the final seconds). When we were in Indiana, it was a minute and 4 seconds. That was a minute and 32 seconds left. Because we can't stay on task or stay focused, now we go home bridesmaids, and I don't know if we can regain the points in the Catholic League or not."

Right or wrong, part of CC's distraction down the stretch was just how chippy of a match it was.

At times, the official called every minor push and shove as fouls immediate-



Detroit Catholic Central's Brady Schmidt knocks down a ball ahead during a Catholic League-Central boys soccer match Wednesday, Sept. 13. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Detroit Catholic Central coach Gene Pulice argues a call.



Toledo St. John's celebrates a goal.

ly. And at other times, apparent obvious fouls were not called at all.

Sprinkle in some Michigan-Ohio border war trash talk, and it was a heated, emotional outing for both teams.

All of that got the best of the Shamrocks, Pulice said.

"The learning curve there for these guys is just be disciplined enough to

play your game, walk away from foolish fouls, whether you think they're just or unjust, and just play your game," Pulice said. "That's the lesson in this whole thing for me. Because if they can do it, my personal opinion is there is no better team than us out there."

The Shamrocks fell a half-game behind St. John's in the division standings

and now sit in second place. They have a lot of work to do before the CHSL tournament arrives in a few weeks, but at least one thing is certain: They're not going to fall asleep at the wheel during setpieces in the waning seconds. Doing so has already cost them two valuable wins.

Twitter: @folsombrandonj.

## Novi

Continued from Page 1B

"The biggest thing is just building some confidence because we haven't been scoring goals," coach Todd Pheiffer said. "We talk about that at the end of every session: Did we get better today than we did the day before? And sometimes you can get better but not get a win in the game. That's how we feel."

"We play in a really tough conference. We know our division is competitive every year with Northville, Brighton, Salem, Hartland, they're all good. Every game has been close. So this (win) builds some confidence as we start back over in the KLAA."

Through eight games, they've allowed just 11 goals, which is pretty good considering they're facing some of the best teams in the state. That includes losing to rival Northville, which was ranked No. 2 in last week's Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association poll, in a close match.

That's a hat tip to how tough Novi's back line has been playing.

Led by the likes of Josh Amalraj, Yuto Shibata, Josh La and goalie Nate Curtiss, the Wildcats do a great job of halting attacks and preventing structural breakdowns before they become too costly.

In turn, that's allowed Novi's offense to possess the ball more than you'd expect from a two-win team. While the Wildcats haven't turned those extra possessions into many goals (they've scored only nine times so far), their offense took advantage of their defensive effort against the Lions by finding the net three times.

Shiwa pushed in one from point-blank just 8 minutes into the match. And then he smashed in a touch from inside the penalty box 3 minutes before halftime to give Novi a 2-0 lead.

Sota Imai added an insurance goal



Novi's Yuto Shibata clears the ball during a non-conference boys soccer match Monday, Sept. 11, at Novi Meadows Elementary. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

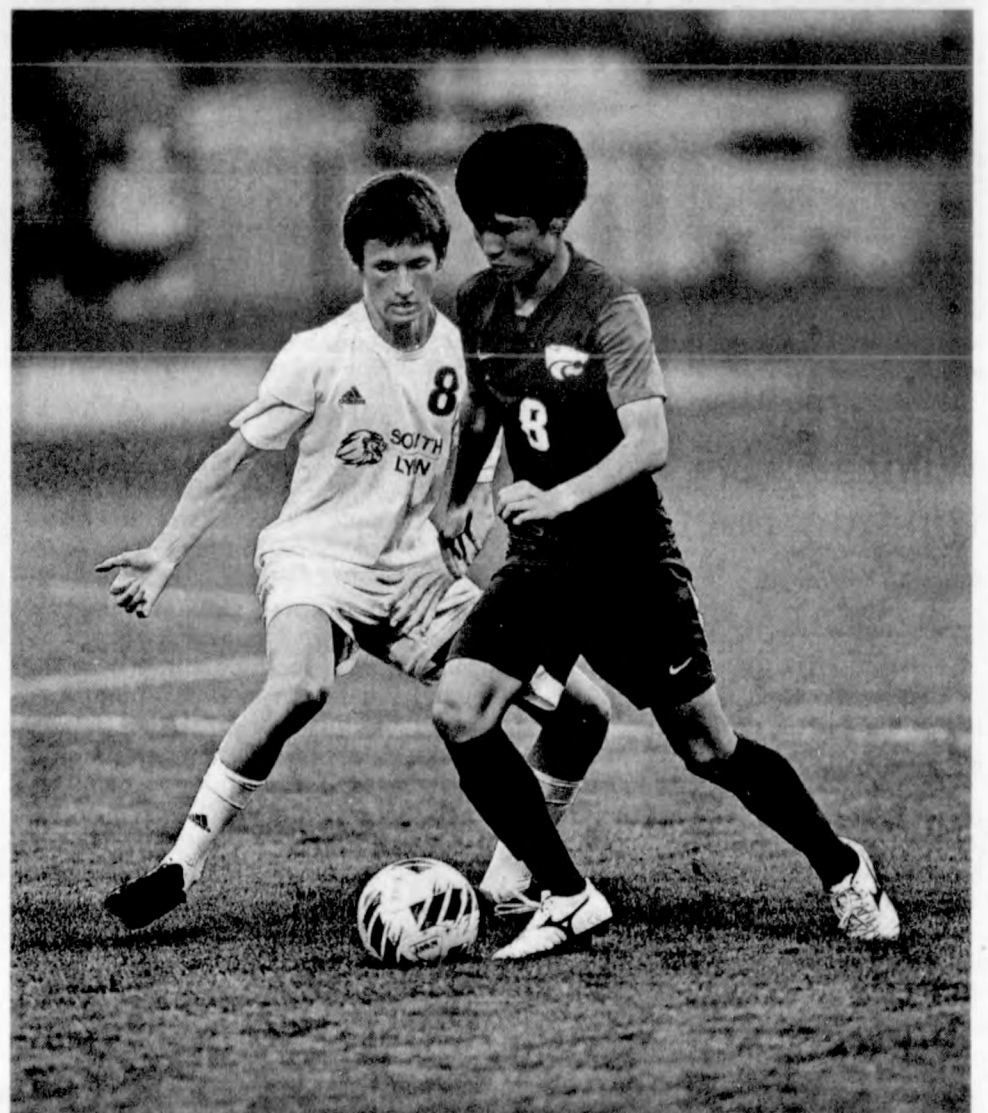
immediately after the break, which allowed Pheiffer to give some of his rotational players extra minutes in the second half. Twenty-four Wildcats saw the field in all.

Yes, scoring goals had Novi walking off the pitch with some extra confidence. But it also felt rewarding for guys such as Shibata, who has worked so hard on the back line to keep the Wildcats in all of these close matches.

"In the past games, we just couldn't finish, and we've always had like 90 percent possession, especially in games against Hartland and them," the senior said. "We just haven't been able to finish, but today we were able to."

Never say never, but Novi is three games behind Northville and Hartland in the division standings, and it might be unrealistic for the Wildcats to win the KLAA-West.

Weird results over the past month



Novi's Sota Imai gets past South Lyon's Andrew Racka. The Wildcats won, 3-1.

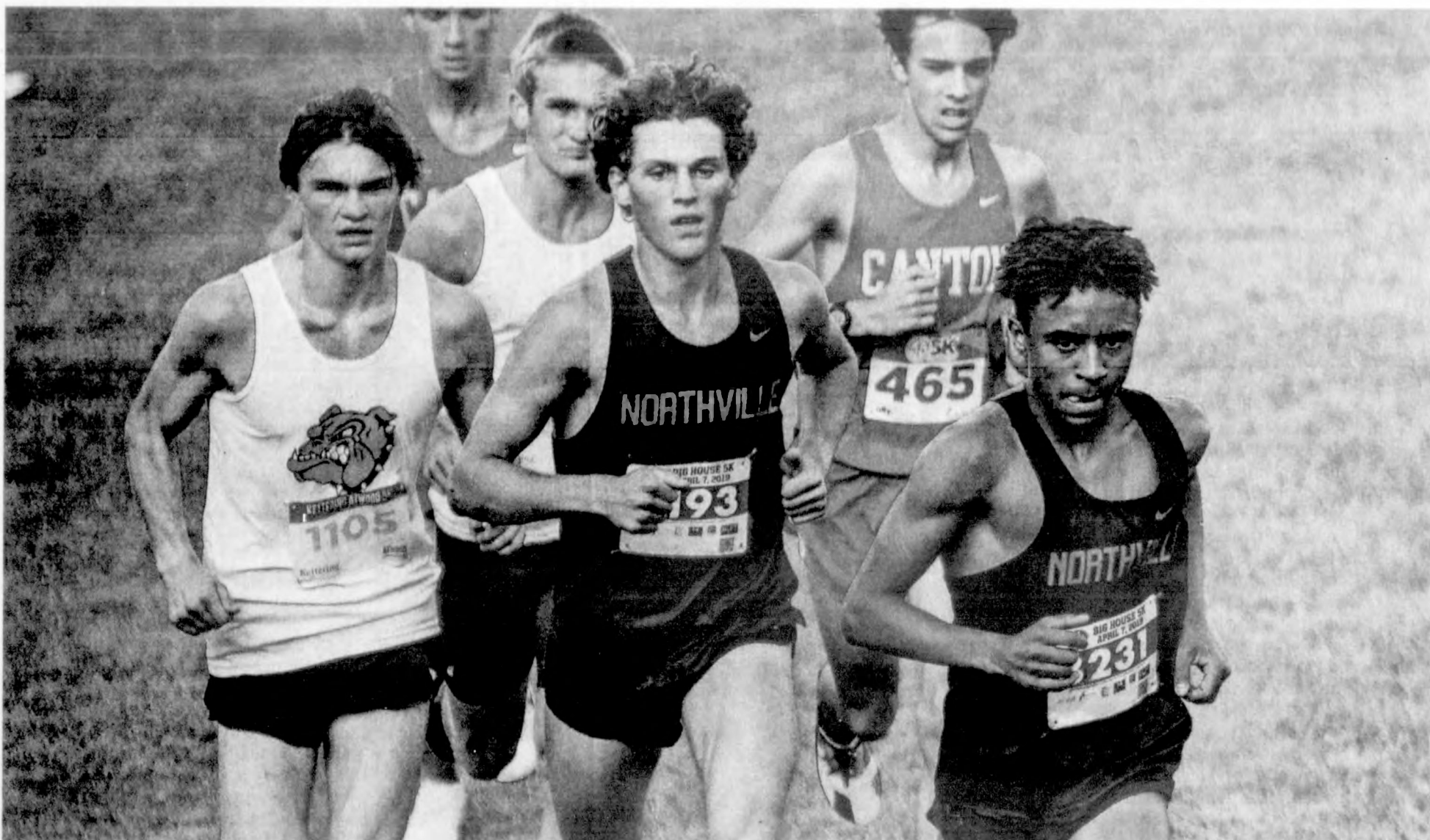
aside, the team hasn't stopped believing in itself, and that could make Novi dangerous when the district tournament begins in October.

"We feel like every time that we walk onto the field we get better in every game," Pheiffer said. "We don't feel like there is anybody that we've played that we actually couldn't beat. And that's the big thing. We tell everyone to keep ev-

everything positive. If the loss bothers you, good. Use that when we go into the next training session during the next day and the next game, but keep your heads held high because we feel like we have been in every game."

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





Eventual winner Ethan Powell of Northville leads a pack during a cross country meet between Brighton, Canton and Northville.

## Northville

Continued from Page 1B

"I've been wanting to do that since I was a sophomore," Campbell said. "I was looking at my freshman notes; I predicted myself at 15:40. It felt nice to get under there, for sure."

Northville junior Ethan Powell pulled away from a small lead pack to win in 15:43.2, followed by senior teammate Brendan Herger in 15:53.5. Herger was third as the Mustangs' No. 1 runner and Powell was 28th as Northville's No. 3 runner in last year's state meet, each earning all-state.

Vastly improved Canton senior Mitchell Clark, who didn't even qualify

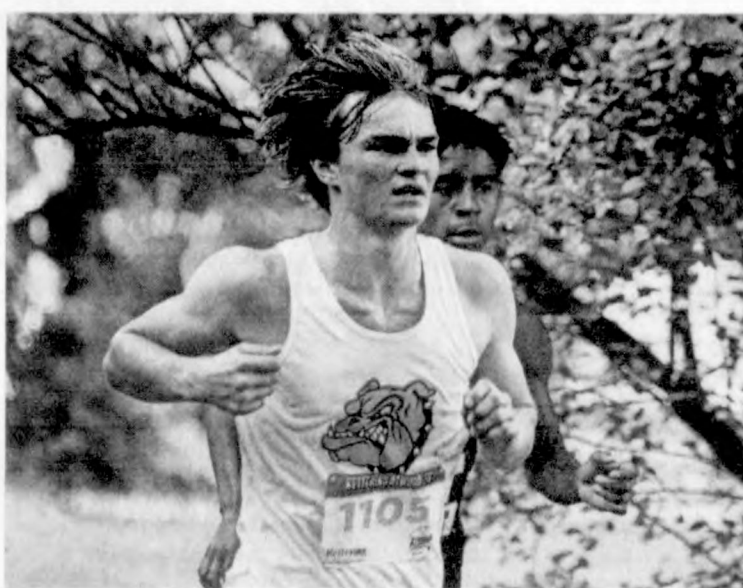
for the state meet, took third in 16:00.

"The race went pretty well," Campbell said. "I got out well and stuck. I just didn't have it in my legs the last half mile."

Tyler Langley was fifth (16:09.4), Tyler Brock eighth (16:33.4), Nathan Moskal 10th (16:47.7) and Brady Millington 12th (16:52.9) to complete Brighton's scoring.

"We put as much emphasis on this one as any other dual meet," Brighton coach Chris Elsey said. "It's still early in the season. We want a good showing, but I'm sure Canton and Northville would say the same thing that they're not tapering by any means for today's meet. They're training through, hoping to get out healthy and run well."

wkhan@gannett.com



Brighton's Luke Campbell finished fourth in a cross country meet against Northville and Canton on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Cass Benton Park in Northville. PHOTOS BY BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

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# Barry Sanders' son has breakout game as Groves almost beats Southfield

Brandon Folsom  
HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Dawning a black pullover and a matching black Nike hat, he sat at the very top of the away bleachers, hidden from the public by the shade provided by the trees along the west sideline at Southfield A&T.

While former Detroit Lions running back Barry Sanders tried to be inconspicuous, his son, Noah, was taking center stage during Thursday's Oakland Activities Association-White football game.

The Birmingham Groves junior had quite the breakout performance in front of a packed crowd that included college coaches from the Mid-American Conference. His 18 rushes for 125 yards and three touchdowns were almost enough to inspire the Falcons (2-2, 1-1) to upset the No. 2 Warriors. But their comeback fell just short, 42-35.

"They're (Southfield) a talented team, and they made us better," Groves coach Brendan Flaherty said. "I love playing great teams. We got ourselves to another level today because we played a great team. Had we played a team that's not so great, we don't achieve the level we did. And if we come up with a couple more plays, we pull the game off."

Three-star recruits Isaiah Marshall (Kansas commit) and Tashi Braceful (Toledo) connected on passing touchdowns of 29, 67 and 16 yards to give Southfield a 20-7 lead early in the second half.

But Groves fought back. Nick Hardy pulled down a 21-yard TD pass from Cayden Hardy to trim that deficit within one score and set the table for Sanders to have a big second half.

Both times Southfield scored in the third quarter, Sanders responded with flashy TD runs of 46 and 40 yards. Following his second score, Groves recovered an onside kick, which set up the junior for a 2-yard TD that gave the Falcons their first lead of the night, 35-34, with 9:29 remaining.

Marshall, who was 9 of 22 passing for



Birmingham Groves' Noah Sanders rushes during an Oakland Activities Association-White football game Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

191 yards, three TDs and an interception and also added 12 rushes for 182 yards and a score, answered Sanders' effort by putting together the winning drive, one that saw Dorian Freeman race 20 yards for a TD that gave the Warriors the lead once and for all.

Groves didn't back down, though.

Facing fourth-and-17 in its own end, Cayden Hardy lasered a 56-yard pass to — who else? — Sanders, who saved the series and put the Falcons in scoring position at the 31-yard line. However, that potential game-winning drive ended with Hardy tossing an interception to Southfield's DaMario Quarles in the fi-

nal minute.

"I thought it'd take at least 35 points to beat them, so we've got to try to answer a score with a score," Flaherty said. "If we could've gotten two stops, I think we could've gotten them."

For the past two seasons, Mario Campoy-LoVasco (23 rushes for 104 yards) has been Groves' bell cow in the backfield. And for most of the opening half, he was just that for the Falcons, even dragging a handful of Warriors into the end zone with him on a 15-yard run in the opening quarter.

But cramps kept him sidelined for parts of the game. Fortunately, his back-up, Sanders, made the most of his time out there.

"We're fortunate that we've got two guys with a thunder-and-lightning type of thing," Flaherty said. "They're both really extremely good running backs. And, honestly, we've been trying to get the ball to Noah a little more."

While Campoy-LoVasco is more of a power back, one the Falcons' call for in short-yardage situations, Sanders, much like his Pro Football Hall of Fame father, is a speedster. Once Sanders gets on the edge, he has no problem turning on the jets and accelerating past the defense. He proved that twice against Southfield, The D Zone's second-ranked team in Michigan, regardless of division.

"He's pretty good, he's pretty good," Flaherty added. "He comes from a pretty good family of football players so we'll try to give him the ball more."

Groves didn't make its players available for postgame interviews, but as Barry Sanders was exiting the stadium, Hometown Life asked him how it felt watching his son have a breakout game in such a big matchup.

"It felt pretty good, it felt pretty good," the 1988 Heisman Trophy winner said with a big smile. "They came up just short at the end there. I wish they could've pulled it out."

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

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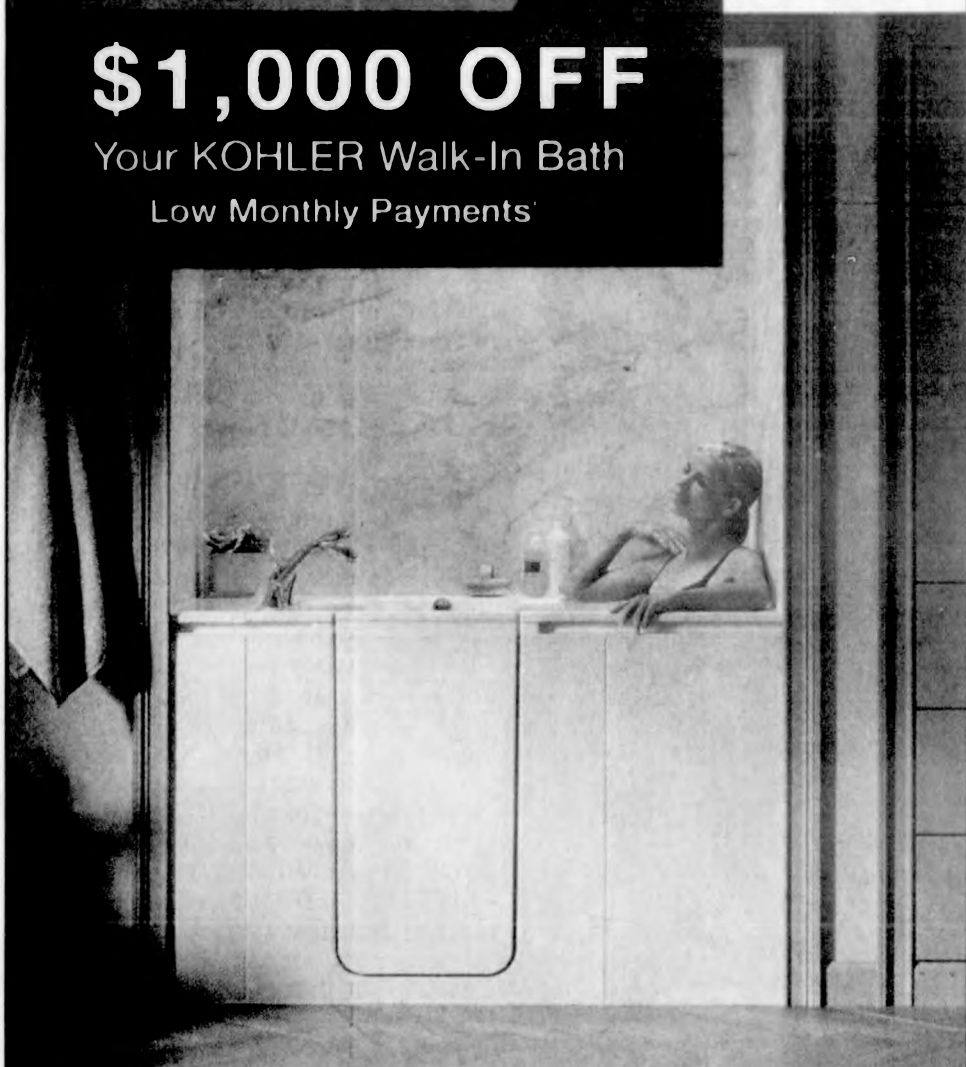
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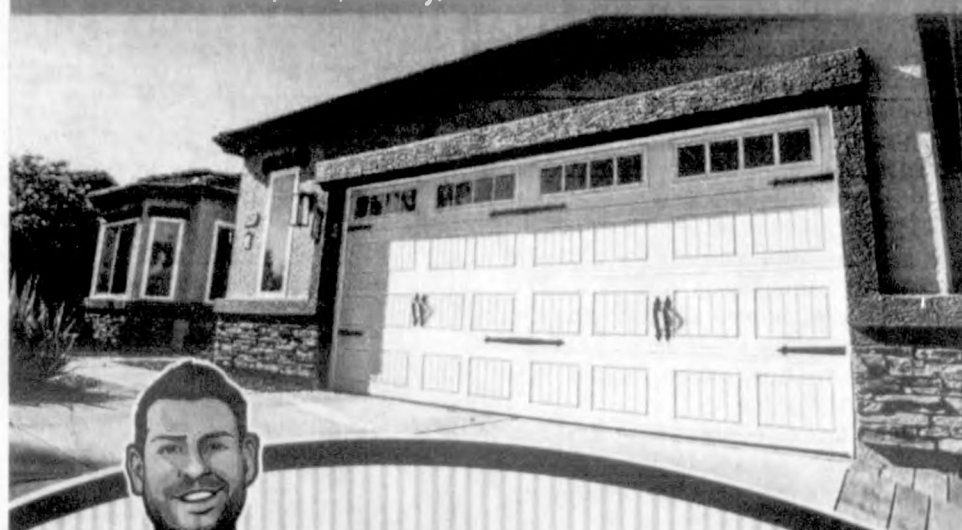
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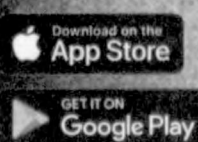
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# With familiar coach, Northville football beats Brighton in showdown

**Bill Khan**  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

**BRIGHTON** — Nearly 20 minutes before kickoff, Brent Luplow stood near the edge of the field and stared out at the Brighton football stadium.

This isn't Luplow's normal pregame routine, but then again this wasn't a normal game for the Northville head coach.

After six years as an assistant coach at Brighton, Luplow has many fond memories of this place. And it wasn't just the place, it was the people. He formed many close relationships in this community, many of whom came up to him before the game.

"I saw a lot of people I really enjoyed seeing," Luplow said. "Just kind of took it all in. It was a really cool environment, like I knew it would be."

But when it came time for business, Luplow had his new team prepared to beat his former squad. Northville is now the favorite in the KLAA West race after an emphatic 24-10 victory Sept. 8 over the defending-champion Bulldogs.

"It just fulfilling to come back here in a place I got my start at and win a football game," Luplow said. "That makes me really happy. We're going to celebrate tonight."

The celebration began after the game, as Northville players donned orange T-shirts with Luplow's face that read "Whole lotta orange." The school colors for Luplow's current and former teams are black and orange.

Luplow has Northville off to a 3-0 start, and 2-0 in the KLAA West. The Mustangs took second in the division last season after losing a 17-14 heartbreaker to Brighton.

"This kind of puts us in the driver's seat, but we know we've got to go 1-0 each week," Luplow said. "But this is big to beat a team like Brighton that's a power year in and year out. We want to be like Brighton in the future. We think we're on the path to do so."

Brighton, meanwhile, fell to 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the division. The task for the Bulldogs is to not allow things to spiral out of control with two-thirds of the regular season remaining.

"It's a real good team in this locker room," Brighton coach Brian Lemons said. "It's just the consistency is the beast they're fighting right now."



Brighton's Reed Blake-Thomas (56), Gavin Unsworth (7) and Jason Eisinger (31) take down Northville's Cullen Murphy Friday, Sept. 8, 2023. PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

## Defense gave Brighton a chance

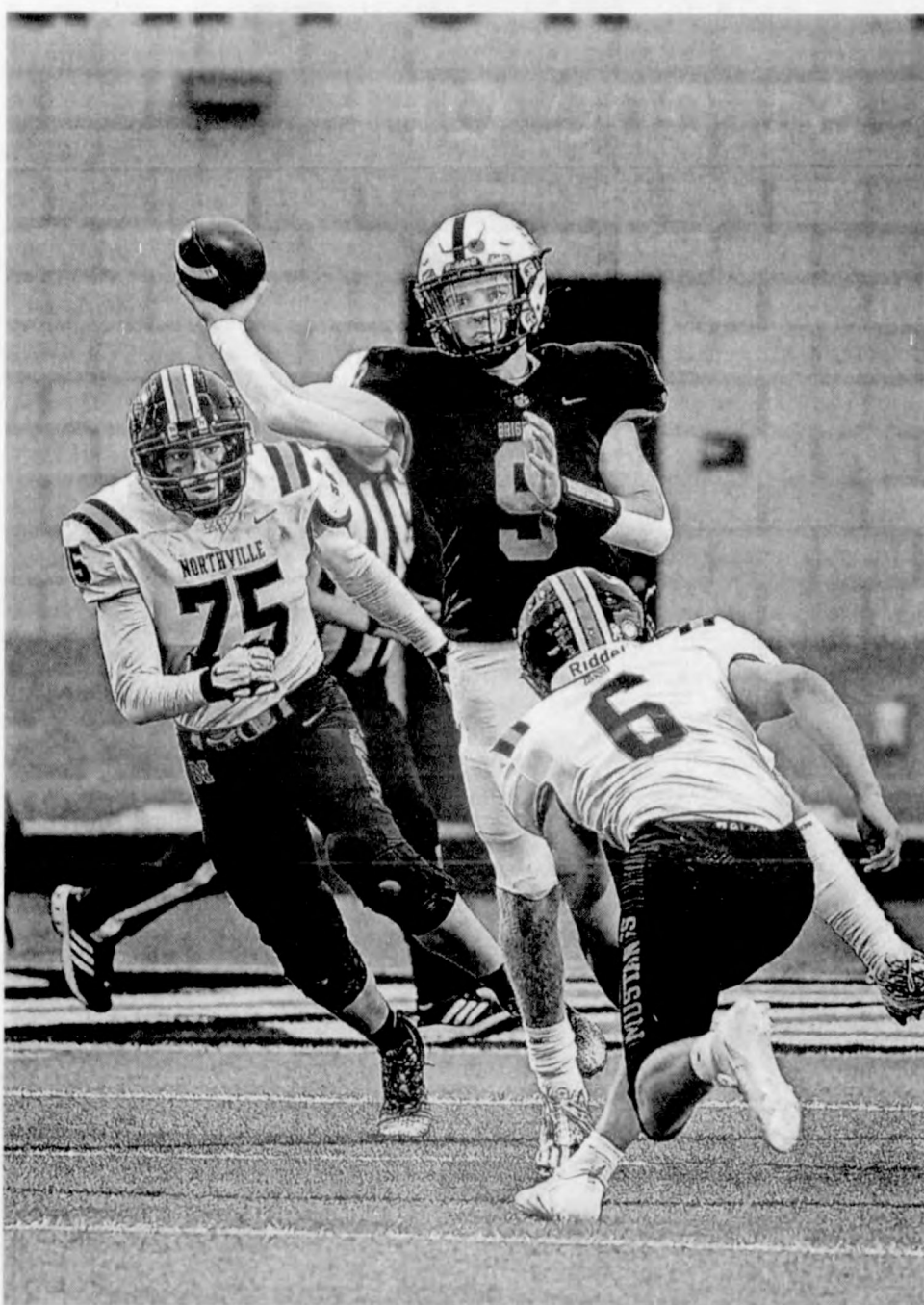
Despite giving up 24 points, Brighton's defense made several big plays that could've altered the momentum of the game.

The Bulldogs forced three turnovers and made two fourth-down stops in the first half. Linebacker Reed Blake-Thomas had a fumble recovery and an interception, while defensive back Owen Keller intercepted a pass.

Down 21-10, Brighton stopped a fourth-and-one sneak by quarterback Isaac Pace at the 3-yard line with 10:04 left in the game.

"Turnovers are always big plays in games, so whenever you get those you're hoping you can turn that into momentum," said defensive end Braeden Chiles, who kicked a 54-yard field goal to cut Northville's lead to 14-10 before halftime. "We just didn't make enough plays on either side. It's not anybody's singular or side's fault. All of us win as a team and lose as a team. Today we didn't make enough plays and made too many mistakes to win."

The two touchdowns Northville scored against Brighton's defense came



With pressure from Northville's Alex Pawelski (75) and Cooper Hoffman (6), Brighton's Grant Hetherton unloads a pass.

on short fields following an interception return to the 35-yard line and a shanked punt that went out of bounds at the 13. The Mustangs' first touchdown came on a fumble return by Evan Deak.

Brighton's only touchdown came on a 42-yard pass from Grant Hetherton to Sebastian Boyea, tying the score 7-7 with 4:08 left in the first half.

## Right place, right time three times

Senior Cullen Murphy had a performance to remember, intercepting two passes and catching a 24-yard touchdown pass on a tipped ball.

His second interception set up the first Northville touchdown.

"It was really just the game plan," Murphy said. "Coach (Matt) Sexton told me what to do for the first one and got me in the right spot. On the second one, we knew when they were rolling out what they were going to do. Coach Sexton put me in the right position to make plays."

Contact Bill Khan at [wkhan@gannett.com](mailto:wkhan@gannett.com). Follow him on X @BillKhan



Brighton's Brayden Platt stiff-arms Northville's Cullen Murphy.

## Obituaries



**Marion Cowan**

Marion passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 9, surrounded by her family.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Perry Farms (4211 Village Cir, Harbor Springs, MI 49740) on Saturday, October 7 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in honor of her to the PVM Foundation (specify for Perry Farm Village) at [pvmfoundation.org](http://pvmfoundation.org)

Marion's full obituary is available at [www.stonefuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.stonefuneralhomeinc.com)



## John Jerome "JJ" O'Brien

September 9th 2023

Beloved husband of the late Joan O'Brien, eighth-grade and later-life companion of Mary Ann Kenney Coil.

Dear father of Mark (Sue), Bridget, John (Tia), Colleen (Tony) O'Brien-Brumley, and Marianne (the late Tommy) O'Brien-Bullock, and Ron Coil, a brother of theirs

Proud grandfather to Maggie, Katy, Mollie, Carrie, Shannie, Maddy, Tyler, Dan, Patrick, Mack, Isabelle, Abigail and the late Sadie, and great-grandfather to Mae, Eleanor, and incoming baby Redmond. Born to Phillip and Sarah O'Brien, Jack was a treasured brother to the late William (Barbara), Patrick (Rosemary), Mary Ellen (Marty) Redigan, and Sally (Howard) Hammes. Brother-in-law of Jim (the late Carol) Marzolf, Bill (Joanne) Marzolf, and the late Frank (Barb) Marzolf, Patricia (Jack) Thill, Betty (George) Chandler, and Tom (Joe Pacheco). Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. He was an advocate for happiness and kindness, living by the motto: "Be happy and be kind to everyone." His life exemplified his values of faith, family, and, of course, having dessert. We especially thank the dedicated and loving women that fulfilled his wish of staying in his home: Brandi, Deja, and Kay. A funeral liturgy was held a Holy Family Church Novi. Interment with military honors was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the ARC of Western Wayne County in John's memory ([www.thearcww.org](http://www.thearcww.org)). The service is available at <https://www.youtube.com/@HolyFamilyNoviYouTube> for those who were unable to attend. On line sympathy message at [www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com](http://www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com)



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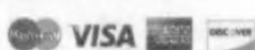
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# How labor shortages are affecting agriculture

Metro Creative

The agricultural workforce is shrinking, and has been for some time. The American Farm Bureau Federation estimates there are roughly 2.4 million farm jobs that need to be filled annually, but there has been a drastic decline in workers each year.

There are a number of reasons for the shortages. The AFBF says more than 73 percent of farm workers are immigrants from South America and Mexico. While the United States' H2-A visa program, which allows employers who meet specific requirements to bring foreign laborers in for temporary work, has increased the number of accepted applications for immigrants to 250,000, this number is still just a drop in the bucket in terms of labor needs.

Another factor is a career in agriculture isn't always easy or lucrative. According to the U.S Department of Agriculture, for every dollar spent on food, a farmer receives only 7.6 cents. Farmers were predicted to lose 9.7 percent of total net income in 2021.

Declining interest in the field has also affected the number of farm workers. As more farm operators reach retirement age, fewer young farmers are replacing them due to volatile pricing, high real



estate and land costs, steep initial machinery investment costs, and other factors. The physical demand of the industry also takes its toll. So what does this mean for the agricultural industry?

Many with knowledge of the industry, indicate sweeping changes are warranted. Ellen Poeschi, the project director for the National Association of Agricultural Educators Teach Ag campaign, has said that a lack of agricultural education is contributing to the problem. Increasing availability of ag education courses across the country could build interest in the industry. Connecting students to

internships or mentors may help, too.

Another option is to rally for greater economic opportunities in agriculture. The ag industry in general needs to find ways to make the economic benefits more competitive to other industries, and improve the working conditions and job flexibility. Agricultural industries currently average only 60 percent of what other industries offer in salaries. Farm wages have been rising due to the H-2A program, which requires farm worker pay to be higher than the state/federal minimum wage. More change is needed, but this may have to come at the

federal level or be sparked by efforts on the part of agricultural advocacy groups.

Additional strategies farm operators can employ to combat shortages are: scaling back farm operations; integrating ag technology to reduce labor burdens; pivoting to crops that require fewer laborers; leasing portions of land to have extra money; employing temporary guest workers; and moving operations abroad.

Worker shortages continue to be problematic for the agricultural industry. A greater focus on remedying the issue is needed on a grand scale.

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