



Cougars outlast Novi in PKs after coach gets ejected

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHVILLE RECORD

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Developers propose apartments, commercial space

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

PLYMOUTH TWP. — New owners at Sparr's Flowers & Greenhouse want to build apartments and a commercial building on the property, but nearby residents and township officials alike seem unimpressed by the plans so far.

At the Oct. 11 meeting of the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, architect Scott Wright of D.S. Wright & Associates told the board a conceptual plan includes the addition of three apartment buildings — approximately 68 units — near the business at the northwest corner of Joy and Lilley roads.

The new owners would also like to add a mixed-use building for office or commercial space on the lower level and additional apartments above. Sparr's will continue to operate with updates to its current buildings.

"We're going to work hand in hand with the township planning department to develop this corner in a way that is going to benefit the township as a whole and enhance this corner of Plymouth Township," said Wright, who is working for Najj Kahala and Mohammad Nawwas, two local businessmen who purchased the five-acre property in December 2022.

"We want to stay within what the township allows, but at the same time we want to improve this corner and make it maybe a jewel for people coming in from Canton to Plymouth (Township)."

The project would call for the demolition of three existing homes on the property and the addition of a surrounding greenbelt with a walking path, new sidewalks along Joy and Lilley roads and on-site storm water management, Wright said.

Rezoning required

The proposed development is facing significant roadblocks. In April, the Plymouth Township Planning Commission reviewed and ultimately recommended denial of an application for conditional rezoning of the property from its current designation of R1

See DEVELOPERS, Page 2A



Ed Swadish with Remy at Molly Pitcher's Lounge, the restaurant he owns along with Huron Valley Outfitters at 56477 Grand River, New Hudson. SUSAN BROMLEY

Huron Valley Guns restaurant owner holds township responsible for liquor license denial by MLCC

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LYON TWP. — The Michigan Liquor Control Commission recently rejected Ed Swadish's application for a license to serve alcoholic beverages at the restaurant located inside his gun shop facility, but the business owner isn't blaming state officials.

Instead, Swadish blames township officials who asked the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to deny a license transfer to him. As a result, he said he intends to sue the township.

"We are just waiting for the official denial from the MLCC before filing a lawsuit," said Swadish, owner of Hu-

ron Valley Guns and Molly Pitcher's Lounge. "The denial from Lyon Township caused the denial from MLCC unfairly."

On Wednesday, township Treasurer Patricia Carcone said the township had not been served with a lawsuit regarding the tavern license and declined further comment.

According to the MLCC website, the tavern license — which would allow the sale of beer, wine and mixed spirit drink products for consumption on the premises — was denied Sept. 19.

"This was denied under R 436.1105(2)(d) which provides that the Commission must consider the opinion of the local legislative body with regard to the proposed business when determining

whether an applicant should be issued a license or permit," MLCC spokesperson Jeannie Vogel said in an email confirming the denial.

Swadish, who moved his gun shop from Milford in 2017, has been at odds with local and state officials before, going to far as to defy state orders during the COVID-19 pandemic that shuttered businesses statewide for several weeks.

Swadish applied in December 2022 for the transfer of a tavern liquor license from Novella's Pizza, which closed its Lyon Township location, to Molly Pitcher's Lounge, which would enable him to serve beer and wine at the restaurant adjacent to his gun shop and shooting

See LICENSE, Page 7A

Sayulita Cocina Mexicana opens in Milford, transforming former Palate

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

MILFORD — Cesar Ochoa has wanted to open a Mexican restaurant in the village for the past nine years and last week, his dream came true as he welcomed diners into Sayulita Cocina Mexicana at 449 N. Main St.

"We opened up and jumped on the treadmill full speed," Ochoa said. "It's been nuts, great, super positive.

Thank you for embracing us — we are different and not your common place."

The difference is clear from the moment you walk through the door, with bright lighting and décor, a tiki bar with swings alongside traditional bar stools, colorful murals adorning the walls, and booths with playful art on the tables.

On Wednesday afternoon, Maureen Abbott and Joyce Chichila sat in one of the booths, enjoying Baja salad and shrimp Yucatan while sipping cocktails.

"These are very generous servings

for a reasonable price," Chichila, a Commerce resident, said.

Abbott, a Milford resident, was already a repeat customer after having dined on enchiladas, tacos and tamales the night before with her husband. She agreed with Chichila, calling the food delicious and raving about the service.

"They were here with water, and salsa and chips before we even had our coats off," she said.

See SAYULITA, Page 2A

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Developers

Continued from Page 1A

single family residential to C2 general commercial.

Under township ordinance, rezoning must be granted before the applicants can submit formal plans for consideration.

After being sent away without a recommendation for approval by the planning commission, the developer revised certain elements of the plan, including the removal of a potential drive-thru restaurant on the property.

At the Oct. 11 meeting, which was for discussion only, Township Planner Laura Haw said the application meets the criteria for the rezoning and was in alignment with the township's master plan and future land use map.

"The stated goals are to provide a variety of housing typologies and residential living environments to accommodate a diversity of ages and incomes," Haw said. "In terms of owner-occupied versus renter-occupied, the township is underserved in terms of rental housing options."

"These are goals of the township's master plan, and this (development) would advance the goals."

Resident concerns

More than a dozen residents from the



The new owner of Sparr's Greenhouse & Flowers at 42510 Joy Road in Plymouth Township wants to build a mixed-use development with apartments and commercial property on the land. So far, Plymouth Township officials have not agreed to allow the necessary rezoning. LAURA COLVIN

surrounding area spoke in opposition to the plan, citing environmental concerns, headlights from cars in the apartment parking lots shining into homes,

loss of privacy from apartment dwellers peering into neighborhood yards and other issues.

Many were most concerned about

the potential increase of traffic in an already busy area.

"The traffic is ridiculous," said Wendy Harless, who said she lives directly north of the proposed development. "I've got pictures from...standing in our driveway and our front yard, and it's cars as far as the eye can see."

Harless also said she did not feel the plan fit with the character of the neighborhood.

The board did not take any action to approve or deny the plan, but a few members chimed in with opinions.

Trustee Chuck Curmi said he agreed the township has a shortage of homes appropriate for people looking to downsize, but indicated he was not in favor of the plan as proposed.

"This developer can come back," Curmi said. "They're not restricted to doing nothing with the site. They can do something more creative and not have...very unattractive, very modern buildings that are three to four stories tall. I think they can do something else."

Supervisor Kurt Heise said the ball was in the developer's court.

"I think it's up to them as to their next move," he said. "If they want to continue, I think they'll need to go back to the planning commission."

No one answered the phone at a number listed for D.S. Wright & Associates.

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



Sayulita Cocina Mexicana, 449 N. Main St. in Milford, is now open.



Cesar Ochoa has opened Sayulita Cocina Mexicana in the space formerly occupied by Palate in downtown Milford.



One of several colorful murals created by the artist Juice.



Bartender Omar Chavez with Tiffany and Jordan Myers at the new Milford restaurant, Sayulita Cocina Mexicana, on Oct. 11. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY

Sayulita

Continued from Page 1A

Tiffany and Jordan Myers, picking up a takeout order of tacos, chips, salsa and guacamole on Wednesday, hadn't tried the food yet, but were already enamored with the décor of the restaurant, formerly the home of Palate.

"We came in when it was Palate and this is so much better and brighter," Tiffany said. "It's very welcoming."

Ochoa started the restaurant's makeover in August, with its namesake in mind. Sayulita is the name of a small village on Mexico's Pacific coast, "a historic magic town" where he has vacationed in the past.

"If you go to Sayulita, it looks like this," Ochoa said, gesturing around his new restaurant, "with tiki, murals on the walls, sweet art. Everything you

think of Mexico — the mariachi, the colors, the food that everyone in the U.S. is accustomed to — comes from that region."

Ochoa, 37, moved to the U.S. from Mexico when he was 7 years old. As a young adult, he worked in construction for several years before venturing into the restaurant business in 2009. He opened Las Palapas in Livonia, motivated by missing the food he would enjoy in Mexico during winter construction breaks.

"Sometimes you have to take a risk and fake it until you make it. We killed it," he said of his dramatic career shift from construction to cuisine.

His recipe for success, he said, is to take authentic, traditional flavors and apply them to higher-quality ingredients, including tender, marinated beef, chicken and wild-caught seafood, with an enjoyable presentation.

Sayulita's large array of cocktails re-

ceives an equal focus on fresh, with fruit juiced right at the bar for concoctions like Ay Papi! and La Chica Sexy Margarita.

"The flavors and quality of the food is what sets us apart, along with the ambiance," Ochoa said. "If you're hungry, you can get food anywhere, but can you enjoy yourself, forget about your daily problems? Maybe things are great and you just want to celebrate. You need a place you can do this. We have created a space where they will feel like they are on vacation."

Sayulita Cocina Mexicana is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 248-714-5499.

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

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ELECTION 2023

Four vie for two seats on Northville City Council

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE — Four candidates are running for two seats on the Northville City Council in the Nov. 7 election, with the top two vote-getters winning four-year terms on the council.

Mayor Brian Turnbull is running unopposed for a two year term.

Council candidates include Laura Genitti, incumbent Barbara Moroski-Browne, incumbent Marilyn Price and Robert Sochacki.

Candidates are introduced below with information they provided, and their responses to three questions follows.

Laura Genitti, 45, is a lifetime resident of Northville and owner of Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall. She has a degree in small business management, is a second generation business owner and is active in the community.

Barbara Moroski-Browne, 67, has lived in the Northville community since 1986, with 10 years in the Historic District. She grew up in northwest Detroit and graduated from Mercy High School. She and her late husband have three children who all graduated from Northville Public Schools.

Moroski-Browne is a public policy analyst, with a career as a performance auditor, public sector consultant and risk/data analyst. She holds a bachelor's degree in public affairs (policy analysis) from Wayne State University. Her community involvement includes election to city council in 2019, where she is currently serving as mayor pro tem. She also serves on the Parks and Recreation Commission, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, and DDA Executive Board, and is liaison to the Historic District Commission, Riverwalk Taskforce and Northville Historic Society. She has also served in numerous volunteer/leadership roles in the community.

Marilyn Price, 71, and her husband have lived in Northville since 1993, where they raised two sons, both Northville High School graduates. She is originally from Mt. Pleasant. Price is a staff member and assistant director at the University Counseling Center, Binghamton University (SUNY system). She holds a bachelor's degree in health education and master's degree in counseling and guidance from Central Michigan University. She has a doctorate in counseling and counselor education from Indiana University.

Price has served on the Northville City Council for the past eight years. She also served on the Northville School Board, Senior Advisory Commission, Beautification Commission, Liquor License Review Board, Northville Youth Network, Farmers' Market Task Force, DDA and Chamber of Commerce Executive Committees, Personnel Committee, Board and Commission Select Committee, Rotary Club of Northville, Mother's Club of Northville and Moraine PTA.

Robert Sochacki (age not provided) is a 33-year resident of Northville and is married with two children and two grandchildren. He retired after 40 years with Ford Motor Co., where he spent most of his career in human resources. Sochacki holds a BA from the University of Detroit Mercy and an MBA from Wayne State University. He served 18 years as an elected trustee at the Northville District Library, is a member of the Northville City Parks and Rec Commission



Northville City Council candidates 2023 PHOTOS COURTESY OF CANDIDATES

and has coached boys and girls soccer.

What makes you qualified to be a city council member and why do you want to hold that position?

Moroski-Browne: In addition to my four years on city council, I have many years of government experience, professionally and in the Northville community - more than three decades working with federal, state and local governments. Professionally, I am an experienced public policy analyst, government performance auditor, and risk analyst. I seek reelection to preserve what's great about Northville while making the best decisions for tomorrow. I have the skills, experience, and leadership style to help make that happen. I love our town and I am passionate about making government work better and get the maximum benefit from our limited resources.

Price: I have 16 years of public service experience divided between Northville City Council and Northville School Board. Northville is undergoing a period of growth and expansion. It is vital for a community to welcome new residents in order to remain vital. We are engaged in several major projects that will benefit all Northville residents: Riverwalk, Central and Gateway parks; a new entrance and upgrades at Ford Field; relocation of the farmers market; retractable bollards making the downtown street closure area function with more flexibility; traffic mitigation and pedestrian upgrades; connectivity with pathway systems in Northville Township and Novi.

Sochacki: Certainly my years of experience on the library board of trustees and participation in the various subcommittees has given me a strong appreciation of the need to balance fiscal sensitivity with the needs of the public. This experience has also given me the temperament and skills needed to address the challenges of the city as a whole. For these reasons I have the desire and the skills needed to help take on these challenges as a council member.

Genitti: As a lifelong resident of the city, second generation business owner, my love for this town is part of my DNA. My husband and I have raised our three children in the city and I run a family business that has operated through the ups of downs of the economy serving the public for more than 50 years. I serve on the Northville Chamber of Commerce, and I know both the business community and the neighborhoods of this town. I will bring a fresh perspective to the city council as someone that knows what the business owners need to flourish and what the residents want. I listen well and have always had an open door for residents to discuss their concerns.

Are you happy with the overall direction of the city? Why or why not?

Price: We are entering a very exciting period of growth. Cities benefit from new residents. The new Downs development, including new to Northville housing options, will welcome residents who have not otherwise chosen, or been able to live in Northville. The addition of young professionals and families will support downtown merchants and restaurants. New parks will provide recreational opportunities for all citizens of Northville and will contribute beautiful new landscapes to enjoy. We have also completed the search for a new city manager, a special projects director and an assistant city clerk, establishing a strong team to move the city forward.

Sochacki: If by the direction of the city you mean continuous improvement, that is the direction we must embrace. However, our success will depend on our journey there and on what tools we use and how we use them. Those tools are planning, citizen input and fiscal responsibility. Listen to all stakeholder points of view, analyze these then use to that analysis develop a plan. Then while the plan is being rolled out microscopic attention must be paid to the financial details, scope creep and quality control.

Genitti: I am happy with the city's accomplishments in consolidating services with our neighboring communities in shared service agreements. These combined operations are providing fire, police dispatch, recreation, youth and senior services in a cost-effective arrangement that expands our ability to provided services. The creation of citizens task forces has engaged the community in planning its future. I see a disconnect, however, between what the community has said they need and the actions that the current administration is taking which has created distrust amongst residents. I am committed to being a bridge that brings people together to build a vibrant downtown that serves all of our residents.

Moroski-Browne: Yes. I am satisfied with the overall direction of our city. We are blessed with dedicated city staff and our new city manager provides collaborative and strategic leadership. But we have challenges. For example, we must invest in our aging infrastructure to maintain the high quality of life we all expect, including safe roads and walkways, state-of-the-art utilities, and clean water. We love our old town, but not our old pipes. We upgraded many roads and infrastructure, but it's a costly challenge that requires strategic pro-

ject roll outs and finding grants to help pay for it.

What are the two most important issues currently facing the city? What steps would you take to address those?

Genitti: During the pandemic I am proud of the way the city and residents came together to create a social district to support our down town. Continuation of the street courses is now causing a division between businesses who are benefitting and those who are not and the neighborhoods that are bearing the disruption of diverted traffic. I support a solution that allows for closures for special events and concerts and keeping them open for regular traffic demands. There is a solution that benefits all.

The Downs racetrack development is a major construction project involving 30% of the city for more than five years. The disruptive impact of such an immense project is a concern regarding traffic and changes it will bring to our small historic town. I want to be on the council to be a voice for the people during this major transition.

Moroski-Browne: The most important issue, always, is good governance. With that, we can fix what's amiss, avoid problems and seize opportunities. Near-term issues include completing what we've started: grant-funded Ford Field upgrades, farmers market location, downtown improvements. Intersection bollards, for safety and aesthetics, will be installed by November. I opposed the Downs Development Agreement, but that major project is moving forward. We must be vigilant to protect city finances and make sure all aspects of the development are built as planned. I bring a strong collaborative voice to city council that finds common ground on tough issues and gets things done.

Price: Successful completion of the Downs development project is primary. We need to ensure we provide oversight in a way that moves the project forward while protecting the quality of life for residents who live near the core downtown, and those who enjoy the city center, while living in nearby neighborhoods. This project includes completion of park projects that will solidify Northville's position as a city within a connected system of park lands. A second important project is the installation of bollards within the core downtown. The bollards will provide flexibility to open/close streets in a way that doesn't currently exist.

Sochacki: There are a number of very important issues that need to be addressed simultaneously. I would regard the Downs development and a comprehensive plan to address the downtown corridor as the most impactful. I have outlined the problem-solving process pressing issues. Also overlaying this process is transparency and communication channels to the public.

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023 FOR THE CITY OF NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NORTHVILLE:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the City General Election will be held in the City of Northville, Counties of Oakland and Wayne, on **Tuesday, November 7, 2023**. The election will be conducted in all polling places in the City of Northville for the purpose of electing candidates for the following offices:

LOCAL: MAYOR (1) AND COUNCIL MEMBER (2)

POLLING PLACE LOCATIONS:

Precinct 1 (Wayne County) Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St.
Precinct 2 (Oakland County) Amerman Elementary School, 847 N. Center St.

The polls open at 7 a.m. and remain open until 8 p.m. Polling places are ADA-accessible. Each precinct is equipped with Braille and audio voting instructions and ADA-compliant voting equipment.

ABSENT VOTER BALLOT DEADLINES:

- Friday, November 3** by 5 p.m. is the last day the City Clerk can mail an absent voter ballot (exceptions apply).
- Saturday, November 4** the City Clerk's Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Voters may obtain an absent voter ballot in person.
- Monday, November 6** by 4 p.m., absentee ballots are available for voters who are already registered to vote. The ballot must be voted at City Hall.
- Tuesday, November 7** by 8 p.m., absentee ballots must be received at the Clerk's Office. Postmarks are not accepted.

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE:

- Early voting is open for nine (9) consecutive days beginning Saturday, October 28, 2023, and ending on Sunday, November 5, 2023.
- Early voting is held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, except Thursday, November 2, 2023, when hours are noon to 8:00 p.m.

EARLY VOTING SITE OPTIONS FOR CITY OF NORTHVILLE VOTERS:

- Regional Early Voting Site #6:**
Novi Civic Center
45175 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48375
- Central Early Voting Site #19:**
Waterford Oaks Activity Center
2800 Watkins Lake Rd., Waterford, MI 48328

Absent voter ballot applications are available at the City Clerk's office, on the City's website at www.ci.northville.mi.us, or by calling 248.349.1300. A sample ballot may be viewed on mi.gov/vote.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the City Clerk's Office.

MICHAEL SMITH, CMC, CITY CLERK
CITY OF NORTHVILLE

City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Zoning Board of Appeals** for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **November 14th, 2023, at 7:00PM** in the **Council Chambers** of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider:

PZ23-0045 (Ronnie & Wafaa Jamil) 1927 West Lake Drive, south of Pontiac Trail, east of West Park Drive, Parcel 50-22-03-131-026. The applicant is requesting variances from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.5 for a side yard setback of 4 ft. (10 ft. required, variance of 6 ft.); for an aggregate total of 8 ft. (25 ft. required, variance of 17 ft.); for an increase in lot coverage to 37% (25% maximum, variance of 12%) This variance would accommodate the building of a new home. This property is zoned One-Family Residential (R-4).

PZ23-0048 (The Goddard School of Novi) 48600 Grand River Avenue, north of Grand River Ave, east of Wixom Road, Parcel 50-22-17-126-012. The applicant is requesting variances from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 4.12.2.i.a to allow for the amount of the front yard setback, between the minimum required parking setback and the building facade line used for parking, to consist of 60% of that area (maximum allowed 50%, variance of 10%); Section 4.19.1.B/4.19.2.A to allow an accessory structure to be placed in the front yard (accessory structures not allowed in front yard); Section 4.19.1.J to allow four detached accessory structures for a lot having more than 21,780 square feet of area (maximum of two allowed, variance of two additional). This property is zoned General Business (B-3).

PZ23-0051 (The Goddard School of Novi) 48600 Grand River Avenue, north of Grand River Ave, east of Wixom Road, Parcel 50-22-17-126-012. The applicant is requesting variances from the City of Novi Sign Ordinance Section 28-5(b)(1)a to allow four wall signs (maximum of one wall sign allowed, variance of three signs); to allow a 129.5 sq. ft. wall sign (maximum allowed is 75.95 sq. ft., a variance of 53.55 sq. ft.). This property is zoned General Business (B-3).

PZ23-0049 (Johnson Sign Company) 41500 Ten Mile Road, north of Ten Mile Road, west of Meadowbrook Road, Parcel 50-22-23-426-017. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Sign Ordinance Section 28-5(a) to allow an additional wall sign on the south elevation (maximum of one wall sign is allowed for this tenant, a variance of one additional wall sign). This property is zoned General Business (B-3).

Six candidates seeking 3 Novi City Council seats

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — Voters in the city will elect on Nov. 7 three city council members from a field of six candidates that includes two incumbents and four newcomers. They will join on the council one of the two men running for mayor.

Laura Casey, 52, has been a resident of the city for more than 23 years and has served on the city council since 2011. She holds master's degrees in business administration and management from Walsh College and a bachelor's degree in American public affairs from Michigan State University. She lists her occupation as customer experience strategy/marketing.

Besides her service on council, she is a member of the Rotary Club of Novi, the Novi Educational Foundation Grant Committee, the Novi Library Bond Committee and served as a Novi Library Board Trustee from 2005-2011.

Jay Dooley, 63, has lived in Novi since 1999. He has a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Connecticut and is employed as a senior executive provider liaison in the neuroscience division at UCB.

He is chair of the Novi Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Commission since 2007. He previously served as vice-president of the Novi Parks Foundation from 2007-2012; is a past president of the Novi High School Boosters Club; a past recipient of the Novi "Spirit of Giving" Award and the "Community Service Award"; teaches religious education at St. James; is a board member for Michigan Miss Amazing; and for the past 17 years has self-funded "Dooley Dog Day," providing more than 1,000 hot dogs to Novi youth program supporters.

Matt Heintz, 41, is a seven-year resident of Novi. He holds a bachelor of science degree in zoology from Michigan State University and earned a PhD from the University of Chicago. He is employed as a senior technical writer within the medical device industry.

Heintz co-lead an elementary school environment club in his community to empower the youth through knowledge and compassion to make a difference and take action in their school and home; is active in the Novi Mental Health Alliance group to promote well-



Novi City Council candidates.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CANDIDATES

being and provide educational resources for Novi families; and was recently elected as an interim HOA president as he continues to demonstrate leadership in his community.

Joe Peddiboyina, 51, has lived in Novi for more than 21 years. He is a mechanical engineering graduate who owns an information technology business.

He lists relevant community involvement as consistent participation in city council meetings advocating for Novi's development, as well as organization of charitable activities. He has served on the library board, the zoning board of appeals, and the Rotary Club, among others. He has received numerous awards related to his dedication to Novi's growth and believes he brings leadership experience as a business owner and consultant, with community service and leadership roles equipping him to ensure every Novi resident's voice is heard and respected.

Sujata Raman, 45, is a 12-year resident of Novi. She has a bachelor's degree in international relations from James Madison College at Michigan State University and earned her juris doctor from MSU's College of Law. She is employed as a medical practice administrator.

David Staudt, 64, is a 30-year resident of Novi and has served on the city council for 16 years, the past 12 as mayor pro-tem. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Lakeland College and a master's degree in management from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is employed as a comptroller for Associated Builders and Contractors of SE Michigan as well as

for Construction Education Trust. He owns Impact Media Professionals.

Besides his service on city council, he has served five years on the Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission; two years on the Novi Economic Development Corporation and also served on the Novi Corridor Improvement Authority. He is the founder of the Novi Parks Foundation and of the Canine Advocacy Program and a member of Knights of Columbus, Novi Rotary, and the Elks. He is a past president of the Marine Environmental Education Foundation and the National Clean Boating Campaign and past board member of the CRWC.

Hometown Life sent identical questionnaires to the candidates, requesting information about them and their thoughts on various issues. Here is what they had to say on one of the six questions we asked. For answers to additional questions, go to Hometownlife.com.

What are your top three priorities if elected?

Dooley: Overall public safety which includes support for police, fire, revisiting our neighborhood roads, enhancing our major roads, snow removal, and infrastructure within water & sewer. Maintain and improve investments within Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services. This would include our existing and potential new parks as well as investments into sidewalks and trails; Walkable Novi. Protect and improve older adults needs such as community outreach, effective free transportation and to champion the education toward medical coverage.

Heintz: I am committed to a sustainable, connected, and safe Novi. Residents are concerned with the amount of overdevelopment in Novi. I understand the importance of protecting the wetlands and woodlands, which can provide physical and wellbeing benefits as well as preventing flooding to support a sustainable Novi. I am also supportive of increasing transportation options including biking and walking trails, and bus options for a connected Novi. I am deeply concerned about safety and will listen to the needs of first responders to make sure that fire stations are fully staffed and have proper resources for a safe Novi.

Peddiboyina: First, safe neighbor-

hoods for our families and seniors. I'll back our award-winning police force to keep Novi safe. Second, excellent schools. I'll support our teachers and encourage parental involvement. Third, clean, efficient government. I'll ensure tax dollars are spent wisely, maintaining Novi's low tax rate and perfect AAA bond rating. These priorities align with the common-sense policies that led Fortune and Forbes Magazines to name Novi one of the best places to live in America.

Raman: I want Novi to be as safe, connected, inclusive and sustainable as it can be. I want to be sure the city makes smart, responsible decisions about development. I want to work to make sure all our fire stations are fully functioning, never going unstaffed as has been happening in recent months. I want to work with Oakland County to implement the transit Novi voted for in a way that makes sense for our residents and our library is funded at the level it needs. I want to ensure that all residents voices are heard and considered when making decisions.

Staudt: Fully staffing all public safety departments (police and fire) and updating or replacing aging facilities as necessary. Assisting our aging population to live more independent and fulfilling lives by expanding our senior transportation options, senior services, and publicly owned senior housing options. Carefully managing the remaining buildout. It will require vision, intense planning and adequate funding to deal with the challenges related to public safety, traffic, transit, public services and infrastructure, while protecting our woodlands and wetlands.

Casey: Long-term planning: we need to ensure that we're not just reacting to issues today but planning for what may impact the city in the future. Continue providing the best city services for all Novi residents: Ensuring that police and fire services always have the funding they need to keep residents and businesses safe. Proactively maintaining our infrastructure and keeping the roads clear from snow as quickly as possible. Offering recreation activities and parks to meet resident needs. Fiscally responsible government: Aligning spending to residents' priorities. Maintaining a healthy fund balance. Reducing legacy costs. Keeping debt low.

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

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------|-------|
| Bakery | Fast | Markets | Siren |
| Bungalow | Freeway | Museum | Slum |
| Bus terminal | Funny | News | Smog |
| Cabin | Hectic | Office | Snack |
| Cafe | Ideal | Building | Tolls |
| Cars | Inns | People | Tram |
| Crypt | Jobs | Poor | Urban |
| Delays | Lane | Port | Work |
| Docs | Latte | Rich | Zoos |
| Embassy | Lonely | Roads | |
| Exposition | Lord mayor | Rush | |
| hall | Lost | Shrine | |

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Never a dull moment

City living

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

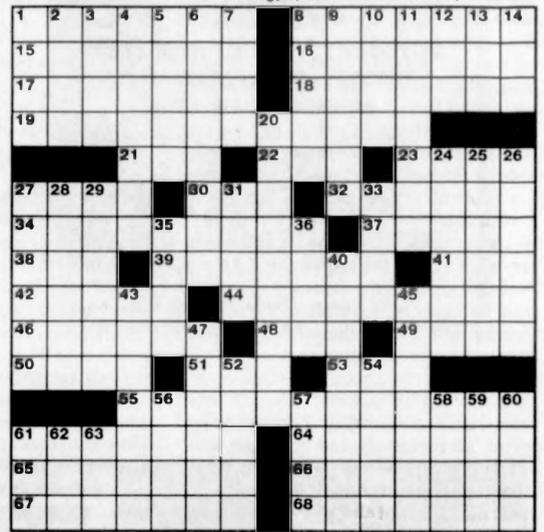
ACROSS

- 1 Financially independent guy
- 8 Clogs, for example
- 15 Visceral
- 16 Sundae bar selection
- 17 Less likely to split
- 18 Vain
- 19 Focus of a pioneering Western film
- 21 *Huguenots* (Meyerbeer opera)
- 22 Erstwhile RFK Stadium player
- 23 French Sudan, today
- 27 About 91 yards of a football field
- 30 UV Index monitor
- 32 Bardic king
- 34 Tee's usual lack
- 37 "Wolves of the sea"
- 38 Cut-and-dried stuff
- 39 Short race
- 41 Flying start
- 42 It may give you a lift
- 44 Quartet in Mississippi
- 46 Committed
- 48 Coverage, so to speak
- 49 Song conclusion
- 50 Neighborhood adjoining Greenwich Village
- 51 Toward Poland, from 61 Across
- 53 Santa, in Moore's poem
- 55 Resumption after an interruption
- 61 Metropolis on the Rhine
- 64 Desk fixture

- 65 Badger habitat
- 66 Confounded
- 67 Pitches everywhere
- 68 Back down?

- 10 "Congratulations!" message source, maybe
- 11 Shellac or silk
- 12 Leaner's point value
- 13 Frat letters
- 14 Urban network: Abbr.
- 20 Literally, "Children of the Covenant"
- 24 It's covered for strollers
- 25 Molded meat
- 26 Show willpower
- 27 Picnic paper's destination
- 28 Mexican cowboy
- 29 Mideast financial center
- 31 B vitamin acronym
- 33 Pomology specimen
- 63 *Ski nautique* venue

- 35 So it seems
- 36 Legal remedy of a sort
- 40 Become hard to get rid of
- 43 Genre of graphic novels
- 45 Road trip starter
- 47 Local
- 52 Bug hunt
- 54 Allowed to run
- 56 Hard-to-please type
- 57 Wraps
- 58 Unbundled
- 59 Together
- 60 Fully recognized
- 61 Norm's occupation on *Cheers*
- 62 Fort that's a National Monument

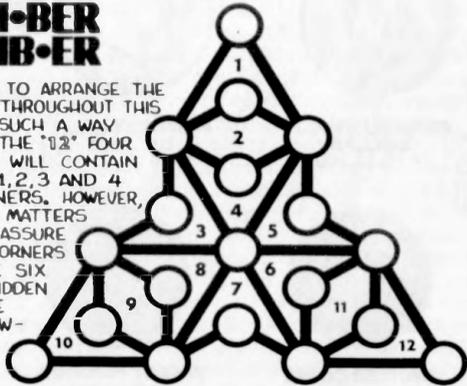


CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDSBADL.COM 10/14/23

PUZZLES & POSERS

NUM-BER NUM-BER

IT IS POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE THE NUMBERS "1-6" THROUGHOUT THIS STRUCTURE IN SUCH A WAY THAT EACH OF THE "12" FOUR SIDED FIGURES WILL CONTAIN THE NUMBERS 1, 2, 3 AND 4 ON THEIR CORNERS. HOWEVER, TO COMPLICATE MATTERS YOU MUST ALSO ASSURE THAT THE "12" CORNERS COMPRISING THE SIX POINTED STAR HIDDEN IN THIS PUZZLE TOTALS THE LOWEST POSSIBLE SCORE.



SUDOKU | CREATORS

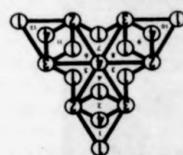
Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: BRONZE**

TODAY'S ANSWER

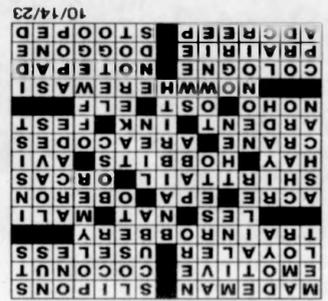
6	5	8	4	2	7	1	3	9
3	4	9	1	8	6	5	2	7
8	7	1	5	3	6	4	2	9
4	8	6	7	1	3	9	2	5
2	6	3	8	5	1	7	4	9
7	9	5	8	3	2	6	4	1
1	3	2	6	9	4	7	8	5
8	2	7	2	6	9	4	8	5
9	1	6	5	7	3	7	5	1
6	1	7	2	6	9	4	8	5
5	6	3	9	1	8	2	7	4

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

TODAY'S ANSWER



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License

Continued from Page 1A

range at 56477 Grand River Ave.

Swadish said in anticipation of being granted the license transfer, he spent "several thousand dollars" installing a one-way door between the gun showroom/range and the restaurant to ensure that anyone who had a drink in Molly Pitcher's would not be able enter the gun shop and shoot or buy a gun. He explained that customers who consumed alcohol would have to exit to the parking lot.

"No other gun shop has such stringent rules," Swadish said. "These were things we had done in anticipation of the beer and wine license. We did that before the township recommended denial."

Township officials hastily called an emergency meeting to take action in March after they learned the MLCC had a hearing scheduled three days later to consider granting a conditional license to Molly Pitcher's that would allow the immediate serving of alcohol.

During the township's special meeting, the four board members present — Carcone, Clerk Michele Cash, and trustees Sean O'Neil and Robert Swain — voted to approve a resolution recommending the MLCC deny the license. Among the reasons cited in the resolution, which was accompanied by 50 pages of documentation, were Huron Valley Outfitters and Molly Pitcher's history of "disregarding and violating the township code and regulations, as well as state orders during the COVID-19 pandemic," current and past delinquencies on township bills, and continued restaurant violations.

In the resolution, the township makes clear its concerns of alcohol being served in a facility where guns are both sold and used, and which is also in close proximity to a school.

"Based on the prior history of operations, the Township believes that the purported safety measures being proposed by Molly Pitcher's to keep the use of alcohol and the shooting range activities separated are not realistic or may not be strictly adhered to, and the ability to consume alcohol adjacent to a shooting range has a real likelihood of resulting in an injury," the resolution stated.

Carcone also recalled at the special



Kaylee Darden, a server at Molly Pitcher's in New Hudson, with an assortment of desserts. The restaurant, part of the Huron Valley Guns facility, was recently denied a tavern license by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. SUSAN BROMLEY

township meeting that Swadish promised in 2016 that he would never sell alcohol on the property, which is located in close proximity to Dolsen Elementary School and about which many residents had raised concerns.

Swadish says no one knows better than him that alcohol and guns don't mix. He notes that many of his employees are ex-police officers, trained to look for signs of intoxication. He also defends his customer base as "the most law-abiding people."

"None of our customers would drink and then go shoot a gun," Swadish said. "Autos and alcohol don't mix, but yet, every gas station sells alcohol."

Limited licenses, selective criteria

The township is granted a quota of liquor licenses based on population. Until the next census in 2030, the allocation is 16 licenses. Ten are currently issued, including the license that DDA Execu-

tive Director Amy Allen said is still assigned to Novella's.

Two more will be issued to businesses that have not yet opened: Mojave Cantina and SOKO Social. That leaves four available, with the township being careful to which entities they give their backing.

Allen noted that Umami, a Japanese restaurant, recently sought a liquor license to serve sake, a Japanese rice wine, but was denied. With a limited number of licenses left for the next seven years, the township is holding out for candidates that better meet its criteria.

Among the criteria considered are the size of the business, its hours of operation, the number of employees, and the amount of economic investment. A restaurant that is a new build or that is owned by the establishment and not leased, is more likely to receive a recommendation for granting a license.

"We have to be selective, because we can't get them back," Allen said. "We

have to be diligent about who we are allotting these to."

Allen noted that the township can only recommend approval or denial to the MLCC, which is the final authority.

Township officials have also said that Novella's did not comply with an agreement to return the license to the township quota and not sell the license.

Swadish said the denial of the liquor license transfer for Molly Pitcher's will harm his restaurant, as "it's hard to get a dinner crowd when someone wants a glass of cabernet with their steak."

He contends that moving his business to the township was one of the worst decisions he has ever made.

Still, he won't be leaving, and said that in addition to the planned lawsuit he intends to create and fund a political action committee to back a slate of candidates to run for township offices next year, "to take the township back."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

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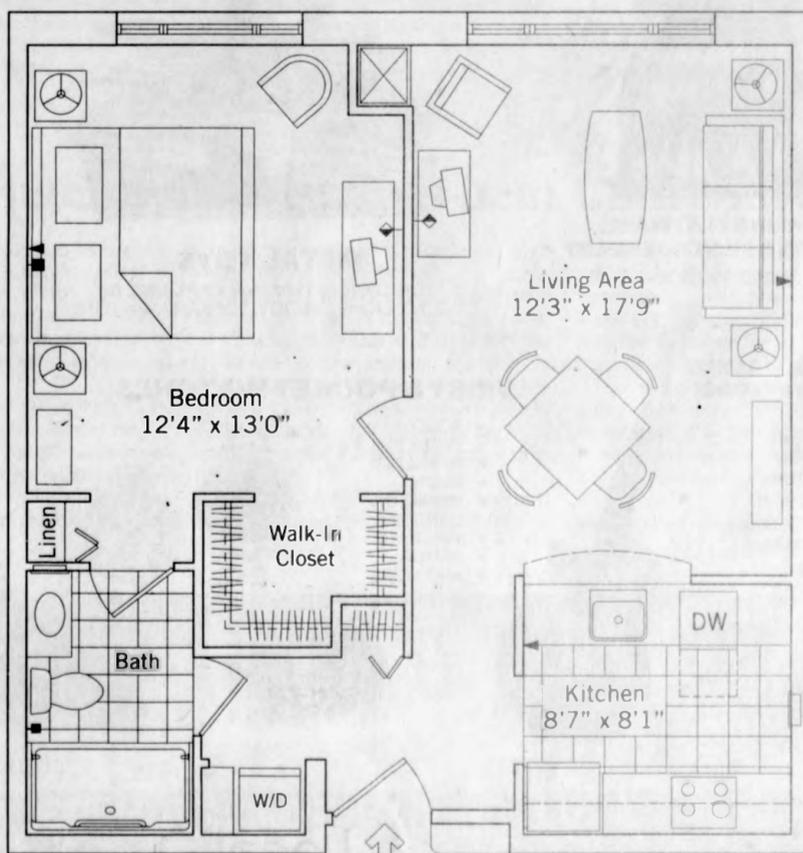
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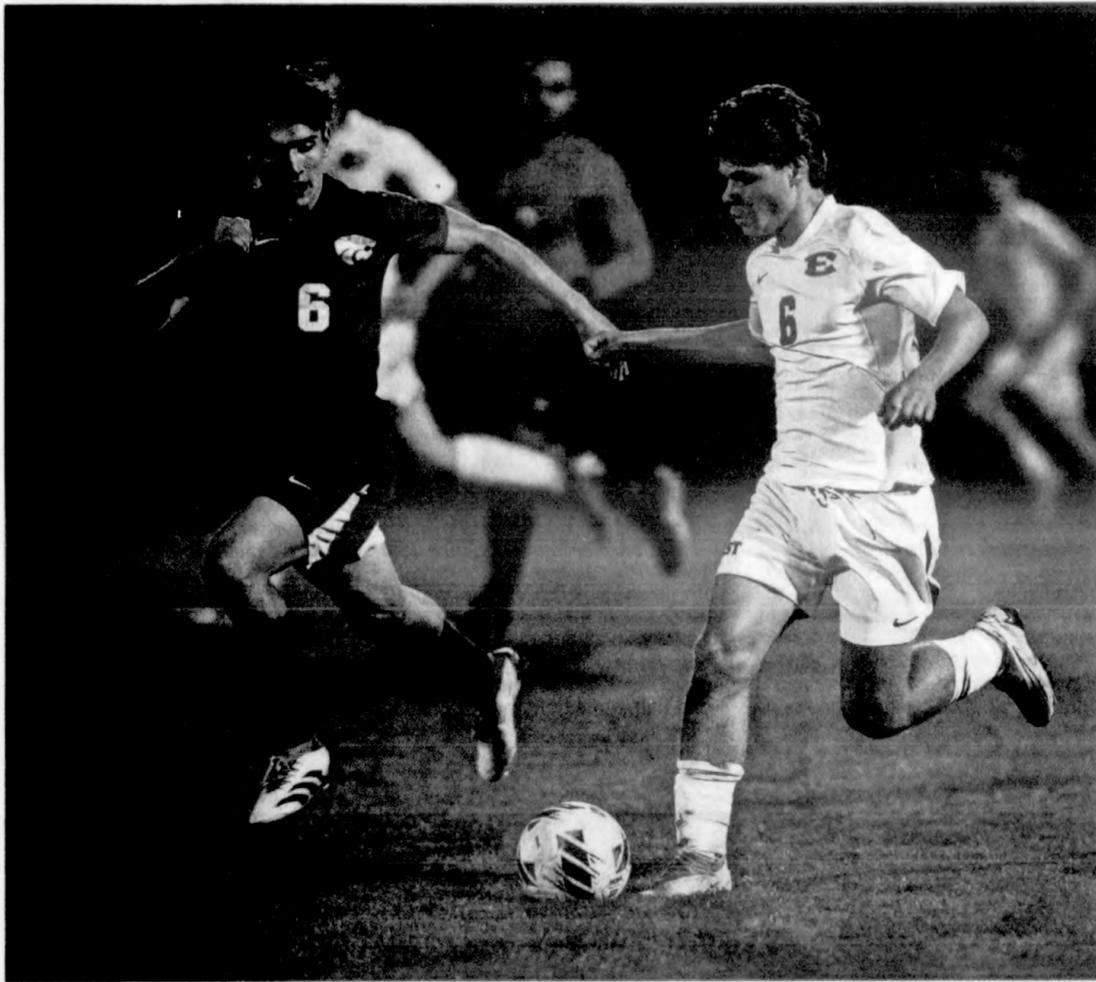
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SPORTS



South Lyon East freshman Mark Winter pushes the ball past Novi junior Drew Mitchell during a Division 1 pre-district boys soccer match on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, at Novi Meadows Soccer Stadium. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

How Northville soccer snuck into the KLAA championship and won it

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Henry Klimes didn't need to send a gift basket because the Northville boys soccer coach was already there on hand to thank the Plymouth faithful in person.

The No. 2 Mustangs (15-2-1) scored two goals 57 seconds apart in the opening 10 minutes of Monday's Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship game to ensure a 3-0 shutout against host Livonia Stevenson and secure their fifth outright league title and fourth since the conference switched to a two-division format.

But how they snuck into the championship game is a story itself.

Northville has been one of the best teams in the state all season long, even sitting in the top three of the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association rankings for six of the past seven weeks.

But those two losses on its record? They both came against KLAA-West rival Brighton. And deciding the division winner literally came down to the final 15 minutes of conference play late last week.

Northville's 4-0 victory over Hartland on Thursday gave them 34 points in the final division standings. However, a power outage at Plymouth's stadium meant Brighton and the Wildcats were forced to move their finale to Friday night. All the Bulldogs needed was a win over Plymouth to also finish with 34 points, and they would've also taken the tiebreaker to earn a berth into the KLAA championship because they swept Northville during the regular season.

But Plymouth battled tough. It took a 1-0 lead into halftime and didn't concede a goal until there were about 15 minutes remaining in the match. Any slip-up by the Wildcats and Brighton was headed to Stevenson.

Alas, Plymouth held on for the 1-1 tie in the waning moments, despite pouring rains and limited visibility, and Klimes was right there to thank the Mustangs' rivals down Beck Road for helping them earn a trip to the KLAA title game.

"It was awesome that Plymouth pulled it off," Klimes said. "I was sitting with a lot of Plymouth parents, and I told them to thank their kids for having an outstanding day and an outstanding performance. They played really well."

See KLAA, Page 2B

Cougars outlast Novi in PKs after coach gets ejected

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Five Cougars scored during a penalty-kick shootout, goalie Drew Ministrelli made the game-winning save and South Lyon East edged host Novi 1-0 to secure its first state tournament victory as a Division 1 boys soccer team in program history.

And all sixth-year coach Pete Stoyanovich could do was watch his team's heroics in sudden death on Thursday night through the chain links of a fence that runs along the parking lot at Meadows Soccer Stadium in Novi.

The former All-Pro NFL kicker received a red card with just under 17 minutes remaining in regulation and was ejected for questioning why the officials didn't award East (6-4-6) with a penalty

See OUTLAST, Page 2B



South Lyon East senior Jacob Johnson halts a Novi possession during a Division 1 pre-district boys soccer match on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, at Novi Meadows Soccer Stadium.

Triple-threat Owen Pittenger helps Patriots beat Churchill in OT

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The triple-threat is more than just a stance Owen Pittenger uses when he plays point guard for the Livonia Franklin boys basketball team.

For at least Friday's Livonia City championship, a triple-threat is what he was for the football team.

The junior threw a touchdown pass, rushed for another one in overtime and

caught the game-winning two-point conversion on a toe-dragging effort in the northwest corner of the end zone that gave the Patriots (5-2, 4-2 KLAA-East) a walk-off, 22-21 win at rival Livonia Churchill and ensured they'd repeat as City champions.

Coach Chris Kelbert called it an "ugly, ugly, ugly, ugly win," which makes sense. Franklin had its offensive woes throughout the night, its defense didn't have many answers for Churchill's passing attack in the second half and the

driving rain made it tough for both teams to hold onto the ball.

When the Patriots needed a shot in the arm, they called Pittenger's number.

Clinging to a 7-3 lead, Franklin threw a bubble screen behind the line of scrimmage to Pittenger, who, in turn, got a running start and heaved a pass of his own to Mendale Broaden for a 27-yard TD with 9.2 seconds left before halftime.

After Churchill's offense stormed back in the second half, forced OT and

grabbed a seven-point advantage in sudden death, Pittenger, who rushed six times for 55 yards, powered through the heart of the Chargers' defense and dove into the end zone for a 15-yard TD that kept the Patriots in the game.

Instead of kicking an extra point and going into a second OT, Franklin elected to attempt the two-point conversion, which saw quarterback Derek Hetu throw a pass to Pittenger in the corner of

See THREAT, Page 2B



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Threat

Continued from Page 18

the end zone. The point guard made won the jump ball and managed to drag his Jordan Retro cleats inbounds before falling to the ground and being mobbed by teammates in celebration.

"Derek made a great pass. He couldn't have put it anywhere else," Pittenger said. "He (the Churchill defensive back) was on me, in the deep of the corner. But Derek put trust in me. I love that guy. I'm just proud of everybody. I'm just thankful that they have the trust in me to make plays. I'm just happy to be here."

Joined at the hip

It was the second straight week Pittenger has had an elite performance, as he also rushed 12 times for 151 yards and two TDs during a win over Livonia Stevenson the previous week.

So what's gotten into the junior lately? Why is he having so much success?

He's no longer battling a hip injury that has limited his athleticism, especially on offense. And that's been a boon for Kelbert's play-calling abilities. Through the first five weeks, running back Jon Jasionowski has been the bell cow for the Patriots, leading them in rushing and also giving Hetu a nice target to throw to out of the backfield.

Having Pittenger back and healthy gives Franklin's offense a two-headed monster, as Jasionowski, who rushed for a 7-yard TD in the opening quarter against Churchill and finished with 59



Livonia Franklin junior Owen Pittenger wraps up Livonia Churchill quarterback Evan Snead during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game on Friday, Oct. 6, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

yards on 15 carries, and Pittenger are essentially interchangeable. Either can line up at running back beside Hetu in the shotgun. Either play in the slot or out wide.

"The last two weeks, it's really added a new dimension to our offense," Kelbert said. "We can be more balanced than we've been able to be at other times in the season. Now I've got to find some ways to get Jon the ball out in space and do some things out there."

When Jasionowski and Pittenger are on the field at the same time, it forces defenses to play honestly. That was evident when Pittenger tossed the TD pass to Broaden.

At any moment, a play like that can happen.

"It's great being able to rely on someone else to pick up the O, tote that rock, catch it and do it all," Jasionowski said

about playing alongside Pittenger. "I love Pit, bro. He's a dog, man. I love when other people thrive, especially in moments like this. A last-second play, pulling through. It doesn't matter if I make the play or someone else makes the play. You know what I mean? I love that it's a team effort."

Win or go home

Kelbert said his plan was to go for two the first chance Franklin got in overtime.

"I wasn't comfortable where we were offensively," the 25th-year coach said. "I don't think going multiple overtimes we would've been able to generate enough offense to keep up with them (Churchill) scoring. That's why you go defense first, so you can put yourself in that situation to make that call. I just didn't want to go into another overtime."

That's a credit to how great the play was of Churchill QB Evan Snead, who missed the first half of the matchup while serving a brief suspension for an excessive celebration penalty he drew during the Chargers' homecoming pep rally.

Churchill (3-4, 2-4) struggled without him early on. Rightfully so, too, because its coaching staff had to teach receiver John Palozzi how to run the offense during pre-game warmups, but the senior did well limiting his mistakes behind center. He even did enough to get the team into scoring position so kicker Logan Bourdage could bury a 39-yard field goal and give the Chargers a three-point lead early in the game.

Snead rejoined the Chargers in the second half while trailing by 11 points,

and he was surgical. He finished 10 of 12 passing for 110 yards and two TD passes.

First, he got the Chargers into scoring territory for another Bourdage field goal, this one from 19 yards. Just over three minutes later, he lasered a pass into the middle for David Anderson, who made the grab and raced 44 yards untouched to cut the deficit to just two points. And then Snead lofted a pass to Peyton Sitariski for the game-tying two-point conversion that would ultimately ensure overtime.

Franklin won the coin toss and put Snead and the Chargers on offense first. Snead, who is arguably the second-best QB in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East, behind only Belleville's Bryce Underwood, the No. 1-ranked QB in the country for the 2025 recruiting class, threw a 5-yard TD pass to Nate Broglin to put Churchill up, 21-14.

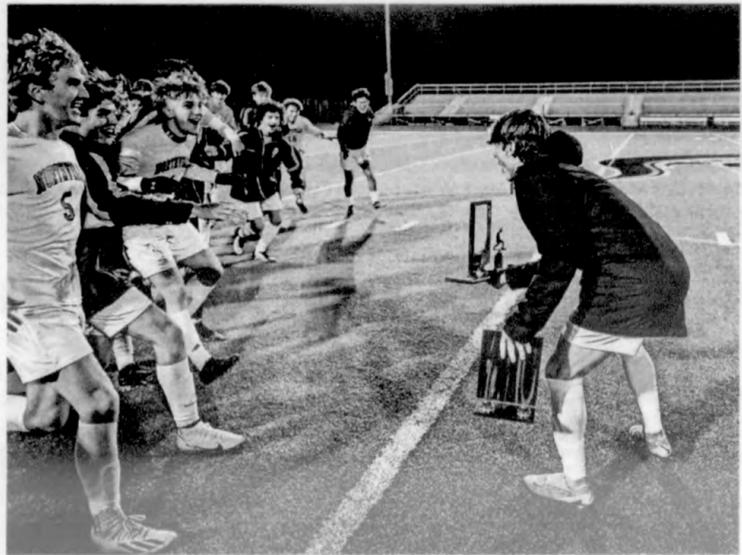
Churchill's defense, led by lineman Corey Gilbert, who had 6.5 tackles and a sack, couldn't come up with a stop on Franklin's ensuing two-point conversion attempt to steal the win from the Patriots.

Franklin knew Snead was likely to keep rallying with more TD passes had overtime continued.

"Our kids fight, our kids battle," first-year Chargers coach Allen Feigel said. "I'm pleased with the way that we played considering our quarterback missed the first half. We had to teach our wide receiver quarterback stuff in pregame like it was Little League, so for us to survive them (Franklin) in the first half the way that we did and then bounce back to force overtime, I'm proud of the way we overcame adversity. But it just didn't go our way."



Northville coach Henry Klimes goes through the post-game handshake line following the Kensington Lakes Activities Association boys soccer championship on Monday, Oct. 9, at Livonia Stevenson. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE



Northville celebrates winning the Kensington Lakes Activities Association boys soccer championship.

KLAA

Continued from Page 18

"It was tough because we unfortunately put ourselves into that predicament with not playing our best in the last couple of minutes against Brighton, knowing we just had to tie (to win the West). But again, those are lessons learned, and it just happened that Plymouth was a solid squad. They were one of the teams that played us really tough throughout the year. It's high school soccer, and anybody can beat anybody. It was a great result to give us an opportunity to be here."

Northville received a late invitation

to the party, but it wasted no time getting down to business.

Zane Khraizat kick-started the scoring by taking a breakaway down the far sideline, sucking in Stevenson's back line and creating an opening for Haithem Al-Zoubi, who poked in a touch pass from Khraizat for the winning goal just 6 minutes into play.

Less than a minute later, Emir Tascioglu lasered in a goal inside the penalty box for insurance.

Hyuga Jozaki added to the tally in the final 90 seconds, as the senior stole a Spartans' throw-in and ripped a shot that tucked inside the top-right corner of the net.

"We had a good practice on Sunday, and we usually don't practice on Sun-

days," said Klimes, who's in his 33rd year coaching Northville. "But realizing what it really takes to be conference champions, (we needed to be prepared). We've won the division a handful of times, but the conference title is hard to get. I've been here a long time, but it's not easy with Salem, Novi and Canton. It's a tough division, a tough conference."

While Plymouth was Northville's ally for at least one night, the two are back to being respected rivals on the pitch, as the Division 1 district tournament kicks off this week, and there's a strong chance the two could play one another for the district title since they're on opposite sides of the bracket.

The Mustangs won both regular-sea-

son meetings, 2-0 and 1-0, but throw out the results. It's time for playoff soccer. If Northville is going to advance to the regional semifinals, it won't be getting any help from the Wildcats this time.

"There's no secrets now. Everybody knows everybody. Everybody knows how you play," Klimes added. "We're going to have to be mentally prepared, but it comes down to the work, right? And the desire to do it. We've had great teams in the past before that haven't gotten out of the districts. I keep telling them that everybody starts 0-0. A great season at 15-2-1 and winning a division and a conference championship is great, but, hopefully, we've learned a lot of things because a district is just one game at a time."

Outlast

Continued from Page 18

kick because he believed one of his players was fouled during a breakaway attempt inside the 18-yard box.

"Hey, nothing changes, boys!" junior Lucas Bogard shouted to his fellow Cougars as Novi athletic director Don Watchowski escorted Stoyanovich out of the stadium. "We still got this, boys!"

East certainly did, but it had to finish regulation, play a pair of 10-minute overtime periods and organize itself for the penalty kick shootout without its head coach.

But Stoyanovich's absence proved to be a shot in the arm. The Cougars played with some extra pep in their steps.

Ministrelli and the defense, especially senior Jacob Johnson, continued to halt Novi's attack to close out regulation, and the unit played tough in extra time.

When the shootout began, every Cougar but one made their attempts,

which included Jacob Allen, Trevor Powrozek, Bogard and Manaki Watanabe burying goals in Round 1.

After Novi's Cole Vushaj scored one of his own to force a second round of penalty kicks, Rohan Jolly blasted in a goal to set up Ministrelli with a chance to win it all for the Cougars. And he did, stopping a shot on his left side to ensure East the walk-off victory and advance the Cougars to Tuesday's district semifinal against Detroit Catholic Central.

Immediately afterward, Stoyanovich sprinted back into the stadium and his players mobbed him with hugs.

"This is the moment you live for," said Ministrelli, a junior who stopped two PKs. "This is all of the hours you spend in the backyard, all the sprints you do in the summer. It's the reward you get from what you put your body through. It's what you get when you work hard."

East has been a D-2 program since it opened its doors in 2007. Its pre-district matchup against Novi was the first time it had ever played as a D-1 team. The Cougars did not disappoint their head coach, who requested to be interviewed

on the actual pitch after the match so he could "enjoy it a little bit."

"I told them I wanted nothing more for them to win this game," Stoyanovich said. "We haven't won a district D-1 game, I think, since we've been here. I felt like it was important. We have some momentum on our side. In the last 10, we've only lost one. We might have had a few ties along the way, but we've won a few, too. But they know how much this game really meant to me as a coach. But, to themselves, I just think they wanted it more."

Ministrelli said it was "heart-crushing" not having his coach there to finish the match, but he said he could hear Stoyanovich, a former college soccer and football player at Indiana, cheering on the Cougars from the parking lot.

"We should've gotten the penalty kick," Stoyanovich said of his red card. "That's why I was irate. I was standing up for the boys."

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



South Lyon East senior Jacob Allen celebrates winning a Division 1 pre-district boys soccer match on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, at Novi Meadows Soccer Stadium. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Week 7 stat leaders around Hometown Life

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Another week of the Michigan high school football season is in the books.

Let's look at the stat leaders for this week around the Hometown Life coverage area.

Is your team missing stat leaders? Encourage your coaches to send stats to sports reporter Brandon Folsom at bfolsom@hometownlife.com.

Reminder: HTL covers teams in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Canton, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Garden City, Livonia, Milford, Northville, Novi, Plymouth, Redford, South Lyon, Wayne, Westland, White Lake and Wixom.

Kensington Lakes Activities Association

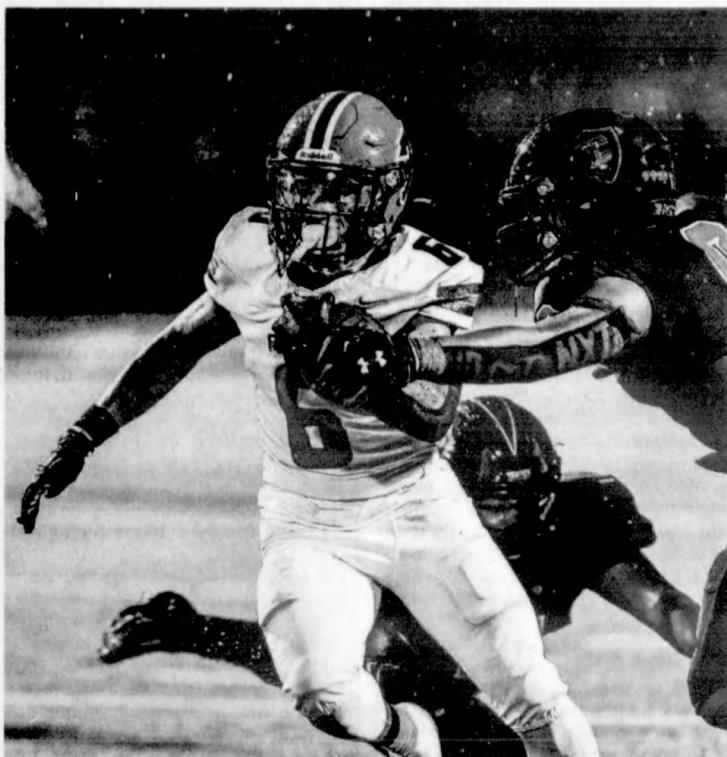
Livonia Franklin 22, Livonia Churchill 21 (F/OT)

Owen Pittenger rushed six times for 55 yards and a 15-yard score, threw a 27-yard TD pass to Mendale Broaden and caught the game-winning two-point conversion as the Patriots (5-2, 4-2) won the Livonia City championship. Jon Jasionowski added 15 carries for 59 yards and a TD, while Broaden had two catches for 33 yards.

Gino DiPonio (six solo), Eric Marsh (two solo) and Pittenger (three solo) each had eight tackles to lead Franklin's defense, while Jasionowski had seven (three solo) and Dom Walker (two for loss) and Derrick Grubbs had five apiece. Walker and Jaiden Mabins each recorded sacks, while Mabins also fell on a fumble.

Evan Snead was 10 of 12 passing for 110 yards and two TDs and rushed six times for 14 yards for the Chargers (3-4, 2-4). Peyton Sitarski caught four passes for 35 yards, while David Anderson caught a 44-yard TD pass and Nate Broglin had two receptions for 8 yards and a score.

Corey Gilbert led the Chargers' on defense with 6.5 tackles and a sack, Miles Lueck had three tackles and a sack, Noah Steiner had 3.5 tackles and Lucas Beckham totaled three tackles and an



Livonia Franklin senior Jon Jasionowski rushes during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game on Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, at Livonia Churchill. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

interception.

Westland John Glenn 38, Dearborn Fordson 30 (F/OT)

Jon Roberson rushed for a 10-yard TD in overtime while Damon Powers (10 carries, 140 yards) punched in the two-point conversion for the Rockets (6-1, 5-1 East). Dougie Wicker scored on a 4-yard TD run, tossed a 15-yard TD pass to Roberson and returned an interception 37 yards for a score. Ethan Moore rushed six times for 96 yards and a TD, and Elliot Flake had 15 carries for 82 yards.

Powers led the defense with 11 tackles (one for loss), Tyler Radley added seven tackles and forced a fumble and Amari Bingham-Cage had five tackles and a

fumble recovery. Also helping on defense were Cam Capen with six tackles (one for loss), Caden Ingram and Hunter Krupin with five tackles apiece and Rickey Smith with four tackles (two for loss).

Livonia Stevenson 35, Dearborn 15

ArJon Thompson rushed 27 times for 155 yards and two TDs for the Spartans (1-6, 1-5 East). Nathan Patterson was 12 of 18 passing for 132 yards and one TD, Nathan VandeLaare caught three passes for 40 yards and a score, Aidan Nolan had three receptions for 38 yards and intercepted two passes and Collin Gibson returned an interception for a 60-yard score.

Belleville 63, Wayne Memorial 0
The Zebras fell to 1-5 overall and 0-5 in the East.

Northville 55, Hartland 8
Cullen Murphy had four receptions for 80 yards and a TD on offense and intercepted two passes and totaled 105 yards in returns on defense.

Alex Caines made five extra points and booted in field goals of 42 and 25 yards for the Eagles (4-3, 4-2).

Isaac Pace was 16 of 22 passing for 257 yards and three TDs for the Mustangs (7-0, 6-0). Evan Deak rushed nine times for 60 yards and two scores, Kaden Kuban carried six times for 12 yards and a TD, Colin Charles caught two passes for 68 yards and a score and Nick Helder caught six passes for 83 yards and a TD.

Cooper Hoffman and Owen Ross paced the defense with five tackles apiece, Cole Attanasio and Caden Besco had sacks and Murphy intercepted two passes and finished with 105 return yards.

Novi 14, Howell 6

Caleb Walker was 10 of 17 passing for 132 yards and a TD and also punched in a 1-yard score for the Wildcats (6-1, 6-0). Boden Fernsler caught four passes for 57 yards and the game-winning TD, while Logan Ellison rushed 21 times for 74 yards and Keegan Litkewycz (34 yards) and Andrew Kummer (28) each hauled in two passes.

Johnny Aurilia totaled 12 tackles (nine solo) and forced a fumble, followed by Joshua Waack with eight tackles (four solo, one for loss), Brendan Lynch, Thad Lawler and Nolan Thompson with six apiece and Nathan Ponos and Mario Miminllari each had fumble recoveries.

Salem 21, Canton 14

Brayden Alexander was 4 of 8 passing for 132 yards and two TDs as the Rocks (1-6, 1-5) beat rival Canton for the first time since 1999. Azarius Hayes rushed 11 times for 75 yards and caught a 26-yard TD, while Aiden Moore carried 19 times for 165 yards, caught a TD pass and had 32 return yards.

Hayes paced Salem's defense with

See WEEK 7, Page 6B

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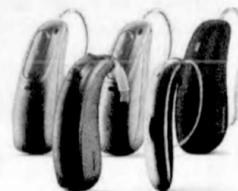
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Plymouth gets comeback playoff win at Churchill

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Following Wednesday's Division 1 pre-district boys soccer match at Livonia Churchill, it's clear why Northville coach Henry Klimes does not want to face Plymouth in the championship next week.

The Wildcats (9-6-6) are just relentless — even when they're trailing.

Plymouth allowed a goal in the opening 2 minutes but rallied to earn the 4-1 comeback victory over the Chargers and advance to Tuesday's semifinal against Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rival Salem.

But it wasn't easy. Churchill junior Matthew Havrutiuc scored off a Colton Borg free kick from the get-go, and then the Chargers elected to do what any underdog would do in that situation: It parked the bus in front of its net. They crowded their defenders in their end and did everything they could to eliminate Plymouth's scoring opportunities.

And they did. Countless trips into the attack saw the Wildcats come out empty-handed for the next 20 or so minutes until, finally, Kavi Behrend got his toe on a ball that snuck into the net past a scrum of Chargers to knot the score at 1 and give Plymouth some momentum as both teams entered halftime.

"We just had to keep going and break them down to score," said Behrend, a junior. "It was tough because they were all back and it was hard to break down and get through balls and stuff like that. After we got the tying goal, there was some relief, but it was tough when we were down by one."

Tying the score forced Churchill to loosen up its defense as it knew it'd need to garner another score to win.

Plymouth finally broke through with about 15 minutes remaining in regulation, as JR Maitland slipped a ball to Owen Christianson, who blasted in the game-winner past a host of Chargers.

In the final 10 minutes, Will Dani scored two goals off a pair of strikes from about 30 yards out as the Wildcats continued to make bang-bang passes up the pitch for fast scoring chances.



Plymouth coach Glenn Liguori talks with his players following a Division 1 pre-district boys soccer match on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, at Livonia Churchill.

"Once they (Churchill) started backing off, we started working the ball around the 25, and it was an easier shot," coach Glenn Liguori said. "With these guys, it's all about how well we are moving the ball quickly. All year, it's been about how we possess and getting those nice, quick shots. It's got to be quick shots. It can't be sending the ball long. It's all about how quick can we be with the ball."

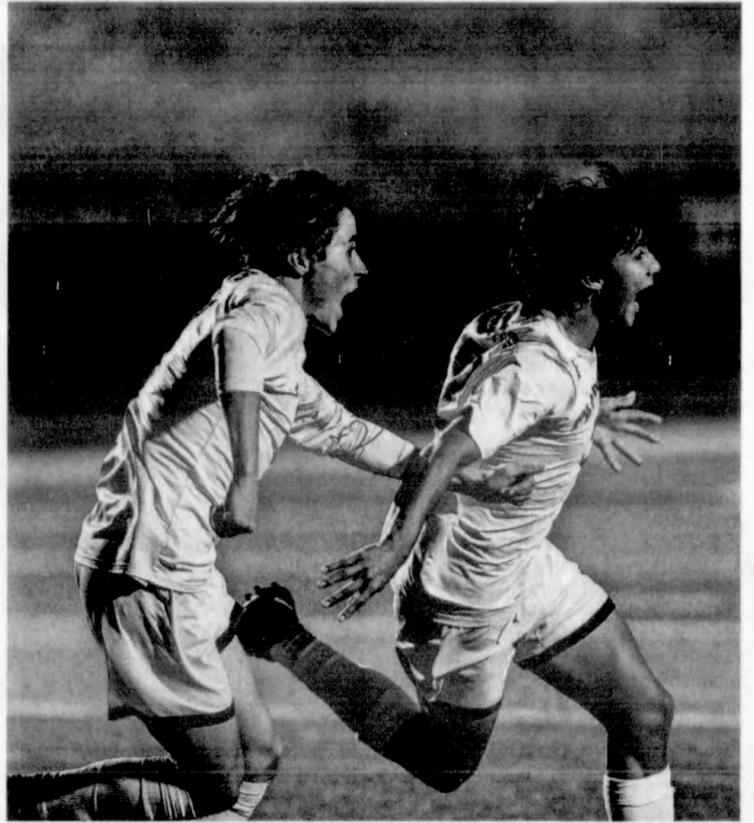
Most importantly, though, the Wildcats are still dancing in the postseason.

They're not promised to get past rival Salem. Heck, the two squads played to a 0-0 tie during the first meeting on Aug. 23, and then the Rocks pulled out a close 1-0 victory in the rematch on Sept. 19.

But if Plymouth can upset Salem that sets up a likely district final against No. 2 Northville, which should be an interesting match.

For one, Northville wouldn't have won the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship on Monday without Plymouth's help. The Mustangs needed Plymouth to either beat or tie Brighton last week to earn their berth into the championship game as the winners of the West division. And that's what happened, as Plymouth and Brighton tied 1-1 in the conference finale. Had the Wildcats lost, it would've been the Bulldogs playing for the league title.

For two, Northville needed everything it had to sneak past Plymouth during the regular season, winning both matchups 2-0 and 1-0, respectively. Klimes said the one team he wouldn't



Plymouth juniors Kavi Behrend and JR Maitland celebrate a goal during a Division 1 pre-district boys soccer match on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, at Livonia Churchill. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

want to face in the championship is Plymouth because the Wildcats are much improved since their last meeting on Sept. 26.

"Henry and I have talked about how he doesn't want to play somebody a third time, and I'm loving that fact," Liguori said. "I don't think my boys even understand the impact we had in that game (against Brighton). It was unbelievable for us to tie that, right? It was crazy because of what happened with the lights out at our facility on Thursday night and the craziness we went through to schedule that (make-up date the following evening). We got there,

and the boys played lights out without three of my top players. It was second-team guys coming in for key minutes.

"And, for us, it was like, 'Let's try to win this and get some points (in the final KLA West standings). We were still vying for a possible third place. If we won and Canton won, we would've jumped over Salem. So we were just pushing, pushing, pushing hard.'"

Expect that pushing to continue. Northville might be the No. 1 seed in the district, but Plymouth has been playing with a target on its back for about a month. And Salem is going to give the Wildcats its best shot as well.

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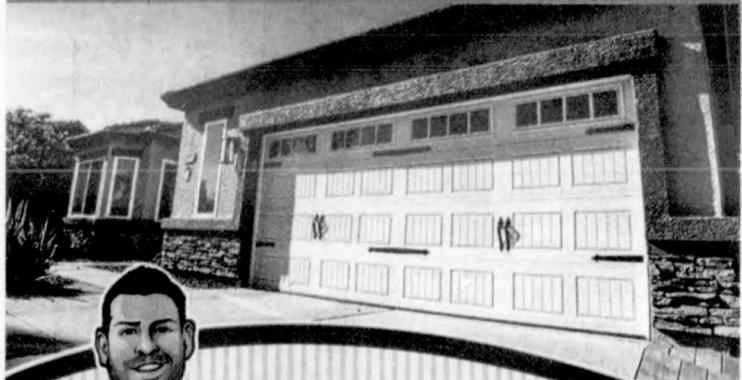
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Week 7

Continued from Page 3B

eight tackles (two for loss) and one pass breakup, while Moore had seven tackles and one pass breakup.

Brighton 42, Plymouth 21

Sam Plencner was 9 of 15 passing for 135 yards and two scores and rushed six times for 45 yards for the Wildcats (2-5, 2-4). Jaxon McCaig had 14 rushes for 53 yards and a score, while Cameron Witt caught three passes for 62 yards and a TD and Logan Pfeiffer caught a 27-yard TD pass.

Luc Damiani led the defense with 11 tackles (eight solo), followed by Kalvin Chen with 10 (six solo) and Witt with seven (four solo).

Lakes Valley Conference

White Lake Lakeland 41, South Lyon 0

Alex Caines made five extra points and booted in field goals of 42 and 25 yards for the Eagles (4-3, 4-2). Carter Travis rushed 12 times for 97 yards and a score, Trevor Tschudin carried 12 times for 75 yards and two TDs and Sean Latham rushed for a TD. Kyler Shaw caught three passes for 77 yards, including a 62-yard TD pass from Latham.

Ryan Johnson (fumble recovery) and Nolin Thompson (half sack) each totaled six tackles, Latham and Shaw both had interceptions and Blake Zamenski (one sack, pass breakup), Jack Schneider (sack), Drew Carlson (half sack) and Bo Bishop each had four tackles.

Seth McGlinch was 5 of 14 passing for 58 yards for the Lions (2-5, 2-4). Lance Fredericks rushed for 21 yards and caught two passes for another 24 yards.

Evan Komorous led South Lyon with five solo tackles, followed by Ryan Jendrusik with four and Ben Radley and Jake Tolbert with three apiece. Johnny Michaels had four tackles (three solo, one for loss) and a sack.

South Lyon East 23, Wyandotte Roosevelt 13

The Cougars improved to 3-4 overall and are 2-4 in the LVC. Giovannini was 10 of 17 passing for 85 yards and a TD, John Gilbert rushed 19 times for 111 yards and Nate Schira carried 16 times for 62 yards and two scores and also caught a 5-yard TD pass.

Jack Toth led the defense with 11 tackles (seven solo, 1.5 for loss), Peerless Schlusler had seven tackles (three solo, 1.5 for loss), Carter Hamilton had 10 tack-



South Lyon East junior Sam Turley carries the ball during a nonconference football game against Wyandotte Roosevelt on Friday, Oct. 6, 2023.

MELISSA SAMLUK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWN LIFE



Brother Rice senior Blake Marrogy passes during a Catholic League-Central football game against Warren DeLaSalle on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023, at Hurley Field in Berkley.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

les (five solo, one for loss) and a pass breakup and Kellen LaPerna totaled nine tackles (seven solo) and had a fumble recovery.

Walled Lake Western 28, Milford 20

Ryan Allen was 12 of 19 passing for 100 yards and a TD and also rushed 17 times for 104 yards and a score for the Mavericks (5-2, 5-1).

Peyton Chamberlain carried seven times for 45 yards and a score, Tanner Petru rushed six times for 33 yards and Landon Murray caught three passes for 57 yards and a score.

Wyatt Lesnew paced the defense with 11 tackles, followed by Kaden Johnston with 11 (one for loss), Jack Stine with 10, Kyle Scofield with nine and Owen Stark and Ike Stuft with seven apiece. Brady Collison had an interception and a pass breakup, while Josh Parker had six tackles and broke up a pass.

Oakland Activities Association

Birmingham Seaholm 20, Auburn Hills Avondale 0

Brothers Colton and Granden Kinie

combined to score all three TDs for the Maples (6-1, 3-0 Blue).

North Farmington 66, Pontiac 8

Terrance James rushed for 126 yards and two TDs for the Raiders (4-3, 3-1 Blue). Lorence Woodley totaled 207 yards and a TD, while Duke Blanch rushed for 94 yards and four scores.

Vinnie Lee led the defense with 11 tackles, followed by Brendon Rice with seven.

Birmingham Groves 30, Bloomfield Hills 6

The Falcons improved to 5-2 overall and 4-1 in White, while the Black Hawks fell to 0-7 overall and 0-7 in the division.

Harper Woods 55, Farmington 0

The Falcons fell to 2-5 overall and 1-4 in the White.

Western Wayne Athletic Conference

Garden City 52, Dearborn Heights Annapolis 0

Jonathon Jefferson Jr. threw for 105 yards and a TD for the Cougars (2-5, 2-4). Josh Sharp-Pelto totaled 87 yards receiving, including catching a 60-yard TD, Emanuel James returned a punt 60 yards for a score, Hallie McKinney punched in a 4-yard TD run and Tristan Young turned a fumble into a TD. The defense tallied two safeties.

Redford Union 14, Melvindale 0

The Panthers improved to 6-1 overall and 6-0 in the league to three-peat as the Western Wayne Athletic Conference champions. Champ Thornton threw two TD passes, while Devin Lillard totaled seven tackles, one sack and an interception.

Redford Thurston 8, Romulus 6

The Eagles improved to 5-2 overall and 4-2 in the league. Charles Nelson rushed nine times for 71 yards and a score and had an interception on defense, Nicholas Warren rushed for a two-point conversion, Tristian Pickett totaled eight tackles (one for loss) and two sacks, Keith Tally had six tackles

(one for loss) and Echie Kemutambah had a fumble recovery.

Catholic League

Cranbrook 19, Detroit University Prep 0

Krish Upadhyay was 5 of 20 passing for 81 yards, two TDs and four interceptions for the Cranes (2-5). Charlie Fogle rushed eight times for 67 yards and a score, while Jacob Speller caught three passes for 64 yards and two TDs.

JJ Vaz paced the defense with four tackles and an interception, Harisen Hajiharis had three tackles and two interceptions and Wally Ulmer, Cameron Harb and Speller each had two tackles.

Detroit Catholic Central 35, Toledo St. John's Jesuit 13

Jaden Pydyn scored three times for the Shamrocks (5-2, 4-2), while Kameron Lloyd and Lee Krueger also had TDs.

Warren DeLaSalle 53, Brother Rice 7

Blake Marrogy threw an 84-yard TD pass to Stanton Kapla for the Warriors (0-7, 0-5).

Michigan Independent Athletic Conference

Marshall 35, Lutheran Westland 0

The Warriors fell to 0-7 overall.

Independent

Livonia Clarenceville 8, Kalamazoo Loy Norrix 7

Elijah Craig scored a 90-yard TD, punched in a two-point conversion and pulled down an interception of defense for the Trojans (3-3).

Jaylan Johnson almost broke 100 yards rushing, while captain Anthony Horen led the defense.

Detroit Country Day 35, Flint Powers Catholic 14

The Yellowjackets improved to 3-3 overall.

Obituaries

Thomas Robert Neveu

Thomas Robert "Thom" Neveu, age 76 of Battle Creek, Michigan and formerly of Westland passed away Wednesday, October 4, 2023. He was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada on June 18, 1947, the son of Edward J. and Mary (Hoolihan) Neveu. Thom grew up in Westland, graduating from St. Mary's High School and furthered his education at Eastern Michigan University. He faithfully served his country as a member of the United States Army during Vietnam, receiving a Purple Heart. Thom owned & operated an interior design company in the Westland & Livonia areas for several years. In the late 1980's, Thom began receiving services from the Battle Creek V.A. which helped him to a "New Beginning", that led to a great life.

Thom showed horses as a youngster and enjoyed collecting movies & DVD's, with a collection of more than 2500 titles. In his later years, he enjoyed cruising the countryside in his 1929 Mercedes Benz Touring Roadster. But most of all, he loved walking the property, enjoying the ponds, creek & wildlife, and spending time with his dog, "Pip".

Thom is survived by his brother, Dennis (Cindy) Neveu; sister-in-law, Lynn Neveu; nephews, Dennis (Bridget Siniakov) Neveu II, and Adam Neveu; and special friends, Bob (Erica Humeston) Reichel and Michael Peck. He was preceded in death by his partner, Ken Jennings; his parents; a sister, Patricia Duby; brothers, Phillip and Michael Neveu; and a niece, Nichole Neveu.

Interment services with full military honors were held Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at the Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Centrica Care Navigators. Arrangements by Farley Estes Dowdle Funeral Home & Cremation Care, Battle Creek. Personal messages for the family may be placed at www.farleyestesdowdle.com.



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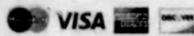
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4 unique gifts for busy professionals

Metro Creative

The holiday season is synonymous with giving. Families engage in gift-giving come the holiday season to show their loved ones how much they appreciate them. Such sentiments are thoughtful and can have a big impact when shoppers find the perfect gift.

The perfect gift can be elusive. No one wants to give a gift that won't end up being used, and some people on shoppers' lists may prove more difficult to shop for than others. That might be the case with busy professionals who are seemingly always working. This holiday season, shoppers can consider these four unique gift ideas for loved ones climbing their way up the corporate ladder.

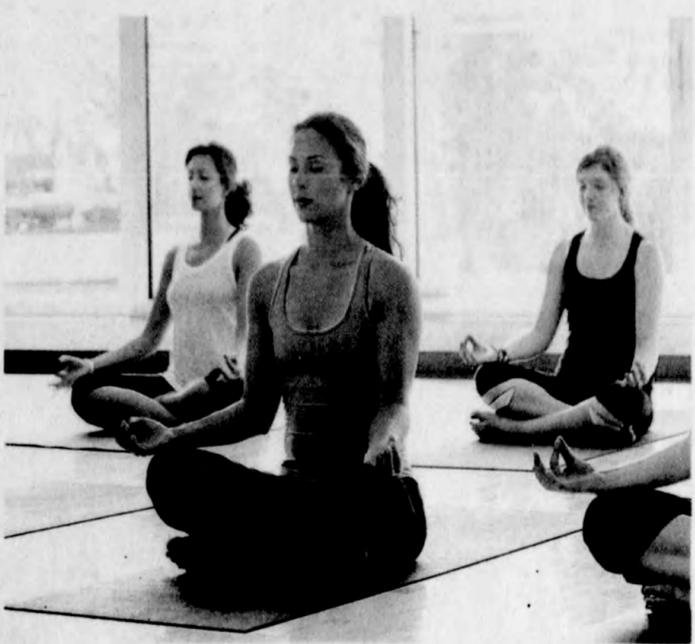
1 Luggage
Business travel took a hit during the pandemic, and a spring 2023 report from the research firm Morning Consult predicted that it may never return to what was considered normal prior to the pandemic. However, the report indicated that the average business traveler is now younger and earning less than the average business traveler before the

pandemic. That makes luggage an ideal gift for the up-and-coming professional who may be traveling more and could benefit from some stylish, sturdy and durable luggage.

2 Fountain pen
Few small items exude a greater sense of sophistication and success than a high-end, engraved fountain pen. Established professionals will appreciate the sleek and impressive appearance of a hand-crafted, customized fountain pen, which can be used to pen memos or sign important documents in style.

3 Temperature-controlled smart mug
Caffeine is the secret behind many a professional's success. A temperature-controlled smart mug can ensure your favorite corporate executive's coffee maintains its ideal temperature no matter how hectic the day becomes.

4 Yoga sessions
Stress is part of the job for many successful professionals. In fact, the American



Institute of Stress reports that 94 percent of workers report having chronic stress at work. The competitive nature of the corporate world may not afford many opportunities to decompress during the workday, but the National Institutes of Health reports that yoga can play an effective role in reducing stress and anxiety. Some yoga sessions, which can be purchased

from a local yoga studio or even through an app users can access on their smart TVs, can be just what successful executives need to unwind in a healthy way after a long day at the office.

Successful professionals have a lot on their plate. A gift that can make their workdays better is sure to be a hit this holiday season.

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