

Late-game heroics push Cranes past Brother Rice

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHVILLE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Plymouth adopts 'compromise' in new policy for outdoor dining

Laura Colvin Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

PLYMOUTH — Downtown Plymouth eateries will see an increase in the fees they pay for outdoor patios, but it won't be nearly as steep as the proposal that "blindsided" restaurant owners over the summer.

At its Oct. 16 meeting, the Plymouth City Commission voted 6-0 to approve a five-year outdoor dining policy that increases the fee for restaurant outdoor patio space from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per square foot, a hike of about 67%. Commissioner Linda Filipczak was absent.

Each year, the fee will increase by 3% or the annual rate of inflation, whichever is less.

Restaurants will also pay a \$500 annual application fee for outdoor dining – double the current rate of \$250 – to offset the "tremendous amount of time" city employees dedicate to site visits and administrative tasks related to outdoor dining, City Manager Paul Sincock said. The annual 3% increase would raise the square footage rates from \$2.50 to \$2.58 in 2025.



Rebecca Markonni, of Livonia, passes out Halloween candy from of the back of her 1940s hearse every year. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Livonia woman's vintage hearse the perfect ride for Halloween

Shelby Tankersloy Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A compromise

Commissioner Kelly O'Donnell said the new policy was the result of much collaboration and cooperation over the past few months between restaurant owners, city commissioners, city staff, the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, Plymouth Chamber of Commerce and city residents.

"This is the result of what is ultimately in a democracy, a compromise," she said. "It is the best version of a compromise that I think that we could hope for."

The increased fees are a far cry from those proposed in July, when members of the City Commission discussed raising the fees from \$1.50 to \$15 per square foot of patio space, a 900% increase.

Downtown restaurant owners collectively said they would all close their

See DINING, Page 4A

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SEQ 667 S17 B52 JBRARY CMU/CLARKE HIST L200 S FRANKLIN ST MT PLEASANT, MI 48859-2001 

In addition to her real hearse, Markonni has built a skeleton-drawn hearse for her Halloween display.

LIVONIA — Rebecca Markonni's ride is unlike anything else you'll see on the streets of metro Detroit.

Her 1940s Buick hearse, affectionately called Bram as a nod to the author of "Dracula," Bram Stoker, still has "his" original engine, wood panels on the inside, whitewall tires, a "terrible" air conditioning setup and a bat wing hood.

The vintage car has its opportunity to shine every year in October when Markonni passes out candy from the back, and takes it to various spooky events.

"He goes all of, like, 65 miles per hour at top speed," Markonni said. "That's if you can get him there."

Markonni, a car enthusiast, had been looking for a vintage car when she purchased Bram. The car's age and ties to her favorite holiday, Halloween, made it a perfect fit. Markonni bought Bram from a funeral home in Ohio that was selling off some of its fleet.

See HEARSE, Page 4A

Huron Valley Schools considers building closures, faces \$436 million in needs

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

MILFORD — Huron Valley Schools has too many buildings and may need to close several, including a middle school, according to a new report the school board commissioned.

In addition, enrollment at the elementary schools is unevenly distributed, resulting in a recommendation by Plante Moran Realpoint to consider changing the boundaries that determine which schools children attend. The findings were among several in the assessment, which also determined the district is facing about \$436 million in needs over the next 10 years that will require seeking bond approval from voters.

"The biggest finding is that we have more buildings than we need based upon enrollment," Superintendent Paul Salah said Wednesday. "The critical question is which buildings do we close and not invest in those spaces, so we can be good stewards of taxpayer resources."

The study suggests closing one of the district's three middle schools, and Salah said district officials will consider moving the alternative Harbor High School from the former Brooks Elementary, closing the central administration office building and moving operations.

Among other key findings:

See SCHOOLS, Page 4A

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Novi native ready to battle on NBC's 'The Voice'

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LOS ANGELES - Life is a series of choices, both big and small. Do you chase the dream no matter how risky or do you play it safe and wonder what might have been?

Alison Albrecht, 23, is chasing the dream - with millions watching.

The Novi native performed on the biggest stage of her life in NBC's singing competition, "The Voice." During the blind audition episode that aired earlier this month, was chosen to continue on the show by judge and country music star Reba McEntire.

"Walking on to the stage... I knew the gravity of that moment," Albrecht recalled. "When Reba's chair turned, I felt a rush of adrenaline through my whole body. It was only one chair turn, but it only takes one... And I had to get through the rest of the song, but once she turned around, I just thought, 'Oh my God, you did it, you're on the show.""

It was a secret that Albrecht had to keep for months from everyone except her parents, Chuck and Mary Albrecht, who watched their daughter's dream turn to reality just off stage.

The couple, both engineers, raised Alison and her brother Andrew with a love of music, with the Beatles, Eagles, Van Morrison, Stevie Wonder, Dave Matthews and a lot of '90s music played daily in their Novi home.

The family was always going to concerts, with Alison Albrecht's first big concert Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus in 2007. Around the same time, she told her parents she wanted to do theater, and soon she was dressed at Dorothy from "Wizard of Oz" and singing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," in addition to performing Disney songs in a number of musicals for the Novi Theater.

Just two years later, at 9 years old, Albrecht got her first guitar and expanded her stage presence at open mic performances. She transferred to the Roeper School in Bloomfield Hills, which she called a good fit for her music, art and theater passions, as well as for academics.

Practicality vs. passion

In high school, she gained a lot of musical momentum, opening for the Steve Miller Band and performing at festivals, but after graduating in 2018, she put her musical aspirations aside and enrolled at the University of Michigan, deciding

it was time to "pursue other interests."

Once she graduated with a bachelor's degree in biopsychology, cognition and neuroscience in 2022, she was faced with making a decision about pursuing a master's degree. This time, she reversed course to her first love.

now in its 24th season. NBC, GREG GAYNE/NBC

"I thought about what I really wanted, instead of what was practical," Albrecht said. "It was practical vs. passion and I found there is a way to make a fulfilling living as a musician. Instead of grad school, I knew this was the only time in my life I could move across the country and do this."

She packed up in August 2022 and moved to Los Angeles, a "scary" decision, she said, but the right one.

In California, she plays shows, she works for a company called Songfinch writing custom songs for people to give as gifts, and does freelance work in marketing and business development.

Alison Albrecht, 23, formerly of Novi, sings during her blind audition on "The Voice." Albrecht won a spot on the NBC show,

She decided to apply to "The Voice" in January after following the show for many years "as all of America seemingly has," looking for a big break.

In March, she got the heart-pounding phone call that she had been cast for the show and recorded her audition a few months ago.

She has since taken part in the show's battle rounds, in which she sings against another member of Reba McEntire's team, vying to continue her run on the show for a chance at a \$100,000 cash prize and a record deal.

Albrecht, whose greatest musical inspirations to this point have been Carole King, Joni Mitchell and Sara Bareilles, can now add Reba McEntire to the list.

'Reba is everything you'd want her to be and more," she said. "She's such a kind, wise soul and a dream to work with. She really has taught me to be confident and really show myself to an audience and be emotional while singing. That is what audiences connect to and that is a lesson I will take with me."

X: @SusanBromley10.



hometownlife.com

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Livonia magazine prompts controversy at city hall

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA – A councilman is raising questions about a city magazine's expedited publishing and a potential cover with Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan set to hit mailboxes days before an election.

Councilman Scott Bahr is proposing an ordinance limiting city mailings prior to an election to avoid the appearance of taxpayer dollars being used for campaign purposes. Brosnan said she doesn't see where the concern lies.

"I have no idea where he's coming from on this, quite frankly," she said. "You change things when you have a problem to fix. I don't believe we have a problem to fix. We're putting out a quarterly magazine to residents that talks about how to sign up for a swim class to what's happening at the senior center. That's not political."

The "Livonia Connections" magazine is sent to residents multiple times a year with information on city programs, recreation opportunities and other news. This year, Livonia is spending \$62,832 to create and mail the magazine.

Bahr said the publish date moved from Nov. 15 to Nov. 2, and a tentative cover photo featuring Brosnan, who is seeking a second term, are concerning given the upcoming election on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Bahr has also endorsed Brosnan's opponent, Councilwoman Kathleen McIntyre.

Brosnan said she's not the magazine's editor and was unaware of the change until Bahr raised the issue during a council meeting Monday, Oct. 16.

"Until his comments at the meeting, I had no idea there was any change in timeline," she said.

Bahr said he's not concerned about the mayor being featured, but that she may appear on a cover so close to an election.

"My goal is to make sure we avoid taxpayer resources from being used to benefit current elected officials and their campaigns," Bahr said.

According to interim Director of **Community Relations Kristin Houchins,** "Livonia Connections" features covers and topics that are generally fluid. She said the photo Bahr is concerned about, featuring Brosnan and two men planting a tree at Greenmead Historical Park, is tentative.

The photo is also featured on one of Brosnan's campaign mailers. Houchins said the photo was taken by the city and can be used by anyone. Other candidates this cycle, including McIntyre, feature city photos of themselves and others on campaign materials, websites or Facebook pages.

In an email to city council sent Tuesday, Oct. 17, Houchins said the publish change for "Livonia Connections" was to inform residents of new absentee ballot boxes throughout the city and give the parks department more time to process class sign-ups.

Council is set to discuss the issue at its next study meeting 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

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, November 15, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center. 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.303 FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: ARTICLE 7 "ADMINISTRATION, APPEALS AND ENFORCEMENT" AT SECTION 7.1 "NONCONFORMITIES" IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE OPTION TO EXPAND NONCONFORMING USES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, SUBJECT TO SPECIAL LAND USE CONSIDERATION BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

Ordinance language is available for review by contacting the Community Development Department at the following email address: bmcbeth@cityofnovi.org

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 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, November 15, 2023.

Published on October 26, 2023 Novi Planning Commission Michael Lynch, Secretary

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Publish: October 26, 2023

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Ordinance language is available for review by contacting the Community Development Department at the following email address: bmcbeth@cityofnovi.org

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 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, November 15, 2023.

Published on October 26, 2023 Novi Planning Commission Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: October 26, 2023

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The ravencrows have descended in Farmington just in time for Halloween

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON — Cue the spooky background music. The Grand Raven Festival is back.

The event, named after Edgar Allan Poe's famous poem, "The Raven," brings Halloween-themed fun downtown.

One of the unique aspects of the festival is the annual "ravencrow" contest. Residents and business owners flex their creative muscles to display ravens of all kinds in Riley Park and along Grand River Avenue.

"It's become a new tradition here," said Kate Knight, director of the city's downtown development authority. "There used to be a scarecrow tradition here, and those things ebb and flow. It's fun to see the infusion of pop culture with the ravens. I always enjoy it when businesses jump in with a raven that reflects their business."

Entries this year include a Barbie, astronaut, Waldo of "Where's Waldo?" and more.

The city awards a mayor's choice award and a people's choice award for the best ravens. Winners receive a trophy and, of course, bragging rights. According to Knight, about three dozen residents and business owners entered this year.

"Having personally worked on one this year, I have a full appreciation for the hours of labor and creativity that go into it," Knight said. "Once you get started, there's no going back. They make you laugh and they bring a lot of joy. It's fun to watch."

Farmington started the festival in 2020 as a safe, open-air gathering option during the coronavirus pandemic. Since then, it's become increasingly popular. Outside of the ravencrows, visitors downtown can enjoy outdoor art, including a giant crow named Edgar, and a slate of events.

"It's a fresh spin and works with our historic character," Knight said. "It's spooky, elegant and macabre."

Another ongoing event part of the festival is a weekly Victorian Walk, held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Farmington Community Library, 23500 Liberty St., where people can walk downtown and listen to a reading of "The Raven." Victorian or macabre attire is encouraged.

One highlight of the festival is a special trick-or-treating event Saturday, Oct. 28.



The Farmington Community Library's entry to the 2023 Ravencrow contest is "Edgar Allen Crow." PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Northville Public S	VERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Schools – 2024 Roof Replacement Program Amerman Elementary High School and Fogg Operations Center The Northville Public School District's Board of Education is accepting bids to provide roofing replacement at Amerman
	Elementary School, Northville High School, and Fogg Operations Center
Architect & Project Contact:	Building Technology Associates 21850 Greenfield Road Oak Park, M1 48237 (248) 967-4600

The day includes a Halloweenthemed farmer's market and trick-ortreating at participating downtown businesses between noon and 2 p.m.

For the full list of events, visit the downtown development authority's website.

"Traven Swift," Alex Heide's submission to the 2023 Ravencrow contest, is in her raven era.

NOTICE OF ELECTION CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN NOVEMBER 7, 2023 ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Novi:

Notice is hereby given that a regular election will be held in the City of Novi on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

1	Meadowbrook Congregational Church	21355 Meadowbrook Road
2	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	41415 W. Nine Mile Road
3	Village Oaks Elementary School	23333 Willowbrook Road
4 & 6	Church of the Holy Family	24505 Meadowbrook Road
5	Orchard Hills Elementary School	41900 Quince
7	Department of Public Works	26300 Lee BeGole Drive
8	Meadowbrook Elementary School	29200 Meadowbrook Road
9 & 14	Crosspointe Meadows Church	29000 Meadowbrook Road
10	Fox Run	41000 Thirteen Mile Road
11	Hickory Woods Elementary	30655 Novi Road
12	Portsmouth Apartment Clubhouse	31170 Wellington Drive
13	Brightmoor Christian Church	40800 13 Mile Road
15	Faith Community Church	44400 West Ten Mile Road
16 & 17	Novi Civic Center	45175 West Ten Mile Road
18	Novi Public Library	45255 West Ten Mile Road
19	Legacy Church of Novi	45301 West Eleven Mile Road
20 & 21	Novi Middle School	49000 Eleven Mile Road
22	Deerfield Elementary	26500 Wixom Road
23	Novi Meadows 6th Grade House	25299 Taft Road
24	St. James Catholic Church	46325 West Ten Mile Road
25	Thornton Creek Elementary School	46180 West Nine Mile Road

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Novi will be voting for purposes of electing candidates for the following office:

MAYOR - 2 YEAR TERM - vote for not more than 1 COUNCIL MEMBER - 4 YEAR TERM - vote for not more than 3

A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the City of Novi Clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot.

The Early Voting Site for City of Novi voters is the Novi Civic Center – Event Quarter, 45175 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48375. Early Voting is open nine (9) consecutive days beginning on October 28th and ending on November 5th. Early voting hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except Thursday, November 2nd hours are noon to 8:00 p.m.

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the township clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

Cortney Hanson, MMC, MiPMC III City Clerk, City of Novi (248) 347-0456 cityofnoyi.org

Matt Gateman mgateman@btaww.com Questions addressed ONLY to Building Technology Associates during the Bidding Period. Failure to follow instructions may lead to the rejection of the Bid.

Bid Documents: Bid Documents including Bid Forms will be posted to Buildingconnected.com. use the following link to obtain: https://app.buildingconnected.com/ public/5cc9d7f637c1a90018cb55dc Bid Documents may also be obtained from local plan rooms (GRBX, CAM, etc.). Bid Documents will be available on or after October 12, 2023

Non-Mandatory Prebid Walk-Through A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Walkthrough is scheduled for 9:00 am local time on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at NPS Operations Center 15045 Fogg Street, Plymouth, MI 48170

> Bid Due Date: 11:00 am local time, Wednesday, November 1, 2023. Sealed bids should be submitted through Buildingconnected.com with the following link: https://app buildingconnected. com/public/5cc9d7f637c1a90018cb55dc. No physical bids will be accepted in person or via delivery service. The District will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for bid submission.

Public Bid Opening: Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read immediately following the close of receiving bids with the following virtual meeting link:meet.google.com/whs-wagq-jzp or phone number: (978) 347-0434 PIN: 100 396 202# #. No oral, e-mail, telephonic, or telegraphic proposals shall be considered.

> The_Board_of_Education_will_not_open, consider, nor_accept a bid received after the date and time specified. All late bid proposals will be returned to the bidder_unopened.

Bid Bond: A Bid Bond executed by a Treasury listed surety company acceptable to the Northville Public School District or a cashier's check in the amount of at least 5% of the sum of the proposal shall be submitted with Bid. All proposals shall be firm for a period of sixty (60) days.

Labor and Material & Performance Bond Bonds by a Treasury listed surety in the amount of 100% of their bid. The cost of Bond(s) shall be included in each proposal.

> Nonexempt: This project is not tax-exempt from State sales tax and/or use tax. All materials and supplies incorporated and used in construction of the work and becoming a permanent part of this project will not be exempt from State Sales Tax and/or Use Tax. All required Sales Tax/Use Tax shall be included in the bid price.

Disclosure Statements: Bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner and any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education or the superintendent. Additionally, bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement for the Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit of Compliance. Bids not accompanied with these sworn and notarized statements will not be accepted by the Board.

Contract Award: The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and/ or all bids in whole or in part and waive any informality or irregularity therein, or to award the Contract to other than the low bidder, in its sole discretion. Northville Public Schools reserves the right to accept the bid which in its opinion, is in the best interest of the Owner.

Publish: October 26, 2023

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4A I THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023 | O&EMEDIA (NNNR)

Westland man sues claiming police brutality

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

WESTLAND - A Westland man with disabilities is suing the City of Westland, Westland police and state police in federal court with claims of police brutality.

Tyler Smith, 26, claims he was racially profiled, emotionally harmed and physically injured during a traffic stop April 18. Smith is Black and is paralyzed from the waist down, according to the complaint his attorneys filed earlier this month in U.S. District Court's Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit.

"Tyler's case involves a lot of problems with the Westland Police Department that we do want to shed light on," said Kama Patel, one of Smith's attorneys. "We also want to get accountability. He's paralyzed from the waist down. and the way he was treated by Westland police was not up to par with any of their standards."

The suit lists five officers as defendants and identifies them individually as "Officer John Doe." It is seeking a jury trial, \$75,000 in damages and attorney fees. Judge Stephen Murphy is handling the case

Westland Police Chief Kyle Dawley and interim Mayor Mike Londeau declined to comment, both citing the case's ongoing nature. James Fausone, the city's attorney, did not respond to a phone call requesting comment.

Dawley was not chief at the time of Smith's traffic stop. Jeff Jedrusik, who resigned in late April following videos of him showing improper conduct with citizens as an officer, was leading the department at the time.

According to the lawsuit, filed Oct. 11, Smith was the passenger in a car Michigan State Police pulled over in Detroit because Smith was not wearing a seatbelt. Smith said in the complaint he had removed his seatbelt because of discomfort related to his disability and noted police are not able to make a traffic stop for such a reason.

"He is paralyzed and regularly has to switch positions as he suffers from bedsores when left in a position for more than thirty minutes at a time," the suit said. "There was no reasonable suspicion or probable cause to stop the said vehicle.

Officers decided to take Smith into custody, citing old warrants with his name on them.

Westland police arrived at the scene and "dragged" Smith, who is unable to walk, from his vehicle to a police car. This reopened an existing wound on his leg that police allegedly left untreated for hours, Smith's suit said

"You have to treat people with respect and humanity," said James Makowski, Smith's other attorney. "The way Tyler was treated is just egregious. We need to bring light to this. Police have a tough job - I will be the first to acknowledge that - but you have to treat people with dignity. That did not happen in this case."

State Rep. Kevin Coleman, D-Westland, a candidate for mayor, said he wasn't familiar with the case but expects better of the city's police department

"We have a more and more diverse community," he said. "It's important our police department is treating people humanely and with compassion. As mayor, I'd ensure police are treating people respectfully and deescalating situations when possible."

Makowski said Smith plans to file more lawsuits against other entities, including the Wayne County Jail, in the near future related to the same incident.

Murphy's courtroom had not scheduled any court dates for Smith's case at print time

Get the latest headlines for metro Detroit every morning in your mailbox by signing up for our daily briefings newsletter.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 734-311-0659.

Dining

Continued from Page 1A

outdoor dining spaces if the city adopted such a plan.

In August, the commission rejected a revised proposal that would raise the rate to \$2 per square foot and lengthen the sidewalk clearance required between buildings and patios from 6 to 9 feet, meaning restaurant owners would need to reduce their patio sizes.

The new policy maintains the minimum 6 feet of clearance from the building to the outdoor dining area during patio season, except on Main Street between Penniman Avenue and Ann Arbor Trail, where, because of sidewalk configuration and heavy foot traffic, the minimum is now 7 feet of clearance.

The new policy, which also covers patio construction, operation, maintenance and other issues related to restaurant patios, was aimed at balancing the need for walkability in public spaces with the desire for outdoor dining. It combines and replaces two sets of previous policies: one for parking spaces or non-sidewalk spaces used by the restaurants, one for the sidewalk spaces.

'It feels a lot different'

Two restaurant owners spoke during

the Oct. 16 meeting.

Barrio Cocina Y Tequileria owner Dean Rovinelli said he felt the \$1 increase per square foot was "fine," but he was not in favor of the 3% annual increase.

"I would recommend not putting in there," Rovinelli said, noting he also did not like the doubling of the application fee. "I kind of feel like it sends a message like you're the landlord, we're the tenant. I kind of feel like it misses some of...that synergistic thing that a lot of communities have."

Ryan Yaquinto, owner of Compari's on the Park, Sardine Room and Fiamma Grille, all on Main Street, said he appreciated the time and energy involved in creating the new policy.

"This feels a lot different than the last time this was on the agenda," he said. "Although everything can't go just one way, I feel like there has been some dialogue and trying to get us onto a good ground so that the city wins and pedestrians win and the businesses can have continued success."

Yaquinto said he still had concerns about the new setbacks that will require him to move his patios away from the building, and hoped the city would be open to reconsidering those issues in the future.

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



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

Schools

Continued from Page 1A

• The district should retain its current elementary child care center and consider a satellite early childhood center in a future bond program;

 Grade configurations should not be altered because that won't solve the utilization challenges in the district;

• The eight junior kindergarten to fifth grade elementary school buildings should be maintained:

• The district should maintain both Milford and Lakeland high schools, with International Academy West remaining at Lakeland;

 Boundary lines should be evaluated to better balance enrollment across eight elementary schools and two middle schools.

Salah was pleasantly surprised to learn that while birth rates and student enrollment have been declining for years, and previous firms have estimated the district would be down to 7,200 students by 2027, Plante-Moran is projecting district enrollment to be about 7,800 students four years from now.

The higher-than-anticipated number makes a big difference in the district's expected state funding allowance and officials believe it is more realistic. due to the real estate advising firm's street by street examination of construction trends throughout the district.

Still, the utilization of many of the district's buildings falls far below the state's gold standard of 85%, Salah said, adding that none of the district's three middle schools meet the standard and all three face hefty repair bills.

Maintenance and upgrades expected to be costly

Muir Middle School, built in 1964, faces the highest cost for improvements, at \$35 million. White Lake Middle School, built in 1973, and Oak Valley Middle School, built in 1994, each have estimated repair costs of \$24 million.

Closing one of those buildings, as well as potentially shuttering the aged and costly administration center and Brooks center, and moving students and operations to one of the high schools that are at 55% to 60% percent usage, would save money in repairs, but also in heating, cooling and cleaning expenses. In the 2023-24 school year, the school board approved a general fund budget of about \$100 million.

Additionally, Salah and other district officials are excited about the potential for innovative programming, including robotics and career technical education, and maximizing spaces in the buildings that are kept, including knocking down some walls to enlarge classrooms.

"Obviously we want to make certain that our facilities complement the innovative programming we're providing to our students," board President Tom Wiseman said. "And we recognize they do go hand in glove, because if we're spending money on facilities that we might not need based on our capacity and enrollment it's taking away opportunities for us to provide programming."

The district is also working with Plante Moran to put price tags on adding core and elective classes, offering block scheduling, enhancing gifted and talented programs, and more.

"There are a lot of what-ifs, but also a lot of possibilities," Salah said. "It's actually very exciting."

Bond request won't increase current millage

Salah acknowledged the \$436 million cost for the district's needs over the next 10 years will require a bond, regardless of what happens with building closures. The district will have to upgrade technology and maintain roofs, boilers, parking lots and more.

Voters overw.nelmingly passed a \$182

million bond proposal in 2019 for security, technology, buses, land acquisition and improving playgrounds, athletic fields and facilities, and other sites.

Now, they will need to seek another bond, at a "zero rate increase," Salah said, with some existing debt falling off in 2026. Voters will see a bond proposal on the ballot no later than the spring of 2025, he said.

Officials are looking at a 10-year bond that would generate \$160 million, or a 20-year bond that would generate \$360 million. With either, the district would continue to levy 7 mills

"The debt millage will not increase, taxpayers will not be paying more," he said. "If they vote yes, everything remains status quo, but it will give us a tremendous amount of resources to do everything we need as a school district."

Plante Moran is currently developing several scenarios for a strategic plan featuring building utilization in the district and programming allocations that will be reviewed by a strategic plan committee formed more than a year ago consisting of parents, staff and community members.

The committee will bring a recommendation to the board, which is expected to take action in December.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

Hearse

Continued from Page 1A

"I hadn't been looking for a hearse," she said. "I mean, I love Halloween, but I had been looking for a classic car to tinker with with my sons. It doesn't look like a hearse when you first see it. It takes people a second."

Decades ago, Bram served as both as a hearse and ambulance. The hood includes a place to attach a flashing light, and the back has room for more than just one body.

Today, Bram mostly visits car shows, where he's always a favorite for "Best Original," as well as other events where hearses are requested. Markonni also lent the car to FX's "Fargo" during the show's fourth season, which is set at a funeral home, and Bram appears in three episodes.

Markonni and Bram are part of Just Hearse'N Around. Markonni volunteers with the club during Halloween events, like Redford's annual Movie in the Cemetery event or Fowlerville's annual HearseFest. She said she's met some of her closest friends through the club.

"You'd be surprised who owns

hearses," Markonni said. "Most people think it's a bunch of gothic people, but it's not. Our club has CEOs, regular Joes and 18-year-old girls. Our club is so ec-

Like Bram, Markonni said she's one of a kind. She's always loved Halloween and the chance it gives people to be anything they want to be.

'When I was younger, I found friendships in goth culture," she said. "I have always walked to the beat of my own drum, and they accepted me. I grew up, but I still incorporate that. Halloween is the one holiday, now, where I don't have work to do. I'm a mom and I have five kids, so it's the one holiday that isn't work.

Trick-or-treaters will likely find the car at Markonni's home on 29443 Lyndon St. this year, where it's just one part of an elaborate Halloween setup.

"Kid's normally don't notice what it is," she said. "The parents do, so I always end up talking with a parent all night about the engine."

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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

centric. It's really cool."

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UESDAY OCTOBER 31ST 2023 - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4TH 2023

SHOW INFO AAY

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WHEN: **OCTOBER 31ST - NOVEMBER 4TH TUESDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 6PM** SATURDAY 10AM - 3PM





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WALKING LIBERTY HALF DOLLAR UP TO \$4,600 *



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COMICS

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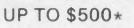
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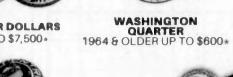




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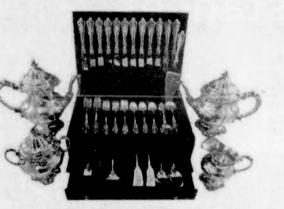
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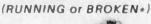




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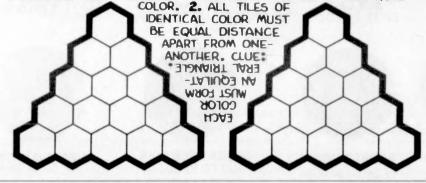
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25	Leaves
27	Yard sale datum
29	No longer under a
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31	Resistance units?
32	Banes of hosts
34	Wharton ex-offering
37	Issued
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41	Key with six black
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43	Main force
44	Hymn Him
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Program could wipe out up to \$200M in medical debt

Christina Hall Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Kyra Taylor, who was diagnosed with diabetes at age 10 and has had pancreas and kidney transplants, once was drowning in medical debt. She had to "rub two pennies together" to pay for insulin amid her other bills.

"It was getting to the point where they was leaving letters on my door. And you come home, get off work and you see a letter on your door," she said through tears. "I was in ICU one time and they was calling my mom; trying to get me to get a bill paid. Calling my mom. I'm about to die, and I'm worried about getting a bill paid."

About three years ago, the national nonprofit RIP Medical Debt paid off Taylor's medical debt, giving her her life back. Now, the nonprofit is partnering with Oakland County in a new program to wipe out medical debt for possibly up to 80,000 Oakland County residents who qualify.

County officials said they are allocating \$2 million of the county's American Rescue Plan Act funds for the nonprofit to purchase the residents' medical debt for pennies on the dollar, then eliminate that medical debt.

County officials hope that up to a total of \$200 million in medical debt of its residents will be eliminated, freeing the residents for better lives and improved financial footing.

"I want our ARPA dollars to be transformational," Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter said during the announcement Thursday at Gilda's Club Metro Detroit in Royal Oak.

The New York-based nonprofit will work with local health systems on behalf of the county to identify Oakland County residents with unpaid medical bills. Those who qualify will be notified by mail when their medical debts are eliminated.

Here's who qualifies to have medical debt erased

Residents could start seeing letters as early as next year, said Deputy County Executive Madiha Tariq, who oversees the Health and Human Services Department. Officials said about 114,000 county residents have medical debt, which is the No. 1 reason for bankruptcy in the U.S. and is prevalent in communities of color, in rural areas and for the medically underserved.

They said the average medical debt is \$2,500 per household.

RIP Medical Debt acquires and abolishes medical debt for people experiencing financial hardship. People who earn less than four times the federal poverty level or for whom debt is 5% or more of the person's annual income qualify, the county said in a release.

Once a contract is in place, RIP Medical Debt staff will implement the county's medical debt elimination program by working with area hospitals to identify residents who fit the criteria. Then, the nonprofit will buy their medical debt for pennies and abolish it.

Tariq said this is the beginning of a "full circle moment" and a "health equity success for us" in public health. She said people with medical debt are working families, many carrying insurance neighbors, friends, your child's teacher. Families delay care when they have medical debt letters, increasing the burden of disease, because they are "simply crippled by medical debt."

Residents cannot apply for the program. RIP Medical Debt will notify people via a branded letter that some or all their debt has been canceled and cleared from their credit reports.

How debt elimination changed her life

Taylor, 34, who lives in Wayne County, said she had her medical debt eliminated about three years ago, shortly before she nearly declared bankruptcy.

Years ago, Taylor worked a minimum wage job that didn't offer insurance. She said collectors left letters on her door and called her job. One bill was for \$6,000 to \$7,000. Sometimes, she said, she got up to seven letters a month on her door and in her mailbox. She tried to make payments, she said, but could only afford \$20 or \$30 at a time.

Taylor said when she got the letter in the mail that stated her medical debt had been paid, she "thought it was fraud, so I put the letter in the trash."

"The Holy Spirit told me to check

again. So I called my attorney, he says: 'Your medical debt is gone. I don't know who paid it, but it's gone,' " she recalled.

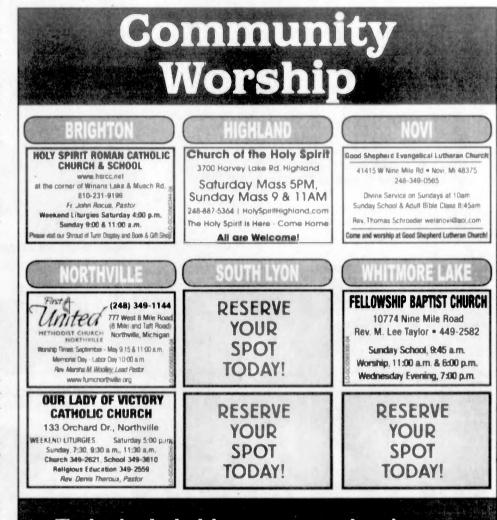
Taylor could pay other bills and be free of threats to pay her medical debt. Now, she has a full-time job at a mortgage company, attends school and can pay for care for her 8-year-old son.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved the program in a bipartisan effort, said Commissioner Charlie Cavell, of Ferndale, who in his 20s got sick on a mission trip and had more than \$6,000 in medical debt, which kept him from such things as building credit and getting a car loan.

RIP Medical Debt, founded in 2014 by two former debt collections executives, has acquired and abolished more than \$10 billion in medical debt for nearly 7 million people and families, according to its website. The group has received support from state and local governments and donors as well as philanthropic and faith-based organizations.

Tariq said the nonprofit has worked in 25 locales. Cavell said the group is looking at working in Kalamazoo County, with the state and possibly in Wayne and Ingham counties.

"At a time when families face so many complexities and fears weighing on them, how to pay for hope should not be among those. How wonderful it is that we're here today to kind of address that and to give them a little bit of hope," said Laura Varon Brown, executive director and CEO of Gilda's Club Metro Detroit.



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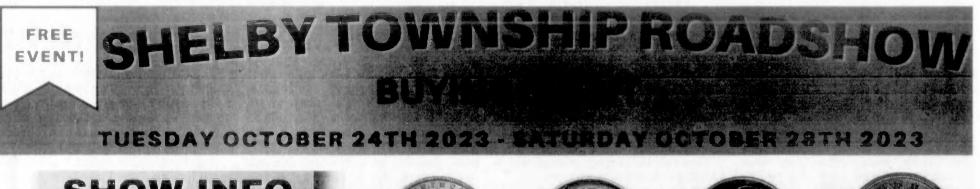
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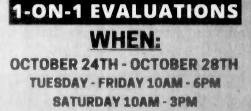
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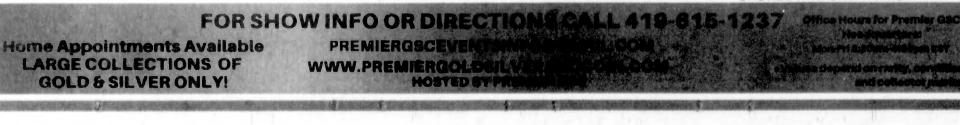
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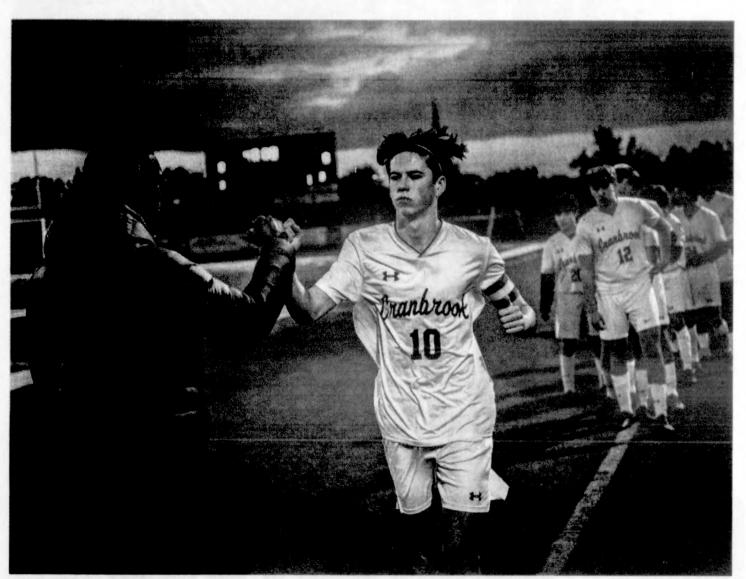
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SPORTS



Cranbrook's Cameron Hannah goes through player introductions before a Division 2 boys soccer district semifinal against Brother Rice on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023, at Auburn Hills Avondale. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

Late-game heroics from Cameron Hannah push Cranes past Brother Rice

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Longtime Cranbrook coach Chad O'Kulich preaches to his boys soccer



Finishing the deal: Maples win OAA-Blue championship

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Sean Emerson and Kyle Robbins each scored a pair of touchdowns, and the Birmingham Seaholm football team defeated Oak Park 42-22 on Oct. 13 to have the final say in the Oakland Activities Association-Blue title race.

And talking about winning the division is something the Maples (7-1, 4-0) have been doing since August because they didn't want a repeat of what happened to them in 2022.

Flashback to 364 days ago when Seaholm entered its Week 8 matchup at Farmington undefeated and needing a victory to win the league championship outright. No one gave the Falcons a chance to win, but that's exactly what happened. The Maples committed five turnovers, Farmington running back Cam Pettaway had a career day and the Falcons upset Seaholm 39-21 and both teams walked off the field with a share of the title.

Not again. Not this time.

The Maples played hard-nosed on both sides of the ball from the get-go and didn't give Oak Park a chance to even make it a game.

They scored five unanswered touchdowns, including Emerson rushing for a 21-yard TD on the game's first drive, Granden Kinnie dragging a pile of defenders into the end zone from 25 yards out, Robbins scoring on a 3-yard toss sweep and also catching a 44-yard TD pass from quarterback Colton Kinnie and Jack Lewis racing 20 yards down the far sideline and sneaking inside the pylon to give Seaholm a 35-0 lead early in the third quarter.

Emerson added an exclamation point to the Maples' undefeated stint through their Blue schedule by returning a kickoff 76 yards for a score in the fourth.

"We've been talking about this since before the season started," said Emerson, who starts at running back and safety. "We wanted that league championship. We wanted it bad. Us seniors, last year, we were bummed. We didn't want to feel that way again. We've been talking about this for so long and it feels so great. The seniors we have now, we got shorted last year. Now we've finally got one to ourselves, and it feels great, man. It feels great."

team to remain calm in intense moments.

Well, it doesn't get any more intense than the situation the Cranes (9-4-1) found themselves in during their Oct. 17 Division 2 district semifinal match against Catholic League rival Brother Rice.

The Warriors' Anthony Mancani received a beautiful pass inside the penalty box, smashed a shot from about 15 yards out and beat three Cranbrook defenders and its goalie for a goal that put Brother Rice ahead 1-0 with just 10 minutes left.

All the Warriors had to do was park the bus, keep Cranbrook out of the attacking third and it would be them facing Orchard Lake St. Mary's in the district championship Thursday at Auburn Hills Avondale.

See HEROICS, Page 2B

Cranbrook's Charlie Gold goes on a breakaway.

The players weren't the only ones talking. Coach Jim DeWald and his staff have been reminding the Maples all week long at practice about how rotten it felt to share the title with Farmington a year ago.

Seaholm's coaches emphasized setting the tone early. And that's what its players did from the opening kickoff. They didn't let Oak Park become another trap game.

See DEAL, Page 2B

Lutheran Westland upsets PCA to win district championship

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

As Aiden Miller gripped the Division 4 district championship trophy, Lutheran Westland boys soccer coach Joe Yakobe snuck behind him, grabbed him by the waist and holsted his senior captain to the heavens. It was a fitting end for the Warriors, who actually finished halftime by praying to God as a team that they could knot the score and force overtime against Michigan Independent Athletic Conference rival Plymouth Christian Academy. They didn't need extra time.

Lutheran scored four unanswered goals in the second half to come back

and upset the Eagles 4-2 and exit River-

view Gabriel Richard with an unexpected district title on Oct. 19.

Miller banged in a rebound from point-blank range with just over 10 minutes left in regulation for the winning goal.

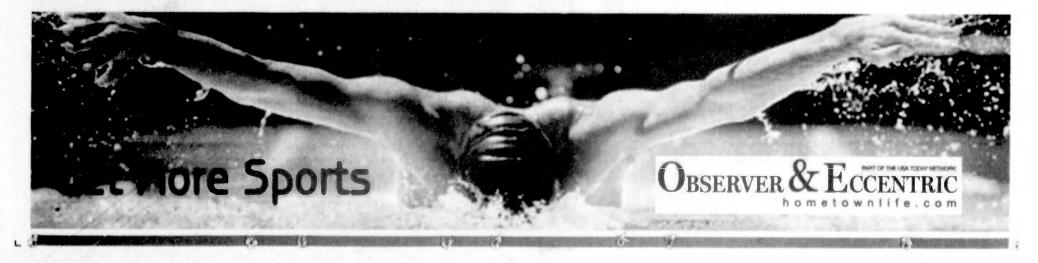
It was a wild and crazy finish for a team that has been enjoying a wild and crazy time over the last month.

The team no one wants to play right now

Before we get to how the Warriors (9-9-2) won the district championship, we have to talk about the absolute tear that they've been on over the past month.

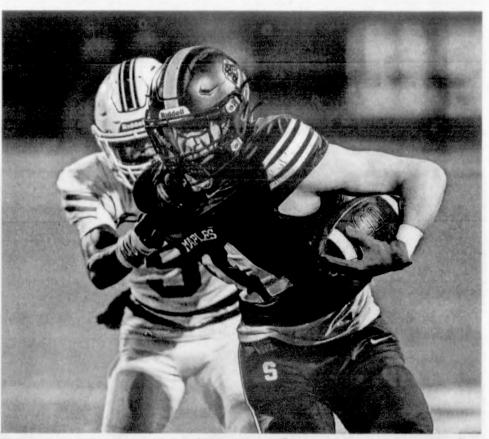
They actually lost five straight in

See UPSET, Page 2B





Birmingham Seaholm's Granden Kinnie rushes for a touchdown during an Oakland Activities Association-Blue football game against Oak Park on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE



Birmingham Seaholm's Jack Lewis evades a tackler.

Deal

Continued from Page 1B

"I think our coaches did a good job this week at practice of pushing the

pace, pushing the execution, pushing the physicality," said DeWald, who's in his 12th season with the Maples. "So I think we had a really good week of practice. Not to take anything away from last year, I just don't know if we had that same desire in practice last year. We

practiced hard this week."

It won't get any easier for the Maples going forward. They end the regular season in Week 9 with their annual rivalry matchup with Birmingham Groves, which beat them twice last year, and then it's on to the playoffs. Beating your rival down Cranbrook Road and winning a district title? Now that would be something worth talking about for the rest of the school year.

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

Upset

Continued from Page 1B

September. That was a six-goal loss to PCA, a 5-0 shutout against eventual **MIAC-Blue champion Bloomfield Hills** Roeper, a 4-0 skunking against Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest and losses to Auburn Hills Oakland Christian and Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

Right now, Lutheran is on a fivegame winning streak and hasn't lost a match in its past eight outings. In fact, how it closed out the regular season created an absolute mess in the final MIAC-Blue standings.

Entering the final day of play, had Roeper not beaten PCA, it would've been a three-way share for the league title between Roeper, PCA and Lutheran Northwest. Alas, Roeper did get past the Eagles, 1-0, to garner enough points to win it outright. You can thank the Warriors for that debacle.

In the final week, they played PCA (6-5-6) to a 1-1 tie and then somehow upset Roeper, 3-1. Since then, they've beaten next-door neighbor Westland Hope Christian Academy and Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central in their first two district games, and then they won the rubber match against PCA to secure the district title.



Lutheran Westland's Aiden Miller celebrates winning the Division 4 boys soccer district final against Plymouth Christian Academy on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, at **Riverview Gabriel Richard.** PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE





Lutheran Westland's Anthony Kawod and Carson Meister celebrate a goal.

Not only did the senior miss the de facto MIAC-Blue championship against Roeper, but he has been unavailable during the Eagles' postseason campaign.

Not only did they keep the Eagles from winning the MIAC-Blue but they also kept them from making it back to the state semifinal for a second year.

For those keeping tabs at home: PCA, **Roeper and Lutheran Northwest are all** out of the postseason. The Warriors, who finished dead last in the MIAC-Blue, were still alive entering an Oct. 24 regional semifinal at Lansing Christian. That game was played after press time for this edition.

How have the Warriors turned things around?

Simply put, the barbeque pit.

During its losing streak, Lutheran started getting together, bonding as a team and discussing what had worked and not worked for the Warriors tactically.

The result? They've started trusting one another.

"The team has become brothers," Yakobe said. "That is what has changed everything. We just started hanging out as friends. We hang out, have a barbeque and talk about what we do wrong,

and say, 'Hey, let's do this better, let's not take it personal, let's just work as a team.

"To tell you the truth, it's been a miracle. You can see that they play together as one. They talk together, figure things out together. Just working as a team. They come to my house, I go to their house. We hang together as a family. That's what we're doing right now."

More than a miracle against PCA

The Warriors looked down and out against the Eagles, who got two goals from junior Micah Lavigne before halftime and were talking about putting Lutheran out of its misery by scoring another goal in the opening 15 minutes of the second half. That goal never came.

A pair of defensive breakdowns in the midfield by PCA allowed Lutheran to score back-to-back goals 52 seconds apart to knot the score. First, it was John Vermeulen blasting in a goal from the top of the penalty box. Moments later, after the Eagles failed to mark up again in the midfield, it was Miller smashing one in from about the same spot.

All of a sudden, it was a 2-2 match.

PCA strung together solid attempts in the attack, but it was the Warriors who continued to churn out scoring chances until, finally, Miller corraled a rebound and toed in the game-winner.

Then Nathan Yakobe put the game

play of the game. As the Warriors attempted to kill the clock, they sailed a ball into PCA's end and it looked as if it was going to roll out of bounds. Somehow Yakobe grabbed possession and sailed a cross in front of the net - catching everyone off guard - for teammate Anthony Kawod to bash in for an insurance goal.

"I just put it in to seal the deal for us to win districts," said Kawod, another senior captain. "We've been a second-half team all season. We came in here worried about it, but after the first half, we knew we had it in the bag.

Part of that had to do with the Warriors' optimism throughout the match.

There was no negativity from Coach Yakobe at any time. And whenever a player started to get down, Miller was there to clean up their attitudes.

"It's mind over matter," Miller said. "It's a mental battle. If you're thinking you're going to lose the ball, you're not going to win that ball. But if you think you're going to win that ball, if you think you're going to make that comeback, that's when you're going to win in the finals."

What happened to the Eagles?

Unfortunately for PCA, it has been playing without its top starter, Raymond Weber, who has been battling a head injury for almost a month.

They dominated without him in the first half, and they looked like the clearcut favorite to win the match. But coach Ryan Thomason isn't blaming the loss on Weber's absence.

"We beat them handily in the first half without Ray," the first-year coach said. "The stakes couldn't have been any higher, so I'm not exactly sure (what happened in the second half). I just think we thought we had it. Once the momentum started coming for them, we just couldn't recover.

"They (Lutheran) just wanted it more. I think it's quite simple. I think they won every 50-50 ball (in the second half). Every ball in the air, they came after it. We just didn't match their intensity. I think we were sitting on our lead. That came back to haunt us."

For what it's worth, Coach Yakobe said he'll be using his vote for Weber when the league selects its MVP after the season.

"We had the players on the field capable of winning tonight," Thomason added. "But the grit, the heart, we lost it. That's all I can say."

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

Heroics

Continued from Page 1B

And, for the most part, that's what Brother Rice did.

Until there were 60 seconds left in regulation.

After Cranbrook forced a free kick near midfield, Paul Kaczmar played a ball sky-high into the penalty box. And somehow Cameron Hannah headed it toward the back left post among a scrum of defenders to knot the score at 1.

Then nine minutes into overtime, Hannah was fed a ball near the right

post and blasted in the game-winner to keep the Cranes' season alive.

'They stayed ready for the moment," O'Kulich said. "And they seized it. When there were 60 seconds to go, they didn't panic. They stayed in their system of play."

Not panicking is something you can expect from a player such as Hannah, who is one of four seniors who guided Cranbrook to the state championship a year ago. They played in close games all postseason, including their eventual 1-0 loss to Richland Gull Lake.

"Coach is always telling us to play down one (score) no matter what the situation," said Hannah, a midfielder.

"With 60 seconds left, it's the same as if there are 40 minutes left. You've still got to play that one minute. The emotions were flowing, obviously, and the season was on the line. We just had to play down one and keep our heads in the game."

It also helped that the Cranes had luck on their side.

With how tough Brother Rice's back line was playing, even when Cranbrook was controlling the possession, scoring from any distance looked like it'd be a challenge.

Hannah's tying goal that sent the match to OT was a work of art, but it was also the closest thing you can get to a Hail Mary football play in soccer.

"Tonight we got lucky, we got fortunate," Cranbrook assistant Dave Brown said. "Sometimes that's what you need to make runs. You've got to be in the right spot, but you need a little luck to get it done. But that's playoff soccer right there.

"You have to play every single minute. And if you don't, if you let up, it'll just come up and bite you. I love the fact that our guys played every single minute, all 80 minutes, and every single player believed. That was exciting."

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

RU beats rival Thurston, finishes undefeated in WWAC for 3rd season

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

E'Shaun Shaw snuck inside the far pylon on a 9-yard touchdown run with 1:41 left to add the exclamation point to the Redford Union football team's 20-0 victory Oct. 14 at rival Redford Thurston. The Panthers (7-1, 7-0) did it.

They completed their third straight undefeated run through the Western Wayne Athletic Conference, only this time it was a lot more challenging.

For one, RU had to replace a host of college recruits who graduated from last year's 9-1 squad, including quarterback Cory Chavis (Alabama A&M), linebacker Jeremiah Alston-Jackson (Central Michigan University), receiver Kyren Ware (CMU) and lineman Jamire Hall (Wayne State), among several other key contributors. In their place are juniors and seniors starting for the first time and a few underclassmen.

For two, the WWAC itself is starting to catch up with the Panthers. Each of the other seven schools has a playmaker or two of their own and is starting to lay the foundation required to become a competitive program. And RU understands that. It didn't have to look any farther than across the field during its league finale.

Redford Thurston, led by first-year coach Nick Davis, is having its best season since 2019. It's on pace to finish the regular season with six wins for only the third time in seven seasons and will likely qualify for the postseason for the first time in five years (excluding the 2020 season when every team in the state made the playoffs). It's truly remarkable how much the Eagles (5-3, 4-3) have improved since going winless a year ago.

It's safe to say winning the Supervisor's Cup traveling trophy — the rivalry trophy between RU and Thurston — was no cakewalk for RU, nor was winning seven straight league games with several new faces scoring the TDs and making the tackles.

"It's very rewarding and tough at the same time," sixth-year RU coach Ian Iler said when asked about the differences between this year's WWAC championship team and the previous two. "We often say we're the worst one-loss team in the state jokingly because we have a lot of young kids. It's a good thing. They're getting better for it. We've found some seniors who have stepped up in some areas. It's been fun, but it's a challenge

you have to want to embrace, whereas some coaches would probably just say, 'Hey, we're young, so let's do what we can.'

"With our league getting better, we knew it was going to be a challenge. In years past, we probably could've taken this team and ran through the league like we did last year, but everybody's getting better in the league, and that's a great thing for the Western Wayne."

So who are the guys making the plays this time around?

On this day, it was rookie QB Champ Thornton scoring on a 13-yard sweep to give the Panthers a 6-0 lead before halftime. And then it was workhorse running back Marcus Brown plowing through a host of Eagles and diving into the end zone for a 6-yard score and the ensuing two-point conversion to make it 14-0 late in the third quarter.

Plus there were defensive playmakers such as Tatum Moore and Jakhari Lewis falling on fumbles, while Antonio Appling came up with an interception near the red zone to halt what should've been a Thurston scoring drive.

Then there are the unselfish players like Zac Matthews, who has gone from being a full-time defensive player to becoming one of ller's best offensive linemen. The Panthers don't score three rushing TDs in the pouring rain against their rival without the senior road grading up and down the field.

RU had just one loss entering Week 9, which is a respectable one. It lost in Week 1 at Westland John Glenn, a Division 1 school with an enrollment of 798 students more than the Panthers. The Rockets also just finished in second place in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East behind only Belleville, the two-time defending state champions.

RU faced huge another test in the regular-season finale when it hosted D-2 Allen Park in a game that was after press time for this edition. But ller was just happy his team played dominant enough to take care of business at Thurston.

"We were excited to play them (Thurston)," Iler added. "They've gotten a lot better. Their coach is doing a tremendous job. And we needed to get it into their minds that this isn't the same ole Thurston. They're coming. They want to upset you. They want to give back to you what you've been giving to them for the last four years. So we wanted our guys to prepare, and the kids had a great week of practice."

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Week 8 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 Week 8 stat leaders around the Hometown Life coverage area. Encourage your coaches to send stats to sports reporter Brandon Folsom at bfolsom@hometownlife.com.

Kensington Lakes Activities Association

Northville 28, Novi 14

The Mustangs (8-0, 7-0) clinched the KLAA-West championship with Evan Deak rushing 22 times for 176 yards and three TDs. Also helping on offense was Isaac Pace, who was 6 of 11 passing for 86 yards and a 7-yard TD throw to Nick Helner, while Colin Charles caught two

passes for 37 yards and Kaden Kuban had one reception for 31 yards and rushed 10 times for 52 yards.

Graham Gilmartin led the Northville defense with seven tackles (five for loss) and two sacks. Deak had five tackles and three sacks, while Drew Ranking had five tackles, Cullen Murphy added five tackles and an interception and Robbie Schuckel and Hassan Elzayat each had sacks. Caleb Walker was 20 of 36 passing for 275 yards, one TD and one interception and also punched in a 1-yard TD for the Wildcats (6-2, 6-1). Logan Ellison rushed seven times for 35 yards, while Boden Fernsler caught five passes for a TD, Jaden Vondrasek had five catches for 66 yards and Sele Cox finished with five catches for 58 yards.

See WEEK 8, Page 4B



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Week 8

Continued from Page 3B

Thad Lawler paced Novi's defense with 13 tackles (nine solo) and an interception, Johnny Aurilia had nine tackles (six solo), a pass breakup and a fumble recovery, Brendan Lynch had seven tackles (four solo) and a forced fumble and Austin Washington recovered a fumble.

Plymouth 45, Salem 19

Jaxon McCaig rushed 33 times for 253 yards and three TDs as the Wildcats (3-5, 3-4) finished 2-0 against their Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rivals. Sam Plencner was 7 of 16 passing for 108 yards and two TDs and rushed seven times for 60 yards and a score. Cameron Witt caught two passes for 44 yards and a TD, and Cam Short had two catches for 24 yards and a score.

Jorgito Shqua led the Plymouth defense with 10 tackles (five solo), while Alex Smaoui had eight (four solo).

Brayden Alexander was 8 of 16 passing for 153 yards and a TD and also punched in a 2-yard TD for the Rocks (1-7, 1-6). Azarius Hayes hauled in a 21yard TD pass, while Aiden Moore rushed for a 51-yard score.

Hartland 42, Canton 21

Canton fell to 2-6 overall and 1-6 in the West

Westland John Glenn 34,

Livonia Franklin 28

Ethan Moore rushed eight times for 211 yards and TD runs of 68 and 78 yards for the Rockets (7-1, 6-1). Damon Powers added 10 carries for 111 yards, including a 71-yard TD run, while Elliot Flake had 58 yards rushing and a pair of scores.

John Glenn's Dougie Wicker intercepted two passes and had 10 tackles, Powers, RIckey Smith and Tyler Radley had six tackles apiece and Jon Roberson, Akheem Frierson and Jermaine Gumbs (one for loss) each had three tackles.

Derek Hetu was 14 of 22 passing for 303 yards, one TD and two interceptions for the Patriots (5-3, 4-3). Jon Jasionowski rushed 19 times for 104 yards and two scores and also caught five passes for 165 yards, Owen Pittenger added five carries for 33 yards and a TD, Owen Phail had five receptions for 90 yards and Drew Kelbert caught four passes for 48 yards and a score.

Eric Marsh led the Franklin defense

with 11 tackles (six solo), Bryce Downing had three solo tackles, Derrick Grubbs had six tackles (two solo) and Jaiden Mabins and Julian Castillo each had a tackle for loss.

Livonia Stevenson 53, Wayne Memorial 0

The Spartans (2-6, 2-5) had quite the special teams showing, as Aidan Nolan returned a kickoff for a 52-yard score, Ar'Jon Thompson opened the game with an 80-vard kickoff return and Jackson Stoops booted in six extra points and a 30-yard field goal and recorded a pair of touchbacks.

Also helping in the win were Nathan Patterson, who was 2 of 2 passing for 55 yards and TD passes to to Nathan Vande Laare (24 yards) and James Jackson (31), Collin Gibson, who rushed four times for 39 yards and a score, and Andrew Hassan, who carried eight times for 17 yards and a TD.

Livonia Churchill 31, Dearborn 14 Evan Snead was 11 of 21 passing for 101 yards, one TD and an interception for the Chargers (4-4, 3-4). Ryan Stockton rushed nine times for 68 yards and a score, David Anderson carried 11 times for 41 yards and Snead punched in a rushing TD. Petyon Sitarski caught six passes for 65 yards and a score and John Pallozzi had two catches for 32 yards.

Miles Lueck led the defense with 7.5 tackles and a sack, followed by Tyler Mileski with 5.5 tackles and a sack, Ronnie Bice with 6.5 tackles, Stockton with 3.5 tackles, Lucas Beckham with three tackles, Noah Steiner with 2.5 tackles and one sack and Angelo Penaflorida with two interceptions.

Lakes Valley Conference

Waterford Kettering 14, South Lyon 13

Brady Shields rushed 15 times for 83 yards and two TDs for the Lions (2-6, 2-5), while Seth McGlinch had 18 yards and Lance Fredericks added 17.

Shields also led the defense with seven tackles (one solo), followed by Ryan Henderson with six and Brady Weaver (three solo) and Wyatt Douglass (two solo) with five apiece. Johnny Michaels had four tackles (three solo, one for loss) and a sack.

Walled Lake Central 23, South Lyon East 17

Dominic Giovannini was 15 of 24 passing for 215 yards, one TD and two interceptions for the Cougars (3-5, 2-5).

Chase Adam caught five passes for 96 yards and a TD, while Joey Andrews had four catches for 72 yards and AJ Morgon rushed 11 times for 84 yards and a score.

Carter Hamilton paced the defense with 10 tackles (two solo), a half sack and a pass breakup, Jack Toth had four tackles (two solo, 1.5 for loss), Nate Schira had five tackles, a half sack, one fumble recovery and a blocked punt and Morgan totaled two solo tackles.

White Lake Lakeland 40, Walled Lake Northern 20

Carter Travis was 8 of 15 passing for

64 yards and a TD to Kyler Shaw and added 12 rushes for 67 yards and a score for the Eagles (5-3, 5-2). Trevor Tschudin rushed 13 times for 77 yards and three TDs, Bo Bishop had five carries for 60 yards and Nolin Thompson finished with seven rushes for 51 yards. Alex Caines made four extra points and booted in a 21-yard field goal.

The Eagles' defense recorded seven turnovers and a safety. Thompson finished with seven tackles (two for loss) and two sacks, Ryan Johnson had six tackles and two interceptions, Jack Schneider finished with six tackles (one for loss), two fumble recoveries and an interception, Blake Zamenski had four tackles and two sacks, Shaw nabbed two interceptions, Drew Carlson had two tackles and one sack and Bishop chipped in five tackles.

Milford 38, Waterford Mott 14

Ryan Allen was 6 of 8 passing for 40 yards and a TD and also rushed 17 times for 114 yards and a score for the Mavericks (6-2, 6-2). Peyton Chamberlain rushed four times for 32 yards and a TD, while Josh Parker had two carries for 11 vards and a score.

Parker led the defense with a big night, totaling eight tackles and four pass breakups, returning an interception for a touchdown and blocking a field goal. Jack Stine had 10 tackles (one for loss) and broke up five passes, Kaden Johnston had nine tackles (three for loss) and a sack, Tyler Freer had seven tackles, Wyatt Lesnew totaled five tackles, Ted Ross had five tackles and two sacks and Owen Stark pitched in five tackles (one for loss) and a pass breakup.

Oakland Activities Association

Birmingham Seaholm 42,

Oak Park 22

TD and returned a kickoff for a 76-yard score for the Maples (7-1, 4-0), who won the OAA-Blue championship. Kyle Robbins scored on a 3-yard toss sweep and caught a 44-yard TD pass from Colton Kinnie, while Granden Kinnie rushed for a 25-yard TD, Jack Lewis ran in another score from 20 yards and Jace Lugar intercepted a two-point conversion pass.

Oxford 34, North Farmington 7 The Raiders totaled 222 yards of offense but fell to 4-4 overall.

Lake Orion 42, Farmington 7 The Falcons fell to 2-6 overall. **Birmingham Groves 49, Ferndale 0** The Falcons improved to 6-2 overall. **Rochester Adams 42, Bloomfield Hills 13**

The Black Hawks fell to 0-8 overall.

Western Wayne **Athlete Conference**

Garden City 19,

Dearborn Heights Robichaud 12 Lineman Alex Keith tossed a 39-yard TD pass to Ray Emond for the Cougars (3-5, 3-4). Emanuael James rushed for 199 yards and a score, while Nicholas Emond also had a 35-yard TD run.

Redford Union 20,

Redford Thurston 0

Champ Thornton (13 yards), Marcus Brown (6) and E'Shaun Shaw (9) each rushed for touchdowns as the Panthers (7-1, 7-0) won the league for a third straight year and secured the Supervisor's Cup rivalry trophy for a fourth year in a row. Tatum Moore and Jakhari Lewis each recovered fumbles, Martez Taylor recovered an onside kick and Antonio Appling pulled down an interception

Charles Nelson fell on a fumble for the Eagles (5-3, 4-2).

Catholic League

Detroit Catholic Central 35, Cincinnati LaSalle (Ohio) 28

Aidan Quinn came up with the gamesaving interception in overtime for the Shamrocks (6-2), while Jaden Pydyn scored five times, including rushing for the game-winner on a 1-yard carry in OT.

Orchard Lake St. Mary's 41, **Brother Rice 7** The Warriors fell to 0-8 overall. **Riverview Gabriel Richard 42, Cranbrook 7**

The Cranes fell to 2-6 overall and 1-3 Sean Emerson rushed for a 21-yard in the CHSL-Intersectional 1.

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Obituaries

Rosemarie DeLand

Rosemarie DeLand, age 82, a longtime resident of Northville, passed away on October 16, 2023. She was born on January 27, 1941 in Detroit, Michigan; daughter of Stanley and Lottie Iwanowicz.

Rosemarie graduated from Visitation High School, class of 1959. She was united in marriage to

Charles P. DeLand on July 25, 1964. They were devoted to each other for over 38 years until his death in 2003.

After raising her son, Rosemarie began a 15year career as an Executive Secretary with Weight Watchers. Rosemarie loved to cook and created many delicious chicken recipes. Her cooking was very well-rounded with a variety of styles and meals. She appreciated fine dining and enjoyed going to restaurants to indulge. Rosemarie took care of others' needs before her own. She was an amazing hands-on grandma who cherished her grandsons. Rosemarie was a loving and kind wife, mother, grandmother, and friend.

Rosemarie is survived by her son Charles P. DeLand, Jr.; and her grandsons, Jon DeLand, Jakob DeLand, and Jack DeLand. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

Memorial Visitation will be held Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. with a Memorial Service beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 133 Orchard, Northville. Deacon Ric Misiak will officiate the service.

Memorial contributions can be made to Northville Civic Concern, PO Box 323, Northville, MI 48167.

Mary Jean Schwartz

CHARLEVOIX - Mary Jean Schwartz passed away at the age of 92 on October 13, 2023. She was a beloved wife, mother, and friend who will be deeply missed.

Mary was born on December 7, 1930 in Detroit, Michigan to William and Theresa Arthurs. She later moved to Livonia and

attended Plymouth High School. Her love of flowers brought her to a job at Harry Miller's flower shop where she met future husband John who was making a flower delivery. It was love at first sight for Mary and she made sure to sell John's flowers as quickly as possible, ensuring John's many return trips to the shop. John and Mary were married in February of 1951; life partners for 56 years until John's passing in 2007.

Mary was devoted to her husband and children as well as her friends and the Canton community. For over 45 years, Mary and John worked side-byside in their wholesale greenhouse business and flower shop. Mary also found time to volunteer for many organizations and causes through the years, particularly those related to the support of cancer patients. She organized rides to treatments, sewed hundreds of bed pads, and crocheted hundreds more comfort caps. And as everyone who knew her can recall, Mary loved a good time and was the life of every party. She was quick-witted and loved to laugh. You always knew when Mary was in the room.

Mary died peacefully in Charlevoix, Michigan where she had moved in recent years to be near her son David. She is survived by her children, David Schwartz and Amy McDonald. Her memory will be cherished by all who knew her. We love you Mom.



Marianne M. Gauch Lamborne

CANTON, MI AND AVERILL PARK, NY - Canton, MI and Averill Park, NY - Marianne M. Gauch Lamborne, 74, died suddenly on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at her summer residence in Averill Park, New York.

Born in Troy, NY, she was the daughter of the late Benjamin Gauch Sr. and Doris E. Mack Gauch and wife of William Richard Lamborne. She considered both Averill Park, NY and Canton, MI her home and was a graduate of St. Henry's Grade School in Averill Park, NY; St. John's Academy in Rensselaer, NY; Maria College in Albany, NY; Mount St. Mary's



Death

leaves

a heartache

no one can

heal.

love

leaves

a memory

no one

can steal.

IRISH

HEADSTONE

Josephine Ann Sines

FARMINGTON HILLS

- Born May 30, 1947, passed away peacefully on October 7, 2023, surrounded by her loved ones and many calls from all over the country to share fond words and send much love.

Also known as JoAnn or JoJo, she is preceded in death by her parents



Anthony and Rita Grech, her husband of 47 years Jack John Sines, and her infant daughter Sara Ann Sines. JoAnn is survived by her daughter Rachel Sines, her son Jack John Sines II, her grandchildren Brynn, Sophia, and Cecil, her siblings David Grech, Robert and Debbie (Lazenby) Grech, Michael and Susan (Wasageshik) Grech, Kenneth and Patty (Dunne) Grech, Robert and Mary (Grech) Fraquelli. JoAnn was the most loving aunt to Andy, Bree, Becky, Jeremy, Amy, Ian, Tony, Jason, Rita, and Joe, plus many much-loved great nephews and nieces, cousins, and friends who were family.

JoAnn and her husband Jack spent many wonderful years in Lake Orion, MI and Meadview, AZ then returned to Novi, MI to be back with their family and friends.

JoAnn's working career started as an assistant in an ophthalmologist office where she eventually became the office manager. Her coworkers became family and even after retirement she made a point to get together over lunch.

JoAnn attended Catholic Church of the Holy Family where she also participated in making rosaries. She loved crafting, game night, spending time with family and friends, and loved to travel. Her favorite way to travel was by cruise ship providing her great adventures to see the world. Her most recent cruise was with her brother David and many family members to see Alaska. She had a great time and couldn't stop talking about how much she loved being with all of them.

JoAnn had the most angelic, loving nature and was loved by many. She has made it home and into the arms of her loving Savior, Jesus Christ. No words can describe how much she will be missed, but we are comforted knowing she is on her "Reunion Cruise".

Deborah A Southworth

NOVI - Deborah A. Southworth, age 72, longtime resident of Novi, passed away peacefully at home on October 15,



College in Newburgh, NY; and Madonna University in Livonia, MI.

Marianne loved her calling as a teacher in the Garden City School District in Garden City, MI. Watching students grow and inspiring them to do their best, she frequently kept up with her students long after they graduated. Her impact as a teacher was felt by many families through over 20 years in education, retiring in 2010.

She was a very proud and active member in many organizations and embraced her role as the First Vice Regent of the Colonel Joshua Howard Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in Dearborn, MI and a member of the Fort Crailo Chapter, NY. Through her tireless dedication to family genealogy she was recently certified and to be on the Susan B. Anthony Museum Honorary Family Board and was deeply involved in the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan. She also participated in The American Rosie the Riveter Association Eastern Michigan Woman Ordinance Workers Chapter; Dutch Settlers Society of Albany; Saint Andrews Society of the State of New York (Scottish charitable institution); Sand Lake Seniors; and the Secret Society of Pumpkin Martini Sippers.

Survivors in addition to her husband include her children Brian Lamborne, Sean and Sarah Lamborne, Elizabeth Lamborne and Benjamin Lancaster; her brother, Benjamin C. Gauch Jr. and Denise Pavone; her sister Nancy Gauch and Bruce Paul; and two much doted-upon grandchildren, Arlo Lamborne and Alice Lancaster.

Relatives and friends are encouraged to visit Marianne and family at the St. Henry's Church, 39 Old Route 66, Averill Park, NY on Sunday, October 15 from 1:30PM to 3:30PM. Followed by a celebration of her life with food, drinks, family, and friends at Lakeview On Crystal Lake (4 Route 43, Averill Park, NY).

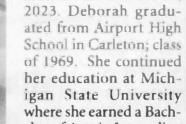
Funeral service will be held at St. Henry's Church on Monday, October 16 at 11AM.

Interment will be in St. Mary's Cemetery in Troy, NY.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in memory of Marianne M. Lamborne to buy wreaths with her DAR chapter for Wreaths Across American at Great Lakes National Cemetery: www.wreathsacrossamerica. org/MI0233P

To view and leave condolences, share photos or videos, and for service directions, visit her memorial page: www.brycefuneralhome.com - click on Obituaries.





elor of Arts in Journalism. Deborah was united in marriage to her high school sweetheart Thomas Southworth on June 22, 1974; they spent 49 years lovingly devoted to one another.

After starting her family, she dedicated herself to caring for her family and raising her 2 boys. She was a very supportive mom volunteering with Novi Schools, including PTO and Athletic Boosters, and managed her son's Jaguar Soccer teams.

Deborah was a very active member of First United Methodist Church of Northville for 30 years. She led events and ministries through the church and Cass Community Social Services, including Homeless Hospitality Week, food drives, and silent auctions.

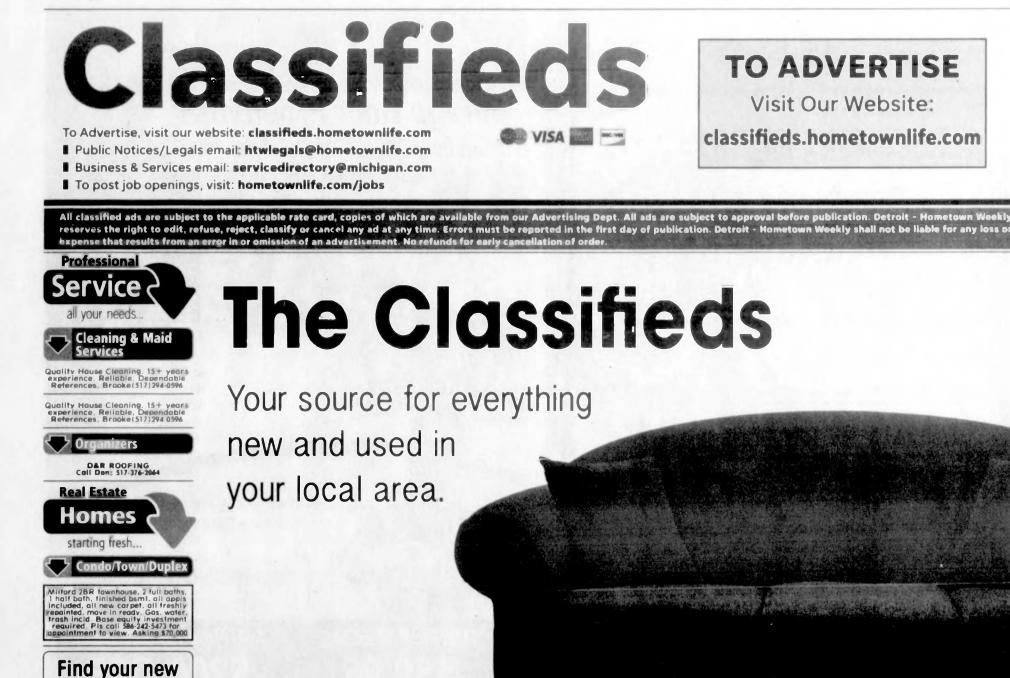
Deborah loved going for walks and hikes with her dogs. She traveled with her family all over the world, including Egypt and most of Europe. She also enjoyed spending time at her cottage on Lake Bellaire, taking boat rides, going swimming, relaxing around the campfire, and trips to Ruthies for ice cream. Her biggest smiles and happiest moments were when she was with her granddaughters. Deborah was loved and cherished by all for her love, compassion, generosity, and kindness; she will be dearly missed by all who loved her.

Deborah is survived by her beloved husband, Thomas Southworth; her sons, Kevin (Angie) Southworth and Adam (Kelly) Southworth; her granddaughters, Kathryn and Samantha; her siblings, Kathryn Ferstle and Bruce Moore; her sisters-in-law, Judy (Alex) Allie, Cheryl Southworth, and Tina (Peter) Youngblood; and her nephews.

The family would appreciate memorial contributions in her name to First United Methodist Church, attn: Church and Society Ministries, 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville, MI 48167.



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How to discuss a cancer diagnosis with your employer

Metro Creative

It's not uncommon for people to experience a range of emotions upon being diagnosed with cancer. Fear, sadness and even confusion are just a few of the feelings people may experience after receiving a cancer diagnosis. Eventually, those emotions tend to settle down, even if the questions about living with cancer are just beginning.

Once the initial emotional whirlwind calms, adults recently diagnosed with cancer may wonder how to go about their daily lives. That includes what to do about work. Sharing a cancer diagnosis with anyone can be difficult, and some people may be nervous about revealing a diagnosis to their employer. Fears about how employers will react and the ramifications treatment could have on their careers may concern cancer patients. In recognition of that difficulty, the Cancer Treatment Centers of America offer these suggestions about sharing a cancer diagnosis with an employer.

• Be direct with your boss. The CTCA recommends cancer patients find a private setting to share their diagnosis with their bosses directly. Bosses should not have to hear the news through a secondhand source like so-



cial media or a coworker. Speaking to your boss directly can open lines of communication regarding expectations and how to confront the challenges that could arise down the road.

department. Human resources professionals can help cancer patients learn about programs the company may offer and the resources at their disposal as they navigate this sudden change in their lives. HR professionals also can offer insight into how the company has dealt with cancer diagnoses in the past, including information on flexible work-

ing arrangements, such as reduced hours or remote working options.

• Discuss how to share the news. Once your boss and HR department has been notified, seek their input re-• Work with your human resources , garding how to break the news to your colleagues. If you routinely work with people across multiple departments, it may be best to inform everyone through email, as it can be exhausting to break the news to each colleague individually. But it's also alright if you prefer to keep the diagnosis under wraps. In the latter case, it might still be wise to inform those you work with closely each

day, as that can help them prepare for increased responsibilities as your treatment progresses and potentially makes it hard for you to continue working fulltime. When discussing how to share the news with an HR department, be specific about how much you want to share, as you may only feel comfortable discussing details of your diagnosis with certain coworkers, such as your boss.

• Be willing to accept help. It's easy for cancer patients to feel like they're suddenly seen as charity cases upon sharing their diagnosis with an employer and their colleagues. But offers to help come from a good place, and patients would likely offer to help if the shoe was on the other foot and a colleague revealed a cancer diagnosis. It's alright to tell people willing to help that you'll let them know if you need anything if and when a difficult situation arises. In the meantime, thank them for their kindness and prepare to lighten your professional load as treatment begins.

Sharing a cancer diagnosis with an employer and professional colleagues can be challenging. But working directly with a boss and HR professional can ensure the process goes smoothly.

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