



Cedar Fruits and Vegetables opens in Canton Township

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NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Novi singer wins 'The Voice' battle: 'Holy crap, this gal can sing'

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — Michigan singers Alison Albrecht and Angelina Nazarian brought country music star Reba McEntire to tears before the two ever battled for her heart on a nationally televised episode of "The Voice" that aired Oct. 23.

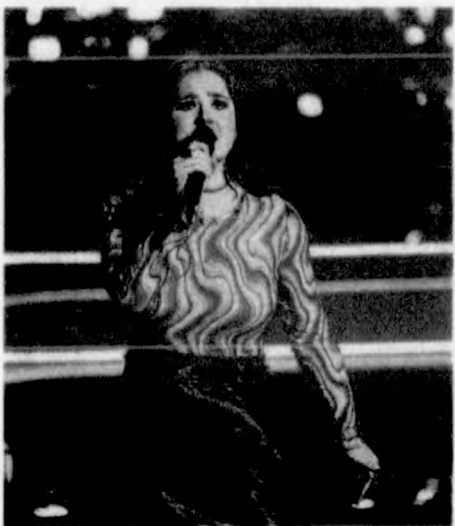
"I was bawlin', both hands in the air, praisin' the Lord — that's the kind of reaction you want from an audience," McEntire recalled of coaching the two in singing "You Say," a song made famous by Lauren Daigle.

She added that she would be "up salt's creek without a paddle if they both do that on the battle stage."

Albrecht, a 23-year-old native of Novi, emerged victorious over Nazarian, 17, of Ann Arbor, after they sang on the NBC competition show in front of McEntire, three more celebrity judges and a cheering studio audience, with both emotions and nerves running high.

"Alison, that was special," celebrity judge Niall Horan, of One Direction, said. "That song is a beast of a song to sing. There were a couple of pitch issues for both of you, but both in the

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Alison Albrecht, of Novi, sings the song "You Say" during the battle round on NBC's "The Voice." The episode aired Oct. 23.
TYLER GOLDEN/NBC



Central Park in Milford is set to get improvements at the park's entrance as well as along the Huron River.
SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Milford's Central Park is closed for a makeover. Here's what's coming

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

MILFORD — In 30 years as Milford's DDA director, Ann Barnette has never been more excited about a project in the village than she is about the Central Park makeover.

The nearly \$4 million project aims to transform the park that connects both ends of the village and will highlight a jewel of the community that may not have received the attention it deserves.

"This park is the center of the town and the thing that connects both ends

of town, and it is the one area in town where you have the connection to the river, too," Barnette said. "You drive by there without noticing it, and I just feel like when this project is done, everyone is going to wonder why we didn't do it 50 years ago."

"It is going to do for Central Park what the original streetscape did for downtown 40 years ago."

The Milford Downtown Development Authority project was first introduced as a conceptual plan in March and is now moving full steam ahead — with the park completely closed after work began last month.

Detroit-based Artisan Contracting of Michigan LLC, which was awarded a general contract at the end of September, has wasted no time on starting demolition, excavation and land balancing for renovation of the entire park.

The only components remaining from the park will be the playscape, amphitheater and memorial, all permanent items that have been improved. Everything south of the playscape were items that were piecemealed, Barnette said, and they were never part of a cohesive plan.

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Birmingham society columnist Sally Gerak dies: 'She knew everybody'

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — Sally Gerak was often seen with a drink in one hand, a cigarette in the other, and a camera around her neck, hobnobbing with metro Detroit's rich and famous for decades as a social columnist.

But more than a social butterfly who flitted from one charitable gala to another in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills — sometimes multiple events in the same night — the former Observer & Eccentric journalist is remembered as a "force to be reckoned with," and a social influencer long before the age of Instagram and TikTok.

Gerak died Oct. 24 at her Bloomfield Hills home from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease complications.

She was 88. "She was amazing and unstoppable, a fireball of energy," said Greg Kowalski, a former editor at the Observer & Eccentric who worked with Gerak at O&E in the 2000s. "Everybody wanted to be featured and get their picture taken by her."

"She had no shortage of material. There were a lot of high rollers in the Birmingham and Bloomfield area — executives and celebrities — and she was in touch with everybody, with a cigarette in one hand, drink in the other and her camera."

Gerak's eldest son, Josh, recalled that his mother never beat the nicotine addiction despite her best efforts, although she switched to vaping in her last years.

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Sally Gerak, a longtime social columnist in Birmingham and metro Detroit, died Oct. 24, 2023 at the age of 88. COURTESY OF JOSH GERAK

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Volume 154 | No. 14
Home delivery pricing inside
©2023 \$1.50



Singer

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lower register. For those of you who don't sing, if you are nervous in any way, shape or form, and you go to sing down there, it's a very scary place to be."

Horan added that Albrecht's ability to sing "up there" for most of the song was phenomenal, emotionally moving and gave him goosebumps.

He and fellow judge Gwen Stefani, the former lead singer of No Doubt, were complimentary of both singers, but told McEntire they would lean toward giving the edge in performance to Albrecht.

McEntire agreed.

"Emotion, to me, means a lot," McEntire said. "Because of the emotion, the winner of this battle is Alison."

In the coaching segment preceding their performance, McEntire shared some of her own experiences as a young singer with Albrecht and Nazarian, telling them she got married and signed her first music contract in 1976, when she was just 21.

"I didn't know anything about the

music business," she said. "I didn't have a No. 1 record from '76 to '83, so it was just baby steps all the way up."

Albrecht, who delayed her music dreams while earning a bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan, and then left Ann Arbor for Los Angeles last year, agreed it's about chipping away at that goal.

"Reba coaching us — that was one of the coolest moments of my life," said Albrecht, who has already taped the show's next battle round, but can't reveal the outcome. "She is the right coach for me."

McEntire instructed Albrecht and Nazarian to sing with emotion because that's what sells a song.

She also noted the strength and range in Albrecht's voice and insinuated the other judges — who also include John Legend — might regret not turning their chairs for her in the blind audition.

"When I turned for her, what I heard was potential," McEntire said. "Now I think the other coaches are gonna go, 'Holy crap, this gal can sing.'"

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on X @SusanBromley10.



Alison Albrecht, left, of Novi, battles against Angelina Nazarian, of Ann Arbor, on NBC's "The Voice." NBC, TYLER GOLDEN/NBC

Makeover

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The DDA's partnership with Milford Township, which approved nearly \$1.5 million for the park's overhaul, will not only improve stormwater management in a park that Barnette said has "always been kind of smooshy" but will restore a "great lawn" in front and create a viewshed, highlighting the Huron River.

"We weren't celebrating that," Barnette said. "We feel a lot of downtowns try to activate their riverfront in a way that makes it less passive and more connected and we hope (this project) does that."

Other new features in the park will include a picnic pavilion; outdoor fire features; ice rink; sports courts; a re-shaped drive entrance for better, safer access; an accessible perimeter walkway; and a new parking lot. A major addition is a 170 linear foot boardwalk winding along the riverfront, with riparian plantings near the river and urban plantings on the park side. More than 150 new trees are planned, as well as canoe and kayak landings, and three 72-inch swings and four individual swings.

The \$80,000 cost of the swings was just one point of contention for Village Council President Pro-Tem Jim Kovach, who objected to a request for allocation of \$100,000 from the parks and recreation budget to the Central Park project.

Village Manager Christian Wuerth made the request at the village council's Oct. 16 meeting "as part of a backstop," or contingency plan, for any cost over-



The Milford DDA is planning to enhance Central Park's location on the Huron River with installation of a boardwalk. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ages.

"As they get into the project, as you know, anytime they start excavating things, sometimes we find things along the way," Wuerth said. "Sometimes we find better ways to do things, a more efficient way or longer term from a maintenance standpoint. It is going to allow us to manage the park better."

But Kovach noted the park project wasn't a "we project," as the council had

never agreed to spend taxpayer dollars on the improvements.

"The residents and council have not had the opportunity to weigh in one bit on what will be happening, what the design is, what the fringes and frills that they're adding are, nothing," Kovach said. "If you look at the bid documents, there is over \$80,000 in there for swings."

Kovach suggested the \$100,000 in

the parks and rec budget could be used somewhere else, such as helping a plan to connect Kensington Metropark to Indian Springs Metropark as part of a massive trail plan; putting pickleball courts at Janowski Park; or reducing noise at the Village Skate Park, which he said has been an irritation to nearby residents for three years.

The council unanimously voted against the allocation to the Central Park project.

Wuerth had no comment regarding how the budgeted parks and recreation funds might be used.

Barnette, who noted the request for funds to be allocated to Central Park had been made by village administration and not herself, said the DDA currently has about \$3.8 million for the project, more than \$100,000 shy of the total \$3.915 million cost. Still, she said they would "figure it out" and she maintained a bright outlook and gratitude for the DDA board and its vision, the village administration and DPS staff, and Milford Township officials and their large financial contribution.

"I have a lot of respect for everyone involved," Barnette said. "It is unbelievable that Milford Township could see what we are doing here, and they saw the vision and committed this much money. I feel very lucky."

The work at the park is expected to be completed by the end of July, in time for the annual Milford Memories in August.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on X @SusanBromley10.

Gerak

Continued from Page 1A

It may not have helped that while attending the University of Michigan on a full scholarship in the mid-1950s she was paid by the Philip Morris Company to pass out cigarettes to her Greek sorority sisters and other friends.

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Northville Record (USPS# 396880) is published weekly (Thursday) by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 160 W. Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226. Periodicals postage is paid at Detroit, MI and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Customer Service, PO Box 5830, Augusta, GA 30916.

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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50
\$65 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon
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"They identified her as a social influencer before that term was ever known," Josh Gerak said.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in English, Sally became a teacher and married her college sweetheart, but was widowed only six months after their wedding when he died of cancer.

In 1960, she wed Joseph Gerak, a real estate developer and urban planner to whom she was married for more than 50 years until his death in 2013. The couple raised four children in Birmingham and, in 1978, when their youngest was in middle school, Sally Gerak found her career calling at the Observer & Eccentric, "elbowing her way into writing" after a staff member retired.

She was persistent in getting the job and persistent in keeping it, Josh Gerak said, attending all the benefits in Birmingham, and then expanding her reach to the entire Detroit area — reporting on nonprofit events and rubbing elbows with famous people.

"She was on a first name basis with Henry Ford Jr. and all the bigwigs," Josh Gerak said. "She represented the Eccentric chain of newspapers because she was a forceful personality. She would insist on being invited to events."

Sally Gerak's social column was filled with the who's who of metro Detroit and anecdotes while underlining the good works of numerous charitable organizations and promoting their fundraising efforts to further help their causes.

"Her mission was to spread the wealth and help others," according to Josh Gerak, who recalls attending events with his mom, including a benefit for Nepali sherpas where he met Tenzing Norgay, who in 1953 reached the summit of Mt. Everest with Edmund Hillary, the first climbers to do so. "Her mission in life was to help connect peo-

ple with money to various events and nonprofits."

Her influence was indelibly etched on her four children, who, besides Josh, include Jay, Julia and Jeremy.

Born in 1935 to Thelma and Massie Miller, a golf pro, Sally was an avid golfer and tennis player and got all of her children involved in those sports. Josh Gerak remembers summers spent in the Petoskey and Harbor Springs areas, and he developed a passion for the outdoors, largely influenced by a month-long U.S. road trip the family took in their station wagon, with his mom's intricately planned itinerary and multiple stops at national parks out west.

He remembered, too, how his mother honored his request to sew him a tent despite the hours of labor it would ultimately consume. She later wrote about the endeavor in her column, noting, "I determined that my first-born son should never forget the maternal devotion that would ever shelter him from nature's elements as he camped on the mountain tops of the world."

"Using a permanent, black marking pen I inscribed in a prominent place on the inside of the tent top the following words: 'A mother's love is bigger than all outdoors.'"

Sally Gerak continued writing columns for the Observer & Eccentric until 2008, when Gannett announced it was ending publication of the Birmingham Eccentric. After an outcry from Birmingham officials and the community, Kowalski said the company rescinded its order. Gerak kept writing and covering events, and later built her own website, unafraid to learn new technology.

She continued working until she was 84 years old, only officially retiring when the pandemic ended social events.

"Sally really epitomized what a community newspaper was all about — getting to know the people you are covering, and really having communication with them and building rapport," Kowalski said. "Sally was a master of that."

Kathie Ninneman, assistant vice president of The Community House in Birmingham, remembered Gerak fondly in an email.

"So many feelings, but my overwhelming feeling after working with her for so many years is that she had a 'heart of gold'!!!!!!" Ninneman wrote. "She was truly one of a kind."

Gerak's social influence continues.

Hundreds of condolences posted to Josh Gerak's Facebook post about the passing of his mother bore similar sentiments about Sally's devotion to her career, her community, and the charities she highlighted, while remarking on the woman herself as an icon, a force of nature, a legend and overall wonderful human.

She is survived by her siblings, Sue Collins and Steve Miller (Lynn); children Josh Gerak, Jay (Mary) Gerak, Julia Gerak McEligot (Sean McEligot) and Jeremy (Lisa) Gerak; and six grandchildren Joe, Callie, Violet, Jackson, Jake (Andrea) and John (Melanie).

A service will take place in Sally Gerak's honor at 10 a.m. Nov. 10 at Holy Name Catholic Church, 630 Harmon St. in Birmingham. A reception will follow at the Community House, 380 S. Bates St., Birmingham. In lieu of flowers, her family believes Sally would appreciate donations to the Community House of Birmingham, an organization she promoted and supported her entire life.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on X @SusanBromley10.

Police: Northville Township mail carrier robbed at gunpoint

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE — Two suspects are in custody after police said a mail carrier was robbed at gunpoint on Oct. 24. Police responded to reports of an armed robbery in the area of Silver Spring Drive and Eight Mile Road at approximately 12:45 p.m., according to a

news release from Northville Township. Two suspects, brandishing a firearm and wearing all-black clothing and ski masks, targeted a postal carrier, forcibly demanding keys to postal boxes, police said. The suspects took the keys to the postal boxes and fled the area in a newer model mid-sized silver Hyundai SUV, police said. No injuries were reported.

The Northville Township Police Department's dispatchers alerted surrounding law enforcement agencies, and officers from the Livonia Police Department located and successfully stopped the suspect's vehicle on Interstate 96 near Middlebelt Road. "The Northville Township Police Department expresses its profound gratitude to our dedicated officers and the swift collaboration with the Livonia Po-

lice Department, which played a pivotal role in the apprehension of the suspects," the release said. "Our community's safety is paramount, and the timely response and actions taken demonstrate our commitment to keeping everyone safe." No further information was immediately available.

Cedar Fruits and Vegetables brings new grocery option to Canton Township

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON TWP. — Shoppers looking for fresh produce, prepared foods and specialty items at competitive prices might find just the thing at Cedar Fruits and Vegetables. The new store opened at 7329 N. Lilley Road, just north of Warren Road, in late September. "Everything here is grown locally," said owner Hassan Mroueh, noting he hails from a long line of Lebanese farmers and, along with his father and grandfather, owned a similar store in Dearborn for many years. "We have lots of organics, bought straight from farms around Michigan and Canada." In addition to a full line of produce, the store features prepared foods ranging from spinach and feta pies to grape leaves, hummus, tabbouleh, Fattoush and garlic sauce. Ready-to-cook chicken and meat shawarma is also available, and a long olive and pickle bar rounds out the experience. Shoppers will also find milk, yogurt, butter and other dairy essentials, along with well-stocked grocery shelves. "We have a huge line of organic foods," Mroueh said. "Sauces, tomatoes, oils, rice, jams, peanut butter. We try to keep as much as we can organic." "I know what goes on produce, the wax that they use and all that stuff," he added. "I try to stay organic as much as I can, because I know how healthy it is. I feed my own kids only organics." The store also carries the Preserved Harvest brand of jams, barbeque sauce, salsa, fruits and more, along with Michigan-based Farmer Dan's Honey. Many vegetarian and vegan options are also available. Mroueh said he's enjoyed meeting new people every day and is happy to see loyal customers who once frequented his family's store in Dearborn. "All the people around here are so friendly," he said. "We have a small convenient store where you can walk in, grab whatever you need and walk out." With the produce and grocery por-



Cedar Fruits & Vegetables opened in late September at 7329 N. Lilley Road in Canton Township. PHOTOS BY LAURA COLVIN


tion of the store now open for business, Mroueh is working to create a meat market and deli in the commercial space next door, which he has also leased. "We'll have butchers who will be cutting the meat right in front of the customer," he said. "Whatever the customer requests. We need fresh meat around here, where the customers see what they're actually getting. There's a high demand for that. A huge demand." Mroueh said he hopes to open the meat market and deli by March, with a bakery to follow, if everything goes according to plan. Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com or 248-221-8143.



Cedar Fruits and Vegetables staffer Amar Saad tends to the store's olive bar.



Cedar Fruits and Vegetables opened in late September at 7329 N. Lilley Road in Canton Township.



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Maybury State Park
Bidding for Riding Stable Concession Operator

The Department of Natural Resources is seeking a qualified vendor to provide riding stable concession services at Maybury State Park, beginning with the 2024 season. The qualified vendor will be required to provide all equipment, personnel, and product required for the concession.

Interested parties may obtain a bid packet at www.michigan.gov/StateParkConcessions. Contact the Park Supervisor at (248) 349-8390 for additional information. Bids are due December 6, 2023, at 2:00 pm.

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YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN
2017	FORD	FUSION	3FA6P0K97HR177387
2010	FORD	EDGE	2FMDK3JC9ABB35818
2008	TOYOTA	TUNDRA	5TFBV54158X049823
2007	DODGE	DURANGO	1D8HB38PX7F531490
2011	FORD	ESCAPE	1FMCU0D72BKB45357
2008	CHEVY	IMPALA	2G1WB58K681356291
2019	VOLVO	TRACTOR	4V4NC9EH1KN873637
2020	NISSAN	KICKS	3N1CP5CV1LL493324
1991	GMC	SIERRA	2GTEC19H9M1543028
2016	CADILLAC	ATS	1G6AA5RX5G0192270
2012	FIAT	500	3C3CFFCR2CT383914


Publish: November 2, 2023 LO-000791683 3x3

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in accordance with Public Act 331 (1966), as amended

Schoolcraft College announces that the financial audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, has been completed by Plante Moran PLLC, Southfield, Michigan. It has been presented to the College Board of Trustees and has been accepted by them.

Notice is hereby given that the audit is available for public inspection in the office of the Chief Financial Officer located in the Jeffress Center, Room 406, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan, on weekdays, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The financial statements are also available on our website at <http://www.schoolcraft.edu/budget/budget-and-transparency>.


Jon Lamb, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Publish: November 2, 2023 LO-000791687 3x3.5

Westland's library reopens following major \$5M renovation

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

WESTLAND — The William P. Faust Public Library has a new look.

After being closed for nearly a year, the library at 6123 Central City Pkwy. is open to the public. The over \$5 million renovation included additional meeting rooms, expanded teen and children's space, more light, a patio and more.

"People love it," Library Director Jennifer Roth said. "The big thing they notice is the windows. The other thing they notice is the teen area. We're really proud of it. Kids can be kids. They can close the doors, play in the gaming area, sit on comfortable furniture and study in there."

Aside from the obvious changes like new paint and new furniture, Roth thinks the update will make a Westland library card attractive to more people. Updates created more room for patrons to gather and enjoy some of the library's non-literary options.

"People really like the library of things we have," Roth said. "You can check out tools, a telescope, board games and other things. There's a big telescope someone has checked out right now."

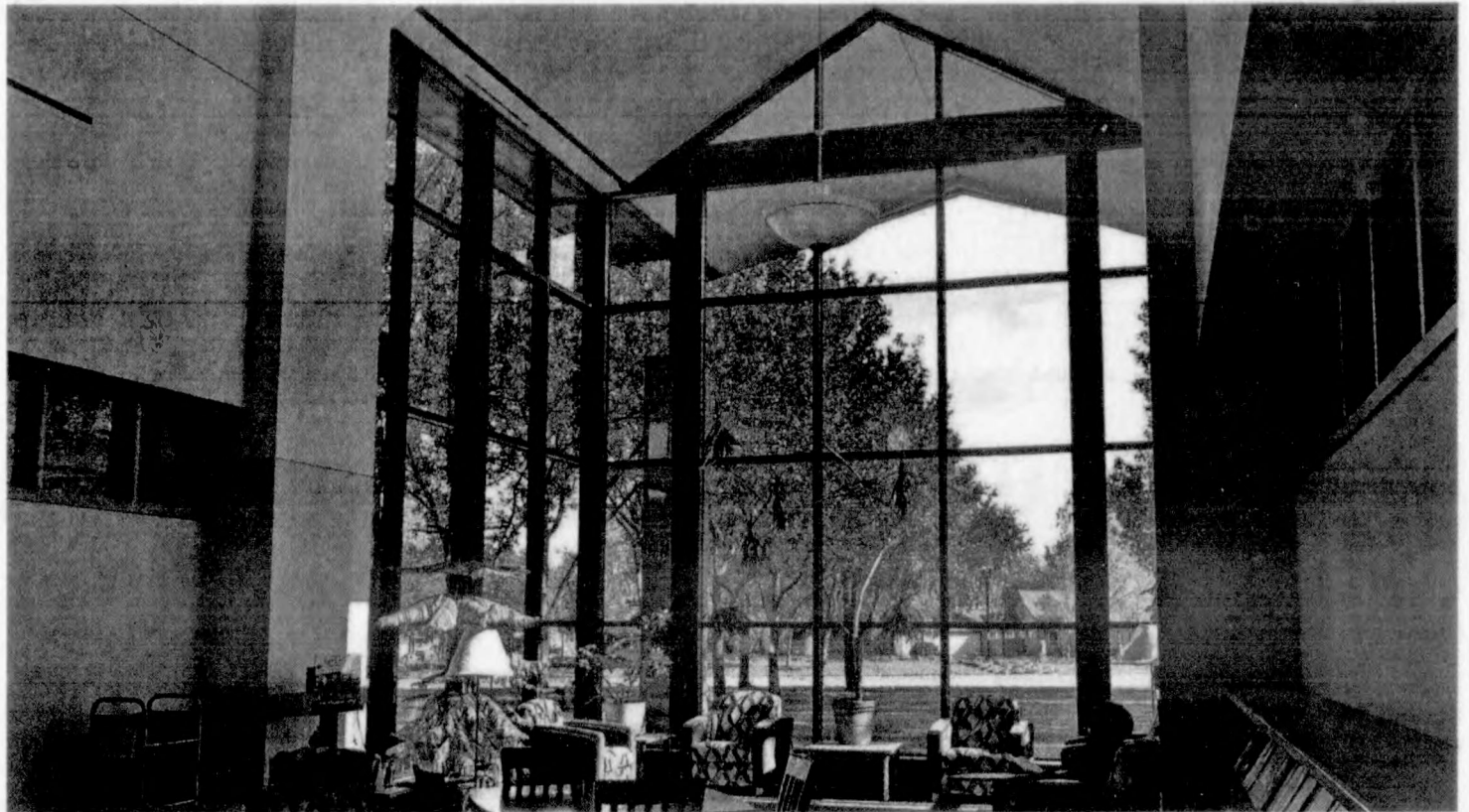
A roughly 7,000-square-foot expansion of the existing building created more shelving space and took the library's meeting room collection from three to eight. Roth said the meeting rooms, one of the major reasons for the renovation, are already popular among students and professionals.

She expects the rooms, equipped with materials needed for studying and business meetings, will help bring more young adults to the library.

"We expect these to bring in more college students," she said. "Before, we didn't really have a space for them."

Residents can take a tour of the revamped facility during an open house 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. Roth hopes people find new things to enjoy about their local library.

"What the addition does is makes us more appealing to more people," she said. "We have new meeting rooms and



A 2023 renovation of the William P. Faust Library in Westland created a more open floor plan, letting readers enjoy more natural light. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A 2023 renovation to the William P. Faust Library in Westland includes an updated and expanded children's area.



The updated teen area of the William P. Faust Library in Westland includes a larger dedicated space for teens and allows for PC gaming.

we have new, comfortable seating for the first time in about 10 years. It's going to expand our appeal."

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

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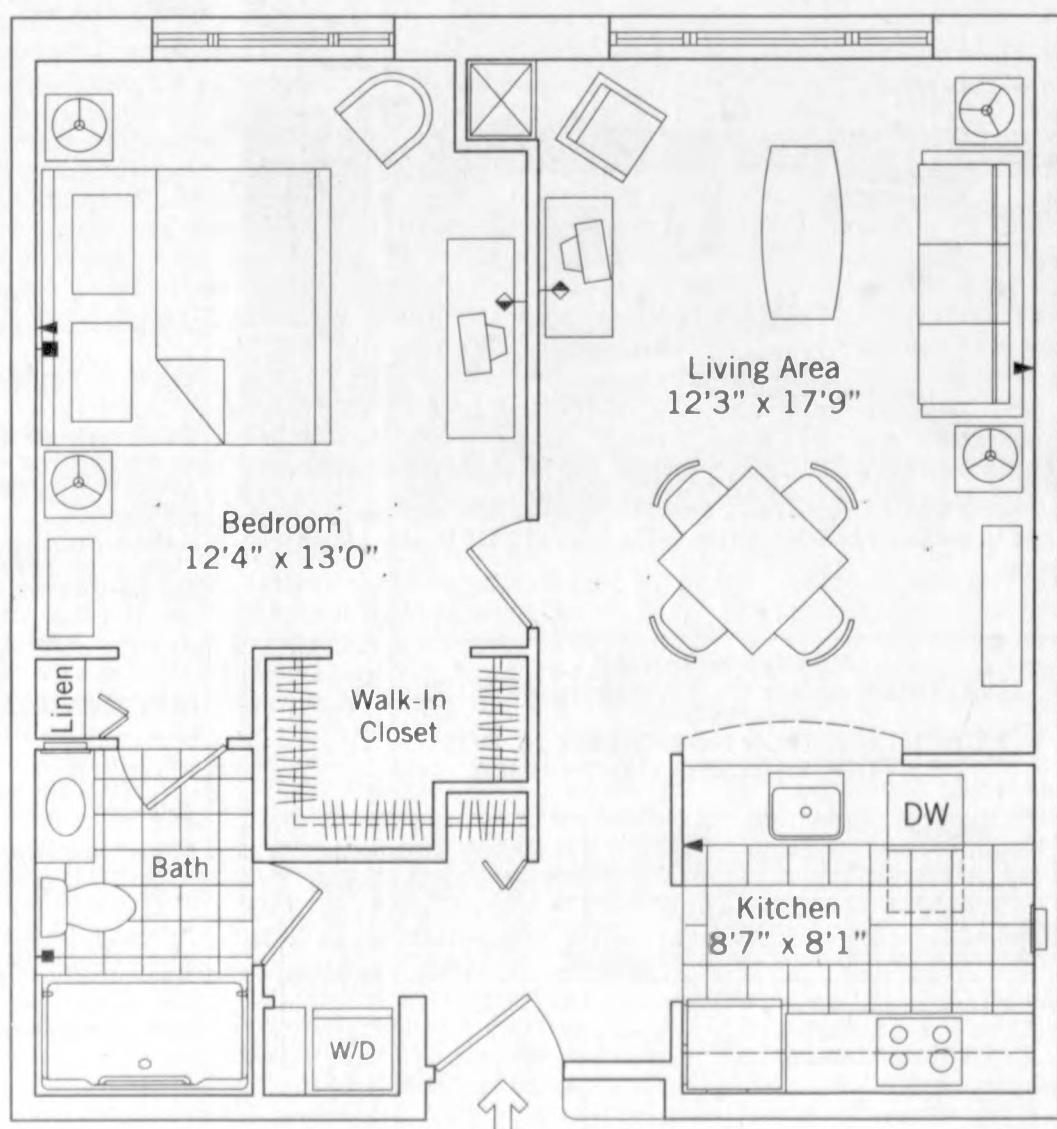
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ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD: OCTOBER 15-DECEMBER 7

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

Adit	Fortune	Metal	Bewards
Axes	Frenzy	Mine	Rich
Camps	Gin pole	Mullock	Shares
Carat	Hand of	Mutton	Sink
Claim	Faith	New chain	Sluice
Dancing	Heat	Nugget	Sofala
Digs	Hope	Ophir	Streams
Dust	Immigrants	Pick	Vein
Eureka	Invest	Prospector	Water
Fever	Labor	Quartz	
Fields	Lode	Reel	
Find	Luck	Relax	

TODAY'S ANSWER

Some colour in the pan

Gold rush

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

PUZZLES & POSTERS

WORD WORLD

EACH BOX IS A DIFFERENT PUZZLE. FOR EACH BOX YOU MUST SELECT A SINGLE LETTER AND POSITION IT IN EACH WORD TO CREATE 3 NEW WORDS. WORD WORLD IS AN EXAMPLE.

TALE
LOOKS
SUPER

COAL
VANISH
LEAN

ALL
SOLES
HALES

DEAL
SOLD
PATENT

SUDOKU | CREATORS

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

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

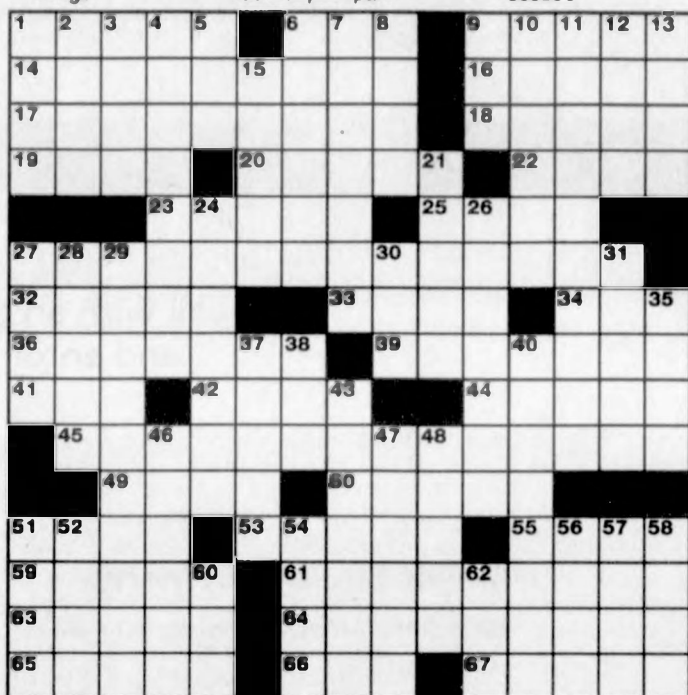
NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Touch down
6 They take their turns in clubs
9 Lent direction
14 Loud lament
16 Threw
17 Augmented in negativity
18 Mint product
19 Many, many, with "of"
20 Warehouses
22 Cue follower
23 Was dashing
25 Memaw alternative
27 What you'll see in the latest Indy Jones film
32 Debunk?
33 Inflamed
34 Ashley Walker Bush, in 2006
36 Ready for action
39 Six-stanza form for Dante
41 _ stop
42 Generational cohort
44 Cider stuff
45 Where lessons are prepared
49 Excessive attention
50 Not much
51 Home aquarium candidate
53 Buds
55 "Dam it!"
59 What many an author assumes
61 Obvious time-waster
63 Pokémon product
64 Reserves
65 Done
66 Repair centers

DOWN

- 1 Word from Latin for "doll"
2 Quakers' crew foes
3 Be decisive
4 Less than lucid
5 Ordered
6 Arch support
7 Bluffer's consideration
8 Something often driven in December
9 Back out of port
10 Mediterranean mix
11 Poetic "King of Kings"
12 Captain who claimed Antarctica (1870)
13 "Wherever she was, there was _" (Eve's Diary conclusion)
15 Caruso was passed over for its premiere
21 Bag
24 Digs into
26 Game box datum
27 Possible sleep spoiler
28 _ conductivity (battery measure)
29 Sudden burst
30 Storied dew spreader
31 Art school
35 Deepest part
37 Piece of an SLR
38 Historical period
40 Precedent setter
43 Its website tracks birdie averages
46 Fall from power?
47 Cold storage
48 Lines of succession
51 Family _
52 Splash
54 Brand now "Even Gravy-er!"
56 Trash
57 Honey production tracker
58 Imagine
60 Sorry
62 Possible tree rescue

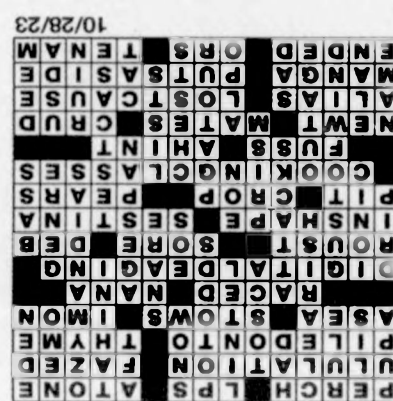


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10/28/23

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LocaliQ | USA TODAY NETWORK

Ex-coach at Farmington HS faces charges of sexual assault

Jasmin Barmore
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has charged a former Farmington High School boys basketball coach in the alleged sexual assaults of two teenage boys.

Jeremy Thompkins, 43, of Detroit, was arraigned Oct. 26 in Detroit's 36th District Court on one count each of second-degree criminal sexual conduct and fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Prosecutors have alleged Thompkins, a former basketball coach at Farmington High School, sexually assaulted a 15-year-old boy and a 16-year-old boy at his home in Detroit.

According to a news release from the

prosecutor's office, the alleged incidents took place from August to October.

"We want to be able to trust the people that we allow to coach, teach, and spend time with our children" Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said in a news release. "Sometimes, they are predators that betray and abuse that trust in unimaginable ways."

According to Worthy, Thompkins reportedly violated his position of authority with the incidents and "harmed those he was supposed to guide and protect."

Thompkins was given a \$250,000 personal bond with a GPS tether and house arrest.

Conditions of his bond include not attending any school-related events, not going to Farmington High School

and to have no contact with the two teen complainants in the case or any other minors.

His attorney, Larry Polk, declined to comment when reached.

During the court hearing, in arguing for a personal bond, Polk said his client was "not a danger to the community." He described Thompkins as a lifelong resident of metro Detroit with "strong family support."

Thompkins is due back in court next month.

In a statement Oct. 17, Farmington Public Schools said: "Last week, Farmington High School learned of an allegation of potential improper conduct between a non-(Farmington Public Schools) employee basketball coach and some players. We immediately terminated the coach and revoked his cre-

dentials to access our facilities."

Three other coaches — including Derrick McDowell, the high school's varsity head basketball coach — were fired for not reporting the alleged misconduct.

"During our administrative team's internal investigation, we learned that three of the other coaches in our program (varsity and freshmen) had some knowledge of these interactions between the JV coach and student athletes, and chose not to report them. As a result, they have been terminated as well," according to the statement, which stressed that the other coaches are not accused of improper conduct with players.

Free Press staff writers Gina Kaufman, Mick McCabe and Matthew Dolan contributed to this report.

Farmington Hills police launch program to put more officers in schools

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON HILLS — Students will notice a greater police presence in Farmington schools as officers attempt to better engage the community, starting with youth.

Police hope the new initiative will increase school safety and create ways for students to have positive interactions with officers.

"It will expose them to uniformed police officers," Farmington Hills Police Chief Jeff King said.

"That has an effect on building those community relationships with our young people. People see the police uniform as scary and intimidating. Kids have to be exposed to that in a positive context. It can't just be when someone gets a ticket, gets in an accident or is arrested."

According to King, every Farmington Hills officer will participate in the program and conduct regular visits, he hopes, to every school in the district. Community members will notice more police vehicles at schools, and students will see officers walking the halls.

The department will still employ two student liaison officers dedicated to the schools.

Thomas Hull, a parent and the president of the Farmington African American network, thinks the program is a good way for police to build trust, especially with the district's Black community.

"As a parent, I'm all about safety and trust," he said. "There's a history of African Americans having trust issues with police because we tend to not be protected. We've been raised on not saying anything to the police, because you'll get in trouble. So, if this can create a situation where people can feel like they can say something without repercussions, I think that's needed."

King, a former school liaison officer for the now-closed Harrison High School, is hopeful the new program will help regular officers foster positive relationships with students, teachers and other school staff, similar to those developed by liaison officers.

"There's a community relations aspect of this that is just as important on a day-to-day basis," he said. "We're trying to get back into the schools. Decades ago, we had a program for safety and

home safety. We got rid of it, and now we're seeing some of those things in our schools."

Superintendent Christopher Delgado said he's grateful for the partnership.

"We continue to enjoy a great working relationship with our first responders," he said. "We are thankful for this partnership in keeping our students, staff and families safe."

Aside from fostering relationships, the initiative also adds school safety features and familiarizes officers with district buildings. Additions include updated security cameras that police have access to, key access for all Farmington Hills first responders, a color coding system for school hallways and the reinstatement of a district safety committee.

King said the additions will make the department better prepared to handle school emergencies.

Michigan schools have seen an uptick in threats since the 2021 shooting at Oxford High School.

Nearby districts like Livonia Public Schools and South Lyon Community Schools have seen students arrested or expelled for making threats.

Multiple community members urged

the district to increase its school safety protocols during a school board meeting Tuesday, Oct. 10.

But the program will also aim to protect students from everyday concerns like internet threats and cyberbullying.

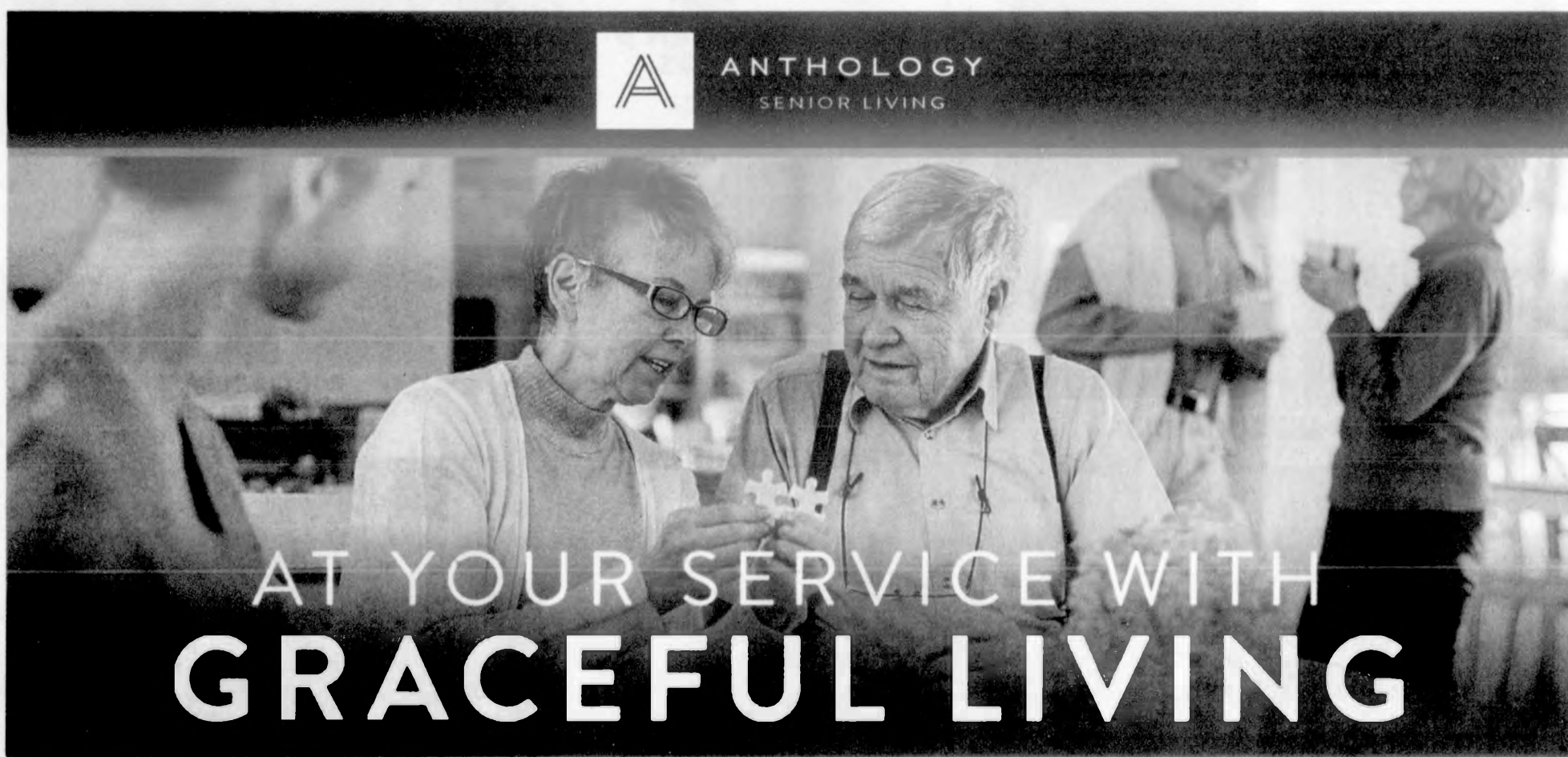
Police are utilizing a state TEAM — teaching, education and mentoring — curriculum based on students' ages and individual school needs. King said high school students are likely to learn about traffic stops and vaping, while elementary students may learn about stranger danger.

Santoria Shepherd, a district parent, said police recently visited her second-grade daughter's class to teach about how police can help during emergencies. Shepherd said she thinks the program is a good idea.

TEAM lessons will, according to King, likely be baked into district health and wellness classes. He hopes more police at schools will become a comfort, not a cause for alarm.

"A marked police vehicle at a school shouldn't be a cause for concern," he said.

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



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SPORTS



Northville's Alex McCallum celebrates scoring the winning goal during the Division 1 regional championship against Detroit U-D Jesuit on Oct. 26, at Dearborn High School. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

No sweat!

Northville soccer beats UDJ 3-1 in regional championship

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With great power comes great responsibility.

That's the infamous line from Uncle Ben in "Spider-Man," but you might as well attribute it to the season that the Northville boys soccer team is having, too.

Because much has been expected of the No. 2 Mustangs (19-2-1), who have been ranked in the top three of the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association poll all season long, and they continue to persevere even when their backs are against the wall.

And the Division 1 regional championship on Oct. 26 at Dearborn was no different.

There they were, facing a 1-0 deficit

See **SOCCER**, Page 3B



Northville players celebrate during the Division 1 boys soccer regional championship against Detroit U-D Jesuit.

'Good luck' defending the number of scorers Detroit Country Day has



Detroit Country Day's Jaidyn Elam goes up for a layup during a Fall Ball girls basketball scrimmage against Bloomfield Hills Marian on Sunday, Oct. 22. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Detroit Country Day girls basketball coach Amber Deane cannot wait for the season to start.

Because watching her team play in the Fall Ball league at The Compound Athletics in Sterling Heights as merely a fan has been a struggle for the second-year coach.

Obviously, Deane can't actually coach the Yellowjackets right now because of the MHSAA rules in place about leading teams during the offseason. But she's having a lot of fun watching her players from the bleachers.

They're loaded. And it'd be a shock if

this group doesn't win a Division 2 state championship in the near future.

Oct. 22 was quite the display against Lahser Road rival Bloomfield Hills Marian.

On hand were Oakland University commit Jaidyn Elam, arguably the Yellowjackets' top returner, three-year returning starter Ari'Yana Wiggins, who has gained considerable attention on the recruiting trail this past offseason, sophomore guard Naiya Krispin, who had an offer from Eastern Michigan University before she ever played her first high school game, seniors Peja Liles and Julia Younes, two of the Yellowjackets' most reliable role players,

See **GIRL BB**, Page 4B

Novi football is having its best season since 2008. Here's why

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi football coach Jim Sparks didn't know what to expect from his team entering the final week of the regular season because, well, Week 8 was a pretty emotional loss.

The Wildcats hosted rival Northville for a de facto Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West championship. Not only was the Baseline Jug traveling trophy on the line but so too was a berth in the league championship in Week 9.

Since Novi came up short, 28-14, Sparks said he wouldn't have been surprised if the Wildcats had another letdown in their Oct. 20 KLAA crossover game at Westland John Glenn, which entered ranked in the top 10 of the most recent Associated Press Poll.

"You always worry," the third-year coach said. "We were so looking forward to the week before. There was so much on the line, and the kids invested so much into it. We played a good game against Northville, and they're a good team, but it didn't go in our favor, so you always worry about the mindset of the kids after something like that. You wonder if they see the value in coming out and playing hard in a game like this."

What worries Sparks had were replaced by excitement after he watched quarterback Caleb Walker throw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Boden Fernsler just 3 minutes, 31 seconds into the game.

They followed up that score with Johnny Aurilia recovering an onside kick, and then Walker dropping another TD pass right into the bread basket of Fernsler for a 14-0 lead.

Novi (7-2) scored four unanswered TDs and then grinded out the clock in the second half to halt the Rockets (7-2) from making a comeback and exited Irma Kionka-Chuck Gordon Field with a 35-24 victory.

"It was a wait-and-see approach, and we started feeling good about it after the first few minutes," Sparks said. "The guys were motivated to play well."

Here are three takeaways from the season the Wildcats are having:

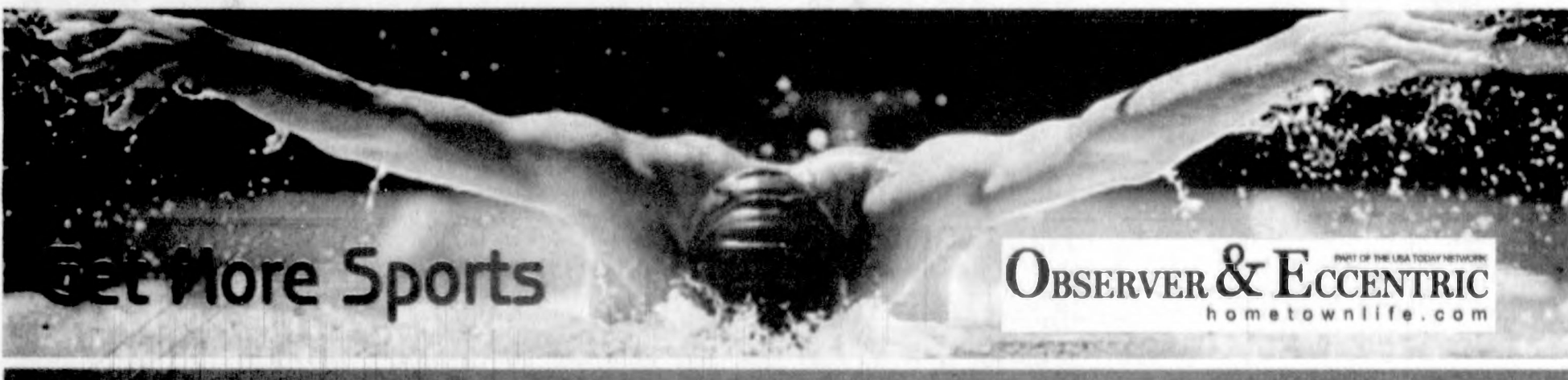
Fernsler can catch anything

There are a handful of QBs in the KLAA having phenomenal seasons, including Northville's Isaac Pace, Livonia Churchill's Evan Snead and, of course, five-star recruit Bryce Underwood at Belleville.

See **FOOTBALL**, Page 2B



Novi coach Jim Sparks speaks to his team following a Kensington Lakes Activities Association football game on Oct. 20, at Westland John Glenn. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE



KLAA announces 2023 all-conference football team

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Kensington Lakes Activities Association released its annual all-conference football team on Wednesday afternoon.

Look to see where your favorite players landed on the list:

All-KLAA-East

Belleville: Jeremiah Beasley, Bryce Underwood, Adrian Walker, Ronald Jackson, Rashad Jones, Kevin Simes, Julian Johnson, Trezelle Jenkins, Lamar Fairfax, Colbey Reed, Jalen Johnson.

Dearborn: Ali Homayed, Brady Isaacson.

Dearborn Fordson: Khalil Bandar, Joshua Williams, Ali Sobh, Deeb Aoun, Hussein Ajami, Ali Hammoud, Omar Daher.

Livonia Churchill: Miles Lueck, Tyler Mileski, Peyton Sitariski, Ryan Stockton Jr.

Livonia Franklin: Jon Jasionowski, Drew Kelbert, Owen Pittenger, Mendal Broaden, Julian Castillo, Jacob Goria.

Livonia Stevenson: ArJon Thompson, Aidan Nolan, Blake Zoro.

Wayne Memorial: Kaiden Williams.

Westland John Glenn: Damon Powers, Elliot Flake, Jermaine Gumbs, Bryar Inman, Tyler Radley, Jon Roberson, Amari Bingham-Cage, Dougie Wicker, Ethan Moore.



Novi's Caleb Walker.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE



Livonia Churchill senior Corey Gilbert.



Livonia Franklin senior Jon Jasionowski.

All-KLAA West

Brighton: Grant Hetherton, Hayden Lorus, Braeden Chiles, Carter Gregg, Reed Blake-Thomas, Jaden Rogers, Brady Carruthers.

Canton: Caleb Williams.

Hartland: Kaden Custodio, Will Darish, James Butzier, Evan Brown, Jacob Ross, Jack Lansing.

Howell: Ethan Keider, Ethan Ogden, Justin Jones, Aiden Horvath, Bobby Kanka, Gavin Nastevski.

Northville: Drew Rankin, Colin Charles, Cullen Murphy, Isaac Pace, Evan Deak, Owen Ross, Nick Helner, Camden Besco, Graham Gilmartin, Ferris Jordan, Robbie Schuckel.

Novi: Caleb Walker, Thad Lawler, Nathan Ponos, Boden Fernsler, Johnny Aurilia, Nolan Thompson, Joshua Waack, Marcus Brown, Andrew Kummer.

Plymouth: Sam Plencner, Jaxon McCaig, Cameron Witt, Luc Damiani,

Camden Short, Idrys Cotton.

Salem: Azarius Hayes, Aidan Moore.

All-KLAA Honorable Mention

Belleville: Marquis Peoples, Andrew Hessler, Brayden Lane, Dion Franklin.

Brighton: Sebastian Boyea, Caleb Webb, Jack McKinnon, Jason Eisinger.

Canton: Adham Hasham, Devon Petrus, Sayato Henney, Dillon Calhoun.

Dearborn: Mahi Sabbagh, Nick Maziarz, Adam Saad, Ishan Chami.

Dearborn Fordson: Ali Hoballah, Hassan Alzubaiol, Hussein Albarkat, Ali Alziyadi.

Hartland: Aidan Lindsay, Kyle Pies, Alex Crisuolo, Kyle McDaniel.

Howell: Shawn Turpin, Tanner Baidel, Levi Curtin, Brandon Hamilton.

Livonia Churchill: Corey Gilbert, Evan Snead, John Pallozzi, Massiah Amerson.

Livonia Franklin: Dom Walker, Ja-

den Mabins, Derek Hetu, Owen Phail.

Livonia Stevenson: Richardo Wourman, Nathan Patterson, Collin Gibson, Trevor Bennett.

Northville: Cooper Hoffman, Sonny Rentz, Luke Parrinello, Hassan Elzayat.

Novi: Austin Washington, Jaden Vondrasek, Keegan Litkewycz, Tae Andrews.

Plymouth: Dylan Sasena, Daniel Vingo, Jorgito Shqau, Alex Witt.

Salem: Brayden Alexander, Zack Passmore, Travis Dulong, Gavin Morrison.

Wayne Memorial: Jeremiah Edwards-Scott, Antonio Garrett, Denier Harris-Wright, Carlos Smith.

Westland John Glenn: Rocco Pardi, Joey Pardi, Hunter Krupin, Rickey Smith.

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

Football

Continued from Page 1B

But Walker is also playing great for Novi in Sparks' spread offense.

You can't doubt his skillset as a pocket passer, but the senior also benefits from having a solid group of receivers to get the ball to down the field. Chief among them is Fernsler, who is arguably the most exciting offensive player to watch in the KLAA-West.

And that's quite the statement considering how Fernsler had missed time during the final month of the baseball season last spring with health concerns. Which was a bummer because Novi made it to the Division 1 state championship. All he could do was cheer on his best friends and younger brother, Uli Fernsler, a recent TCU commit, from the dugout as the Wildcats beat Woodhaven to win its first-ever state title.

Fast forward to this fall, and the senior has returned to full strength.

"He was so looking forward to football because he missed the baseball run, and he was like, 'Coach, I'm just looking forward to getting in front of a crowd,'" Sparks said. "When he's out, you still feel his presence. The kids still respect him so much. He's such a quality kid that the kids try to win for him when he's not around. That's why he's just your typical kid from the Six."

For Walker's sake, Novi will want to keep his BFF on the field.

Fernsler scored three of the Wildcats' first four TDs against John Glenn and finished with seven receptions for 156 yards, which included him pulling down a 43-yarder in the second quarter.

"We're like best friends," said Walker, who finished 14 of 21 passing for 266 yards and also threw a 37-yard TD pass to Jaden Vondrasek to seal the win. "So we're always on the same page. I trust him. We've played together for three years now. We're just always on the same page, making it happen. Not having him in baseball, it hurt him a lot, so it's just nice to get him out here and get him a lot of touchdowns. It's been great."

Fernsler will play baseball in college, but Sparks thinks some local teams should offer him for football.

"He's crafty, he's crafty," Sparks said. "He's fast, and he's heady. He finds a way to get open, and he's so tough. Boden's a baller, man. He's a baller."

Regardless of what his future at the next level holds, Fernsler is just happy to be playing again.

"It's great because it messes with me when I can't play, so being out here, that's all I want to do," he said. "(Having mono) wasn't that bad, it was not that bad to come back from, so I've just been able to come out here and start playing football again."

Novi can play smash-mouth football, too

Make no mistake about it: No lead was safe for Novi against the Rockets.

Throughout the second and third



Novi's Boden Fernsler breaks a tackle during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association football game on Oct. 20, at Westland John Glenn. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE



Novi's Lance Galliard celebrates scoring a TD against Westland John Glenn.

quarters, Damon Powers scored three times, including catching a 19-yard TD pass from John Glenn QB Dougie Wicker, to make a game out of it. The Rockets had a legitimate shot to tie the score in the fourth.

But Novi, which didn't score in the second half, relied on its ground attack to eat some clock, close out the game and prove it can protect a lead when it needs to do so.

And that's something Sparks, who grew up playing in a ground-and-pound offense at Clawson, can appreciate. The Wildcats aren't just a one-trick pony. They have more than Walker's arm at

their disposal.

"It's very satisfying because I was brought up where we were a Wing-T team, and it was all about being tougher in the trenches and stuff like that," Sparks said. "It does my heart proud when we can line up in the dirt and pound the ball and kill the clock, you know? We took the ball over with 6 minutes to go and they never got the ball back. That's a tremendous job by my offensive staff, and my O-line in particular. You can't do that without the guys up front. Those guys played exceptionally well in the last 6 minutes, and it was just a great team effort to put that game

away."

Power back Lance Galliard, who raced down the far sideline for a 56-yard rushing TD in the opening quarter, finished with 14 carries for 116 yards.

Just how good are the Wildcats?

With the win over John Glenn, the Wildcats had won seven games in a single season for the first time since 2008.

To put that in perspective, Walker, who is a senior on his way out the door, was 2 years old back then.

So this isn't just a great season Novi is having, it's one of the best seasons it has had since going 12-1 and losing to Brother Rice in the state semifinal in 2003.

So what has been key to the program's turnaround?

"Just having great kids," said Sparks, who was a longtime coach at Clawson before taking over the Wildcats in 2021. "Every kid on my team, whether they're in my junior class or senior class are winners in everything they do. Our GPA is through the roof. We talk at length about competing in things like basketball and baseball, and we've got excellent track kids on our team, too. That's really great to see in today's day and age when kids specialize in sports and spend their offseasons at combines and worry about the (recruiting) stars next to their names."

"Our kids just want to play. They love to compete, and they're a joy to coach."

Novi hosted Detroit Catholic Central in the opening round of the state playoffs in a game that was played after press time for this edition.

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

Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

just nine minutes into the match, as Detroit U-D Jesuit caught them off guard by banging in a rebound and doing its best to set the tone in what should've been a close matchup.

Northville's response? It didn't panic. It didn't overextend itself and push extra hard for the tying goal. No, the Mustangs stayed in their system, let the plays come to them and played relaxed.

They reacted like they were the team to beat in this postseason tournament. Because, truthfully, they are. And the result? They scored three unanswered goals, including captain Alex McCallum knocking in the game-winner, to beat the Cubs 3-1 and hoist the regional championship trophy for the first time since beating Clarkston in 2021.

Northville advanced to the state semifinal Nov. 1 at host Troy Athens. That game was played after press time for this edition.

"Credit to those guys for not freaking out about giving up a goal early," 33rd-year coach Henry Klimes said. "It was a well-deserved goal that they (UDJ) got, but I don't think we panicked. We knew if the goal was going to happen there was still a lot of soccer left, and we are a pretty skilled team. We just battled through it, and I thought as the half went on, we started carrying more of the play a little bit to try and get that equalizer."

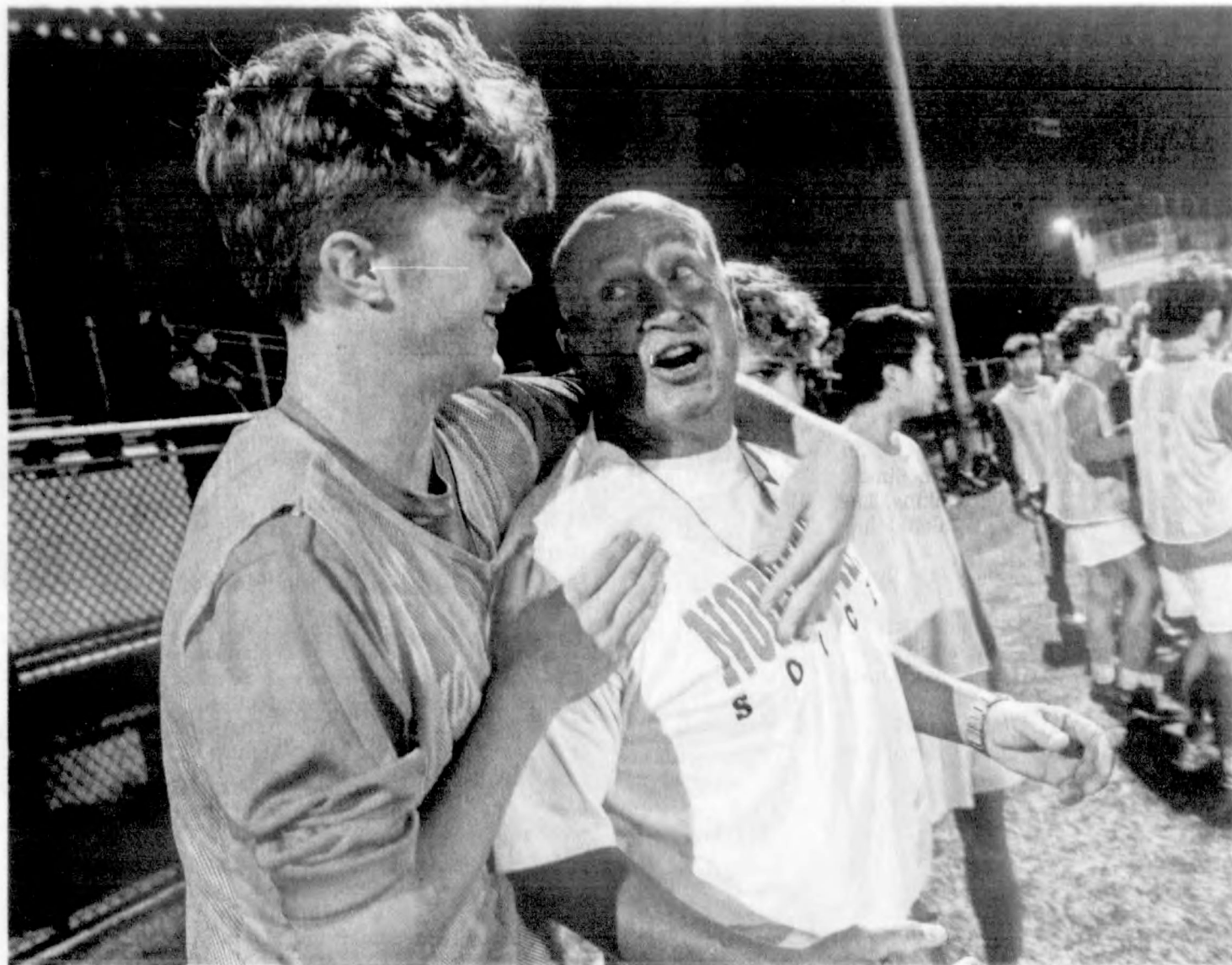
The Mustangs certainly did.

Star defensive player Nick Settle played a ball into the attack for Haithem Al-Zoubi, who smashed in a goal near the far sideline to knot the score at 1 just 13 minutes later.

As the half was winding down, McCallum banged in a rebound to give Northville the lead once and for all.

The Mustangs, who controlled the attack for most of the game, had no trouble keeping the Cubs away from their goal during the second half. To add the exclamation point to the victory, Zane Khraizat sent in a pass to Al-Zoubi, who tapped in an insurance goal with just 2 minutes remaining in the match.

"Our thing the whole season has been 'the next five minutes,'" said Settle, a captain. "So whenever we conceded, we



Northville coach Henry Klimes celebrates winning the Division 1 boys soccer regional championship against Detroit U-D Jesuit on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023, at Dearborn High School. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

were like, 'Can we win that next five minutes? Can we get a goal back in those five minutes and set us up nicely for the rest of the game? And if we can't, can we just keep working?'"

The answer was yes. Yes, Northville just kept working, as it has been doing all season long.

The Mustangs haven't been down too often, but every time it has, it usually fights through the adversity.

Yeah, they lost to Brighton twice during the regular season. But they snuck into the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship game and made the most of their opportunity to win the league title.

They rode that momentum into the district tournament and walked away with a championship against rival Salem.

And they did it again this week with a comeback win against UDJ.

Northville isn't just one of the top teams in Michigan. It might be the best. And we'll find out this coming week if it can win its first state title in program history.

And you don't need to be the direct relative of a web-slinging superhero to see it either.

"We went down early, and I think the first thing we were worried about was staying composed through it," said Al-

Zoubi, Northville's tough-as-nails junior forward. "We knew we were going to be able to come out here and compete. ... It's a lot of pressure, for sure. I think coming into the tournament, people had doubts about us because we had two losses to Brighton and both were close games. But I think we proved it. We've come out and showed we are up there, and we are the No. 1 or 2 or 3 ranked team in the state, and we have the potential to go on a run. It feels great, man. It feels so good."

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

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Girl BB

Continued from Page 1B

and sisters Emma and Cece Arico, the daughters of Michigan women's basketball coach Kim Barnes Arico. Emma Arico, probably the most-improved player DCDS has, is a point guard committed to U-M's lacrosse program, while Cece is an almost 6-foot incoming freshman who will no doubt be playing basketball at the next level.

And on the bench in street clothes was Jayla Jackson, who is still recovering from a season-ending injury suffered last winter. The sophomore received her first Big Ten offer from Ohio State when she was in middle school.

This upperclassmen group in particular has made it to the Breslin Center twice, despite losing to Goodrich in triple overtime in last year's regional final. But this year might be their time to finally hoist a state championship trophy.

"Yeah, yeah, I definitely want to be on their sideline right now," Deane said after watching the Yellowjackets beat Marian in a Macomb County showdown. "But it's still super fun to watch them, and they're a fun group to watch, especially when things are clicking. They're a lot of fun. It's going to be a matter of team chemistry, just having fun together, putting things together, staying healthy and all that fun stuff. But we feel really confident and really about this season, for sure."

And we still don't know which newcomers outside of Cece Arico will be contributing major minutes.

The Yellowjackets can roll out a different lineup for any situation. They can play small and fast with guards, or they can throw out their bigger girls and dominate in the paint.

Elam should be a Michigan Miss Basketball candidate this season, but it'd be understandable if she doesn't win it because there is only one basketball to go around for all the future all-state players on this team.

Deane is going to feel like a hockey coach sending out a fresh five players every few minutes or so this winter.

"Yeah, we're deep, and that's the thing," the former Indiana and Dayton women's basketball player said. "We want to play fast, we want to get up and down, we want to press. We have a lot of depth where we can do some of those



Detroit Country Day's Cece Arico attacks the basket during a Fall Ball girls basketball scrimmage against Bloomfield Hills Marian on Oct. 22, at The Compound Athletics in Sterling Heights. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

things. Everybody should feel part of this team. Everybody is going to play. We're going to go up and down because we have the depth to do that. We are deep this year, we are loaded."

And the biggest reality? They only graduated one key contributor in Aysia Yokely, a 3-point specialist who landed with Albion College.

It's hard to say who will end up as the leading scorer because they have so many players capable of dominating the ball.

"We just need to make sure the ball doesn't stick," Deane added. "We have so much talent, and we want to make sure we share the load. We don't want to have to put too much pressure on one or two players. We have enough players to where the ball should keep moving. We should challenge defenses to pick somebody to guard."

"Good luck. When we have five players out there, that ball has got to be moving. If nothing sticks, we should be in really good shape. That's the one thing we working on going into the season, just ball movement, player movement, boxing out, rebounding, all the fundamental things, too, but we should be in pretty good shape."

The Yellowjackets, 17-7 a year ago, open the season Dec. 5 at Birmingham Groves.

Marian continues to rebuild in Lindsey's second season as coach

Across the court, Marian showed it has continued to piece things together, as second-year coach Michelle Lindsey has been rebuilding the program after longtime coach Mary Cicerone retired after winning the 2021-22 Catholic League tournament championship.

There's plenty to like about the Mustangs, who struggled at times a year ago, going 8-13 in the regular season but wound up winning a pair of postseason games and claiming a D-I district title over Birmingham Seaholm in the playoffs.

Chief among them being their backcourt, led by junior point guard Molly McLeod and incoming freshman Mack Reid, senior and junior wings, Abby Landa and Charlie Bingham, and post players, McKenzie Swanson, a Butler University commit, younger sister Ella Swanson and Ruby Jansen, the junior daughter of former NFL and Michigan lineman Jon Jansen.

According to Lindsey and McLeod, the team has improved tenfold since last season. But what do they need to work on as they enter Year 2?

"Defense, defense, defense and bringing the tenacity," said Lindsey, a former player of Cicerone's. "And re-



Bloomfield Hills Marian's Mack Reid attacks the basket.

bounding. We struggled last year on limiting second-chance opportunities, and I thought that showed today (against DCDS). That will be our No. 1 focus, focusing on the defensive end and limiting the second-chance points."

Marian opens the season on Dec. 5 against visiting Imlay City, but, of course, will close out the season with a non-conference game against DCDS in February.

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

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Brighton's top scorer + empty net = regional soccer title

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

GRAND BLANC — An empty net stood no chance against Devlin McGinnis.

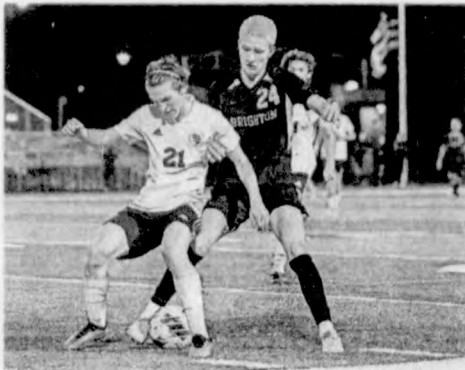
That doesn't mean McGinnis wasn't feeling nervous when he looked up and saw nothing between him and the Detroit Catholic Central net late in the second overtime.

"It's terrifying," he said. "But you've got to control yourself and put it away."

Once the ball was safely in the back of the net, nerves were replaced by exhilaration.

McGinnis had scored the biggest goal of his incredible junior season for Brighton. Actually, he scored the biggest goal by any Bulldog in 18 years.

His 22nd goal of the season with 3:21 left on the clock gave Brighton a 1-0 vic-



Brighton's Colin Robertson battles Detroit Catholic Central's Nick Gauchey for the ball in an overtime victory on Oct. 26.

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

tory over Detroit Catholic Central in a Division 1 regional championship game Thursday at Grand Blanc High School.

The Bulldogs won their first regional championship since 2005, continuing a magical postseason run for a team that didn't even win its division in the regular season. No. 14 Brighton will face ninth-ranked Rockford (17-3-2) in the state semifinals at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1 at East Lansing.

"Regional final, last three minutes of overtime," McGinnis said. "What else could be better?"

The winning goal came in the aftermath of a Catholic Central corner kick.

Brighton's Ethan Cassar cleared the ball from the box toward midfield. The Shamrocks had only two players back and McGinnis was the only Bulldog down the field. Catholic Central's Nick Gauchey played the ball back to goalie Blake Maroun, who was pressured by McGinnis as he prepared to kick the ball.

McGinnis arrived a split second be-

fore Maroun could get off a kick, knocking the ball behind the goalie where he had an uncontested game-winning goal.

The goal didn't end the game, as two full 10-minute overtimes are required regardless of how many goals are scored. But in a game that had been scoreless for nearly 97 minutes and with so little time on the clock, it felt like a sudden-death moment.

The Bulldogs were able to kill the remaining time without allowing a scoring opportunity.

The Shamrocks' season ended at 12-8.

The Brighton-Rockford winner will face Northville or Troy Athens for the state championship at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 4 at Grand Ledge.

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

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEEK 9 STAT LEADERS AROUND HOMETOWN LIFE

Brandon Folsom
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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

Belleville 42, Northville 0
The Mustangs dropped to 8-1 overall.

Novi 35, Westland John Glenn 24

Caleb Walker was 14 of 21 passing for 266 yards and four TDs for the Wildcats (7-2). Boden Fernsler caught seven passes for 156 yards and three TDs. Jaden Vondrasek had four receptions for 68 yards and Lance Galliard rushed 14 times for 116 yards and notched a 56-yard TD.

Thad Lawler led the

defense with 16 tackles (eight solo), Johnny Aurlia had 11 tackles (eight solo) and recovered an onside kick. Austin Washington had seven tackles (five solo) and one sack. Brendan Lynch and Nolan Thompson each had seven tackles and Joshua Waack had a sack.

Damon Powers rushed 18 times for 117 yards and two scores and caught three passes for 70 yards and a TD for the Rockets (7-2). Ethan Moore added seven carries for 64 yards, while Dougie Wicker carried nine times for 39 yards and Elliot Flake had six rushes for 37 yards. Wicker was also 5 of 9 passing for 85 yards.

Tyler Radley led the defense with nine tackles (five solo).

Plymouth 42, Livonia Churchill 21

Jaxon McCaig rushed 36 times for a school-record 327 yards and scored four TDs for the Wildcats (4-5). Sam Plencner was 5 of 11 passing for 57 yards and TD passes to Cameron Witt and Dylan Sase-na, while Luc Damiani led the defense with 10 tackles (five solo).

The Chargers fell to

4-5 overall.

Dearborn 61, Salem 27

Brayden Alexander was 10 of 20 passing for 108 yards and a TD for the Rocks (1-8). Gavin Morrison caught three passes for 50 yards and a score and also rushed twice for 54 yards and a TD. Aiden Moore rushed 10 times for 38 yards, caught two passes for 11 yards and totaled 102 yards on kick returns, while Azarius Hayes had four catches for 52 yards.

Hayes led with nine tackles, Morrison had eight tackles and two pass breakups and Moore pitched in five tackles.

Livonia Stevenson 22, Hartland 7

ArJon Thompson rushed 22 times for 110 yards, returned a blocked field goal 75 yards for a score and had five tackles and a fumble recovery on defense for the Spartans (3-6). Nathan Patterson was 9 of 15 passing for 62 yards and a 30-yard TD pass to James Jackson.

Trevor Bennett led the defense with 11 tackles (one for loss), while Blake Zoro had seven tackles (two for loss), one pass breakup and one forced fumble.

Livonia Franklin 27, Howell 21

Jon Jasionowski rushed 19 times for 201 yards and three TDs for the Patriots (6-3), while Derek Hetu was 5 of 6 passing for 49 yards and a TD to Drew Kelbert.

Jasionowski paced the defense with 13 tackles

(seven solo), Derrick Grubbs had 12 (six solo), Bryce Downing added eight (seven solo), Mendale Broaden had 10 (four solo) and Owen Pittenger finished with nine (four solo). Dom Walker had a sack and a tackle for loss, while Julian Castillo also had a tackle for loss.

Canton 55, Wayne Memorial 0

Canton finished the season 3-6 overall, while the Zebras wrapped up a 1-8 season.

Lakes Valley Conference

White Lakeland 14, Milford 7

Carter Travis rushed 22 times for 138 yards and one TD for the Eagles (6-3, 6-2). Trevor Tschudin added 24 carries for 86 yards and a score.

Ryan Allen rushed 17 times for 117 yards and was 8 of 12 passing for 94 yards for the Mavericks (6-3, 6-2). Mason Bender caught two passes for 45 yards. Tanner Petru added five carries for 17 yards and a score.

Wyatt Lesnew, Kaden Johnston (two for loss) and Ike Stufft (one for loss) each totaled 12 tackles, Kyle Scofield finished with 10, Jon Motes added nine and Tyler Freer had eight. Jack Stine pulled down an interception.

South Lyon East 30, South Lyon 6

Dominic Giovannini was 8 of 21 passing for 157 yards and two TDs for the Cougars (4-5, while Case Adam caught four passes

for 108 yards and a score and Joey Andrews had two catches for 24 yards and a TD. Peerless Schlusler added 21 carries for 95 yards and two TDs.

Jack Toth led the defense with nine tackles (five solo, two for loss), Nick Napoleon had six tackles (one solo) and a half sack, Noah Black added three tackles (one solo), 1.5 sacks and one QB hurry and Schlusler had four tackles (two solo) and a half sack.

Gavin Martinkowski rushed four times for 70 yards for the Lions (2-7), while Ryan Henderson caught a 9-yard TD pass from Brady Myer.

Johnny Michaels paced South Lyon's defense with seven tackles (five solo), while Brody Weaver had five (four solo) and Tyler Wollitz had four (three solo). Zack Nakon and Andrew Richards each had tackles for loss.

Oakland Activities Association

Birmingham Seaholm 21, Birmingham Groves 14

Brock Hartwig scored a pair of TDs for the Maples (8-1), while Graden Kinnie also scored.

The Falcons fell to 6-3 overall.

Bloomfield Hills 50, North Farmington 49 (F/OT)

Logan Ward caught the game-tying TD for the Black Hawks (1-8), while Josh Boike booted in the winning extra point.

The Raiders finished the regular season 4-5 overall.

Utica 34, Farmington 30

Cameron Pettaway rushed for 206 yards and three TDs, threw a 62-yard TD pass and converted three two-point conversions for the Falcons (2-7).

Western Wayne Athletic Conference

Allen Park 39, Redford Union 14

Champ Thornton rushed for 103 yards and a TD for the Panthers (7-2).

Garden City 40, Pontiac 6

Raymond Emond scored three TDs for the Cougars (4-5), while Jesse Chavez punched in two scores and Damien Morales also scored.

Redford Thurston 46, Detroit Western 0

The Eagles improved to 6-3 overall.

Catholic League

Detroit Catholic Central 35, Detroit Mumford 0

Five Shamrocks scored TDs as CC improved to 7-2 overall. Matthew Williams caught a 20-yard TD pass from Beau Jackson, Connor Ryan punched in a 6-yard TD run, Kam Lloyd scored from 8 yards out and Cedric Williams and Lee Krueger also scored.

Stone Chaney came up with an interception on defense.

Newmarket Huron Heights (Ontario) 37, Brother Rice 7

The Warriors ended the season 0-9 overall.

Detroit Loyola 59, Cranbrook 20

The Cranes ended the season 2-7 overall.

Michigan Independent Athletic Conference

Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard 48, Lutheran Westland 7

The Warriors finished the season 0-9 overall.

Independent

Flat Rock 61, Livonia Clarenceville 26

The Trojans finished the season 4-4 overall.

Monroe St. Mary CC 28, Detroit Country Day 27 (F/OT)

Caden Daley rushed for two TDs and recorded a sack on defense for the Yellowjackets (3-5). Anthony Cartwright caught a 60-yard TD from Chase Dawkins, while Derrick Williams punched in a 2-yard score.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life.

Obituaries

Joan Cahill Daley

GLENVIEW - Joan C. Daley, age 91, of Glenview, IL passed away on Sept. 17, 2023. Joan was the much beloved wife of Robert ("Bob") W. Daley who preceded her in death in June 2003.

She is mourned by her daughters Eileen Dixon (John), Jeanne Lees (Edward) and Peggy Daley (Frank Libbe); her grandchildren, A.J. Dixon; Lauren, Christopher and Lindsay Lees; Allison and Benjamin Libbe; and great-grandchildren Shay and Ronen Dixon.

Joan was born and raised in Chicago, IL, the child of Lawrence and Margaret Cahill. Her brother Lawrence Cahill, Jr., died in 2004.

Joan attended St. Scholastica High School and Loyola University where she met Bob. After graduating from Loyola, Joan worked as an elementary school teacher before devoting herself fulltime to raising their daughters.

Joan and Bob were happily married for 47 years. They initially lived in Chicago and moved to Novi, MI in 1970. They were very active in the Novi community. They were founding members of Holy Family Catholic Church. Bob served as the city's second mayor from 1973-1975 and Joan served on the Novi School Board for more than a decade, including a term as president.

After Bob died in 2003, Joan returned to the Chicago area to be near two of her daughters.

Contributions in Joan's memory may be made to the Penrickton Center for Blind Children at penrickton.org or 26530 Eureka Rd, Taylor, MI 48180.



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Mastering the art of effective communication

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The internet, mobile devices and social media have changed the way people communicate. Face-to-face discussions and conversations over the phone have largely given way to video conference calls and text messaging.

Communication involves the exchange of information. Communication may seem straightforward, but it's anything but in a world in which there are so many ways to share and access information. Individuals who aspire to be more effective communicators will have to tailor their lessons according to the mode of communication being used. Someone who may be a whiz at crafting an email and distributing it may fall flat when asked to speak to a crowd in a meeting, and vice versa. Despite that, there are some general rules that work across various modes of communication.

Learn to listen

Listen before you speak is a good tip to follow. Effective communication requires good listening skills according to the professionals at Harvard University. Active listening is an undervalued skill. Once you learn it, you can learn about the other speaker and craft responses and questions accordingly based on the

information you've gleaned.

Know your audience

Customize your message based on the audience. For example, you wouldn't use the same vocabulary for a group of kindergarteners as you would for a class of college students. Tailor your message, words and energy around who is on the receiving end of your words.

Have a goal in mind

Think about why you are trying to get a message across. You may be there to inspire or provide support. Perhaps your goal is to advocate for a cause. Knowing your goal can help you craft a consistent and clear message.

Embrace brevity

People tend to be pressed for time. And if tweets and texts have taught us anything, sometimes it's best to keep communication brief for it to be most effective. Busy individuals will not want to wade through paragraphs of text or hear hours of speech. Therefore, learn to edit what you have to say to get to the point and make it stick.

Be vivid with your message

A picture paints a thousands words,



so try to harness that concept when developing your messages. Select lively verbs and use descriptive language so your message will be memorable.

Try to avoid too many idioms, particularly when communicating with a diverse audience. A saying that is well known to you may not be received the same way by someone from a different background.

Use the right method

It's easy to send a group text or go on

social media and reach a wide audience. But there's a time and a place for various methods of communication. Offering condolences via text may be viewed as insincere, while a hand-written card may be more welcomed. Critical communications with staff are best done one-on-one, rather than through email.

Communication does not come easy to all, but there are ways to hone skills and master the art of effective communication.

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