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Milford police officer resigns amid alcohol investigation

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

MILFORD — Kevin Knauss retired from the Milford Police Department in October amidst an investigation into his alcohol use while working Oct. 3, but details about what transpired that day are scant because officials won't provide reports or other information.

Knauss, a lieutenant and 21-year veteran of the department, responded to a death investigation under the influence of alcohol, village officials admit, and later was placed on administrative leave before he resigned.

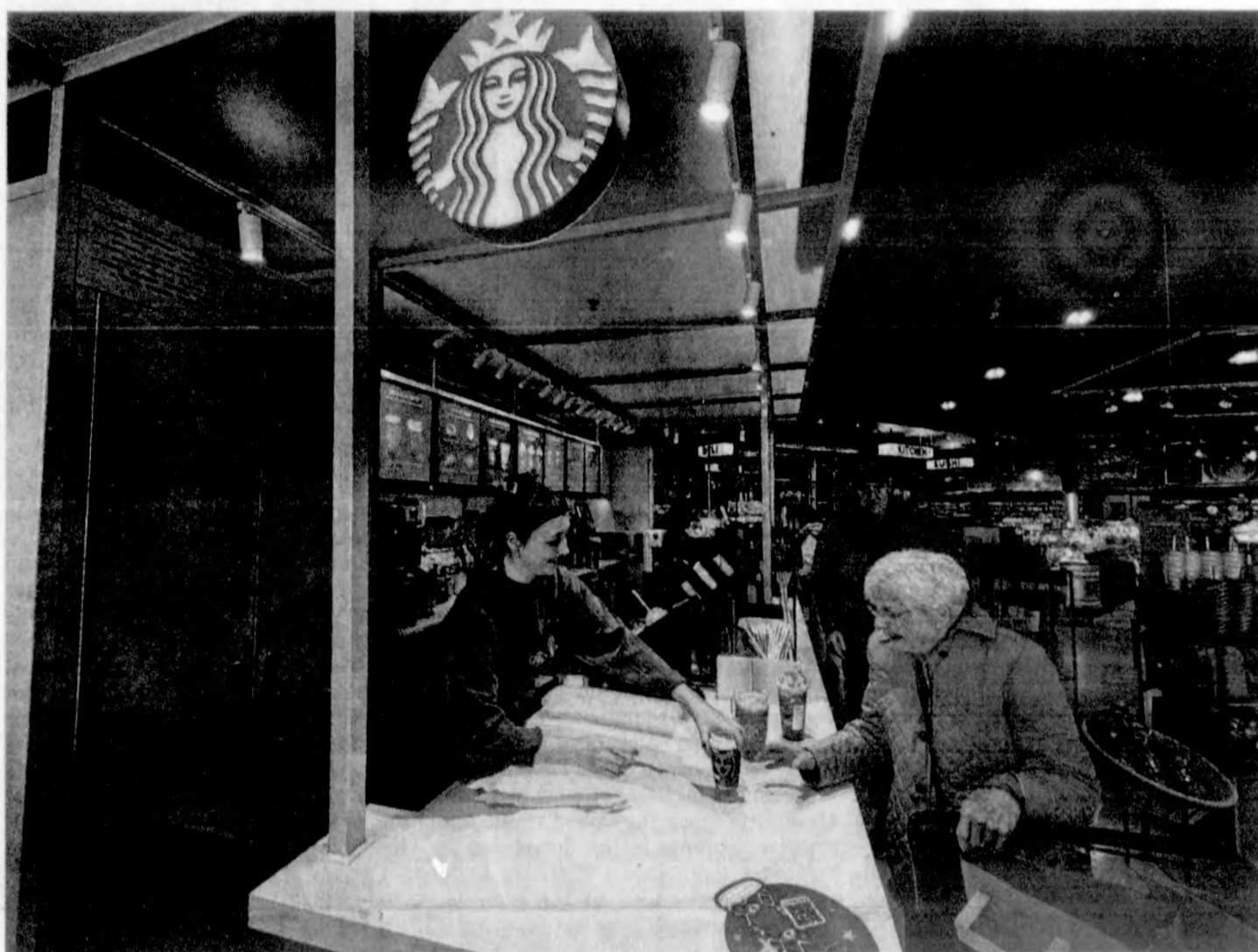
A Detroit TV station sought reports and other information from the police department about the incident and that request was denied. On Nov. 20, the Milford Village Council unanimously agreed to deny an appeal by WXYZ. The decision also nullified a FOIA request made by Hometown Life regarding the Oct. 3 incident.

On Nov. 21, village attorney Jennifer Elowsky did provide some additional information requested by Hometown Life, writing in an email, "Kevin Knauss was not charged with DUI or any type of criminal charges from his action on October 3, 2023, as his BAC limit was below 0.08."

At the beginning of the Nov. 20 council meeting, Council President Jerry Aubry addressed the TV station's FOIA appeal, and read aloud from what was labeled a statement of fact. He said that on Oct. 3, several Milford Police officers responded to a death investigation in Milford Township and Knauss "was called in from an on-call service."

"Lt. Knauss was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and officers on scene followed protocol to address that situation," Aubry said. "Police Chief Scott Tarasiewicz immediately began an internal investigation and removed Lt. Knauss from the death investigation scene and transported him to the Milford Police Department. Lt. Knauss was immediately relieved of active duty and placed on administrative leave. The department vehicle was left with the Milford Police Department and Lt. Knauss' guns were immediately surrendered and deposited in the armory."

See OFFICER, Page 4A



Reece Noble gives Beverly Dahl a small pumpkin latte with whipped cream at the Starbucks inside Busch's Market in South Lyon. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY

South Lyon pumped up for new Starbucks at Busch's

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN



Reece Noble makes a coffee drink at the new Starbucks inside Busch's Market in South Lyon.

SOUTH LYON — Just in case you're a little sleep-deprived while picking up groceries — now you can get a jolt of caffeine while shopping at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 22385 Pontiac Trail.

A full-service Starbucks counter opened Nov. 13 at Busch's, and a steady stream of customers was already fueling up the next day, including Beverly Dahl, who smiled as she picked up a small pumpkin latte — with whipped cream, of course.

"I always ask for whipped cream," Dahl said. "I usually get my coffee from the Starbucks at the Kroger at 10 Mile. This is much closer. I'm excited about it."

The new Starbucks, part of a remodeling at the South Lyon store, is the sev-

enth inside a Busch's Fresh Food Market, Busch's Starbucks specialist Adam Jezewski said.

"This is the most excited I've ever seen a community about getting a Starbucks," he said.

Jezewski said Busch's started the partnership with Starbucks in 2017, installing coffee shops in Busch's stores in Canton and Brighton.

"We align in missions — great service and great products," he said, adding that the Nov. 13 grand opening of the South Lyon Starbucks, saw a couple hundred customers at the counter ordering beverages, and/or the breakfast and lunch sandwiches and wraps that are also offered.

The Busch's Starbucks offers a full menu that is identical to standalone locations and also has the brand-only

See STARBUCKS, Page 4A

Owners of Corsi's Restaurant in Livonia ready to sell after 65 years

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — If the walls at Corsi's Restaurant and Banquet Center could talk, they'd have decades of stories to tell.

The restaurant at 27910 Seven Mile Road turns 65 this year. It's seen

countless weddings, parties and pizza dinners, drawing multiple generations of diners.

"It's a very good feeling of tradition," said Penny Corsi, one of the restaurant's four co-owners. "There's third generation people coming in here now and we, of course, love that."

Penny Corsi's in-laws, Rocco and Adelia Corsi, opened the restaurant in

1958. The couple emigrated from Italy in 1952 and knew their fellow Italians had seen success in the restaurant industry. They set up shop in a small place at the corner of Eight Mile and Inkster roads serving up carryout pizzas, complete with sauce just like Rocco Corsi's mother made back home.

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CEO attributes bd's Mongolian Grill closure in Novi to several reasons

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — The BD's Mongolian Grill on Main Street has closed its doors for good.

Company leader Gregg Majewski, who granted a rare interview regarding a restaurant closure, said its demise is the result of a multitude of troubling factors, both hyper-local and statewide.

Majewski, CEO of Craveworthy Brands, initially cited the end of a lease early next year and the pandemic for the closure of the restaurant at 43155 Main St.

"We never fully recovered in that location from COVID, and we decided it was better to consolidate operations instead of renewing our lease and struggling in a location that wasn't profitable," Majewski said.

He went on to say Michigan's recovery for restaurants was "much different" than the 26 other states where Craveworthy operates 11 restaurant chains, including BD's Mongolian Grill, which offers a "create your own stir fry" concept.

Majewski, who founded Craveworthy in 2022 and previously was CEO of Jimmy John's, cited state policies that prevented earlier opening of restaurants, which in turn allowed customer "tendencies and traffic patterns to change over time," resulting in a slow return to business.

"More restaurants are closing in Michigan than anywhere," Majewski said.

But, he added, the problems go much deeper than COVID and he suggested many more restaurants will close in an economy that is good for upper-class diners, but not for the middle class or those living paycheck to paycheck who are now cooking more at home as prices rise.

Majewski acknowledged BD's Mongolian Grill in Novi faced some unique issues, as well.



bd's Mongolian Grill, 43155 Main St. in Novi, has permanently closed, with multiple factors playing a role according to the company's CEO. SUSAN BROMLEY

The restaurant, established on Main Street in the late 1990s enjoyed popularity more because of its brand name, Majewski said, than its location, in a "downtown" that city officials have sought to help, but which continues to look like a ghost town.

Joseph Rashed, manager and former owner of Alexandria's Mediterranean Cuisine, expressed sadness over the closing of BD's Mongolian Grill, next door to his own restaurant, which was empty on a recent Tuesday evening.

He and Mimi Barakat, now owner of Alexandria's, say they need traffic and more restaurants in the downtown in

order to succeed.

Rashed speculated diners are, perhaps, going to nicer, more visible areas in the city, like Fountain Walk.

"Stores closed because of COVID and high rent," he said. "They need to reopen. We plan to stay for now, but it's really sad."

BD's Mongolian Grill is just the latest restaurant closure in a downtown that has very few restaurants or retail shops open. BiBimBab, a Korean restaurant, is dark, with a sign showing the doors to the award-winning eatery closed at the end of May after 20 years. Diners are directed to Oishi, a Japanese restaurant in

the downtown, which has limited lunch and dinner hours.

Other storefronts also are empty downtown: Michigan Beer Company closed in the wake of the pandemic, with a now-curling sign on the empty building's window declaring the former owners thought it better not to renew their lease after five years.

Juliana Fradlis, owner of IMA Sports, is one of the few tenants downtown.

"If it wasn't for us, we'd be a dead building," she said, gesturing toward both the empty Korean restaurant, as well as a space directly across from her that was formerly occupied as the Lazy Lizard Cantina, but which she said has been empty for more than eight years. "Restaurants are not doing good after COVID. You'd think it was back to normal now, but it's not. People would rather go to West Oaks and the mall... I hope this building stays alive."

Majewski holds little hope, saying the fire station on Grand River obstructs the view of the downtown and to turn things around, city officials would have to give tax incentives to businesses until traffic increases.

"No one in their right mind should put any restaurant there," Majewski said. "Parking is an issue and it's not a vibrant downtown."

He adds that it pained him to leave after the location was remodeled and had seen long-term success. Despite closures of other BD's Mongolian Grills in Ann Arbor and Royal Oak, Majewski said the eatery's concept is still popular and is being streamlined toward a trend of smaller restaurant spaces.

Majewski has no plans to put another of the restaurants in Novi. Instead, he extended his thanks to longtime customers and directed them to BD's Mongolian Grills in Dearborn, Sterling Heights or Canton, the latter of which has seen a 50% increase in business since the Novi BD's closed.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

Whitmer announces special election dates for open Michigan House seats

Clara Hendrickson and Arpan Lobo
Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On Wednesday, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer called for special elections to fill two seats in the Michigan House of Representatives vacated by Democratic lawmakers after the pair left Lansing to serve as mayors of Warren and Westland.

Primaries will take place on Jan. 30, 2024, and the general election on April 16, 2024, Whitmer announced in a letter sent to Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. Candidates have until 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 27, to file affidavits announcing their intentions to run in the special elections.

Former state Reps. Lori Stone, D-Warren, and Kevin Coleman, D-West-

land, were both recently sworn in as their city's mayors. Their new roles temporarily end Democrats' majority in the state House with 54 Democratic lawmakers and 54 GOP lawmakers left serving.

"The Michigan Legislature had one of the most productive sessions in Michigan history thanks to Michiganders who elected leaders, like state representatives Coleman and Stone, to get things done on the issues that make a real difference in people's lives," Whitmer said in a news release. "As we look ahead to 2024, these special elections will ensure that Michiganders in the 13th and 25th districts have representation in Lansing working for them as soon as possible. I look forward to working with the next representatives from these districts when voters elect them in the new year."

The two departing representatives leave behind safely Democratic districts — Coleman won his district with 63% of the vote while Stone won her district with 67% of the vote in the 2022 midterm election.

"I feel very confident that we'll be back to full strength after the special elections in our caucus," House Speaker Joe Tate, D-Detroit, told the Free Press. Even with an even 54-54 partisan split, Democrats still maintain control of the gavel and legislative committees under House rules.

House Minority Leader Matt Hall, R-Richland Township, had floated the idea of a shared-power agreement between the parties in the House, but Tate made it clear that won't be the case.

"We're not in shared power. Democrats still control the gavel," Tate said

Nov. 9, when the House adopted its early adjournment resolution. Still, it's unclear what measures will be able to pass the chamber once it returns in January, since all bills will have to have bipartisan support to pass.

Under Michigan election law, it's up to the governor to decide the timing for a special election. After the primary, a special general election will be held to determine who will serve as Coleman and Stone's replacements in Lansing for the remainder of their terms expiring at the end of 2024.

Editor's note: This story has been corrected to reflect that the special election primary date is Jan. 30, 2024.

Contact Clara Hendrickson at chendrickson@freepress.com or 313-296-5743. Follow her on X, previously called Twitter, @clarajanehen.

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Newsroom Contacts:

Stephanie Angel, Executive Editor
Office: 577-377-101
sangel@gannett.com
Follow us on Facebook: @OEHometown

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Northville Twp. police to host parent forum on social media, cellphones

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE TWP. — Parents of teens and tweens are looking for expert advice when it comes to keeping kids safe from cyberbullying, sexting, online enticement and related issues.

That's the word from Northville Township School Resource Officer Michael Brown, one of several presenters who will speak at an educational forum titled "The Dangers of Social Media: Partners in Your Safety with Northville Township Police Department."

The event takes place 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, at Northville High School Auditorium, 45700 Six Mile Road.

"This is something parents have been requesting," Brown said. "We'll look at current trends, current social



JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

media apps, current ways kids are using their phones. If you have an interest in learning how to keep your kid safe (online), I would encourage you to come. We expect a high turnout of parents."

Topics will include online enticement, cyberbullying, sexting, phishing scams, social media applications and uses, online threats and parental involvement.

During the event, parents and care-

givers will have the opportunity to meet the township police department's embedded social worker, school resource officers, detective who specializes in internet crimes involving children, community service officer and Max, the therapy dog.

Brown said parents can expect a formal presentation and plenty of time for questions.

"It's going to be a conversation," he said. "I know parents will have other questions that pertain to things like cellphones and school threats. Any parent who has plans on providing their kid with a phone at some point, this is an educational piece for them."

"Whether they are in district or not, I urge parents to come if they have an interest in learning more about internet safety, social media safety, maybe some of the crime trends Northville Township is seeing, how we investigate those and measures we use to keep our kids safe."

Northville Twp. Fire creates deputy chief position, hires 5 firefighters

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE TWP. — In a hiring environment where fire departments are among the many employers struggling to fill the ranks, Chief Brent Siegel says his department is now fully staffed.

The department recently hired five experienced firefighters — including Northville Township's first two fulltime female firefighters — and also created a new deputy chief position.

Tom Hughes, Northville Township Fire Department's current fire marshal and a 19-year veteran of the department, was recently named to the deputy chief position. He'll step into the role Jan. 1.

Hughes' vacated fire marshal role will also likely be filled from within, Siegel said. The individual who fills that position will also begin Jan. 1.

'He models every single thing we look for'

Siegel said several factors led to the creation of the new deputy chief position, which is salaried at \$128,000 plus benefits.

"We have a lot of initiatives and programs that we'd like to develop in terms of depth and breadth," Siegel said, noting the department previously had a deputy chief but eliminated the position in 2006. "To effectively achieve our organizational goals we felt that position was needed."

A clearly established second-in-command was also needed in the growing department, Siegel added. The new deputy chief will also assist with succession planning, fire prevention and other community risk reduction efforts.

"Tom (Hughes) built our community risk reduction program from the ground up," Siegel said. "He is extremely professional and does everything to an extremely high level. He models every single thing we look for as a firefighter and as a formal leader in our organization. He really has the complete package of education, experience and professional certifications to be very successful and hit the ground running in the new position."

Hughes grew up in Northville, earned a bachelor's degree in public safety studies from Siena Heights

University, a master's degree in technology studies from Eastern Michigan and is

working on his MBA from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign.

He joined the Northville Township Fire Department in 2004, was promoted to fire inspector in 2012 and then to fire marshal in 2017.

"Serving the township with this incredible team has truly been an honor, and I look forward to supporting the men and women of our team in a new role," Hughes said.



Firefighter Aidan Gawura, Firefighter Jacqueline Przytulski, Fire Chief Brent Siegel, Firefighter Lacey Marcotte, Firefighter Jeremy Dochenetz and Firefighter Robert Casamatta pose for a photo after a ceremony at Northville Township Hall.

COURTESY NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP



Tom Hughes is Northville Township's new deputy fire chief. DEE PETILA

Five new-to-Northville firefighters join the ranks

The department also hired five new firefighters to fill four vacancies created by recent retirements, as well as the anticipated vacancy created when the fire marshal role is filled.

Of those, two are the first fulltime female firefighters to wear the Northville Township uniform.

"The importance of females in the fire service is tremendous," Siegel said. "They have a ton to offer. It's super important to add diversity to our workplace and the two female candidates we just hired already have an established reputation in southeast Michigan. They have a phenomenal resumes and work histories and reputations. I think they'll add exactly what we're looking for."

In 2022, the department hired seven new firefighters. The five recruits for 2023, along with their hometowns and former employers, include:

- Robert Casamatta, Fowlerville (formerly Garden City Fire Department)
- Jeremy Dochenetz, Livonia (formerly Canton Township Fire Department)
- Lacey Marcotte, Belleville (formerly Wayne County Airport Authority)
- Jacqueline Przytulski, Dearborn (formerly Wayne County Airport Authority)
- Aidan Gawura, Pinckney (formerly Bloomfield Township Fire Department)

"That we've been able to recruit top talent in today's hiring environment is really remarkable," Siegel said. "There's not a lot of new people going into the fire service business. I think our department is really a destination depart-

ment."

Siegel said he attributes the "destination" status to a high level of professionalism in the department, community work that attracts people in the fire service, a supportive community and supportive township leadership, as well as "excellent wages and benefits."

The department, Siegel added, has grown significantly over the years. The addition of commercial developments, increased traffic and an aging population, including nine senior living facilities, have contributed to an increase in call volume.

According to a press release from Northville Township, calls for service have increased by nearly 49% since 2012 with the township's population growth, which is now just under 32,000 residents. The fire department responded to more than 3,500 incidents in 2022.

"We never really had adequate staffing until recently to support the call volume," Siegel said. "Our staffing has finally been set at a level to support our call volume and the needs of the community as well."

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

Farmington Hills gets resident input for land development plan

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON HILLS — Residents are chiming in with ideas on how Farmington Hills should head into the future.

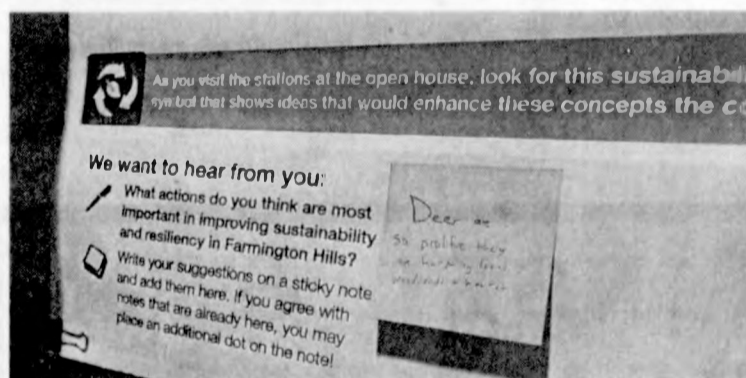
City officials hope to come up with a master plan that creates a "dynamic vision" that will shape development in the city for years to come and as part of that effort they have conducted multiple listening sessions. The latest session took place Nov. 16 at The Hawk, 29995 12 Mile Road, where numerous people offered input.

"At this point, we're asking people about all kinds of things and getting reactions from people," said Charmaine Kettler-Schmult, the city's director of planning and community development. "Anything is fair game."

Creating more active spaces

Kettler-Schmult said the city is looking at Grand River Avenue, 12 Mile Road, Northwestern Highway and the northern portion of Orchard Lake Road as opportunities for "activity nodes," or areas with elements similar to a downtown — such as attainable housing and public art. But officials see the City of Farmington as a downtown area for their residents.

"We don't have a downtown vision," Kettler-Schmult said. "What we're look-



ing at is the possibility of activity nodes, which are not a downtown but a hybrid. It would have some of the elements of a downtown without being a downtown. Farmington Hills is not set up to have a downtown, and we have a very close connection with Farmington."

Tricia Ahern, a resident who was inspired to learn more about the master planning process by the proposed redevelopment of the shopping center where Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum is located on Orchard Lake Road, said she thinks the city could be more pedestrian-friendly and benefit from more restaurants.

"I think we do really well with parks and things like that," she said. "We may be need more walkability."

Residents Judy and Joe Derek, said they'd like to see the city focus on preserving its remaining green space.

"I don't want to see more develop-

ments," said Joe Derek, the city's former naturalist. "Our green spaces are important. It's a lot different than when we moved here 30 years ago."

What comes next?

According to Kettler-Schmult, offi-

As city officials seek public input on plans, one resident asked the city to crack down on its deer population.

SHELBY

TANKERSLEY/

HOMETOWN

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cials and consultants will use resident input submitted online and during listening sessions to create a draft plan that will then go back to the public for input for about two months. Kettler-Schmult said she expects the draft plan to be completed in about a month.

The final plan will need approval from the city's planning commission and council, both of which also allow public comment during meetings. Once a plan is approved, the city may also need to reevaluate its zoning laws.

People can still submit input online by visiting the Master Plan Update tab on the city's website.

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.

NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL VACANCY CITY OF NOVI

Notice is hereby given of a vacancy on the Novi City Council. If you are interested in applying for appointment for the partial term ending in November 2025, please complete an application at <https://www.cityofnovi.org/government/city-council/>. Applications are also available at the City Clerk's Office. Submit your completed application to the City Clerk's Office, 45175 Ten Mile, Novi, MI 48375, via email to chanson@cityofnovi.org, or by fax 248-347-0577. The deadline for submission of applications is Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 4 p.m. Interviews will be held on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road.

Cortney Hanson, MMC, MPMC III
City Clerk

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Fuel up on Saroki's Crispy Chicken & Pizza at Lyon Township Shell station

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LYON TWP. — The newest Saroki's Crispy Chicken & Pizza franchise opens Nov. 25, but before that stop in for free samples before 5:30 p.m. Nov. 22 and Nov. 24 at 20777 Pontiac Trail, inside the Shell gas station.

Opening day is the same day as the Michigan vs. Ohio State game, said owner Matthew Abro, who is excited to offer a new takeout option for fans of both football and fresh food.

"We're very big on chicken. It has a little kick to it, but it's very, very good," Abro said. "We get nothing but compliments for our brick oven pizza, too — not many people have that... The quality is much better with a brick oven. Everything here is made from scratch, nothing is frozen."

A grand opening for the franchise is planned for Dec. 13, with many prize giveaways, including free pizza for a



Saroki's Crispy Chicken & Pizza is opening inside the Shell gas station at 20777 Pontiac Trail in Lyon Township. SUSAN BROMLEY

year and gas gift cards.

Abro's partnership with Shell station owner Brent Jamil is a growing trend of restaurants placed inside gas stations, allowing customers to fuel up their vehicles and themselves.

The convenience is a major draw for customers as well as the business part-

ners, Jamil said.

"He had the skills, I had the location," said Jamil, who proposed a year ago that Abro place a Saroki's inside the Lyon Township Shell station he opened more than two decades ago with a 4,200-square-foot interior.

From 2005 to 2013, that space simultaneously held a Krispy Krunchy Chicken and Tubby's sub shop, but Jamil may have been a little too far ahead of the curve on the gas station restaurant concept at that time.

"I don't think there was enough around here to support the food business a decade ago," Jamil said. "Now the population has doubled in the last 10 years and a lot has been built. The customers were asking for food."

Jamil believes the addition of Saroki's will make the Shell station a one-stop shop for groceries, liquor, tobacco, gas and ready-made food.

Saroki's does not have tables for customers, but makes food fresh to order and also has a hot case stocked with

popular to-go items.

Among the hit menu items are fried chicken, chicken and fish sandwiches, salads, wraps, subs, stromboli, and New York-style pizza. Side dishes include macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw, biscuits, potato wedges, and fried corn.

Saroki's, which first opened in Wixom in 2011, has quickly gained in popularity. The Lyon Township location is one of 12 listed on the Saroki's website as "coming soon," joining nine already open.

"We're trying to provide something city has been needing for a long time," Jamil said. "We want to take care of our South Lyon community."

Saroki's Crispy Chicken & Pizza, 20777 Pontiac Trail, is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays. Call 248-617-4777.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

Mother, son sentenced in KitchenAid thefts

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON HILLS — A mother and son from Farmington Hills have been sentenced in connection with the theft of KitchenAid mixers from area Target stores.

Lisa Roussey, 60, and Brian Roussey, 31, were sentenced by Judge Cheryl Matthews, of the 6th Circuit Court in Pontiac, on Nov. 21 and Oct. 18, respectively. Lisa Roussey, who pleaded no contest to three counts of organized re-

tail fraud, will spend three to 10 years in prison. Her son, who pleaded guilty to three counts of organized retail fraud, will serve 128 days.

The two also will jointly pay \$20,108 restitution to Target. Lisa Roussey is serving a longer sentence due to a history of theft-related crimes, the Michigan Attorney General's Office said in a press release.

According to prosecutors, the duo began stealing KitchenAid mixers, which cost as much as \$500, from various Target stores in metro Detroit in late 2020. The two would then sell the appli-

ances on online resale platforms, such as Facebook Marketplace. The scheme continued through late 2022.

Target estimates the two stole \$20,000 in goods from stores.

"I would like to specifically thank the efforts of those detectives and officers with the Farmington Hills Police Department whose long hours and hard work led to the arrest of the Rousseys," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said in a release.

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

Starbucks

Continued from Page 1A

mugs and other Starbucks items. The location takes rewards, accepts mobile orders and encourages app use.

Staffed by Busch's employees who have been trained to make the drinks, and who Jezewski calls a "strong, capable team," the Starbucks inside Busch's is open 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on X @Susan-Bromley10.

Officer

Continued from Page 1A

Aubry said Knauss never returned to work during the internal investigation and, on Oct. 25, while still under investigation, Knauss submitted his official retirement notice, which was effective two days later.

Ross Jones, an investigative reporter for WXYZ-TV, originally submitted a FOIA request to village officials on Oct. 24, seeking "All memos, reports, and investigations related to an October 3, 2023 incident where a police officer was suspected of being under the influence."

Just under a week later, he was informed by Sabrina Mertes, MPD executive assistant/records, that his request would be granted as to "existing, non-exempt records" with an estimated processing fee of \$81.81.

However, Jones said that in a Nov. 6 email, Elowsky wrote, "There simply are no FOIA-eligible 'memos, reports, or investigations related to an October 3, 2023, incident where a police officer was suspected of being under the influence.'"

In correspondence to Tarasiewicz dated Nov. 15 and included in the coun-

cil's Nov. 20 packet, Elowsky writes that Jones was not denied access and reiterates the above about FOIA-eligible materials not existing.

Elowsky noted there were multiple police reports of Oct. 3 incidents, "but they do not contain any reference to Mr. Jones' specific request (an officer being under the influence)."

Elowsky said that if Jones is "looking for personnel records or internal investigation documents generated by MPD, then those materials are exempt under MCL 15.243 (1)(s)."

In a Nov. 12 email, Jones appealed the FOIA request denial, writing in part, "It should go without saying that the public interest in understanding the behavior of a police officer suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or other substances while on duty, driving a police vehicle and carrying a firearm is overwhelming, as is the behavior of that officer's colleagues and superiors in response..."

The village's denial blinds the public from understanding the conduct, or misconduct, of its own sworn officers. Even if police officers did not wield enormous authority, shielding this information from public view would be deeply problematic because it is the public who pays the salaries of these

employees. But officers' authority to arrest, imprison and in extreme cases even kill those they encounter makes their conduct and the circumstances surrounding their suspected or documented misconduct all the more critical to understand."

Elowsky explained to the council that the Freedom of Information Act favors public disclosure and is intended to promote government transparency. But in this particular instance, Elowsky said, the law exempts from disclosure personnel records of law enforcement agencies, including internal investigation records.

"Internal investigations are difficult, employees are reluctant to give statements about the actions of fellow employees — which you know, makes sense," she said. "Officers' statements in internal investigations that are subject to public disclosure, officers might refuse to give statements or may not be as candid or forthcoming... Public disclosure could be detrimental to some employees in cases such as whistleblower actions. Public records in regard to internal investigations could destroy or severely diminish a police department's ability to effectively conduct such investigations."

Council President Pro-tem Jim Ko-

vach said he was struggling with denying a FOIA request regarding a police investigation when internal investigations of other employee groups would not be exempt.

"It would be uncomfortable and hard to provide information against co-workers and could be detrimental, but these employees couldn't shield themselves," he said. "This stuff would be out in the open for these people... I know the police department has a whole different group of responsibilities and certainly there are times where I can see this being applicable, I'm just not sure I'm comfortable with the reasons given that it's applicable to deny the FOIA for these statements."

Aubry responded, "Part of the problem is that then no other officer would ever come forward ever again to say anything."

Elowsky told the council they had three options: to uphold the denial, reverse it and release all documents or do a hybrid in which they could release records with redaction of certain pieces of sensitive information.

The council chose to uphold the denial of the Freedom of Information Act request completely.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.



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Corsi's

Continued from Page 1A

"The pizza is still the original recipe with the original sauce," Penny Corsi said. "Dean (Corsi) makes it and my father-in-law used to. It's the recipe my father-in-law's mother made in Italy. They're very, very fussy about the sauce."

The business expanded over the years, eventually moving to the Seven Mile location, where expansions for a bar and banquet hall happened in the 1970s. Corsi's was the family's whole life.

The couple's two sons, Louie and Dean Corsi, even met their wives, Penny and Karen Corsi, at the restaurant. The Livonia Observer printed a special Valentine's Day story on the couples in 2010 that now sits framed at the restaurant.

Keeping a family tradition of good food and good fun alive

People who've been going to Corsi's for years know the menu hasn't changed much over time. The family still makes sauce and noodles from scratch. According to Penny Corsi, pizza is still the most popular thing on the menu. The restaurant also serves other Italian classics like lasagna and cannoli.

She said the restaurant has been blessed with great staff, but recipes remain within the family. Kids, cousins, aunts and uncles from their family tree have worked at the restaurant. Today, Louie, Dean, Penny and Karen Corsi own the place together.

"We always had our kids with us," Penny Corsi said. "Louie and I have two daughters, and when they were small they would come here with us. Back in the '80s we were really big with banquets and were kind of a hot spot for that. Our girls would set up the parties with us and fold the napkins. That's how they earned money for their first two-wheeler bikes."

Even when things got difficult, the family never forgot who they were working for.

"It can be very stressful working with family, but my mother-in-law kind of instilled in all of us that family comes first," Corsi said. "Sometimes you have to let things go because your family is



The current Corsi family management team at Corsi's Restaurant and Banquet Center in Livonia includes, back, Dean and Karen Corsi, and front, Louie and Penny Corsi. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PENNY CORSI



An old sign for Corsi's Restaurant in Livonia.

important."

Getting ready to say goodbye

These days, the four Corsis who own the restaurant are ready to retire; and their business, as well as their building have been for sale for several years. Penny Corsi said pandemic-related struggles made the decision to sell easy.

In recent years, the business has cut back on parties and weddings, mostly sticking with showers and funeral luncheons on the bar side. She joked that they're all getting too old for Corsi's to be the party hotbed — "Joe" the bartender was, according to the family, a local celebrity — it once was.

"We sent the kids to college so they would never have to do this," she said. "It's a very hard life, also. When my children were little, my husband would never get to see them."

The owners are open to sell their business or just their building. But the secrets to those family recipes?

"That's negotiable," Corsi said as she laughed.

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



Rocco and Adelia Corsi, who founded Corsi's Restaurant in 1958. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"It can be very stressful working with family, but my mother-in-law kind of instilled in all of us that family comes first. Sometimes you have to let things go because your family is important."

Penny Corsi

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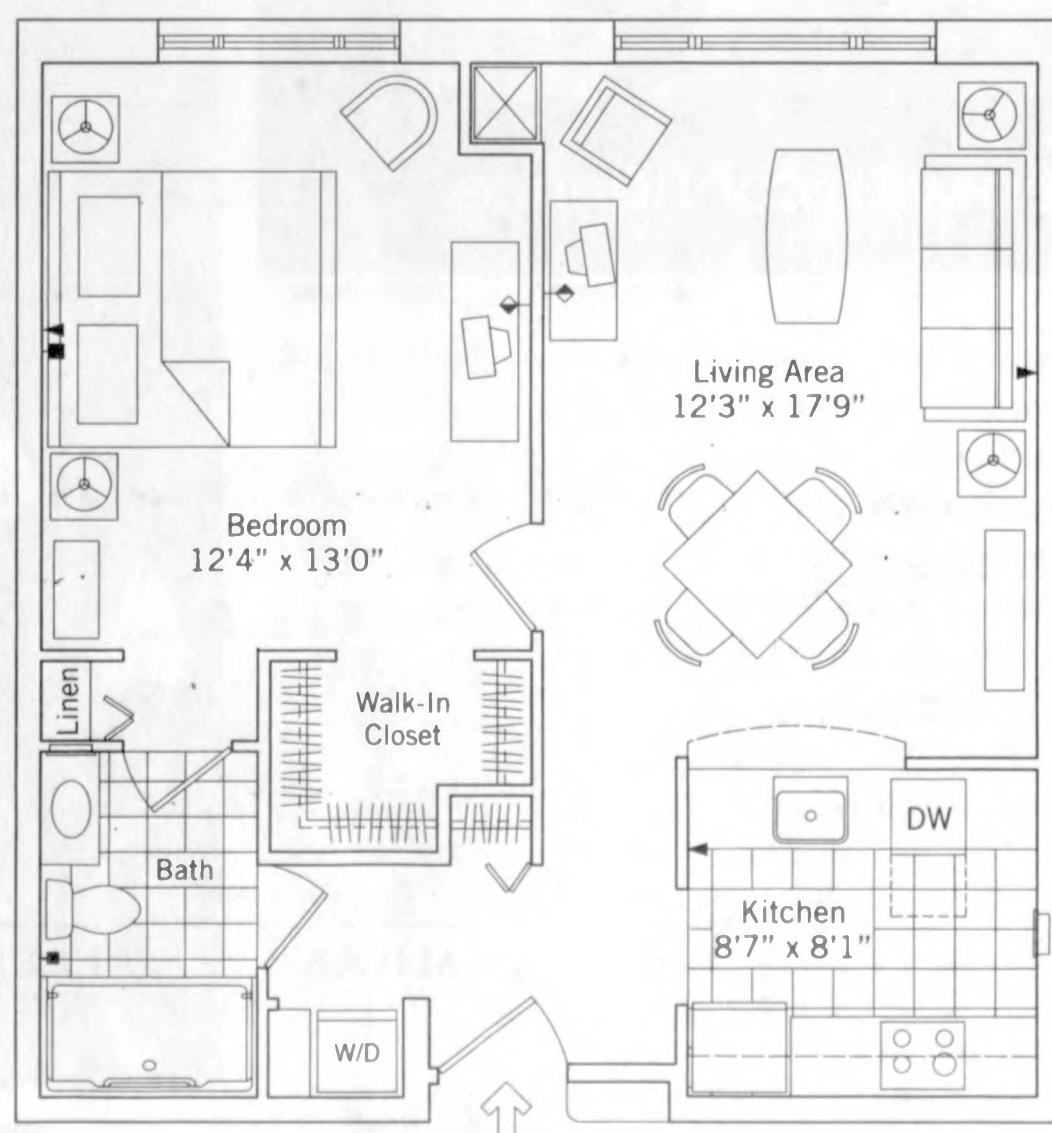
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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

Adelaide	Crab	Leura	Rare	Train
Agog	Crab	Leura	Rivers	Trek
Alawa	Delby	Lost	Roma	Trip
Axes	Easel	Maya	Rush	View
Beauty	Echua	Merino	Ryde	Water
Bega	Eden	Omoo	Sail	Weir
Blyth	Eucla	Ouse	Shark Bay	West
Bondi	Feed	Perth	Site	Whales
Busy	Ferry	Port	Snow	Yass
Cars	Flash	Douglas	Stalls	
Cities	Mike	Prawn	Steps	
Coach	Kimba	Ramp	Town	

TODAY'S ANSWER

Plenty to see and do

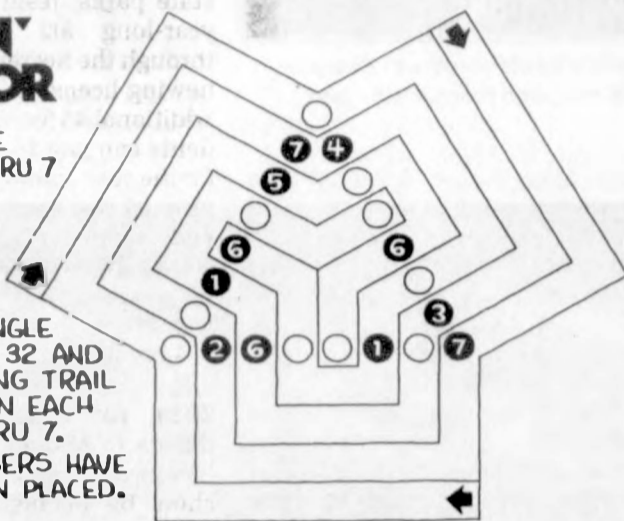
All over Australia

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

PUZZLES & POSERS

TRAIL 'N' ERROR

ARRANGE THE NUMBERS 1 THRU 7 THREE TIMES AROUND THE EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE. EACH SIDE OF THE TRIANGLE MUST TOTAL 32 AND EACH SPIRALING TRAIL MUST CONTAIN EACH NUMBER 1 THRU 7. ELEVEN NUMBERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PLACED.



SUDOKU | CREATORS

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

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

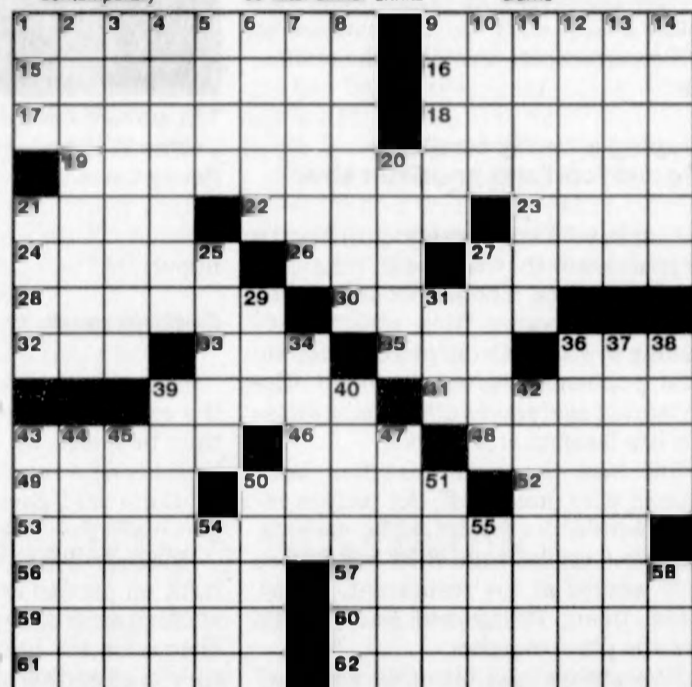
- 1 Aesop's shepherd, e.g.
9 Bet
15 It's between Atlanta and Chattanooga
16 Addresses
17 Waiting
18 Pizza's partner potables in Home Alone
19 Stop order
21 Word from the Greek for "century"
22 Onetime Pringles Light ingredient
23 Cry for attention
24 Predominance
26 Shuttered shooter
27 Intuition, so to speak
28 Only thought
30 He wrote *Materialism and Empirio-criticism* at the British Museum (1908)
32 Literature Nobel
23 years after GBS
33 Designate
35 Healer's handle
36 South Island stuffed souvenir
39 Mayflower or heather
41 Bodies of bees
43 What koi can consume
46 Hard hats' wet concrete
48 Certain Pillar fulfiller
49 ___ dog
50 Takeoff
52 It's not impossible
53 Like dictionaries
56 Wildlife photographer's aid
57 Course heading

DOWN

- 1 *Compagnon* frequente
2 Beacons lens enclosures
3 Chicago's Siskel Film Center, for instance
4 2023 Super Bowl performer
5 Venue for vaults
6 1920's ___-Ethiopian Treaty
7 Publicity pieces
8 Nellie Bly contemporary
9 Western home of the Tyrolean Lodge
10 Minor, quite possibly
11 Tower with the power
12 Gave out
13 Place for pollen
14 Allowed
20 Dog: ___
21 Sit by
25 Emulate Ken Jennings
27 Japanese letters on Times Square's first eco billboard
29 Its library holds about 40K genealogies
31 National Gratitude Mo.
34 Raises, likewise without its first and third letter
36 After-dinner drinks

37 Don't readily

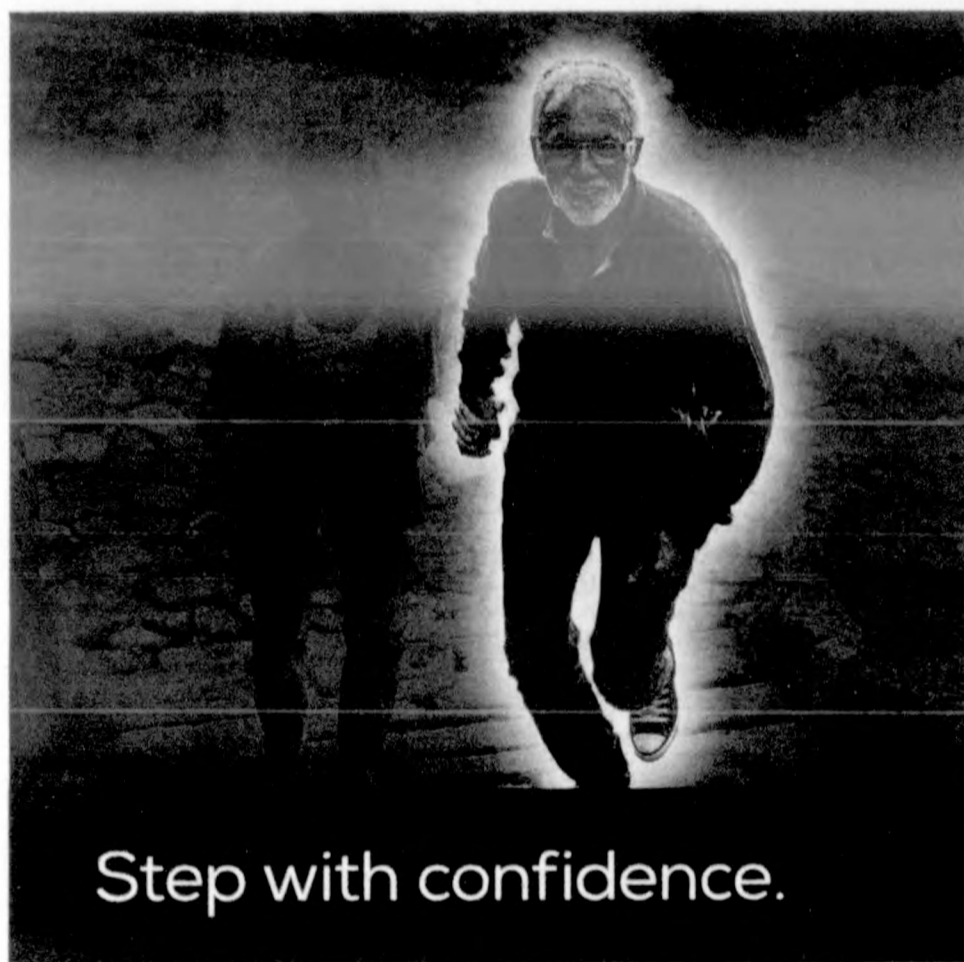
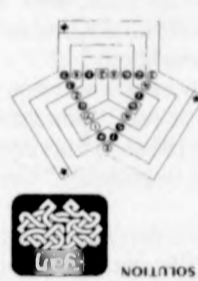
- accept
38 "Ain't gonna happen!"
39 Playground spot in Sussex
40 Like bleach bottles
42 Bucks
43 Conduct (oneself)
44 Hotel accommodation
45 Minimal minerals
47 Buck
50 Polygonal, by definition
51 Rapper's distinctive style
54 Flashcard-style
55 Proton donor, in chemistry
58 "Her ___ sae bright, like stars at night": Burns



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

11/25/23

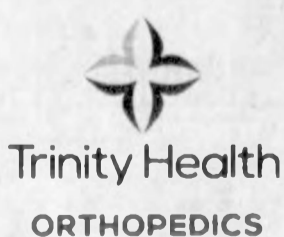
TODAY'S ANSWER



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Give the gift of a Michigan experience

Mike Ellis

Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

You may never pick the right *stuff* for some people, so put down the Amazon app and dodge the malls this year with this guide to giving uniquely Michigan experiences as gifts.

Experiences tend to make people happier than material things, according to research by Amit Kumar, a University of Texas assistant professor.

So if years of research is telling us to skip the tie and earrings in place of a fun trip, all that's left is booking the perfect experience.

The best part?

You don't have to wrap anything. Print out the confirmation email and put it in a nice envelope if you're into that kind of thing. Or just send them a text and a link and, if you're invited, remember to show up for the fun.

Catch a game in-person with the "they're-actually-winning" Lions (join the waitlist for 2024 tickets here) or their major-league peers, the Tigers (season tickets starting at \$1,620), Red Wings (\$98 for a New Year's Eve ticket against the Boston Bruins) and Pistons (lower bowl season membership starts at \$35 per game).

Those are all in Detroit, but there are plenty of other teams, leagues and even sports across the state to see. In addition to an active college sports scene, Michigan has about 50 professional or semi-pro teams, including minor league baseball, basketball, soccer and roller hockey teams.

Stick around the Lansing area and take in a Lansing Lugnuts game from the high A-affiliate of the Oakland Athletics (get a six-game, all-you-can-eat set of box seats for \$384) or be an early supporter of the football club Lansing Common (season tickets start at \$80). Lansing Roller Derby helps to host a statewide championship in October. Check back for 2024 information.

Visit Mackinac Island, go for the fudge and a stroll in the most carless part of a car-loving state, stay at the renovated The Inn at Stonecliffe, a 1904 Edwardian estate, or The Grand Hotel (room rates start at \$313 a night in May).



Fans pour into Ford Field before the first regular 2022 season game in the then-new facility for the Detroit Lions. TOM PIDGEON/GETTY IMAGES

Look into off-island lodging or plan an offseason spring or fall trip to save money. The island features a state park, which was once the nation's second national park behind only Yellowstone. Don't forget to take full advantage of a dozen fudge shops that all offer free samples, according to the island's tourism bureau.

Celebrate spring and gardens with a Michigan green thumb and a visit to a botanical garden. Three of Michigan's finest public gardens each have beautiful sights indoors and will explode in color after the winter. In Grand Rapids, the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park has a contemporary tree sculpture exhibit with work from Emilie Brzezinski, Nick Cave, Kim Cridler, Ai Weiwei and more. University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens has an indoor conservatory with plants from around the world. And Oudolf Garden Detroit is far smaller, with a stunning urban garden, located on Belle Isle in Detroit, near the Belle Isle Aquarium, one of the nation's oldest aquariums. The Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, also on the island, is being renovated and is expected to open by summer.

Dig into Michigan's agriculture heritage. The state features a wider variety of crops than any state except for

California, according to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. From pumpkins and Christmas trees (the No. 3 state) to tulip and cherry festivals, agritourism is a growing part of the state's economy. Or sign up for a session of goat yoga with Plymouth-based The Goat Yoga, whose profits benefit Serenity Oaks Equine Sanctuary. Michigan's maple syrup fans can go right to the source with events for Michigan Maple Week, which varies but typically starts in mid-March. Find out more here.

Party time in Michigan. A state with legal and readily available recreational marijuana is beginning to expand its pot tourism. Many of the state's traditional tourism advocates have yet to roll out big promotions, but Michigan Cannabis Trail offers recommendations for marijuana-friendly lodging along with suggestions for picking among Michigan's more than 500 dispensaries. Michigan's craft brewery industry is further along, with regular events and dozens of breweries that offer a variety of live music or opportunities to explore the creations. The Michigan Brewers Guild is hosting the 18th Annual Winter Beer Festival in Comstock Park in February. The state also has 26 casinos, many of them feature regular music. Upcoming acts in-

cluding Michael Bolton, Extreme with Living Color, Kenny G, Smokey Robinson and Brian McKnight.

Camp out or just stay for the day in one of Michigan's hundreds of camping destinations. From one of the state's most popular campgrounds at Sleeping Bear Dunes and kayaking around Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore to the nation's least-visited continental national park, the night-sky showcasing Isle Royale National Park. The lonely national park is one of many Michigan spots that could be good for northern lights this coming year, updated forecasts are expecting more northern light activity in 2024.

Required for Michigan's 100-plus state parks, residents can purchase a year-long \$12 Recreation Passport through the Secretary of State when renewing license tabs online. There's an additional \$5 fee at the parks. Non-residents can pay \$9 for a day pass or \$34 for the year. Camping is generally an additional cost based on the site, the date and number of people. Visit www2.dnr.state.mi.us/parksandtrails for reservations and more state park information.

Live music: There should be several major tours coming to Michigan in 2024. You can start with Christmas tickets to Mariah Carey or Mannheim Steamroller and a makeup January show by Michigan native Madonna. Spring and summer tours will bring Olivia Rodrigo, Bad Bunny, Green Day and many other acts, big and small, to Michigan. Or pick the venue first instead and check out Baker's Keyboard Lounge in Detroit, which calls itself the oldest jazz club in the world.

In Lansing, you can catch live music at Grewal Hall at 224 (The Verve Pipe in December and comedian Jimmy Dore in February), Wharton Center for the Performing Arts (Cirque Dreams "Holidaze" in December and a classical trio featuring Yo-Yo Ma in January), Mac's Bar (comedy on Mondays and electronic music on Tuesdays) and The Green Door (with The Insiders, a tribute to Tom Petty, on Thanksgiving weekend).

If I didn't include your favorite experience, please let me know. I'm at mellis@lsj.com or 517-267-0415

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SPORTS



Livonia Franklin senior and 2023 Hometown Life All-Area Player of the Year Jon Jasionowski rushes during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East football game in October at Livonia Churchill. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

Meet the 2023 Hometown Life All-Area football team

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom names his 2022 Hometown Life All-Area football team.

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.

Player of the Year

Jon Jasionowski, RB, Livonia Franklin

Yeah, Jasionowski was an All-Kensington Lakes Activities Association defensive back as a junior. But he entered his senior season pretty much unknown by casual fans, especially when it came to him playing running back. When he was tabbed to be the replacement for Cordell Mabins Jr., Hometown Life's Player of the Year in 2022, not much was expected of him in the backfield.

As it turns out, he wound up being one of the best running backs in metro Detroit, coming up with timely play after timely play to help the Patriots get



Milford's Wyatt Lesnew and Owen Stark celebrate an interception during a Lakes Valley Conference football game on Friday, Sept. 15, 2023.

back to the playoffs when many thought it was going to be a rebuilding season. He finished with 1,018 yards rushing, 252 yards receiving and 16 total TDs. He was an absolute gamebreaker, especially when coach Chris Kelbert paired him with slot Owen Pittenger. Defenses couldn't stop both guys at the same time.

And while he was a menace on offense, what sets him apart from the other Player of the Year candidates was that he continued to play at an All-KLAA level on defense. In addition to being the team's top rusher, he totaled 48 tackles, two interceptions, a sack and returned a fumble for a TD.

When it came down to picking a Player of the Year, very few guys played at an All-State level on both sides of the ball.

Offensive Player of the Year

Caleb Walker, QB, Novi

Walker didn't become the full-time starter at quarterback for the Wildcats until after the 2022 season had already started. So what he's done with a fall and a half (give or take) of starting reps is remarkable.

He graduates from Novi with 12 school records. That's single-game marks for most pass attempts (55), passes completed (36), yards (408) and TDs (6). That's single-season records for most pass attempts (318), completions (204), yards (2,790), TDs (26) and completion percentage (64.2%). And that's career records for

See ALL-AREA, Page 6B

Mustangs vow 'we'll be back' for state title after loss

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

That wasn't Arnold Schwarzenegger giving an encore performance for "Terminator" following Friday night's Division 1 volleyball state semifinal at Kellogg Arena.

That was Northville coach Sarah Lindstrom.

The third-year coach was adamant the No. 2 Mustangs would "be back" to Battle Creek next year after they were unable to stop the bleeding as Forest Hills Northern orchestrated a 3-1 comeback victory and punched their ticket to Saturday's state championship match.

So adamant, in fact, she reiterated it twice.

"You don't just get to Battle Creek and get used to it," she said. "We know how hard it was to get back here. Does it suck and sting? It sure does. But that's the best performance we've seen all year, that team (FHN). I'm going to give them credit, not that we're not a great team, but we'll be back."

So what the heck happened to the Mustangs (49-3)?

They were a favorite by a lot of media members to win the whole thing, especially with how well they played in their close-call loss to Bloomfield Hills Marian in last year's state championship.

And, in the opening set, they looked like an eventual champion. They dug themselves out of a four-point hole midway through and wound up tallying five-straight points to secure the 25-22 comeback win, which included Molly Reck slamming home the winning kill.

But Northville couldn't replicate that magic the rest of the way. The Huskies had no trouble cruising to a big 25-11 win in the following set and carried that momentum forward. That included them staving off another comeback by the Mustangs in the third set and winning, 25-23, and winning convincingly again in the final game, 25-19.

FHN played lights out all over the floor, from the service line to in front of the net. Leading the charge was Elana Erickson, one of 10 seniors nominated for the Michigan Miss Volleyball honor before the season started, who tallied 19 kills and helped keep the Mustangs' defense off-balanced all night.

"I think we all got into our heads really fast, and then we couldn't get

See MUSTANGS, Page 3B

Marlins force 5 sets vs. Forest Hills Northern to win state title

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Catholic League's reign in volleyball continues.

Farmington Hills Mercy stormed back from a two-game deficit and held on in the deciding fifth set to beat Forest Hills Northern 3-2 in Saturday's Division 1 state championship at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

It's the Marlins' first state title since 2019 and second overall. What's more, the past five state champions have come from the CHSL, as Mercy's rival, Bloomfield Hills Marian, had won the previous three championships.

Facing elimination in the third set, Mercy (32-15-3) knotted the score at 19 and proceeded to score six of the next eight points to force a fourth game. That included Cree Hollier smashing home the winning kill to end it, 25-21.

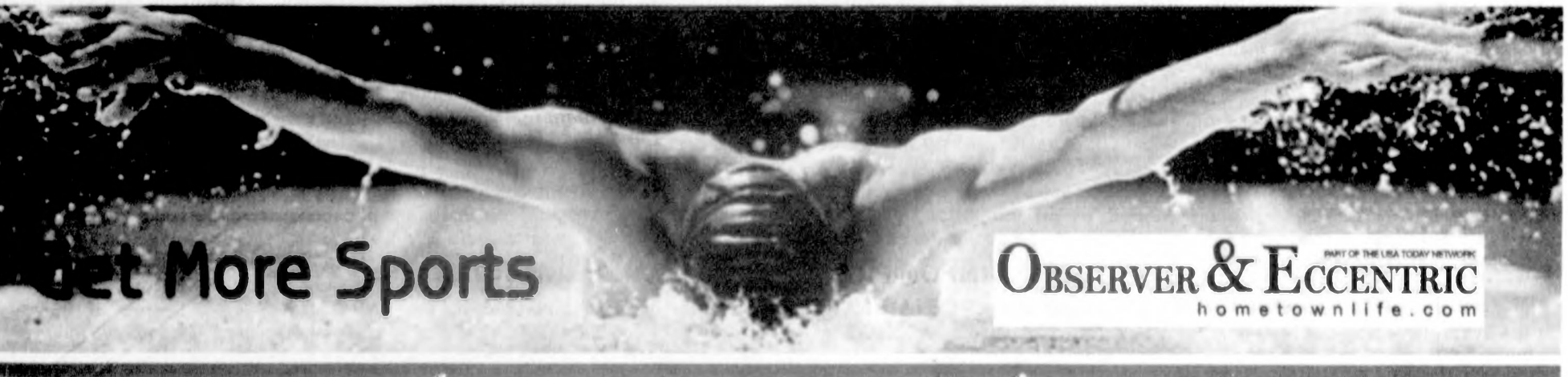
The Marlins put forth a similar effort in Game 4, with them snapping an 18-18 tie and then relying on Hollier to clinch the eventual 25-22 victory with a pair of kills.

They trailed only briefly in the deciding fifth set and had to work to keep FHN from tying the match late, but Kate Kalczynski recorded two of her game-high 25 kills down the stretch to ensure Mercy would hold on for the eventual 15-12 win.

Setter Campbell Flynn, the No. 1-ranked player in Michigan for the 2025 recruiting class, according to PrepDig.com, totaled 41 assists and five kills, while Hollier finished with 10 kills, Angie Butler pitched in seven kills and 22 digs, Jullian Collins had 24 digs and Maya Zarow contributed 16 digs.

Mercy swept Clarkston 3-0 in Friday's state semifinal to punch their ticket to the title game.

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HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Goalies share their routines and habits

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Most goaltenders don't start out in hockey looking to stand in the firing range and assume all the pressure that goes with being the last line of defense.

Scoring goals is perceived as being more fun than being pelted with pucks, so many of the goalies playing high school hockey in Livingston County skated out when they began playing at an organized level.

That changed, of course, for various reasons.

And that's a good thing, because what fun would hockey be if players were shooting on unguarded nets?

"My dad was a goalie and it was my last option because I wasn't really good at shooting the puck," said Hartland junior Brady Hubenschmidt, who was a defenseman his first two years of hockey.

Brighton senior Levi Pennala, a two-time all-stater, also came from a family of goalies. He began his career as a skater, playing forward until it was inevitably his turn to put on the pads at the age when few kids are ready to do so willingly yet.

"In mites (8-and-under) or mini mites (ages 5-6) when everybody jumps in there," was Pennala's introduction to the position. "I just happened to like it and just kept doing it."

Senior Ryan Nickerson, the other half of Brighton's veteran goaltending tandem, said he went in net because nobody else was willing to do so.

"There are pictures of me from probably 6 years old with the goalie pads on but with a normal player helmet," Nickerson said. "I just loved stopping the puck."

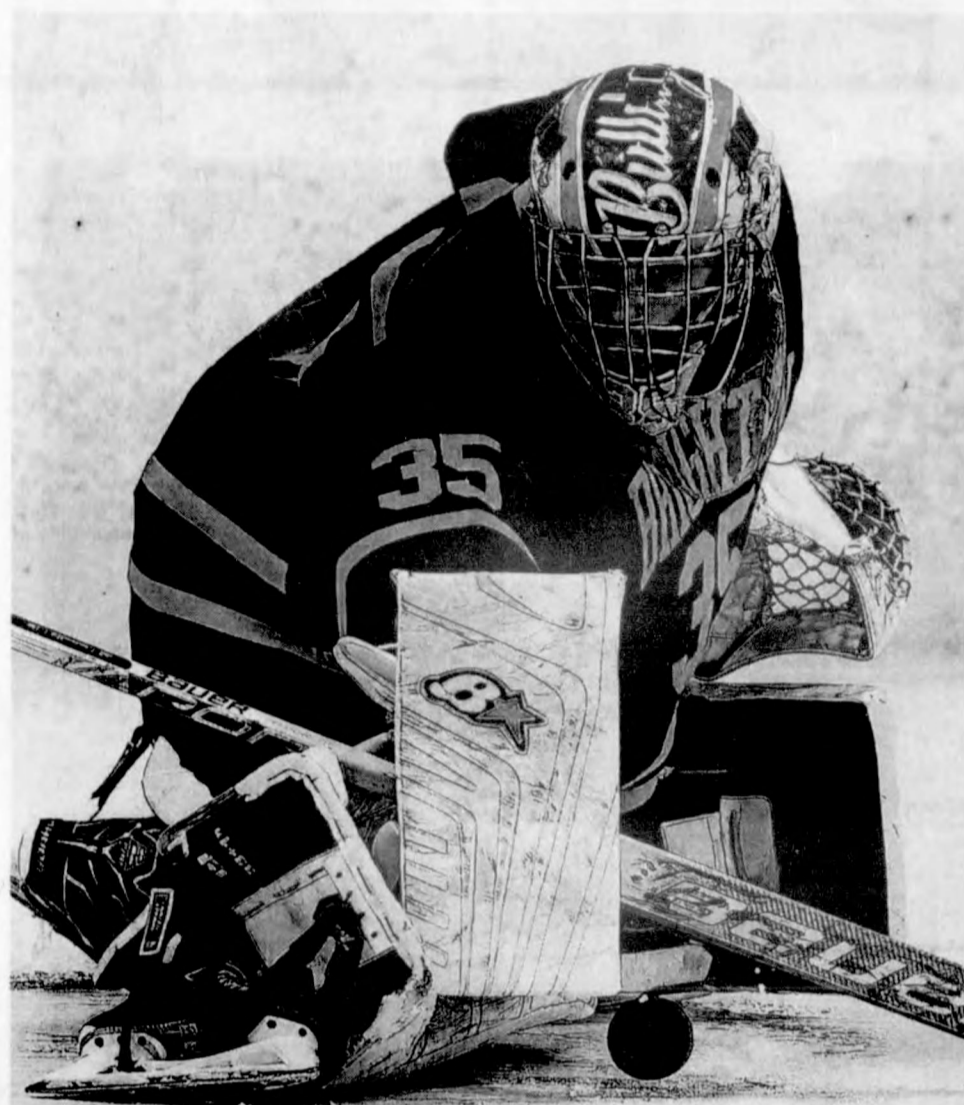
When it was Andrew Klei's turn to go between the pipes in mini mites, he had bad news for his mom when he came off the ice.

"I got to try it and I love this," said Klei, a senior at Howell. "I go out to my mom in the lobby and my mom's like, 'Oh, no.' She was not happy about that. But she's grown on it. It comes with a bunch of risks, like concussions and what not."

Being a goaltender is less risky than it was in the past.

NHL goalies played without masks until 1974 when Pittsburgh's Andy Brown was the last holdout. One of the last maskless goalies, the colorful Gump Worsley, famously said, "My face is my mask."

Even once masks were commonplace, they were fiberglass models that fit tightly to the face. Their greatest benefit was keeping a goaltender from being



Brighton senior Levi Pennala is a two-time all-stater who became a goaltender after playing forward his first two years in hockey.

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

killed or maimed, but they only slightly minimized the jarring impact of a shot to the face.

Arm and chest protection was little more than padded felt, leaving goalies with multiple bruises and welts after games and practices.

Modern equipment that has turned goalies into Michelin men has removed the fear of the puck, for the most part.

That's not to say there still aren't nervous moments related to the damage a puck can inflict.

"I wouldn't say it's a fear, but it doesn't feel really good when you get hit in the head," Hubenschmidt said. "Or near the cup — that's not fun either."

One vulnerable area that can be exposed is the neck, either to a puck or a skate blade. Players have become more mindful of the latter risk after former Pittsburgh Penguin Adam Johnson died in a British pro league Oct. 28 after taking a skate to the throat.

"I say, yeah, mostly for the neck

guard area in case pucks come at you," Hartland junior goalie Nolan Brown said. "It's a lot scarier than usual, especially with the incident that just happened."

The ability to block out any fear of the puck is crucial for success in net, because a goalie's mistakes are magnified and show up on the scoreboard.

Nobody but the coach remembers if a goal was scored because a forward didn't backcheck or a defenseman left a player alone in front of the net. When the puck goes in the net, a goaltender bears the brunt of the criticism and the mocking of the opposing student section.

"Sieve, sieve, sieve, sieve, sieve, sieve, sieve. It's all your fault! It's all your fault!"

Who would want to deal with all those headaches?

In reality, it's the added pressure of playing such a large role in winning and losing games that attracted so many

goalies to the position.

"It feels like you're a quarterback and the whole team relies on you," Nickerson said. "It's just a great feeling to have, making a big play. You really stand out out there when you do something good."

What about when things go sideways?

"I try not to think about that too much," Nickerson added. "Of course, yes, there's a little bit more pressure knowing if I make a mistake, it's definitely going to change the impact of the game. Also, if I make a good play, it changes the outcome of the game. I try to think more about the good than the bad."

Pennala is willing to own the good and the bad that come with playing goalie.

"If I mess up, I can't blame anybody else for my mistakes," he said. "It's more of an individual thing for me."

"I just like battling through the pressure and everything," Brown said. "It's a mental game off the ice and on the ice. I just love it."

What type of person is attracted to being a goaltender?

The long-perpetuated stereotype is that goalies have a few screws loose, that they are quirkier than other players. Patrick Roy talked to his goal posts "because they are my friends" and fellow Hall of Famer Glenn Hall felt he was ready to roll if he threw up before games.

The goalies spoken to for this article all claim to be normal, well-adjusted people who just happen to play a different position.

None of them own up to having any quirks or superstitions, because "routines" or "habits" sounds less weird.

"I do the same thing before every game, do the same thing in order or else I get messed up by it," Klei said. "I get to the rink pretty early, see if my stick needs taping, get changed into warm-ups, then I go meditate, read my journal, positive affirmations and all that. Then I work with my hand-eye coordination with racquetballs. Then I got into the team stretch and get dressed."

Pennala said: "I don't really have any weird superstitions that a lot of people do. I have my routine. I get there before the game, visualize a little bit on the ice. I don't do anything super specific."

Whether he's playing hockey or getting ready for school, Nickerson has one thing he does in the same order.

"I always get dressed from left to right in the morning," he said. "Left sock first, then right sock. Same thing with shoes and my skates. Everything I do in hockey is left to right. Just what I'm comfortable with, I guess."

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

Why Pinckney's star running trio will split up after graduation

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

PINCKNEY — They've taken nearly every step of their running journeys together, going back to fourth grade.

From humble beginnings in a one-mile race in Pinckney on Sept. 18, 2015, to team and individual success on the state and national levels, Evan Loughridge, Paul Moore and Ethan Sandula have logged thousands of miles together.

So it was fitting that, even though they will go their separate ways after high school, they celebrated their college signings together Monday.

Loughridge signed with Michigan State, Moore with Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia and Sandula with Oakland.

"It was real important for me to do it together," Loughridge said. "We've been through high school together, training together. We were just this group. We have a lot of talent, the three of us. We've just worked to make each other better and everything throughout high school."

"It means a lot to me, just because we've been running together for the past eight years," Moore said. "From where we began to where we are now, it means everything to be able to celebrate this with them."

Loughridge, Moore and Sandula form one of the greatest distance running trios in the same class ever in Livingston County. The only comparable group is Brighton's Jack Spamer, Zach Stewart and Scott Spaanstra, who led the Bulldogs to a state Division 1 championship as seniors in 2019.

Spamer and Stewart currently are running at the University of Michigan,



Pinckney seniors (from left) Ethan Sandula, Evan Loughridge and Paul Moore announced their college choices during a ceremony Monday, Nov. 20, 2023.

BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

while Spaanstra is at Grand Valley State.

All three had high all-state finishes in cross country this season. Moore was fifth in Division 2 in 15:13.5, Loughridge was 10th in 15:28.5 and Sandula was 16th in 15:41.6. They led the Pirates to a state runner-up finish, their best showing since winning a third consecutive Division 1 crown in 2007.

As much as they would have loved to continue running together in college, that decision is too important and too personal to make based on sentiment.

"We did it more individualized," Sandula said. "We talked about it, but Paul wanted to do industrial design, me wanting to do some computer science. The schools never aligned perfectly. It was a common joke, 'Oh, we should all go to the same place.'"

Loughridge chose Michigan State af-

ter a recruiting process that began over the summer.

"I love the coach's running philosophy," Loughridge said. "He reminds me of the better qualities of coaches I've had in the past. I like the team, too. They remind me of my current team now."

"The biggest thing he wanted to drive home when I was there is they're really interested in my long-term growth throughout college, rather than some colleges who will just recruit a bunch of kids, put them on 90 miles a week and see who survives. It seems like he's coaching in my best interest."

Running at the major college level was important for Loughridge, who has been all-state twice in cross country and once on the track.

"I just felt like there would be real strong competition and resources to get better at a college like that," he said.

Sandula will also run at the NCAA Division I level at Oakland, a school that has been on his radar his entire career.

"Coming into my freshman year, I had a coach, Michael Cox, who ran for them," Sandula said. "He kind of inspired me to want to run in college. Honestly, I just followed in his path to go to Oakland. It just kind of ended up working out. The coaches and people are nice, it's just a nice area."

After competing since fourth grade, Sandula isn't ready to quit running competitively any time soon.

"I've told the guys I want to do an Ironman, I want to do a marathon," he said. "I think that would be cool. My dad's done Ironmans and marathons. Or a triathlon, some type of endurance thing. It would be a real cool accomplishment."

Moore, a two-time cross country all-stater with a personal best of 15:11.2, definitely has the talent to run for a Division I university.

But he was looking at life after his racing days, choosing an NAIA program that is a great fit for his career goals.

"At the end of the day, I'm going to graduate, I'm going to get a degree and (running's) going to get put behind me," Moore said. "I'm looking forward to the academic part of it."

SCAD sent an email to Pinckney coach Jim Wicker, who relayed the information to Moore during the summer. Moore nearly disregarded it.

"Usually, I don't pay too much attention to those, but I noticed it was an art school, so that really caught my attention, because I knew I was going to be an art major," Moore said. "I just reached out to the coach, we set up some Zoom calls and it seemed like it was a good fit. After a few visits, I realized SCAD was the place for me."

Mustangs

Continued from Page 1B

out of it," said Northville senior Avry Nelson, a middle blocker signed with Eckerd College in Florida. "And then we were just stuck with us not playing very well because we were all thinking about what we were doing wrong instead of what we could do to get out of it."

It was an uncharacteristic outing for the Mustangs, who have found themselves in one- and two-game deficits a handful of times throughout the season but have generally found a way to bail themselves out of them.

"We've been through everything this year," Lindstrom said. "We've gone through five (sets) in the postseason. We've been down one and two sets. So we've reminded ourselves (between sets) that we've been here before, we've done this before. But there really wasn't much air to breathe in that game."

Twin sisters Molly and Mallory Reck led the Mustangs with 14 kills apiece, while Ella Craggs had 24 assists and 16 digs, Greta McKee had 17 digs and Skylar Marteen contributed two blocks.

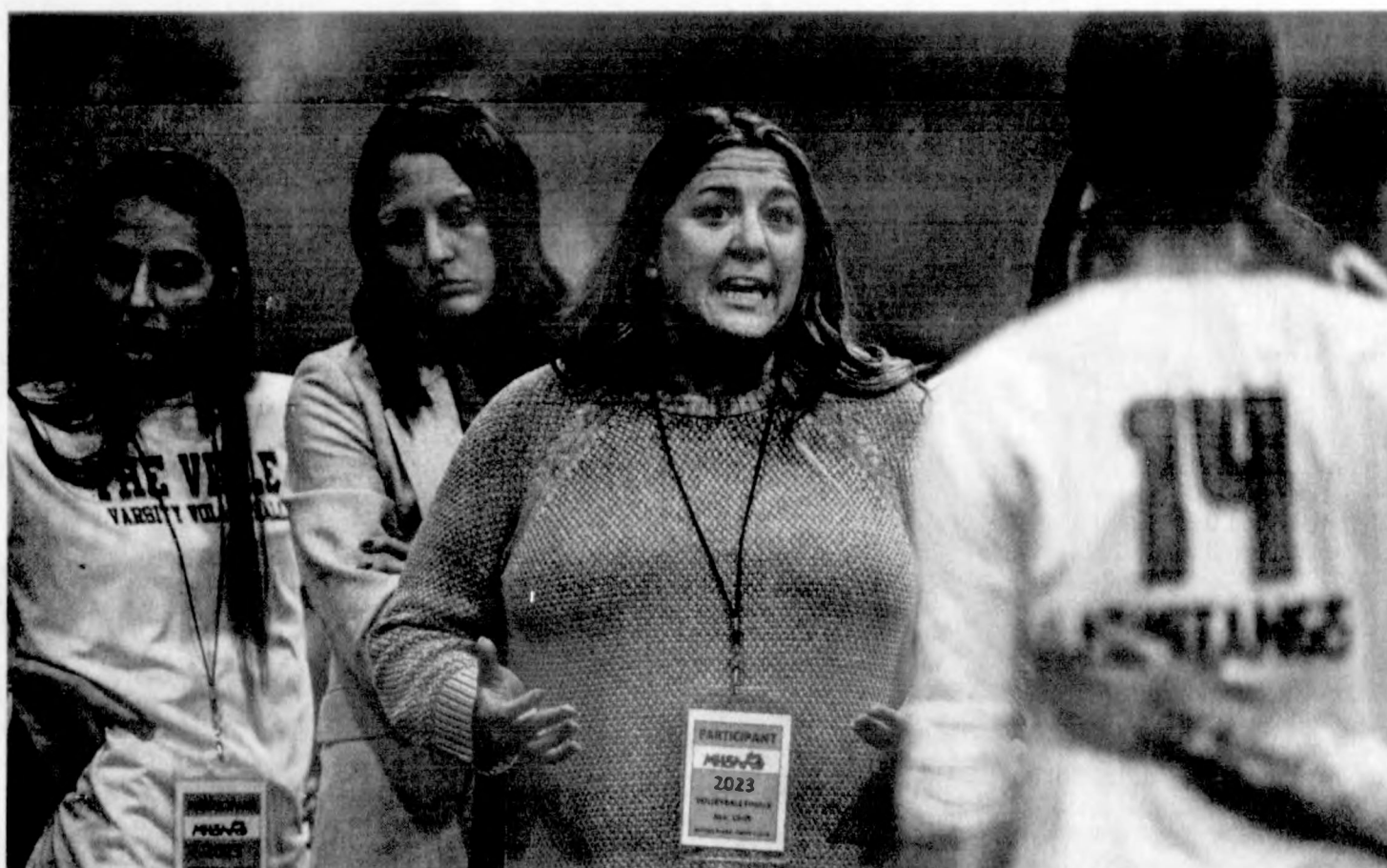
"There's not much you can do when a team (FHN) plays that good," Lindstrom added. "They were flawless from the end line, serve-receive. They forced us to make mistakes. I don't think there was much we could do. As good as a team as we were, they outplayed us. They were just better today."

The loss, unfortunately, wraps up an incredible career for Northville's seniors — Ashley Gnau (Syracuse signee), McKee (Wright State), Nelson, Ashley Krahe and Ava Thomas.

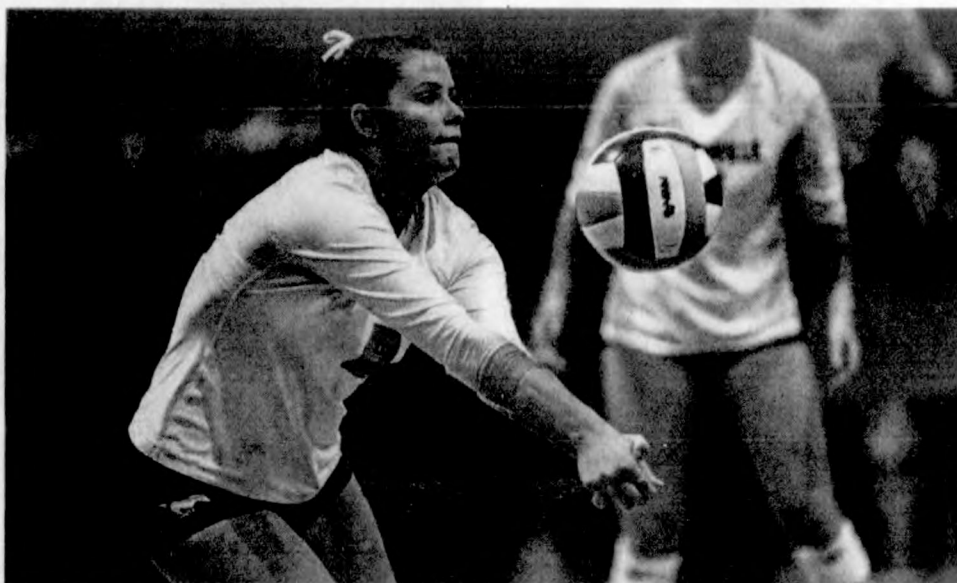
Their group has been with Lindstrom every step of the way since she took over the program three seasons ago. That includes winning district and regional titles in three straight seasons, hoisting the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship trophy and making it to Battle Creek the past two seasons.

They're a well-decorated squad, one that'll be looked at as the building block of the dynasty Lindstrom is currently constructing on 6 Mile.

"I think regardless of what happened tonight, I'm really proud of this team," said McKee, a libero. "I've never been prouder of this team. They worked hard every single day. I think, yeah, we would've liked to win and make it to tomorrow, but I think the success we had this year is something I'll remember forever."



Northville coach Sarah Lindstrom talks to her team during a Division 1 volleyball state semifinal on Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE



Northville's Molly Reck digs the ball during a Division 1 volleyball state semifinal on Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek

but we're going to step up next year and play for them."

Never doubt a Lindstrom-coached squad. They've been falling in line with the rest of the championship teams on campus, from cross-country to rowing and BMX. When she says she's going to do something, it's generally worked out in the Mustangs' favor. She doesn't need to be a Hollywood robot or the former governor of California for you to believe her either.

"I've only been at Northville for three years, and Northville athletics is known for winning and dominating," Lindstrom said. "But I think, to get here two years in a row, to win three regional championships in a row, to be one set away from being here three years ago, we're just showing everyone that we're about to build a dynasty."

"We'll be back. That's what we said last year, and we talked it into fruition."

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

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Continued from Page 1B

most passing yards per game (202) and total offense per game (199.6).

The doubters will say Walker is just a system quarterback under coach Jim Sparks, who has a history of producing big stat-getters in his fun-and-gun offense. But, honestly, there is no such thing as a system quarterback in high school football. You can't just pick any kid off the street and throw him in this offense. They have to know how to read defenses, where to pinpoint throws and limit mistakes. And Walker went above and beyond that for the Wildcats.

Defensive Player of the Year

Wyatt Lesnew, LB, Milford

This was a competitive award to hand out with guys like Detroit Catholic Central's Stone Chaney, White Lake Lakeland's Nolin Thompson, Westland John Glenn's Damon Powers and Northville's Evan Deak out there.

But no one has the stats that Lesnew has.

You might want to sit down for this: The linebacker totaled 404 tackles as a three-year starter. That's 135 tackles per season, including 139 apiece in both the past two seasons. That's 404 tackles without counting his freshman year when he wasn't yet a full-time starter on varsity.

The Mavericks had the best defense in the Lakes Valley Conference in 2022 and the second-best this past fall. But this fall they also had a top-five defense in Oakland County, which is chock full of teams that have made deep playoff runs.

Lesnew is about as throwback as they come (neck roll included). He gets attacks the line of scrimmage and swarms to the ball. And it's hard to believe he doesn't have offers from a prominent Division II school yet.

Tate Myre Courage Award

Sean Latham, White Lake Lakeland

If there was a transfer portal for high school football, Latham wouldn't have entered it. He's too good of a teammate to do something selfish like abandon his buddies midway through the season.

He entered the fall as a second-year starter at QB and was set for a fantastic senior year. Not just in football but across the board. He's one of the best baseball players in the Lakes Valley Conference and his recent signing with Davenport University backs that up.

But, for the betterment of the football team, the Eagles needed to change their personnel to get more out of their offense a few games into the season. And the biggest change was starting backup Carter Travis over Latham under center.

While it was tough seeing a fun dual-threat no longer play the position, it did allow Latham to play other positions he wouldn't normally get to play in the past because no one wants to see the starting QB get injured. Adding him to the defensive backfield proved to be a boon for the Eagles, who had one of the best defenses in the league. Heck, they probably wouldn't have beaten rival Milford in the playoff opener if it wasn't for his interception in the end zone.

When some players might quit the team or pout because they lost a starting gig — one that comes with plenty of the spotlight and a bunch of accolades — Latham made the most of his opportunities elsewhere on the field. And that did not go unnoticed.

Coach of the Year

Brent Luplow, Northville

The negatives for Luplow was losing twice to reigning state champion Belleville, which is currently ranked in the top 20 by many national recruiting writers. No, not the top 20 in the state, like, top 20 in the entire country. Led by QB Bryce Underwood, arguably the best recruit in the entire 2025 recruiting class, Belleville beat Northville in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship and in the Division I regional final.

Luplow, who has yet to turn 30, joined the Mustangs with no head coaching experience and led them to an 8-0 start, an upset victory over Clarkston at the Big House, a KLAA-West championship and, most impressively, helped them beat Detroit Catholic Central for the first time in program history. District titles are hard to come by at Tom Holzer Ford Field, and Luplow secured one in his first go-around.

He did an excellent job surrounding himself with a coaching staff that got a talented group of kids to buy in from the get-go. Hopefully, this is a sign of things to come for the Mustangs because, just like the University of Michigan, Dallas Cowboys, Chicago Cubs and Toronto Maple Leafs, the sport is just more fun

to watch when a premier brand like theirs is winning.

Assistant of the Year

Matt Wasnich, Milford

The Mavericks had one of the best defenses in the state. While a lot of that has to do with just how much pure talent they had on that side of the ball, it also helps to have a mad scientist drawing up the schemes for them to have success each week.

Wasnich was certainly that, or at the very least he was a solid strategist in the always-tough LVC. Check out these stats from his guys: They allowed just 13 points per game, which includes two shutouts. They gave up one score or fewer in five games. Opponents had a 24% success rate on third down against the Mavericks, who forced 18 turnovers, 14 sacks and a had a pair of defensive touchdowns.

First Team

OFFENSE

QB - Caleb Walker, Novi
QB - Evan Sneed, Livonia Churchill
RB - Jon Jasionowski, Livonia Franklin
RB - Elijah Craig, Livonia Clarenceville
RB - Jaxon McCaig, Plymouth
RB - Jaden Pydyn, Detroit Catholic Central
WR - Boden Fernsler, Novi
WR - Nick Helner, Northville
WR - Colin Charles, Northville
WR - Owen Pittenger, Livonia Franklin
TE/H - Ben Radley, South Lyon
TE/H - Drew Kelbert, Livonia Franklin
OL - Avery Gach, Birmingham Groves
OL - Cade Wilhelm, Detroit Country Day
OL - Idrys Cotton, Plymouth
OL - Lucas Barnes, Plymouth
OL - Drew Carlson, White Lake Lakeland

DEFENSE

DL - Jon Motes, Milford
DL - Brendon Rice, North Farmington
DL - Graham Gilmartin, Northville
DL - Stone Chaney, Detroit Catholic Central
LB - Wyatt Lesnew, Milford
LB - Nolin Thompson, White Lake Lakeland
LB - Damon Powers, Westland John Glenn
LB - Evan Deak, Northville
DB - Luc Damiani, Plymouth
DB - Drew Rankin, Northville
DB - Chris Little, Birmingham Groves
DB - Ar'Jon Thompson, Livonia Stevenson
SPECIAL TEAMS
K/P - Mason Stislicki, Milford
KR/PR - Jamel Belcher II, Redford Union
COACHES
Brent Luplow, Northville
Jim Sparks, Novi
Jason Mensing, Westland John Glenn
Matt Wasnich, Milford (assistant)

Second Team

OFFENSE

QB - Derek Hetu, Livonia Franklin
QB - Isaac Pace, Northville
RB - Trevor Tschudin, White Lake Lakeland
RB - Cam Pettaway, Farmington Hills
RB - Jace Reed, Bloomfield Hills
RB - Devon Pettus, Canton
WR - Jaden Vondrasek, Novi
WR - Nick Hardy, Birmingham Groves
WR - Jacob Speller, Cranbrook
WR - Aidan Moore, Salem
TE/H - Tyler Radley, Westland John Glenn
FB/H - Elliot Flake, Westland John Glenn
OL - Brady Flanigan, Milford
OL - Richardo Wourman, Livonia Stevenson
OL - Benny Ezuika, Detroit Catholic Central
OL - Julian Castillo, Livonia Franklin
OL - Stephen White, Livonia Clarenceville
DEFENSE
DL - Ferris Jordan, Northville
DL - Kyle Scofield, Milford
DL - Jermaine Gumbs, Westland John Glenn
DL - Jaiden Mabins, Livonia Franklin
LB - Jaylan Johnson, Livonia Clarenceville
LB - Jack Toth, South Lyon East
LB - Granden Kinnie, Birmingham Seaholm
LB - Nicholas Emond, Garden City
DB - Brady Collision, Milford
DB - Tyler Freer, Milford
DB - Xavier Cobb, Redford Union
DB - Amari Bingham-Cage, Westland John Glenn

SPECIAL TEAMS

K/P - Alex Caines, White Lake Lakeland
K/P - Johnny Aurilia, Novi
COACHES
Andrew Micovich, Milford
Jim Calhoun, White Lakeland
Ian Iler, Redford Union
Matt Sexton, Northville (assistant)

Third Team

OFFENSE

QB - Colton Kinnie, Birmingham Seaholm
QB - Cayden Hardy, Birmingham Groves
RB - Ethan Moore, Westland John Glenn
RB - Noah Sanders, Birmingham Groves
RB - Sean Emerson, Birmingham Seaholm
RB - Duke Blanch, North Farmington
WR - Azarius Hayes, Salem
WR - Jack Lewis, Birmingham Seaholm
WR - Kyle Robbins, Birmingham Seaholm
WR - Chase Adam, South Lyon East
TE/H - Vinnie Lee, North Farmington
TE/H - Dylan Sasena, Plymouth
OL - Jake Smetana, Milford
OL - Bryar Inman, Westland John Glenn
OL - Jordan Atkins, South Lyon East
OL - Blake Baldner, Birmingham Seaholm
OL - Nathan Ponos, Novi

DEFENSE

DL - Blake Zamenski, White Lake Lakeland
DL - Cael Rogowski, Detroit Catholic Central
DL - Joshua Waack, Novi
DL - Dom Walker, Livonia Franklin
LB - Ike Stuffed, Milford
LB - Miles Lueck, Livonia Churchill

LB - Anthony Horen, Livonia Clarenceville
LB - Camden Short, Plymouth
DB - Josh Parker, Milford
DB - Dougie Wicker, Westland John Glenn
DB - Ryan Henderson, South Lyon
DB - Caleb Williams, Canton
SPECIAL TEAMS
K/P - Wesley Billings, Birmingham Seaholm
K/P - Manaki Watanabe, South Lyon East
COACHES
Jim DeWald, Birmingham Seaholm
Chris Kelbert, Livonia Franklin
Nick Davis, Redford Thurston
Brian Rochon, Livonia Churchill (assistant)

Honorable Mention

OFFENSE

QB - Ryan Allen, Milford
QB - Dominic Giovannini, South Lyon East
RB - David Anderson, Livonia Churchill
RB - Mario Campoy-LoVasco, Birmingham Groves
RB - Charles Nelson, Redford Thurston
RB - Peyton Chamberlain, Milford
WR - Owen Matteson, Farmington
WR - Cameron Witt, Plymouth
WR - Anthony Cartwright, Detroit Country Day
WR - Robert Bridges, North Farmington
TE/H - Caden Besco, Northville
TE/H - Owen Ross, Northville
OL - Luke Johnson, Birmingham Seaholm
OL - Luke Thurswell, Birmingham Seaholm
OL - Adham Hashem, Canton
OL - Travis Dulong, Salem
OL - Danilo Guberich, Detroit Catholic Central

DEFENSE

DL - Deryk Klein, Livonia Clarenceville
DL - Jorgito Shqau, Plymouth
DL - Corey Gilbert, Livonia Churchill
DL - Jacob Gorla, Livonia Franklin
LB - Thad Lawler, Novi
LB - Zack Passmore, Salem
LB - Kaden Johnston, Milford
LB - Rickey Smith, Westland John Glenn
DB - Mendale Broaden, Livonia Franklin
DB - Gino DiPonio, Livonia Franklin
DB - Michael Woods Jr., Farmington
DB - Aidan Nolan, Livonia Stevenson
SPECIAL TEAMS
K/P - Kaemon Tijerina, Redford Union
KR/PR - Cullen Murphy, Northville
COACHES
Justin Cessante, Detroit Catholic Central
Allen Feigel, Livonia Churchill
Landon Garrett, Salem
Steven Nicles, White Lake Lakeland (assistant)

Special Mention

OFFENSE

QB - Champ Thornton, Redford Union
QB - Chase Dawkins, Detroit Country Day
QB - Jonathon Jefferson Jr., Garden City
QB - Ryan Shelby, North Farmington
QB - Kieran Crossley, Bloomfield Hills
QB - Devvin Calhoun, Canton
QB - Sam Plencner, Plymouth
QB - Beau Jackson, Detroit Catholic Central
QB - Caden Johnston-Thompson, Milford
QB - Brady Shields, South Lyon
QB - Krish Upadhyay, Cranbrook
QB - Nathan Patterson, Livonia Stevenson
QB - Carter Travis, White Lake Lakeland
RB - Tanner Petru, Milford
RB - Bo Bishop, White Lake Lakeland
RB - Emanuel James, Garden City
RB - Jesse Chavez, Garden City
RB - Brock Hartwig, Birmingham Seaholm
RB - Alexander Guadagni, Canton
RB - Dillon Calhoun, Canton
RB - AJ Morgan, South Lyon East
RB - Wyatt Douglass, South Lyon
RB - RJ Stockton, Livonia Churchill
RB - Justice O'Brien, Lutheran Westland
RB - Caden Daley, Detroit Country Day
RB - Gabe Winowich, Notre Dame (Lawrenceville, NJ)
WR - Gavin Morrison, Salem
WR - Landon Murray, Milford
WR - Owen Stark, Milford
WR - Joey Andrews, South Lyon East
WR - Evan Muston, South Lyon East
WR - Brady Myer, South Lyon
WR - Logan Pheiffer, Plymouth
WR - Peyton Sitarski, Livonia Churchill
WR - Cooper Gurman, Cranbrook
WR - Harisen Hajiharis, Cranbrook

WR - Andrew Kummer, Novi
WR - Johnny Pallozzi, Livonia Churchill
WR - Owen Phail, Livonia Franklin
WR - Micah Lavigne, Lutheran Westland
WR - Dwayne Jones, Wayne Memorial
OL - Robbie Schuckel, Northville
OL - Marcus Brown, Novi
OL - Tae Andrew, Novi
OL - Nolan Thompson, Novi
OL - Tristan Porter, South Lyon East
OL - Joey Pardi, Westland John Glenn
OL - Rocco Pardi, Westland John Glenn
OL - Robert Wierzbicki, Detroit Catholic Central
OL - Bryce Porter, Detroit Catholic Central
OL - Landon Gacki, White Lake Lakeland
OL - Vince Partogian, White Lake Lakeland
OL - Carter Adamski, Plymouth
OL - Alex Witt, Plymouth
OL - Nolan Thompson, Novi
OL - Adam Travers, Northville
OL - Joey Pietrosante, Brother Rice
OL - Marcus Goode, Redford Union
OL - Amere Jenkins, Redford Union
OL - Elijah Triplett, Redford Union
OL - Robert Jewell, Lutheran Westland
OL - Paul Wint, Garden City

DEFENSE

DL - Josh Glaszek, South Lyon
DL - LaRon Davis, Plymouth
DL - Luke Parrinello, Northville
DL - Hassan Elzayat, Northville
DL - Andrew Zecman, Detroit Country Day
DL - Artero Wilson, North Farmington
DL - Austin Washington, Novi
DL - Jack Fleury, Brother Rice
DL - Alex Keith, Garden City
DL - Devin Lillard, Redford Union
DL - Jeremiah Edwards-Scott, Wayne Memorial
DL - Echie Kemutambah, Redford Thurston
LB - Michael Myles, Redford Union
LB - Cain Hester, Redford Union
LB - Cheikh Sylla, Redford Union
LB - Blake Zoro, Livonia Stevenson
LB - Daniel Vukaj, Farmington
LB - Massiah Amerson, Livonia Churchill
LB - Penn Roberts, Birmingham Seaholm
LB - Carter Hamilton, South Lyon East
LB - Brody Weaver, South Lyon
LB - Johnny Michaels, South Lyon
LB - Landon Fredericks, South Lyon
LB - Aiden Bergin, Detroit Country Day
LB - Jack Schneider, White Lake Lakeland
LB - Trevor Bennett, Livonia Stevenson
LB - Cooper Hoffman, Northville
LB - Kaiden Williams, Wayne Memorial
LB - Carlos Smith, Wayne Memorial
LB - Deneir Harris-Wright, Wayne Memorial
LB - Braden Hall, Birmingham Groves
LB - Ben Wright, Lutheran Westland
LB - Raymond Emond, Garden City
DB - Sean Latham, White Lake Lakeland
DB - Kyler Shaw, White Lake Lakeland
DB - Ryan Johnson, White Lake Lakeland
DB - Brody Cutsginger, White Lake Lakeland
DB - Antonio Garrett, Wayne Memorial
DB - Zaquan Olive, Wayne Memorial
DB - Nathan Thompson, Redford Thurston
DB - Tyler Wollitz, South Lyon
DB - Jake Tolbert, South Lyon
DB - Keegan Litkewycz, Novi
DB - Mouhamed Diop, Birmingham Groves
DB - Teddy Abbot, Birmingham Groves
DB - Louis Sullivan, Birmingham Seaholm
DB - Terrance James, North Farmington
DB - Kellen LaPerna, South Lyon East
DB - Jon Roberson, Westland John Glenn
DB - Micah Williams, Livonia Clarenceville
DB - Alex Smaoui, Plymouth
DB - Collin Gibson, Livonia Stevenson
DB - Christian Freydl, Northville
DB - Zachary Rogers, Birmingham Groves
SPECIAL TEAMS
K/P - Jake Matigian, Detroit Catholic Central
K/P - Sonny Rentz, Northville
K/P - Daniel Vigo, Plymouth
K/P - Victoria Miller, Detroit Country Day
K/P - Nicholas Stoyanovich, Hamilton (Arizona)
COACHES
Marty Castellon, Livonia Clarenceville
Brendan Flaherty, Birmingham Groves
Andrew Koterba, Cranbrook (co-interim)
Uday Singh, Milford (assistant)

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

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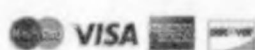
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5 ways to support small businesses this holiday shopping season

Metro Creative

Small businesses long have been the heart and soul of local communities. There is something to be said about being on a first-name basis with a local restaurateur or another small business owner, as such familiarity often translates into exemplary service.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses account for 99.9 percent of companies in the country, due in large part to the broad definition of small businesses (those with fewer than 500 employees). However, the vast majority of businesses in the United States have a staff that's smaller than 20 workers, according to the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council. These firms employ nearly 60 million workers, says the SBA.

Despite the prevalence of small businesses, fewer than 80 percent of entrepreneurial small business ventures make it beyond their first year, and only around half make it beyond five years.

Consumers who want to help their favorite small businesses survive can use the holiday season and beyond to set the course for success. Consumers can make a concerted effort to fuel this im-

portant cog in their local economic engines.

1 Shop local. The concept is simple but effective. Opting to shop in local stores over larger conglomerates and franchises can help small businesses take root. Before making holiday shopping lists, visit local stores and base gift ideas on items they have in stock. Chances are those gifts will be one-of-a-kind.

2 Purchase gift cards/certificates. All businesses have slow periods, and post-holidays is often a time when sales stagnate. Gift cards may bring new customers into local businesses who might otherwise not have patronized them, potentially creating new repeat customers.

3 Cater holiday meals and gatherings. The holiday season is chock-full of entertainment opportunities. Individuals can rely on nearby restaurants and other food and beverage businesses to cater holiday parties. Some businesses also may be willing to discount or donate food for nonprofit group activities, such as church holiday bazaars, school holiday



concerts or fundraising fairs.

4 Mention small businesses on social media. The holiday season breeds excitement. Therefore, when shoppers are in local stores, they can snap pictures of products and overflowing shopping bags and post them online while praising local businesses.

5 Think about subscription gifts. Enrollment in a health club or a massage therapy service are gifts that keep on giving for the recipient, but also help ensure consistent incoming cash for the business providing the service.

When shopping this holiday season, consumers can look to the small, local businesses in their communities that help make towns and cities unique.

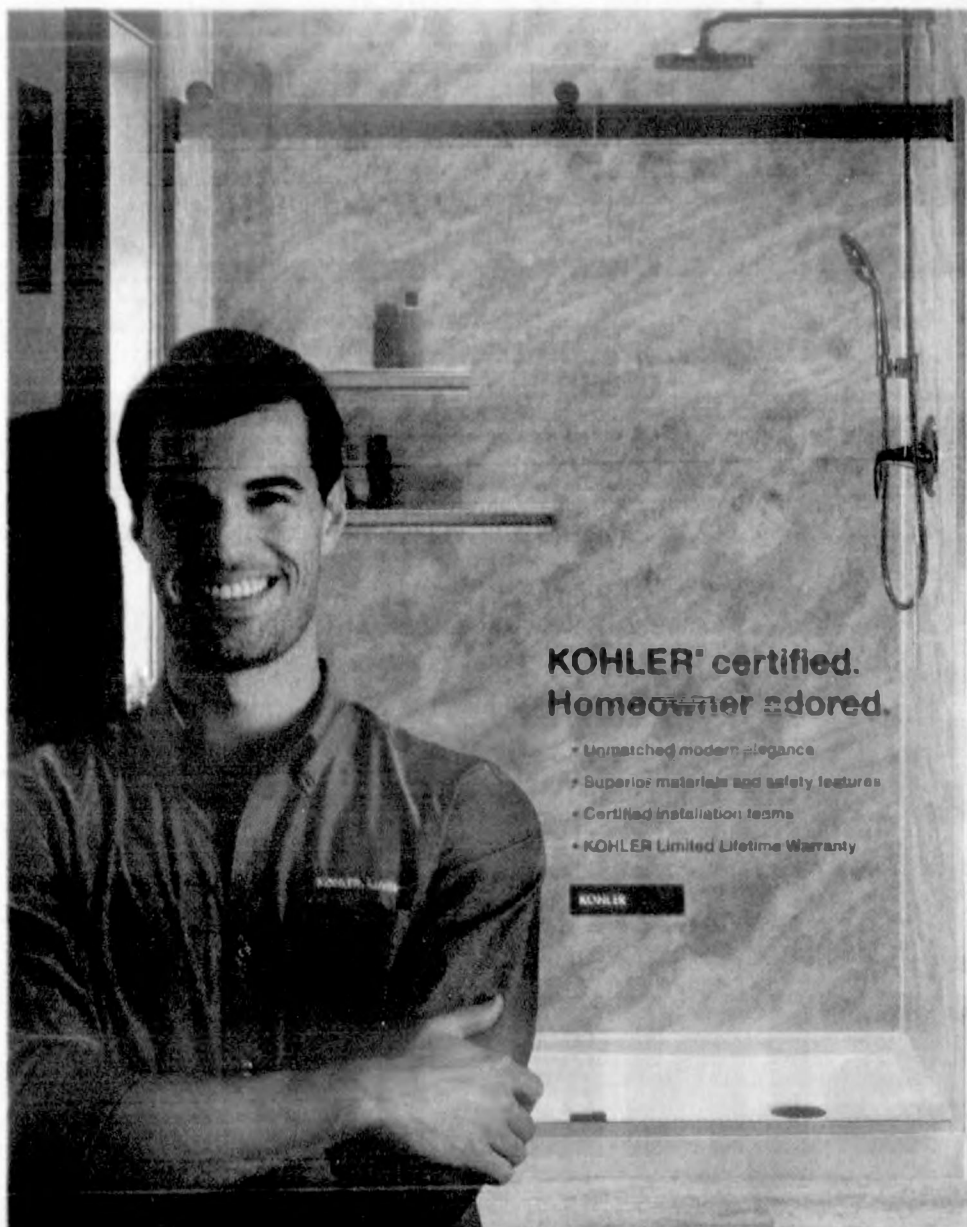
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Now's the time to enroll in your 2024 ACA Marketplace plan

With added cost savings, enrollment reaches all-time highs

As the Affordable Care Act Individual Insurance Open Enrollment Period marks its 11th year, enrollment in Marketplace plans is continuing at a record pace. At the end of the 2023 OEP, more than 16.3 million Americans had selected or were automatically enrolled in a Marketplace plan, surpassing enrollment records set the previous two years, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. That number includes more than 322,000 enrollees in Michigan who selected a 2023 Marketplace plan, the highest number since the 2016 OEP, according to KFF data.

Commonly referred to as "Obamacare," the ACA brought about many changes to the face of health insurance including the introduction of money-saving premium tax credits for consumers who qualify, barring insurers from charging more or refusing coverage to those with pre-existing conditions, allowing dependents up to age 26 to stay on parents' health plans, and requiring plans to provide certain preventive care such as some cancer screenings and vaccines at no cost.

The record enrollment pace is expected to continue for this year's OEP—which runs now

until Jan. 16, 2024—as the American Rescue Plan Act and Inflation Reduction Act have taken steps on plan affordability including increasing advanced premium tax credits (a subsidy that goes towards plan premiums), and allowing people with higher incomes than in the past to be eligible for the subsidies.

Experts say with increased subsidies most consumers will see little or no increase in premiums. Four out of five Marketplace customers will be able to find 2024 health care coverage for \$10 or less per month for 2024, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The 169 plans offered by nine insurers in Michigan for 2024 will have an average increase of 5.3%, which is less than national trends, according to Michigan Dept. of Insurance and Financial Services. Michigan has the fourth lowest benchmark rate (the rate for the second-lowest cost Silver-level plan in an area that is used to calculate premium subsidies) in the country in 2023, and has consistently been one of the lowest 10 states since 2016, according to Michigan DIFS.

Other considerations

Of course, your health plan is about more than premiums—you also need to consider other out-of-pocket costs like deductibles and copays, how much medical care you use, the amount of prescription medications you take and if you anticipate changes to your family, job, or medical needs for next year.

If you love your 2023 plan, that's great, but remember plan costs and benefits can change every year. That means not only might your current plan be changing, but there could be other plans out there that are now better for your budget and needs. That's why it's so important to take the time to review your options every annual OEP.

We know that can be overwhelming, so we created this guide to help. Within these pages, you'll find a wealth of information on ACA basics including premium tax credits, cost-sharing reductions, Metal levels and standardized plans (something new in 2023 that's expanding in 2024). Due to the end of the COVID federal public health emergency, millions of people will lose Medicaid cover-

age this year, and you can read more about your options if this applies to you as well. We also have expert advice on steps to take when choosing the right plan for you, what's new for the ACA in 2024, where to turn for free help and more.

Whatever you do, don't go without coverage and don't just automatically re-enroll in your current plan—taking a little time now to choose the best plan for you will be beneficial to your health and wallet throughout 2024.

16,357,030 Americans
AND
322,273 Michiganders

enrolled in a Marketplace plan during the 2023 Open Enrollment Period

— Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

2024 MICHIGAN AFFORDABLE CARE ACT HEALTH INSURANCE GUIDE

5 things that are new for the 2024 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period

In addition to expanding limits on non-standardized Marketplace plans (see article below), there are other changes happening in the ACA Marketplace. Here are five things you need to know for the 2024 Open Enrollment Period:

1 Automatic Silver plan re-enrollment for some Bronze plan enrollees. If you're in a Bronze plan for 2023 and do not choose your plan for 2024 by Dec. 15, you could automatically be enrolled in a Silver plan for next year if you are eligible for cost-sharing reductions based on income. (These reductions only are available with Silver plans.) Automatic enrollment in a Silver plan will only apply if one is available in the same product type, with the same provider network and with a monthly premium after premium tax credits that is no greater than that of the Bronze plan into which you otherwise would be automatically re-enrolled in.

If this applies to you, you'll receive a notice from the Marketplace advising you that you'll be enrolled in a Silver plan if you don't select a plan by Dec. 15. You'll also see the Silver plan you'll be enrolled in highlighted in your online shopping experience at Healthcare.gov. Remember, this automatic re-enrollment will only happen if you don't choose your own plan for next year by the Dec. 15 deadline.

2 Easier application process. It's no secret that the application process on Healthcare.gov is something most enrollees don't look forward to. In an effort to make the application process easier, Healthcare.gov has introduced several enhancements that are already in effect.

New cues will let you know what materials you need, where you are in the application process and allow you to jump back in where you left off. You'll also see helpful tips along the way as you navigate through your application.

3 Clearer information on cost sharing. There shouldn't be any surprises when it comes to the cost of health care—but often there are. To give consumers a better idea of what a plan will actually cost them out of pocket, Healthcare.gov has made some changes and increased the accessibility of cost-related information. Beginning with this year's Open Enrollment Period, you'll be able to see whether cost-sharing in plans you're shopping for are subject to deductibles for primary care, specialist care, urgent care and outpatient mental health services.

Also new this year—once you submit your application, you'll see a display estimating total yearly costs (including premiums, co-payments, co-insurance and other out-of-pocket costs) to help you understand how much you might pay for coverage among different plans. Plans will also be

listed by low to high total yearly cost estimates, rather than by monthly premiums as in the past.

These changes are designed to help you understand what your true out-of-pocket cost might be beyond plans' premiums and help you find plans that are most cost-effective for your needs.

4 Dependents turning 26 have more time on parents' policies. When the ACA became law, it included a popular provision allowing dependents to stay on their parents' policy until they turned 26. Beginning in 2024, Marketplace health plans will not be allowed to terminate coverage for anyone turning 26 on their birthday and will have to continue to cover the dependent through the end of the year that they turn 26. Although the Marketplace had already been "unofficially" keeping dependents on their parents' plans until the end of the year, the practice will now become a rule, according to Kaiser Family Foundation.

5 More time to submit proof of income. In most cases, the Marketplace can automatically verify your income through the IRS or Social Security. In cases where income can't be verified, the Marketplace has traditionally given enrollees 90 days to submit proof. Starting with the 2024 Annual Open Enrollment Period, anyone needing to submit proof of income will be given 150 days—60 days more than in the past—to do so.

Losing Medicaid? You might qualify for new Special Enrollment Period



This year, it's estimated that 15 million people—a record high—could lose Medicaid coverage due to the end of the COVID federal public health emergency, during which recipients could not be disenrolled in Medicaid. To help eliminate coverage gaps, an "Unwinding Special Enrollment Period" has been created to allow individuals and families losing Medicaid (or Children's Health Insurance Program coverage for those under 18) who are eligible for Marketplace plans to enroll in a plan outside of the annual Open Enrollment Period.

Anyone eligible for a Marketplace plan who submits a new application or updates an existing application at Healthcare.gov between March 31, 2023 and July 31, 2024, and attests to a last date of Medicaid coverage within that same time period, is eligible for the Unwinding SEP. Once eligibility is determined, you will have 60 days after submitting your application to select a Marketplace plan. Coverage will begin the first day of the month after you select a plan.

If you are losing Medicaid, you don't have to wait for your coverage to end before applying for Marketplace coverage and can report your loss of coverage up to 60 days before your last day of Medicaid coverage. In order to help avoid gaps in coverage, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is recommending that if you receive a notice from the state that you are no longer eligible for Medicaid, you go to Healthcare.gov to submit or update your application as soon as possible.

Standardized plans offer new options

In 2023, after the number of Marketplace plans increased fourfold in four years, standardized plans were created by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to simplify comparison shopping and reduce the risk that confusion could cause consumers to choose plans that weren't optimal for them.

Here's how standardized plans work: Insurers participating in the Marketplace must offer each metal level's standardized plan if they are selling policies at that metal level. Standardized plan options within the same category all offer the same deductibles and cost-sharing for certain benefits, along with the same out-of-pocket limits. For example, deductibles are set at \$7,500 for standardized Bronze plans, \$5,900 for standardized Silver plans and \$1,500 for standardized Gold plans in 2024.

"Standard plans have uniform plan designs with the same cost-sharing parameters from issuer to issuer, making plan choice and comparison simpler for enrollees," says Kyla King, vice president of Individual markets for Priority Health, adding that some insurers, such as Priority Health, offer additional benefits on certain standard plans in addition to the required coverage.

Standardized plan options also include unique features such as a greater number of benefits that aren't subject to the deductible including primary care, urgent care and specialist visits; mental health and substance use disorder outpatient office visits; speech, physical and occupational therapy; and generic and preferred-brand drugs. A fixed copay for each plan type will still apply for all these services.

Insurers offering Marketplace plans will be limited to offering four non-standardized plan options per product network type, metal level, inclu-

sion of dental and/or vision benefit coverage, and service area in plan year 2024. That number will go down to insurers only being allowed to offer two non-standardized options in each of these categories in plan year 2025 and subsequent years.

When you're shopping for plans on Healthcare.gov, standardized plan options will be displayed separately. The site also includes educational content including the availability of plans, copayments for specific categories of care and how you can review these plans if interested.



15 million

number of people expected to lose Medicaid coverage due to end of COVID public health emergency

— Source: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Timeline for ACA health plan enrollment

Now-Jan. 16, 2024 Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment Period

During this time, you can enroll in a new plan, keep the plan you have or switch plans. If you don't enroll during Open Enrollment, you can't enroll for 2024 health care coverage unless you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.

Dec. 15, 2023

Last day to enroll in or change plans and have coverage start Jan. 1, 2024.

Jan. 16, 2024

Last day to enroll in or change plans for 2024. Coverage starts Feb. 1, 2024, for those who enroll between Dec. 16, 2023-Jan. 16, 2024, and pay their first premiums.

Special Enrollment Period

You might still be able to enroll in a 2023 or 2024 plan outside the Open Enrollment Period if in the past 60 days you've undergone qualifying circumstances including marriage or divorce, having a baby, adopting a child, moving your residence, losing job-based health coverage, no longer qualifying for Medicaid or CHIP, gaining citizenship or being too old for a parent's plan.

NEW: Beginning Jan. 1, 2024, those who lose Medicaid or CHIP coverage will have 90 days after loss of coverage to select a plan.

NEW: Unwinding Special Enrollment Period

If you have a last day of Medicaid coverage between March 31, 2023, and July 31, 2024, you can apply for a Marketplace plan at any time within this period. You will have 60 days after applying to select a plan; coverage begins the first day of the month after you select your plan.

Low-Income Special Enrollment Period

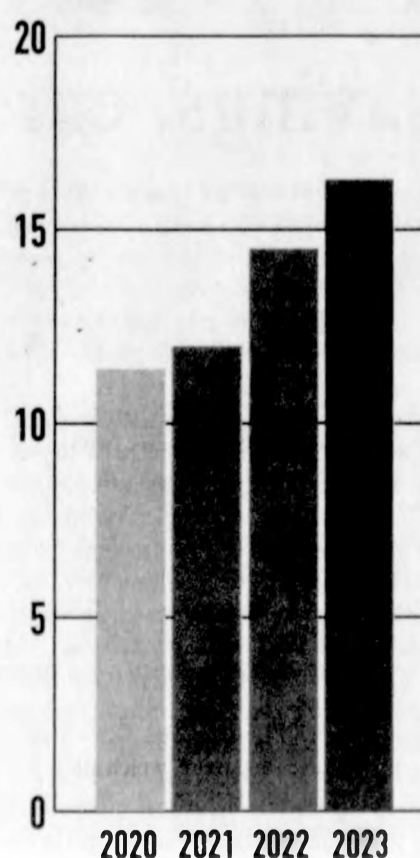
Those earning up to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$21,870 for a single person, \$37,290 for a family of three in 2024) can enroll in a Marketplace plan at any time throughout the year. Coverage begins the first day of the month after signing up.

DID YOU KNOW?

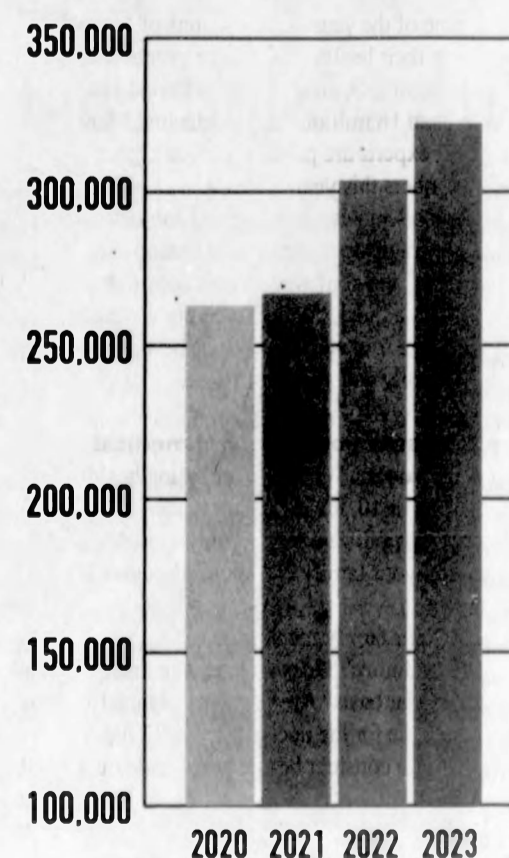
The Marketplace Open Enrollment Period usually ends on Jan. 15, but because Jan. 15, 2024, falls on a federal holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day), you'll have until midnight on Jan. 16 to enroll in coverage for 2024.

ACA Marketplace Enrollment in the 2020s

ACA Marketplace Enrollment In the U.S. (in millions)



ACA Marketplace Enrollment In Michigan



— Source: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

2024 MICHIGAN AFFORDABLE CARE ACT HEALTH INSURANCE GUIDE

Don't leave your insurance subsidies on the table
More financial help available than ever before



Financial subsidies are an important factor in making the costs, including premiums, deductibles and copays, of ACA Individual Marketplace plans affordable. Last year, the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act extended until 2025 increased subsidies first put into place by the American Rescue Plan in 2021. That includes increasing one type of subsidy—premium tax credits—along with allowing people with incomes over 400% of the Federal Poverty Limit to qualify for the credits, which they were previously ineligible for based on income.

Premium tax credits are typically available for those making 138% or more of the FPL. (See chart below, right.) If you make less than that, you may qualify for Healthy Michigan or Medicaid. Cost-sharing reductions, which help cover out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles and copays, are typically available for those making between 100% and 250% of the FPL, but only if you choose a Silver plan.

Are you missing out on money in your pocket?

If you are looking at Marketplace plans, there's a good chance you qualify for subsidies. In 2023, more than 85% of Michiganders who enrolled in Marketplace plans qualified for subsidies, saving an average of more than \$400 per month, according to the Michigan Dept. of Insurance and Financial Services. However, the data shows a lot of people who are available for subsidies either don't enroll in plans—leaving them uninsured—or don't take full advantage of the subsidies they're eligible for.

Bottom line: Don't leave money on the table that could be in your pocket—and don't assume you don't qualify for financial help.

Here's what you need to know about the two types of Marketplace subsidies:

Premium tax credits

What it is. A tax credit to help lower the cost of your monthly premium. Available for all metal-level health plans.

Who's eligible. In Michigan, individuals who earn more than 138% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Good to know. Premium tax credits are linked to the premium cost of the second-lowest-cost Silver plan, also called a

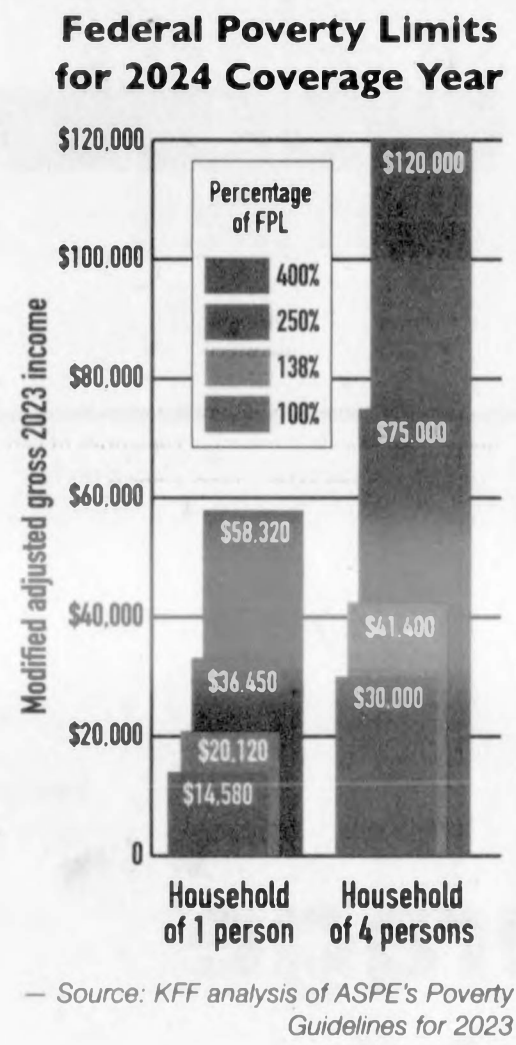
benchmark Silver plan, in a given geographic area. The amount of the tax credit fills in the difference between an individual's required income contribution and the market price of the benchmark Silver plan. If a person's income or family size changes, their premium tax credit will change accordingly.

Cost-sharing reductions

What it is. A subsidy that helps lower out-of-pocket costs, including deductibles, copays and co-insurance. Available only to those enrolled in Marketplace Silver-level plans.

Who gets it. Individuals who earn between 100% and 250% of the federal poverty level.

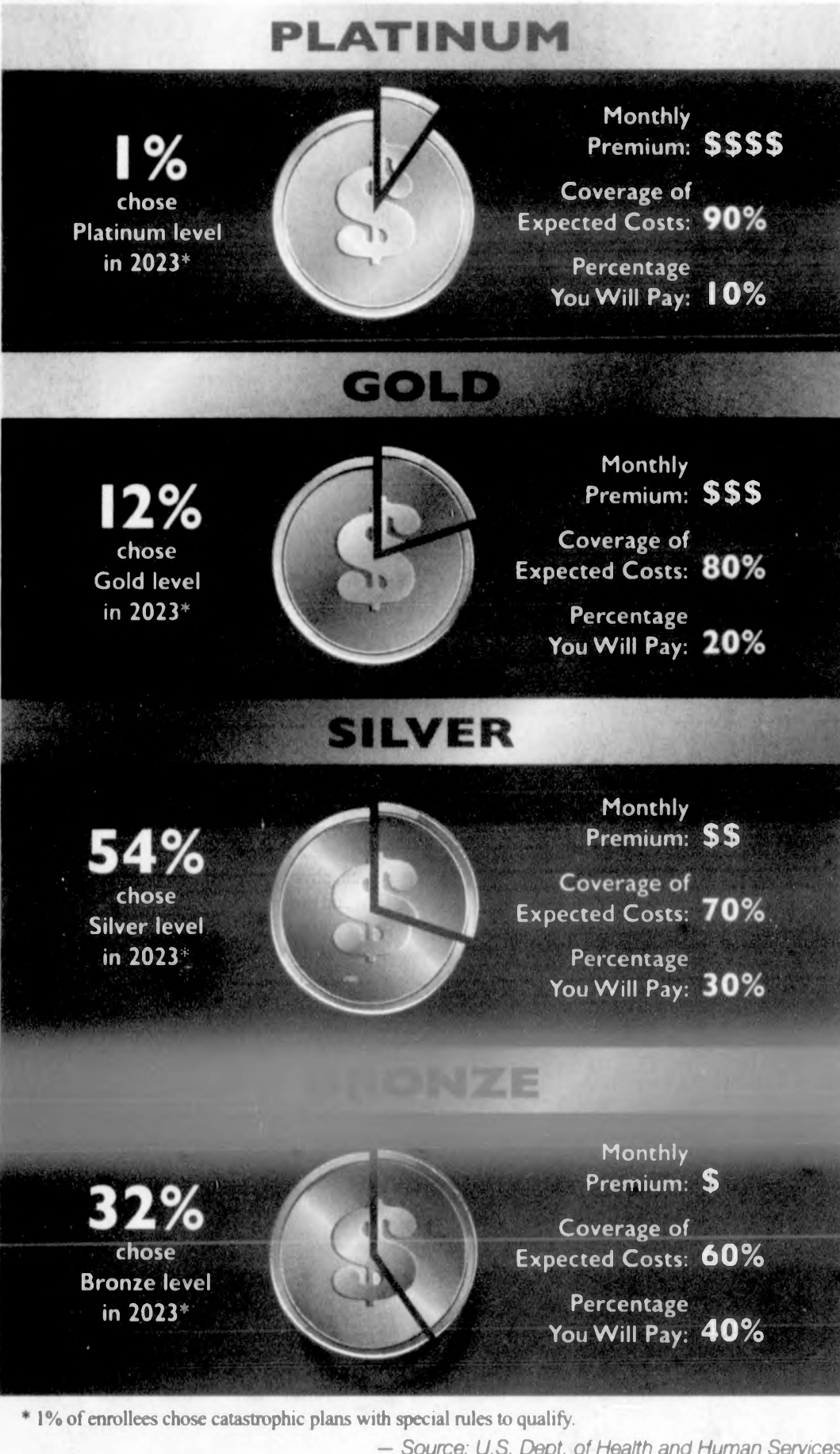
Good to know. Eligibility is based on income. CSRs are not available for any other metal-level plan besides Silver.



4 metal levels of coverage
Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze plans reflect cost, not quality, of health care

Gold, silver and bronze aren't only something you see awarded to Olympic athletes. Individual health care plans sold both on and off the Marketplace exchanges are assigned different metal levels—Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze—based on how much you pay and how much your plan pays for care, including premiums, deductibles and copays.

For example, a Platinum plan covers approximately 90% of expected services, while you pay the remaining 10%. From there, the amount covered goes down by tier, while the amount you pay out of pocket goes up. (There are also catastrophic plans available that pay less than



EXPERT ADVICE

Get a health coverage checkup: 4 steps for choosing the best plan for your needs

It's that time of the year when millions of Americans decide on their health plan for the year ahead. With a record-setting Open Enrollment Period last year of more than 16 million people selecting Marketplace plans, experts are predicting even higher enrollment numbers this year.

For Michiganders who are shopping for their own health coverage, open enrollment season can be overwhelming and confusing. But it doesn't have to be. You can do a quick checkup on your coverage by following these four steps to find the best plan for you, your family and your wallet.

Step 1: Assess your family's medical history and needs. Whether purchasing health coverage for two or 10, it's important to take time to evaluate your health care needs. Start by making a list of services your family might use throughout the year.

Do you or your family member have any ongoing health conditions? Does anyone take medications on a regular basis? Are there any planned medical procedures for the upcoming year? These are all questions to consider before you decide on a health plan.

Step 2: Consider your budget. It's important to evaluate your monthly premium costs, deductible and out-of-pocket expenses. The plan with

the lowest monthly premium may look attractive at first but might end up costing you more in the long run. Review each plan's annual out-of-pocket limit to determine the most you might spend on health care expenses during the year. Remember, this amount does not include your monthly premium.

Once you narrow down your options, check to see if you are eligible for a subsidy, which is a discount on your monthly premium based on your household income. If you don't qualify for a discount or choose not to use it, there are still affordable plan options available for you.

Step 3: Research your options. This year's Open Enrollment Period is Nov. 1, 2023, through Jan. 16, 2024. There are many choices when shopping for health coverage and it's important to find a plan that offers money-saving benefits such as low prescription copays, chronic condition resources, virtual care, a broad provider network and valuable plan extras like mental health support or travel assistance.

All MyPriority plans through Priority Health offer these must-haves and more, which allow you to save money while getting the quality care you need. You can learn more at priorityhealth.com/dfp

Step 4: Choose and enroll in a plan. Once you have considered your needs and re-

searched your options, you are ready to enroll in a plan. But don't take too long. Enrollment deadlines are right around the corner. Dec. 15 is the last day to enroll for coverage that will begin Jan. 1, 2024. Enrollment between Dec. 16, 2023, and Jan. 16, 2024, will have coverage effective Feb. 1, 2024.

The OEP generally runs from Nov. 1 to Jan. 15. However, Jan. 15 falls on a federal holiday in 2024, so consumers will have until midnight on Tuesday, Jan. 16 to enroll in coverage.

During this year's enrollment period, it pays to compare plans and find a plan with features and benefits that will be a better fit for your budget while offering the quality care you deserve.

ABOUT THE EXPERT

Kyla King is vice president, Individual Markets, for Priority Health.

PriorityHealth

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Vice President, Marketing and Events:
Aaron Velthoven

Special Section Editor/Writer: **Cathy Nelson**

Account Executive: **Kevin Bono**

Graphic Designer: **Lou Mika**

160 W. FORT ST., DETROIT, MI 48226
313.223.4347

The two types of ACA plans: Marketplace and off-Marketplace

Important similarities and differences between the two

Did you know that there are two types of ACA Individual health insurance plans? Under the ACA, plans are sold both on and off the Marketplace. In fact, insurers who offer plans on the Marketplace also must offer identical plans sold off the Marketplace. Marketplace plans are available at Healthcare.gov, or through an insurer, broker or agent; off-Marketplace plans are provided only through insurers, agents or brokers.

And, though the cost is required to be the same, plans sold off the Marketplace are not eligible for cost-sharing reductions or premium tax subsidies. Why would anyone choose these plans, you might ask? In the past, those who weren't eligible for Marketplace premium tax credits due to making over the income limits could many times find options as much as 15% to 20% cheaper when buying off-Marketplace plans. However, enactment of the American Rescue Plan allowed those making more than 400% of the federal poverty level to be eligible for premium tax credits for the first time in 2022, and passage of the Inflation Reduction Act has extended that increased subsidy eligibility through at least Dec. 31, 2025.

With that in mind, experts are saying even if you've bought off-Marketplace in the past, it's a good idea to review your Marketplace options again because you may now be eligible for new or increased subsidies.

In addition, insurers can offer plans sold only off the Marketplace that differ from the ones they sell on the Marketplace. In Michigan, 228 ACA Individual health plans will be available in 2023, with 169 of those being Marketplace-only plans.

It's important to note that all Individual health plans, regardless of where they're sold or whether they are on- or off-Marketplace, are subject to ACA consumer protections, such as not allowing someone to be refused coverage for pre-existing conditions, allowing qualifying young adults under age 26 to stay on their parents' plans and requiring certain preventive services to be available for no extra cost.



Here's what else you need to know about the difference between off- and on-Marketplace Individual health plans:

Off-market Individual health plans

Definition. A health plan that is available for purchase outside the federal or state ACA health insurance exchanges

Certified as Qualified Health Plans. Some plans are, but it is not a requirement

Covers Essential Health Benefits. Yes
Uses metal-plan designs. Yes

Eligible for cost-sharing subsidies. No
Eligible for premium tax subsidies. No

When you can buy. During the annual Open Enrollment, unless you qualify for Special Enrollment Period

Where you can buy. From an insurer, broker or agent.

On-market Individual health plans

Definition. A Qualified Health Plan sold through federal or state ACA health insurance exchanges

Certified as Qualified Health Plans. Yes

Covers Essential Health Benefits. Yes
Uses metal-plan designs. Yes

Eligible for cost-sharing subsidies. Yes, for silver plans only

Eligible for premium tax subsidies. Yes

When you can buy. During the annual Open Enrollment, unless you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period

Where you can buy. In Michigan, from the federal Marketplace at Healthcare.gov, an insurer, broker or agent.

IN MICHIGAN IN 2023:

228

Individual ACA health insurance plans available on- or off-Marketplace

169

Individual ACA health insurance plans available on-Marketplace only

— Source: Michigan Dept. of Insurance and Financial Services

Where to go for health plan help



Here's a list of where you can get help enrolling in an ACA health plan:

• **Healthcare.gov.**

Enroll in a Marketplace plan and get answers to your healthcare questions.

• **Marketplace Call Center.**

Call 800-318-2596 (TTY: 855-889-4325), 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except major holidays.

• **localhelp.healthcare.gov.**

Input your city and ZIP code to get a list of local agencies that provide assistance.

• **Help on Demand.**

Visit localhelp.healthcare.gov/get-contacted, input your information and a Marketplace-registered agent or broker will contact you by text, email or phone.

• **Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program.**

Visit michigan.gov/hicap for tools, guides, and resources or call 877-999-6442 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

• **Healthy Michigan Plan/Medicaid.**

Apply at Michigan.gov/healthymiplan or by calling 855-789-5610. You can also apply at your local Dept. of Human Services office.



Enroll in coverage that comes with America's best customer service.

With your MyPriority plan, you'll get more ways to access care, save money and stay healthy, all backed by our award-winning customer service teams.



Visit priorityhealth.com/freep or call 844.803.7739 for more information and to enroll.

