



Livonia Franklin already looks well-rounded on opening night

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHVILLE RECORD

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Laura Genitti sworn in as Northville's newest city council member

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE — Laura Genitti has a new hat to wear.

Lifetime Northville resident and owner of the 50-year-old Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall, a popular Italian restaurant and dinner theater venue, Genitti is the newest member of Northville City Council.

She, along with Northville Mayor Brian Turnbull and city council incumbent Barbara Moroski-Browne, were sworn in by 35th District Court Judge James Plakas at the Nov. 20 city council meeting.

'Listen and learn'

As the council's top vote-getter in the Nov. 7 election, Genitti is quick to admit her win was likely due, at least in part, to her family name.

"People know me from growing up here and different things I'm involved with in town," she said. "I'm not going to say name recognition didn't help, and I appreciate that. It's been that way my whole life. I have big shoes to fill as a second-generation business owner.

"But name recognition can only get you so far," she added. "I can't go on that forever. I have a lot of work to do."

Genitti, who also serves on the Northville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, said she plans to keep her role as a downtown Northville business owner separate from her role as a councilmember and has no plans to serve as a "spokesperson for downtown businesses."

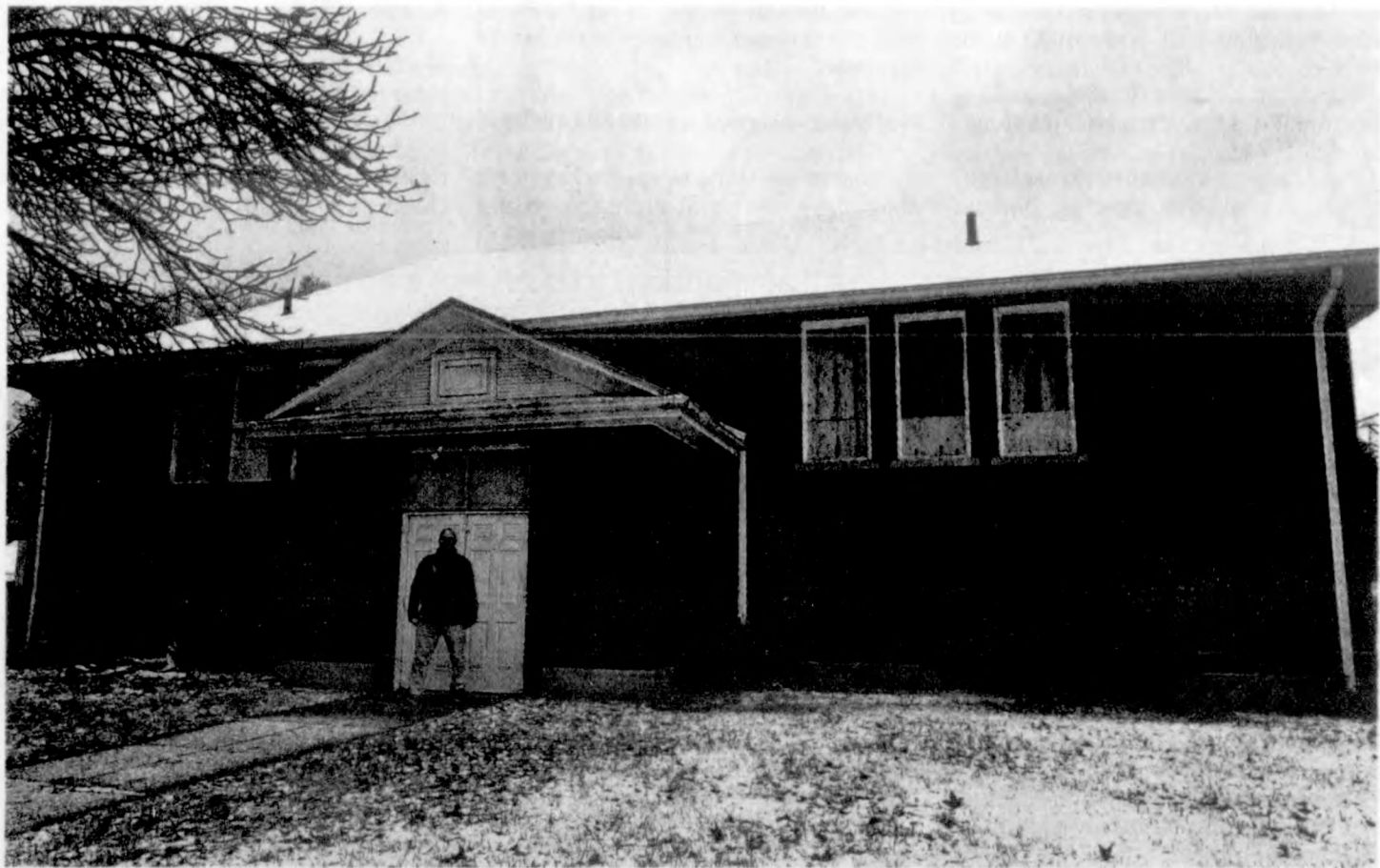
As of now, she hasn't established a clear set of goals for her time on council.

"My priorities are to listen and learn at first," Genitti said. "I do have a lot to catch up on, and a lot to learn. It's all very new to me, which is exciting, but I definitely don't have an agenda quite yet. On my agenda is to learn the way the city moves and how I can help keep moving it forward."

Still, she is keeping the Northville Downs redevelopment project top of mind.

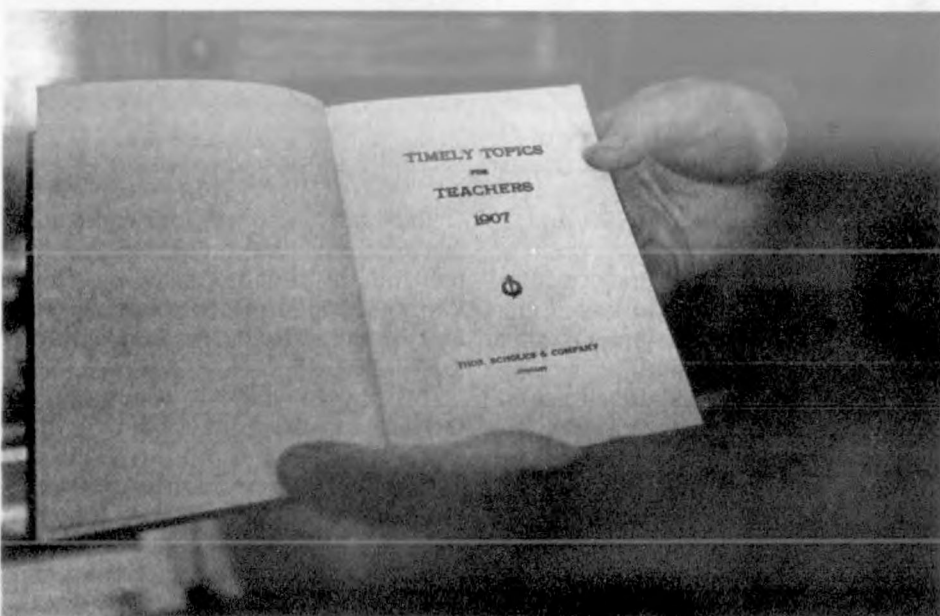
With the early phases of the \$250 million project set to begin in 2024,

See GENITTI, Page 2A



Redford Union Schools Superintendent Jasen Witt at Schoolhouse No. 5 on Beech Daly Road.
PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Redford Union Schools works to restore 100-year-old schoolhouse



Redford Union's Schoolhouse No. 5 is full of old items, including 100-year-old books and a telephone booth.

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
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REDFORD TOWNSHIP — Redford Union Schools are reviving a piece of local history.

The school district is refurbishing Redford Township District No. 5 School, 18499 Beech Daly Road, to be used for meeting space and as a place where students in the area can participate in historical learning experiences.

"It's on this main road, Beech Daly, and has just sat here closed for years," Superintendent Jasen Witt said. "It was important to me and our team that we found a way to use this in a way that would benefit the community."

The schoolhouse is over 100 years old and originally served as a learning space

See SCHOOLHOUSE, Page 2A

Canton Twp. approves Raising Cane's, three other new business projects

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON TWP. — Four construction projects got a green light from local officials this week as developers prepared to bring new business to the township.

The Canton Township Board of Trustees on Nov. 28 approved plans for a new Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers and a new Discount Tire. Plans for two new multi-tenant commercial shopping centers were also approved.

All four projects were reviewed at least once — several times, in some

cases — and ultimately recommended for approval by the Canton Township Planning Commission.

Raising Cane's planned for Ford Road

The prospect of a Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers in Canton Township generated much social media excitement when news of the proposal broke in September.

The fast-food restaurant, which serves a limited menu of chicken fingers, fries, coleslaw and Texas toast, is

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Developers plan to demolish the TGI Fridays at 44250 Ford Road to make way for a new Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers drive-thru restaurant.

LAURA COLVIN

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Livonia's Classical Bells rings in most wonderful time of the year

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
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LIVONIA — The musicians with Classical Bells know handbell playing is all about the team.

Everyone has a role to play and the right notes need to get hit at the right time.

"What's really great, for musicians, about playing bells is the ensemble effect," said Becca Rowan, a supporter and former 20-year ringer with the group. "Handbells are like a piano keyboard. Everybody has five or six keys that belong to them. You have to know your group, and you have to listen. It's very much a team effort because if one person misses their bell, you can go down really quickly."

Watching a Classical Bells performance is like watching a well-oiled machine run.

The group is so in tune with each other that the creative director, Darlene

Ebersole, is able to play alongside everyone else.

"We're the only group I know of where the director stands behind the table," said Ebersole, a 39-year ringer. "Most of them are out front. So our members have to be really sharp because I can't give them a lot of cues."

The end of November marks the beginning of the Livonia-based group's busy season. Their first of six holiday concerts is 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, at the group's home base, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile Road.

The concert is free, but donations received will benefit the Redford Brightmoor Initiative in Detroit.

"The holiday season is big," Rowan said. "Everybody wants bells at Christmastime."

Not your average handbell group

Most people who've seen a handbell show have seen it at a church. While

Classical Bells has several church choir directors from around metro Detroit in its ranks, members say their shows are nothing like what people might see on Sunday morning.

This time of year, shows include classic Christmas carols alongside tunes about Santa Claus and snowball fights. According to Rowan, "March of the Toy Soldiers" from "The Nutcracker" is always a crowd favorite.

"This group is really different because it's not all religious music," she said. "They do traditional Christmas carols, but they think of themselves as a 'bell show choir.' There's costumes and choreography."

A labor of love

Classical Bells is entering its 40th season and has, according to Ebersole, the largest handbell and chime collection in the Midwest. Though Christmas-time is busy, the group plays all year, including a busy spring season and travel-

ling for bell festivals.

Members practice for hours every week and take no pay for their efforts. For many of them, it's all about, as Rowan says, "the love of the bell."

"We have several ringers who work around their work schedule," said Kathy Nickodemus, the group's business manager and a ringer of 15 years. "They change their schedules so they can do this."

People wanting to catch one of the group's holiday shows can view their online schedule. Ebersole said shows are as fun to watch as they hear and are meant for all ages.

"It's just so much fun and it's contagious," she said. "It's a highlight when you get to play and perform."

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

Schoolhouse

Continued from Page 1A

for students between the first and eighth grades. Its most recent use was as an information technology and storage center in the mid 1990s, but it has been empty for about 30 years.

"We want to create a meeting space that we can use as a district and that other groups can utilize as well," Witt said. "The other side of this building is being restored as an old schoolhouse room so we can not only bring our students here and expose them to the history, but we can potentially open it to other communities."

According to Witt, restoration will cost between \$700,000 and \$1 million, funds provided by the district's 2021 bond, and is expected to be completed in the fall of next year. Miles Tomasaitis, the district's director of transportation, building and grounds, said most of the renovations needed will bring the building up to modern accessibility standards.

Tomasaitis and Witt said the restoration will also bring back some local traditions. For years, people rang the school's bell on the first and last days of

school. According to the Redford Township Historical Commission, the bell is original to the schoolhouse and was purchased from a Sears catalog for about \$20.

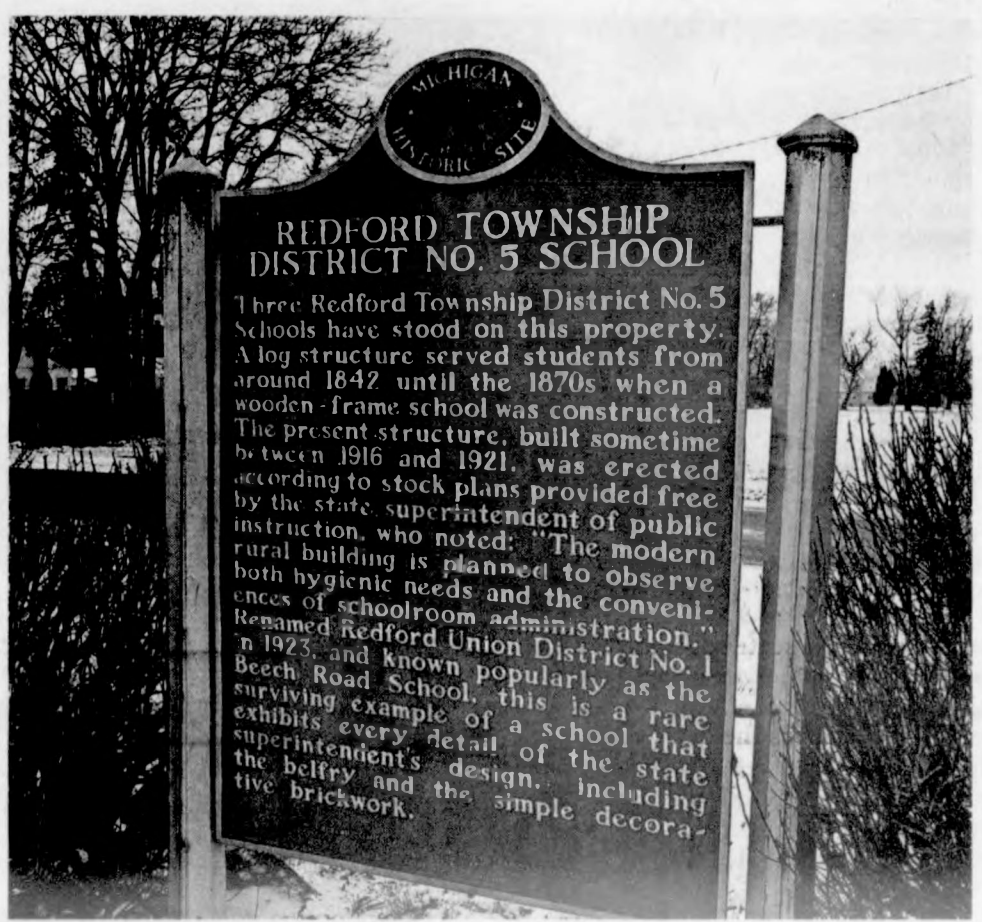
"We embrace the old traditions here," Witt said. "Our voters blessed us with \$59 million, and we thought a portion of that should definitely go into this building so we can actually open it back up to the community."

The Christman Company and the local historical commission are assisting Redford Union with the restoration process. Witt said the goal is to make the building look as close as possible to its original state. Officials will also save some of the artifacts in the building, which include a phone booth, 100-year-old textbooks and projection slides.

"This has been our baby for a long time," Tomasaitis said. "As time has gone on, different challenges have been presented to the school district so we haven't been able to do a lot of what's needed to be done here. It's a neat piece of property and a neat piece of history."

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A historical marker for Schoolhouse No. 5 in Redford Township.

SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Cane's

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wildly popular. About 250 people waited in line for Michigan's first Raising Cane's grand opening in East Lansing last fall.

At its meeting Tuesday, the township board approved a special land use and site plan for a Raising Cane's at 44250 Ford Road, between Sheldon and Morton Taylor roads.

Developers plan to demolish the TGI Fridays currently located on the site and replace it with a new 3,700-square-foot

restaurant with seating for 90 and a drive-through option.

Per planning commission discussion and recommendations, work will include modifications to improve traffic flow in and around the site.

According to township documents, the site is also designed based on Michigan Department of Transportation's future plans for the Ford Road boulevard project, although plans for the project have not been finalized.

Before construction can begin, the company must submit plans to the township's Engineering Services Division and Building & Inspection Services Division for review.

Raising Cane's will join eight other fast-food restaurants located within a half-mile of the site, including Arby's, Wendy's, Tim Hortons, Culver's, Taco Bell, McDonald's, Burger King and Boston Market.

Other projects approved

The township board also approved a special land use and site plan for a fast food, drive-through restaurant and multi-tenant commercial shopping center proposed by Dabaja Properties at the northwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Beck Road.

The township board also approved a

site plan for multi-tenant commercial shopping center at Warren and Canton Center plaza, where a developer has plans to demolish the vacant former PNC Bank and replace it with a 7,400-square-foot, multi-tenant commercial building for retail and restaurant use.

The township board also approved a site plan for Discount Tire. The company is proposing construction of a new location at the southwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Research Drive, east of Beck Road.

The new store will be the second Canton Township location for the national wheel and tire retailer.

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Genitti

Continued from Page 1A

ultimately bringing hundreds of new homes, commercial space and three parks into the city, Genitti said she believes open and clear communication between the city and the residents will be more important than ever as the city "goes into a five year construction zone."

"Northville is blossoming to say the least," Genitti said. "But we need to think about daily life for people, not so much the big picture all the time, but the day-to-day - the struggles getting home from work, the struggles trying to get gas, grab dinner, get a pizza in town. It's going to take everyone working together to make sure we can do day-to-day as opposed to worrying about what the Downs will look like in 10 years."

Genitti and husband Kirk have three young adult children, ages 24, 20 and 17.

"Two are graduating from college, one is graduating from high school and I have no hobbies," she laughed. "May-



Laura Genitti, shown celebrating her Election Day win, was sworn in Nov. 20 as the newest member of the Northville City Council.
COURTESY LAURA GENITTI

be that's why I'm doing this."

Election results

Turnbull ran unopposed in the Nov. 7 mayoral election and claimed a two-year term with 1,616 votes.

Of the four council members running for seats, Genitti was first with 1,228 votes, while incumbent Moroski-Browne retained her seat with 916 votes. Marilyn Price was ousted after com-

ing in third with 907 votes but was treated to thanks and praise from all council members and a standing ovation in the room as she relinquished her seat to Genitti.

Genitti's message to voters?

"Thank you," she said. "I appreciate your confidence in me and hope I can do a great job for you."

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

Meet Theresa Rich, new mayor of Farmington Hills

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON HILLS — A former councilwoman is gearing up to serve as Farmington Hills' mayor.

Theresa Rich will be officially sworn in as mayor on Monday, Nov. 27. Rich earned more votes than Ken Massey, a current councilman and former mayor, during Nov. 7 elections. Rich is a current member of the Oakland Schools Board of Education and has served a four-year stint as a councilwoman.

She said being a transparent public servant and helping Farmington Hills become a "destination city" are among her top goals during her two-year term. As mayor, Rich will make roughly \$10,000 a year.

"I ran because Farmington Hills needs to, once again, be a destination city," she said. "I believe our best days are ahead of us."

As mayor, Rich will set the agenda for city council. She said placemaking efforts, parks spending and services to benefit residents of all ages are on her mind.



Farmington Hills Mayor-elect Theresa Rich at Leeza's Café, her favorite place in town to grab breakfast. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The mayor-elect expects the city's ongoing master plan for future land use process to help guide some of these goals. Like some citizens who've participated in master plan listening sessions, Rich thinks things like public art instal-

lations and walkable spaces would improve the city.

"Those are things that make a city warm and inviting," she said. "I see my role as the city's No. 1 cheerleader. I want to highlight businesses and successes."

Rich noted that, on council, she is only one of seven votes. She's already been in contact with members of council and City Manager Gary Mekjian to foster open communication lines.

Rich said she hopes to be an accessible official and plans to hold monthly coffee hours beginning in January.

"There will be times where I like a decision people agree with and there will be times where I make a decision people disagree with," she said. "I want to hear what people have to say whether they agree or disagree because my intent is to represent all 83,000 of us."

The mayor-elect noted that Farmington Hills is uniquely diverse and is, by population, Michigan's 14th largest city. She plans to continue outgoing Mayor Vicki Barnett's practice of appointing residents from all walks of life to boards and commissions.

"We are one of the most diverse cities of our size in the whole United States," she said. "I want to see how we can reach deeper into the community to make sure all voices are heard. One way to do that is through board and commission appointments."

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Meet Livonia Council President-elect Brandon McCullough

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — For Brandon McCullough, local politics is a family affair.

The Livonia City Council president-elect and his wife, Kacie McCullough, have lived in Livonia their entire lives. They're raising their 9-year-old daughter, Harper, to be a Livonian just like they are.

"Our family has been involved at every step," Brandon McCullough said. "At the end of the day, I am just someone who was born and raised here. Kacie is the same thing. We're products of this community."

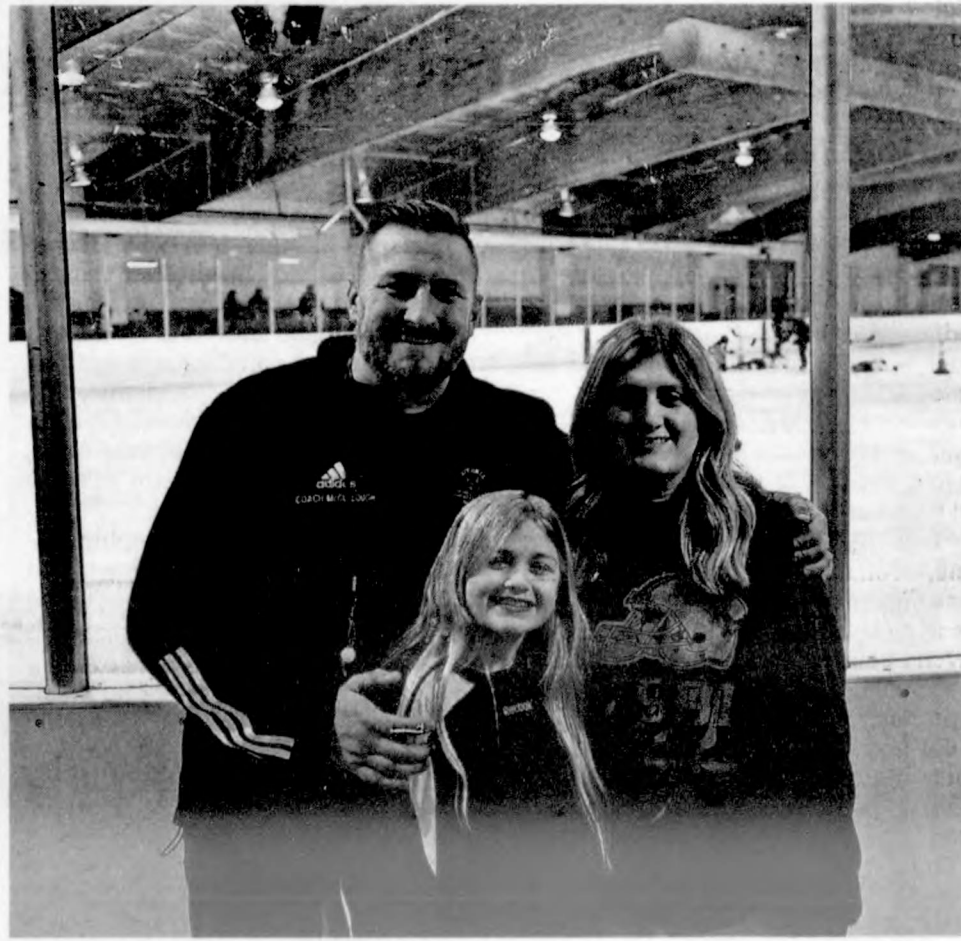
As council president, Brandon McCullough will set the agenda for Livonia's legislative branch. Livonia's council president is chosen based on which candidate receives the most votes during a local general election, which takes place every two years. McCullough, who received a council record 16,409 votes, led this year's winners.

He said forging a working relationship with Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan's office, finding a purpose for the Alfred Noble Library property and pushing for better support of police and fire personnel are going to be among his top priorities.

"The last four years, we've had a lot of communication problems with the silos that everyone exists in," said the councilman, who is entering his second term. "We do have a lot of work to do, and at some point we need to push some things past the goal line."

Taking care of city business

McCullough sees the Noble Library, Livonia Vision 21 developments, city infrastructure, Greenmead Historical Park and code enforcement as important items the seven-member city council will need to consider. He thinks a



Brandon and Kacie McCullough, back, with their daughter Harper at the Eddie Edgar Ice Arena in Livonia. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

willingness and ability to work together would serve council well.

"Everyone brings a different perspective, but infighting is going to be negative for the city," McCullough said. "Are we going to agree on everything? I would hope not. But, as long as we can work together and come up with solutions, we'll get things done."

The Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Road, is a major area of interest for McCullough. The library has been closed for about four years due to mold issues. McCullough would like to see the

building and property repurposed in a fashion similar to Novi's Lakeshore Park, 601 S. Lake Drive, which he helped develop as a former Novi facilities director.

"Noble is a library Kacie and I both went to as kids, and I just see opportunity there," he said. "You can take something that is dilapidated and revitalize it."

McCullough also wants to promote a welcoming, open-minded atmosphere at council meetings. The councilman said he would have liked to have seen

council pass a nondiscrimination ordinance last year. McCullough and current council President Jim Jolly were the only members to support the so-called NDO.

"I'm an ally to the whole LGBTQ+ community and for humans," McCullough said. "What's right is right. This is an ordinance that hasn't been updated since 1978, and nothing on the new ordinance would supersede what was already in place."

"It should have been something we passed unanimously just to show people that we're open to everyone in the community."

Serving in his hometown

McCullough unabashedly loves his hometown. He can often be seen at local events, trying every ride at Livonia Spree with his daughter and coaching girls youth hockey. McCullough is a coach on Harper McCullough's 10U Livonia Knights team, and many of the players were aware of his recent reelection.

Harper and Kacie McCullough both say they understand the work that comes with being on council and see it as important that their family operates as a team.

"I'm happy he got council president, and a lot of my team is happy," Harper McCullough said.

Brandon McCullough says he counts on his wife and daughter to keep him a transparent and authentic person. He said anyone who gets into politics "better make sure their family is on board."

"I don't think people realize how much it takes," Kacie McCullough said. "I have to hand it to anyone who runs, whether they win or lose, and their families. It's a lot of work for all of us."

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Six Westland, Wayne residents file to replace Coleman in Lansing

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

WESTLAND — Voters in Wayne and parts of Westland and Canton Township will elect someone new to the Michigan House of Representatives early next year since their former representative, Kevin Coleman, was elected Westland's mayor.

Coleman, who'd been in his third term, left the District 25 seat vacant when he was elected earlier this month.

Voters will head to the polls Tuesday, Jan. 30, to vote in a primary that will narrow a five-person field of Democrats vying for the position.

Josh Powell, a Westland resident who has run for city council multiple times, is running unopposed as a Republican. Powell and the Democratic winner will compete in a Tuesday, April 16, election for the seat.

The winner of the general election will serve in Lansing through the end of 2024. Primary candidates have until Friday, Dec. 1, to withdraw.

In Michigan, state representatives serve two-year terms and, according to



Coleman

the state, earn \$71,685 annually. District 25 is, historically, a Democratic stronghold.

These are the Democrats running to replace Coleman:

Peter Herzberg, a Westland resident who serves on city council. Herzberg is Coleman's cousin and is one of council's longest-serving current members. In the event he is elected, the remaining Westland City Council members would appoint a replacement to serve the rest of his term, which runs through the end of 2025.

Melandie Hines, a Westland resident who serves on the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education. She's currently the board's secretary. In the event she is elected, the remaining school board members would appoint a replacement to serve the rest of her current term, which ends in 2026.

Shannon Rochon, a Wayne resident. Rochon works as the director of partnerships for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, according to his LinkedIn profile. Rochon has also worked in local government and federal cam-

paigning.

Andrea Rutkowski, a Westland resident who serves on city council. Rutkowski is currently council's president pro tem. In the event she is elected, the remaining Westland City Council members would appoint a replacement to serve the rest of the term she was recently elected to, which ends in 2027.

Layla Taha, a Westland resident. According to her LinkedIn profile, Taha works as a program manager for Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib (D-Detroit). Taha has spent most of her career with the University of Michigan.

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

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Ludington State Park in Ludington during summer 2022. PROVIDED BY TYLER LEIPPRANDT AND MICHIGAN SKY MEDIA LLC VIA MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Ludington tops Michigan's state parks in nights camped

Tanya Wildt

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

One Michigan state park or recreation area campground was the clear winner in most nights camped during the last fiscal year, which ran Oct. 1, 2022, to Sept. 30.

Ludington State Park in Ludington topped the list with 47,265 nights camped and had 13,136 reservations, according to Michigan Department of Natural Resources data.

Ludington State Park sits on Lake Michigan and has more than 300 camp-

sites between its three campgrounds.

Holland State Park in Holland came in second with 39,548 nights camped. In third was South Higgins Lake State Park in Roscommon with 39,288 nights camped.

While these campgrounds are popular, they might not be the toughest to get into.

Petoskey State Park in Petoskey had the highest occupancy rate at 77.4% during the last fiscal year. It was followed by McClain State Park in Hancock at 73.6% and Wilderness State Park in Carp Lake at 71.3%.

However, in prime camping season

from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Ludington State Park did have the most occupancy at 94.38%. It was followed by Leelanau State Park in Northport at 91.46% and Grand Haven State Park in Grand Haven at 91.43%.

After Michigan State Park's experienced a surge of camping reservations during the COVID-19 pandemic, the DNR saw a 2.6% drop in reservations in fiscal year 2023 from fiscal year 2022, decreasing from 496,000 to 483,000 reservations.

During the COVID-19 camping uptick, longtime campers were frustrated as newcomers and other seasoned

campers filled parks, making reservations harder to get. Campers also had a theory that due to the increased competition, others were booking multiple locations for the same dates and later canceling the location they didn't want to use.

DNR data showed a 20% increase in 2023 Memorial Day weekend reservation cancellations on Feb. 28 compared with the same point in 2022. However, cancellations were down overall.

In fiscal year 2022, there were 70,000 cancellations, or 14%. In fiscal year 2023, that number dropped to 62,000 cancellations or 12.8%.



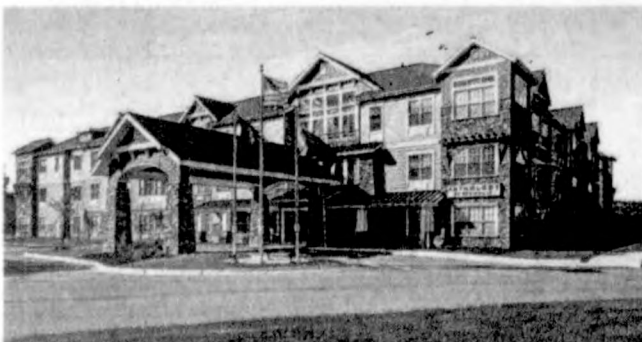
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Tuesday, December 12th at 2:00 pm

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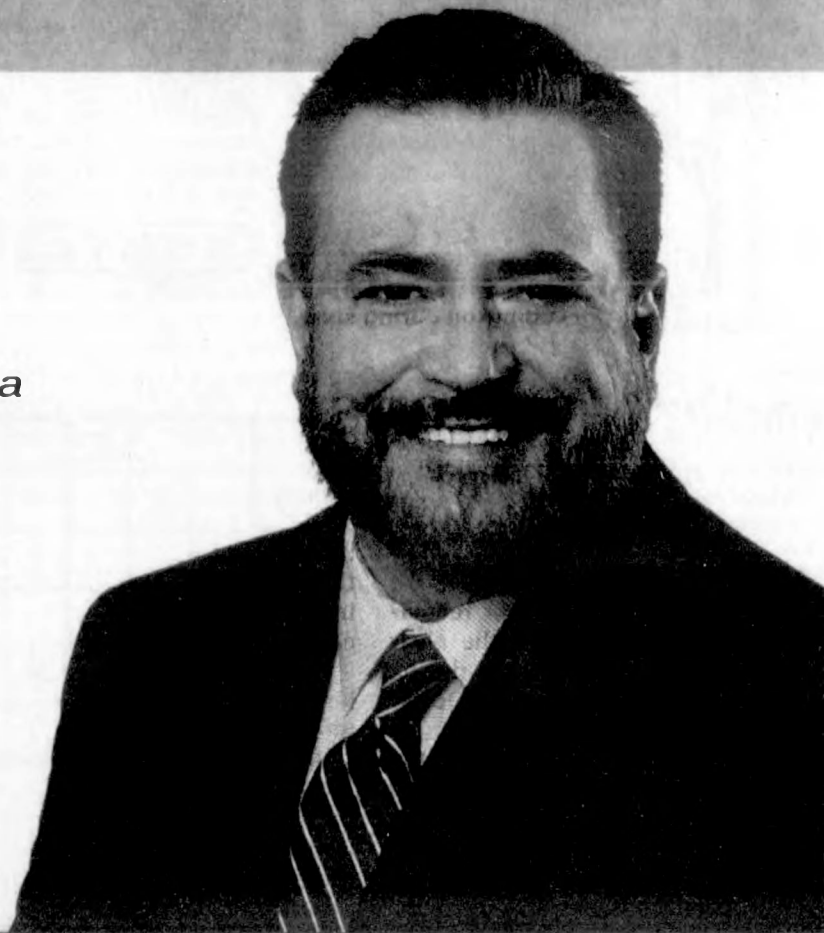
Attendance is free, but space is limited. Save your seat today.

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Presented by

Robert D. Mannor, CELA, CDP

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The National Elder Law Foundation,
Author of *You're Not Alone: Living with Dementia*
Host of *Advice From Your Advocates* Podcast



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Don't Allow Alzheimer's or Dementia To Devastate Your Family and Finances!

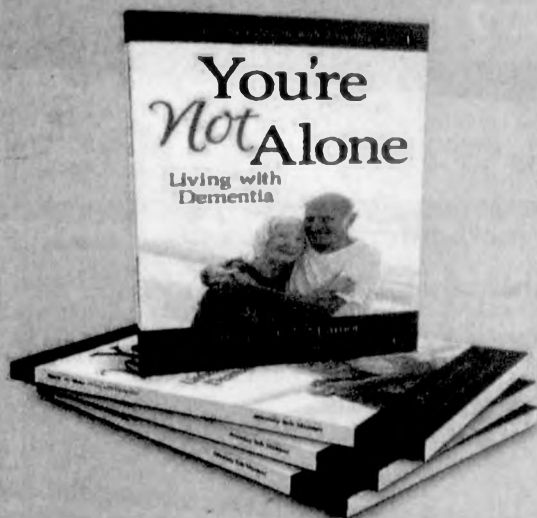
Join the Author at Abbey Park at Mill River

28413 Abbey Lane, New Hudson

Tuesday, December 12th at 2:00 pm

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SERIES

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Presented by Elder Law Attorney & Author Robert D. Mannor



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

- Acacia Erica Leggy Rhizome
- Annual Ficus Lepidopteran Root-bail
- Beds Flgs Lime Scent
- Birds Fragrance Loam Scribbly
- Bract Gymea lily Manure Gum
- Bunya Gypsum Muiga Shrubs
- Bush Herbicide Native Soak
- Cane Hoop violet Soil
- Coral Humus Pests Staghorn
- Epiphyte Huon Rain Wet feet

TODAY'S ANSWER

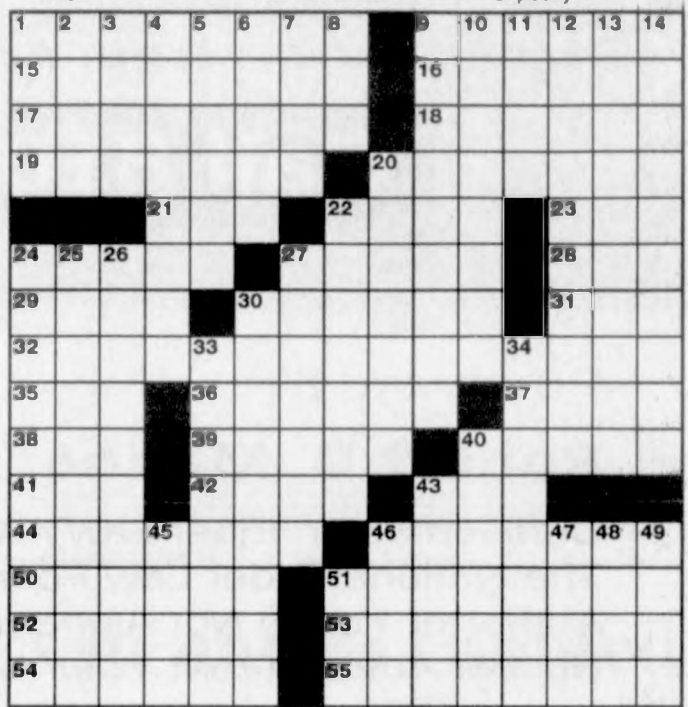
Growing indigenous plants

Going bush

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

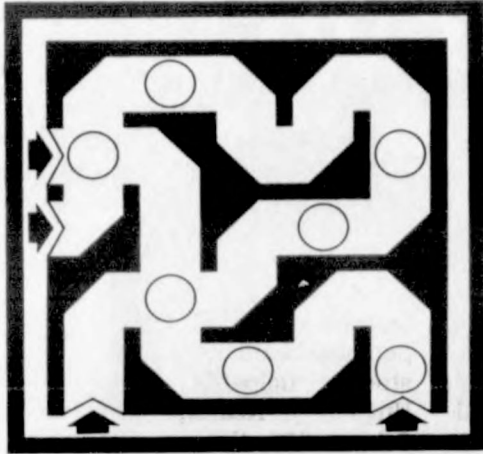
- ACROSS**
- 1 Dawns on
 - 9 Secure and immobilize
 - 15 Literally, "long mountain"
 - 16 Roast participant
 - 17 Reviewers' hangout
 - 18 Took off
 - 19 Bad sorts
 - 20 Second look
 - 21 Bad sort
 - 22 *Compañero común*
 - 23 At the very beginning
 - 24 Cheery
 - 27 Waggish
 - 28 Bad acting
 - 29 Jerusalem, per Handel's *Messiah*
 - 30 Common crossword clue conclusion
 - 31 Supplier of quarters
 - 32 Negotiation station
 - 35 Needle point
 - 36 They're expected to hold water
 - 37 Covered
 - 38 Lays out
 - 39 Queue component
 - 40 Not so easy to swallow
 - 41 To some extent
 - 42 Supplier of quarters
 - 43 *Pièce d'échecs*
 - 44 Word from the Greek for "unequal"
 - 46 Part of Mercedes' Active Curve System
 - 50 Not after now
 - 51 Ghanaian neighbor
- DOWN**
- 1 Gulf Cooperation Council member
 - 2 *Amor mio*
 - 3 Shortening
 - 4 Rattled
 - 5 Hub-and-spoke
 - 6 What truckers don't welcome
 - 7 Head turner
 - 8 Shelter for Robin Hood
 - 9 Honeycrisp apple relatives
 - 10 Pain med brand
 - 11 King David ancestor
 - 12 Numb
 - 13 Eleanor Roosevelt, to Edith
 - 14 #5 in continuous Senate longevity
 - 20 *Spin's* #2 all-time greatest band (2002)
 - 22 Disagreeable to the max
 - 24 Most populous double-landlocked nation
 - 25 *Rhapsody in Blue*, as first written
 - 26 Prefigure
 - 27 Gather
 - 30 Piquancy
 - 33 Heavy-leaning rock
 - 34 *Troilus and Cressida* warrior
 - 40 Flag
 - 43 Donkey Kong's voice in *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*
 - 45 Gold ___
 - 46 Skip it
 - 47 March with a keyboard
 - 48 New-topic intro
 - 49 Collect what you've merited
 - 51 Porcine purloiner of poesy



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PUZZLES & POSERS

FOURWORDS BACKWARDS



TRANSFER THE LETTERS BELOW INTO THE CIRCLES ON THIS MAZE-LIKE PATTERN OF PATHWAYS TO CREATE FOUR COMMON WORDS.

EACH ARROW POINTS THE ROUTE TO A DIFFERENT WORD. ALWAYS TRAVEL STRAIGHT THRU INTERSECTIONS IN TRACING THESE WORDS.

RUMTASN

SUDOKU | CREATORS

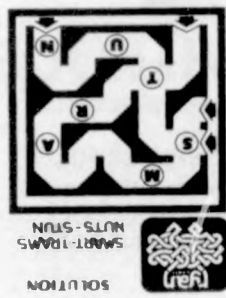
Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: SILVER**

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

TODAY'S ANSWER



P	O	H	S	S	N	E	S	S	E	N	S	H	O	P
A	R	E	M	S	W	O	O	T	A	T	E			
T	O	D	A	T	E	T	O	G	O	L	E	S	E	
S	C	A	L	E	N	E								
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U	P	F												
N	A	T												
N	A	S												
A	R	T												
M	A	N												
O	C	C												



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Over 1M in Michigan affected by breach

Communication service for Corewell Health hit by cyberattack, opens assistance hotline

Kristen Jordan Shamus
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

More than 1 million Michiganders were affected by a cybersecurity breach at Welltok Inc., a software company contracted to provide communication services for Corewell Health's southeastern Michigan properties along with a healthy lifestyle portal for Priority Health, an insurance plan owned by Corewell.

For about 2,500 Priority Health members, names, addresses and health insurance identification numbers were compromised, the health plan said in a statement. For about 1 million Corewell Health patients, the compromised data includes names, dates of birth, email addresses, phone numbers, medical diagnoses, health insurance information and Social Security numbers.

Attack hit nearly 8.5 million people nationally

Welltok, which is owned by Virgin Pulse, sent letters earlier this month to people affected by the massive breach. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights, which publishes a list of all breaches of protected health information that are under investigation involving 500 or more people, the Welltok cyberattack affected 8,493,379 people.

Those affected included people who have received health care or insurance

provided by the following companies:

- Asuris Northwest Health
- BridgeSpan Health
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina
- Faith Regional Health Services
- Hospital & Medical Foundation of Paris, Inc. dba Horizon Health
- Mass General Brigham Health Plan
- Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon
- Regence BlueShield
- Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah
- Regence Blue Shield of Idaho
- St. Bernards Healthcare
- Sutter Health
- Trane Technologies Company LLC and/or group health plans sponsored by Trane Technologies Company LLC or Trane U.S. Inc.
- The group health plans of Stanford Health Care, of Stanford Health Care, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley, Stanford Medicine Partners, and Packard Children's Health Alliance
- The Guthrie Clinic

Breach went undetected for more than two months

In a statement, Welltok said it "takes

this incident very seriously" and recommends credit monitoring for those affected by the breach, which occurred May 30 when a cyberattacker exploited software vulnerabilities on the MOVEit Transfer server, which is supposed to provide the secure digital transfer of sensitive information, including protected health information.

Welltok said it had installed all the required MOVEit Transfer security upgrades and patches as soon as they were available and conducted an examination of its networks and systems to identify any potential for compromised data.

It wasn't until Aug. 11, after the company hired third-party cybersecurity specialists and reconstructed its systems and historical data, that the breach was discovered.

"While we have no evidence that any of your information has been misused, we are notifying you and providing information and resources to help protect your personal information," Welltok said in a statement.

"The following types of information may have impacted: name and address, telephone number, email address. The type of information at issue varies for each person. For a small group of impacted clients, Social Security numbers, Medicare/Medicaid ID numbers, or certain health insurance information such as plan or group name, were also implicated. For other individuals, certain health information such as a provider name, prescription name, or treatment code may have been included."

Welltok opened a dedicated assistance line at 800-628-2141 to help address any questions people may have.

Cybersecurity attacks are a growing problem in health care

The HIPAA Journal reported that the cyberattack at Welltok is the fourth-largest health care data breach in the U.S. this year. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that data breaches among health care organizations more than doubled from 2019 to 2021. And in 2022, at least 28.5 million health care records were breached.

In Michigan alone, several have been reported in recent months, including one that affected 2.5 million patients of McLaren Health Care.

A ransomware attack took down the computer network at McLaren's 14 Michigan hospitals in late August and early September. The health system acknowledged in October that it also could have leaked some patient data onto the dark web. A ransomware gang known as BlackCat/AlphV claimed responsibility for the cyberattack, posting online that it stole 6 terabytes of McLaren's data.

And in late August, the University of Michigan shut down its campus computer network after a hacker got access to the personal information of students and applicants, alumni and donors, employees and contractors, as well as the personal health information of research study participants, and patients of the University Health Service and the School of Dentistry.

The data that was compromised in the U-M cyberattack varied, but for some included Social Security numbers, driver's license or other government-issued ID numbers, financial account and payment card numbers.

Wolverines in danger? How about Buckeyes?

Animals put on threatened species list as team wins

Todd Spangler
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The University of Michigan's football team is 12-0 after dropping Ohio State for the third year in row. Now, the wolverines have something else going in their favor.

Not those Wolverines. The actual ones. Strong, furry, sharp-toothed, mean? On Wednesday, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service listed the species, or at least its members rolling around the underbrush in the Lower 48 states, as officially threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

That means there are restrictions against killing, capturing or "taking" North American wolverines, though being listed as "threatened," versus "endangered," means there are some exemptions. In the case of the wolverines, the government is proposing an interim rule saying they can be killed or captured for research activities, incidental trapping and forest management intended to combat wildfires.

None of which is going to have much or any impact in Michigan, as other than a couple of wolverines housed at the Detroit Zoo, you're not likely to run into one, other than those decked out in maize-and-blue at the Big House. (Unlike a lot of other schools, U-M has neither a live version of its mascot or a dressed-up one traipsing around the

sidelines; the helmet design also apparently has nothing to do with the animal either.)

In fact, there is scant evidence the state ever had much of any wolverine population; the question of how Michigan became "the Wolverine state" or U-M adopted it as a nickname remains shrouded in mystery, though it may have something to do with the state's history as a trapping outpost. One did pop up in the Thumb about 20 years ago.

It's now stuffed and on display at the Saginaw Visitor's Center after rolling around for several years in the Minden City State Game Area. Typically, live wolverines — some reports have said there are only about 300 left in the contiguous U.S. — live in the Western and northwestern states at high elevations.

For the record, the North American wolverine, otherwise known by the Latin "gulo gulo luscus," (gulo standing for "glutton" and "luscus" for the New World version), runs to around 40 pounds or more and resembles a small bear but is actually a large member of a weasel-related family. (Cue the Michigan State fans.)

It also is nocturnal, can smell frozen carcasses in up to 20 feet of snow and has glands that produce a pungent, sticky substance to mark their territory — which often happens during mating season and before home games in November.

The government had actually moved



Michigan's lone wolverine peers at her surroundings on a bright 2007 day in the Minden City swamp. PROVIDED BY JEFF FORD

to list the wolverine as threatened a decade ago, then delisted it, before a court, urged by environmental groups, stepped in and told it to look again.

And here we are: "Current and increasing impacts of climate change and associated habitat degradation and fragmentation are imperiling the North American wolverine," said Fish & Wildlife Pacific Regional Director Hugh Morrison. "Based on the best available science, this listing determination will help to stem the long-term impact and enhance the viability of wolverines in the contiguous United States."

Conservationists, noting the loss of

snowpack due to climate change, have been pushing for the species to be listed since the 1990s, by the way, over the objections, at least in recent years, of farm bureaus, snowmobile associations and the American Petroleum Institute.

All we can say is, "Go Blue!" and wish future generations of wolverines and Wolverines good luck.

We might also remark that, after the way The Game has turned out in recent years, maybe someone needs to look at saving the Buckeyes.

Contact Todd Spangler: tspangler@freepress.com. Follow him on Twitter @tsspangler.



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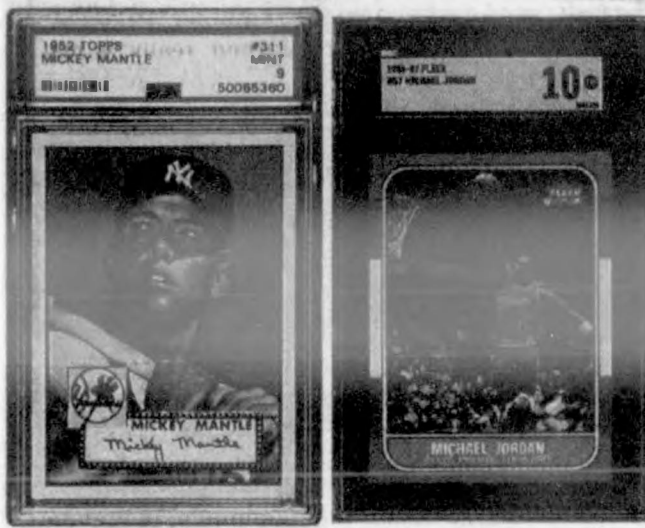


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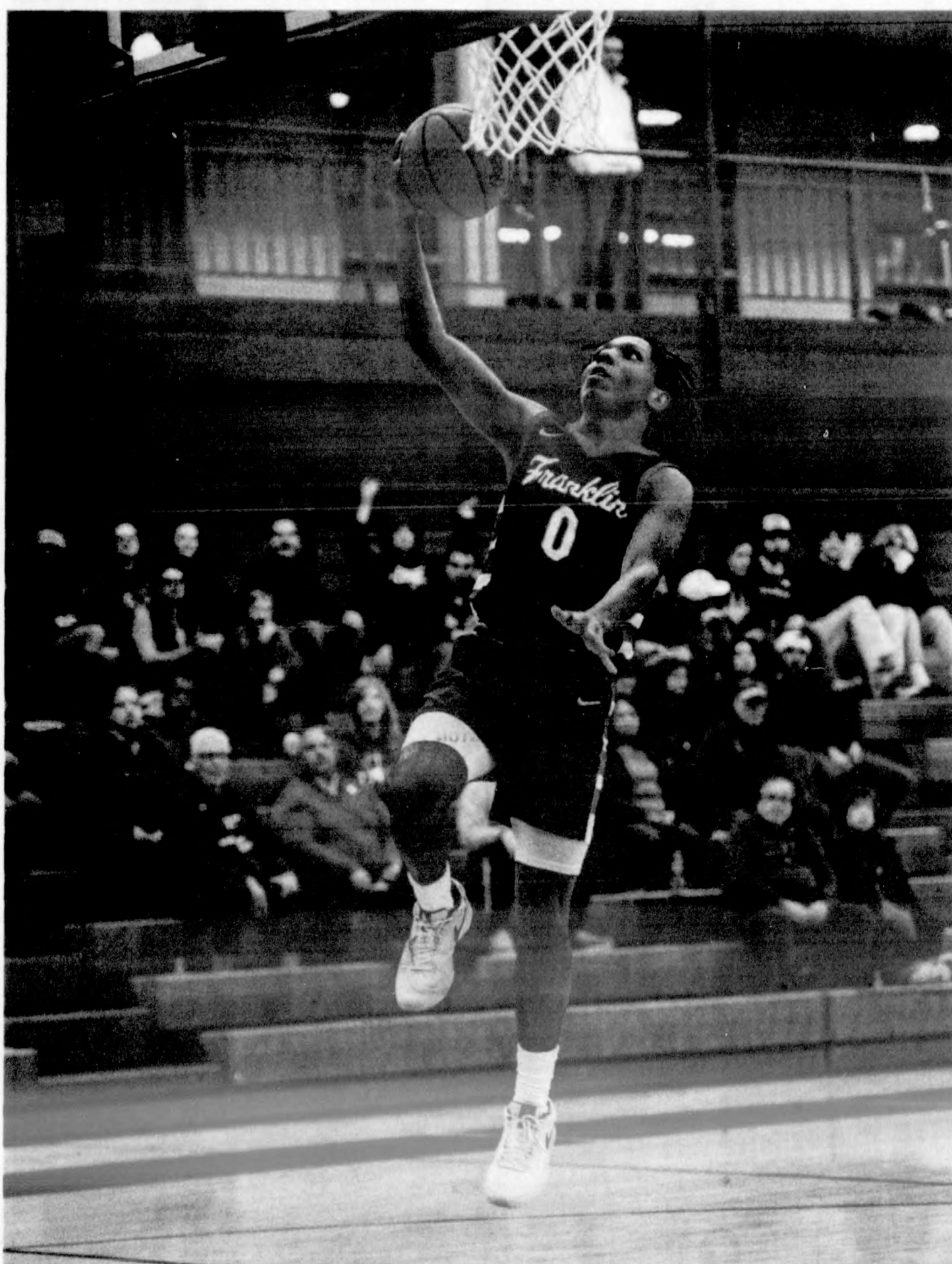
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SPORTS

BOYS BASKETBALL



Livonia Franklin's Robbie Wynn goes up for a layup during a non-conference boys basketball game on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, at South Lyon. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

Livonia Franklin already looks well-rounded on opening night

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia Franklin boys basketball team graduated plenty of talented players after winning the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East championship for the first time since 2004 last season.

Chief among them were star combo guard Eric Hobson Jr., who's playing at Indiana Tech, power forward Kevin Davis, the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association all-star game MVP who is playing at Lansing Community College, and hustle guy Adam Alokab, who set the tone on defense and in transition for a Patriots squad that won 17 games and made appearances in both the KLAA championship and Division 1

district final.

That's why it was jaw-dropping when coach TJ Hurley took the podium during Monday night's KLAA Media Day at Northville High School and boasted that Franklin isn't trying to replace those guys.

"We lost three excellent seniors last year," the seventh-year coach said. "In no way are we trying to replace them. I'm not worried about the points, the assists, the things of that nature. We have the talent with these new guys coming in. It's more about finding the toughness we lost with those guys. They did tough things. They did little things. They did the dirty things that we needed to have done."

"So our key this year is to not find a replacement for those guys but to find a new identity because we have top-end

talent with these guys."

Hurley didn't have to wait long to get that kind of effort from this year's squad.

One by one, almost each of his current players stepped up in big and impressive ways throughout Tuesday's season opener at South Lyon, a game that saw the Patriots (1-0) storm back from an 11-point deficit, take the lead once and for all in the fourth quarter, and masterfully hold on for the 61-58 close-call victory.

Franklin, which has seven players back from the 2022-23 season, got great contributions from their four key returners as well as excellent hustle from the guys trying to cement their roles.

See WELL-ROUNDED, Page 2B

Groves welcomes challenge of promotion to OAA-Red

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

You don't need to tell Josh Gibson about how eye-opening of an experience it is to start in the Oakland Activities Association-White as just a sophomore.

The Birmingham Groves guard learned all about it a year ago.

To put it lightly, the White was an absolute gauntlet in 2022-23. On any night, any team could walk away with a league victory, whether you were the worst team in the standings or clinging to first place.

Upsets were a regular occurrence, yet somehow, some way, the Falcons survived through their grueling league schedule and walked away with 17 overall wins and a division title.

Just how tough is the White? For perspective: Harper Woods (Division 4) and Southfield A&T (D-1) just won state championships in football last week. Both came out of that division.

So congratulations, Groves. Your reward for a job well done? Getting promoted to the prestigious OAA-Red, arguably one of the top two or three divisions of basketball in the entire state. You know, the same league that just saw North Farmington have two players sign with Division I college basketball programs. The same league that just celebrated Ferndale winning a D-2 state championship last March.

"What I learned, really, is just you can't take any game for granted," said Gibson, who scored a game-high 18 points in a 67-50 win over Livonia

See GROVES, Page 2B

In star-studded MHSAA football classic, Southfield A&T's Marshall shined brightest

High Schools Insider
Mick McCabe
Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Belleville had just completed its furious rally to finally wrestle the lead away from Southfield A&T, 32-28, with 4:47 left in the Division 1 state championship game Nov. 26 at Ford Field and it appeared the Tigers third consecutive state championship was in the bag.

Across the field Southfield coach Aaron Marshall looked at his nephew, Isaiah, and asked a simple question: "What else would you want?"

Isaiah didn't respond because his uncle already knew the answer.

Oh, Isaiah!

Marshall firmly entrenched himself in Michigan high school football lore Sunday with another tremendous rally to give Southfield its first state championship, a 36-32 victory to snap Belleville's 38-game winning streak.

See MARSHALL, Page 3B



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Groves

Continued from Page 1B

Clarenceville in Thursday's season opener. "Farmington, you know, we looked at that as a W (against the last-place team in the division), and we got popped (lost, 59-57). So now with us going to the Red, whenever we see a team, we know it's going to be a dogfight, especially moving up. There's a lot of great teams out there with a lot more experience, so we just know that we've got to bring it every day, we've just got to get better."

The Falcons (1-0) didn't take Clarenceville lightly. They got away from a close game with a 19-0 run to open the second quarter. The Trojans didn't score their first points of the period until Avery Fitzpatrick hit a 3-pointer with 2:20 left in the half, but they did make a game out of it early.

Elijah Craig, a recent first-teamer at running back on Hometown Life's All-Area football team, buried a 3 to knot the score at 13 with 2:40 remaining in the opening quarter. And then he snuck in a put-back attempt to briefly put Clarenceville ahead before the Falcons closed out the period with Gibson sinking a runner and Ray Pope making two free throws.

Sure, it was early-season jitters for the Falcons, but some of their first-quarter lulls had to do with them getting in as many players as possible for valu-



Birmingham Groves' Brody Tushman drives to the hoop during a non-conference boys basketball game on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at Livonia Clarenceville. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE

able varsity reps before the OAA schedule heats up in two weeks. They're going to need all the experience they can get before then.

Their first big test? They take on Ferndale on Dec. 12.

"Yeah, it just gets tougher, right?," second-year coach Marc West said about the move up to the Red. "With this group of guys, we talked about it, and that was the challenge that they wanted. Coming into this season, we're trying to figure out different roles, different pieces, so that we're ready to take on that challenge. Tonight, I feel like we took steps toward that in terms of getting some of our younger guys a bunch of reps, a bunch of playing time. To get

them ready to get in there and compete."

While Groves brought back both of its All-OAA players from a year ago in Gibson and John Simpson, who will miss a couple of games before he can return to the lineup, it did say farewell to some heavy-hitters in its lineup. That included, from its backcourt with the likes of Elijah Yelder, Paige Williams III, Max Young and Jack Abbott (as well as forward Max Kramer) leaving, but the Falcons do have some additional playmakers this winter.

That includes seniors Brandon Brown, Pope and Brody Tushman, juniors Paul Hubbard and Landon McKinney and a handful of underclassmen, such as 6-foot-5 freshman David Jones,

who totaled 10 points and 11 rebounds in his varsity debut against the Trojans.

The Falcons must get the most out of guys like Tushman, who has transitioned from a bench player into being someone who now leads the charge on the floor as a guard.

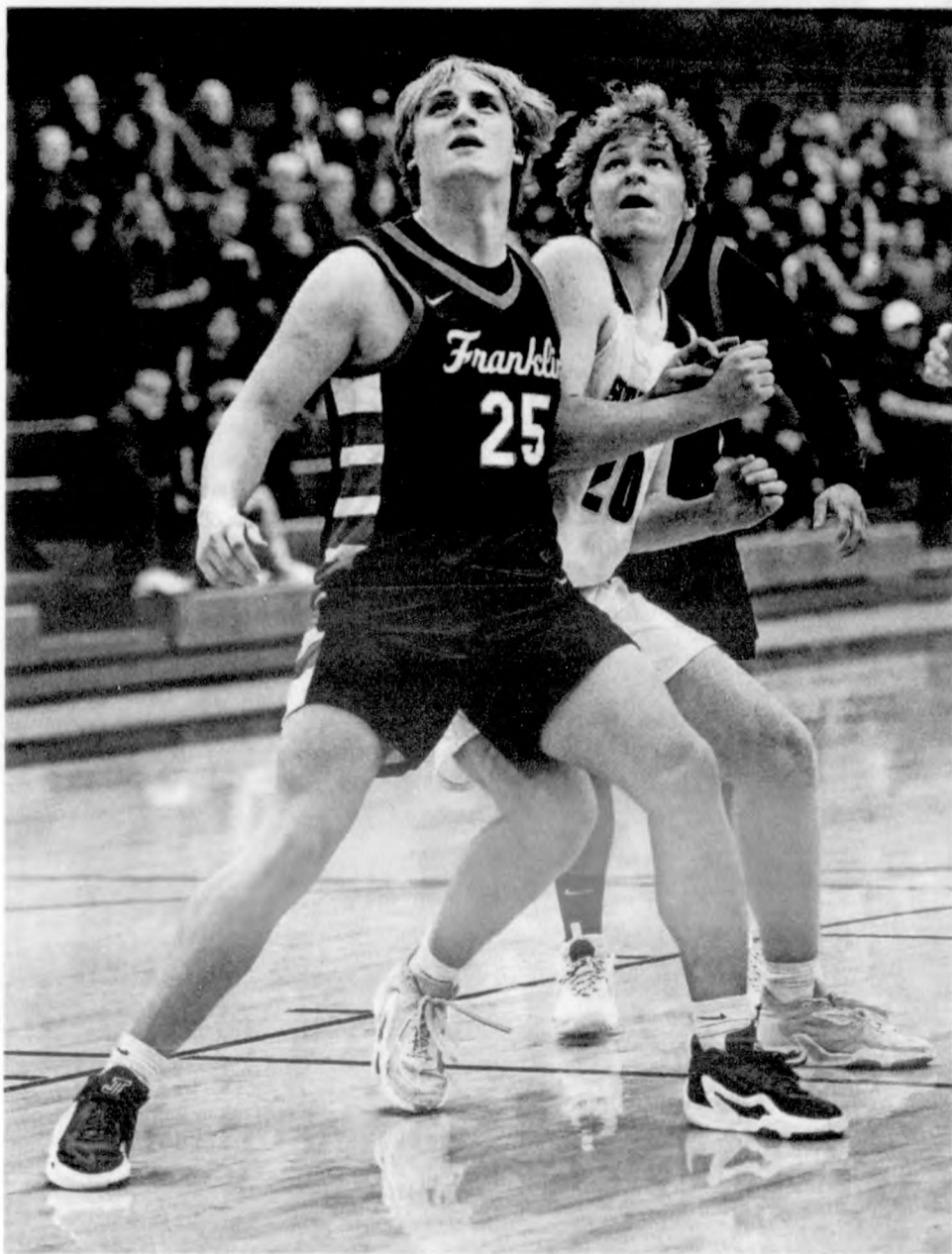
"I know we lost a lot of seniors last year, so this summer I had to put in the work, put up the shots with my boy Josh and put in a lot of work with the team," said Tushman, who scored 11 points. "I knew I had a big role to step into to be in the starting lineup. Every night was a battle in the White last year, and I know the Red is going to be so competitive with us going for a league championship, but we're going for it all. It's just all about the preparation."

West knows you can't just roll out the balls and expect to win every night. He's preaching to his players to study the scouting reports the night before games, eat well on game day and get plenty of rest and sleep.

To beat teams with players such as Cleveland State signee Tyler Spratt and Niagara University's Landon Williams at North Farmington, it's going to take an all-effort from his own guys, ones he hopes make a name for themselves and garner their own college scholarships throughout the process.

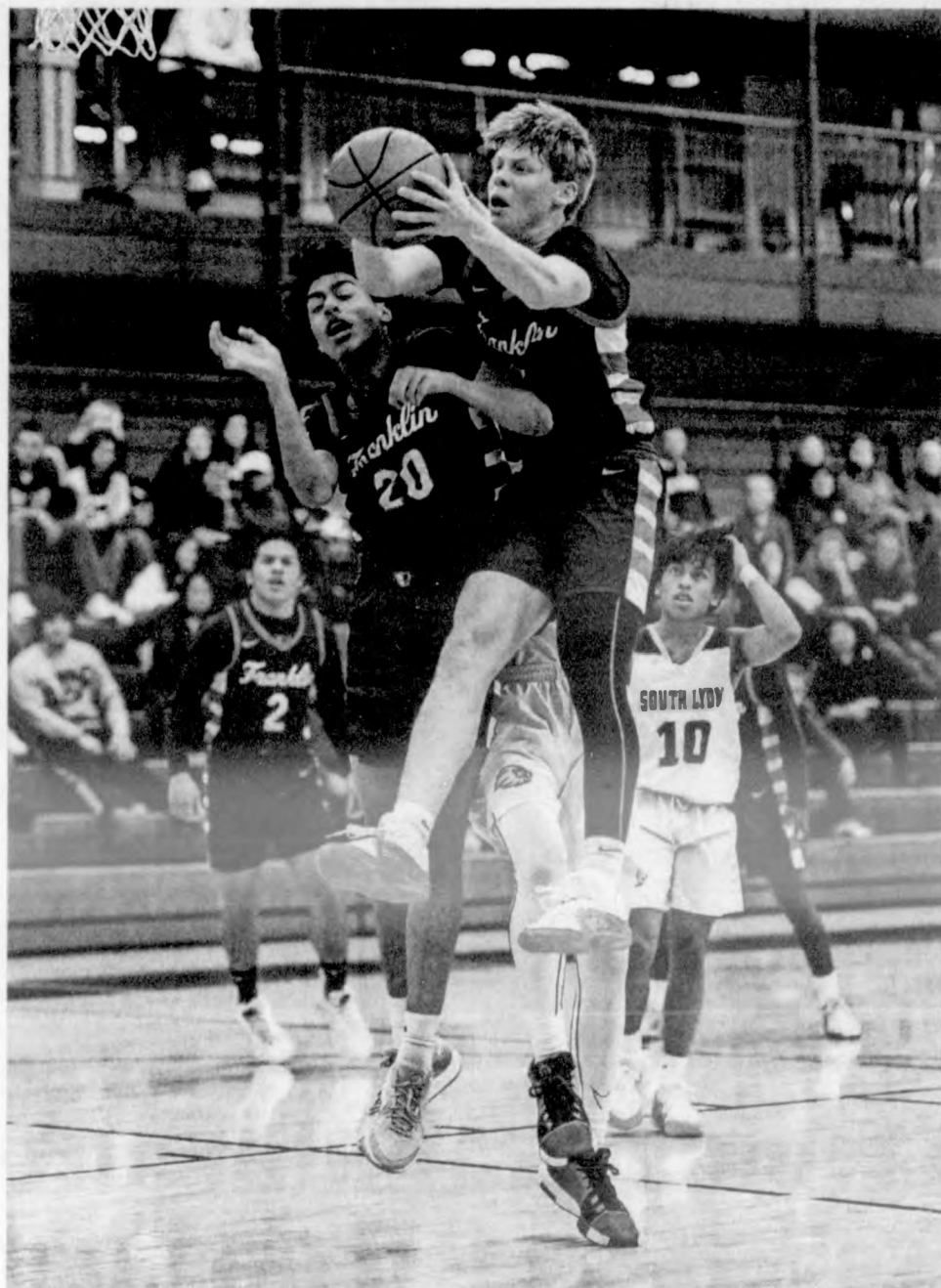
"Every night, you've got to have a couple of those guys," said West, a former assistant at Henry Ford College in Dearborn. "And we feel like we've got a couple of those guys."

Twitter @folsombrandonj.



Livonia Franklin's Drew Kelbert boxes out South Lyon's Graham Braun during a non-conference boys basketball game on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE



Livonia Franklin's Mitch Cronyn pulls down a rebound.

Well-rounded

Continued from Page 1B

That included guards Mitchell Cronyn and Robbie Wynn, two future college signees who should be the Patriots' All-KLAA players when the regular season is said and done.

Cronyn, who recently received an offer from Michigan-Dearborn and also holds offers from Olivet College and Dean College (Massachusetts), kept Franklin in the game throughout the first half by scoring 14 of his 18 points.

And then Wynn, who scored a game-high 20 points, closed out the night for the Patriots in impressive fashion. He buried back-to-back 3-pointers to open the fourth quarter, erasing a three-point deficit. Then he got a swing pass to Owen Pittenger, who knocked in a 3 to turn it into a 9-0 run before Franklin made it a 15-4 scoring spree.

Down the stretch, Wynn turned a Jon Jasionowski steal into a layup in transition, and then the senior, who holds offers from Madonna University and Albion College, sank a pair of free throws to ice the win in the waning moments.

When it came time to talk about the added pressure Cronyn and Wynn feel now that Franklin's Big 3 from a year ago is gone, they deflected the spotlight and only wanted to talk about their teammates who helped get the victory.

Up and down the roster, big plays were made.

It was Pittenger, another key returner, taking pressure off Wynn in the backcourt by bringing the ball up the floor, kickstarting the offense and even securing 10 points of his own.

It was Jasionowski, who was recently named Hometown Life's Player of the Year in football, coming in off the bench, energizing the players around him and scrapping for every loose ball he could get his hands on. Cronyn called Jasionowski the team's "bulldog" because he plays the hardest out of all of them when he gets into games.

It was Kam Webster, who added five points, and Mendale Broaden both giving the Patriots' offense a spark and being reliable defensively.

And it was big man Drew Kelbert, who had the almost difficult task of helping guard South Lyon center Graham Braun, who totaled 18 points and seven rebounds. Braun, at 6-foot-7, is one of the top juniors in Oakland County, plus he plays well beyond the paint. He can knock down long-range shots with ease. Heck, he's the one who took the final attempt of the game for the Lions, who were hoping a made 3 from him would force overtime.

Kelbert battled with Braun for rebounds, limited Braun's shot selection down low and played physically. He even got a pivotal put-back bucket during the fourth quarter.

"Jon, Drew, Mendale, Pitt, Kam Webster, they all come in and fit in their roles good," said Wynn, a fourth-year starter and second-year captain. "Me and Mitch are the top priorities for other teams, but they don't know we have others who can do other stuff, too. So it helps a lot knowing that if I'm off, or if Mitch is off, too, we can have Kam Webster score or can have Pitt bring the ball up when I'm getting full-court pressed. It just helps me a lot as a point guard."

Added Cronyn, a three-year starter: "Me and my guy, Rob, we went out and battled in a hostile environment tonight, and South Lyon is a great team, too. I felt like we played as a team in that second half. ... But Jon, Mendale, all of them, they are all playing good defense. They're bringing energy and shots when we need them. It's not just me and Robbie. It's the whole team playing as a collective. They're all playing as hard as they can."

South Lyon, which also got 13 points and three steals from Evan McRoberts and 11 points and five rebounds from Brady Myer, should finish in the top third of the Lakes Valley Conference. And it wouldn't be a shocker if the Lions (0-1) even make a run at winning the actual league title. It seems like the LVC is wide open this winter.

So that's good news for the Patriots, who were just tested by a very solid team on opening night.

Franklin's stars were stars when they

needed to be at crucial points, and its role players certainly played well in their roles when asked to. The only issue was the two or three lulls it had that allowed South Lyon to go on big runs and even take back the lead. The sooner the Patriots can play as a consistent unit the better because the KLAA-East is going to be tough yet again, and they're not promised to repeat as division champions.

But, for right now, Hurley was right: They can get by without Hobson Jr., Davis and Alokab because the current guys on the roster are already buying into being a well-rounded unit. How unselfish the Patriots played was impressive.

"I'm just here trying to put pieces in place," Hurley joked. "Guys are trying to find their roles with their timing. Obviously, we don't need to sugarcoat it: Mitch and Robbie are pretty next-level players when it comes to high school. So they're going to be our main focus and getting them (the ball) in spots, and Pittenger, obviously, is behind them. These other guys filling in the roles will have to find their timing and moments. You saw it at times with each of them stepping up today."

"But as they get more experience, they'll fill out the court a little more and will be able to know when to and when not to. They just need to focus on playing defense and running the floor hard, and those other things will take care of themselves."

Twitter @folsombrandonj.

Marshall

Continued from Page 1B

You can search for the best championship games in state history and it will be difficult to come up with a game to top the drama of this one.

This game also put the skids to Belleville quarterback Bryce Underwood's dreams of being the first quarterback in state history to win four state titles.

Underwood is ranked the No. 1 junior quarterback in the nation, but for the first time this season he showed some flaws.

In an underwhelming performance, he completed 11 of 24 passes for 164 with a touchdown and an interception. He also carried the ball five times for 39 yards.

Marshall, on the other hand, was utterly spectacular, completing 20 of 31 passes for 281 yards with two TDs and a pair of interceptions.

As important as his passing stats were, he also ran the ball 22 times for 134 yards and a touchdown against a defense that 10 times limited a team to a single score or less and yielded only 99 points in its first 13 games.

Not only was Marshall the game's leading passer, but he was the leading rusher, too, and his poise under pressure cannot be measured in statistics.

"He's a special kid; it's who he is," said Coach Marshall. "It's who he is off the field. The moment is never too big for him, he's always even keel."

Although Marshall committed to Kansas months ago, new Michigan State coach Jonathan Smith may want to camp out at Southfield until the youngster changes his mind.

Oh, Isaiah. After Jeremiah Beasley's 17-yard touchdown run had completely wiped out an 18-point deficit and given Belleville the lead, Marshall took the field at Southfield's 31-yard line with 4:47 left for him to make his magic.

A week earlier in the semifinals, Marshall needed only 54 seconds to move 80 yards to score on a 1-yard run on the final play of the game to beat West Bloomfield.

So 4:47 seemed like an eternity to him.

"I think any time is too much time for me and my offense," Marshall said Sun-



Southfield A&T quarterback Isaiah Marshall celebrates a 36-32 win over Belleville at the Division 1 state final at Ford Field in Detroit on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

day. "I didn't want to score too quickly, leaving too much time, so my coach made great calls on that last drive with passes and runs."

Prior to the final drive, Coach Marshall had specific instructions for offensive coordinator Rich Popp.

"Don't get it back all at once," the coach said. "Coach Popp did a phenomenal job dialing all those plays up and it kind of worked out in our favor."

Southfield began the drive with passes of 6 and 12 yards to Tashi Braceful, who had 10 catches for 154 yards and a touchdown.

After Marshall ran for 7 yards, he completed a 13-yard pass to Xavi Bowman to get to Belleville's 29-yard line.

That is when Popp put the ball in his protégé's hands and told him to bring home the championship trophy.

Marshall, 6 feet and 205 pounds, carried the ball five consecutive times, only once being stopped for no gain.

"We knew that he was going to run the ball," said Belleville coach Calvin Norman. "He shows a lot of strength and a lot of speed. We knew that going into the game. We knew we had to tackle him."

Finally, Marshall had a second-and-7 play from the 11-yard line and Belleville didn't tackle him until he had reached the end zone, with 47 seconds remaining.

With a player with Underwood's arm, 47 seconds were enough to mount a comeback.

"Right after I scored I looked at the clock and saw that there were 47 seconds," Marshall said. "But I knew my defense had been playing great all game and our defense had been stopping their passing all game. I knew we going to be OK."

Oh, Isaiah! After a pair of incompletions, Underwood completed a 13-yard pass, but on the next play Dorian Freeman came up with an interception to seal the deal for Southfield.

"My coaches just told me to spy the quarterback and wherever he would go I'd go, just mirroring him basically," Freeman said. "I had a zone job, too. He was looking past me, but I was right there and caught it."

Freeman may have been the most surprised person in Ford Field when he caught the ball.

"Everything just stopped because I saw every player stop," he said. "I was froze for a second."

The game was an affirmation of sorts for a Southfield team that was a decided underdog, which is putting it mildly.

People were generally stunned by the outcome, but an important aspect of this is where these teams came from.

Belleville is a member of the KLAA, which is a good league, but simply cannot compare to the OAA.

Like Division 4 state champ Harper Woods, Southfield plays in the OAA White, which is a step down from the OAA Red, but still highly competitive.

The Warriors also played crossover games against Clarkston and West Bloomfield of the Red and began the season beating Detroit Cass Tech.

"The OAA is a really, really great conference for two reasons," said Coach Marshall. "Sometimes you've got really good players and not so great coaching. Sometimes you've got the opposite, really great coaching and not so good players."

"The OAA has everything — very good coaching and very good players. So when you're getting tested every week ... our conference and our league prepares us for today."

Marshall had a tremendous day and in a weird sort of way was even part of SportsCenter's No. 1 highlight play of the day.

In the first quarter he threw a pass that Belleville's Adrian Walker Jr. jumped for and tipped higher into the air. When Walker landed he could see the ball coming down behind him so he reached his two arms behind him to catch the ball behind his back.

"I actually didn't see it until I got on the bench and saw it on the tablet because I threw it and I got hit," Marshall said. "I didn't know what happened, but it was a great play. I was hoping I could get it over his head, but he made a great play."

Marshall made a boatload of difference-making plays. He also got to write the final chapter of his high school career.

"My four years here has been a lot of ups and downs, just to win with my team this last year means a lot to me," he said. "Just to win with these guys and my coaches and just to do it for the community of Southfield means a lot."

Marshall entered high school a marked man. He would be singled out as The Kid — The Kid that Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh offered a scholarship while he was in the seventh grade.

That can be an albatross of sorts with expectations soaring through the roof.

At times over the last few years Marshall seemed to get lost amongst the plethora of highly-touted quarterbacks in the state: Dante Moore (Detroit King) Brady Drogosh (Warren De La Salle), Parker Picot (Rochester Adams), CJ Carr (Saline) and Underwood.

But now Marshall will be singled out as The Kid — The Kid who is the best high school football player in the state of Michigan.

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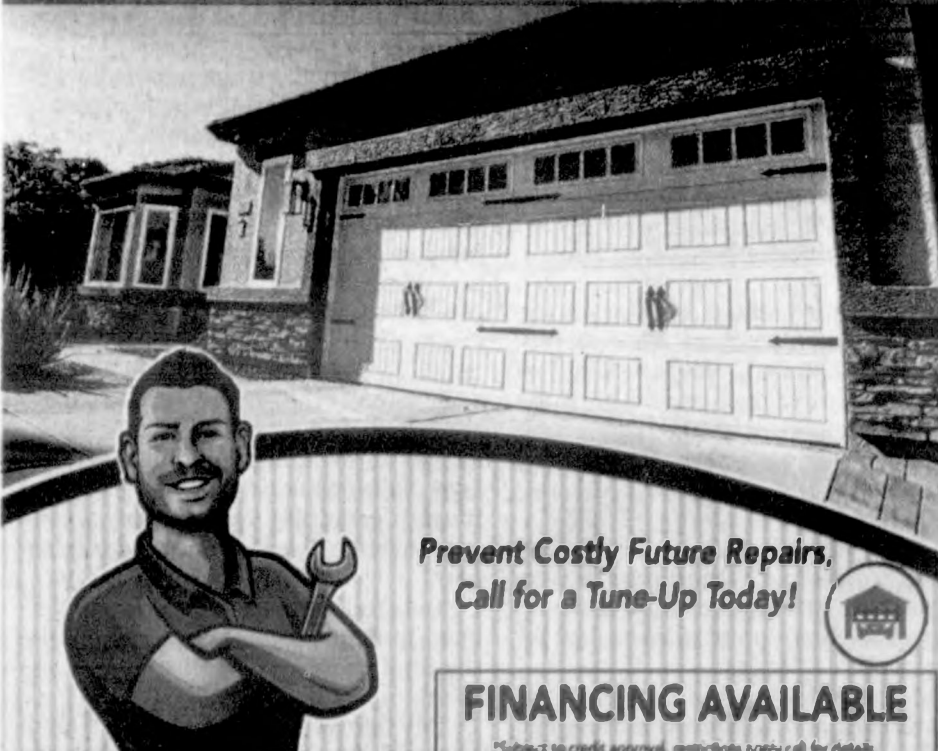
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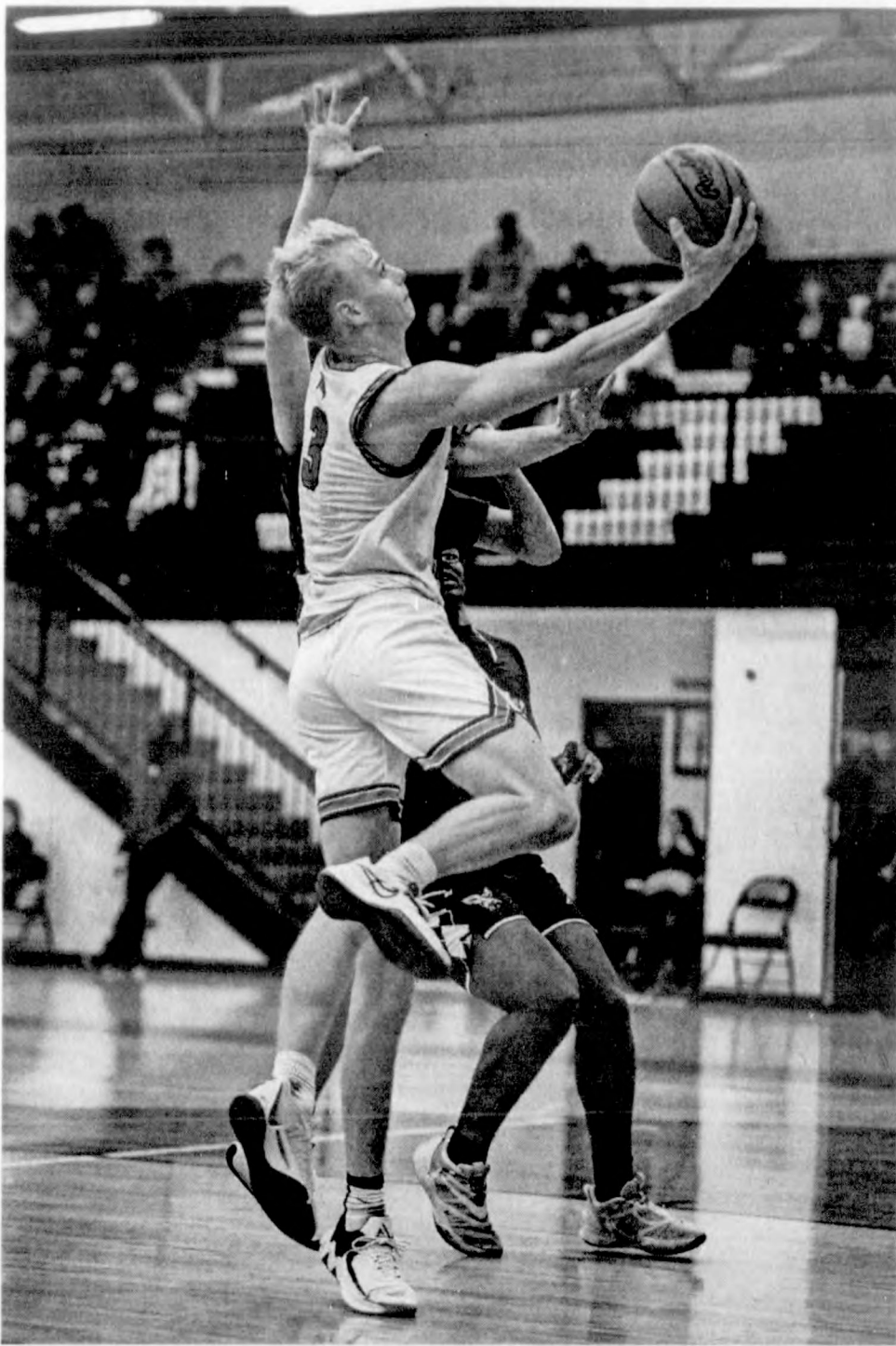
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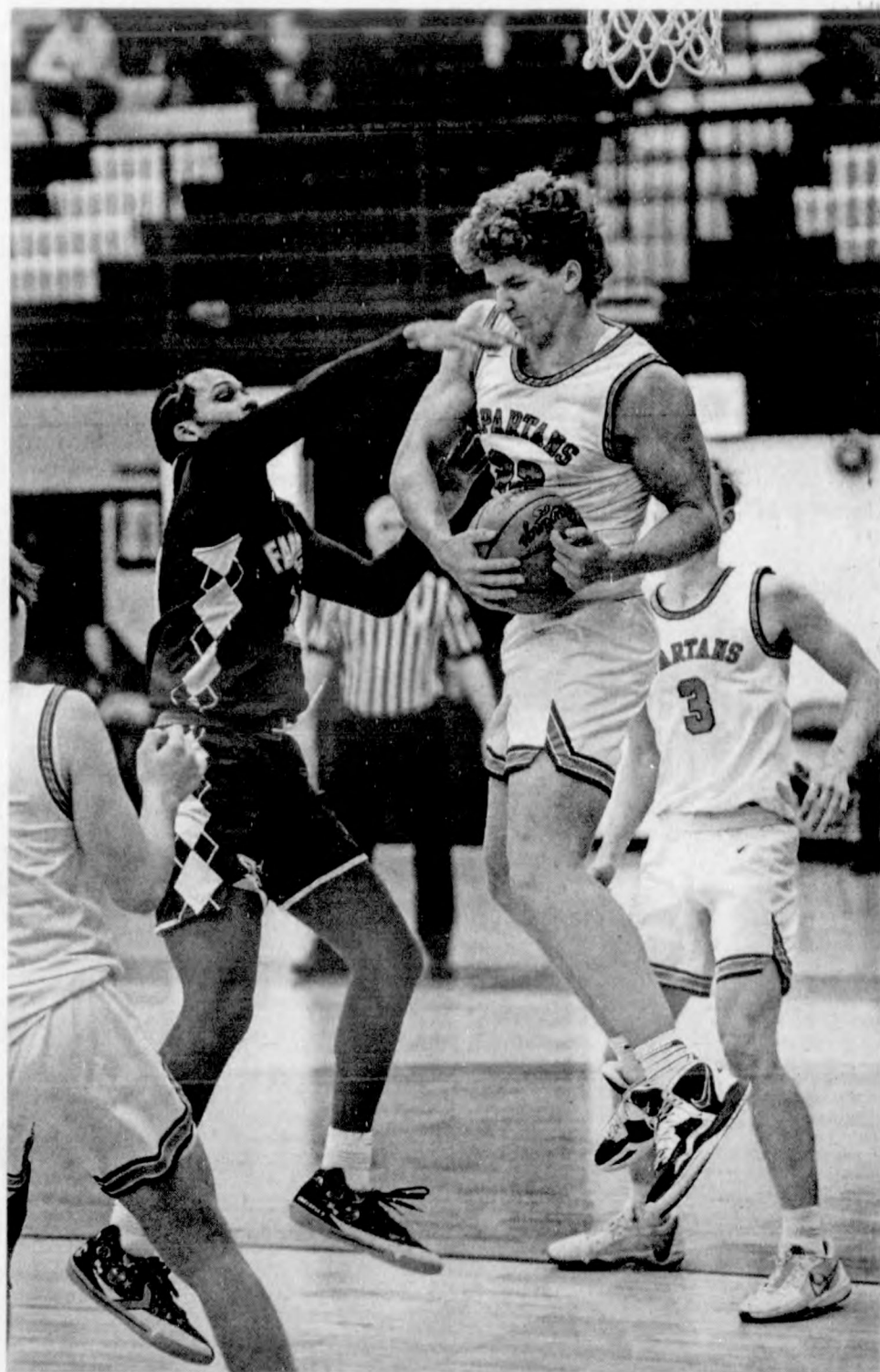


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Livonia Stevenson's Mark Stein goes up for a layup during a non-conference boys basketball game against Farmington on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023.
PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWN LIFE



Livonia Stevenson's John Toth pulls down a rebound.

The Spartans entered the weight room, and out came 'huge monsters'

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With 90 seconds left in Wednesday's season opener, Livonia Stevenson senior John Toth outjumped two Farmington boys basketball players to secure a challenging two-handed rebound, crashed into teammate John Ericson on his way down and, while getting off the ensuing outlet passed, tumbled over another Falcon.

The bang-bang play looked like something between a rugby scrum and Westland John Glenn's offense in football, but Toth's rebound essentially ensured that Farmington wouldn't be making a comeback in the eventual 68-62 win because it was yet another possession-ending play by Toth.

And that, *right there*, is why the Spartans (1-0) will be an improved team this winter.

They have just five returners, including four key players back from a year ago, but you can tell that they took getting into the weight room seriously during the offseason.

They don't beat Farmington without Toth strong-arming rebound after rebound, point guard Dylan McGlinch fighting through double-teams on the press break, Isaac Iacoban locking down on defense and, most importantly, sharpshooter Mark Stein battling through screens to knock down clutch catch-and-shoot jumpers.

Last year's 13-10 team likely loses a game like this one because, outside of current Saginaw Valley State defensive lineman Chuck Davidek, they didn't play with the kind of consistent physicality they're playing with right now.

"No, not at all," coach Eoghann Stephens agreed. "We as a program, we felt like last year we lost a lot of games because of our strength. We were getting pushed off the ball. We said this year *that* is our focus. We are going into the weight room. We worked with Trevor (Plummer) from Mercy Elite, and he's really come at our guys and made them better people. He's been working really hard with them, and we've had them in the weight room every day. We knew we had to get into the weight room, and you can see the huge monsters that have shown up this year."

That's not just hyperbole. Stephens said his team's ticket to playing in open gyms during the off-season was consistent participation in the weight room.

The result? One heck of a second-half comeback by the Spartans.

Farmington, led by Greg Grays with 32 points, opened the third quarter on a 10-3 run, which broke open a 31-31 half-time stalemate and gave the Falcons a 41-33 lead just before the fourth started.

But Stein and Stevenson battled back. The senior netted a pair of free throws and scored a layup to cut his team's deficit to just two points entering the final quarter.

The shooting guard buried a 3-pointer just 10 seconds into the fourth to give the Spartans the lead once and for all. A few possessions later, he sank a fade-away jumper. And then he pushed through a double team, got around a screen and hit a catch-and-shoot 3-pointer to put Stevenson ahead by seven points.

Farmington didn't score its first points of the period until Myles Smith made a pair of free throws with 4:15 left.

"It's been a long summer (in the weight room), it's been anywhere between 5-10 pounds of muscle," said Stein, who scored a team-high 32 points. "It took a lot of work, but it's worth it, and it has paid off. (Being stronger) makes the game a lot easier. I know last year I got beat up a lot not having that weight. But now, this year, gaining that weight, it's a lot easier to play the game and get through everything."

Stein, a first-teamer on Hometown Life's All-Area boys basketball team a year ago, should be an All-Kensington Lakes Activities Association player when the regular season ends.

But a few of his teammates could join him at the year-end All-KLAA celebration if they continue playing well.

That includes Toth, who, at 6-foot-4 and 210 pounds, is so physical under the basket that it's going to be tough for many opponents to come up with second-chance opportunities this winter.

He bench presses 260 pounds and squats three plates, and he's built like an outside linebacker. Yet, Toth doesn't even play football. Basketball and baseball are his sports.

"I love getting down there and playing physically, that's my favorite part of the game," said Toth, who doesn't miss a day in the weight room. "It feels good, but I wish I had some more help down there, but I know, with some more practice, we'll get some more help, and I'm not worried about that."

That's certainly true.

Stevenson has five underclassmen on the roster and a couple of juniors who are still getting their feet wet when it comes to playing at the varsity level.

That includes 6-foot-10 center Jonah Wallgora, who pitched in eight points and showed glimpses of what should be a bright future for the junior.

He could very well be the help that Toth is looking for once he gets acclimated to playing on varsity.

"Our younger guys stepped up and filled a role," Stephens said. "So we've got Jonah, who is starting on varsity, his first experience playing the varsity level. He played well today. He's got to finish stronger, but he played well today. And Jack Woods came in as a sophomore guard and got us crucial turnovers and stops."

Woods, indeed, played well alongside McGlinch and Iacoban and proved that Stevenson should have a dependable backcourt, especially when teams like Farmington use a full-court press against them.

"We, as a team, did great going against that press," said McGlinch, a

senior who scored 13 points. "I thought we all did well together. We've all been playing fall league together, bonding together. We've been doing great. Everyone is getting playing time. Everyone on this team is doing great. I'm not worried about (our handful of lulls against Farmington). It really just comes down to it being the first half of the first varsity game for most of these kids. It's a very young team, so everyone has to get used to varsity speed."

The Spartans should be competitive in the KLAA-East, and all eyes will be on them when they take on rival Livonia Franklin, last year's division champions, on Jan. 16 in a game that should determine the Livonia City champion.

But that's still 47 days away, and that's 47 more opportunities for Stevenson in the weight room.

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

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What anyone should know about disability rights

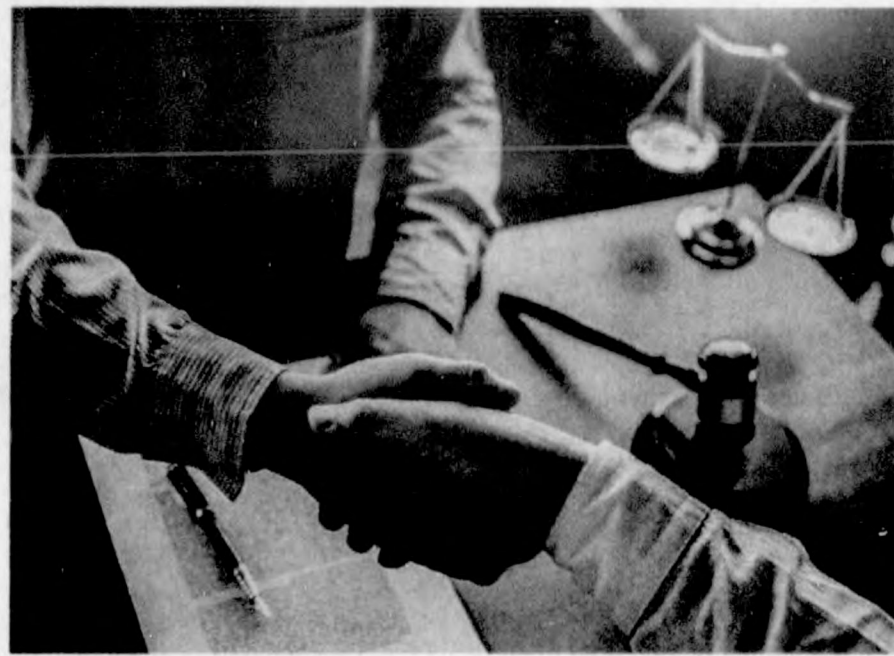
Metro creative

Life is full of challenges, and obstacles are often easier to overcome when people have some trusted allies in their corner. Certain situations are more easily managed with a little help from a trustworthy support system, and that system can include a reliable legal representative.

The American Civil Liberties Union notes that individuals with disabilities face widespread discrimination, segregation and exclusion. That's why it pays for such individuals to have a trustworthy legal advocate in their corner to advise them on their rights and recommend action to take if those rights are being compromised.

What rights do people with disabilities have at work?

The ACLU notes that federal laws protect people with disabilities from being discriminated against in the workplace. Such individuals do not have to inform an employer of a disability when they apply for a job or even after they're hired. That's the case even if their disability requires a reasonable accommodation in the future. Individuals with disabilities who can perform the job cannot be



denied promotions, fired or demoted, harassed, or paid less as a result of their disability. It's also illegal to refuse to hire someone capable of doing the job simply because of their disability. People with disabilities also are protected under the law from unnecessary medical inquiries at work.

What are some examples of work-related disability discrimination?

The ACLU notes that the following

are some examples of disability discrimination in the workplace:

• A refusal on the part of an employer to hire, promote or equally pay a person because of a disability when that person is capable of doing the job

• An employer refuses to make reasonable accommodations to ensure a person with a disability has an equal chance to succeed at work

• An employer demands that a disability be disclosed or discussed

when you have not requested an accommodation

• A person is the target of derogatory comments, jokes or gestures related to a disability from a boss, coworkers or customers

What should I do if I believe my rights have been violated?

The ACLU recommends individuals with disabilities who believe their rights have been violated take various steps in response to such violations. In addition to contacting a lawyer, the ACLU recommends filing a charge of discrimination with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or a state fair employment practices agency. The ACLU notes that deadlines to submit such filings may be as short as 180 days, so it's vital that individuals move quickly in response to any violations. The ACLU urges federal employees to contact their EEO counselor within 45 days.

Disability rights are in place to prevent discrimination against people with disabilities in the workplace. Lawyers who specialize in this area of the law can advocate for people with disabilities and ensure they are treated fairly and equitably.

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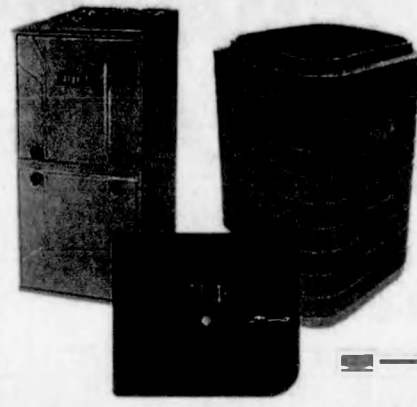


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