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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Livonia resident Melvin Wolicki looks at spikes for shoes Nov. 15 in the new Dunham's inside Laurel Park Place mall. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Dunham's opens at Laurel Park Place

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's just a coincidence the newest outdoors shop opened on the first day of hunting season.

Michigan-based Dunham's Sporting Goods opened its newest store Friday Nov. 15 in Laurel Park Place mall in Livonia. The store has been in the works for several months, and opens to great fanfare as the mall's newest anchor tenant.

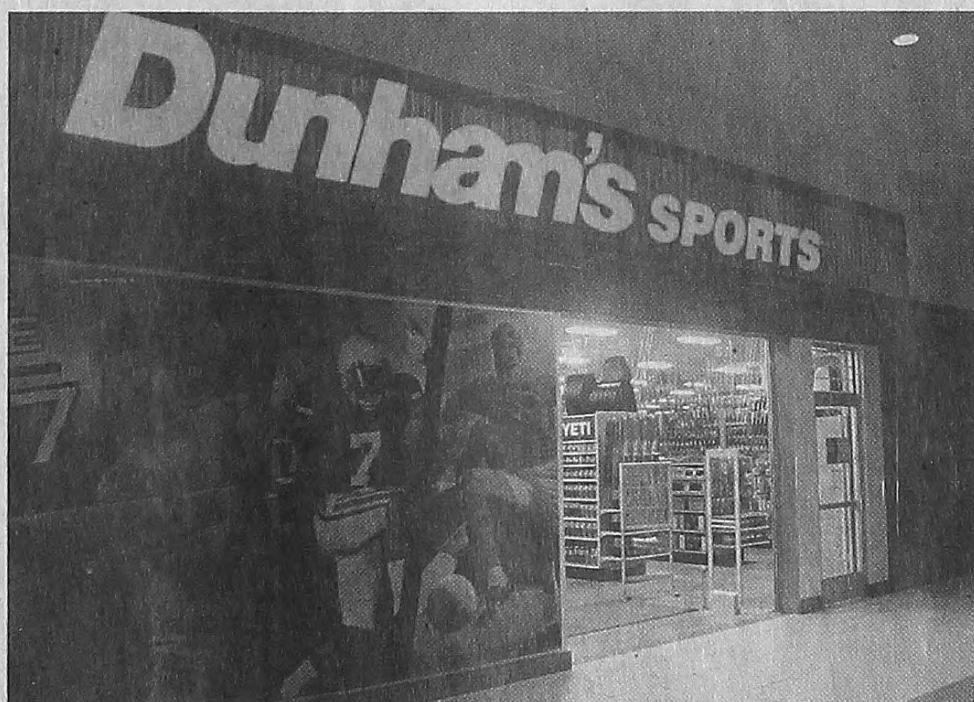
"We're just happy to have a more convenient location," said Kevin Chapman, vice president of stores for Dunham's. "This is by some retail over here, but we're happy to finally find a location we can slide into."

Dunham's did a complete renovation of the space, which is most of the area formerly occupied by Carson's.

Carson's closed last year after its parent company filed for bankruptcy last spring. That closure left Laurel Park Place with one single anchor tenant, Von Maur. Documents on the mall owner's website showed Dunham's as the new tenant earlier this spring, and the management company officially announced the decision this summer.

The build out took about six months and completely changed the space to serve the needs of Dunham's, which

See DUNHAM'S, Page 2A



The entrance to Dunham's from inside Laurel Park Place.

Dunham's did a complete renovation of the space, which is most of the area formerly occupied by Carson's. Carson's closed last year after its parent company filed for bankruptcy last spring.

Stadium tops \$275M PCCS bond proposal

Ed Wright
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A third outdoor athletics stadium on the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park campus is included among a multitude of items featured on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools bond-proposal needs list that was unveiled at Tuesday night's school board meeting.

If approved by the Board of Education at its Nov. 26 meeting, the \$275 million bond proposal would go before voters on March 10, 2020, and, if passed, would not raise the district's current millage rate of 4.02 mills, according to Superintendent Monica Merritt.

In addition to district-wide building upgrades (many safety-related), a successful bond proposal request would fund a total renovation of Salem High School's performing arts center, new gymnasiums for district elementary schools that currently have shared gyms/cafeterias and a new swimming pool facility at Plymouth High School.

"For the past 12 months we have been working on the facility and utilization plans and tonight we are happy to unveil those plans," said Merritt. "These plans are the results of community forums, community workshops and engaging with the

See BOND, Page 3A

Sara Bowman elected Farmington's next mayor

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington has a new mayor: Sara Bowman.

Bowman, who was previously the city's mayor pro tem, was unanimously elected mayor by her fellow council members on Nov. 14 during a special meeting. She'll serve in the position for at least the next two years as part of a four-year council term.

During fall elections, Farmington voters reelected Bowman along with fellow incumbents Joe LaRussa and Steve Schneemann to their seats.

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by
Observer & Eccentric Media

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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50
\$104 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

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Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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Mayor

Continued from Page 1A

Bowman said she feels like the council has momentum it will continue building.

"This does feel a lot like we got the band back together," she said. "I'm happy that the hiatus of the campaign season is over and we can really put our heads together now and continue... and make good on the promises that we've made."

In Farmington, the council elects a mayor and mayor pro tem from among themselves following every local election cycle.

Bowman succeeds Schneemann as mayor, who offered his congratulations and assistance as his colleague steps into a new role. He agreed that having familiar faces on the board will, in his opinion, help get things done.

"We've got an awful lot on our plates right now so I think it's good that we've got some consistency up here as well to continue the work," Schneemann



Sara Bowman was sworn in as a Farmington council member on Nov. 14 and was elected the city's new mayor later that night. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

said.

Following Bowman's election, LaRussa was unanimously elected mayor pro tem.

He echoed the sentiments of his colleagues, saying there was much work to be done.

"It's a unique time to be a part of the

city of Farmington," LaRussa said. "We have a lot going on, and we've been really tasked now to deliver on the promises that were made."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.

Dunham's

Continued from Page 1A

carries a wide array of sporting goods, apparel and outdoor supplies.

Shoppers at the new store can expect a larger selection, said Nick Rieckhoff, the store's general manager.

"A lot of things will be expanded categories compared to some of the other stores," he said. "It is larger than a lot of the other Dunham's."

Chapman said it's not unusual for Dunham's to open in a shopping mall, though he said most stores in metro Detroit are in outdoor shopping centers. He said other stores out of Michigan can be found in malls.

"We take advantage of available real estate, so we're not afraid of malls," he said. "We have a lot more of this type of look when you get outside the state."

The new Dunham's means the company now has more than 230 stores across more than 20 states. Other Dunham's currently operate elsewhere in Livonia, Farmington Hills and Canton.

The store will be open from 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Dunham's occupies about 45,000 square feet, which is most of the space Carson's occupied. There is still some space vacant on the north side of the store that would not have access to the mall and would instead be accessed through the north doors. There's no word on whether any tenants have been secured for that space.

Dan Irvin, the general manager for Laurel Park Place, said he's happy to finally see the north anchor tenant space occupied in the mall. He believes customers will be excited to shop the new selection, which is larger than most other Dunham's stores.

"They're a Michigan-based company, so it kind of ties it all together," he said. "Retail is changing. It's not what it was a few years ago and we're trying to adapt and change and we've found a great partner in Dunham's."

"They've been fantastic to work with and I hope the community understands they're a great retailer."



Nick Rieckhoff, the general manager at the new Dunham's, speaks before the ribbon cutting Nov. 15 outside the store at Laurel Park Place. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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Bond

Continued from Page 1A

community and stakeholders about what it is that we need for our students over the next 10 years.

"I want to emphasize that this is a needs list, not a wants list. It's what our students need and deserve."

PCCS was consulted by representatives from Plante Moran Cresa, TMP Architecture and McCarthy & Smith.

Merritt said one of the plan's priorities was to ensure equity throughout the district's schools, "regardless of zip code or the level of the schools, whether it be elementary, middle or high schools."

"Every student should have the right to the same Plymouth-Canton experience."

Merritt said it was important that the district stay competitive with neighboring districts and non-public school districts so that PCCS could retain as large of a percentage of students who live within its boundaries as possible.

The district's history of fiscal responsibility should weigh heavily on voters' minds if the bond proposal does make the March 10 ballot, Merritt said.

"The last time the district came out to ask our community for a bond election was 2013 and we have done some tremendous work for our students with that bond," Merritt said. "The facts show that we have been very fiscally responsible and good stewards of our taxpayers' money, which is evidence by our unqualified bond rating and the fact that we're able to go out for bonds without high interest rates so we can invest in our schools."

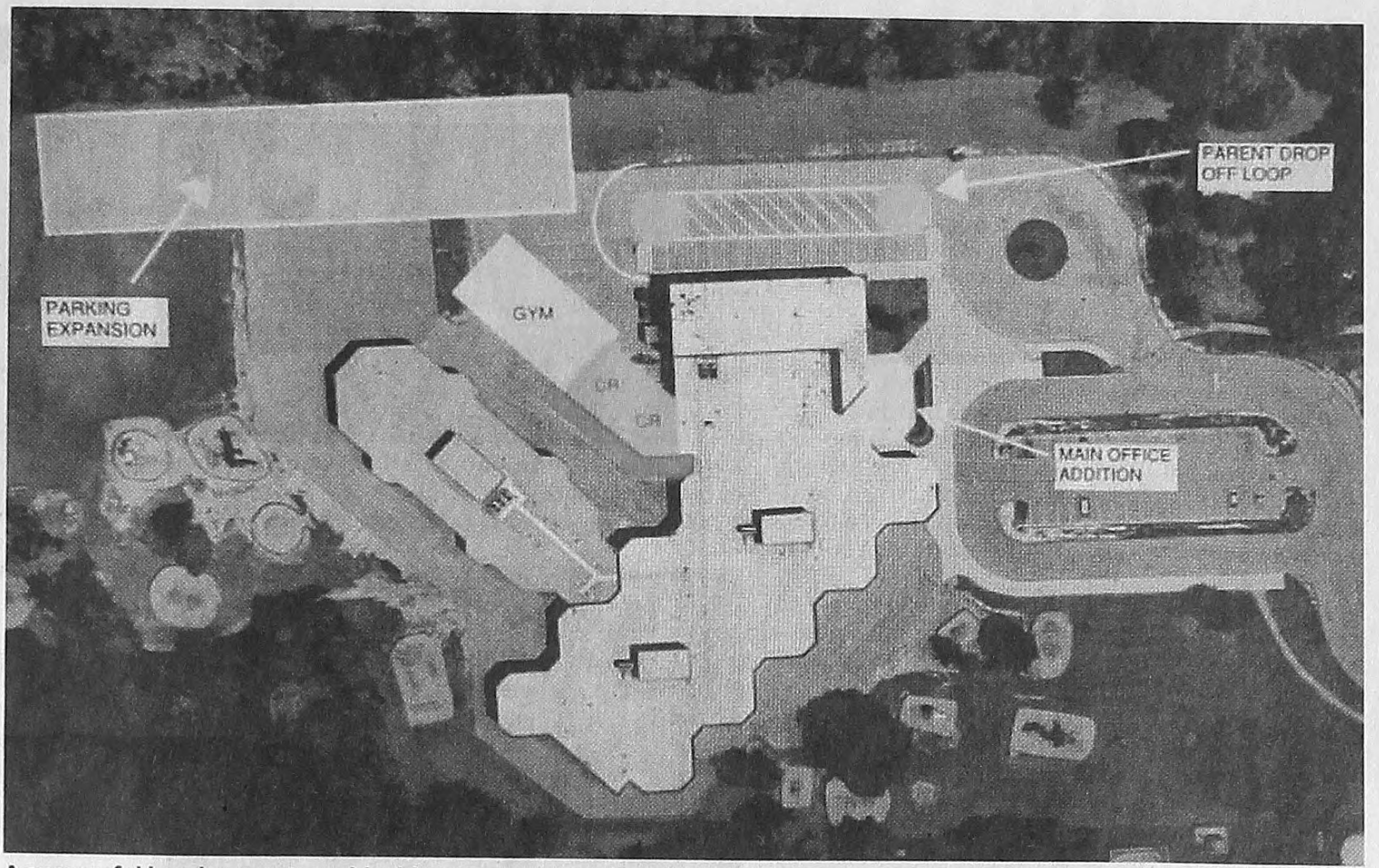
An encouraging omen for the proposed bond request is that 77 percent of schools-related bonds that were on Michigan ballots on Nov. 5 passed, Merritt added.

In the preliminary plans, the new PCEP athletics stadium would be located near the corner of Joy and Canton Center roads, near the property where Canton's football team currently practices.

Canton and Salem's weight rooms would also be expanded and the PCCS Marching Band would gain additional space at Plymouth High School.

Among the projects funded by a successful bond request include:

- Security renovations at Eriksson,



A successful bond request would add a gym, a parent drop-off loop and more parking to Eriksson Elementary School.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Field, Hulsing and Miller elementary schools; and East, West and Pioneer middle schools;

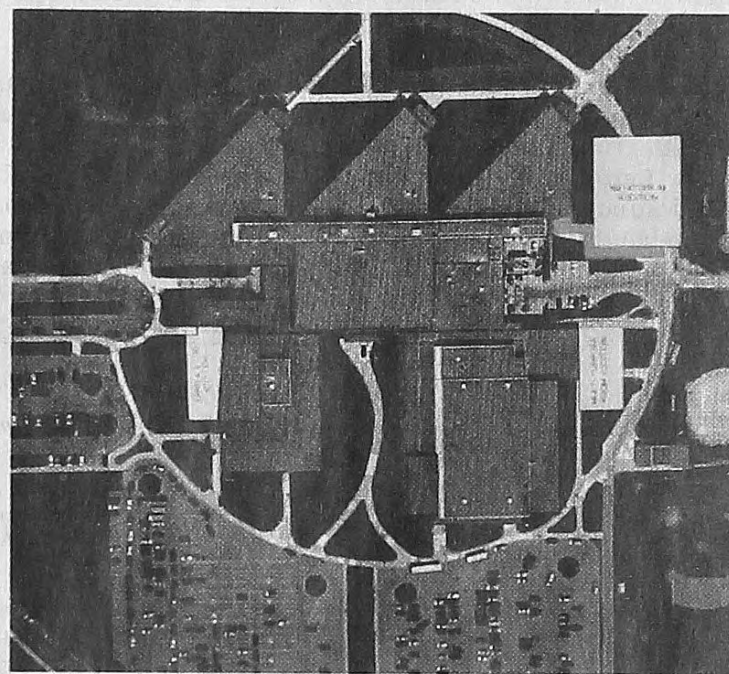
- Upgrading of front-entrance landscaping, playground equipment and classroom furniture, along with additions of gyms, music and art rooms where needed in the district's elementary schools;

- Main-office relocations for security reasons, front-entrance landscaping to enhance curb appeal and upgraded classroom and learning commons furniture as needed for middle schools.

- Salem's performing arts center would be gutted and remodeled, adding dressing rooms and scene shop features; a new natatorium would be constructed at Plymouth High School and a gym would be added to Starkweather Academy.

Two multi-purpose turf practice fields for athletics and activities would be installed as would synthetic turf in-fields on the PCEP baseball and softball fields.

A comprehensive list of the bond-re-



Pictured is the preliminary plan for the addition of a natatorium and expanded marching band space at Plymouth High School.

quest projects can be found on the agenda link for the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education website.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edw@hometownlife.com

or right@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

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World of Beer location changes name in Canton

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

What's in a name? Apparently, confusion among customers, which has led to a moniker change for a pair of pubs in Wayne County.

The World of Beer restaurants in both Canton and Woodhaven have changed their names and likeness to Maverick's, an homage to an owner's rescue dog.

The change, which took effect Wednesday, stems from a desire to have the restaurant be known as just that: a restaurant. Chad Wilson, one of the owners, said they had many people stop in and call the restaurant, thinking they were a beer store and not a pub. He said they wanted to convey that the restaurant is more than just beer.

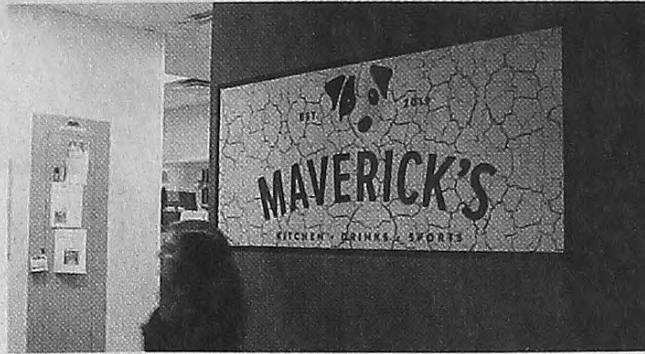
"It also incorrectly defined us as that's all we do," he said. "That was the biggest misconception. We literally heard it daily. We changed the name to dispel the myth."

The Canton restaurant is at 42820 Ford Road and the Woodhaven restaurant is at 20970 West. The Canton restaurant opened in 2016 and the Woodhaven restaurant opened in 2017.

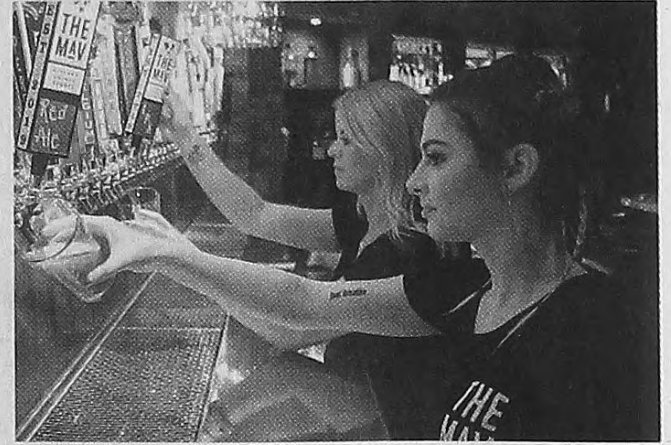
Inside, the restaurant is the same as it was under the World of Beer name, Wilson said, though there are several Maverick's murals painted on the brick walls across the restaurant. The menu has been changed, with some new dishes such as chicken piccata and chicken marsala. The pub keeps more than 50 beers on tap, and the brews currently being poured can be found on Untappd.

In addition to craft beers from across Michigan and the country, the pubs will feature several special brews that can be found just at the two pubs. Wilson said they've worked with Brew Detroit on creating three beers just for the pubs, and are currently serving them. Those include a blonde, an IPA and a red ale.

Having specialty brews at the restaurant is some-



A new mural sporting the Maverick's logo in the back of the restaurant.



Managers Summer Madison, front, and Lindsay Bies pour drinks. The restaurant recently rebranded.



Jasmine Trefzger of Canton, left, and Brad Daniels of Belleville enjoy food at the bar of Maverick's Nov. 14. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

thing that will continue on in the future.

"We're going to continue that for sure," Wilson said.

The closure leaves Michigan without any World of Beer restaurants. The next closest World of Beer location is in Columbus, Ohio.

While the restaurants are still fresh under the Maverick's banner, Wilson said the customers that have

come in are reacting positively to the changes. He said several customers have questioned why the name was changed, but said they understand once it's explained.

"It's been overwhelmingly positive so far," Wilson said.

The hope for the restaurant is that it will work to donate money to local animal shelters as well in the future, in homage to Maverick, a rescue dog owned by one of the restaurant's owners.

With the change in branding, the restaurant in Canton becomes an independent one, separate from the large amount of national brands one can find along Ford Road. Wilson said he's expecting the concept to stand out in a community like Canton.

"That's exactly what we're excited to do," he said. "We feel really good about the concept and the product."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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Prosecutors: Man tried to fatally burn woman

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wayne County prosecutors are accusing a 63-year-old Farmington Hills man of setting his female acquaintance on fire last week in Redford Township.

William Helmer was arraigned today in 17th District Court on counts of assault with intent to murder and aggravated assault.

Investigators said people flagged down a Redford police officer near a coney island restaurant on Seven

Mile Road around 8:07 p.m. Saturday.

A 62-year-old woman, also from Farmington Hills, was lying on the ground, emitting smoke and with severe burns on her body.

She spoke briefly before medics transported her to a local hospital for treatment. U.S. marshals arrested Helmer on Tuesday.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

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Canton's Lilley Road bridge reopens

Ed Wright

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Following a 30-month closure, Canton Township's new Lilley Road bridge was reopened to the public Monday afternoon — and not a moment too soon for neighboring residents who have grown tired of inconvenient detours.

"Our 9-year-old daughter doesn't remember the bridge ever being open," said Canton resident Chad Childers, adding some perspective to the lengthy closing. "We live three blocks down from the bridge, so we got used to taking different routes. The biggest problem the closure created was that it made traffic on Sheldon (Road) a lot rougher."

Closed in April of 2017 after inspecting engineers deemed the close-to-100-year-old structure unsafe for traffic, a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by several Wayne County and Canton Township dignitaries unfolded on the south end of the new bridge that crosses the Rouge River.

The former bridge, which was a vital connector from Michigan Avenue to the heart of the township, was built in 1923 on Telegraph Road and moved to the Lilley Road site when Telegraph was widened in 1933.

Elizabeth Taylor, a field engineering



Members of the Wayne County Roads Commission remove barrels and barriers from the now-open Lilley Road bridge. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

manager for the Wayne County Roads Commission, said the bridge-replacement project went "as smooth as possible" considering all of the behind-the-scenes maneuvering that is required before a project of this magnitude can start.

"This project went about as smooth as it could have," confirmed Taylor. "We followed the (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy) protocol because the structure is cross-

ing a waterway, obviously, so there were some permitting issues that we had.

"But aside from the 'snowpocalypse' last week, everything went almost without a hitch."

Taylor emphasized that actual construction on the new bridge didn't start until after the July 4 holiday.

"The process starts when an inspector deems the bridge unsafe; that's when it was closed in 2017," Taylor said. "A lot of times, one season is what does

the bridge in. We could be fine for one quarter and not the next.

"Once the bridge closes, then the clock starts ticking. We have to secure funding, not just for construction but for design as well. It can take up to a year for the design phase to be completed. Once the design process starts, then it's like, 'OK, let's start arranging for the funding.' We'll go to the state or the feds (for funding) as soon as the design phase starts."

Wayne County Executive Warren Evans cautioned residents that with the state's aging and deteriorating infrastructure, cases like Canton's Lilley Road bridge will become more widespread.

"Which is why we need to come up with additional ways to fund these projects," Evans said.

Canton residents Blaine and Jill Williams, who live a short walk from the bridge, agreed that safety was more important than a couple years worth of inconvenience.

"The old bridge was in really bad shape," Blaine Williams said. "When you'd get close to it and look down, it was like, 'Wow!' Getting it fixed was worth the wait."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

Franklin Players present Anne of Green Gables

Students from Franklin High School will present an adaptation of the beloved children's novel by Lucy Maude Montgomery. Set on Canada's scenic Prince Edward Island, the story revolves around precocious, red-headed orphan Anne Shirley, who is taken in by Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, a pair of unmarried siblings. Despite her hijinks of her headstrong youth, Anne eventually learns the value of family, friendship, and home.

When Netflix released its new series, "Anne with an E," this past year, a new

generation fell in love with this spirited character, played by freshman Devyn Bruton.

The production features a cast of twenty-two students that includes: Sophia Faccione as Marilla, Drew Delcourt as Matthew, Brynn Stewart as Diana Berry, Juli Johnson as Rachel Lynde, and Eric Turland as Gilbert Blythe.

Supporting roles are played by Alyson Anderson, Mia Teller, Evelyn Koblin, Kaitlyn Sullivan, Robby Fitzgibbon, Julia Turner, Matt Vermette, Emily

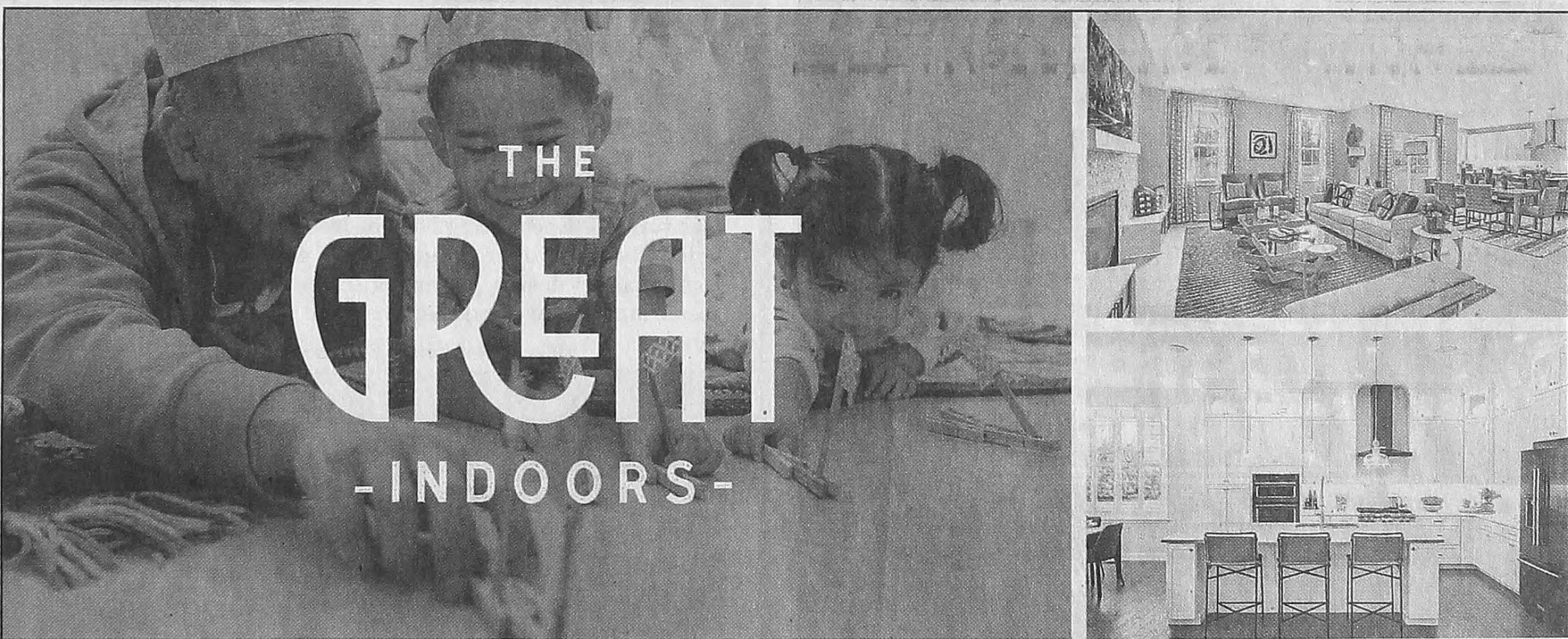
O'Sullivan, Emily Schaf, Max Distelrath, Paige Dziedzic, Connor Waite, Breeya Johnson, Tarrell Pearson, Sierra Sullivan, Jack Nichols, Abigail Meyer, Amelia Dimmitt, Charlotte Rea, and Korinne Dimmitt.

The popular children's book series has sold over 50 million copies, launched multiple television specials, and the script was adapted by Josephine Robinette. Anne of Green Gables is directed by Colleen Meyer, assistant directed by Laura Rea, and technical directed by Daniel Fowler.

Anne of Green Gables will run Nov. 21, 22, and 23, 2019, with a curtain time of 7 p.m. at Franklin High School's Performing Arts Center at the high school, 31000 Joy in Livonia.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students for general admission and they can be purchased through the Franklin High School website or online at <http://franklinlivonia.seatyourself.biz>.

Contact director Colleen Meyer at cmeyer4@livoniapublicschools.org for more information.



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Year-end charitable contributions



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us! One thing that happens this time of year is that many of us make year-end charitable contributions. I think it is great that so many of us want to help those less fortunate. As I've said many times in the past, Americans are the most generous people on earth, as a people we make charitable contributions second to none. That being said, it is common knowledge throughout the world that Americans are generous and, unfortunately, the lowlifes around the world also recognize the generosity of the American people. As a result, this time of year there are more scams regarding charities than at any other time of the year. Crooks and scam artists know that this time of year many of us put our guards down, and thus, we are more susceptible to being scammed. Therefore, this time of year when it comes to giving to charities, you have to be more vigilant, not less.

When it comes to charities, scams come in a number of different ways. One of the more common scams is where you're asked to give to a bogus charity. The charity may have a wonderful purpose, its website can be first-class, and the emails you receive will pull at your heartstrings by showing pictures of distressed children or animals. Unfortunately, the goal of these bogus charities is to steal your money and get sensitive information, such as your credit card number. These charities are fraudulent, and you need to weed them out to make sure you don't give them your hard-earned money.

There are also other types of charities that are more legitimate in the fact that they actually do give money to a charitable purpose; however, the bulk of the money they raise is not used for a charitable purpose, but rather, for marketing costs and to compensate its executives. I believe these charities should also be avoided, because the reality is if you give \$100 to a charity, you want the great bulk of that money going to accomplish the charitable purpose. I never understand why people give money to a charity when so little of the money is actu-

ally spent on the charitable goal. The only thing I can think of is that the great majority of people don't know how that charity spends its money.

I am a big believer that before you give to a charitable organization you ought to investigate that charity. You want to make sure it's legitimate and the money is well spent. A couple of places I go to check out charities are charitynavigator.org and give.org. These websites can help you to make sure that you're dealing with a legitimate charity. Therefore, during this holiday season, just because you're solicited for a donation doesn't mean you have to give. My advice, before you commit to donating money to a charity or write a check, do your homework ahead of time to make sure your money is going to be well spent.

With regard to making charitable contributions, of course, there's the traditional way of just writing a check to a charity; however, there are different alternatives that may be more suitable for you. If you're over 70%, you can consider using your minimum required distribution to make charitable contributions. Particularly, for those of you who are not

itemizing your deductions, this is a great tax saver. For those of you who are not 70%, a good strategy is to donate appreciated securities. By donating appreciated securities to the charity, you'll receive a full charitable contribution for the fair market value of the gift. In addition, you can avoid paying any capital gains taxes that you would have on that investment. Particularly with the good market we've had over the last couple of years, donating appreciated securities can be a very economical way to make charitable contributions.

No matter how much you give to a charity, it's your money and you want it to be spent wisely. Therefore, it is important that you do your homework ahead of time regarding charities so that your hard-earned money will go to a legitimate charitable organization.

Good luck!
Rick is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Canton man pleads guilty in Lover's Lane incident

Susan Vela
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Canton man charged last summer with indecent exposure at a Lover's Lane store has pleaded guilty.

Kenneth Jerome Jasin, 60, entered his plea Nov. 8 and awaits a Dec. 2 sentencing in Plymouth's 35th District Court, according to court records.

Plymouth police sought help identifying Jasin after he apparently bared himself while trying on underwear March 24 at the Lover's Lane.

The Ann Arbor Road store specializes in lingerie and sex-themed apparel and toys.

Police said Jasin asked for a different



Plymouth police say this man exposed himself to a customer at Lover's Lane.
PLYMOUTH POLICE

size of underwear and then exposed himself outside the changing room when the employee came back.

Cameras captured the above image, which was tweeted before Jasin was



Lover's Lane sits on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

identified.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-

8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela

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Livonia remembers Cooper teacher Sally Erickson

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Most students have that one teacher in school.

The one who taught far more than just writing or math, the teacher who former students, now adults, look back on and definitively say that he or she made an impact on their lives.

For a lot of local students, that teacher was Sally Erickson. The Livonia educator of 33 years died on Nov. 4 at the age of 59 after a battle with brain cancer. Most recently, Erickson was a sixth grade teacher at Cooper Upper Elementary. She also taught at Tyler Elementary.

"One of Sally's giant philosophies was to make it fun," said Robin Della Mora, a close friend and colleague of Erickson's. "She was very innovative, if there was a new thing she would try it. She wasn't always very good at technology, but she was always willing to try new things."

Erickson is survived by her husband Dale, son Jay and daughter Paige, as well as two sisters and three brothers. A memorial service will be held for the beloved teacher sometime in January.

Friends and colleagues of Erickson describe her as someone totally dedicated to students. Her classroom at Cooper, which still has her name above

the door, is almost as well stocked as the school's library.

Erickson loved reading and tried to instill that same love in the kids she encountered.

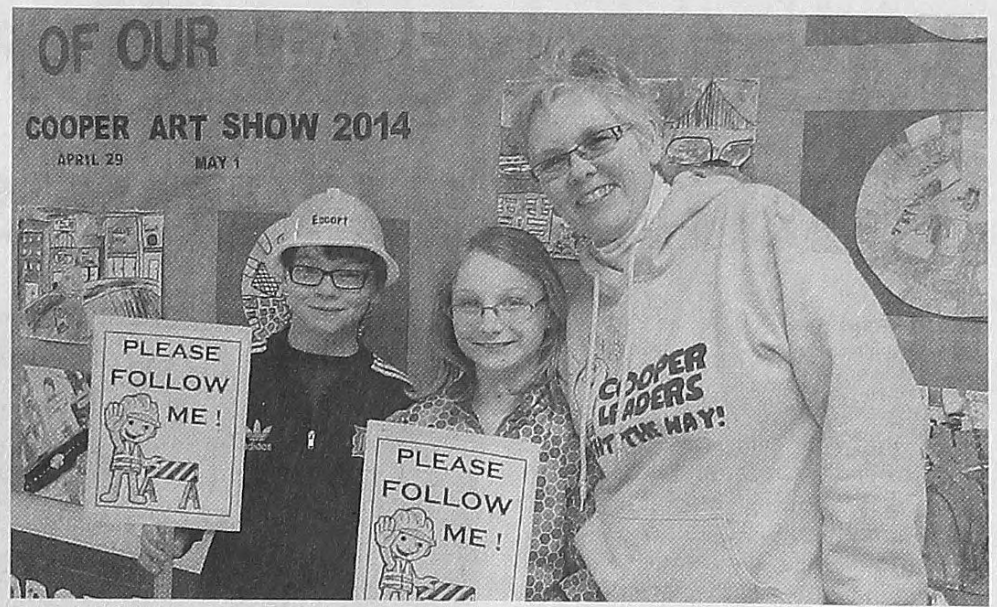
"She told me that reading is the building block to all of the other subjects," said Mary Ann Bubar, a retired teacher from Cooper. "She said you'll never be a great mathematician or scientist or anything else if you can't read."

Erickson's Twitter and Instagram accounts, both called @EricksonExpress, make her love of reading and students evident. Of the over 3,000 posts on her Instagram account, students make up the vast majority. Erickson also ran a blog dedicated to book reviews called Chapter Chat.

"She read books so that she could tell kids, 'This is a great book,'" Della Mora said. "I mean, she must have read 100 books a summer."

Erickson's colleagues said the teacher also wasn't one to shy away from a "difficult" student and was "huge in letting kids lead." Erickson was also an advocate for Cooper's becoming a Leader in Me school, which lets kids take more ownership of the building.

"Cooper became really the first school in the district to become a Leader in Me school and she was a huge advocate of that," Della Mora said. "So kids had lots of opportunities to be leaders... The kids had ownership in the building,



Erickson with two Cooper Upper Elementary School students, where she worked. COURTESY OF ROBIN DELLA MORA

they got to make a lot of decisions."

As a coworker, Erickson was known as everyone's best friend and someone who was caring and trustworthy.

"She was the best listener," said Jacqueline Hebert, who had Erickson as a college professor and would have been her teaching partner at Cooper this year. "I mean, she always made the time to listen. You never felt like you were a burden."

As a young teacher, Hebert said Erickson was always believing in her.

"The thing I think I'll always remember about her is that she made me feel like I was a really great teacher," Hebert said. "She always made me believe in myself when I didn't."

Della Mora said Erickson's brand of friendship was one that would always see you through thick and thin.

"Sally is my person," Della Mora said. "So now, next week, five years from now,

I'll just miss her because I don't have my person. And she was a person for so many people."

She'll be remembered for making her students pancake breakfasts on the first day of school and before Christmas break, always having a book recommendation, being the first one at work every morning and being a mother who was exceedingly proud of her children.

In any case, her friends said the last thing Erickson will ever be is forgotten.

"She definitely left her mark on Livonia Public Schools," said Mike Daraskavich, a friend of Erickson's and the principal of Randolph Elementary. "She represents what we hope to portray in all of our teachers."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.

Meet Monty the Menace and his anti-bullying message

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Monty the kitten with his little pair of glasses looks like the protagonist in a cute story for kids.

But his creator, Lonna Baum, hopes he'll be a way for children to understand that disabilities are nothing to make fun of or be embarrassed by.

Baum, a retired physical therapist and Livonia resident, used to do disability programs at schools to help kids develop understanding and empathy for people in their lives who live with some kind of disability.

"I decided that when I retired, maybe I could put something on paper about the three major things, which are hearing, seeing and mobility, so that children would understand a little bit about these disabilities and respond in a more positive way," she said.

So she created Monty, a kitten who has trouble seeing clearly.

After Baum's tale about Monty, "Monty the Menace," was picked up by Rowe Publishing years after its initial release, the author penned two more children's books called "Patti the Pest"

and "Freddy's No Fun?"

Monty teaches kids about sight struggles, while Patti learns to accept her hearing aids and Freddy shows that being wheelchair-bound doesn't have to stop someone from being active.

All three books were illustrated by Dave Messing, also a Livonia resident. He hopes the books teach kids that it's OK to be different.

"My approach to illustrating these was to, number one, help all of the kids who don't have these disabilities be on the lookout for kids like that to where they're actively aware that they're there; and when they do see them, they don't just stare at them," he said.

For kids who do have a disability, the author and illustrator want to let them know they're not alone.

"Kids who do have disabilities can see that, 'Hey, that doesn't mean that I can't do anything, I just have to do it differently,'" Messing said.

Each book, which can be purchased at Rowe Publishing, Amazon, Walmart, or online at Barnes and Noble, comes with discussion questions for teachers or parents to use with young readers. Baum also reads the books to children. She can be contacted at [\[standingdifferences.com\]\(http://standingdifferences.com\) to set up a reading.](mailto:lonna@under-</p>
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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley

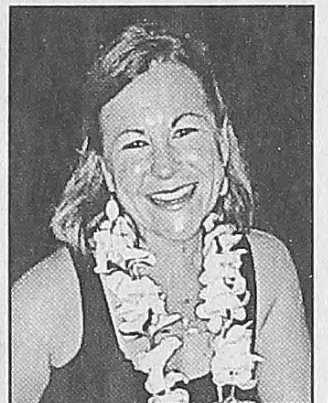
at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.

Obituaries

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Anne Brace

PLYMOUTH - Anne Brace was a beacon of love. Anne met the love of her life, Brian, while she was a freshman at Dearborn High School. They married on a beautiful August day in 1992 and their true love was an inspiration to all. Their love strengthened even more as their family grew. Anne's beacon of love continues to shine through her amazing children Drew, Megan and David, of whom she was so very proud. She also had a comfort puppy, Lucy, that gave her snuggles throughout the last year and half. Anne cultivated a community of love through her friends and family. She was adored by her mother-in-law, Marie Brace. She had a very special relationship with her two sisters and brothers-in-law, Pat and Greg Klask and Kathy and Dave Hodges. Her in-laws were near and dear to her heart - Frank Brace, Rick and Anne Marie Brace, Kim and John Kondo, Michael and Amy Brace. She was so proud of her nieces and nephews and made each one feel special and cared-for... Stephanie, Kim, Michael, Danielle, Caitlin, Morgan, Julian, Mariko, Cameron, Carson, Ethan, Amanda, Quinn, Chase and Sally. Anne's friends were also tremendously special to her; she made every friend feel like a best friend. If you met Anne once, you had a friend for life. Anne's light came into the world on October 7, 1968. On November 10, 2019 she joined her parents Kathy & Paul Williams, her brother Scott Williams and her father-in-law Frank Brace in heaven. Anne was passionate about her work with children in education and taught so many to believe in themselves and reach goals that seemed unattainable. She loved volunteering at school and serving as manager and board member for hockey and lacrosse. She cherished her times with her friends and was always up for an adventure. Her belief in Hope and Healing never faltered, her courage never wavered and she was always hopeful for a positive outcome. To know Anne is to know love. Visitation will take place on Thursday November 21st from 2pm - 9pm at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home @ 46401 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. A celebration of life service will take place on Friday, November 22nd at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N Territorial Road in Plymouth. Visitation at the church will be held from 9:30am - 10:30am and the service will begin at 10:30am. Pastor Jeff Nelson of Royal Oak First United Methodist Church was a super hero to the entire family throughout this journey. In lieu of flowers, the family strongly suggests donations to Pastor Jeff's church: Royal Oak First United Methodist Church, 320 West 7th Street, Royal Oak MI 48067. <https://www.rofum.org/> To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfh.com



Years after its original publication, "Monty the Menace" spawned two sequel books.

SHELBY TANKERSLEY/
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Westland has 16 new radar speed signs

Susan Vela
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland drivers should expect to see 16 new radar speed signs within the next month near schools and some other locations, according to police officials.

Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik said the city's police department used an approximately \$109,000 Michigan State Police grant for the purchase and installation that's intended to promote safer driving.

A set of the new signs has gone up in front of John Glenn High School. To be posted in each direction, others are planned for the following seven locations:

■ Palmer Road near Adams Upper El-

ementary School

■ Palmer Road near Stevenson Middle School

■ Hix Road in front of Johnson Upper Elementary School

■ Ann Arbor Trail in front of Hayes Elementary School

■ Ann Arbor Trail in front of Cooper Upper Elementary School

■ Carlson Street in front of Tattan Park and its spray park

■ Central City Parkway in front of the William P. Faust Public Library

City officials chose the locations based on citizen complaints and areas of concern noted by the Westland Police Department Traffic Bureau.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela

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A loving tribute

Restaurants prep for Thanksgiving service

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For many people, Thanksgiving is a time to head to the family's house to enjoy turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie.

But for others, it's a time to indulge and eat out at one of the several restaurants offering dinners throughout the region.

"For Thanksgiving, by the time you buy the turkey and the trimmings... sometimes it's more expensive at home," said Kathy Zervos, one of the owners of the Greek Islands restaurants.

The Greek Islands restaurant at 37777 11 Mile Court in Farmington Hills is closed in the colder months, but they'll open for more than 800 people who reserved seats for the Thanksgiving feast.

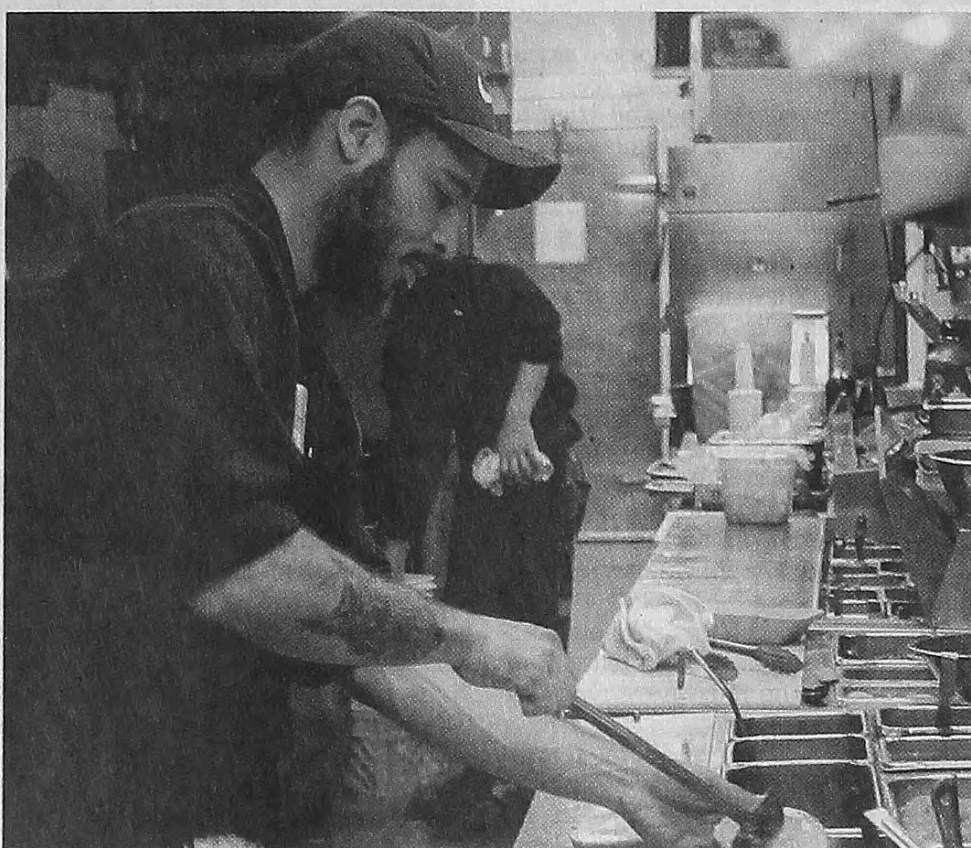
The restaurant has been serving Thanksgiving dinner for about eight years, and typically fills up on reservations each year, Zervos said. For those looking for reservations there, it might be tight. As of Nov. 12, she said the restaurant was pretty much booked for the four time slots they are serving their holiday buffet.

"I'm pretty much maxed out at the moment," she said. "This is the first year that I'm actually booked so quickly."

It's a trend that's happened at other restaurants as well. Rocky's of Northville, 41122 W. Seven Mile in Northville Township has long been a location for Thanksgiving diners to head to for the experience.

The restaurant will serve a smaller version of its regular menu, focusing on items such as fish and steak, to more than 800 people who have made reservations for Turkey Day, said Tim Patino, the general manager of the restaurant.

He said independent restaurants such as Rocky's are the places families, especially large families, look to go to for holiday dining.



Chef Marcus Spivey prepares food Nov. 14 at Rocky's of Northville in Northville Township. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"You've got chefs that can go back and cook turkeys," Patino said. "You don't quite expect that. We pull it off pretty well."

In addition to the longtime restaurants serving Thanksgiving dinner, newcomers to the region will also serve for the holiday.

"We are doing a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, including our pappardelle pasta marinara," said Valen Gow, the general manager at Angela's Ristorante, a new Italian restaurant that opened at 38417 Joy in Westland.

The restaurant opened on Veterans Day, and leadership decided right after to open for Thanksgiving to area patrons.

Those looking to make reservations at the new restaurant can do so by call-

ing 734-738-6198.

The restaurant, which is a sister restaurant to Magdaleno Ristorante in Wyandotte, will serve the same food as the Downriver restaurant, Gow said. They're hoping to see a large crowd come try out their food on a day people aren't interested in cooking or cleaning.

"People don't want to cook, which we see a lot of in Wyandotte," Gow said. "People like to eat and then go home and not have a kitchen to clean and shop and whatever it is they do afterwards."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

'America's Got Talent' auditions coming to Novi

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Get your act together. "America's Got Talent" will host auditions in Novi next year.

The NBC talent variety show is seeking acts for its 15th season and will have try-outs from 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Jan. 21 at Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River.

Acts of any age and talent are welcome for the show which, in the past, has featured singers, dancers, acrobats, animals, ventriloquists and more.

This is a return to the Detroit area for the AGT nationwide search for acts. The show kicked off the most recent round of auditions on Nov. 10 in San Diego, and will go to Louisville, Ky. and New York City this month, Dallas and Miami in December, and will stop in Las Vegas and Cabazon, Calif. before arriving in Novi in January. The last auditions will be in Los Angeles on Feb. 1.

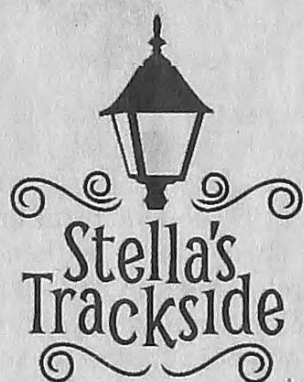
Last season, the Detroit Youth Choir, an ensemble of 52 singers from age 8 to 18, had quite the run on the show.

The choir finished second to Kodi Lee, a blind and autistic singer who won the \$1 million prize and a headliner stint at the Paris Las Vegas theater Nov. 7-10.

Still, the Detroit Youth Choir's success on the show earned them many fans and ultimately, a \$1 million endowment from Detroit-based foundations and business leaders.

For more information, visit America's Got Talent Auditions.

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



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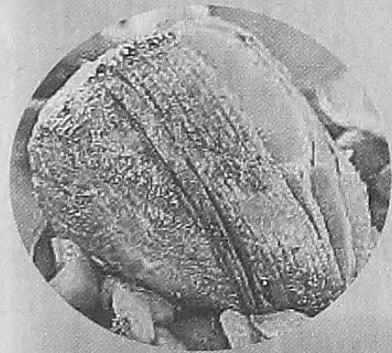
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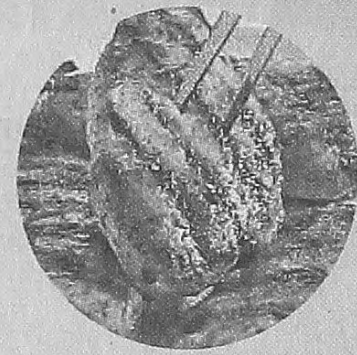
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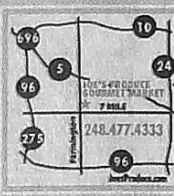
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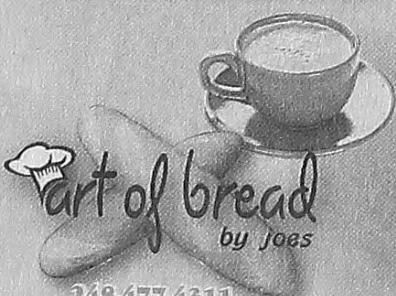
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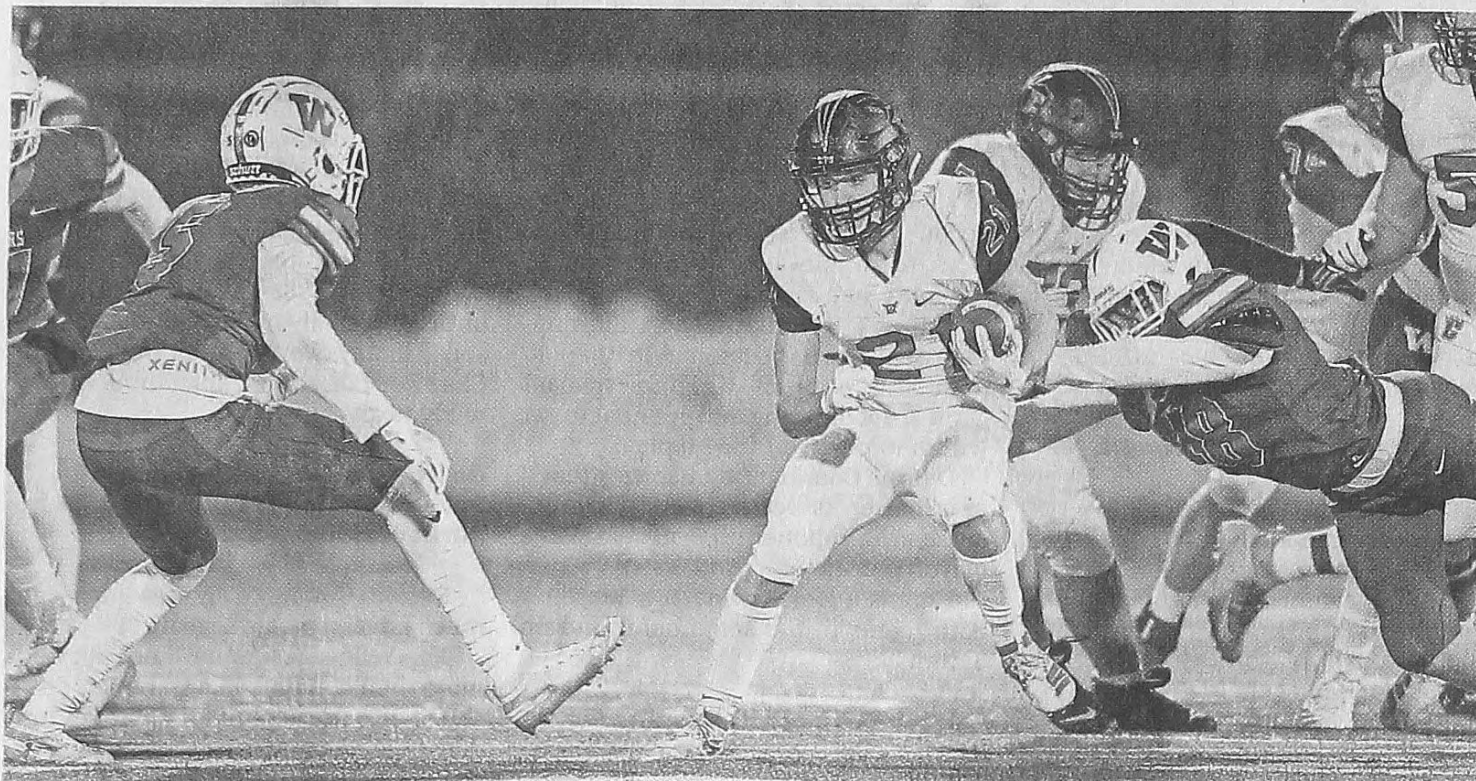
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Sports

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Livonia Churchill's Mitchell Regan takes a carry against Walled Lake Western in the regional final on Nov. 15.
PHOTOS BY DAVID DONOHER/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Churchill's Cinderella run ends at WL Western

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

No team has had a more impressive run in this year's division two playoffs than Livonia Churchill.

The Chargers entered the postseason at 5-4 and were the No. 4 seed in their district, but beat Dexter and Battle Creek Lakeview, two teams with a combined 18-1 record, to advance to the regional final against Walled Lake Western.

Their magical run came to an end Friday night, losing 21-14 to the Warriors at Walled Lake Western High School.

Western improves to 11-1 and advances to the state semifinals, while Churchill finishes its season 7-5.

"I've been coaching a long time and these guys are special," Churchill coach Bill DeFillippo said. "Playing the big teams that we did early on in the year with such a young group and starting 1-4, to just get on a roll, these guys never flinched, never lost faith and grew in confidence as the weeks went by."

Western will play Muskegon Mona Shores on Saturday, Nov. 23 with a trip to the state title game on the line.

See CHURCHILL, Page 4B



Livonia Churchill quarterback Gavin Brooks drops back for a pass against Walled Lake Western.

Mercy volleyball earns regional title

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After a thrilling five-set win against Bloomfield Hills Marian in the semifinal, Farmington Hills Mercy seemed to play like it had something to prove in the regional final against Cass Tech.

The Marlins looked a lot like the team that swept through the district level of the MHSAA volleyball playoffs in the final, winning three-straight sets against the Technicians (25-9, 25-14, 25-14), securing the regional championship and a quarterfinal bid.

Mercy will take on Macomb L'Anse Creuse North at St. Clair County Community College in the quarterfinal Tuesday.

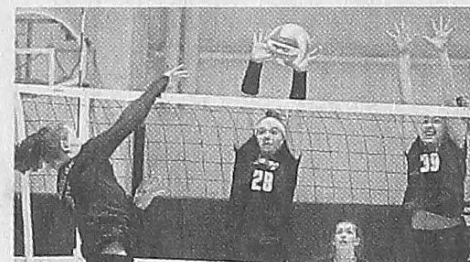
"We're just thrilled," Mercy head coach Loretta Vogel said. "In the season, you look for that next challenge. For us, it's wonderful."

Mercy started quick in the first set with an 8-1 run, helped with kills by junior Ellie Tisko and senior Jess Mrusik, who, off the set by junior Julia Bishop, feather-touched the volleyball over the net for the point.

Holding a 12-5 lead after a kill by Cass Tech junior Kiersten Myles, the Marlins took over. With junior Charli Atiemo serving, Mercy went on an 11-0 run, leading to a 25-8 win in the first set.

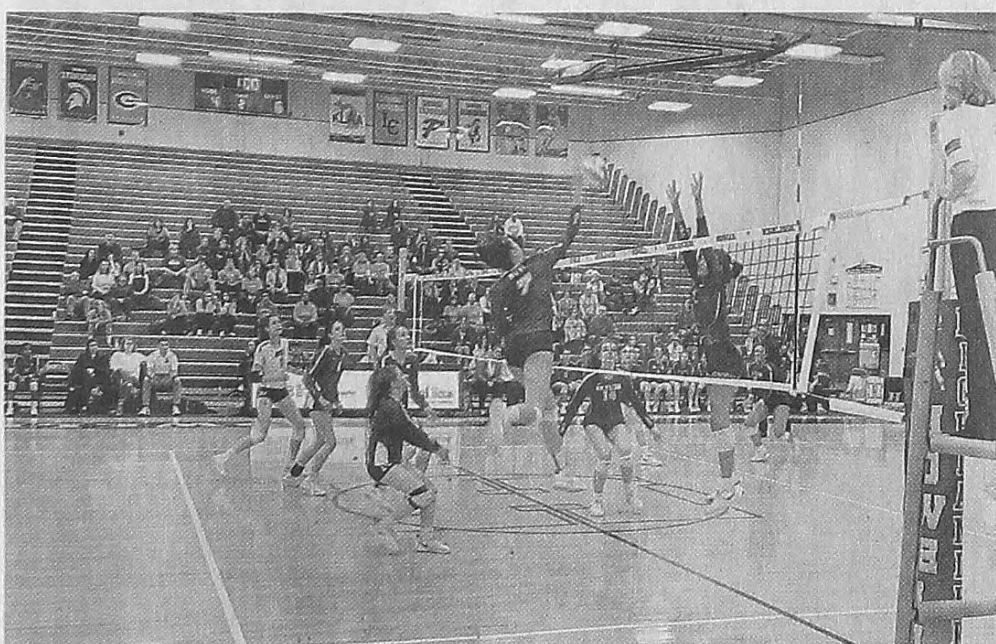
With players like Mruski, Atiemo

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 3B



Marian's Eva Brizard, left, sends a shot towards Mercy's Julia Bishop and Ellie Tisko, right.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Novi junior Caleigh Robinson goes for a kill against Ann Arbor Skyline in the regional final. ANDREW VAILLIENCOURT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Novi falls to Ann Arbor Skyline in regional final

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Novi volleyball team entered Thursday night's regional final with a lot of momentum after defeating Brighton in three sets earlier in the week.

That momentum didn't carry over, however, as the Wildcats lost in three sets to Ann Arbor Skyline 26-24, 25-17, 25-23 at Howell High School.

Novi ends its season 31-7-6. Skyline advances to the state quarterfinals where it will play Livonia Churchill.

"It's a super tough way to end the sea-

son, unfortunately, I don't think we played our best tonight and they came out and did play their best," Novi coach Kacy Byron said. "I give them a lot of kudos for what they did on their side of the court. It's tough to lose when you didn't feel like you played your best."

Novi started off strong, holding a steady two-point lead late into the first set before Skyline stormed back. The Wildcats last lead came at 21-20 before Skyline took the lead and held on.

"I 100 percent think that we lost the momentum after that first set," Byron

See REGIONAL FINAL, Page 3B

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HOMETOWN LIFE TOP 10 FOOTBALL TEAMS WEEK 13

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

We're deep into the playoffs, and Hometown Life Sports is back with its weekly top-10 teams in the area. Each week, we rank the top 10 teams in our coverage area based on record, strength of schedule, experience and of course, the game results. The ranking will be decided on by our two sports reporters: Andrew Vaillencourt and Colin Gay. Here is the top 10 for Week 13:

1. Birmingham Seaholm (9-3, Last Week: No. 2)

Seaholm continues to roll through the playoffs with a dominant, 44-28, win against Port Huron in the regional final. The Maples have earned their first regional championship since 1997 and will take on Detroit Martin Luther King in the semifinal.

2. Livonia Churchill (7-5, Last Week: No. 1)

Churchill ended its magical season with a close, 21-14, loss to Walled Lake Western in the regional final. After starting the season 1-4, the Chargers won six straight to get a shot at its first regional title in school history.

3. Livonia Franklin (8-3, Last Week: No. 3)

Even though Franklin's season ended with a, 49-15, drubbing by King, Franklin's success in 2019 was undeniable. The Patriots recorded the most points per game in its school history, allowing only 24.5 points to opposing offenses.

4. Detroit Country Day (12-0, Last Week: No. 6)

Another week, another win for Country Day. The Yellowjackets advanced to the state semifinal with a, 24-6, win against Milan, ending the Big Red's quest at an undefeated season.

5. North Farmington (9-1, Last Week: No. 4)

In its first season under head coach Jon Herstein, North Farmington recorded an undefeated regular season, scoring the most points in school history, while allowing the least since 2002.

6. Farmington (8-2, Last Week: No. 5)

Farmington earned its second straight playoff bid in 2019, upsetting Oak Park in the pre-district round before falling to University of Detroit Jesu-

it in the district final. With 16 wins in two seasons, the Falcons have their best two-season stretch since 2002-03.

7. Birmingham Groves (8-3, Last Week: No. 7)

Groves continued its playoff streak in 2019, earning a postseason bid each year since 2013. However, after an open pre-district round, the Falcons fell flat against semifinal-bound Seaholm.

8. Plymouth (9-2, Last Week: No. 8)

After a 29-13 win against Lakeland in the first round, Plymouth failed to score against West Bloomfield in the district final. The Wildcats recorded its best defensive season since 2011, allowing 14.3 points per game.

9. South Lyon (8-2, Last Week: No. 9)

After scoring more than 40 points in five of its eight regular season wins, South Lyon came out short against Fenton in the first round of the high school football playoffs. The Lions have made the playoffs in three of the past four seasons.

10. Lakeland (7-3, Last Week: No. 10)

In its third-straight postseason, Lakeland lost in the first round to Plymouth. Lakeland put together its best defensive season since allowing 71 points in 1983.

The Hometown Life sports (HTL sports) area consists of 28 teams representing Catholic League (Novi Detroit Catholic Central, Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood), Independent (Detroit Country Day), the Oakland Activities Association (Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham Groves, Birmingham Seaholm, Farmington, North Farmington), the Western Wayne Athletic Conference (Garden City, Redford Thurston, Redford Union), the MIAC (Livonia Clarenceville, Lutheran Westland), the Kensington Lakes Activities Association (Canton, Livonia Stevenson, Salem, Novi, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Plymouth, Northville, Westland John Glenn, Wayne Memorial) and the Lakes Valley Conference (White Lake Lakeland, South Lyon East, South Lyon, Milford).

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

HOMETOWN LIFE STAFF FOOTBALL PICKS

Sports reporters Andrew Vaillencourt and Colin Gay, news reporters Ed Wright and David Veselenak and editor Phil Allmen make their weekly picks

Games (home team listed first):	Andrew Vaillencourt	Colin Gay	Ed Wright	David Veselenak	Phil Allmen (coin flip)
King vs. Seaholm	King	King	King	King	Seaholm
Detroit Country Day vs. Flint Powers Catholic	Country Day	Country Day	Country Day	Country Day	Flint Powers Catholic
Belleville vs. Brighton	Belleville	Belleville	Belleville	Belleville	Brighton
Davison vs. Sterling Heights Stevenson	Davison	Davison	Davison	Davison	Sterling Heights Stevenson
Walled Lake Western vs. Muskegon Mona Shores	Walled Lake Western	Walled Lake Western	Muskegon Mona Shores	Walled Lake Western	Muskegon Mona Shores
Ohio State vs. Penn State	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State
Indiana vs. Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Indiana
Texas vs. Baylor	Texas	Baylor	Baylor	Texas	Baylor
Navy vs. SMU	SMU	Navy	SMU	Navy	SMU
Redskins vs. Lions	Lions	Lions	Lions	Redskins	Lions
Last Week's Record:	12-3	12-3	7-8	11-4	8-7
Season Record:	165-64-1	173-56-1	154-75-1	162-67-1	111-118-1

GAME OF THE WEEK

Seaholm, Detroit Country Day remain in hunt

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Heading into the Michigan high school football state semifinals, two Hometown Life-area teams remain in the hunt for a state title.

After a 6-3 regular season, Birmingham Seaholm has scored more than 40 points in each of its three playoff games, not allowing an opponent to get within 10 points of the Maples.

Detroit Country Day has continued to roll after its perfect regular season, outscoring opponents 83-18 in its three playoff games.

Here is a look at what's in store for both teams in the semifinal round on Saturday.

Seaholm at Detroit Martin Luther King; 3 p.m., Nov. 23 at Novi High School

Through its playoff run, Seaholm's approach has remained the same: to keep the ball out of the opposing offense's hands by running the ball consistently, and being able to stop opposing offenses at the line of scrimmage.

While head coach Jim DeWald does not know much about the Maples' semifinal opponent, he said he does not intend to change his team's approach no matter who it is facing.

"We're going to work on our fundamentals. We're going to work on our defense. I have never seen King on film yet this year, so I have no idea about them," DeWald said. "We will put a plan together to give us the best chance to win, and I'm sure they are going to do the same for us."

The plan that King has put together for its past three playoff games has worked.

Winning seven straight regular season games after dropping the first two games of the season against Detroit Catholic Central and Muskegon, the Crusaders have continued their run into the postseason, outscoring Temperance Bedford, Livonia Franklin and University of Detroit Jesuit 143-43.

King has made the playoffs 11 straight seasons, making the semifinal in each one since 2016. The Crusaders are looking to make the state final again after winning the championship last season to Muskegon: it's second in three seasons.

Seaholm, on the other hand, is only in its second postseason since 2014, and has not been to the semifinal since 1997, when the Maples lost to Harrison, 21-7.

This semifinal will be the first time King and Seaholm have faced each oth-

er. The Maples know what is at stake: a chance to make school history on its deepest postseason run in the past 22 years. But that is not what the players are thinking about.

"It's always still one game at a time. We can't look back at our success yet until we actually make it, until the season is finally over," senior running back Chaz Strecker said. "I don't think we are ready to give up yet."

Detroit Country Day vs. Flint Powers Catholic; 1 p.m., Nov. 23 at Parker Middle School

Detroit Country Day has not seen much adversity this season.

The Yellowjackets have not allowed more than 12 points in a game this season, with the closest regular-season deficit coming in the season opener against Flushing at 11 points.

After a five-point victory against Harper Woods in the district final, Country Day came back on course, beating the previously undefeated Milan, 24-6 in the regional.

However, the state semifinal brings an opponent that the Yellowjackets have, historically, had trouble beating in Flint Powers Catholic.

"We have a little bit of a tradition, a history with them. Another gritty team," Country Day head coach Dan MacLean said. "They will always come and give you their best look."

Country Day has lost to Flint Powers Catholic in five of their six total games. In their latest matchup, the Yellowjackets lost to the Chargers in the 2015 semifinal, 21-14.

Country Day's only win against Flint Powers Catholic came in 2006 in the second game of the season.

After a season that included two consecutive shutout losses to Lapeer and Davison, the Chargers have had some close calls in the postseason.

Flint Powers Catholic has won its past two games by a combined four points: a, 13-12, win against Fowlerville and a, 12-9, win against Pontiac Notre Dame Prep.

While the Chargers are in the middle of their eighth playoff run in the past nine years, they are in their first semifinal since 2015.

Country Day is in its first semifinal since 2016, when it lost in the state final to Grand Rapids Catholic Central.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



Country Day running back Chris Rea celebrates a touchdown. Detroit Country Day defeats Milan, 24-6, in the regional final. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Regional final

Continued from Page 1B

said. "We led almost the entire first set and it was at the very end that they took over. I was hoping that was going to give us the motivation we needed to show that we can hang with them and lead and beat them. However, the momentum spin really went in their favor."

Skyline went on to win the second set with ease before taking a big lead to start the final set. Novi didn't go quietly, though, coming back to make it 24-23 before falling.

For Skyline, it was the Murray sisters — Kendall (senior) and Harper (freshman) — that powered the Eagles to victory. Kendall, who is committed to Michigan, has an incredibly powerful spike and it burned the Wildcats several times.

"We watched film on them and they did exactly what we watched on film and I think that's the tough pill to swallow, we would've liked for them to beat us in a different way," Byron said. "We knew Kendall was going to go cross, we knew Harper was going to go line. We knew they were going to utilize back row attacks and I think that goes to show how great of players they are, that we knew their game plan and they still were able to execute at a very high level."

Freshman Sarah Velluci led Novi with 10 kills, while junior Gabrielle Cummings added six. Junior Rachel Jennings had 21 digs and three aces, while her sister Shannon Jennings, a senior, collected three aces, six kills, nine digs and 21 assists.



Novi volleyball coach gives senior Shannon Jennings a hug following their loss to Ann Arbor Skyline in the 2019 regional final.

ANDREW VAILLIENCOURT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

(Novi) loses four seniors from this year's team and will bring back a number of now experienced players in 2020.

the great Erin O'Leary (signed with Michigan) and I think she picked up in her footsteps and took off from there as our setter. She's had an unbelievable career at Novi. I know she's in our record books for aces and assists."

It's always difficult for a season to end, but the future is bright for a Novi program that still has high expectations after winning three consecutive state titles from 2015-17. The team loses four seniors from this year's team and will bring back a number of now experienced players in 2020.

"No matter if we graduate players, no matter if we're a young team, we're always going to be a team you struggle with when you play against us," Byron said. "I think that overall, our seniors have helped cement that."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Volleyball

Continued from Page 1B

was initially intimidated by the talent on the Mercy roster as a freshman.

"When I came in, I was like I never thought I was going to get playing time, playing behind Jess and all these other seniors," Atiemo said. "Being a junior now, I can contribute something to the team. It's a good feeling."

After allowing the Technicians to take the early, 3-2, lead, Mercy went to work again, scoring nine of the next 11 points.

While Cass Tech came back to within three points, Tisko and the rest of the

Marlin offense came alive, ending the set with an eight-point run, including three kills by the junior.

"It's working very well. It's more that we are trying to fill the missing piece," Tisko said of the Mercy offense. "It's kind of like everyone is stepping up. It's just important to step up and fill that role because we do want to win that state title."

In every game, Vogel said the team's goal is to find momentum early, not allowing opponents to get back into a particular set.

With the success Mercy brought against Cass Tech, Vogel thinks it's just a testament to what the Marlins do each practice.

"Everything that you are seeing is

things that we are trying to execute in practice," Vogel said. "Now you are seeing it in the actual games. They put a lot of time in."

The runs continued in the third and deciding set, with Mercy amounting to a quick 15-4 lead. In that run, Atiemo recorded five kills and a block, one part of her game that she is incredibly delighted by.

"I'm proud of myself because I'm undersized," Atiemo said. I'm 5-foot-11, so I just have to get as many touches as I can."

After a five-point comeback by the Technicians with junior Brandi Seaborn at serve, Mercy secured the regional title with a kill by sophomore Leah LaFontaine, a block by Atiemo and a kill by

Atiemo assisted by Bishop.

Tisko said, moving forward, the team needs to stay focused in practice, continuing its mental toughness and consistency on offense.

While a regional title is what Mercy wants, the players and coaches view it not only as an accomplishment, but as a step in the right direction.

"Our team, we just want to win the finals. That's our goal," Atiemo said. "Coming back every year, it's just rewarding, and I believe in ourselves so much."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

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Churchill

Continued from Page 1B

"I hate losing more than I like winning," Walled Lake Western coach Alex Grignon said. "I'm very happy we won, but I'm much more happy we didn't lose. Our goals were big to start the year, we've taken it one day at a time and we're one step closer to our ultimate goal."

Here are three takeaways from the game:

Strong defensive start

Churchill couldn't have asked for a better start on defense.

The Chargers defense forced three consecutive three-and-outs, and didn't allow a Western first down until midway through the second quarter. The only problem, the Chargers offense couldn't get anything going either, failing to score in the entire first half.

Churchill drove into Western territory on several occasions, but couldn't move the ball into field goal range. The Warriors defense made its first big play of the night on a Churchill third and 15 from the 49-yard line, intercepting Churchill junior quarterback Gavin Brooks. Western then marched down the field and scored the first touchdown of the night on a beautiful 21-yard pass from junior Zach Trainor to senior CJ Brown on 4th and nine.

After another Churchill punt, Western got the ball back with good field position and more than two minutes left in the half. With 35 seconds to go, Trainor hit Cam Kinaia for a 19-yard score. A two-point conversion, which was attempted because the earlier extra point attempt was blocked, was good and made it 14-0 going into halftime.

"I thought there were about three drives in the first half where we moved the ball a little bit and then stalled out with a few penalties here and there and put us in some tough down and distance situations," DeFillippo said.

Staying alive

With the offense continuing to stall, things looked bleak for the Chargers entering the fourth quarter. That changed in a hurry, however, as Brooks found senior Brendan Lowry for a 46-yard



Livonia Churchill's Matthew Landis blocks Walled Lake Western's Anthony Williams Jr. in the regional final. DAVID DONOHER/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

touchdown pass, making it 14-7 with 10:45 to play.

Western responded, scoring a touchdown just a minute and a half later on a 32-yard catch by Northwestern commit Abdur-Rahmaan Yaseen. It appeared that the ball was caught by both Yaseen and the Churchill defender, and the officials credited the catch to Western for the touchdown. The Churchill coaching staff was not happy and said after the game that after watching replay, it should've been called an interception.

"Their last touchdown after looking at it on the iPad was definitely an inter-

ception, so it's unfortunate for our guys to come out with a seven-point loss when one of them should've been turned the other way," DeFillippo said.

Despite the deficit, Churchill stormed back once more. Lowry scored his second touchdown of the game on a reverse from the four-yard line to make it a one-score game before the Chargers lined up for an onside kick with 2:01 left in the game.

Senior Jacob Kujawa, who came over from the soccer team after an injury to the team's kicker, squared up a perfect kick that flew into the air after hitting

the 10-yard mark. The Chargers recovered and were set up with a first down from the Western 49.

"I think that was our first onside kick of the year," DeFillippo said. "To step in like that and do that at the right moment in time, it was great. We got a great hop and he does that pretty consistently in practice. Josh Brown, our sophomore defensive back was the edge kid that got up and got it."

Churchill wasn't able to move the ball, though, taking a sack on 4th and 17 to give the ball back to the Warriors, ending the game.

"I think we just didn't execute the way we needed to," Brooks said. "We played our hearts out, I can't ask for anything more. I'm so proud of everybody on this team. Things just didn't go our way tonight."

Reflecting on a special season

After starting the year 1-4, Churchill finished the season 6-1, showing vast improvement. Brooks appears to be a star and will put the team right back in the mix next year.

Ending a season is never easy, however, as the team says goodbye to a number of talented seniors, including Lowry, who is committed to Central Michigan University for baseball.

"This hurts," Lowry said. "We were a family from the start, we've all been playing for each other and for our season to end this early, we wanted to go a long way so we could play for each other some more."

He added that the team has loved being underdogs and proving people wrong with nothing to lose.

"(Lowry) been a three-year varsity starter, he's been such a great leader and great captain," Brooks said. "He's a great teammate, I couldn't ask for more out of him."

"Being my first year on varsity, it's so special to make school history as the second time to ever win a district title. Just making it here and being with this family has been something special."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at availlien@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

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Everything you need to know about making perfect mac and cheese

Robin Miller
Special to Arizona Republic
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Put down that blue box. You're about to master the best macaroni and cheese ever. And it's almost as easy as opening a package and boiling some water. The payoff? An ultra-cheesy, uber-goopy cream sauce, and elbow macaroni that never had it so good.

First, some history. In 1937, Kraft introduced boxed macaroni and cheese as a way to market processed American cheese and Tenderoni macaroni. We all know what happened next. The boxes swept the nation, as did culinary copycats. I think we can all agree, the boxed meal is easy, but it's not the mealtime "hug" it could be. The cheese isn't stretchy and there aren't layers of flavor.

I mean no disrespect, but if you have five extra minutes, I can make it worth your while.

First, a few tips:

The Pasta: Although elbow macaroni is classic, you can choose any small pasta shape you want, just stop cooking it 1 minute early. You want al dente pasta because it adds more texture (plus it cooks a little more in the sauce).

The Roux: This is melted butter and flour, and ultimately what thickens the sauce (the starch in the flour expands in the milk). Whisk the combo until smooth and golden before adding milk. Cooking flour removes the "raw" taste, and the golden color adds flavor.

The Cheese: The creamy white sauce in macaroni and cheese absorbs a lot of flavor, so you need cheese with oomph. I prefer sharp cheddar and Parmesan. But cheddar and Parmesan aren't stretchy, so I add mozzarella too. Now you have equal parts vivacity and cheese-pull glory. If possible, shred your own cheese — pre-shredded varieties contain anti-clumping agents that may hinder melting.

Seasoning: Although not traditional, I enhanced the sauce with onion and garlic powders. They add depth and layers you can't get from a boxed meal.



Chef and author Robin Miller says if you have five extra minutes, you can make the best macaroni and cheese ever. TOM TINGLE/THE REPUBLIC

Perfect macaroni and cheese

Yield: 4 servings

- 12 ounces elbow macaroni
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- Salt and ground black pepper

Primer complete. Now let's talk toppings. Obviously, really good macaroni and cheese needs no festooning, but here are some ideas anyway:

1½ cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese

1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Freshly grated Parmesan cheese for serving

Cook the pasta according to package directions, stopping 1 minute before the recommended cooking time. Drain and cover with foil to keep warm.

Melt the butter in a large, high-sided pan over medium-high heat. When the butter is bubbly, whisk in the flour. Cook for 1 minute, until golden, whisk-

ing constantly. Gradually whisk in the milk and bring to a simmer. Whisk in the onion powder, garlic powder, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Simmer for 2 minutes, until the mixture thickens, stirring frequently.

Reduce the heat to low and stir in the cheddar and mozzarella cheeses.

Once the cheese has melted, fold in the pasta. Remove the pan from the heat and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Top with grated Parmesan cheese and serve hot.

- Crumbled bacon
- Crushed Ritz crackers mixed with melted butter (1 cup crackers + 2 tbs)

- butter)
- Chopped fresh parsley
- Chopped green onions

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**City of Plymouth
Zoning Board of Appeals Notice
Thursday, December 5, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
City Hall Commission Chambers
201 S. Main Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170
Website: www.plymouthmi.gov Phone: (734) 453-1234 ext. 232**

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

1. Z19-14 Non-Use Variance Request for 303 Maple
Front yard setback on Fairground side
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential
Applicant: Mark Poll
2. Z19-15 Non-Use Variance Request for 250 N. Main
Wall Signage
Zoned: B-3, General Business
Applicant: Planet Fitness
3. Z19-16 Non-Use Variance Request for 546 Roe
Lot Split creating 2-non-conforming properties.
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential
Applicant: Ron Myers, Architect representing Rodrick MacKinnon

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 234

Publish: November 21, 2019

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Federal-Mogul Powertrain LLC has an opening for a Product Engineer in Plymouth, MI, responsible for designing, developing, testing, and analyzing electrical and mechanical components, systems, and processes for the Ignition group. Bachelor's degree in mechanical, automotive or electrical engineering and 2 years of related experience required. Email resume to sandi.pricer@femco.com reference Job Code PE-1. No phone calls please.

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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Whiteboard wipers
- 8 Ballpark figure
- 16 Ballpark figure
- 20 "Working Girl" actress Griffith
- 21 Device guiding a train off its track to avoid a collision
- 22 Wed. follower
- 23 Functional again after an outage
- 25 Gas: Prefix
- 26 "Do Ya" rock gp.
- 27 Salty Greek cheese
- 28 Figure skater Midori —
- 29 "The Pleasure — Company" (Fred Astaire film)
- 30 Musical key with two sharps: Abbr.
- 32 Brief hesitation to let words hang in the air
- 38 Napoleon exile site
- 42 Milan locale
- 43 Designer McCartney
- 44 Symbol used twice after "http:"
- 48 Guys who read gas or water gauges
- 50 Open space
- 51 Dwayne who played Dobbie Gillis
- 53 Apt to snoop
- 54 Really mean
- 57 Rat- (knock noise)
- 58 Certain choir voice
- 62 Summer hrs.
- 63 Phenomenon in hypnosis
- 67 Inedible kind of orange
- 69 Christmas seasons
- 70 Whac- (carnival game)
- 71 Emily Dickinson poem with the line "Meek my Vive le roi!"
- 78 Greek letters before xis
- 79 Henchman of Captain Hook
- 80 Eerie sign
- 81 Get 40 winks
- 82 "New Jack City" actor
- 83 Actor Gavin
- 86 Birds of a given region
- 88 Eyelash cosmetics
- 92 Periodical datum indicating years
- 95 Dog collar jinglers
- 96 Duelist Burr
- 97 Radiation units
- 98 Guernsey's archipelago
- 102 Intl. oil group
- 106 Queen, in Madrid
- 107 Counterparts of egos
- 108 Skating leap
- 112 Pep rally cry
- 113 Writer Sarah — Jewett
- 114 Device on which you might see the first words of seven answers in this puzzle
- 120 Molson, e.g.
- 121 Government bureaus
- 122 Deny
- 123 Little whirlpool

DOWN

- 1 Plant firmly
- 2 Ruler's land
- 3 Tinfoil maker
- 4 Cinch — (Hefty brand)
- 5 Sufficient, in dialect
- 6 In season
- 7 Bench, e.g.
- 8 Actor Byrnes
- 9 Sun. homily
- 10 Mr. Capote, to his friends
- 11 Bond creator Fleming
- 12 Make smaller
- 13 Samuel of justice
- 14 Certain choir voice
- 15 Unit of work
- 16 Newspaper employee
- 17 A ship's steerer has control of it
- 18 Ear or heart part
- 19 Isolde's love
- 24 Get 40 winks
- 29 Repeatedly
- 31 Sabbath observers, collectively
- 33 Feel crummy
- 34 Actress Hagen
- 35 Kimono tie
- 36 K thru 12
- 37 Lordly home
- 39 Cato's lang.
- 40 Singer Mars
- 41 End in — (finish even)
- 44 Groups of devotees
- 45 Arboreal marsupial
- 46 Paraphrase
- 47 Zaire's Mobutu — Seko
- 48 Business school subj.
- 49 'Zine online
- 52 Resulting in something
- 55 "Here, have a sample"
- 56 "In — face!"
- 58 \$ dispenser
- 59 Little big cat
- 60 Part of TNT
- 61 Bad rating, perhaps
- 63 Furry friend
- 64 Mel's Diner waitress
- 65 D.C. VIPs
- 66 — Diego
- 68 "Fancy that!"
- 72 Laryngitic
- 73 Urban rec facility
- 74 Toon frames
- 75 Sports group
- 76 "When will — learn?!"
- 77 Think aloud
- 82 "You are not!" rebuttal
- 83 Carta lead-in
- 84 Roundish
- 85 Nick Jr. girl
- 87 "Fee, fi, fo, —!"
- 88 Bacterium, e.g.
- 89 Stuck
- 90 Soiled
- 91 Certain food factory
- 93 Actor Chaney
- 94 German conjunction
- 96 Green-light
- 99 Loyal subject
- 100 Just kills time
- 101 — mo
- 103 Utah city
- 104 Use as a surface for a meal
- 105 Munches on
- 109 Reverse
- 110 Journey
- 111 Gusto
- 114 Pothole-filling stuff
- 115 Outdated RCA product
- 116 Sundial's "3"
- 117 Brief moment
- 118 Suffix with hobby
- 119 — tai

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20							21											22		
23							24											25		
26				27							28						29			
30			31				32	33	34	35	36				37					
			38	39	40	41		42						43						
44	45	46					47						48	49						
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67			68					69								70				
71					72	73	74						75	76	77			78		
79						80						81						82		
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88	89	90	91					92		93	94									
95								96						97						
98						99	100							101			102	103	104	105
106							107							108	109	110	111		112	
113						114				115	116	117	118						119	
120							121									122				
123																125				

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

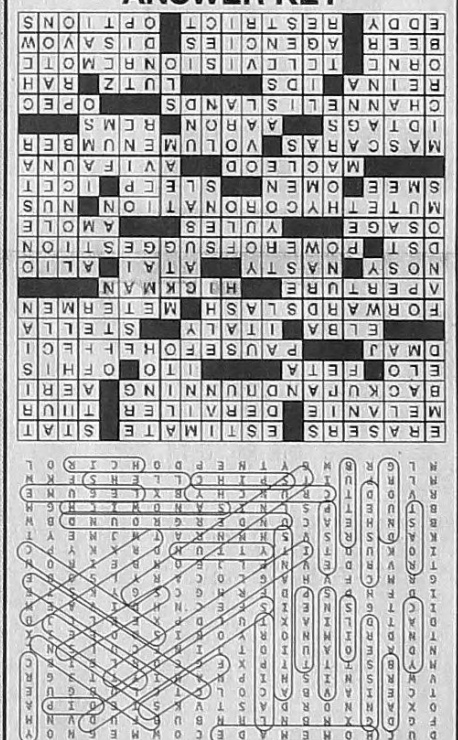
PEANUT BUTTER WORD SEARCH

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

ANSWER KEY

WORDS

- ANTIOXIDANTS
- BIOTIN
- BREAD
- BUTTER
- CANDY
- CHIPS
- CHOCOLATE
- COOKIES
- CREAMY
- CRUNCHY
- CRUSHED
- DELICIOUS
- DESSERT
- DIP
- DRESSING
- FATS
- GROUND
- GROUNDNUT
- HOMEMADE
- INGREDIENT
- JELLY
- LEGUME
- NUTTY
- OILS
- PASTE
- PEANUT
- RICH
- ROAST
- SANDWICH
- SEEDS
- SHELL
- TROPICAL
- UNDERGROUND
- VITAMINS



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

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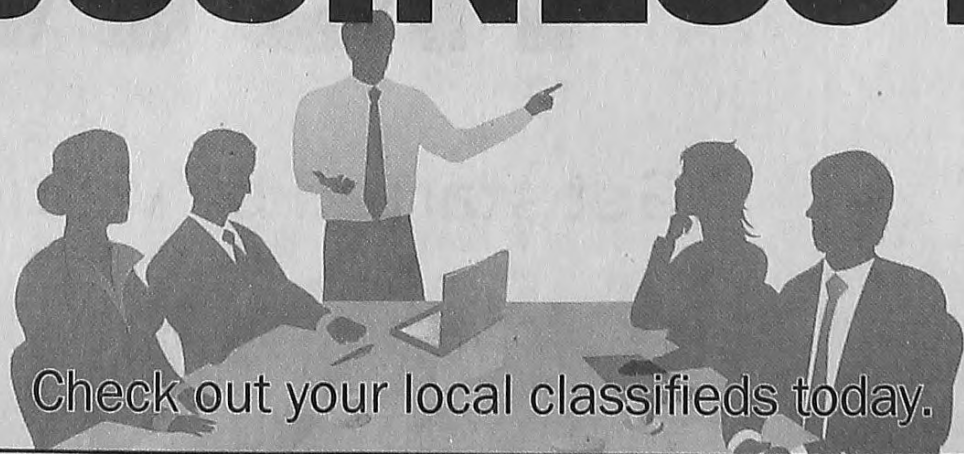
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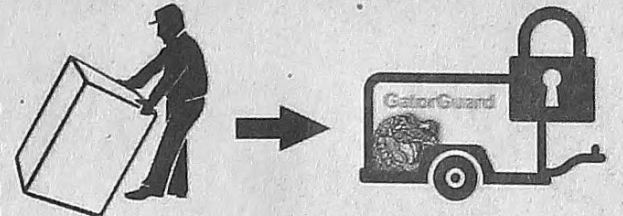
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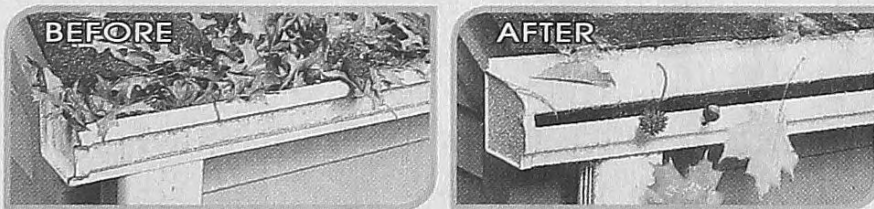
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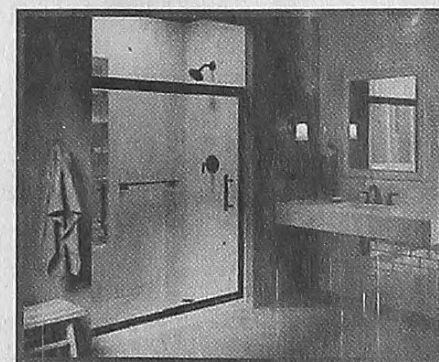


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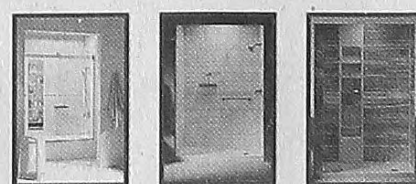
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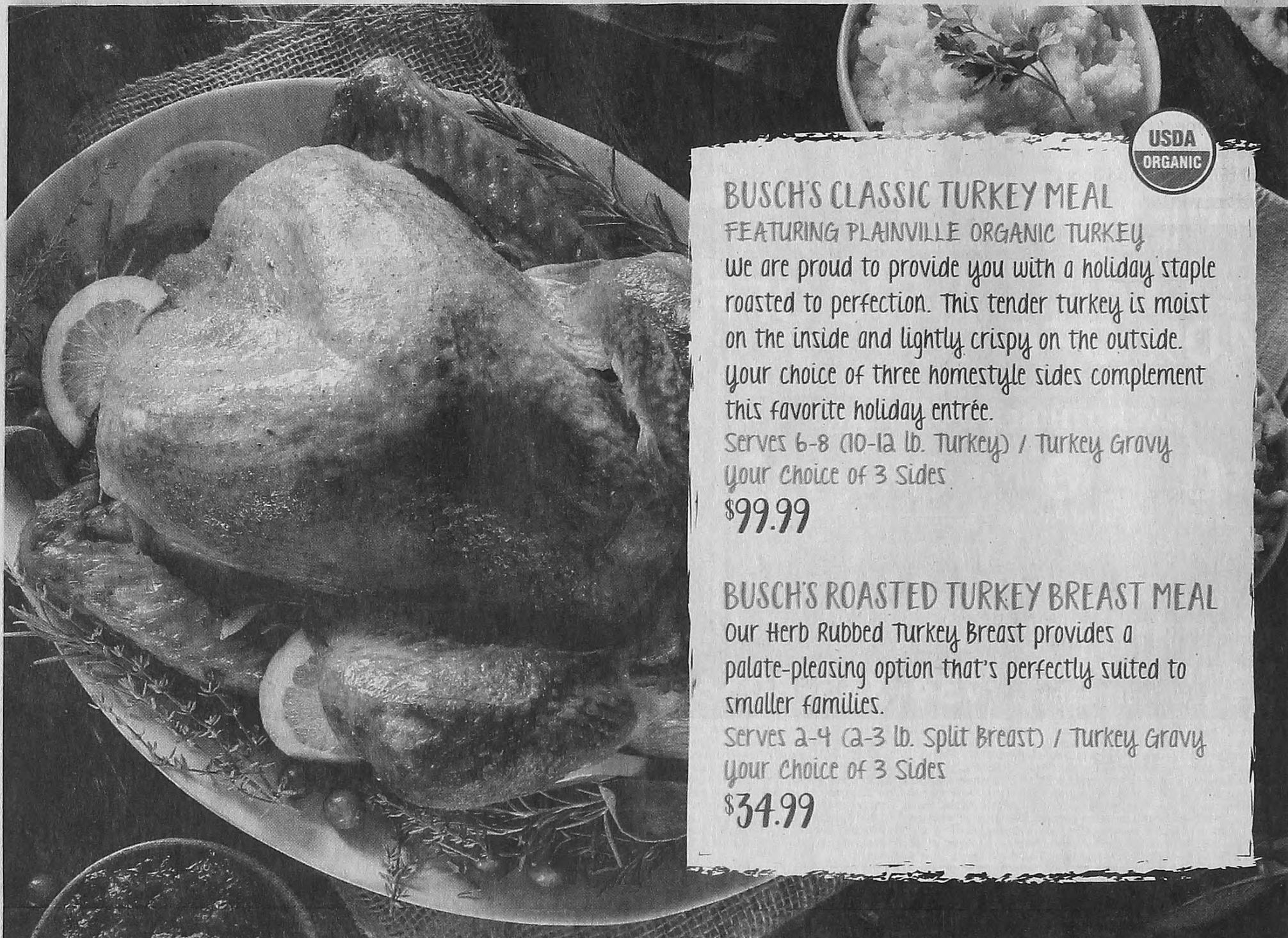
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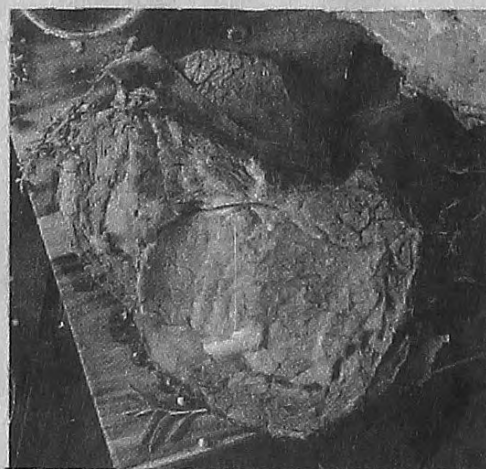
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\$89.99



BUSCH'S GARLIC PEPPER RUBBED RIB ROAST MEAL

Sink your teeth into this USDA Choice Beef Standing Rib Roast and experience its classic tenderness and bone-roasted flavor.

Please note: the Rib Roast will be uncooked at pick-up to avoid potential overcooking during reheating. Detailed cooking instructions are included with your Holiday Meal. The total preparation time will be approximately 2 hours, depending on the degree to which you prefer your meat cooked.

Serves 6-8 (5-6 lb. Roast) / Au Jus

Your Choice of 3 Sides

\$109.99



Order in-store at our deli
or online at BUSCHS.COM