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# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Two appointed to Farmington library board

### Concerns linger about staff furloughs, VP's rhetoric

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In Farmington and Farmington Hills, people love the library.

So, as the library continues to attract controversy, Farmington officials appointed two women to the board hoping

they can help stabilize the distrust between the board and the public.

Megan Stryd and Michele Kelly were both unanimously installed to the board Aug. 17 by members of the Farmington City Council. They're joining a board facing public backlash from a decision to furlough staff in April in response to

the coronavirus pandemic, as well as controversial rhetoric from the board's vice president, Bill Largent.

Officials hope a full board of four Farmington residents and four Farmington Hills residents will help the library move forward. Farmington Hills, however, currently has one vacant seat.

"I think having a full board is really important," Councilman Steve Schnee-

mann said. "You know, we'll continue to monitor the library board and the decisions they make as much as we can as a council. But, I think it's our duty and obligation to make these appointments."

Stryd, a homeschooling parent, was chosen because officials said her expertise will help the library as it helps the

See LIBRARY, Page 6A



A few hundred people attend a Back the Blue rally to show support for police while social distancing Aug. 20 in Livonia.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Hundreds attend rally to 'back the blue' in Livonia

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A few hundred people gathered outside Livonia City Hall the evening of Aug. 20 to support police officers throughout the community, region and nation.

They waved flags and held banners to "back the blue" and recognize the men and women who risk their lives to keep communities safe.

Also critical of bad officers receiving national media attention, organizers began planning the rally earlier this summer, when protesters took to the streets to shout "Black Lives Matter."

"I just want to help people understand that police officers are really something that we count on in our everyday lives," said Alex King, a co-organizer and Livonia resident. "I understand the outrage and the anger over what recently happened."

See RALLY, Page 6A



Police supporters line Farmington Road to "back the blue."

## 'Traacherous' Canton intersection to get light

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The crumpled remains of a vehicle's bumper that rested near the Canton Township intersection of Michigan Avenue and Beck Road on a recent afternoon served as a fitting symbol of the site's infamous history.

With the speed limit on Michigan Avenue set at 55 miles per hour and the closest traffic light exactly 1 mile east of the intersection, motorists traveling westbound on Michigan Avenue have a runway, of sorts, to accelerate up to 70 mph before they reach the dreaded crossroads.

Drivers looking to turn northbound onto Beck from eastbound Michigan - temporarily halted only by a stop sign - must guess whether they can find a gap in the steady stream of traffic to cross the two lanes safely.

Seventy drivers guessed wrong in 2019. That, according to statistics provided by the Canton Township Department of Public Safety, is how many accidents occurred at the intersection last year. Nine of the collisions resulted in injuries.

"We have been begging, pleading for some time (to the Michigan Department of Transportation) to make the installation of a traffic light a priority," said Canton Township Supervisor Pat Williams. "Thankfully, it's finally happening."

"I used to drive by that intersection every day, so I know how treacherous it can be."

In February, the township was notified by MDOT that a traffic study related to a light at the intersection was ready to commence.

Earlier this week, work crews were spotted putting the final touches on the project, as traffic lights hang suspended above the road, not yet operational.

MDOT spokesperson Diane Cross said a green light could be given to the start-up of the light after Labor Day.

"Putting a signal into actual operation is a multi-step process," she said. "Once there is power connected by DTE, which is expected sometime soon, we will work with Wayne County to confirm all components are operational. The signals will be put into flashing for at least a week to allow drivers to get used to there being a new

See INTERSECTION, Page 6A



# Pizza Hut in Farmington Hills closes for good

David Veselenak [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Another Pizza Hut has closed its doors in the western suburbs of Detroit.

The iconic hut building at 38300 W. 10 Mile has served its last pizza pie. Signs on the building, located between Halsted and Haggerty, indicate the restaurant has closed down for good.

"It's been a pleasure serving you," a sign on the door reads. "This location is closed."

It's unclear exactly when the restaurant closed its doors. A Facebook page attributed to the restaurant last posted something May 27, and the last Yelp review was shared in April.

A message seeking comment and more information was sent to Pizza Hut regarding the closure but was not returned by press time.

The closure marks the most recent closure of a Pizza Hut with a dining room in the area.

The dine-in Pizza Hut in Westland closed earlier this summer, and the Canton Pizza Hut closed last year and moved its operations to a carryout location along Ford Road.

The only dine-in Pizza Hut in the area still open is in Wayne, though the dining room is currently closed, according to the company's website.

Several carryout locations still operate in the area in Livonia, Novi and Canton.

The sign on the door of the former restaurant directs customers to order from the Novi location at 43443 Grand River.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Twitter: @davidveselenak.

The dine-in Pizza Hut on 10 Mile in Farmington Hills has closed its doors.

DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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### Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist

Mobile: 248-396-3870

Email: [pallmen@hometownlife.com](mailto:pallmen@hometownlife.com)

Follow us on Facebook: @OEHometown

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# New truck yard planned in Wayne

David Veselenak [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Wayne City Council approved a site plan petition during its meeting held online Aug. 18 for Grewal Trucking to construct a new truck terminal on 2.8 acres of property south of Annapolis west of Treadwell.

The development, which would take place on vacant land currently without an address, would serve as a terminal for the trucking company and store vehicles onsite.

A smaller building would also be constructed, with plans for a larger building in the future.

"This 2.8 acre facility is largely going to be a facility for trucking," said Michael Buiten, the city's building and engineering director. "They're starting with a smaller structure first and moving later to a larger structure."

The council approved the site plan without much comment, following the

"This 2.8 acre facility is largely going to be a facility for trucking. They're starting with a smaller structure first and moving later to a larger structure."

Michael Buiten

Building and engineering director, City of Wayne

recommendation for approval by the city's planning commission earlier in the month.

Councilman Kevin Dowd, who said he had some experience with trucking companies, asked whether the development would be simply a storage lot or if work would also take place on the vehicles there.

"Are they going to perform maintenance onsite?" he said. "Or is this pri-

marily going to be a drop lot and an office?"

Navdeep Grewal with the company said they have about 50 trucks that could be stored there in the future and would begin storing them there without conducting repairs. When the larger building is constructed, repairs could then take place, she said.

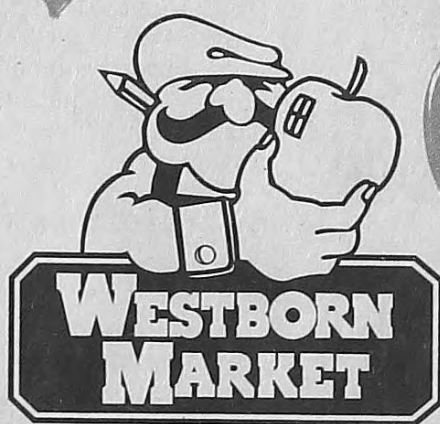
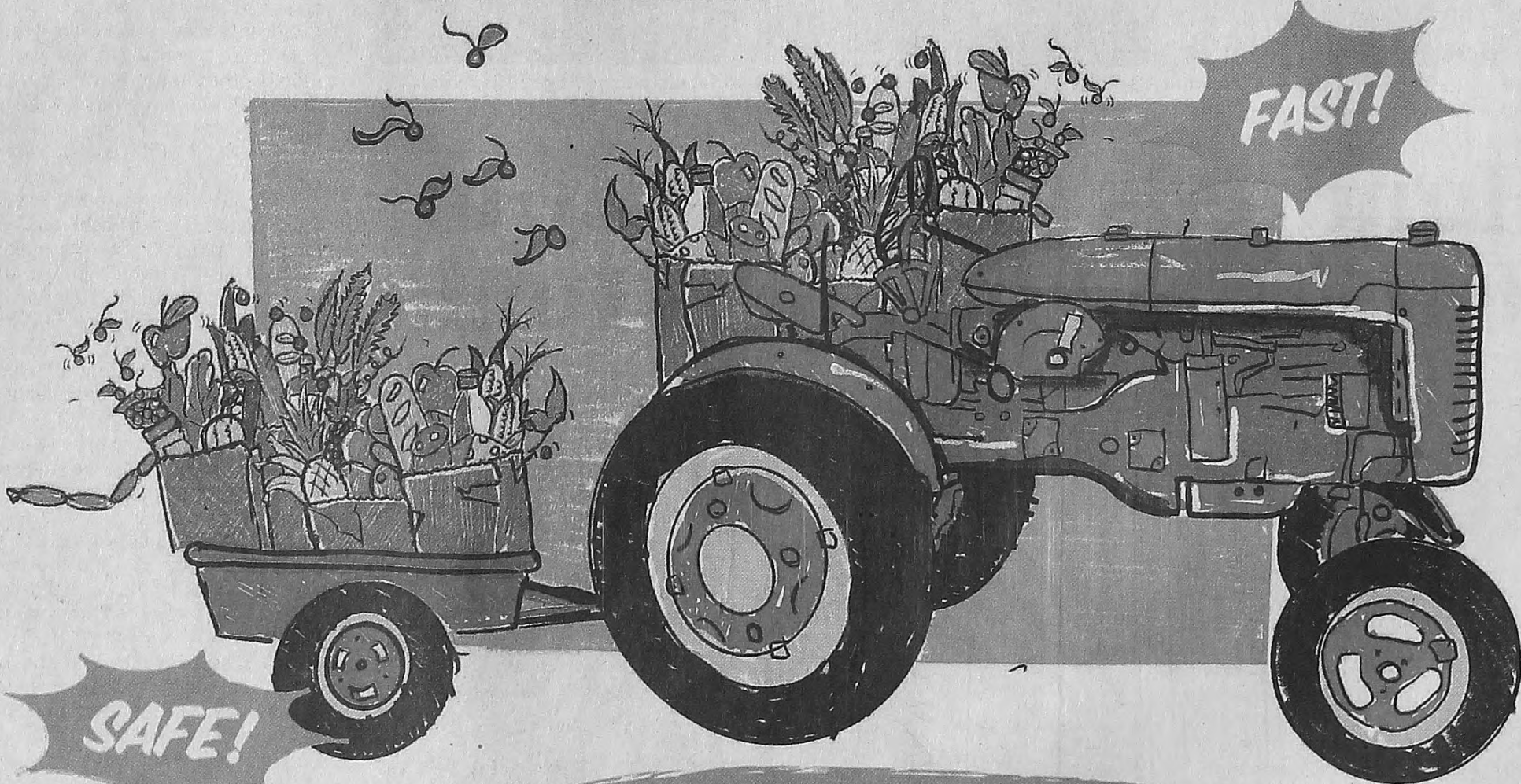
"We will do the repairs when we have a shop. Right now, in the beginning, we will not have a shop," she said. "The future plan, the building is going ... to include a shop where we will do the repairs."

After the vote, Mayor John Rhaesa thanked Grewal for bringing their project to the community.

"We look forward to working with you and thank you for your investment in our community," he said.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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# First Watch brings breakfast to Canton

David Veselenak [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Vanessa Hertenstein and her team have waited months to start serving Canton residents breakfast. She believes the wait was worth it.

After several months of being prepped and ready to open, First Watch opened its Canton location earlier this month at 44412 Ford Road on the northwest corner of Sheldon. The breakfast-and-lunch spot joins several others across metro Detroit aiming to please the morning crowd.

"We originally were supposed to open April 27," said Hertenstein, director of operations for the restaurant group in Michigan. "So it sat empty until about a few weeks ago, the management team came in and we started getting the tables social distanced."

"We had to come in and revamp some things."

The eatery highlights breakfast and lunch fare such as avocado toast, breakfast tacos, quinoa bowls, salads and sandwiches. Several seasonal food and drink specials are also running, including the "Watermelon Wake-up," a drink made with watermelon, pineapple, lime and mint.

The restaurant will also serve alcoholic cocktails in the future, Hertenstein said.

"We're still working on licensing and things like that," she said. "We have handcrafted cocktails and it's a very select bar."

Opening in the space that formerly housed Family Christian Stores next to Kohl's, the restaurant sports an "urban farm" feel, with wood paneling on the walls and modern decor such as doors hanging from the ceiling. The interior sports one local piece of flavor: a mural of the "Hairless Joe" C-47 aircraft at the Yankee Air Museum in nearby Van Buren Township.

In addition to seating both inside and outside the restaurant, those not looking to eat out can grab their food to go by picking it up at the bar or ordering through a third-party service.

That aspect, Hertenstein said, is new based on customer feedback as the coronavirus pandemic continues to affect life.



First Watch cafe at 44412 Ford Road in Canton recently opened its doors.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"But it has been helpful and a lot of people feel safer doing that," she said. "If that's the way they want to eat, we're going to do what we have to do to provide them their food."

First Watch, based in Florida, has opened several restaurants across metro Detroit the last few years. Several others operate in Troy, Royal Oak, Sterling Heights and Livonia, which opened last year. The restaurants are open 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily, focusing solely on breakfast and lunch.

Like other eateries that have opened their dining rooms the last two months, Hertenstein said the employees at the restaurant continue to keep the space as clean as possible. Additional cleaning takes place on high-touch surfaces, she said, and alarms are set to ensure those protocols are met.

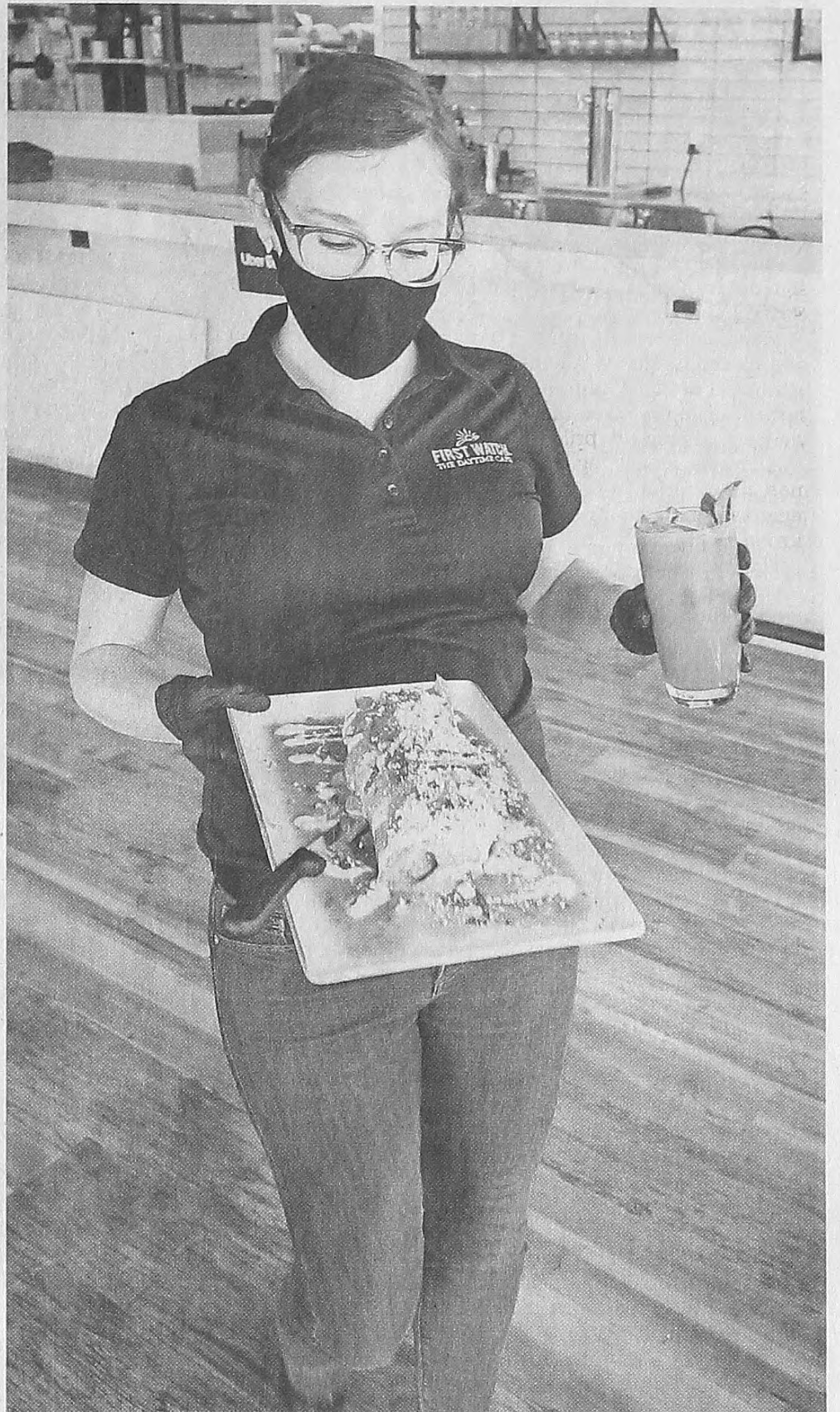
"We've been around for 35, 36 years now. And our customers trust us to do the right thing," she said. "We've always been huge on food safety, but COVID has taken us to that next level."

The hunger for a new breakfast joint in the area has shown itself, Hertenstein said. Having something with more choices, she said, is what the Canton area seems to desire.

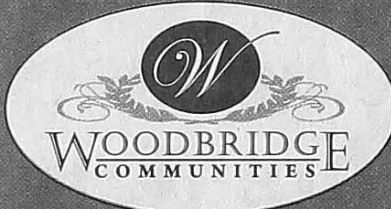
"It's something different," she said. "I think that having the fresh-squeezed juices, the seasonal specials, we have healthier options."

"We have that option for you. It's open for everybody."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



First Watch director of operations Vanessa Hertenstein holds two of the cafe's breakfast offerings: A carnitas breakfast burrito and a Watermelon Wake-up.



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# Long-awaited Mexican restaurant opens in Livonia

David Veselenak [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's been a long time coming, but diners are finally welcome at Livonia's newest restaurant.

Maya Cocina Mexicana opened its doors Aug. 17 more than 18 months after the concept was first proposed to the city's planning commission. Seeing the upscale Mexican restaurant open after all that time was a great feeling for owner Tim Cruz.

"Non-stop," Cruz said of how often he was asked about the restaurant's opening. "(My wife) even told her friends right away, 'Don't ask me when we're going to open!'"

After delays with contractors and the coronavirus pandemic, the restaurant began serving dishes created by Cruz and his wife, Mariana. Cruz - who grew up in Plymouth and is a Salem High School alumnus - has always had an interest in food, working in various restaurants across the U.S. He also has owned and operated a construction company with his wife. Cruz, who now calls Livonia home, lived in Taxco, Mexico, for several years before coming back to Michigan.

Throughout his life, he said he's grown in his appreciation for fine cuisine from his grandmother.

"She was a fabulous cook in general," he said. "It was her that made me love food. Since I was a little kid, I just loved food."

The menu is simple with several upscale options for tacos, alambre and enchiladas, along with some appetizers and salads. Cruz said the plan is to begin expanding the restaurant's hours for lunch and he hopes to offer weekend brunch as well.

"Everything is made from scratch, everything's fresh," Cruz said. "We want to be just as if you're in Mexico. We'd like to be able to transport people here for a couple of hours."

Maya also sports a full bar, complete with beer and spirits. In addition to mainstay Bud Light, it serves various Mexican beers such as Corona and Dos Equis. Cruz said they'll also rotate a Michigan beer as an option.

The restaurant, located at 33018 Seven Mile in the plaza with Joe's Produce, has a completely different look from the building's former occupant, China House Inn, which moved west on Seven Mile several years ago. Much of the interior work was completed by Cruz and his family and combines traditional and contemporary decor.

The idea for Maya came after he traveled the country and saw more high-end Mexican eateries and realized that concept was not present in metro Detroit.

"We've been all over the country: Dallas, Chicago, New York City, San Antonio, and saw a lot of upscale Mexican restaurants," he said. "We really didn't see any in Michigan. We thought there was a niche for it."

They began looking across the region for spots to open their concept, looking in Troy and Brighton be-



A cook at Maya Cocina Mexicana in Livonia slices an avocado for enchiladas. The restaurant opened Aug 17.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Maya Cocina Mexicana sits at 33018 Seven Mile Road.

fore deciding on Livonia.

Coming to the north end of Livonia is an exciting move, being so close to a high-end market such as Joe's Produce. Having a new restaurant in Bad Brads BBQ come later this year about a mile away on Far-

mington Road adds to the location's appeal, Cruz said. "We thought it was a good area," he said. "There's nothing over on this side."

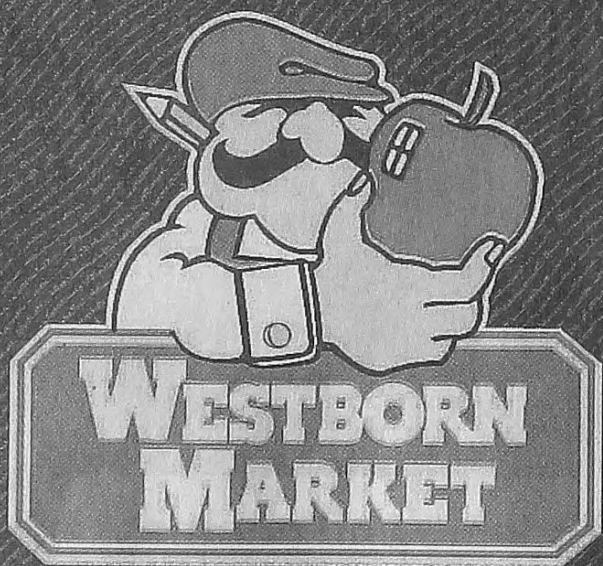
They've made some changes to the original concept: envisioned originally as a dine-in-only restaurant, Cruz said they plan to bring a carryout menu online for those not ready to dine out during the coronavirus pandemic.

Even before opening, Cruz said people contacted him asking about a carryout menu. Even when a button for carryout appeared on the restaurant's website, he said, someone attempted to place an order immediately, before Maya had even opened its doors.

"We realized there was a demand for it," he said. "We want to see what carries well. I don't want to serve something to you that falls apart."

The restaurant is currently open 5-9 p.m. every day with plans to expand its hours in the future. More information, including a menu, can be viewed at [mayamex.com](http://mayamex.com).

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



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## Canton police accuse ex-inmate of break-ins

Susan Vela [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

A Clinton Township man faces felony breaking and entering charges because Canton Township police say he raided at least four local businesses earlier this month.

David Edward Miller, 58, broke into two Bigby Coffee locations, a Subway store and a tanning salon on Aug. 6-7, police said in their report.

Each of the four counts is a possible 10-year felony and is associated with a habitual offender categorization that could mean life in prison.

Michigan Department of Corrections records indicate Miller was discharged from a state prison in March.

He was imprisoned for



Miller

multiple charges, including breaking and entering.

Miller is scheduled to appear in 35th District Court in Plymouth next week for a probable cause conference.

A preliminary examination with possible testimony is scheduled for early September.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

## Aqua-Tots voyeur gets probation

Susan Vela [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Futa Sakamoto was sentenced to five years probation for being a confessed voyeur at the Aqua-Tots swim school in Canton Township.

The 45-year-old Canton resident pleaded guilty in December to capturing an image of an

unclothed person, surveilling an unclothed person and eavesdropping.

A Third Circuit judge in Detroit sentenced him earlier this month to five years' probation for each of the charges. The individual sentencing terms will run concurrently.

Sakamoto had apologized in court, saying he sincerely regretted invading a woman's privacy at

Aqua-Tots last year.

An Aqua-Tots patron saw a recording device focused on her changing stall and told staff members.

Sakamoto apparently threw his cellphone's memory card down a toilet. He had been making recordings at Aqua-Tots and Planet Fitness.

"I will keep trying to become a trustworthy man, a great father, a great husband and a great friend and a co-worker," he said when apologizing in February. "I hope my victims can someday forgive me."

Judge Kelly Ramsey then pushed back his sentencing and said good behavior could mean a lighter sentence.

Sakamoto had been facing the possibility of years in prison.

svela@hometownlife.com



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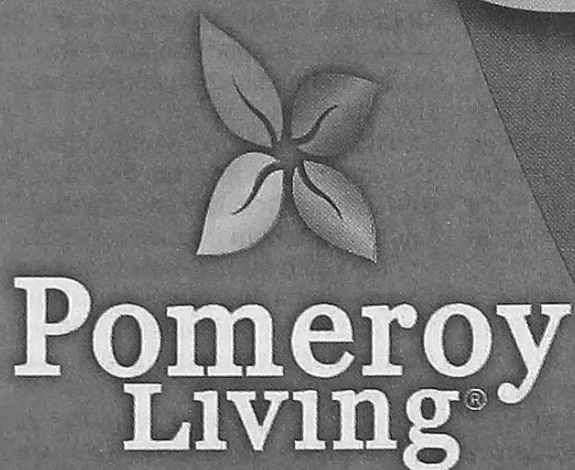
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One group of supporters among those at the rally wore blue to "back the blue." PHOTOS BY SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Rally

Continued from Page 1A

"But that's not who cops are as a whole."

Police officers, relatives of police officers and community members respectful of law enforcement work all were part of the crowd. They heard a few words from Tom Berry, a Detroit Police Department retiree.

"Imagine if you had to see what police officers see every day, day in and day out," Berry said. "You'd probably be in a mental hospital. We are not perfect. We are far from perfect. We make mistakes every single day. That's why we train."

"But we are just like you, every one of you."

After the formal presentation, the crowd walked past police officers and past the driveway to the Livonia Police Department to wave their flags and banners along Farmington Road. Drivers honked their horns and waved their own flags.

Dottie Rossoll, a Livonia resident and former Farmington Hills dispatcher, said she was disappointed with the turnout. She said she met a lot of police officers during her career and the bad ones were rarities.

"On the whole, they do a fantastic job 24-7, 365 days a week," she said. "They're the only ones out there on weekends, holidays, midnights."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.



Police supporters line both sides of Farmington Road on Aug. 20 for the rally.

## Intersection

Continued from Page 1A

signal in that location. We don't want to 'surprise' anyone.

"Beck Road will initially have a flashing red to remind drivers to stop and wait till it's safe to turn onto eastbound US-12. And once all that is in line, the signals will also have to be timed with the other signals along US-12 to allow for uninterrupted travel."

Williams said the need for the new light has increased significantly over the past few years as development — both residential and commercial — has been ramped up in the township's western section.

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



What appears to be a car's bumper lays near the intersection of Beck Road and Michigan Avenue. A traffic light is expected to be operational at the site soon. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Library

Continued from Page 1A

community navigate Farmington schools' remote start to the fall semester. She will serve through June 30, 2023.

"I know as being homeschooled myself in my earlier years, this is a perspective which can be very insightful ... especially when so many people are now homeschooling their kids or doing virtual school during the pandemic," Councilwoman Maria Taylor said. "I think she has a lot to bring."

Council members thought Kelly, the dean of liberal arts and sciences at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, would make a good board member because of her administrative experience and service on boards for the Michigan Philharmonic and the Macomb County Art Authority. Kelly will serve through June 30, 2022.

"She's somebody that absolutely un-

derstands what the board's role is," Mayor Sara Bowman said. "I think she brings experience from that aspect."

Farmington Mayor Pro Tem Joe Larussa said he was hesitant to fill both of Farmington's openings because the library board's meetings of late are often dominated by public comment. At the board's Aug. 13 meeting, public comment continued for about two hours.

As more staff, about 80%, have been invited back to work after the April furloughs, some residents still take issue with Largent, a Farmington Hills appointee.

Largent has been called out for what critics say is an authoritative view of the board's role and a condescending reaction to library staff and resident concerns.

"This toxic environment is obviously unacceptable," Jessica Bomarito, who recently resigned from the board, said during public comment Aug. 13. "Like others tonight, I ask the members of this board to speak out against Bill's email and call for his resignation publicly."

Recently, Largent has come under fire for sending an email of "talking points" to local political figures including Farmington Councilman Ken Massey, former Farmington Hills Councilman Richard Lerner, Farmington Hills Councilwoman Valerie Knol and former Farmington Councilman Bill Galvin.

"In my 45 years in business and community activity, I have never witnessed a group of more self-centered, self-absorbed, ignorant and offensive (library) workers," part of the email reads.

Largent said he regrets generally referencing "staff" in the email and said he was not speaking about every library employee. He said "a lot of good" goes on "behind the scenes" he wishes people knew more about.

"All people know is the library is not open and they can't get everything they'd like to get as quickly as they can," he said. "We're working to remedy that. ... All that's being seen is this controversy about my recall. I have no intention of resigning."

An online petition for Largent's resig-



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

## Financial choices to make before a child leaves for college

Dear Rick

My 18-year-old son will be going to college next month. We really haven't focused on any of the financial or legal issues that we probably should. I know in the past you have addressed some of the issues, and I'm hoping that you can tell me some that I need to be concerned with. My son has taken some loans out for his education, but my wife and I will also be helping him substantially.

Thank you, Daniel

Dear Daniel

You are correct; there are a number of legal and financial issues you should address before your son heads to school. From a legal standpoint, the first thing that you should obtain is a medical durable power of attorney for your son.

Since your son is 18, he is a legal adult, and as parents your rights are severely diminished. If there was a medical emergency, you would not have any rights with regards to the treatment of your son. If, on the other hand, you had a medical durable power of attorney along with a waiver of HIPAA rights, in the case of a medical emergency you would be able to take charge.

Another document you may wish to consider is a general durable power of attorney, which deals with issues above and beyond medical. The general durable power of attorney can cover financial or legal issues.

You should also review your son's healthcare coverage. It is also a good idea to talk to your homeowner's insurance agent to make sure your son has some liability protection from lost or stolen items.

I also think it is important that you have a conversation with your son about personal finance. Your son will need to understand how to live within a budget. If your son incurs debt for items such as clothes and entertainment, it could cause problems in the future.

One last thing: I encourage you to talk to your son about credit cards and the problems they can cause. When he goes to college, he's going to be inundated with enticing credit card offers. It is important that your son understands that not all credit cards are the same.

Things have changed dramatically since I went to college. The consequences of making a financial mistake are much more severe today.

You don't have to make your child an expert on money, but make sure they have an appreciation and understanding of personal finance and the consequences of not keeping your financial house in order.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).

nation has more than 1,200 signatures, but he would have to be removed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer if he is to leave before his term ends. His current term continues until Feb. 1, 2022.

"There was animosity, there was hostility, and I will note there were especially insulting remarks made about the library staff, which by and large is female," Farmington Hills resident Kelly Goldberg said of Largent's email Aug. 13. "As a middle-aged female, I was especially offended on behalf of the staff and other patrons."

Though the board's relationship with the community may be daunting, Stryd and Kelly both said they love the library and hope to help it move forward.

"My motivation is how I can be an active participant in moving to a library of the future for Farmington," Kelly said during her interview. "But, it's a little scary."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.

# Livonia mom worries for Black sons, city

Susan Vela [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One Livonia teen's parents love and worry about him so much they've placed a dashcam in his vehicle.

In a city critics say is filled with racial disharmony, the 16-year-old and his parents can connect almost instantly if police stop him for any suspected infractions.

Mom Rachel Mackay said she can't help but worry that a Livonia police officer will unnecessarily stop her son because he is Black. The Livonia Police Department's 2019 data indicates Black people made up about 60 percent of arrests and approximately 40 percent of traffic ticket recipients.

Yet, the U.S. Census Bureau said the city's Black population for that same year made up 4 percent of its approximately 94,000 residents.

"I am terrified," Mackay said. "(But) he hasn't been pulled over yet."

Police Chief Curtis Caid and other city leaders have been upset by what they call broad-brush allegations that their community is racial profiling.

"We do not," he said. "We are a constitutional police department. Our officers do not target people of color."

The chief asked that residents critical of Livonia remain open to what city leaders have to say.

He also doesn't want them to compare Livonia's numbers to other communities because of the differences in size, population, highway access, commercial and retail properties and other factors, like Interstate 275 and I-96 cutting through the city.

Caid emphasized that the police department stays busy always trying to do the best it can for the community as a whole, and such work includes making sure residents and visitors feel safe.

Mackay's family includes her husband Jay, their two biological sons, and two adopted sons, who are Black. From her perspective, the family sees racist acts in the little things they experience while in the city.

Other parents have visited and come down hard on her adopted sons for what



Rachel Mackay, of Livonia, with her husband, Jay, and their four sons.  
COURTESY OF RACHEL MACKAY

the Mackays perceive as routine and regular boy behavior. Other students have questioned why one of her Black sons would talk to a white girl who, according to the youths, would never date a Black student.

Her sons have heard the n-word and racist jokes dropped in their presence.

And they cannot ignore the Black boys, men and women inspiring the Black Lives Matter movement - Trayvon Martin, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and more - all with Black and white followers arguing they died because of racist actions.

Mackay's oldest son is sick of hearing about these incidents. The second-oldest son says he doesn't understand why these incidents keep happening.

Her biological sons, still in grade school, have noticed that others seem to not like their brothers for no other reason than their skin color. They have approached others to say: "You know Black lives matter, right?"

The Mackays are invested in Livonia at a tumultuous time.

The city's coronavirus cases and deaths are higher than most other metro Detroit communities and residents have been critical of elected officials and police officers in recent months, alleging racial inequality.

One of Mackay's sons already has strong, conflicted opinions about police officers. He doesn't like them. He doesn't trust them. But he knows communities need them.

While not everyone would agree what constitutes a racist act, "I think it's getting more dangerous because people don't like to be called out for being racists," Mackay said.

The National Institute of Justice, a branch of the U.S. Department of Justice, confirms that people of color are more often stopped by police than whites. Factors include differences in drivers and driving patterns, driving where more police patrol and seatbelt usage, which apparently is lower among Black drivers.

Hometown Life contacted police departments in some of its larger commu-

nities to gauge their arrests of Blacks. Canton and Bloomfield townships shared collected data.

The U.S. Census Bureau recognizes Canton Township as 9.2% Black and Bloomfield Township as 7.3% Black.

Data from the respective police agencies indicate Blacks comprised 30% of Canton Township's 2019 traffic citations and about 25% of Bloomfield Township's overall citations in 2019.

Canton Police Chief Chad Baugh said he's open to talking about the numbers. Supervisors check them routinely for variances for the department and individual officers, he said.

"Our hiring, our training and our oversight is there," he said. "I really don't think there's any type of problem at all. Our police officers essentially represent the mindset of the community."

The Mackays have joined protests with many throughout metro Detroit.

They've also dug in with Livonia Citizens Caring About Black Lives, a new advocacy group behind a controversial billboard that went up in July.

It read: "Driving while Black? Racial profiling just ahead. Welcome to Livonia."

City leaders protested but also launched a new website with 2019 data about traffic tickets, arrests, citations and civil complaints at <http://livonia-pd.com/pact>.

The group says the website is not enough. It wants more detailed traffic data from the police department.

They're also behind a Change.org petition for a new civilian oversight committee. Among other tasks and responsibilities, members would require officers - for stops not ending with arrest - to give their name, badge number, reason for the stop and a card with instructions for filing a complaint with the committee.

"If we don't make changes now, it's going to get worse," Rachel Mackay said. "If we don't start holding officials and law enforcement accountable, Black people are going to keep dying unjustly."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

## Meet Livonia protesters looking for racial equity

Shelby Tankersley [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Since June, a group of Livonia residents and other people who work, play or learn in the city have been asking officials to pursue more racial equity. They call in to virtual city council meetings and protest outside city hall.

And they don't plan on going away anytime soon.

These protesters, many of whom are involved with the Livonia Citizens Caring About Black Lives Facebook group, aren't all Livonia residents, and have received some criticism for that. But they argue residency should not matter when Livonia is a city they spend time in.

But even with a common goal, they all have their own reasons for speaking out. Here are some of their stories.

### 'I'm a part of this community, even if I don't live in it'

DeSean Knight, a Farmington Hills resident, grew up playing basketball at the Kirksey Recreation Center and studies at Schoolcraft College. He said he spends a lot of time in the city.

"I'm out here every single day. I drive through here every single day," he said. "That's why it's important for me to hold police officers, public officials and these people accountable. ... I'm a part of this community, even though I don't live in it."

Knight said he's attended local protests and has been calling in to council meetings for months. He hasn't always been convinced protests work, but thinks this moment is different.

"I shouldn't be afraid when I see a Livonia police officer driving past me, and I know I'm not doing anything wrong," he said. "My heart shouldn't stop. And they shouldn't be concerned when they see me as well. So how do we meet in the middle and shake hands?"

Knight said he'd like to see the Livonia City Council declare racism a public health crisis like nearby Westland has.

"We should hold every single place accountable," he said. "I want to hold these guys to a higher standard. I should not be holding any city in Michigan to a lower standard than we're holding any other city."

"If other places are going to make racism a public health crisis, why shouldn't I hold Livonia to that higher standard?"



Maggie Fluery talks about attending a Black Lives Matter rally at Livonia City Hall on Aug. 17. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### 'Equity should be shared'

Maggie Fluery lives in Plymouth. Like Knight, she's a student at Schoolcraft College. She has also worked in Livonia and travels through it often. She said racism, no matter where it's happening, is "everyone's issue."

"I say racism is racism no matter where it's taking place, no matter where it occurs," Fluery said. "It's everyone's issue. I think it's our duty as people and human beings to protect others and to stick up for others. Equity should be shared."

She would like to see more people come to protests and call in to meetings. Fluery also thinks people shouldn't give up or think they've done enough after participating in a few demonstrations.

From the city council, Fluery would like to see a citizen oversight committee that can process and investigate complaints made against the Livonia Police Department; there already is an online petition requesting such a move.

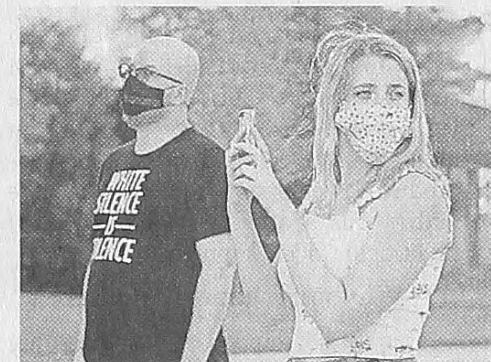
"They are capable of establishing a sort-of administration to regulate the police," she said. "You know, filing a complaint through the police department is kind of biased. That's kind of a conflict of interest because they're employees there. I would suggest they create some sort of administration with people of color that regulates what the officers do."

### 'It's acknowledgment, it's an understanding'

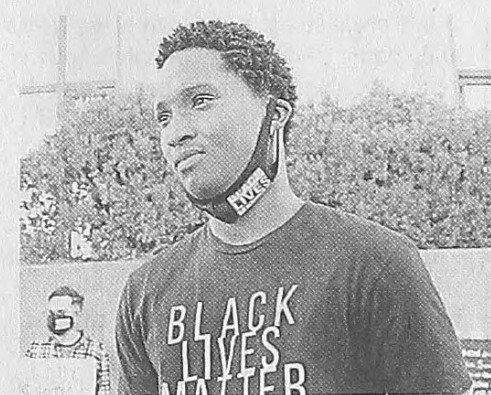
John Hillers has called in to most city council meetings since June. A Livonian, he'd like to see the city feel more welcoming to the Black community.

"For me, it's friends and acquaintances I have who can't or won't come to my house because they won't drive in Livonia," he said.

As a white man, he used to struggle with having white privilege. Now, he says he doesn't want the privilege anymore and would like to see equality.



John Hillers, left, and Anna Cragel attend a Black Lives Matter rally.



DeSean Knight, of Farmington Hills, says members of the public in Livonia have questioned him about his activities when he's visiting friends.

"I used to have a very hard time with the idea of white privilege because I grew up very poor," he said. "My family was homeless, we lived in a tent. So the fact that I now have a house in Livonia - I did that, I worked hard. But a non-white friend explained to me that, 'Yeah, but you never worried if you got stopped by the police, you never worried that you were going to get killed.'"

He said it's not about white people taking blame, but about making life better for their Black neighbors. One improvement he'd like to see is the citizen oversight committee for the police.

"Nobody is asking a white person to take the blame," he said. "For me, it's not so much a matter of blame. It's acknowledgement, it's an understanding."

"The fact that I benefit from racism doesn't mean that I'm racist or I'm taking part in it or that I didn't work hard for what I have. It just means there are different levels, different experiences."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com).

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# CoQ10's Failure Leaves Millions Wanting

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Millions of Americans take the supplement CoQ10. It's the "jet fuel" that supercharges your cells' power generators, known as mitochondria.

As you age, your mitochondria begin to die. In fact, by age 67, you lose 80% of the mitochondria you had at age 25.1 But if you're taking CoQ10, there's something important you should know.

As powerful as CoQ10 is, there is a critical thing it fails to do. It can't create new mitochondria in your cells.

## Taking CoQ10 is not enough

"There's a little-known NASA nutrient that multiplies the number of new power generators in your cells by up to 55%," says Dr. Al Sears, owner of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Royal Palm Beach, Florida. "Science once thought this was impossible. But now you can make your heart, brain and body young again."

"I tell my patients the most important thing I can do is increase their 'health span.' This is the length of time you can live free of disease and with all your youthful abilities and faculties intact."

## Medical first: Multiply the "power generators" in your cells

Al Sears, M.D., recently released an energy-boosting supplement based on this NASA nutrient that has become so popular, he's having trouble keeping it in stock.

Dr. Sears is the author of over 500 scientific papers on anti-aging and recently spoke at the WPBF 25 Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz and special guest Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people listened to Dr. Sears speak on his anti-aging breakthroughs and attended his book signing at the event.

Now, Dr. Sears has come up with what his peers consider his greatest contribution to anti-aging medicine yet — a newly discovered nutrient that multiplies the number of tiny, energy-producing "engines" located inside the body's cells, shattering the limitations of traditional CoQ10 supplements.

## Why mitochondria matter

A single cell in your body can contain between 200 to 2,000 mitochondria, with the largest number found in the most metabolically active cells, like those in your brain, heart and skeletal muscles.

But because of changes in cells, stress and poor diet, most people's power generators begin to malfunction and die off as they age. In fact, the Mitochondria Research Society reports 50 million U.S. adults are suffering from health problems because of mitochondrial dysfunction.

Common ailments often associated with aging — such as memory problems, heart issues, blood sugar concerns and vision and hearing difficulties — can all be connected to a decrease in mitochondria.

## Birth of new mitochondria

Dr. Sears and his researchers combined the most powerful form of CoQ10 available — called ubiquinol — with a unique, newly discovered natural compound called PQQ that has the remarkable ability to grow new mitochondria. Together, the two powerhouses are now available in a supplement called Ultra Accel II.

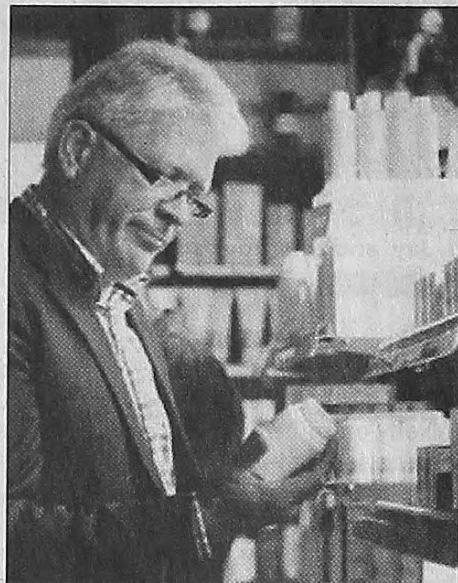
Discovered by a NASA probe in space dust, PQQ (Pyrroloquinoline quinone) stimulates something called "mitochondrial biogenesis" — a unique process that actually boosts the number of healthy mitochondria in your cells.

In a study published in the Journal of Nutrition, mice fed PQQ grew a staggering number of new mitochondria, showing an increase of more than 55% in just eight weeks.

The mice with the strongest mitochondria showed no signs of aging — even when they were the equivalent of 80 years old.

## Science stands behind

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## the power of PQQ

Biochemical Pharmacology reports that PQQ is up to 5,000 times more efficient in sustaining energy production than common antioxidants.

"Imagine 5,000 times more efficient energy," says Dr. Sears. "PQQ has been a game changer for my patients."

"With the PQQ in Ultra Accel, I have energy I never thought possible," says Colleen R., one of Dr. Sears' patients. "I am in my 70s but feel 40 again. I think clearer, move with real energy and sleep like a baby."

## It works right away

Along with an abundance of newfound energy, users also report a sharper, more focused mind and memory, and even younger-looking skin and hair. Jerry M. from Wellington, Florida, used Ultra Accel and was amazed at the effect.

"I noticed a difference within a few days," says Jerry. "My endurance almost doubled. But it's not just in your body. You can feel it mentally, too," says Jerry. "Not only do I feel a difference, but the way it protects my cells is great insurance against a health disaster as I get older."

## Increase your health span today

The demand for this supplement is so high, Dr. Sears is having trouble keeping it in stock. "My patients tell me they feel better than they have in years. This is ideal for people who are feeling or looking older than their age... or for those who are tired or growing more forgetful."

"My favorite part of practicing anti-aging medicine is watching my patients get the joy back in their lives. Ultra Accel sends a wake-up call to every cell in their bodies... and they actually feel young again."

## Where to find Ultra Accel II

Right now, the only way to get this potent combination of PQQ and super-powered CoQ10 is with Dr. Sears' breakthrough Ultra Accel II formula.

To secure bottles of this hot, new supplement, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at 1-800-484-8358 within the next 48 hours. "It takes time to get bottles shipped out to drug stores," said Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to the customer."

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product, he offers a 100%, money-back guarantee on every order. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days, and I'll send you your money back," said Dr. Sears.

The Hotline will be taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number will be shut down to allow them to restock.

Call 1-800-484-8358 to secure your limited supply of Ultra Accel II. You don't need a prescription, and those who call in the first 24 hours qualify for a significant discount. **To take advantage of this great offer use Promo Code NP0820UA139 when you call in.**

# Don't let fear take control of your health



Melanie Edwards and Judie Goodman  
Guest columnists

There is no question that these are uncertain times in our country. Here in Michigan, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in illness, death and an economic downturn that rivals anything we have seen in our lifetimes.

Like you, we have been forced to think long and hard about COVID-19 and how we can best live our lives while protecting ourselves and our loved ones. It is understandable how feelings of stress or anxiety may leave some fearful of the hospital or physician's office.

However, as physicians, we also know that people experiencing a non-COVID-19 related injury or illness must seek treatment, or risk deterioration of their overall health.

As doctors specializing in the diagnoses, treatment and removal of cancer, we can say as a matter of certainty that the existence of a viral pandemic does not stop or slow the growth of cancer.

In recent months, we have both heard troubling stories of patients that continue to delay or avoid physician-recommended cancer screenings out of fear of contracting the coronavirus.

This truth is reflected in the reduction of the number of patients being seen for cancer screenings here in Michigan.

While it is too soon to know the full impact of lower cancer screening rates, it is reasonable to assume that we will begin diagnosing more advanced cancers in the near future and, as a result, we may see greater cancer-related death rates.

Take colon cancer as an example. Men and women with an average risk of colorectal cancer should begin their regular screenings for colon cancer at age 45 and continue them regularly until age 75.

Like all cancer types, the best way to beat colon cancer is to detect it in its earliest form, before symptoms emerge. When symptoms appear, it is likely because the cancer is more developed and is beginning to interrupt organ function.

For lung cancer, it is widely accepted that smokers and former smokers be-

tween 50 and 77 years old should have a low dose CT scan if they have smoked a pack a day for 30 years or two packs a day for 15 years.

According to a trial study published in The New England Journal of Medicine, by screening for lung cancer, current or former smokers can reduce their risk of death from lung cancer by 20%, a benefit that far outweighs the low risk of contracting COVID-19 during a screening appointment.

This reality underscores why, when it comes to one's health and wellbeing, we implore people to take charge, be proactive, and to act on the medical advice of their physician.

Health care organizations have been quick to adopt elevated COVID-19 safety measures. At Saint Joseph Mercy Health System hospitals, outpatient centers and physician offices, this includes the creation of COVID-19-free zones that separate patients confirmed to have COVID-19 from others in our facilities; COVID-19 testing is ordered for all patients prior to a non-emergency surgery or procedure; we require masks for everyone entering our facilities; and we have elevated cleaning standards.

In addition to cancer screenings, the public should also know that our cancer trials remain open and available to patients if they meet trial criteria. We encourage patients to speak with their doctor to see if they qualify.

Unfortunately, medical research has not yet found a vaccine for COVID-19, and the likelihood is that our community will live with the virus into the near future. All of us are going to have to co-exist with this virus, including determining how best to manage our medical care.

It begins with attending regular wellness visits with a primary care physician, and then following his or her guidance on when to be screened for cancer.

A cancer screening, whether a colonoscopy, mammogram or low dose CT scan, saves lives.

Preventative care saves lives. Don't delay, seek care today.

Melanie A. Edwards, MD, FACS, is a cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon and regional medical director of the Tobacco Cessation Program for Saint Joseph Mercy Health System. Judie Goodman, DO, is a hematologist-oncologist and medical director of Oncology Services at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland hospital.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Supports Matt Koleszar for House seat

The Northville area has been facing significant problems with its air quality as a result of the Arbor Hills landfill. This pollution has been accumulating for far too long, and it's a huge environmental concern for the Northville area.

Fortunately, our state representative, Matt Koleszar, has proven to be a leader on this issue. In the fight for clean air, he has been working hard to stop the expansion of this landfill and has introduced legislation that would increase landfill violations by tenfold as well as co-sponsoring common-sense air quality legislation to protect residents from harmful air pollution.

He understands that we all have a right to clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. He has shown true political grit through his vocal public support for the shutting down of Enbridge's Line 5 running through the straits of Mackinac, which is the greatest threat to our Great Lakes.

Michigan is home to tens of thousands of contaminated sites, where polluters have been let off the hook for the cleanup, leaving it up to us taxpayers to foot the bill for them. Rep. Koleszar knows this is wrong and believes we must hold polluters accountable, which is why he has supported legislation to do just that. He puts the health and interests of us citizens first. These are traits I want in a public official, which is why he has my support.

Brigid Fitzpatrick  
Novi

### Stop canceling life

Currently our world is focused on safety instead of living during what is a 100-year flu. We haven't seen one this bad since 1918, but did our ancestors go around playing hide and seek and close most of the economy like we have in 2020? No. Was baseball season delayed in 1918? No.

Life is risky, and playing it safe is sel-

dom fun or profitable. We need stronger leaders who don't want to hide from risk and are willing to move our village, state and country forward despite the risk.

The Declaration of Independence said, "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Not life, liberty and safety. Playing it safe is seldom fun and can mean more risk. I played football in high school and rugby in college. Are those games safe? No. Did I get injured? Yes.

Don't we all take risks walking across a street, driving a car, boating or swimming in a lake?

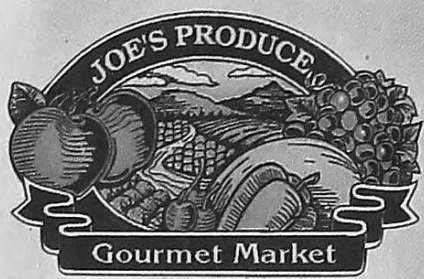
Do you like snow skiing? You could break a leg. I broke my pinky finger skiing. Did it stop me from skiing again? No. I even went down the mountain one more time before going to the ski patrol medical building to get a splint for my finger. Did I sue the ski resort? No.

Why do I mention these things? Because, 2020 is becoming "the bye year," or the "Cancellation Year." We have canceled Big 10 football, Milford parades, Concerts in the Park, Milford Memories, Labor Day 30K, and even in-classroom learning at many of our school districts.

Current leaders believe more in safety or protecting themselves from possible litigation or ambulance chasing attorneys that might sue the village or school district for an unsafe environment. A virus is natural and COVID-19 is a natural disaster, just like a flood or a tornado. You can't control Mother Nature. Most of us will live, and some of us will die. How can anyone be liable unless our legal justice system is broken?

I care for our children and future generations and want them to be able to pursue all of life has to offer: the love, the broken hearts broken bones and the circle of life. I don't want them living in fear that if they don't social distance or forget to wear a mask, that they will be fined, jailed or sued for causing someone death because of laws written by our governor without due process. A death caused by nature.

Doug Klingensmith  
Milford



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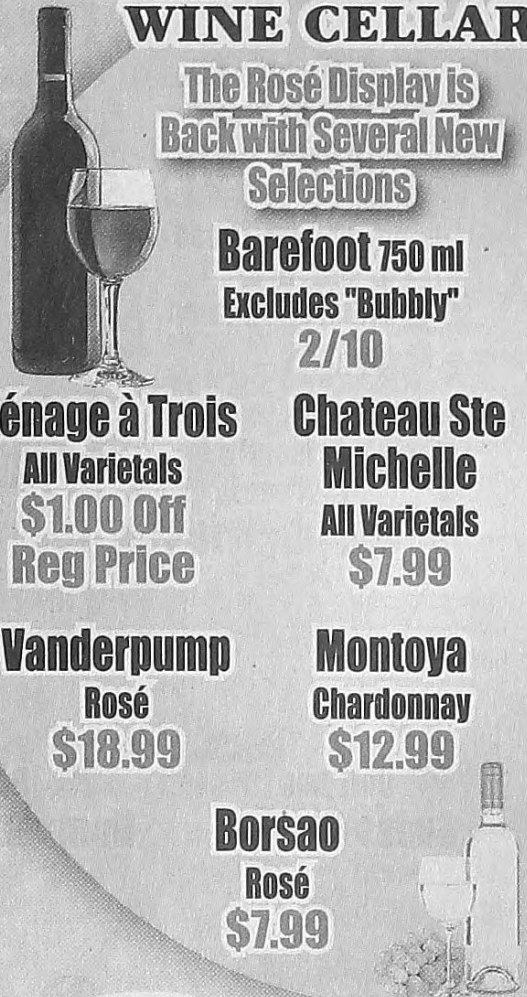
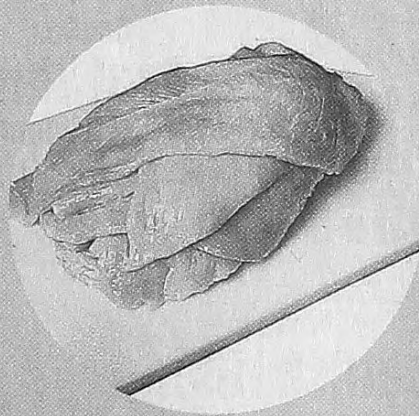
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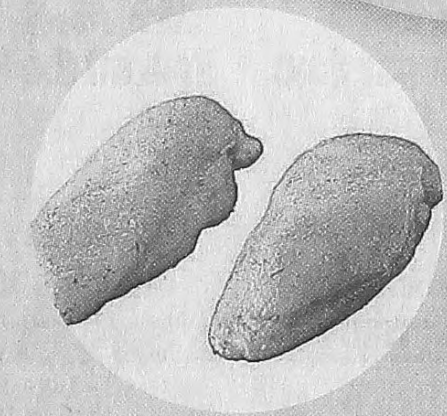
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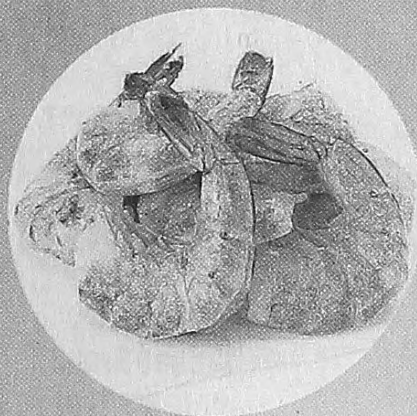
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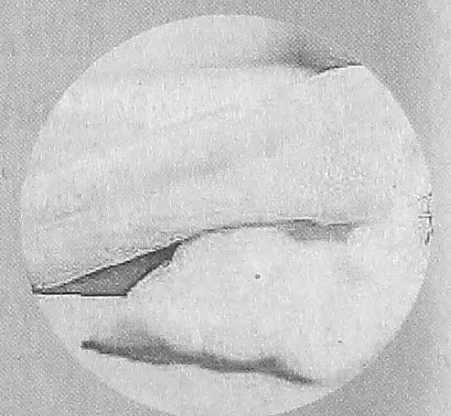
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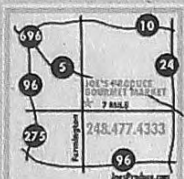
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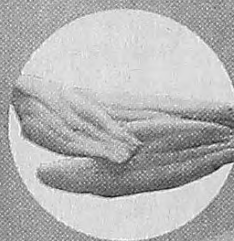
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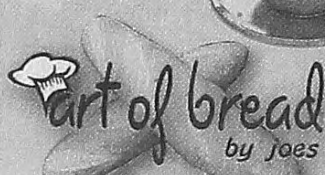
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# SPORTS

## Cranbrook Kingswood head coach dies

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Cranbrook Kingswood announced its head football coach Ben Jones died after a car accident.

Jones took over the Cranes football program in 2019 after serving as an assistant coach, working primarily with the offensive and defensive lines.

Cranbrook Kingswood athletic director Stephen Graf said he was notified of the death the morning of Aug. 20 and spent the day reaching out to the coaching staff and players, notifying them of what he called an "unimaginable loss."

"Here's a guy that was the epitome of a high school football coach," Graf said. "He loved the game, he loved the kids, he loved the coaches. He embodied all that is a leader. Although he was a young guy in this business, he had an old-school mentality, in a good way. He was able to connect with the kids, and the kids just loved him."

"The boys are just devastated right now."

Cranbrook Schools released a statement after Jones' passing:

"The Cranbrook Schools community

See JONES, Page 2B



Ben Jones served one season as the head coach of the Cranbrook Kingswood football team. Jones died Aug. 20 after a car accident. COURTESY OF STEPHEN GRAF



The Canton Sports Center has 12 fields for its summer softball teams. The diamonds recently reopened after being shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Softball players rejoice as diamonds reopen

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

From mid-March through the end of July — prime slow-pitch softball weeks for thousands of Kirk Gibson wannabes — the 12 diamonds that make the Canton Sports Center one of the happiest places on earth for big swingers, golden-glovers and simple lovers of camaraderie, were so quiet you could hear infield dust blowing in the wind.

Thanks again for everything, COVID-19!

Like a late-blooming spring, however, with stringent safety measures in place, the largest complex of its kind in southeast Michigan unlocked its gates earlier this month and the sports-loving masses returned (smiles glued to their faces), with the realization that they'll never again take their precious pastime for granted.

"I missed being out here more than

anything," said Mariah Barcus, a Belleville resident who works a 40-hour-per-week job at Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor and is a full-time nursing student. "I only have so many free hours in a week and this is where I choose to spend them, with friends, playing ball, having fun."

"When I read the email that said we'd get to play again, I was a little nervous at first, but at the same time super-excited. It's more than playing softball. It's

being with people that are like family. People who share your passion for sports."

Livonia resident Monte Laclear, a beer-league competitor for close to 30 years, admitted it was easy to assume every spring that (pre-coronavirus pandemic, of course) softball was going to be a big part of his summertime nights.

See SOFTBALL, Page 2B

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# Jones

Continued from Page 1B

is deeply saddened by the sudden passing of head football coach Ben Jones. Ben was highly respected and a trusted mentor to many. His sudden loss is tragic and difficult for the entire school community, but particularly so for the young men on his team and his colleagues. Cranbrook extends its deepest condolences to Ben's family and friends, along with the assurance that he will be deeply missed here both on and off the field."

Graf said Jones was able to bring, as a coach, a sense of "tough love," bringing

out the best in his players both on and off the field by pushing them out of their comfort zone.

"He cared about them and they knew it. It wasn't an act," Graf said. "Some coaches you see out there and all they care about is winning. Ben was about each and every kid: their life, what they were experiencing, their home life, their school work, the recruiting process — Ben was very involved in that process for some of our seniors, and made a huge difference there — to the off-season."

In 2019, his first season as the head coach, Cranbrook Kingswood posted a record of 5-4, ending its season with a first-round playoff loss to Harper

Woods.

Jones played football at Hillsdale College. He worked as an investment advisor at Schwartz & Co.

Graf said Cranbrook Kingswood will plan for a memorial for an undetermined later date, based on guidance out of respect for the Jones family and the coronavirus.

Jones was involved in a four-car crash on the 10 Mile service drive, west of Woodward, around dinner time Aug. 19.

Jones was driving a Jeep Cherokee, which was rear-ended by a Mercedes-Benz driven by a 51-year-old Huntington Woods woman, according to Pleasant Ridge police. The woman was ar-

rested for operating while intoxicated.

Jones' Jeep was pushed into a third car, which pushed into a fourth car.

Pleasant Ridge officer Greg Hadfield and two bystanders pulled Jones out of his Jeep and Hadfield performed CPR until paramedics arrived. Jones was transported to Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital, where he died.

The crash is still under investigation, according to police, and the woman's name has not been released because no charges have been filed.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).



A batter awaits the perfect pitch during softball league play Aug. 19 at the Canton Sports Center. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Mariah Barcus, of Belleville, plays in a softball league between working and being a full-time nursing student.



Samer Atris, of the "Pitches be Crazy" softball team, talks about returning to league play.

# Softball

Continued from Page 1B

"I took this all for granted, 100%," said Laclear, moments before his STG (Smash The Gap) co-ed team took the field for its 6:30 p.m. game Wednesday. "After being away from the game for so long, I appreciate it more than ever. Just like everything else that went sideways, when something returns to normal, it feels great."

Canton Leisure Services Recreation Coordinator Ann-Marie Carravallah said that once the township's decision-makers flipped the green light for the CSC to reopen, players flooded her office with registrations.

"Within a couple of days after I distributed an email letting managers know we were good to go, I probably had 60 adult softball teams registered," she said. "This is a stress-reliever, a source of fun for so many people."

"Teammates are like second family for a lot of players."

"After being quarantined all these months, they couldn't wait to get back to playing. It's a level of normalcy a lot of people missed."

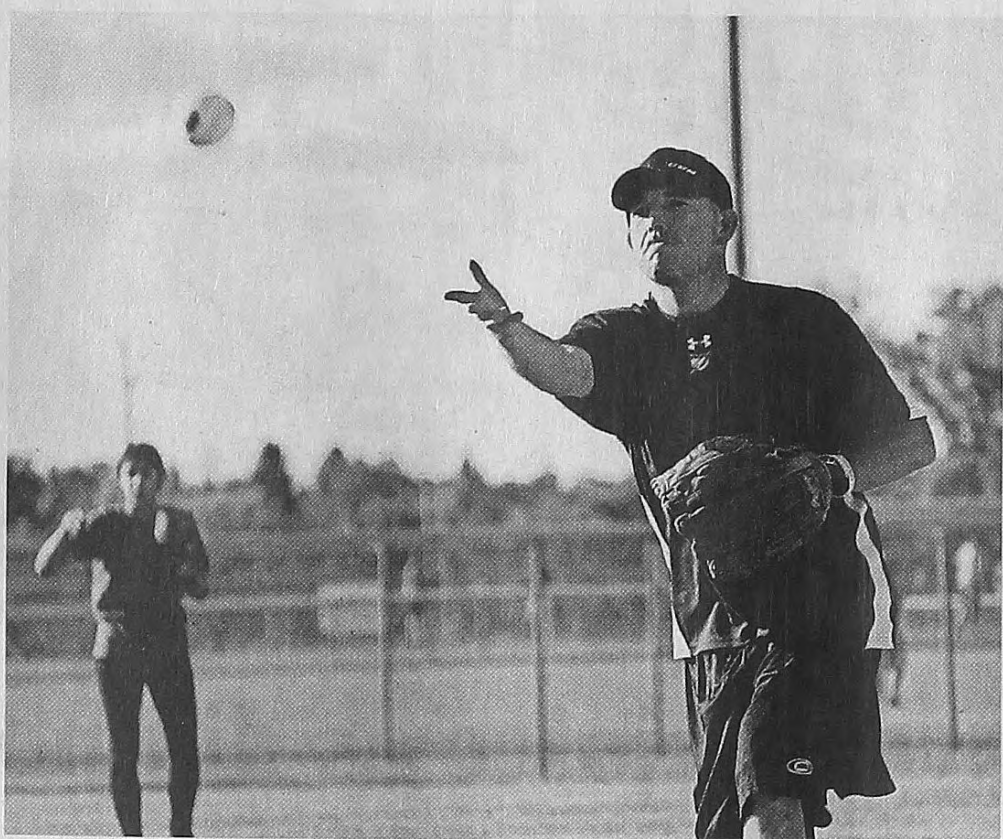
Carravallah said players have wholeheartedly accepted the new COVID-related rules that were designed to keep the facility a safe and relaxing place.

Among the changes — a list of which is shared with team managers before each game — are social distancing for players and fans, repositioning of catchers and umpires to promote spacing, installation of hand-sanitizer stations and the between-innings cleaning of softballs by umpires.

Umpires' temperatures are also taken upon arrival, and mask-wearing is recommended for all visitors, although not mandated.

Although the CSC has already hosted three large youth baseball tournaments and welcomed back adult leagues over the past few weeks, not a single case of COVID-19 has been reported, Carravallah said, by anyone who has visited the facility.

"We have reminders posted every-



A pitcher lobs an offering towards a batter during league play Aug. 19.

where around the facility," she said. "And we have marked X's along the fences where fans are not allowed to stand in order to promote social distancing."

Alexis Hauser, a player for the Tony Sacco's co-ed team, said she feels the COVID rules are "more than reasonable."

"They make it more comfortable with everything going on," Hauser said. "I know everybody on our team is fine with them."

Players are strongly discouraged from sharing high-fives, chest bumps and any other close-contact forms of celebration, Carravallah added.

"There will be plenty of time for high-fives and getting together after games for a beer once this COVID crisis is behind us," said Barcus. "Let's get the world back to normal first, then we can worry about what we're missing with softball. Softball will always be here."

"We can do air high-fives until normalcy returns."

Veteran umpire Royce Holman said he has noticed a mellower atmosphere during games, an occurrence, he feels, is a reflection of how grateful players are to be back on the fields.

"There is less — how can I put this? — attitude out here since we returned," Holman said. "After being locked up in their houses for months, everyone is just happy to be out here doing what they love."

The abrupt restart to the craziest season in memory created some unique issues, both positive and negative, managers shared.

"Players on our team were so excited to get back," Hauser said, smiling, "that everyone paid me their registration fee in one day. That's never happened before. It usually takes a few weeks to get all the money."

Keller Williams manager/owner/player Samer Atris said the abbreviated period between the reopening announcement and the start of the first game left an inadequate time to order

new uniforms for his team, which was bolstered by a new sponsor.

"It took a while to find a place that was open to order the jerseys," Atris said, "so we don't have our new ones yet. But, you know what, everyone is just so happy to be out here again, we'll wear plain white T-shirts if we have to."

Westland's Jessica Wilke may have described the softball-generated joy best.

"I've only been playing for two years, so I'm not the best," she said. "I just love being out here, meeting new friends and forgetting all the crap that's happening in the world these days."

"Our games are in the middle of the week, so it's a good time to just let loose. If you're angry about something, you can go out and hit the ball. If you're sad, you can talk to your friends and have a beer after the game. This is definitely a happy place, especially these days."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.

# North Farmington's Hayes picks up first hoops offer

Andrew Vaillencourt Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

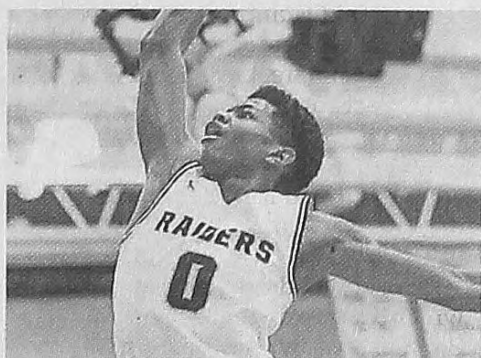
North Farmington rising senior Deon Hayes started off his week about as well as possible: with his first college offer.

The Raiders 6-foot-3 point guard received a scholarship offer from Olivet College on July 27, marking a turning point in his recruitment.

"I was excited, happy," Hayes said. "It's what I've been working for my whole life."

The do-it-all guard said he received the offer via text from the school's coach after he watched him play at a tournament in Indiana.

The COVID-19 pandemic has limited Hayes' chances to play in front of more



North Farmington's Deon Hayes earned his first college offer from Olivet. COURTESY OF DEON HAYES

coaches, but he's thankful he's been able to play in a few events with his AAU

team, the Grand Rapids Storm.

"It's been kind of hard because I expected to play in front of more Division 1, Division 2 coaches; but that hasn't happened," Hayes said. "I've been working with what I have and played in a few tournaments in Indiana."

Those tournaments are paying off. He has interest from a number of smaller schools, including Trine University. He's hoping a strong senior season will boost his recruiting stock even higher.

"I just need to continue to get better and hit the weight room hard," Hayes said. "I know in college everybody is strong and athletic so I'll continue to get stronger and work on my game every day."

Hayes prides himself on his ability to

be strong on both sides of the ball and contribute as a rebounder. He said he watches a lot of Tyrese Maxey, a former five-star guard that played last season at Kentucky before declaring for the NBA Draft.

"Somebody I try to watch a lot is Tyrese Maxey because he plays both sides of the ball," Hayes said. "He can get to the basket really well but he can also shoot the ball. He's a leader."

This fall, he's hoping to improve on his shooting range so he can be a more dangerous three-point shooter.

Hayes will be a four-year varsity player on a team with lofty goals this winter. Coming off a 16-6 season, the Raiders have a strong core returning along with some transfers.

# Salem boys cross country beats Franklin

The Salem boys cross country team got off to a fast start in its fall season debut Friday, defeating Livonia Franklin, 15-48, while placing runners in each of the top five positions.

Senior Talha Syed led the Rocks and the field, finishing with a meet-leading 16:03.60, more than 22 seconds faster than the second-place finisher.

Salem cross country head coach Steve Aspinall said Syed is poised to have a great season and that he has already put in "serious work" in his quest to earn All-State honors.

Salem seniors Hezekiah Williams (16:25.25), Gary Gardella (16:42.13), Gavin Ray (16:46.65) and Evan Wheeler (17:14.70) rounded out the top-five in the contest.

Franklin senior Landon Latham finished in sixth place, and was the first Patriots runner to finish, recording a 17:21.15 time.

Aspinall said it was extremely nice to return to racing, even with the new protocols and procedures forced by the coronavirus.

"All coaches have been working so hard to follow the guidelines from the state and the MHSAA to provide an opportunity for student-athletes to compete and it was nice for them to get a



Salem senior Talha Syed finished in first place at the first meet of the season, finishing the race in 16:03.60 against Livonia Franklin. COURTESY OF STEVE ASPINALL

chance to finally do so," Aspinall said. "Most of these guys missed their entire track seasons and haven't raced in

around ten months."

Salem will next face Hartland at Willow Metro Park Saturday.

# Canton soccer adds members to coaching staff

The Canton boys soccer program announced the head coaches for the upcoming 2020 season, including newcomers Jack Zemanski and Bradley Westlund.

Zemanski joins Canton as its junior varsity head coach, after playing for the team from 2011-14 and serving as an assistant varsity coach in 2019.

He played club soccer for the Michigan Wolves. Zemanski continued playing in college at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

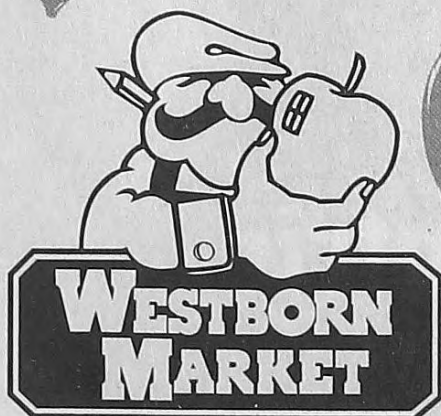
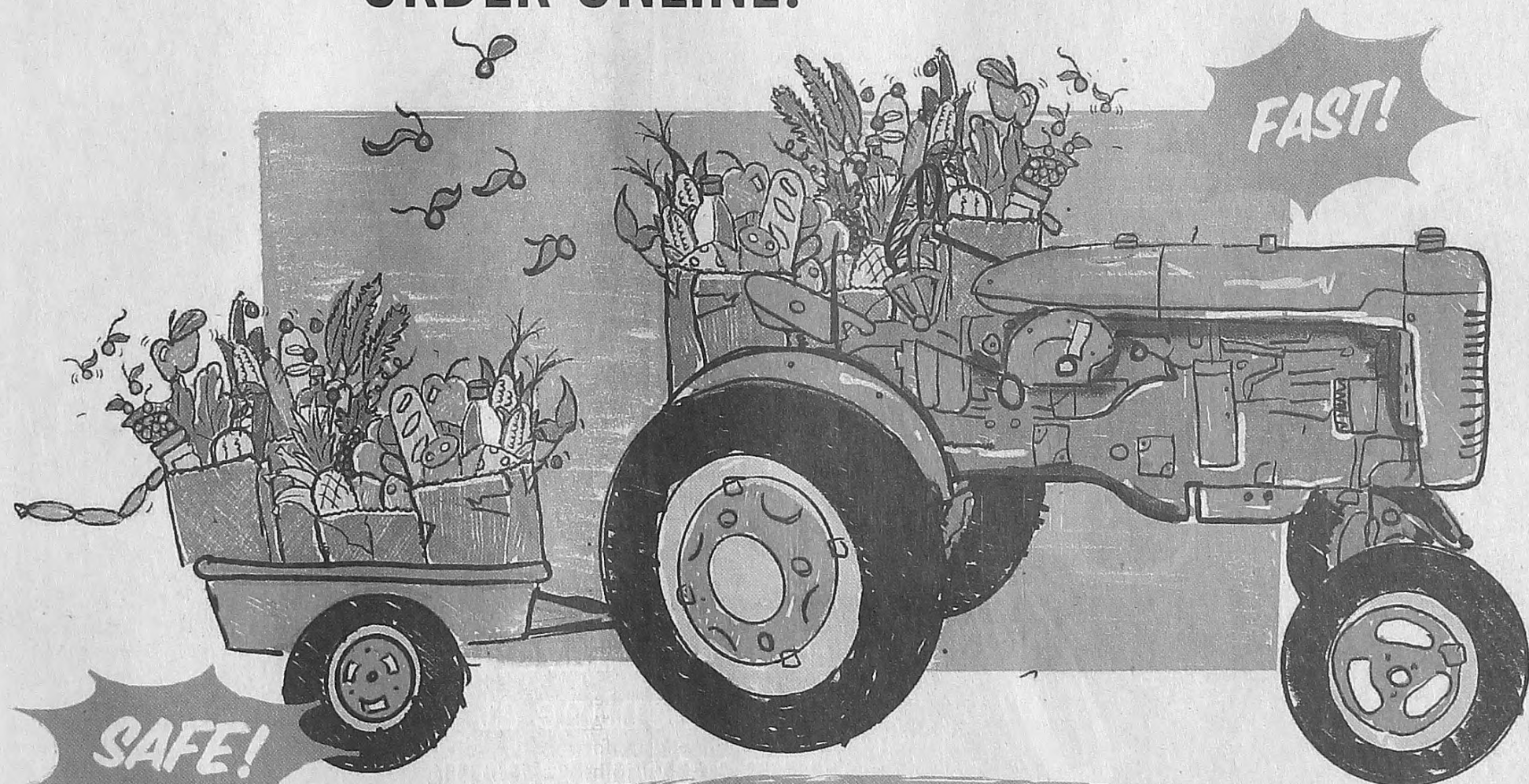
As a high school freshman, Zemanski was called up to the varsity squad and was a part of the 2011 state championship team. He also was the captain of the 2014 state championship team, and selected to the state "Dream Team" that year.

Westlund joins the Canton coaching staff as its freshman team coach after graduating in 2003. He played Division 1 club soccer for the Northville Sting and the Canton Vipers.

Marc Zemanski will return for his eighth season as the Canton varsity boys soccer head coach.

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# CC soccer embraces coronavirus as obstacle to overcome

Colin Gay [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ahead of the 2020 fall season, training for Detroit Catholic Central soccer does not look the same as in years past.

In times of extreme uncertainty regarding the coronavirus, head coach Gene Pulice had to pull out extreme measures to hammer home the rules and regulations the pandemic brings.

"Yesterday, they were not social distancing like I had asked them," Pulice said. "I asked them once, I had to ask them again."

"And they did 100 pushups."

Originally scheduled to start the season Aug. 22 against Grand Blanc, Catholic Central, like soccer teams across the state, is navigating social distancing measures and face masks to get something football did not have a chance to get: an opportunity for a fall season.

While the Shamrocks wait for final OKs from the State of Michigan, they are planning to start the season soon.

And with a normal start comes normal expectations for this group.

Catholic Central won four Catholic High School League titles since 2010, taking home the state championship in 2017.

Despite not having as many practices and scrimmages as he is used to, Pulice said this year's team has the potential to continue the trend.

"We are unquestionably ready," Pulice said. "I think we have a great squad this year, we have depth, we have talent and one thing that we have more of is a sense of family. We are more unified coming in than we have been in the past."

Senior forward and captain Clay Moscovic said the players have rallied around the idea of viewing the coronavirus as a challenge, as an obstacle to overcome.

"I think the more obstacles that are in front of us, the harder we are going to work," Moscovic said. "I think the harder we work, the more people on the team appreciate each other. Obviously, it's going to be a hard road if we want to win that state championship, but I think everyone is ready and ready to work."

Pulice said his players know what is at stake. So they are pulling out all the stops to ensure games will be played.

While scrimmaging, he said players are encouraged — not required — to wear a mask, taking it down to breathe easier when a player may not be involved in a particular play, and putting it back on when the ball comes to them.

For Moscovic, he said players are adapting to the mask-wearing during game play, saying it could eventually help increase fitness levels and conditioning ability when the season actually starts.

But as players prepare for the season opener against Grand Blanc, they are focused on building



Catholic Central varsity soccer coach Gene Pulice talks about expectations for the Shamrocks' fall season.  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

team chemistry usually established over summer leagues and early practices.

Catholic Central seems to be making up for lost time.

"It takes 200 percent effort, I would say, being able to work even harder, being able to adapt in these situations," senior midfielder and captain Chad Ewing said.

In 2019, despite having to forfeit seven games after self-reporting an ineligible player, the Shamrocks made it to the Division 1 regional final before falling to Novi, 2-1.

After a quarantine period filled with online workouts, Pulice said practices have been extremely disciplined, with everyone working for the same goal.

For players and coaches alike, the expectation is that if a season is played, a state title will be fought for, no matter the situation Catholic Central is in.

"We have a lot of haters," Monovic said. "I think that people will keep hating on us and hating on us more the more we do well. I mean, that's the goal every year is to do well."

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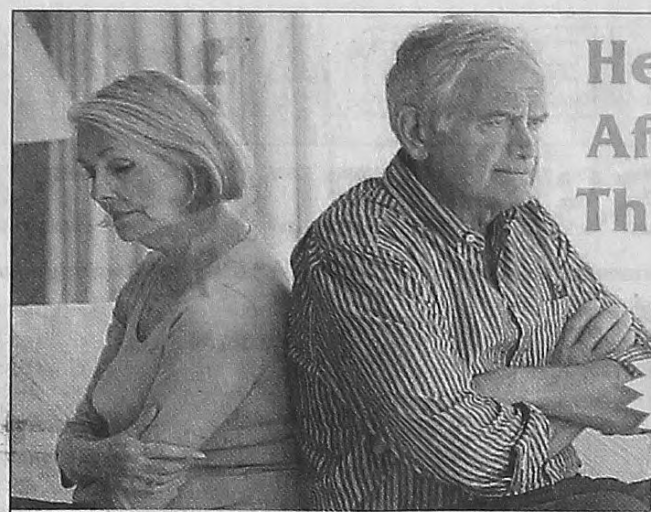
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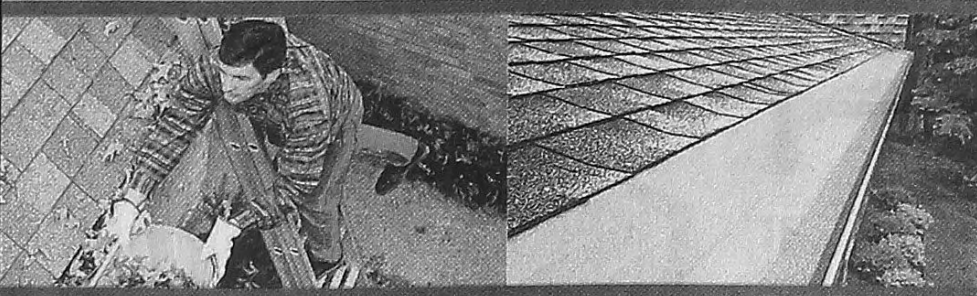
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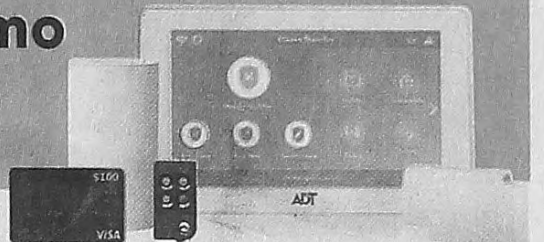


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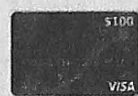
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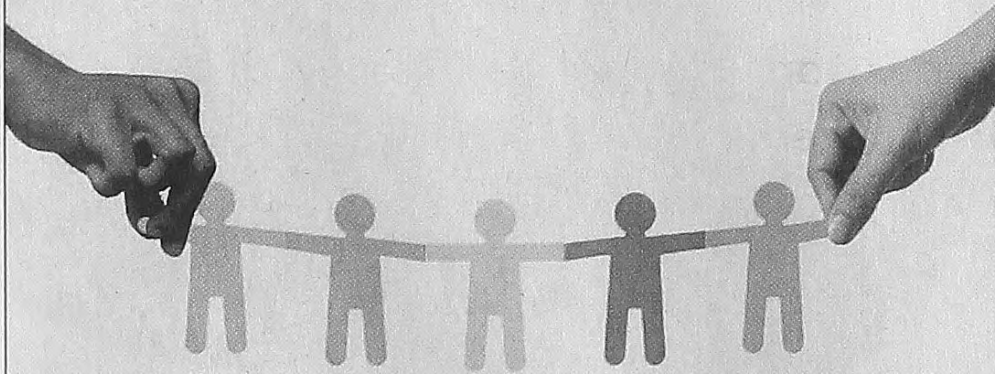
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**2021**

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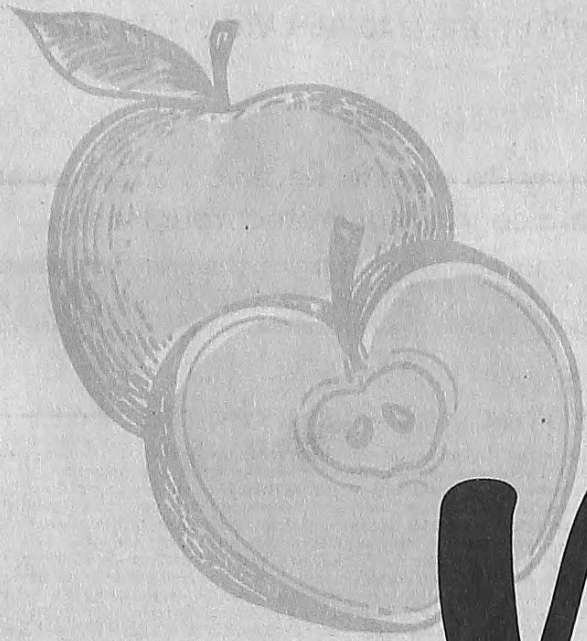
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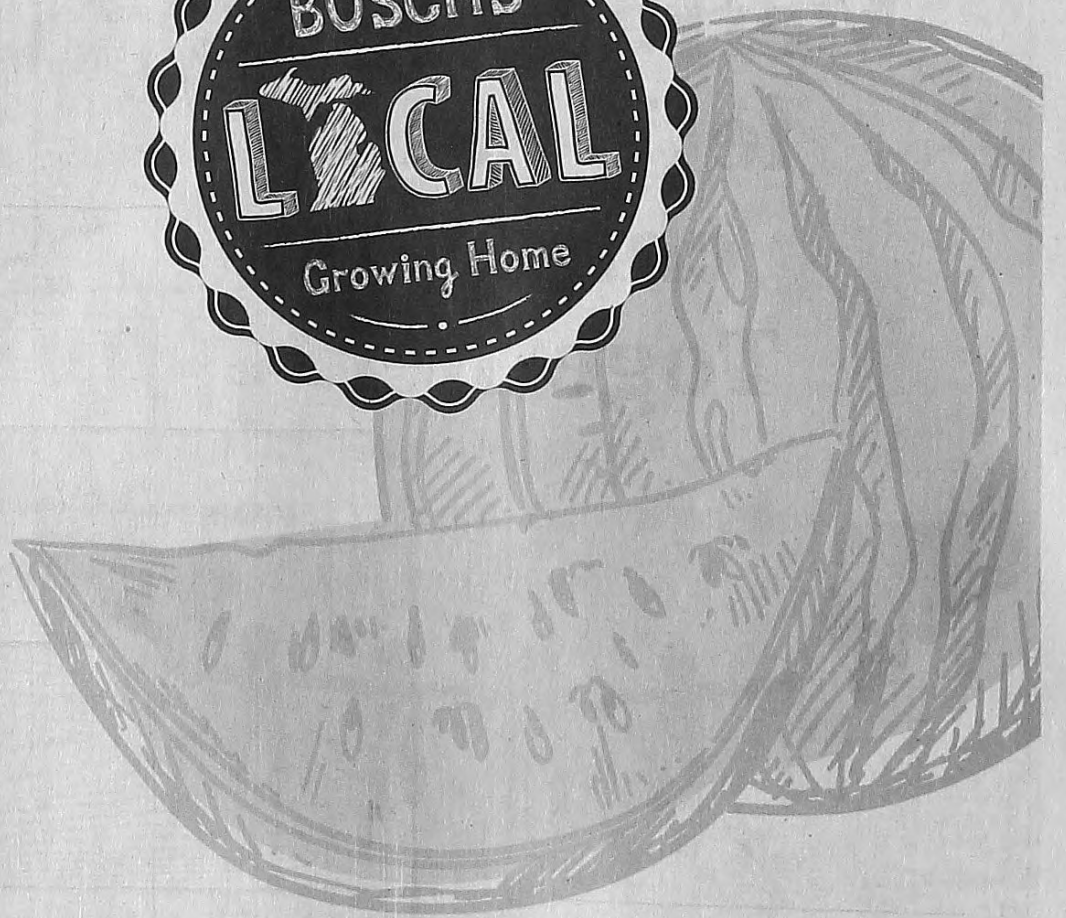


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