



Salem finds offensive chances, fails to convert in Canton draw

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Construction of the VA medical center along Ford Road in Canton is still on schedule. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Farmington eyes return to schools in November, January

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, Farmington Public Schools administrators hope to see new case reports decrease so students can return to buildings later this fall.

Board of education officials discussed the possibility of bringing all students back to classrooms by Nov. 9 at a meeting Tuesday. The board did not vote on the plan.

"This is for discussion only," Superintendent Robert Herrera said. "Board members, you can relax. We're not going to ask you to make a decision on this tonight. We know this is a very big decision."

The district decided in late July to start the year online. Administrators hope to bring some groups, like early childhood and special-needs students, back sooner.

The plan prioritizes students in fifth grade or lower along with students in special-needs programs. Before all students return, the district wants to see a 14-day decrease in new cases in the community and a community infection rate of 1 percent or less.

"Our criteria is consistent not only with other schools in Oakland County, but also schools within our region. ... Guidance keeps changing and we get new information on a pretty regular bases," said Kelly Coffin, the district's assistant superintendent of innovation and strategic initiatives.

Some students who have autism spectrum disorder and others who are moderately cognitively impaired returned to classes Sept. 8, and another group returned Sept. 14. The district hopes to send another group of special-needs students to school Sept. 28, and a third group Oct. 5.

Students in the district's early-childhood programs should go back to buildings Sept. 30, at which time they will be in buildings for half-days in cohorts.

Administrators are still making plans for a return among students in sixth to 12th grade. Right now, the district hopes its older students can return by Jan. 25, 2021.

Administrators said the middle- and high-school students' schedules would need restructuring to reduce travel before they can return.

See RETURN, Page 4A

VA clinic construction unaffected by pandemic

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Not even a pandemic can delay the construction of a new U.S. Veterans Administration clinic in Canton Township.

While large-scale building projects around the globe are hampered with pandemic-fueled supply shortages, the much-anticipated health clinic located near the intersection of Lotz and Ford roads is chugging along, right on schedule for a 2021 opening.

"There (have been) no delays due to

COVID," Veterans Administration spokesperson Brian Hayes said. "The work has pretty much been on schedule or sometimes ahead of schedule.

"Earth work has started, and the foundation work has started. Steel will be onsite toward the end of September. Steel erection will start after that, so you'll start seeing a structure going up soon."

The VA estimates approximately 12,000 to 14,000 veterans will use the facility - barring any unforeseen obstacles - in summer 2021.

Construction on the 40,000-square-foot complex began in January.

Hayes said the clinic is a much-welcomed addition to southeast Michigan's chain of VA health centers, with veterans having to drive either to downtown Detroit or Ann Arbor to seek treatment.

"The feedback we've received from veterans on this has been astonishing," he said. "And it's been nothing but

See CLINIC, Page 4A

Livonia councilman deployed to Middle East

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If the Livonia City Council meets in person again in 2020, Rob Donovic won't physically be with his colleagues.

The councilman was recently deployed to the Middle East as part of the U.S. Army National Guard. Donovic is an 11 Bravo infantryman who serves as a door gunner.

"Honestly, it's the greatest honor of my life," he said. "I get to serve in the community that I've grown up in, the community that I love, and I also get to serve the country that my family immigrated to just 30 years ago. Growing up as a kid, I always dreamed of being in the military."



Donovic

For security reasons, Donovic is unable to disclose his location, his assignment and how long he'll remain overseas. He said he will likely be deployed through the year's end.

Despite a time difference, Donovic will serve on city council remotely.

"That's sometimes tough depending on schedules and whatnot, but I'm

See DEPLOYED, Page 4A

Former Wayne councilman faces felony charges

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A former member of the Wayne City Council faces felony charges after prosecutors say he was involved in planting a fake weapon and drugs in a city employee's vehicle during his time on council.

Christopher Sanders, 51 of Wayne,

was charged Monday with filing a false report of a felony, conspiracy to commit false report of a felony and attempted false report of a felony.

According to a statement from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Sanders paid 28-year-old Van Buren Township



Sanders

resident Jimmie Lee Chandler to break into a City of Wayne employee's vehicle on Oct. 16, 2017, and place a starter pistol and fake drugs in the vehicle.

After watching the employee leave her office parking lot, prosecutors say Chandler called 911 to report a false road rage incident and identified the employee's vehicle. When the employee discovered the items in her vehicle, she con-

tacted the Wayne Police Department. Further investigation by the Michigan State Police led officers to Sanders and Chandler as the suspects.

Sanders and Chandler were arrested and arraigned on the charges Monday in the 35th District Court, as the 29th District Court in Wayne has recused itself.

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Livonia couple plays 1,000 Uno games during pandemic

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As businesses closed and people were encouraged to stay home in the beginning months of the coronavirus pandemic, Mike and Florence Nagy turned to a familiar game: Uno.

The couple, who are longtime Livonia residents, agreed to play 10 hands of the card game as often as possible. On Sept. 8, they completed their 1,000th game.

"It's just kind of a way to fill the day," Florence said. "We play almost every day at 3 p.m. On the other days that we don't play, we FaceTime with our daughter and our son-in-law and our grandson who live in Ohio."

After 1,000 games, Florence held the lead with 545 wins to Mike's 455. Mike isn't a big fan of games, but said he enjoys the time spent with his wife.

"It keeps us together," Mike said. "She's a reader, and so that takes your attention away from the other person. ... So this way we got to be together."

On Sept. 19, the couple celebrated 55 years of marriage. Florence said they ordered in and enjoyed an evening at home.

"It was just another day in paradise here," Florence said.



Florence and Mike Nagy play a hand of Uno in their Livonia home. COURTESY OF JANET GALLO

You can vote early in Michigan starting now

Dave Boucher Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Thursday was a big day for Michigan voters and the election that will decide the presidency and many other races.

Even though Election Day is not until Nov. 3, you can cast a ballot in person in Michigan starting now. Clerks must also begin mailing absentee ballots, if they haven't done so already.

Voting early is not quite like voting in person on Election Day, so here's what you need to do:

● **Make sure you're registered:** Go to michigan.gov/vote to check your status. If you're not registered, bring a Michi-

gan driver's license or other similar identifying information with you to your local clerk's office

● **Ask your clerk for an absentee ballot:** You can fill out and cast the ballot right there in person.

● **Sign, seal your envelope:** Make sure you follow all the directions, including using the secrecy envelope and signing the outside of the ballot where it says to sign.

Rather vote by mail?

● **Request your ballot now:** Fill it out as soon as you receive it, and follow the instructions on the ballot.

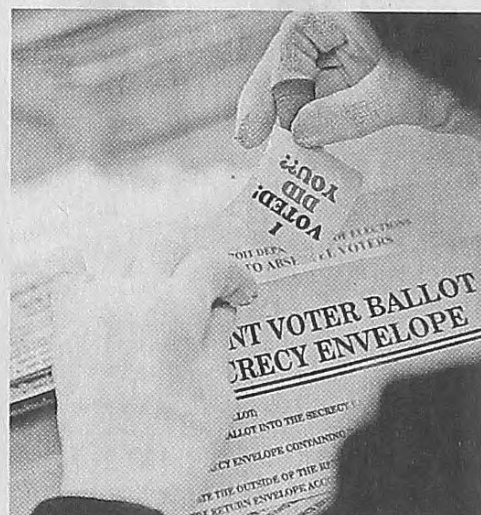
● **Put it in the mail ASAP:** Mailing the ballot sooner increases the chances

it will count.

● **You can always use a drop box or take it to your clerk as well:** Both options are a faster way of ensuring the right person gets your ballot.

Want to track your ballot after you mail it? Go to michigan.gov/vote and log in.

A worker adds stickers for absentee voters while preparing ballots to send out in October 2014 at the City of Detroit Department of Elections in Detroit. RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS



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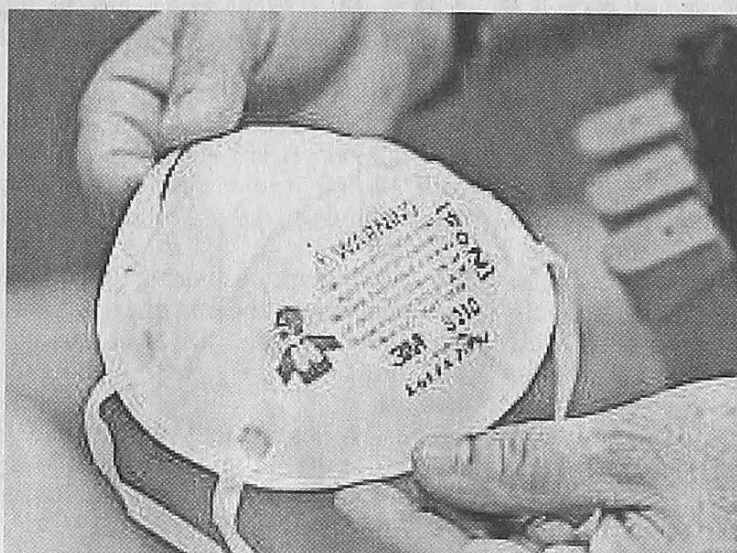
Study: UV light can disinfect N95 masks

Kristen Jordan Shamus Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ultraviolet-C light kills coronavirus on N95 respirator masks, effectively decontaminating them so they can safely be reused, dermatology researchers at Henry Ford Health System and the University of Michigan announced Tuesday.

A shortage of the medical-grade masks early in the COVID-19 pandemic drove the health systems to collaborate on a project to test whether a high dose of UV-C light — used to treat some skin conditions like vitiligo and psoriasis — would kill virus particles but still preserve the integrity of the masks.

Five types of N95s were tested during the study at U-M's SARS-CoV-2 research lab in Ann Arbor. They were contaminated with four drops of the virus from the federal government's Biodefense and Emergency Infections Research Resources Repository. The



Scientists have discovered that N95 masks could be decontaminated in less than two minutes using UV-C light. The light kills virus particles but still preserves the integrity of the masks. FILE

virus droplets were placed in four areas of each mask: the nosepiece, apex, chin and strap.

Scientists discovered that masks could be decontaminated in less than two minutes using the UV-C light. The process was most effective on different parts of the five models they tested — the facepieces of the 3M 1860 mask and the Moldex 151L as well as the straps of the 3M 8210 and the Moldex 151L.

"Our findings reveal a practical, and viable option should hospitals encounter shortages of N95s in the future," said Dr. David Ozog, chair of Henry Ford's Department of Dermatology in Detroit and the lead author of a study published earlier this month in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases, in a statement.

"Using UV-C has been shown to be effective in killing other coronaviruses and the flu virus," he said. "We were able to replicate that sterilization effectiveness with COVID-19."

Although the study shows medical-grade face masks can be decontaminated using light, Ozog stressed that it should only be used when there are severe shortages of N95s.

Soiled masks should be thrown away rather than decontaminated. Researchers also recommended wiping the straps of the masks with ethanol before treating them with UV-C light as an additional safety precaution.

Some mask straps showed signs of degrading after being exposed to the light, and researchers said all masks that have been decontaminated in this

way should be fit tested before use.

"When Dr. Ozog approached us about helping to demonstrate the effectiveness of their UV sterilization procedure with live SARS-CoV-2 virus, we immediately agreed and understood that we could provide some confidence to their health care workers that this procedure was effective," said Jonathan Sexton, Ph.D., director of the U-M Center for Drug Repurposing and a study co-author, in a statement.

When the crush of COVID-19 cases hit southeastern Michigan in March and early April, it revealed a weak link in the medical supply chain as hospital systems were overwhelmed with patients and discovered that they didn't have enough personal protective equipment, including N95 masks.

Many of them, including Henry Ford, tried to decontaminate N95 masks so they could be reused.

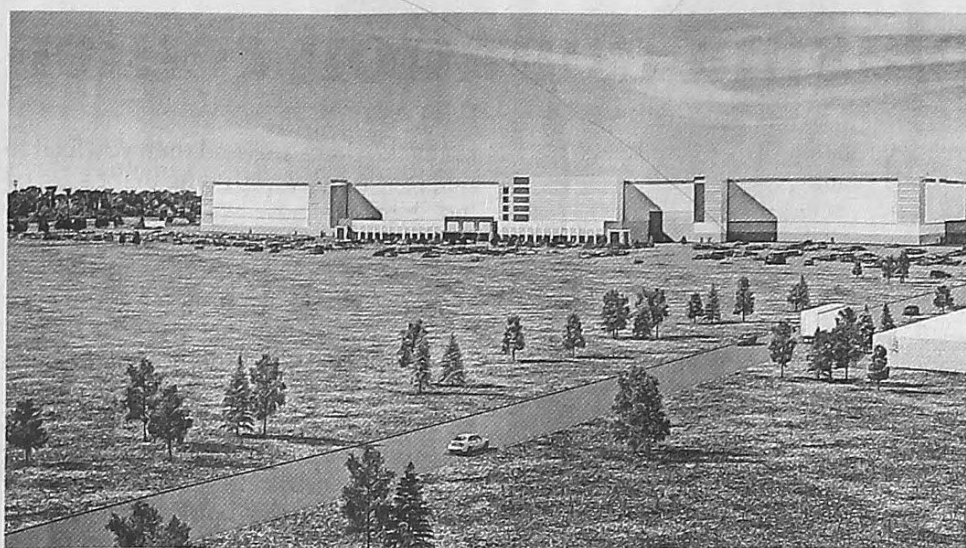
"The beginning of the pandemic was physically and mentally overwhelming for everyone. We desperately wanted to help our front-line workers, who were crushed with COVID-19 cases at Henry Ford," Ozog said.

Although UV-C light has been shown to be an effective way to disinfect masks contaminated with coronavirus, researchers warned that it should only be used when there are supply shortages. And soiled masks should never be decontaminated and reused.

Discarding a contaminated disposable N95 after a single use is "still ideal," said Dr. Angela Torres, a Henry Ford dermatology fellow in a statement.

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Hillwood Investment Properties, along with local partner the Sterling Group, plans to purchase 142 acres at the site of the former Michigan State Fairgrounds. The proposed deal would bring a 3.8 million-square-foot facility with more than 1,200 new full-time jobs. COURTESY OF STERLING GROUP

Amazon hiring for 2,000 openings in metro Detroit

Adrienne Roberts Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

E-commerce giant Amazon said it has 2,000 jobs available in metro Detroit as it expands to keep up with an increase in online shopping during the pandemic.

The open positions start at \$15 an hour, Amazon said, and come with sign-on bonuses of up to \$500. There's a variety of jobs available, many in fulfillment operations that include stowing, picking and packing customer orders.

Ofori Agboka, vice president of human resources for Global Customer Fulfillment at Amazon, said in a phone interview the opportunities were "expansive," and also included positions in delivery, engineering, quality and training, among others.

"We're fortunate to have an opportunity to be job creators," Agboka said. "We have welcomed people who have been furloughed, laid off and who were simply just looking to do something different."

About 100 of those available posi-

tions are at the recently opened delivery station in Pontiac, Agboka said. The full fulfillment center will open at that site next year, he said.

In addition to the 2,000 open positions in metro Detroit, Amazon also is hiring for another 1,000 jobs across the state. The openings are part of a broader jobs announcement of 100,000 openings across the U.S. and Canada.

Amazon said it employs 13,500 Michigan workers at four fulfillment centers, four delivery stations, a technology hub, and other locations.

The openings are in addition to 100 white-collar and tech jobs available in Detroit that Amazon plans to fill over the next two years.

Separately, Amazon is planning to open a \$400 million, 3.8-million-square-foot distribution center in Detroit at the old State Fairgrounds on 8 Mile that would employ at least 1,200 people. The distribution center is expected to open in 2022 and workers there are to make at least \$15 an hour, plus benefits.

Homes, apartments behind lion's share of Farmington's property tax revenue

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Local governments depend on taxes to keep things moving along. In Farmington, taxes bring in over half the city's revenue.

"In our general fund, property taxes make up over 50% of our revenue," said Chris Weber, Farmington's treasurer and finance director. "It's close to 56%. ... It helps fund our public safety, department of public works, parks, all the administrative apparatus."

Between the summer and winter tax deadlines in 2019, Farmington brought in \$19,996,658 in property taxes. Weber noted the city itself doesn't get all of that money: entities like the school district benefit, too. But nonetheless, it keeps the city running.

One business in town, Roush, receives an industrial facilities exemption through the state. The business is not, however, one of the city's major taxpayers.

Weber said most of the city's tax revenue comes from residents rather than businesses.

"Most of our taxes, 76% of our tax base, is residential," he said. "That's single-family homes, apartment buildings, condos, that sort of thing. The other 24% is commercial and industrial. Every community is going to have a different mix when it comes to that."

In tough economic times like those the coronavirus pandemic has created for business owners, Weber said he's glad the city brings in so much in residential property taxes. In his opinion, homes are more reliable than businesses.

"The residential component is pretty stable and home values are still going up," he said. "So from Farmington's perspective, 76% is residential so 76% of our tax base is pretty secure over the next couple of years."

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

Farmington's top 10 taxpayers in 2019

Rank	Business	Taxes paid	Taxable value	Business type
1	Drakeshire, Farmington West and Jamestown apartments	\$544,449	\$9,415,760	Housing
2	Chatham Hills and Burton Carol apartments	\$306,002	\$5,292,020	Housing
3	DTE Energy	\$285,288	\$4,933,800	Energy
4	Farmington Oaks and Kensington Manor	\$268,164	\$4,637,660	Housing
5	Farmington Place and RAHF Farm Preservation	\$170,442	\$2,947,640	Housing
6	Brixmor Properties Group	\$145,659	\$2,519,040	Retail
7	Kimco Farmington 146	\$141,690	\$2,450,400	Retail
8	ITC Transmission	\$140,597	\$2,431,490	Utility
9	Leitrim-Groves LLC	\$117,878	\$1,972,960	Retail
10	Farmington Medilodge	\$102,754	\$1,777,030	Nursing home

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Clean your boat, dog as they may spread invasive plant

Jeremy Ervin Port Huron Times Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Driving off from a day on the water, Michigan boaters, anglers and hunters may have stowaways hitching a ride.

European frogbit is already present around Michigan, clumping up in shallow, slow moving waters. It can spread through human and animal activity, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is asking residents to keep an eye out and take precautions.

"We can't tell the ducks not to go from one pond to another," said Joanne Foreman, an invasive species program communications coordinator with the state. "But we certainly can get people to clean up before they move."

How European frogbit got into Michigan is unknown, but it is speculated it may have originally been used as a decorative plant that escaped or was dumped into the wild. Within Michigan, the plant can be found along coastal areas of lakes Huron and Erie and has been detected in some inland lakes as well. "We don't want it to get into Lake Michigan, we don't want it to get into Lake Superior," Foreman said.

What is it?

The plant lives in shallow, stationary or slow moving water and has leaves between a half and 2.5 inches long, which are round or heart shaped. The underside of the leaves have a purple-red hue. Between June and August, one white flower may be seen. The plant can spread to waterways connected to its current home, but humans and animals can play a role in bringing it to new bodies of water. The plant itself can be moved, as can its seeds. "If you have a dog that's trying to go out and retrieve a duck, it might be hard for the dog to get that duck in an area that's covered with frogbit," Foreman said. "But also the dog could carry things, carry seeds like a waterfowl could."

What's the problem?

European frogbit can grow into thick mats in the water it inhabits. While the full scope of its impact on animals is still being studied, it is known to disrupt habitat for other plants and animals living in shallow water, Foreman said. Large amounts of the plant can reduce available oxygen in the water and block light from reaching into the water. For humans, the thick plant matter can gum up watercraft motors.

"It really is a dense mat of vegetation that just covers the surface," Foreman said. "If you're in a boat, you can hardly avoid getting it caught in your motor."

What to do about it?

Humans are far more likely to travel vast distances more quickly than animals are.

Plants and their seeds can stick to boats, furthering the spread if they are not washed off. Those leaving a body of water with a boat should inspect and hose down their watercraft before driving off, Foreman said.

Residents observing an infestation should contact the Midwest Invasive Species Network to report the time and location of a sighting, a report page is available at bit.ly/3IIP88P. Reports can also be filed with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy at EGLE-WRD-ANC@michigan.gov or (517) 284-5593.

Dealing with European frogbit once it is firmly established can be complicated, Foreman said. Removal by hand is the first, best option.

But chemical treatments may be needed for more severe infestations, though this option is expensive and requires a lot of planning to prevent doing too much damage to native vegetation, Foreman said.

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Westland council denies plasma donation center

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland City Council has turned down a proposal to bring a plasma donation center to one of the city's busiest intersections.

The council voted 6-1 Monday to deny a special land use for Octapharma to operate a donation center in the building that formerly housed a Rite Aid at Wayne and Ford roads.

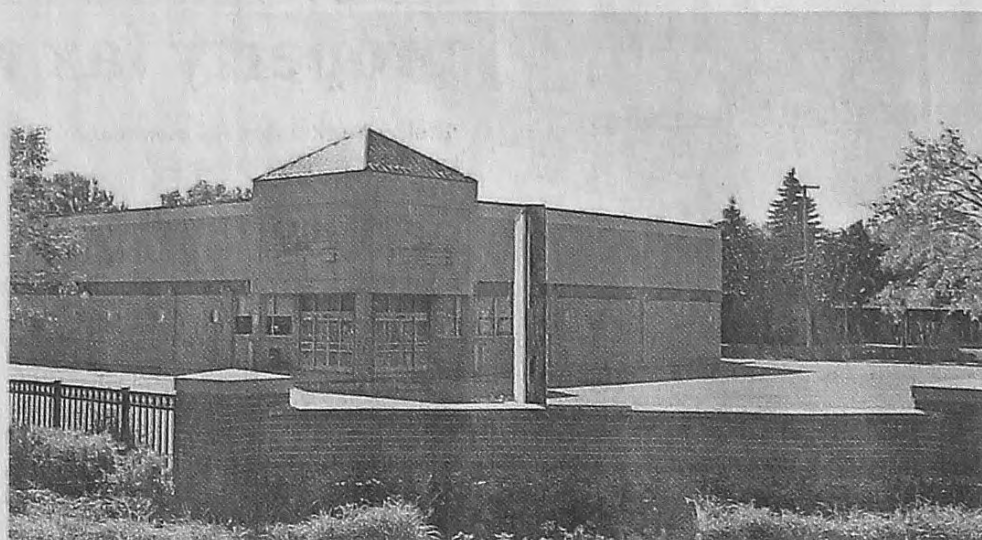
The proposed center would have converted the old pharmacy, which shuttered its doors in 2018, into a donation center for blood plasma.

The city's administration recommended denial of the proposal, saying such a center would not conform to the city's master plan and visions for that part of Westland.

"While some people think it's a medical office, it really does not provide a medical service to any of the residents or any of the commuters passing through the Downtown Development Authority," said Mohamed Ayoub, the city's planning director. "Not only is the proposed use not consistent with the master plan future land use designation, but also not consistent with the main objective of the DDA."

But representatives for Octapharma said coming into that building makes sense for them, especially since there's been no interest from either restaurants or dollar stores, which are a common repurpose of former pharmacy buildings.

"(The broker has) affirmatively sought out interest from typical re-



Council has turned down a proposed blood plasma donation center in Westland.
COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

placements. ... Walgreens, CVS, all all variety of dollar stores," said Michael Vogt, an attorney representing Octapharma. "Never received any interest from them despite multiple contacts. He has never received any interest from a restaurant tenant."

The plans came to the council with a recommendation to deny from the city's planning commission, which voted 5-4 at its Sept. 1 meeting to recommend passing on the plan.

The argument that buildings should just be filled instead of seeking the best use, said Councilman Peter Herzberg, does not hold up, especially given the proposed business's location.

"I do think that is short-term think-

ing," Herzberg said. "This is the busiest corner in town, and I do believe we can do better in terms of commercial or another kind of business."

Councilwoman Tasha Green, the lone member to vote "no" for the denial of the special land use request, said she was concerned over the timing of a change to the city's ordinances for the approval process for blood plasma donation centers, which requires them go through a special land use.

She said critics could perceive an issue if such an ordinance change was prompted by the application to bring the Octapharma facility to that property in Westland.

"If you change the terms after you al-

ready tell them 'no,' and then you fix it to where the answer is going to for sure be 'no' because now we've changed the rules after the fact, that is my question," she said. "I believe, from your answer, they contacted us first, and then we changed the ordinance after the fact."

The city earlier this summer changed the ordinances that would require such donation centers to receive special land use approval before locating in a CB-2 or CB-3 zoned area.

Ayoub said the application for the special land use came after the council made those changes in July, and said the point was to clarify and clean up language pertaining to such centers. Before, there was nothing on the books in Westland's ordinances detailing exactly how to handle such businesses.

"His application for special land use came after you approved the ordinance," Ayoub said. "Nowhere in the zoning ordinance (before) did it classify blood plasma donation clinics."

Herzberg said the change to have such centers become special land uses in the city was one that made sense, especially moving forward with the city's master plan.

"I think there's a reason it's a special land use. That was a decision made for a lot of reasons," he said. "We're cleaning up the ordinances, we're moving forward with the master plan. I think everyone on council takes that seriously."

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

Return

Continued from Page 1A

But, there is a plan for the elementary schools.

In November, the district hopes to bring young students back to school five days a week for half-days of face-to-face learning while the other half is held online. An entirely online option will remain available, too.

Upon a return to buildings, all stu-

dents and staff will be required to wear a face covering at all times. Classrooms will also be set up to "honor social distancing" and each student will have his or her own desk.

"We want to get our kids back as soon as it's safe," Coffin said.

Students can also expect the district to offer transportation and special classes when buildings reopen.

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



A rendering of the Veterans Administration clinic coming to Canton in 2021.
COURTESY OF U.S. VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Clinic

Continued from Page 1A

positive. The traffic this news has generated on our social-networking sites has far exceeded anything we've shared in the past two years."

The facility will be state of the art, allowing for the full implementation of the Patient-Aligned Care Team (PACT) model of care delivery, as well as improving operational efficiencies and the veteran experience.

Along with providing primary care, the facility will offer care for mental health, laboratory and pathology, and imaging services for veterans.

"We began work on this project back

in 2014," Medical Center Director Dr. Ginny Creasman said. "Getting a new clinic ... is a big deal and involves a lot of stakeholders. So, we're honored to be able to get this done and bring our services closer to home for so many of our veterans."

"It's going to make it so much more convenient for them to get the care they've earned."

Hayes said the location was chosen after years of careful analysis by the VA.

The site was chosen based on many factors, including a demonstrated need to serve more veterans in western Wayne County and ease of access with proximity to the Interstate 275 and Ford Road interchange.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com.



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Deployed

Continued from Page 1A

very thankful to the city council for making it possible for me to serve electronically while I'm gone on military duty," he said.

Donovic said he'll continue to communicate with residents via email and will do his best to be accessible.

Earlier this year, city council passed an ordinance allowing remote participation in meetings for council members who are serving in the military. Donovic said he is unaware of any previous Livonia council members who may have been in office while simultaneously on active military duty, but said his situation is not unique. Donovic cited former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Butti-

gieg, who served seven months in Afghanistan while in office, as an example.

"It's definitely not the easiest thing to do, but we all make personal sacrifices," Donovic said. "I will continue to answer emails, phone calls and personal correspondence with residents, with business owners and my colleagues on council. ... Back home, you won't notice a difference."

Donovic said he misses his family and the community, but is confident he'll be able to keep in touch and perform his duties as a local lawmaker.

"My support system back home has been awesome," he said. "I have it easy, to be honest with you, compared to soldiers back in the day who didn't have technology."

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

Charges

Continued from Page 1A

Sanders received a \$10,000 personal bond while Chandler received a \$1,000 personal bond. If convicted, the two face up to four years in prison.

Sanders served on Wayne City Council before being recalled in 2018. He later attempted to run for mayor, though a judge ruled an improper filing took place and removed Sanders from the ballot later on in 2018.

The most recent charges are not the

first experience Sanders has had in the legal system this decade. He was charged in 2014 after it was alleged he illegally handled funds donated to a nonprofit he operated, Destination Wayne - specifically the HalloWayne event it sponsored several years ago. Five of the six charges Sanders originally faced were dismissed at the district court level and the last charge was dismissed at the Third Circuit Court in downtown Detroit after the hearing resulted in a hung jury back in 2015.

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

Obituaries

Wanda Garren

BELLEVILLE - "Wanda Kay Baby" Garren, September 17, 2020 age 66 of Belleville. Loving mother of Bernadette (John) McDonald and Jacob (Ashley) Bowen. Proud grandmother of Charlotte, Kayla, George, Dylan, Lura and Jack. Beloved daughter of the late Homer and the late



Alice Garren. Dear sister of Homer Jr., Sandra, Rayburn, Elizabeth and the late Loretta. Wanda loved to spend time with family and friends. She loved good food and music. Wanda was a two-time cancer survivor. Memorial Service Saturday, September 26th 12 PM at Cornerstone Christian Church, 44500 Willis Road in Sumpter Township. Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 20450 Civic Center Drive, Southfield, MI 48076. Arrangements entrusted with Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, Westland. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenh.com



Jeffrey Myron Gunsell

WESTLAND - September 18, 2020, Age 60. Beloved husband of Jackie (nee: Hanchett) for 32 years. Loving father of Jesslyne (Michael) Malone, and Jason. Amazing grandfather of 4. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

Mary Louise Zrull

HOWELL - Mary Louise Zrull, age 89 of Howell, Michigan, died peacefully Wednesday, September 9, 2020 in the presence of her family. Mary Lou was born January 1, 1931 in Detroit the daughter of Samuel and Angela (Gerhard) Savage. Loving mother of Kurt, Christian (Laurie), Joseph (Lisa Braun), Angela, Celeste (John) Kolton and Louise (David MacGregor). Grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of one. She is also survived by her brother Robert and sister Susan. She was preceded in death by her husband Theodore Zrull. Private services will be held later. Please sign the family's online guestbook at macdonaldsfuneralhome.com

MacDonald's Funeral Home

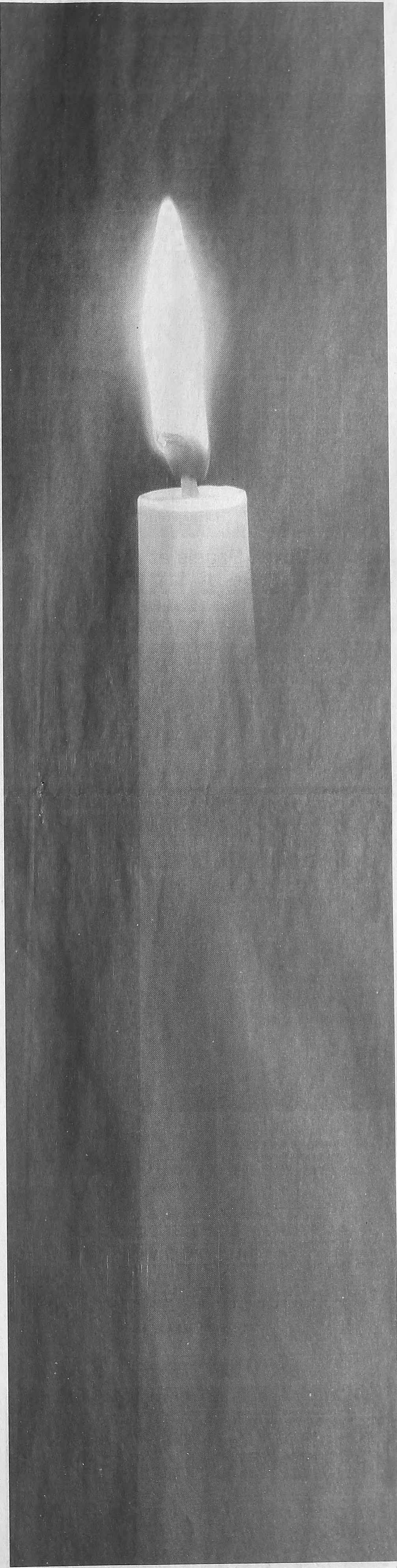
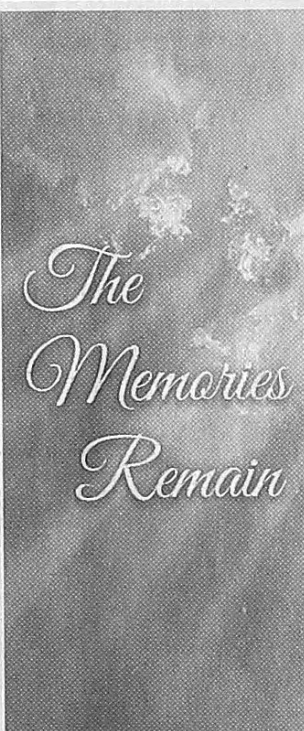
Sue Colling Gniewek

LIVONIA - Our wonderful mother, Sue Colling Gniewek, passed away on Wednesday, September 2, just weeks before her 84th birthday. She died peacefully at home with her family surrounding her after suffering many years with Alzheimer's. She was predeceased by her husband, Conrad Gniewek, son, Lane Jae, brother, Elliott Colling and sisters Colleen Reisig and Joan Colling. She was an amazing mother to Jolie (Ed) Snow, Kyle and Torin, loving Grammy to Kori and Kendal Snow, and Gramma-in-law to Alex Hill and Owen and Jocelyn Snow.



Sue participated in many aspects of her community before her illness. She was a para-pro in the Special Ed department at Stevenson High School for many years. When her children were young she served on the PTA, Arts Commission and assisted with local political campaigns. She was an avid gardener and creative cook. She had a special knack for making everyone feel welcome and loved.

A celebration of her life will be held outside in the Snow's garden, Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. We invite you to share your stories and memories with us starting at 3:00 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served. We will be COVID cautious. Please RSVP to Jolie via phone or Facebook Messenger. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. <https://act.alz.org/site/Donation>.



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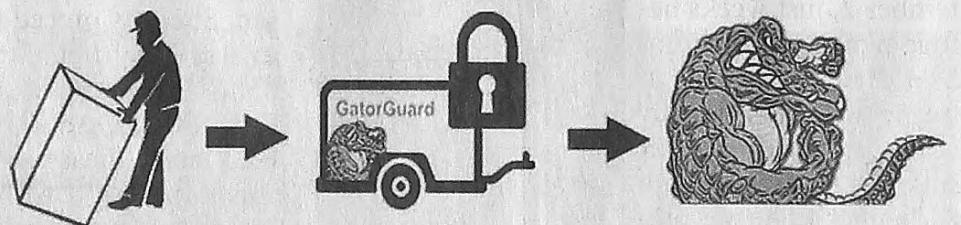
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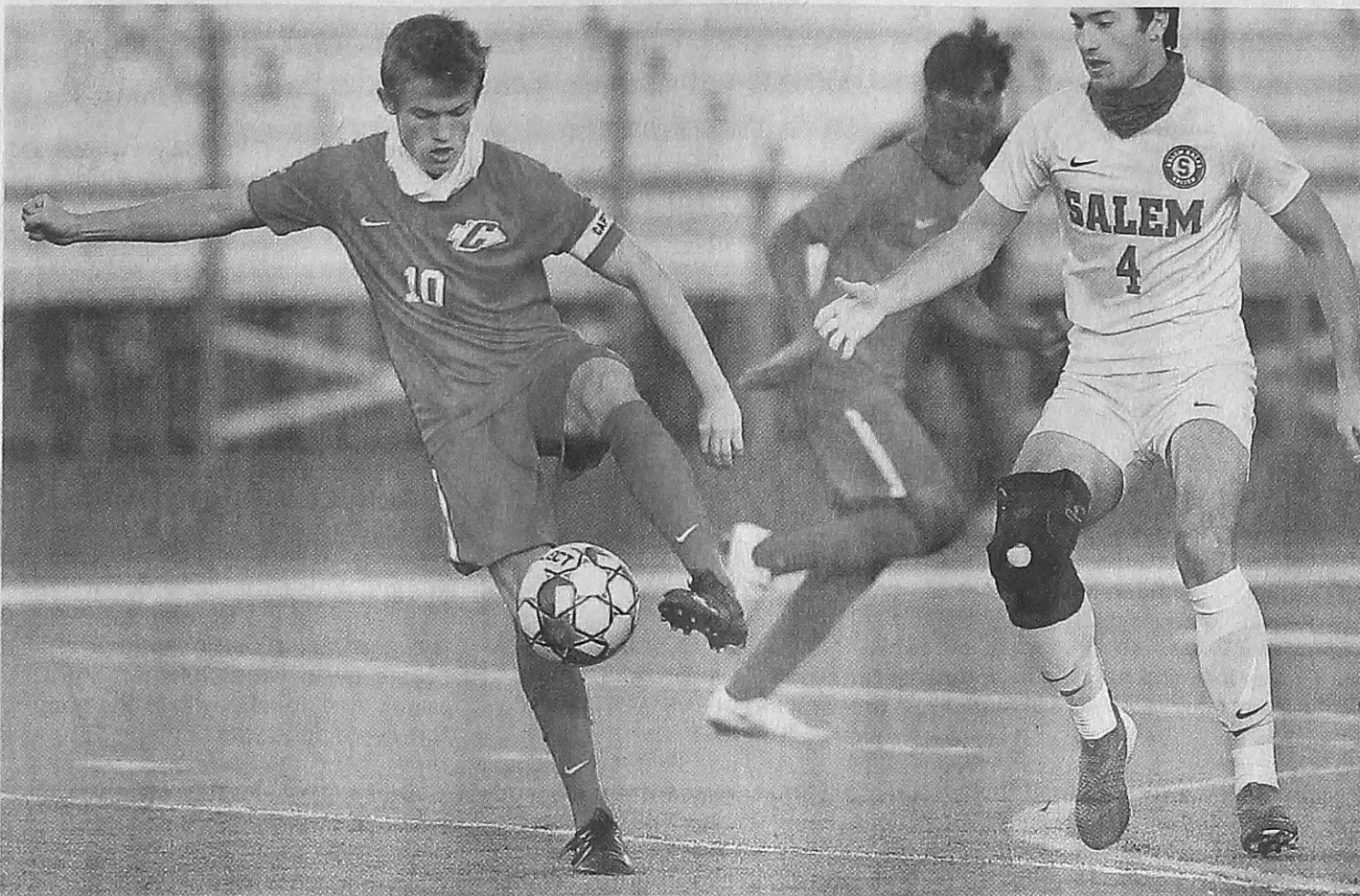


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SPORTS

SOCCER



Canton's Nick Rockafellow plays the ball during the Chiefs' 1-1 tie against Salem on Tuesday.
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

FOOTBALL

Cranbrook athletes wait for a decision

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Heading into the 2019 summer football camp, Cranbrook Kingswood head football coach Ben Jones had a phrase printed on each shirt he handed out to potential players: "Get To," that no matter how hard a drill might be, how tired a player might be, football is a privilege.

"We don't have to play football. We get to play," Kelly Lauer, the mother of senior captain Drew Lauer, remembered Jones would say.

After a roller coaster of emotions during the month of August, peaking at Jones' death in a car accident Aug. 26, the Cranbrook football community may not "Get To" play football in the fall.

In an email sent to parents Monday, Cranbrook Director of Schools Aimee-claire Roche said competition will resume for volleyball, field hockey and soccer, but that football would not resume in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, saying that a decision will be revisited in two weeks.

The Cranes football team was made aware that its season opener against U of D Jesuit scheduled for Sept. 26 was canceled the week before, and the announcement from Roche was released Monday.

Roche refused to comment for this story.

"Our first priority is to start school

See CRANBROOK, Page 3B

RIVALRY STAY CLOSE

Salem has chances but fails to convert in tie vs. Canton

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton and Salem played extremely close in 2019.

Opening the season with a scoreless draw, the Rocks took the next two against the Chiefs, 2-1, including the district final.

In the first meeting between the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rivals in 2020, the closeness remained, as Salem drew Canton, 1-1, Tuesday.

Just over nine minutes into game play, Salem midfielder Andrew Schwartz found senior Dante Perri, who raced around three Canton defenders, poking the ball into the top right corner of the net for the score - the only goal for either team in the first half.

Canton senior Kaelen Flowers answered in the second half, taking a beautiful ball from junior Christian Austin, flanked by two defenders and putting it into the back of the net to secure the tie.

No lack of offensive tries

Despite the one-score first half, Salem (4-0-1) had its fair share of offensive opportunities, something that head coach Kyle Karns felt made the final score look misleading.

"I felt like we got what we wanted in terms of spending a ton of time in the offensive side of things," Karns said. "Like I told the guys, I feel we should have come away with more if we have that much time in their half."

The Rocks had three offsides calls made against them in the first 30 minutes, including a one-on-one chance by senior Nolan Chaput, who punched the ball into the back of the net out of frustration.

By the end of the draw, five offsides calls were made against Salem, and one was called against Canton (3-0-4).

Karns said the penalties were just products of an aggressive offensive game plan, something that he said the



Salem's Dante Perri (7) is congratulated by a teammate after scoring the game's lone first-half goal.

Rocks will continue to push and not shy away from.

But Canton senior goalkeeper Justus Heers stepped up in a big way late in the first half: earning three saves, trapping a ball 15 yards from goal on a one-on-one with Chaput, breaking up a chance by Salem junior Anthony Deruvo and diving in front of an assisting pass meant for Perri for the save.

Canton head coach Mark Zemanski was impressed with the way the Salem - coming off a state semifinal appearance

See SOCCER, Page 2B

"I feel we should have come away with more if we have that much time in their half."

Kyle Karns
Salem head coach



Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

High school football in 2020 remains unusual

Riding on a school bus over to Farmington to open the season Sept. 17, Brendan Flaherty thought about his team's journey in 2020.

As he rode to begin his 19th season as Birmingham Groves head coach, he thought about how he, how his team, how the collective "we" got to this point.

On Aug. 14, the Michigan High School Athletic Association announced it would cancel the 2020 fall football season and move the schedule to spring 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Less than two weeks later, the MHSAA reversed its decision, saying that football would go on as scheduled, three weeks after the initial scheduled start date.

To Flaherty, the bus ride itself felt surreal. But he realized something else about himself, about his team:

They were worn out.

See GAY, Page 3B

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FOOTBALL

Groves withstands comeback attempt

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Birmingham Groves thought it had its season-opening win secured.

With 7:23 left in the game, Falcons quarterback Jack Woods – in his first start behind center – found junior wide receiver Jaden Mangham on a 41-yard score, giving Groves the 25-point lead against Farmington.

While Groves celebrated, Farmington began to cut the deficit.

Junior running back Jacob Sanders found daylight, taking the football 40 yards for a touchdown, his second of the day. Then, in Groves' next offensive possession, junior defensive back Larry Edwards picked up a fumble, taking it to the house to bring Farmington to within nine points.

Groves lost the ball again on its next offensive possession, giving Farmington a chance from their own 40 to bring it to within a field goal.

But Groves (1-0) held on in its season opener, with senior defensive back Jackson Tinsley catching an interception with 61 seconds left on the clock to secure the Falcons' 42-31 win against Farmington (0-1).

Groves has won four of six matchups against Farmington in the history of the matchup.

"I just think that we got some wake-up calls and we can build off of them," Groves head coach Brendan Flaherty said. "We won the game, and it's good to win, and we got some guys some experience, we got plenty of stuff we can work on."

Rex, Woods lead Groves offense

From the start of the first series, Groves wanted to make those in attendance forget about the team's last performance of 2019: a 42-7 drubbing by Seaholm in the district final.

After a seven-yard carry to open the game from senior running back Johnny Rex, Woods made his presence felt, taking the read 56 yards for the first score of the game, 64 seconds into the contest.

Allowing a field goal after Woods



Jackson Tinsley intercepts a pass intended for Farmington's Julian Ama, left, to seal Birmingham Groves' 42-31 win Sept. 17. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

threw an interception on his first pass attempt, Groves found offensive momentum again, using a 10-play scoring drive ending with a one-yard run by Woods and a 52-yard pass from Woods to junior running back Stavros Panos to increase the lead to 21-3.

Rex shined in the season opener, recording 192 yards, including touchdown runs of 77 and 53 yards.

The Groves senior said he felt rusty at first, but that, with it being the first game back, the Falcons have put themselves in a position to build.

"We just have a lot more stuff to work on to get better," Rex said. "I feel like everything we can get better at: the blocking, running, open up the holes, everyone getting to the right alignments."

With the Mangham touchdown pass in the middle of the fourth quarter, Woods finished the game completing

five-of-nine pass attempts for 155 yards with two touchdowns and an interception.

"He's our leader, he's our guy," Flaherty said. "When he goes, we go."

'Wake up to varsity football'

Farmington head coach Kory Cioroch knows he has a young football team. With many guys getting called up from the Falcons' 2019 junior-varsity team, he feels like Thursday night's opener was a wake-up call.

"They are used to JV football, and the first half was 'Wake up to varsity football,'" Cioroch said. "I still don't think we did very well in the second half – just little things."

Farmington struggled offensively for the majority of the first half, mustering six yards of offense in its first four drives



Groves' Johnny Rex (192 yards, 2TDs) eludes two Farmington defenders.

of the game.

However, Farmington found some offensive life late in the second half. Junior quarterback Jaden Silver found the end zone with six seconds left to bring the Falcons to within 12.

Silver and Sanders continued that life for Farmington in the second half.

Sanders found the end zone twice in the fourth quarter on back-to-back possessions, recording 138 yards on the ground in his Farmington debut.

Silver, brought up after a season as the starting junior-varsity quarterback, scored on a two-yard scamper for the team's first touchdown of the game in the second quarter, adding 119 yards through the air.

Defensively, coming off a season in which the Falcons allowed more than 14 points only once, Farmington allowed 42 points, the most in a game since Oct. 19, 2018.

But for Cioroch, coaching a roster in which nine of 11 starters came up from junior-varsity, he was impressed with the way his team fought.

"I like coaching here because we have tough kids," Cioroch said. "We made a lot of mental mistakes and playing out of position at times, but my kids are never not going to fight. And they fought. I think the effort was a positive. We have a ton of stuff to clean up. An absolute ton, but I don't think effort is one of them."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at [@ColinGay17](https://twitter.com/ColinGay17). Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Deruvo collects most votes for honor

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Salem has had a hot start to the 2020 season, and junior Anthony Deruvo has been a major part of that.

In the Rocks' second game of the season, beating Hartland, 8-0, Deruvo scored four goals.

With his performance, the junior took home the first Hometown Life Athlete of the Week honors for the 2020-21 season, receiving 5,919 votes (52.25%).

Stevenson soccer senior Nick Lema finished in second with 2,923 votes (25.8%) and Deruvo's teammate Will Pryce finished in third with 2,220 votes (19.6%). Northville golfer Megha Vallabhaneni and Churchill tennis player Pranhav Sundarajan finished in fourth and fifth, respectively.

We caught up with Deruvo, talking about Salem's early-season success, his personal expectations for the 2020 season and which soccer players he likes to watch highlights of before a match.

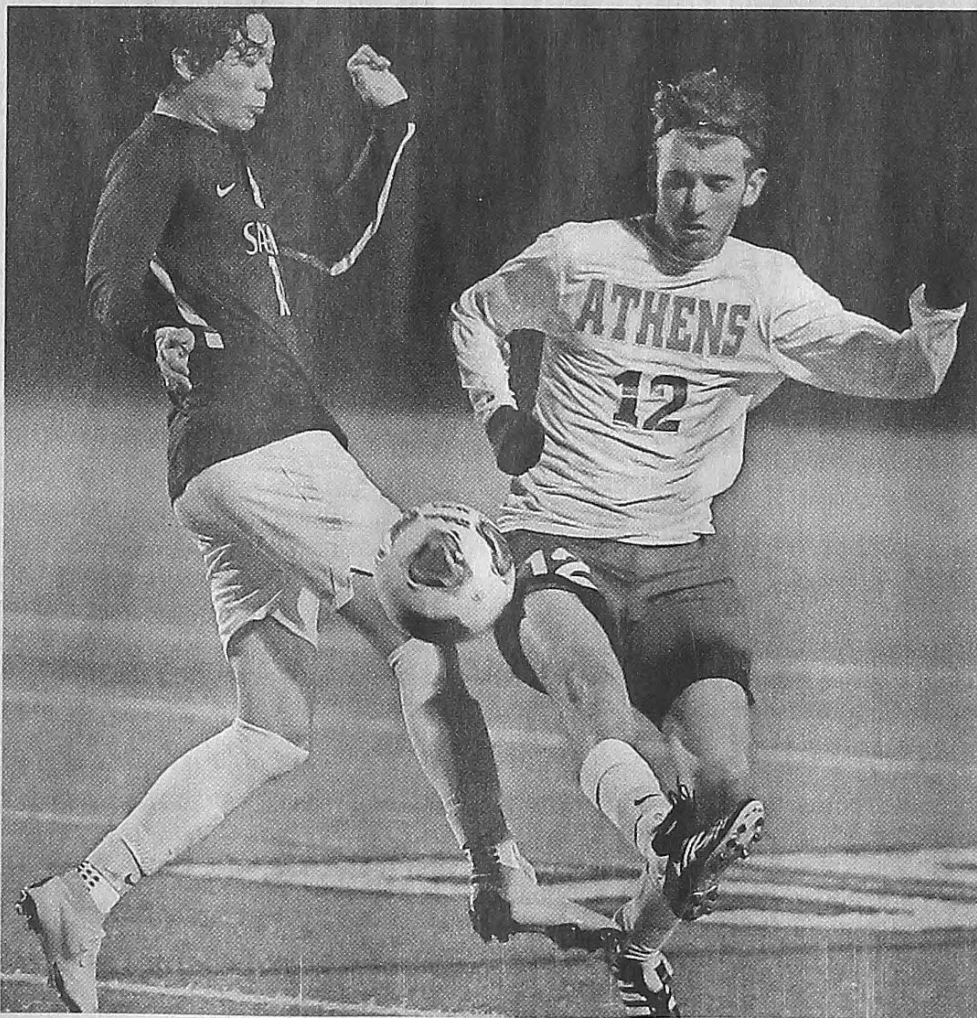
Question: How did it feel when you first found out there would be a season, with everything that is going on?

Deruvo: I was super ecstatic. As everyone can assume, a lot of use really did assume that we would not get a season, so we were very fortunate that it came into our favor, that we would get to have a season. We honestly didn't even care about the rules or regulations. We were willing to do whatever the MHSAA wanted us to do, so we're super, super excited.

Q: Do Salem's early-season performances match the expectation surrounding what this team was going to be in 2020?

Deruvo: I think so. We had a big group of returning players to varsity this year. We knew we kind of shocked a lot of people last year on how far we came. With our big supporting cast coming back, I think all of us had the confidence, and still do have the confidence knowing we can push further on into the state tournament and continue to do well in our conference.

Q: Do you feel like you have taken a step forward heading into your junior season?



Salem junior Anthony Deruvo, left, pictured facing Troy Athens in the playoffs in 2019, is Hometown Life's Athlete of the Week. JOHN HEIDER, FILE/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Deruvo: Now that I am getting older, I am slowly starting to become some sort of a leader with my team, along with my captains (Nolan Chaput) and Andrew Schwartz... I thought it could be possible. Last year, I had a really slow start to my season. It took six or seven games for me to actually get into my flow. This year, it kind of just struck me early and I just started to run with it. Our whole team did. We all have our positive vibes and continue to just play good.

Q: What is the expectation for Salem soccer in 2020?

Deruvo: Our goal is to make it to the finals, make it to where we were last year, and then surpass that.

Q: What are some things that interest you off the soccer field?

Deruvo: I like playing Xbox with my

close friends and I love fishing, too.

Q: Have you started to think about if you want to play soccer at the next level?

Deruvo: I think it would be a very cool thing if I had the opportunity to play in college, but it is still undecided.

Q: What is one song you like to listen to before a game to get you hyped up?

Deruvo: I actually do something kind of different: I go on YouTube and watch highlights of like certain soccer players I aspire to be like somewhat... like Ronaldo, Neymar, old Wayne Rooney clips.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at [@ColinGay17](https://twitter.com/ColinGay17). Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

– moved the ball, ran off the ball and supported their offensive game plan.

"They got us in disarray," Zemanski said. "We got panicked a little bit, but Justus bailed us out three or four times."

Flowers' score in the middle of the second half ignited an offense Canton had previously seen in 2020, having scored 11 goals in the first six games.

However, Zemanski's focus and goal for the offense is for it to be quick, to rely on limited touches and using speed to put players in better positions to succeed.

"We just need to play quicker and move off the ball better," Zemanski said. "That's what we need to do. Most of the times when we did that, we create chances. When you don't play fast against good teams and you don't play quick, you don't move off the ball before it's delivered, you don't get any opportunities."

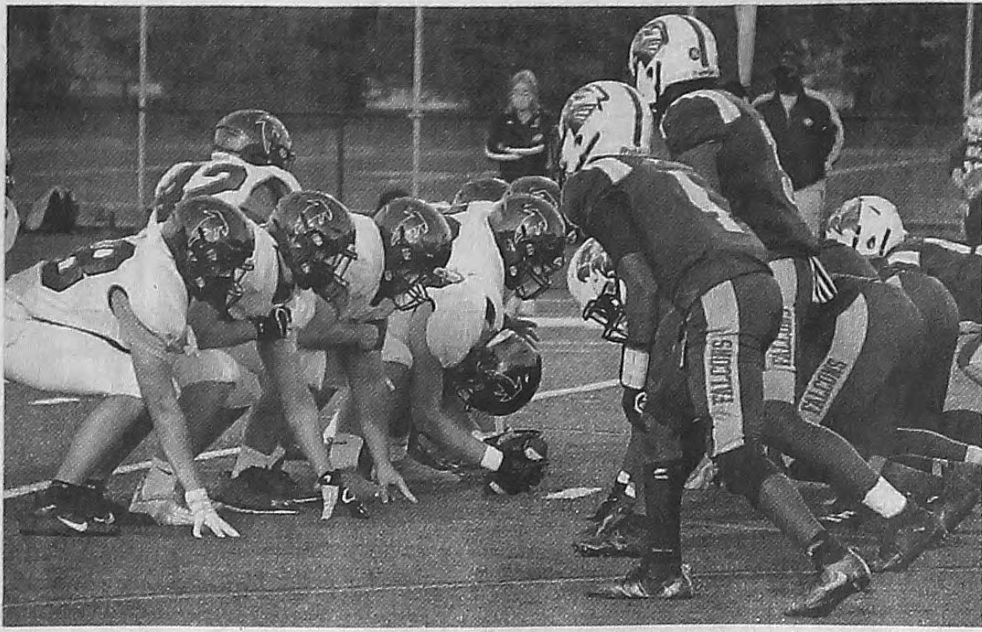
In the middle of the second half, a collision near goal gave Salem a chance to break the tie, but junior forward Anthony Deruvo missed the penalty kick wide right.

Zemanski said he leaves the field pleased with the outcome, having allowed five goals all season and earning ties against Brighton, Novi and Salem: teams considered to be in the hunt for the top of the KLAA West.

Leaving for the first time in 2020 without an official win, Karns said Salem will continue to move forward through the tightly packed regular season and hope that a team filled with returners from the deep playoff run in 2019 can continue the magic at the right time.

I think the boys get it. Being a part of what we were doing last year and where we ended up, we return a lot of the guys. And they get it," Karns said. "If they are asked to wear a mask, if they are asked to do this, they do it because they know the potential that's there to do something special."

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Birmingham Groves players, left, line up for an extra point against Farmington at Farmington High School on Sept. 17. Groves won, 42-31.

Gay

Continued from Page 1B

"I was riding over here and I felt ... I felt exhausted, and I think our guys felt really tired," Flaherty said.

Flaherty knows what his players have been through. He knows the roller coaster of emotions balanced with online schooling and the reality of a pandemic.

And while football proved to be a continued respite from the world surrounding players and coaches, the unprecedented circumstance in which the 2020 season is occurring continued to rear its head on opening night.

Adjusting to differences

As both teams filed into the stadium for the season opener, three weeks later than normal, coaches attempted to create an atmosphere that was familiar to the players.

Music piped into Falcon Field at Farmington High School, filling the players' ears with messages of determination, of adrenaline.

But as each song faded, silence ensued, highlighting a sparse crowd of mostly mask-wearing parents, with the MHSAA allowing each game participant only two tickets for each game.

As the game began, instead of stands filled to the brim and overflowing with student sections and pep bands, sideline cheerleaders attempted to rouse together a level of energy remembered from games past to a countable crowd of spectators.

On the field, without any time to practice and prepare against another opponent, Flaherty described the first half as "kind of a scrimmage," likening it to the preseason scrimmage Groves has held with Saline in recent years.

In the second half, Flaherty said the mentality switched to "first game of the season" mode, trying to figure out how this offense, this defense, this team can work together and actually win games.

Flaherty felt, over the past two weeks, he had jammed everything in, adding to the level of exhaustion between players

Instead of stands filled to the brim and overflowing with student sections and pep bands, sideline cheerleaders attempted to rouse together a level of energy remembered from games past to a countable crowd of spectators.

and coaches alike.

"It was like, 'Let's go see what we got,'" he said.

Players from both teams took the field, ready to show what they could do.

However, the reality of the pandemic continued to cloud the normalcy of a high school football season, with many players following Michigan state executive order 180, which states that players training, practicing or competing in an organized sport — other than swimming — must wear a facial covering.

For Groves senior running back Johnny Rex, he had trouble breathing in his first practices with it on. But it was something he got used to on the field after three practices with it on.

But once the whistle blew, football became that escape.

Holes on the line were either made or plugged up. Passes were thrown. Catches were made.

As the buzzer sounded at the end of 48 minutes, a winner and a loser left Falcon Field, just like any game.

It was football: the game. It was not football: the event — the thing that could shut down a town each Friday night, the thing that residents would be talking about until the next kickoff the next weekend.

Football: the event is normal. Football: the event will return eventually.

But it's not here yet.

Until then, we have to settle with football: the game. And that's all players and coaches wanted.

"It's so awesome that we can play," Flaherty said. "I'm just so happy about that: that these guys get to play football."

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

Cranbrook

Continued from Page 1B

with healthy kids," Cranbrook Director of Communication Clayton Matthews said. "After that, the biggest priority is to continue to provide in-person, quality educational experience. With the sports that have come back online, really what we have been doing is following the leads at the state level.

"We're looking to see that things remain under control as we take on more and more risk."

Matthews said that if it appears that high-risk sports are able to be played while minimizing the risk of the coronavirus during the two-week deliberation period, the school will revisit the decision.

Cranbrook Kingswood would be scheduled to miss games against the Cubs, Detroit Loyola and Macomb Lutheran North, making the Cranes ineligible for the Michigan High School Athletic Association postseason tournament.

Acting head coach and athletic director Stephen Graf told the Detroit Free Press the playoff impact is important, but the school is just making sure "it's safe for us to do."

Tracy Hall, the mother of senior defensive end and captain Bryce Hall, is extremely disappointed by the school's decision.

"Luckily Bryce has multiple collegiate offers to play football, but I know a lot of other kids that were looking to have some type of season to hopefully be able to play at the next level and get an athletic scholarship," she said. "Cranbrook is

just denying that and they keep saying 'We have the science behind our ruling,' but they don't share with anyone what the science is.

"Why doesn't Orchard Lake St. Mary's follow that science or why doesn't U of D follow that science. Other schools in our league are still playing and Cranbrook continues, in my opinion, to string our kids along."

However, Cranbrook football began practice last week, practicing each day from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., preparing for what could be, not what is known.

To Tracy Hall, she believes this could be a safety hazard and a health factor for the players as the school continues to wait to make a decision.

"Practicing for what at this point?" Hall said. "I really almost feel like, spare my kid the emotional turmoil and just say, 'We're not going to have a football season this year.'"

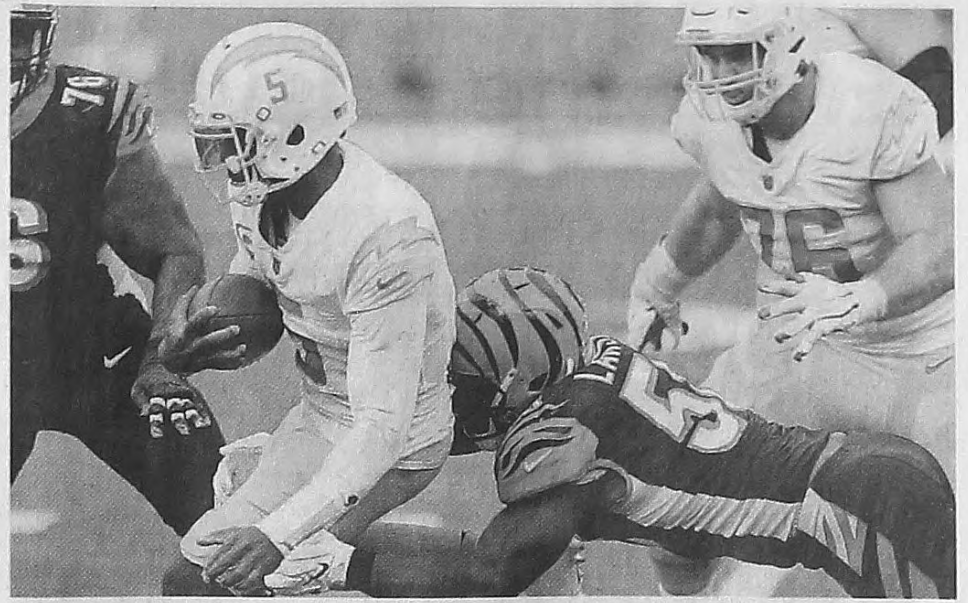
Kelly Lauer's son Drew, a tight end and middle linebacker, was hoping for a chance to show what he could do this fall.

As a junior, he broke his arm the second game of the 2019 season. While having hopes to play college football, Kelly said Drew wanted the opportunity to get playing time, to create highlights to send to possible recruiters at smaller schools.

Now, that opportunity may still be in the balance.

"We've been trying to keep morale up but it's hard," Lauer said. "It's demoralizing: they have been practicing, working so hard. They have had their ups and downs and they thought they would really get a chance to play."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @ColinGay17.



Chargers quarterback Tyrod Taylor (5) is tackled by Bengals linebacker Germaine Pratt (57) during the second half on Sept. 13.

JOSEPH MAIORANA/USA TODAY SPORTS

NFLPA investigating report that doctor accidentally punctured QB Taylor's lung

Lorenzo Reyes
USA TODAY

The NFL Players Association launched an investigation looking into a report that a Los Angeles Chargers team doctor accidentally punctured the lung of quarterback Tyrod Taylor before Sunday's loss against the Kansas City Chiefs while trying to administer a pain-killing injection.

NFLPA spokesperson George Atallah said the union's "medical and legal team have been in touch with Tyrod and his agent since Sunday collecting facts" and that they have started an investigation into the incident.

ESPN reported Wednesday that Taylor had suffered the punctured lung as a result of the injection.

Taylor was dealing with a rib injury suffered during a Week 1 victory against the Cincinnati Bengals, but he was expected to play in the Sept. 20 game against the Chiefs after going through his regular warmup routine.

When the Chargers took the field, however, rookie No. 6 overall selection Justin Herbert was under center, get-

ting the start in a surprise move. Midway through the first quarter of the game, the Chargers later listed Taylor as questionable with a chest injury. Later in the game, the team then listed Taylor as out.

Herbert completed 22 of 33 passes for 311 yards with one touchdown and one interception and helped L.A. take the defending Super Bowl champions to overtime before Kansas City prevailed, 23-20.

"Prior to kick off, Tyrod Taylor experienced difficulty breathing and was taken to the locker room for evaluation," the Chargers said in a statement after the game. "He was transported to the hospital shortly thereafter to undergo further evaluation. Taylor (chest) has since been discharged from the hospital. His status for next Sunday's game will be determined later in the week."

On Monday, Chargers coach Anthony Lynn defended the team's handling of the matter and offered support for Taylor.

"If Tyrod is 100 percent, he's our quarterback," Lynn said.

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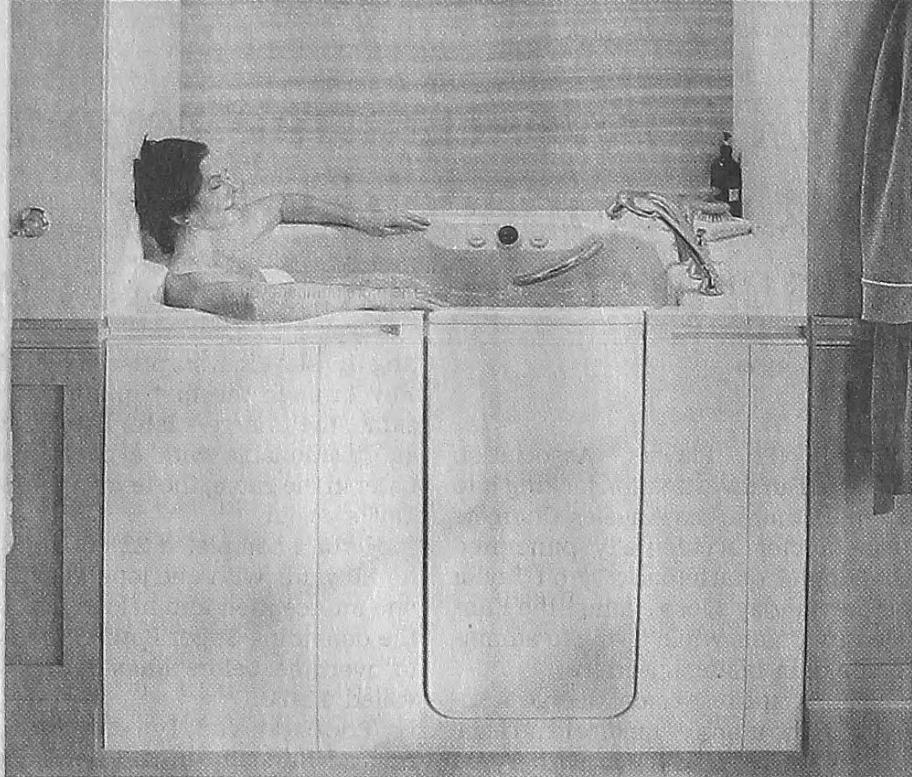
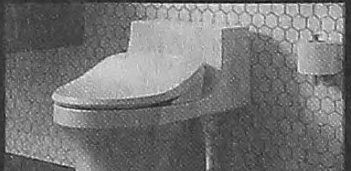
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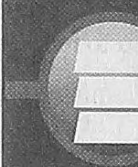
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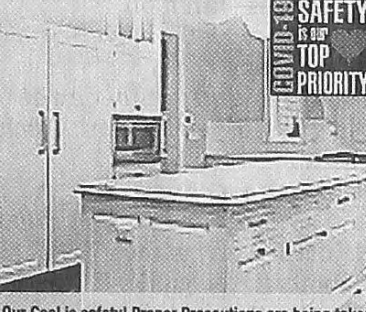


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