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CANTON

# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

ELECTION 2020

## Record number of absentee ballots expected

**Shelby Tankersley, Susan Bromley and Ed Wright**  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

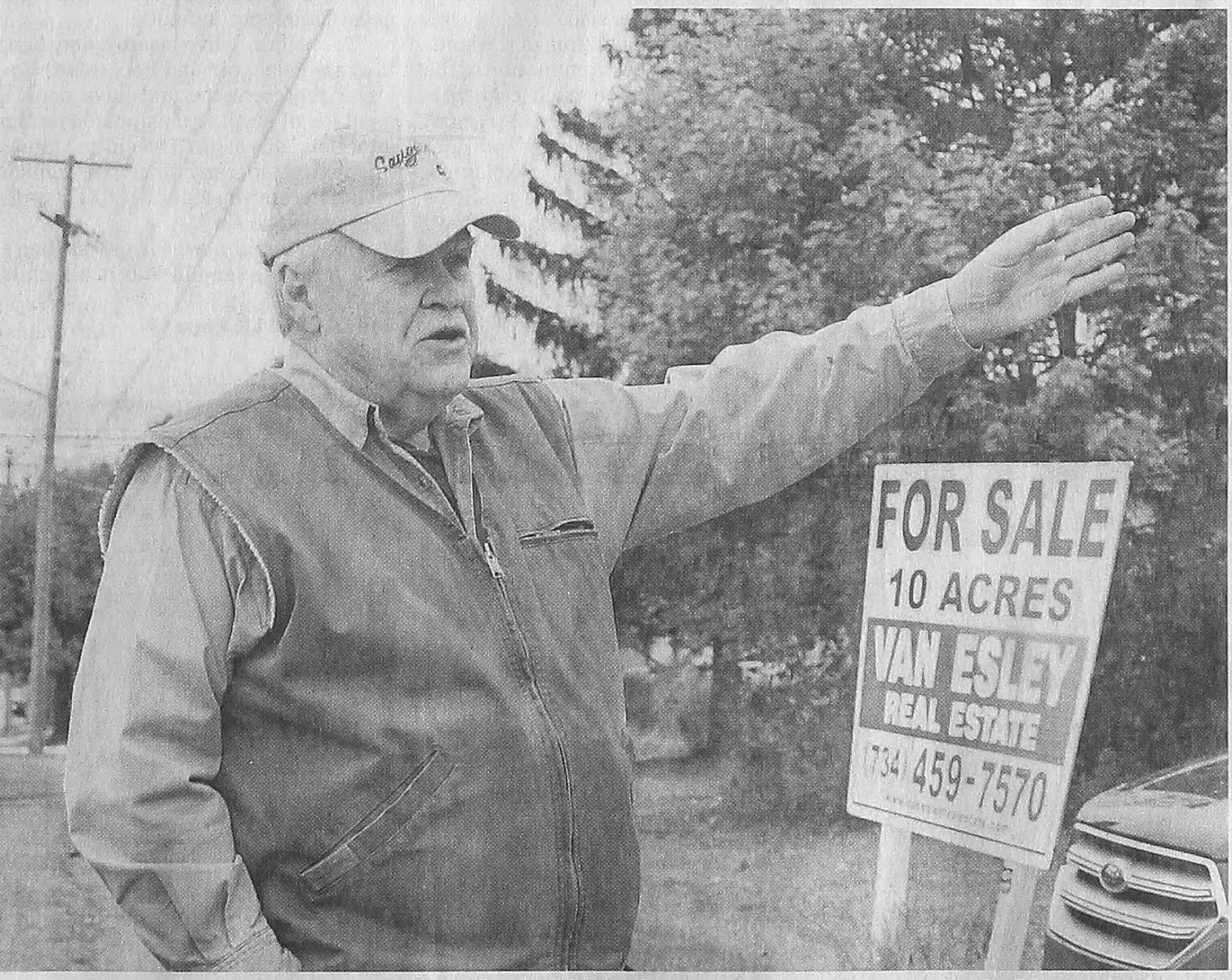
Election Day is almost here, and voters across the country have been busy filling out ballots in advance of the Nov. 3 presidential election.

Most expect record-breaking absentee ballots cast this election, in large part due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. That, coupled with a sharply-divided electorate focused on the presidential election and changes to Michigan voting laws making it easier for adults to vote, have local election clerks scrambling to make sure everything is

ready for what is expected to be a hectic day. In Farmington Hills, more than half the 65,760 registered voters requested an absentee ballot. As of Oct. 22, the city issued 34,171 absentee ballots with 22,501 returned. That's far more than the 14,921 absentee ballots in the 2016 general election or the 18,833 absentee

ballot votes in the August primary election this year. City Clerk Pam Smith said she was anticipating processing of approximately 40,000-plus absentee ballots total for this election with the city averaging 300-600 ballots returned daily.

**See BALLOTS, Page 7A**



Home developer Mike Heath is hoping to build about six home sites on property along Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Developer focuses on homes for long-vacant Westland site

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After years of trial and error, homes may finally get built near Cooper Upper Elementary in Westland. Westland City Council recently approved a parcel split for an about-10-acre property on Ann Arbor Trail between its intersections with Middlebelt and Inker roads. A number of developers have tried to turn the space into a subdivision in the past, but wetlands made that near impossible. The site is also near the old Cooper School land, which posed some environmental concerns in the early 1990s. "You can't really build on a wetland unless you've mitigated it, which is



The project's acreage sits near the former Cooper Elementary School property.

**See HOMES, Page 6A**

## New Livonia Biggby Coffee gets approval

**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coffee is coming back to Plymouth and Middlebelt roads. After some reworks and changes made to plans that originally concerned members of the Livonia Planning Commission earlier this year, the city council gave its final approval for a planned Biggby Coffee to locate in a building on the southeast corner of the intersection. The council approved a waiver petition for the Michigan-based coffeehouse to locate in the building that houses an urgent care clinic during its regular meeting. The approval paves the way for franchise owner and Livonia resident Ed Buison to begin work on the space and open the coffeehouse, which is also expected to have a drive-thru. Buison, who also owns the Biggby Coffee shop at Ann Arbor Road and Newburgh in Livonia, said conditions

**See BIGGBY, Page 6A**

## Canton police facing fewer complaints

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Canton Police Department already was investigating complaints of police misconduct when the Black Lives Matter movement swept the nation. Chief Chad Baugh would watch the protests unfold after a May incident where Minneapolis police officers attempted to arrest a Black man with one of them kneeling on his neck for several minutes. It was a move that proved to be fatal, and Baugh would label those officers' actions "the definition of a depraved heart." In contrast, he witnessed a peaceful protest including three members of his department as it wound through Canton's Sunflower subdivision.

**See POLICE, Page 7A**

# Beloved PCCS employee dies unexpectedly

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools family is mourning the unexpected death Oct. 22 of Cathy Lopez, who worked for the district as an administrative assistant for special education finance.

In addition to her most-recent position with Plymouth-Canton schools Lopez was a beloved paraprofessional at Hoben Elementary School.

"Cathy was an amazing paraprofessional with our son, Roger Jr. (who has autism), from kindergarten to third grade," wrote Amy and Roger Gassman, Roger's parents in a tribute to Lopez. "She was one of the main reasons Roger had a successful mainstream experience at Hoben Elementary."

"Cathy was his 'school mom' and became a dear friend to our family. Roger would not be where he is today without her love, support and spirit."

Lopez earned degrees in accounting and finance from Central Michigan University, according to her LinkedIn page.

Lopez was a treasured member of Hoben's staff during her time there.

"Cathy will be remembered for her upbeat spirit and her will to help all out, students," the staff shared in an email. "She would go above her job and come up with ideas to assist in students learning that our team would implement because it made sense and was good for kids. She was a woman we all admired."

"She always had a smile on her face and would delight in telling stories of funny things our little ones said or did. When working with her things always went smoothly and you never had to suggest things twice because she always did what was best for our children at Hoben. She was a really special person and role model for us all. She will be greatly missed."

*eawright@hometownlife.com*



Cathy Lopez is pictured with student Roger Gassman Jr. at Hoben Elementary. SUBMITTED

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## State sues Arbor Hills landfill owners

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With the hulking profile of Salem Township's Arbor Hills landfill looming over her shoulder, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced during a Friday news conference that she filed litigation against Advanced Disposal Services, the owner of the landfill, alleging approximately 30 odor-related violations over the past five years.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in Ingham County Circuit Court, Nessel said.

Nessel said if ADS continues its non-compliance of the state's environmental laws, it will face significant, six-figure fines.

Continued failure to comply could lead to shutting down the landfill, she added.

"The violations have contributed to nuisance odors that have plagued nearby residents for far too long," Nessel said. "People in this area have had to endure the stench emanating from the landfill for years, leaving them to suffer from nausea, headaches and sore throats. This problem must stop."

Water released from the landfill potentially can leak into Johnson's Creek, which runs adjacent to the property, ultimately leading to contaminated groundwater, Nessel said.

"Liners along the bottom of the landfill should prevent contamination of the groundwater, but if too much leachate is allowed to accumulate on the liners, they fail and can lead to groundwater contamination," Nessel explained. "This lawsuit seeks to fix the problems once and for all and ensure that we have a comprehensive solution that protects the public and the environment. We will hold Advanced Disposal accountable with significant civil fines, as well."

When asked about the timing of the lawsuit coming less than two weeks before the November election, Nessel said "we've been working on this for a long time. We've been looking for additional data from EGLE about the perpetual violations ... and that data came in last week."

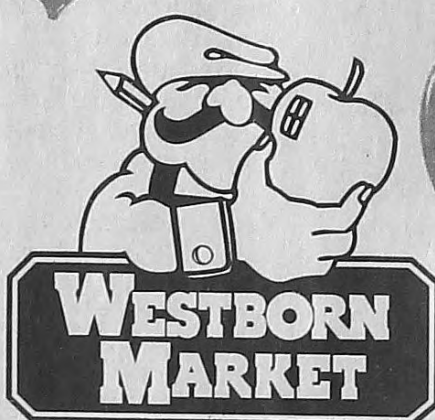
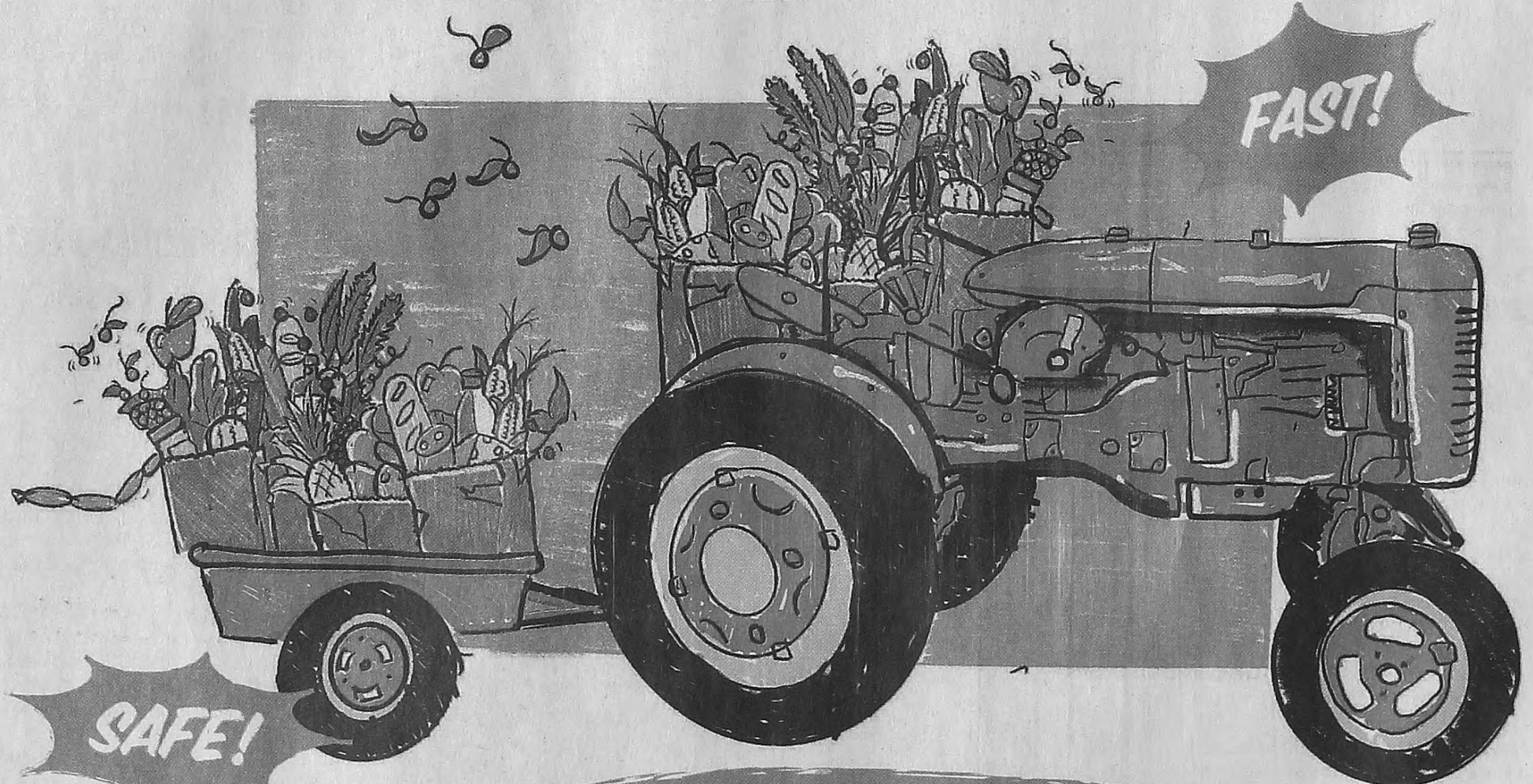
Nessel said she is acutely aware of the landfill's violation-littered past in part because she lives five minutes from the Northville Township park where the news conference unfolded.

"To be fair, I live nearby and Sen. (Dayna) Polehanki and Rep. (Matt) Koleszar represent me and have done a great job of keeping me updated on the situation," she said. "The entire state is my district, so if my office sees similar violations anywhere in the state, my office is ready to act."

Monya Ibrahim, who lives less than a mile from the landfill and has a child

See LANDFILL, Page 6A

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# Livonia schools report 14 COVID-19 cases

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Since some students and staff have returned to in-person instruction in the Livonia Public Schools district, few students and staff have contracted COVID-19.

According to data compiled from each school's website Tuesday, eight students and six staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 since Oct. 12.

The district returned some students to in-person instruction Oct. 5 after

holding the first month of school online. Throughout September, teachers worked from empty classrooms to teach students virtually.

Of the eight students to test positive, two attend Churchill High School, four attend Stevenson High School, one attends Holmes Middle School and one attends Coolidge Elementary. Among the six staff members, four work at Churchill, one works at Franklin High School and one works at Roosevelt Elementary. The district updates case counts daily on each school's website.

"Since the school year began, we

have been working closely with the Wayne County Health Department and our intermediate school district Wayne RESA, to monitor local COVID-19 cases and positivity rates, as well as mitigation strategies in place in our schools," Superintendent Andrea Oquist said in an email. "We will continue this close collaboration with the health department, as they are able to provide expert guidance to school districts throughout the county."

In total, the district employs nearly 2,000 people and teaches over 14,000 students. However, some staff and stu-

dents are enrolled or working with Livonia Virtual, an all-online program families could choose to enroll in this school year.

"LPS will remain vigilant as we continue to utilize the safety practices as outlined in our plan approved by the county and sincerely thank our students, staff and families for how well each has followed the measures in place," Oquist said. "This has truly been a collective effort."

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

## COVID-19 outbreak ongoing at Canton school

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The state is reporting no new COVID-19 outbreaks this week for western Oakland County and western Wayne County schools.

However, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Monday report, Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton still qualifies as an ongoing school outbreak.

The Joy Road school made the list of new outbreaks on Oct. 19. To make the "ongoing" status, there must be at least one new associated case within the last 28 days.

The state's Monday report identifies Plymouth Christian as having a reported seven cases thus far related to both staff and students.

Novi High School in Novi, Lutheran Westland High School in Westland, and Madonna University in Livonia no longer appear on the ongoing outbreak list.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com).

## COVID-19 case delays in-person learning at Canton elementary

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Face-to-face learning for fourth- and fifth-grade students at Workman Elementary School in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district will be delayed until Nov. 9 after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19, a district spokesperson confirmed.

All third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students in the district were scheduled

to begin a hybrid face-to-face learning model on Monday.

Third-grade students at Workman started face-to-face learning as scheduled on Monday. Plymouth-Canton kindergartners, first-graders and second-graders were phased into a face-to-face learning plan last week.

In addition to the case at Workman, Tonda and Gallimore elementary staff each reported one positive COVID-19 result, according to the district's school

cases dashboard.

The Gallimore case was reported on Oct. 24 while the Tonda case was confirmed Oct. 25.

Three Canton High School students and one staff member have tested positive for COVID-19 since Oct. 17.

The Board of Education will discuss a plan that would allow for the return of middle school and high school students to in-person learning during a virtual workshop 7 p.m. Monday.

## Four communities track higher weekly case increase

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Confirmed COVID-19 cases increased by up to 9% in all of Hometown Life's western Wayne County communities this past week.

Hometown Life analyzed county data for Thursday, Oct. 15, to Thursday, Oct. 22. Canton Township experienced the biggest jump of 8.9%.

As the state surpassed 150,000 cases, there were five COVID-19 deaths

during the same period for western Wayne County. There was one each in Livonia and Canton and Redford townships and two in the Northville region.

Countywide, there were 21,213 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,333 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, with nursing homes accounting for about 5% and 36% of the respective categories.

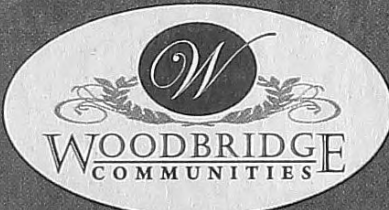
For this Thursday-to-Thursday analysis, the percentages for cumulative case increases were slightly higher in Canton and Redford townships, and

in Garden City and the Northville region.

Here's how the confirmed case counts increased for the latest Thursday-to-Thursday analysis:

- Plymouth city and township, 6.7%
- Northville city and township, 4.8%
- Garden City, 4.7%
- Livonia, 3.4%
- Westland, 3.2%
- Wayne, 2.8%
- Redford, 2.3%

[svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com)



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## Proposition 1 would change park funding and how it's spent

Keith Matheny Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A coalition that includes almost every major environmental organization in Michigan, hunting and fishing groups and the Michigan Oil and Gas Association is an unusual one. But those are the groups endorsing Proposition 1, on the statewide Michigan ballot this election.

The proposal would change Michigan's constitution to modify how parks and other natural areas are funded. It doesn't raise taxes, but modifies some provisions in how designated park and natural area money can be spent, and how much is spent where.

Prop 1 involves the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, which has provided more than \$1.1 billion in grants to local governments and state agencies for natural land protection and public outdoor recreation since its inception in 1976. The fund was built up from royalties on oil, gas and mineral production on state-owned lands.

Among the big-ticket purchases through the trust fund were more than \$34 million in land acquisitions for Detroit RiverWalk, William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor and Dequindre Cut pathway in Detroit in 2011.

In May 2011, the Natural Resources Trust Fund reached \$500 million, triggering a state constitutional provision designating all further such royalties to instead flow to the State Park Endowment Fund, providing funding to Michigan's 103 state parks and recreation areas. The Natural Resources Trust Fund now relies on interest and earnings from the trust fund for its annual grants, about \$15 million to \$20 million per year.

The Natural Resources Trust Fund currently can spend a maximum of 25% of its grants on developing,

See PROPOSITION 1, Page 6A

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## First-time candidates seek 21st District state House seat

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton Township residents Laurel Hess and Ranjeev Puri have a lot in common.

Both are engaging, well-educated, successful professionals who are friends on Facebook.

They each have two sons who they adore, impressive support systems led by their respective spouses, and they are both first-time political candidates.

Their most profound dissimilarity: Hess is a Republican, Puri a Democrat.

Oh, one more commonality: They both want your vote in the race for state representative in Michigan's 21st District, which is being vacated by three-term Democrat Kristy Pagan.

The state representative candidates' paths to politics are contrasting, to put it mildly. In 2008 and 2012, Puri, currently a business development manager at Chrysler, worked on the financial side of Barack Obama's Presidential campaigns.

He joked that while most businesses focus on their bottom line, he was required in 2012 to spend the \$1 billion raised for the re-election campaign, "or I wasn't doing my job. With campaign financing, you don't want \$1 left once election day arrives."

If Puri wins the election, he will become the first person of color to represent the district that covers most of Canton, all of Belleville and most of Van Buren Township.

Hess, a small-business owner/school teacher/former broadcaster, was inspired to run for office due to her displeasure (to put it mildly) with the government's speed at which it distributed Paycheck Protection Program funds to small businesses — Hess and her husband, Eric, own Canton's Jungle Java — in the wake of the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic.

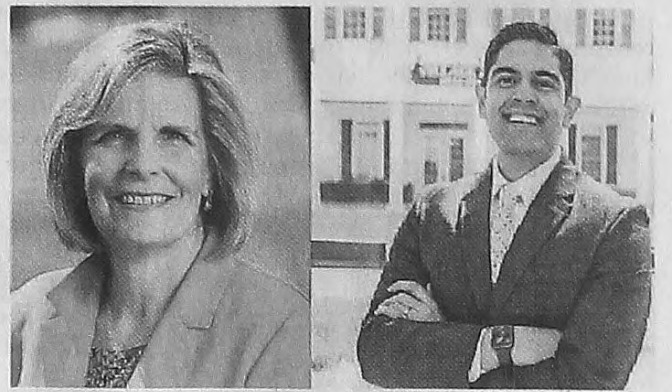
Getting involved in politics wasn't on Hess's "things I'd like to tackle in life" radar until COVID-19 emerged, threatening her family's livelihood.

Both candidates' political journeys are paved with emotion.

The day after Obama defeated Mitt Romney in the 2012 Presidential election, he made a rare appearance at his Chicago campaign headquarters to thank his staff.

"The President came into my office, looked me right in the eye, smiled that million-dollar smile, kind of pointed at me and essentially told me, 'It's your turn. This is as far as I can go. It's your turn to go out into your community and give them what they need, be their voice of change,'" Puri recounted.

Hess has encountered a few tear-shedding political moments herself, the most memorable unfolding



Laurel Hess and Ranjeev Puri are running for Michigan's 21st District state representative seat. SUBMITTED

during a conversation with a woman she had never met at a non-political charity event this past summer.

"She looked at me and asked, 'Are you the owner of Jungle Java?'" Hess recalled. "She had heard about my story on social media or from a friend of a friend."

Campaigning for first-time office seekers is tough even during pre-global pandemic times. Getting your message out during the age of social-distancing and get-the-heck-off-my-porch limitations is a challenge both Hess and Puri have tackled with positive attitudes and creative thinking.

"We haven't knocked on one door since March when it became clear how dangerous the virus was going to be," Puri said. "Everything we do is virtual or with very, very strict social distancing."

Puri filed for his candidacy in spring 2019, putting Hess approximately one year behind the eight ball in the fundraising department. Hess has utilized good old-fashioned friendships to try to make up for lost ground, she explained.

"I am beyond grateful for the support my family and friends have given me," she said. "I have been super-blessed. Some of my closest friends approached me and said, 'I'm going to make it my mission to do whatever I can to help you win.'"

In another it's-a-small-world anecdote, Hess's brother-in-law, Scott Hess, formerly worked with Puri's wife, Nidhi, in Chicago.

"So, more than likely, Ranjeev and I were both commenting on the same Facebook posts long before we were running against one another," said Hess, who revealed one more shared interest.

"We've both agreed that this is going to be a clean, cordial race."

May the best first-timer win.

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

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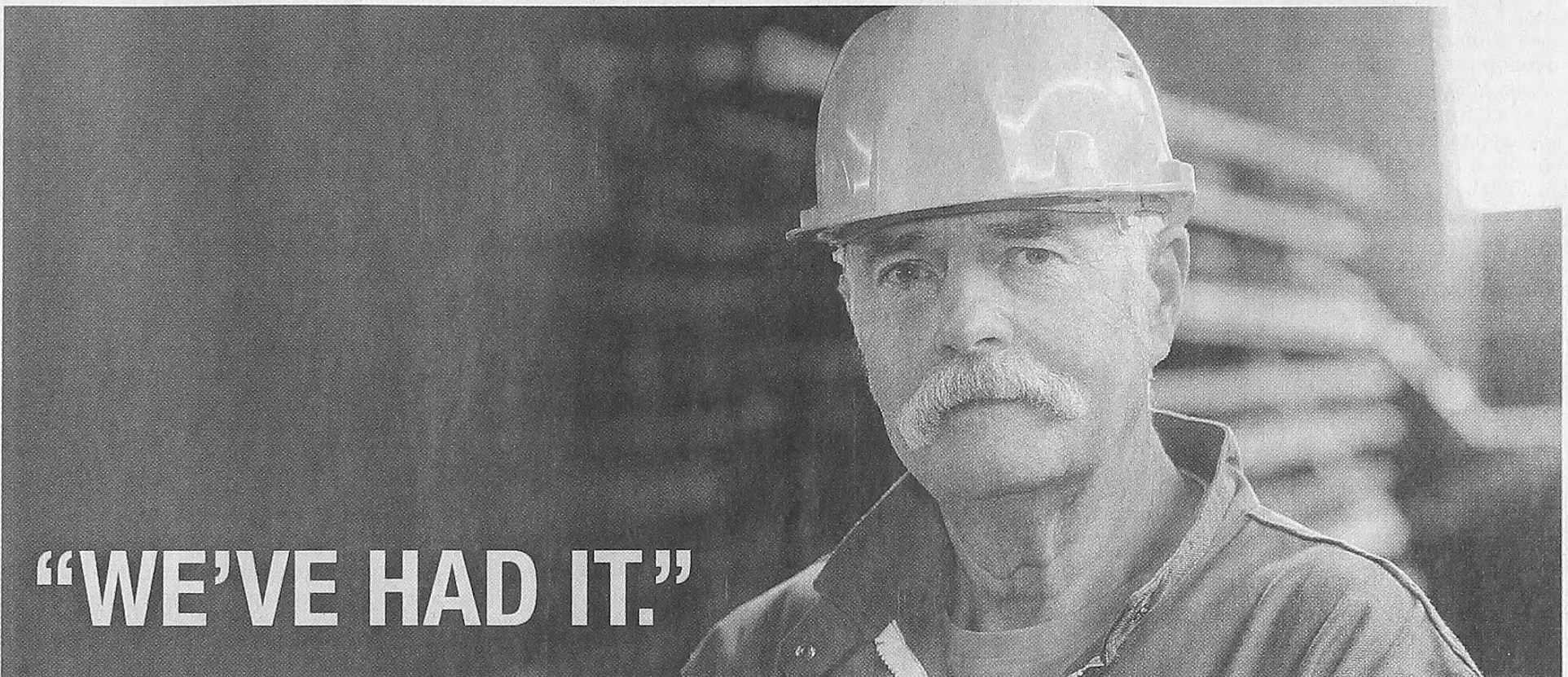
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**“I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election.”**  
 – President Donald Trump (Twitter, 10/06/2020)

**The President abandoned millions of hard-working Americans** in need when he ordered his team to halt all negotiations on COVID relief.<sup>1</sup>

The President promised us that he would lead negotiators to a deal.<sup>2</sup> He personally committed to protecting pensions and retirement security for millions of workers and small businesses who are now in danger because of the failed COVID response, faltering economy and no fiscal stimulus. Instead, he used his power to instruct his staff and GOP leadership to stop doing their jobs for the American people and, once again, **turn their backs on us.**<sup>3</sup>

The Labor Department has reported that long-term unemployment has spiked to record highs with no end in sight.<sup>4</sup> Our health, livelihoods and **pensions are all at risk.** President Trump did not honor his commitment to us. His wealthy friends get favors<sup>5</sup> while workers are, once more, told to wait.

At North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU), we pride ourselves on working with both political parties. We hold our elected officials to their word, especially when they promise to improve the lives of working Americans. At every turn, the **President has consistently failed** the construction industry, all frontline essential workers and, indeed, the entire nation.

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— Sean McGarvey  
 President, North America’s Building Trades Unions

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**HardHatsForAmerica.org**

**Check the Facts:**

1. *Twitter*, Oct. 6, 2020, 2:48 pm; see also Andrew Taylor and Amer Madhani, *Trump halts COVID-19 relief talks until after election*, Associated Press, Oct. 7, 2020.
2. Erica Werner and Rachael Bade, *Trump calls for large stimulus checks, massive aid package despite GOP resistance*, Washington Post, Sept. 17, 2020.
3. *Twitter*, Oct. 6, 2020, 2:48 pm; see also Andrew Taylor and Amer Madhani, *Trump halts COVID-19 relief talks until after election*, Associated Press, Oct. 7, 2020.
4. Niv Elis, *Long-term jobless figures rise, underscoring economic pain*, The Hill, Oct. 7, 2020.
5. Camilo Maldonado, *Trump Tax Cuts Helped Billionaires Pay Less Taxes Than The Working Class In 2018*, Forbes, Oct. 10, 2019; Christopher Rugaber and Calvin Woodward, *AP Fact Check: Trump’s ‘middle-class miracle’ favors wealthy*, Associated Press, Dec. 21, 2017.

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## Landfill

Continued from Page 2A

who attends nearby Ridgewood Elementary School, said she is grateful for the township's leaders whose persistence has resulted in the installation of an air-monitoring system next to the school.

"Living as close to the landfill as we do, we want to know what's in the air we're breathing in," she said. "There are days we can't even open our windows

the odors are so strong. It's about time the the landfill's owners are held accountable."

Ibrahim was adamant when asked if her family would consider moving out of Northville Township because of the odors emanating from the landfill.

"No, we will not move," she said. "We came to Northville for its diversity, safety and for what it stands for, and it does not stand for being a landfill township. We came here because it's a safe place for our children to be raised and we will continue to live here."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt

Heise said that while the odors can be smelled in his township, depending on the direction and strength of the wind, the bigger issue for his constituents is debris falling off trash-hauling trucks and the truck traffic that creates multiple issues.

"Northville gets the smell, we get the truck traffic," Heise said. "They're getting off at M-14 and Beck Road, jamming up traffic, breaking down all the time, tearing up Five Mile Road, creating a lot of congestion at Five and Beck and, most importantly at Beck and M-14. The truck traffic is a real pain for us."

Ralph Lassel, president of a Northville Township group that collects data on the landfill's violations, paraphrased Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's pledge to fix Michigan's roads while thanking Nessel.

"Thank you, Attorney General Nessel, for taking measures to finally fix the damned dump," Lassel said.

Officials with the Arbor Hills landfill did not respond immediately to a phone message seeking comment.

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

## Proposition 1

Continued from Page 4A

renovating and redeveloping recreational facilities each year. Proposition 1 would lift that restriction and require that a minimum of 25% of annual grants go toward recreational facility development and renovation.

The ballot proposal also would lift the trust fund's \$500 million cap, and allow it to once again receive state-land mineral development royalties, once the State Park Endowment Fund reaches \$800 million. By some projections, that may not happen for another 30 years.

Proposition 1 was placed on the November 2020 ballot by unanimous votes of both the state House and Senate in December 2018.

Under the present system, once the State Park Endowment Fund reaches its \$800 million cap, "the money just flows out to the Legislature to do with whatever they want," said Conan Smith, president and CEO of the nonprofit Michigan Environmental Council in Lansing.

"(With Prop 1), all of those future revenues get captured for conservation," he said. "That was really the driving force for the environmental and conservation community."

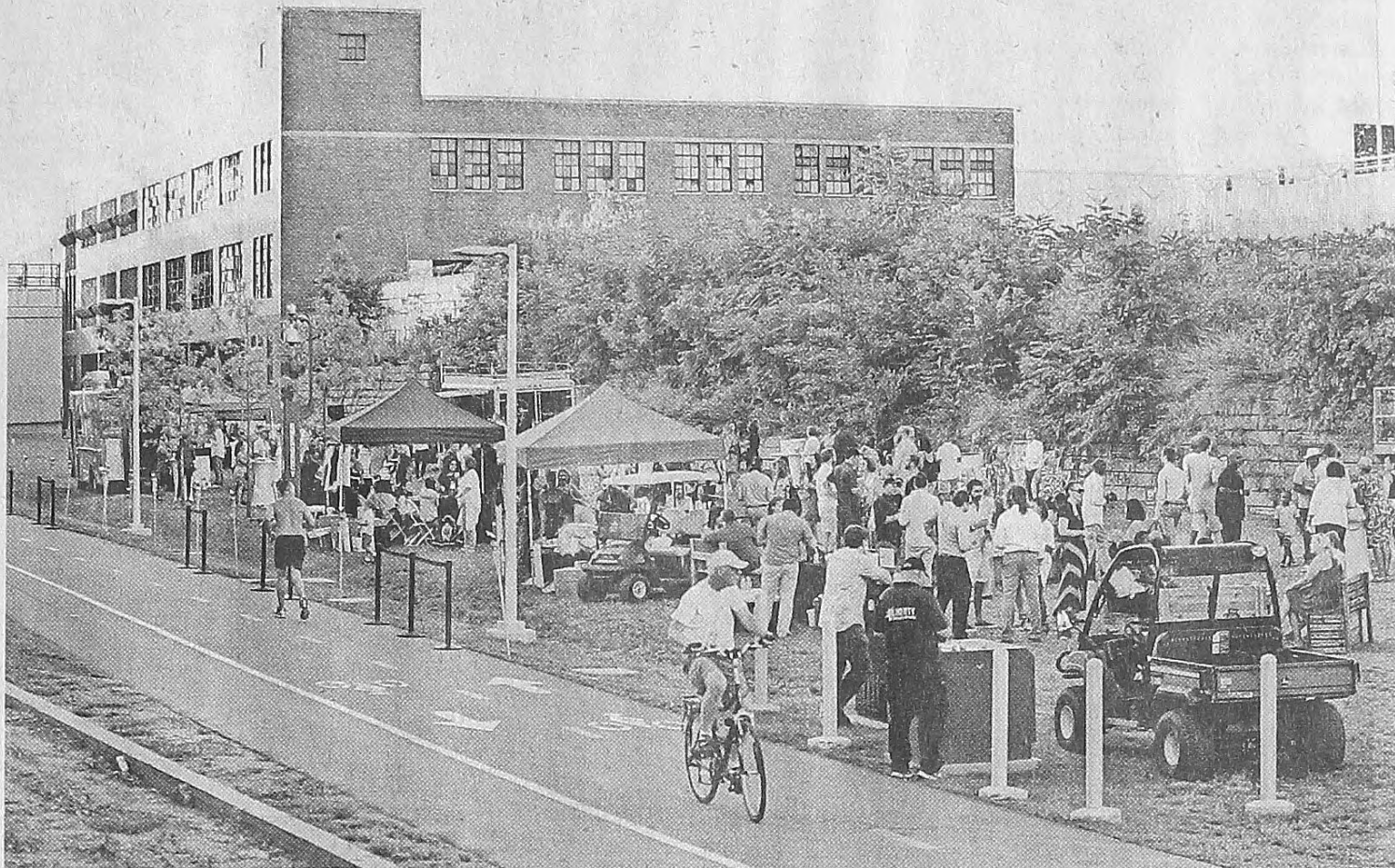
But there is not complete unanimity in the environmental community on Proposition 1. The Michigan Chapter of the nonprofit Sierra Club opposes the measure.

"As a matter of focus, it moves away from the purchase of land to maintenance and operation of facilities. And we think that's inconsistent with the purpose of the trust fund," said Marvin Roberson, forest ecologist with the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Operation and maintenance costs are "a never-ending, ever-increasing source of funding needs," he said.

"The price of paving parking lots and maintaining trails never goes down, and never ends. Taking a finite, limited, non-permanent source of revenue to try to plug that hole is not a good idea."

Smith, however, said that the idea that Prop 1 covers maintenance ex-



Detroit's Dequindre Cut trailway is among the projects created through the state Natural Resources Trust Fund.

JOHN FROELICH/SPECIAL TO DETROIT FREE PRESS

**"(With Prop 1), all of those future revenues get captured for conservation."**

**Conan Smith**  
President and CEO of the nonprofit Michigan Environmental Council in Lansing

penses is a "misunderstanding."

"The trust fund is barred from using funds for maintenance — always has been, and will continue to be," he said. "It increases the amount available for development and redevelopment. That's not maintenance in the construct of the law."

Michigan Oil and Gas Association President and CEO Jason Geer said of the trust fund, "We see it as a way for our

members to give back."

"We feel like we are a big part of it. If our businesses are having a good year, it's more money for the trust fund, more money to protect state land and provide public recreation."

Regarding Prop 1, Geer said, "We see the changes as reasonable, thoughtful and consistent with the original intent of the trust fund law."

Roberson, however, said parks and natural areas should be funded through the state's general fund.

"Now you've got pressure to develop oil and gas for the revenue, not on whether it's a good idea," he said.

Trust fund dollars are disbursed through a merit-based grant process, with trust fund staff evaluating each project and a five-member trust fund board that includes Michigan Depart-

ment of Natural Resources Director Daniel Eichinger submitting to the Legislature a priority list of lands recommended for acquisition and/or development.

If a local government or state agency, in its presentation to the trust fund board and its staff, demonstrates a history of poor maintenance of facilities, or an inability to keep them maintained, that's going to work against their receiving trust fund money for their project, said Rich Bowman, director of policy at The Nature Conservancy, a Lansing-based nonprofit that supports Prop 1.

"(But) if a facility is old and reached the end of its useful life, that's redevelopment," he said. "The trust fund process is not perfect, but it works really well. There are mechanisms in place to address these concerns."

## Biggby

Continued from Page 1A

on when concrete work outside the building can take place will affect when he hopes to open his doors. If his landlord can find workers to pour concrete before the winter, he hopes to open in early spring; if it can't be poured until 2021, he's looking at a later spring opening.

"Now that we have the full green light, so Mike, the owner, he's trying to work on the parking lot now," he said. "They're going to resurface it and they're going to restripe it and change the direction so it allows for better flow for the drive-thru."

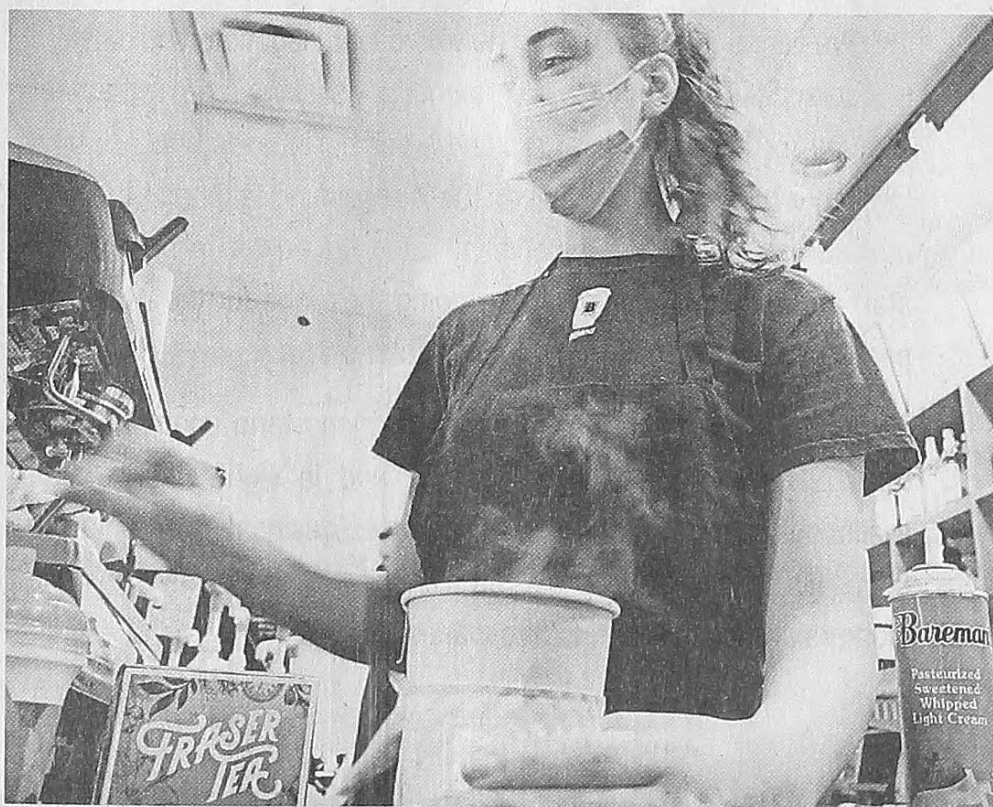
It took a few additional weeks to clean up some issues related to the drive-thru. Several planning commissioner members earlier this year were concerned about the plan and sent it back for some revisions before sending it on to the city council for its review and approval.

If the shop does open, it would mark a return of Biggby Coffee to that part of Livonia. A coffee shop formerly occupied across the street at Wonderland Village in the space where Smoothie King currently operates. Buisson said he hopes to have some similar features in the new store that he currently has, including a separate "study room," a popular space that sees students and other groups use throughout the year.

Several council members were excited at the prospect of bringing new business to that part of Livonia. Councilman Rob Donovic said such a move could inspire others to look at some of the other vacant properties in that area as well.

"I think this is a great opportunity to take a building, bring it back to life and hopefully stir up some future business across the street with the Walgreens parking lot and some other local businesses," he said. "These are the kind of partnerships I look forward to working with and I'm excited to see this building brought back to life."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com).



Biggby Coffee barista Laura Bisinger prepares a Fraser tea Oct. 21 in Livonia.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Homes

Continued from Page 1A

costly to do," Mohamed Ayoub, the city's planning director, explained. "So the finances to do that for a residential project oftentimes don't work out."

The property's most recent owner, Mike Heath, bought it in 2011. He plans to avoid the wetlands entirely and is currently looking to sell six parcels to small developers. Heath expects to hold onto the seventh parcel, which makes

up most of the property, for the near future.

"The property owner decided to stay away from the wetlands now that he knows 100% where they are," Ayoub said. "He did divide the property up into several developable residential lots and plans to build some pretty big homes on there."

Heath, now retired, previously worked in real estate marketing and thinks the land, part of the Livonia Public Schools district, will be perfect for families looking to upgrade their living situation.

"I think that void is still there," he said of upgrade homes in the city. "People are looking for newer homes and want to stay in the area."

Though he won't be developing the property himself, Heath said he expects the homes would be priced between \$250,000 and \$290,000 once finished. He hopes construction on some of the lots could start as early as next spring.

"I think the piece of property we're discussing is an attractive piece of property just because it kind of backs up to Hines Drive," Ayoub said. "I think there's kind of a cool opportunity there

for a residential thing."

Even if the space isn't well-suited for a subdivision, Heath sees no reason it can't be a place someone calls "home."

"It's just kind of nice to see this progressing after many, many years of failed attempts by developers and kind of figure out what's going on over there," Ayoub said. "I think they all realized at some point they can't really build a subdivision there."

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

## Police

Continued from Page 1A

Baugh said he saw the crisis as an opportunity to listen to and engage his community.

"I think as a law enforcement leader, it's important to listen," the chief said. "We're not here to take any side. We work for everyone. The Canton Police Department has to ensure justice is present. If someone comes to us, no matter what the issue is, we need to listen and understand that their voice needs to be heard."

"It's important that we allow that voice to occur. Otherwise, if you just shut everyone down, you're going to have the riots."

He's holding that same philosophy when reviewing the complaints filed against his approximately 90 officers, even though they typically are summarily dismissed with conclusions like "unfounded" or "cannot be validated."

### Maintaining a voice

"Our way of maintaining integrity of a police department is to provide a voice, a mechanism and a check-and-balance process to keep us mindful of people's perception," Baugh said. "We should understand that people sometimes perceive things differently, and that's what you see quite often in these complaints."

"They don't understand why the light sometimes gets shined right into their eyes. There are many different reasons why officers act the way they do, and sometimes the officer is wrong."

Through June 2020, residents and drive-through visitors formally documented 23 complaints against Canton's badged officers this year. That compares to 53 for all of 2019 and 70 for all of 2018.

The count of 23 for the first half of 2020 is significantly higher than the four complaints received by Hometown Life from Livonia police for a similar time period, but Baugh reasoned that his department takes and investigates "everything."

Canton's complaints range from alleged misconduct to claims that a police officer sped through a Meijer parking lot to disappointment that a stolen cat wasn't found sooner.

Hometown Life filed a Freedom of Information Act request over the summer for 2020 complaint responses in response to the protests throughout metro Detroit and received 29 internal complaint forms and responses. Some complaints were initially filed at the end of 2019.

A request for the original complaints was denied, and personal information



Residents of Canton's Sunflower subdivision marched peacefully through the neighborhood's streets on a summer day. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

was redacted.

The documents show that investigations can last several weeks, from the day a person files their complaint to the day the department sends a response.

The internal forms offer seven types of complaints: conduct, profiling, service, driving, policy/practice, response time and use of force. Most complaints were about conduct, and they included sometimes seemingly wild accusations.

For example, an apparent female accused an officer of searching her purse during a Walmart arrest and calling her a dope fiend and "Ms. Suboxone." Another person accused an officer of stealing \$220 from a pants pocket.

Less than a handful clearly accuse an officer of racist behavior or conduct. None were considered founded or valid by the police department.

"We were unable to substantiate that was true," Baugh said regarding one of the race complaints during a face-to-face interview. "The officer said no way. Then the reason for it was because of the driving behavior, the time of day, the night in the U-Haul in a parking lot at midnight in an area where sometimes we've seen ... drug trafficking."

The one use-of-force complaint accuses an officer of breaking the complainant's hand during a drunken driving arrest.

"The investigating supervisor interviewed the arresting officer and conducted a review of the officer's in-car camera, bodycam footage and booking room videos," the May 5 response letter stated. "The officer followed proper handcuffing protocol. The officer adjusted the handcuffs appropriately after they were reported to be too tight. There is no evidence to substantiate your

claim that your ... hand was broken while in the custody of the Canton Police Department."

Police wrote in their response that the complainant wasn't returning phone calls.

### Typical investigations

For 2020, Canton Police Department's internal investigators concluded all but five of the complaints were unfounded. According to their internal complaint forms, the three that were clearly "founded" or "founded in part" concerned ordinances or were dismissed to the complainant's satisfaction.

The internal forms have an area to document the citizen's satisfaction with the complaint's conclusion. Four had "no" responses. Seven had "yes" responses.

Baugh said his department has emphasized professionalism and training since he joined its ranks about 25 years ago. To mirror the high standards, investigation into the complaints can involve multiple interviews and viewing of body camera footage.

"A lot of times, we find that the video shows it didn't occur exactly the way as stated," Baugh said. "Just like any criminal investigation, we kind of mirror that when it comes to employee internal investigations. (We) check every possible source of information to see if there's any validity to it."

### Conclusions

The 29 internal complaint forms provided an area where investigators could have noted if the complaint led to action

taken. Most times, it was blank. There were four complaints leading to "verbal counsel," including one involving a school resource officer accused of "a breach in trust" and "drama." The one pertaining to the stolen cat resulted in more training for an officer.

The stolen cat complainant had said the initial officer on the case was dismissive and said "the cat probably ran away."

"The initial responding officer conducted an adequate investigation based on his experience and information presented at the time," the May response letter said. "Due to some additional information and a confession from the suspect, the crime was solved by a more skilled police officer."

While the complaints can lead to reprimands and termination, Baugh said the incidents prompting them can reveal that more work is needed.

"Sometimes, their skill set is not evolved yet," Baugh said. "A lot of times it's the other officers. They're just programmed. They know how to do the job. They know how to do it right (and) they're trained to do it right. It's just the way they convey the message."

"You have to polish it. It makes your life a lot easier for the officer because you don't have people complaining about you."

The internal complaint forms identify both the officers prompting the criticism and those in command at the time. No one for the first half of 2020 stood out as the main generators of the criticism.

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

## Ballots

Continued from Page 1A

In the neighboring Farmington, the city had issued 4,070 absentee ballots as of Oct. 22, making up 52% of the city's 7,885 registered voters. Of those issued, Clerk Mary Mullison said she's already received 2,590 back.

Though the city has a small population, this year's absentee ballot count already towers over the 1,719 absent votes cast in November 2016. It's also higher than the 2,322 absent ballots the city received in August.

Like his colleagues in Oakland County, Westland Clerk Richard LeBlanc is expecting a record number of absentee votes from the city's 66,461 voters. On Oct. 22, the city had received 5,699 absent ballot requests and already has 23,352 residents on a permanent absent voters list. So far, 7,116 of those ballots have already come back.

In August, the city received 13,485 absentee ballots for the primary election. In November 2016, the 10,160 residents voted absentee.

Livonia Clerk Susan Nash has 81,188 voters to count on Election Day. The clerk has been preparing for months to count more absentee ballots than ever before. On Oct. 23, Nash had issued 39,978 and was expecting to pass 40,000 soon.

So far, the city has received 27,057 ballots back and gets about 1,000 every day. Those numbers already surpass the 22,468 received during the August primary and the 15,753 received in November 2016.

Smaller than Westland and Livonia, the City of Wayne plans has issued 4,641 absent ballots this year to a portion of its 13,881 registered voter. So far, 2,837 residents have returned their ballot to the city.

Like surrounding communities, Clerk Tina Stanke said Nov. 3's election will deliver more absent ballots than years past. In August, Wayne received



An drop box behind the Canton Township Offices at 1150 S. Canton Center Road awaits absentee ballots. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

2,722 absentee ballots, and processed 1,214 in 2016's general election.

Canton Township Clerk Michael Siegrist noted that over 9,000 of the township's current absentee voters (38,375 had been sent and 24,640 received as of Oct. 23), did not vote in the 2016 general election.

"Canton Township had roughly 8,200 voters on the permanent application in 2016; we currently have 35,035," Siegrist said, acknowledging the uptick in voting interest. "Canton has the fifth-largest permanent absentee voters list in Michigan, behind only Detroit, Warren, Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor."

Canton has 74,807 registered voters, 20,528 of whom voted via absentee ballots in the August primary election. Siegrist said 14,220 Canton residents voted absentee in the 2016 general election.

Plymouth Township received 13,573 absentee-ballot requests for the Nov. 3

general election, 8,917 of those having been returned as of Oct. 22.

Just shy of 7,900 residents voted via the absentee method in the August 2020 primary election. Township Clerk Jerry Vorva said 6,500 residents voted absentee in the 2016 general election.

"The last day to have absentee ballots mailed out is Oct. 30," Vorva said. "The clerk's office will be open Saturday, Oct. 31, for residents to pick up ballots, which can be dropped off at the office on Monday, Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m."

Absentee voting has grown steadily in popularity in Plymouth since 2016, when 1,920 residents voted that way. As of Friday, Oct. 23, 2,809 of the 4,274 absentee ballots that were requested from the city's 8,287 registered voters for the Nov. 3 election had been returned.

Plymouth Clerk Maureen Brodie said 2,3 absentee votes were counted for the August primary election.

"For voters choosing to use the absentee/early-voting process and dropping off their ballot in a drop-box, they must return their ballot to their local clerk's office drop-box, especially as we get closer to election day," Brodie said. "If they aren't sure where their local drop-box is, it likely will be located at the address on the outside of their ballot envelope."

### Oakland County assist

Several Oakland County communities, including Farmington, Birmingham and South Lyon, have joined a county coalition creating a mass counting board. Mullison said the coalition will save Farmington money and help keep its election workers safe.

"We did that as a way to keep our absent voter counting board inspectors safe - our current facilities would not support appropriate social distancing," she said in an email. "Also, Oakland County offered to support this coalition at no cost to the city, which will reduce our election budget significantly."

South Lyon's Deaton agreed.

"That is a tremendous help to all the communities, especially because we are a small community and we normally do not have enough manpower to maintain the polls and an absentee counting board," Deaton said. "That is going to save many hours for our Inspectors on Election Day. We have a couple of our own Inspectors that have volunteered to work on the Oakland County Absentee County Board, they worked in August and they really enjoyed it."

Bingham said the assistance is "crucial" help from Oakland County's "massive" absentee counting board.

"They have more space, people and high-speed tabulators that can accurately count ballots significantly faster than we would be able to," she said. "With the significant increase in absentee voting since March of 2020 this partnership with the county is necessary, more cost effective and more efficient."

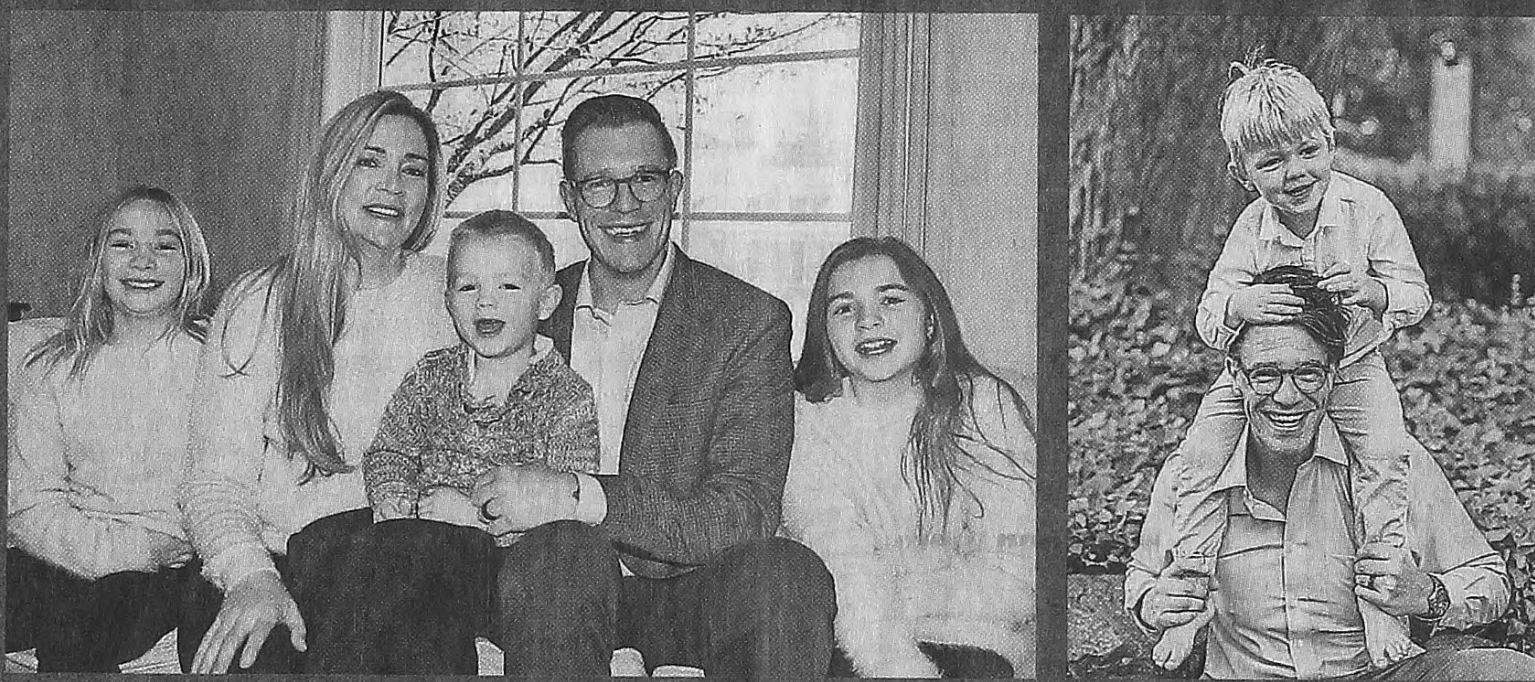
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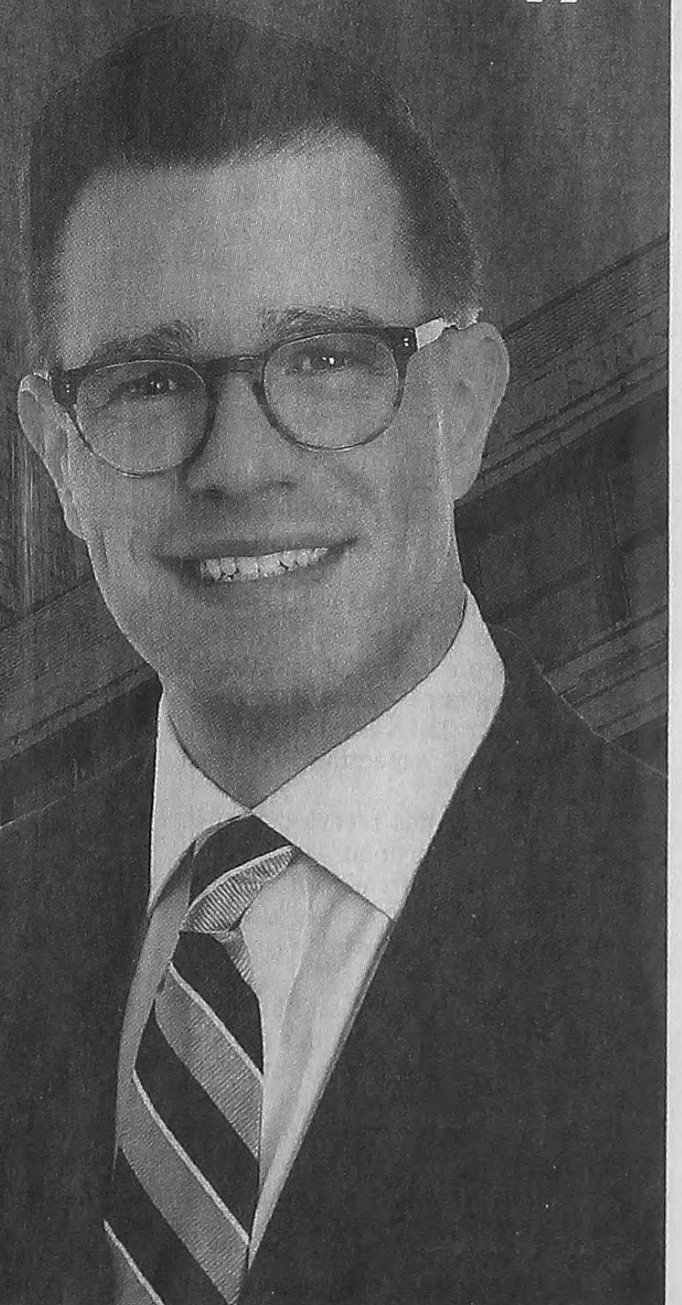
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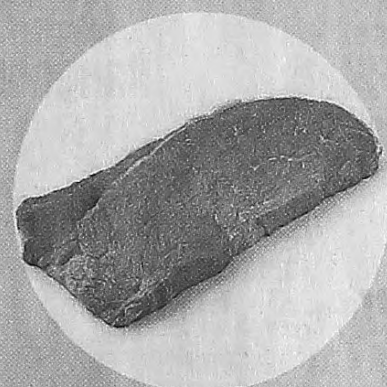
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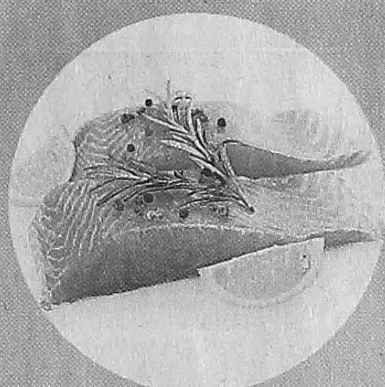


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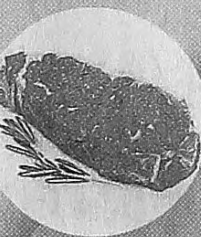
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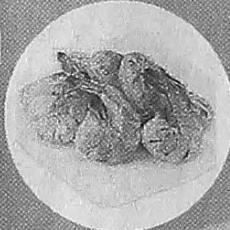
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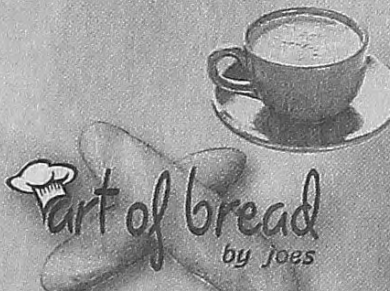
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# SPORTS

## Catholic Central wins Catholic League title

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

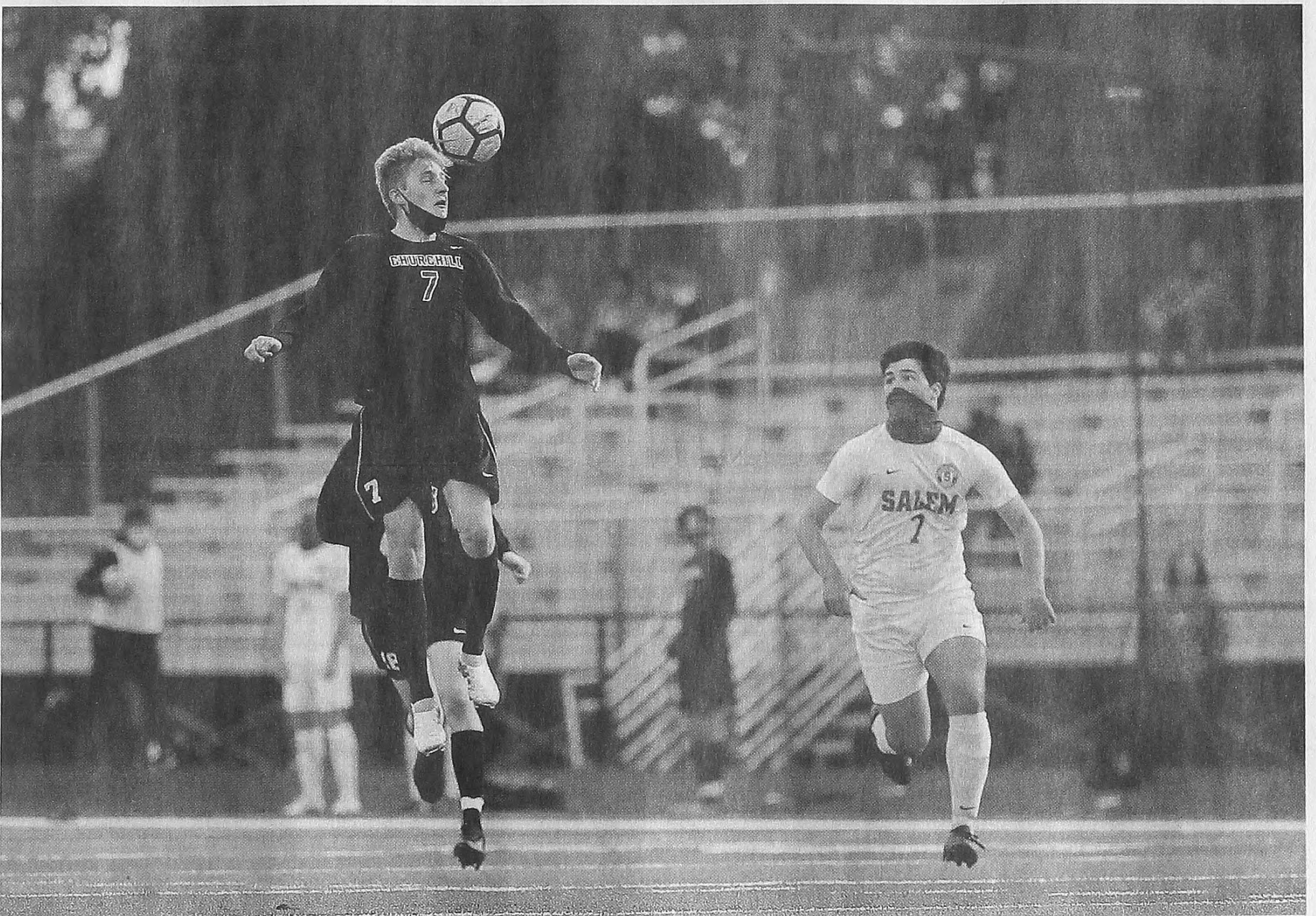
Despite heading into the Catholic League Bishop Division championship game undefeated, Detroit Catholic Central had failed to put together a complete game on both sides of the ball.

While the defense was stopping opposing offenses seemingly at will and the new-look pass offense was slinging the ball all over the field, the Shamrocks had not found that signature, dominant Catholic League win that would cement their place in postseason contention. Then came Detroit Loyola.

Facing a defense that had allowed 41 points combined all season, Detroit Catholic Central (6-0) exploded, taking a 38-0 first-half lead, and earning the 45-14 win against the Bulldogs (5-1) to give the Shamrocks their first Catholic League title since 2016: the program's last undefeated regular season.

The Shamrocks scored their most points in a game since Oct. 26, 2018 in a pre-district game against Canton, while their 31-point margin of victory was the program's largest since its Sept. 14, 2018 win against U-D Jesuit.

See TITLE, Page 2B



Churchill senior defender Alexander Wilson heads a ball during the District 4 semifinal against Salem. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Salem wins district title after blanking Churchill in semis

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coming into the District 4 semifinal, Salem had a reputation to uphold.

The Rocks came into its matchup with Churchill having allowed eight goals all season, recording eight shut-outs, including their first-round win

against Plymouth.

Salem (12-2-1) earned its ninth shut-out in the district semifinal, beating the Chargers (9-5-3), 4-0.

Having outscored opponents, 6-0, in the first two games of the playoffs, Salem head coach Kyle Karns said it was just a product of what the Rocks have perfected all season long.

"A lot of our guys know what their roles and responsibilities are," Karns said. "At this point in the year, we have played a lot of tough teams and tough opponents throughout the year. So certainly, you get to this point of the year and are battle tested. It's just staying organized and playing in our system and letting our system do its work."

### System brings Salem success

The Salem offense made sure it did its part in the first half.

Senior forward Nolan Chaput found the back of the net off a long leading pass from sophomore defender Vincent

See SALEM, Page 3B

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# District first round HS football games to watch

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

The 2020 Michigan high school football postseason is here, with all teams eligible for the first round of district play after only six regular-season games.

Teams were separated into eight-team districts and ranked by the Michigan High School Athletic Association's playoff points formula.

Here is a look at five games to watch heading into the first round of playoffs.

## Livonia Stevenson vs. John Glenn

Livonia Stevenson will open against John Glenn, the team it faced in the final week of the regular season.

In each of their three losses, the Spartans have lost by a combined eight points, carrying a plus-71 point differential into the postseason.

John Glenn has allowed 40 or more points in four games this season and has only averaged 10.25 points in each of its losses.

Livonia Stevenson will host John Glenn in the District 5 first-round game 7 p.m. Friday.

## Northville vs. Salem

Heading into the first round of playoffs, the Rocks have continued to struggle. Other than a 19-3 win against Plymouth, Salem scored 20 points the rest of the season, and is coming off a 46-0 shutout against Novi.

Led by senior running back Cayden Saunders, Northville has a minus-three point differential, winning its four games by an average of 10.25 points and scoring more than 30 points in a game once.

Northville will take on Salem at home in the District 5 first-round matchup 7 p.m. Friday.

## Groves at Auburn Hills Avondale

Heading into the playoffs, Groves will try and upset No. 4 Auburn Hills Avondale.

Other than a 41-16 loss to Rochester in Week 2, the Yellow Jackets have not al-

lowed more than 22 points in a game this season, winning their past three games.

Groves will travel to Auburn Hills to take on No. 4 Avondale in the District 15 matchup 7 p.m. Friday.

## Detroit Catholic Central vs. Walled Lake Northern

In the first round of the playoffs, Catholic Central will take on Walled Lake Northern. Other than their 33-9 loss to Romeo in Week 6, the Knights had lost its three other games by 14 points combined.

The Shamrocks, on the other hand, have allowed 61 points all season, not allowing more than two touchdowns in a single game this season.

Catholic Central will host Walled Lake Northern in the District 3 first-round contest 7 p.m. Friday.

## North Farmington vs. Waterford Kettering

North Farmington has had a roller coaster of a 2020 season.

After forfeiting its Week 6 game against Seaholm due to a power outage, the Raiders finished the season .500. But before the forfeit, they were on a roll, beating Farmington and Oxford 52-17, combined in the fourth and fifth weeks of the season.

In the first game of the playoffs the No. 4 Raiders will take on the team it was scheduled to make its season debut against before the coronavirus halted the first three games of the year: Waterford Kettering.

The No. 5 Captains have struggled, averaging 16.2 points per game and scoring more than 30 points in a game once in 2020: a 34-26 win against rival Mott in Week 6.

North Farmington holds an 8-0-1 record against Kettering, and the team has earned three wins against the Captains since 2010.

North Farmington will take on Waterford Kettering at home in the District 12 first-round contest 7 p.m. Friday.

[cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com)

# Hometown Life top 10 high school football teams: District first round

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

The Michigan high school football playoffs are set to begin with the district first round starting Oct. 30.

Here is a look at the Top 10 Hometown Life-area teams heading into the postseason.

## 1. Detroit Catholic Central (6-0, Last Week: No. 1)

The Shamrocks will try and replicate each of the past two seasons in which they have won the Catholic League: 2011 and 2016, both seasons in which the Shamrocks ended their season in the state final.

## 2. Lakeland (6-0, Last Week: No. 2)

Lakeland secured its first undefeated regular season since 1982 in Week 6. The Eagles have not allowed more than three touchdowns in a game this season and have outscored teams, 73-6, in their past two games.

## 3. Canton (6-0, Last Week: No. 3)

Canton secured its first undefeated regular season since 2010. The Chiefs are averaging 39.3 points per game — their highest total since 2017 — and are allowing 18.7 points per game.

## 4. Brother Rice (5-1, Last Week: No. 5)

Brother Rice beat reigning Division 4 state runner-up Detroit Country Day, 23-13, in Week 6, continuing its streak of allowing less than 20 points in each of its games since the season opener against De La Salle. The offense is averaging 26.2 points per game, its highest total since 2014.

## 5. Livonia Churchill (4-2, Last Week: No. 4)

The Chargers continue to be one of the top teams in the KLAA East, with a defense that has allowed 23 points per game.

## 6. South Lyon (4-2, Last Week: No. 10)

The Lions have allowed 14 points combined in its past two weeks, beating rival South Lyon East by a touchdown to finish the regular season. The Lions will start their third-straight playoff run Friday.

## 7. Livonia Stevenson (3-3, Last Week: No. 9)

Stevenson has lost its three games by a combined eight points this season, while outscoring teams, 134-55, in its three wins this season. The Spartans have a chance to make an impact in their first playoff run since 2017.

## 8. Seaholm (4-2, Last Week: No. 7)

Seaholm did not get a chance to play in Week 6 and comes into the postseason after a rocky regular season. Two of the Maples' three full wins were within a touchdown, while they were beaten by Stoney Creek and Clarkston by an average of 26 points.

## 9. South Lyon East (4-2, Last Week: No. 6)

Despite losing to South Lyon in Week 6, a lot has gone right for South Lyon East this season. The Cougars have allowed 82 points all season, allowing more than 21 points in a game only once.

## 10. Northville (4-2, Last Week: N/A)

Northville emerges into the top 10 after recording its first winning record since 2016. The Mustangs prep for its first playoff run since that season.

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

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

**Oct. 23**  
**Catholic High School League**  
Brother Rice (5-1) 23, Detroit Country Day (3-2) 13  
**Kensington Lakes Activities Association**  
Belleville (6-0) 35, Livonia Churchill (4-2) 14  
Livonia Franklin (3-3) 28, Dearborn (2-4) 10  
Livonia Stevenson (3-3) 42, John Glenn

(2-4) 21  
Northville (4-2) 41, Howell (3-3) 26  
Novi (2-4) 46, Salem (1-5) 0: Novi recorded 310 rushing yards and six rushing touchdowns — including a 143-yard and two-touchdown performance by Maurice Langford — to earn its second win of the season.  
Canton (6-0) 41, Plymouth (1-5) 6: Canton scores three fourth-quarter touchdowns

and rushes for 373 yards — including 195 yards and three touchdowns from junior Zack Badger — to finish the 2020 regular season undefeated.  
Dearborn Fordson (4-2) 28, Wayne Memorial (0-6) 7  
**Lakes Valley Conference**  
Lakeland (6-0) 38, Milford (1-5) 0  
South Lyon (4-2) 14, South Lyon East (4-2) 7

**Michigan Independent Athletic Conference**  
Livonia Clarenceville (4-2) 49, Whitmore Lake (3-3) 14  
Lutheran Westland (2-2) 42, Mount Clemens (1-3) 20  
**Oakland Activities Association**  
Auburn Hills Avondale (3-3) 37, Bloomfield Hills (3-3) 9  
Rochester Adams (2-4) 20, Farmington (0-6) 6

Seaholm (4-2) 1, North Farmington (3-3) 0  
Forfeit: A power outage canceled the game Friday night, and North Farmington decided not to play Saturday.  
Rochester Hills Stoney Creek (6-0) 40, Groves (3-3) 14: Groves failed to stop Stoney Creek's running game, allowing 340 yards on the ground to earn the Falcons' third loss of the season.  
**Western Wayne Athletic Conference**

Clawson (2-4) 20, Garden City (3-3) 12  
Riverview (6-0) 1, Redford Thurston (1-4) 0 Forfeit  
**Oct. 24**  
**Catholic High School League**  
Detroit Catholic Central (6-0) 45, Detroit Loyola (5-1) 14  
Redford Union (5-1) 16, Cranbrook Kingswood (0-4) 8  
[Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com)

## Title

Continued from Page 1B

"Earlier in the season, we were grinding out wins and our defense played a huge role in that," Byle said. "It's just taken time for the offense to pick up steam, and I don't think we have ever really put together a full game."

"It's really nice to put it all together."

## Feeding off field position

Coming out of the locker room before the game, senior tight end and defensive end Michael Ramirez encouraged his teammates to "come out with some fire."

Last week, Ramirez didn't see it, despite Catholic Central earning the 21-3 win against U-D Jesuit. But the senior needed more. He said he needed to see execution.

"They preach here attitude and effort. That's all it takes," Ramirez said. "We have the talent. It's what we think up here and it's what we do out there."

Ramirez did his part to get that fire ignited.

After forcing a three-and-out to start the game, the senior broke across the line of scrimmage on fourth down, blocking the punt attempt and giving the Shamrocks possession at the Loyola 12-yard line. Three plays later, Byle gave Catholic Central the lead with an 11-yard pass to junior wide receiver Owen Semp.

Catholic Central junior safety continued that momentum later in the first quarter, intercepting a pass from Loyola junior quarterback Anthony Garrett. Taking the ball from the 15-yard line, the offense answered three plays later with a one-yard touchdown run by junior back Connor Bell.

And when the defense forced another Loyola punt, Ramirez broke through the line again, blocking the attempt, giving the Shamrocks the ball at the Bulldogs 14, leading to a four-yard touchdown run by Bell four plays later.

On six scoring drives in the first half — later adding a five-yard touchdown pass from Byle to Ramirez and a one-yard run by senior back Danny Scott along with a 26-yard field goal by Charlie Mentzer — Catholic Central, each time, started in Loyola territory, three times inside the 15-yard line.

Byle said the offense was just feeding off the energy of the defensive and special teams plays that brought them such good field position.

"We just had to do our job once they got us there," Byle said. "It was huge. I don't know how many points we would have scored without that."

Byle, who Ramirez described as "the greatest quarterback ever at reading the defense," finished with 127 yards and two touchdown passes, capping off his day with a 32-yard find to Ramirez in the end zone.

And while the offense took advantage, the defense remained stout.

Facing an offense that had scored 74 points against Romulus in its last time out, the Shamrocks limited the Bulldogs to 107 yards of offense in the first half — most of which came from three passes for more than 20 yards from Garrett to junior wide receiver Jason Hardy and junior Shenard Foster in the first quarter.

Catholic Central head coach Dan Anderson credited the defensive line for stepping up like it had all season, limiting the Bulldogs to -3 yards on the ground in the first half, forcing them to become one-dimensional and taking advantage of mistakes.

"Our defense all year has been our strength," Anderson said. "Especially



Detroit Catholic Central running back Mohamed Jaffer runs against Detroit Loyola in the first half of the Catholic High School League Prep Bowl at Detroit Catholic Central High School in Novi on Oct. 24. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

our defensive line has done a great job up front, especially with people's run games. We're able to kind of force teams to run the ball. Not everybody is comfortable throwing the ball all the time.

"We put pressure on him. We were in his face when he was throwing."

## Climbing the hill

Since 2010, Catholic Central has only won the Catholic League title twice: in 2011 and 2016. In each of those seasons, the Shamrocks advanced all the way to the state title game, losing twice to Cass Tech.

Anderson, who earned his first Catholic League title as the Catholic Central head coach, did not jump to that conclusion.

Instead, he is still focused on the

process.

"It's just a great group of kids," Anderson said. "They are working their butts off and are getting better each week. We're young at a lot of spots, but they are starting to grow up quick."

But heading into the playoffs, Anderson led Catholic Central in its most complete game of the 2020 season, maybe even in the past two years.

He said this was just another step in the process.

"Going into playoffs, you want to be starting to climb," Anderson said. "I think we are. I think we are on our path to climb. We're not there yet — we have a lot of work to do — but I think we're heading in the right direction for sure."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17.

# Catholic Central earns fourth-straight district title

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Three years ago, Detroit Catholic Central soccer opened its playoff run against North Farmington.

After coming out with a 3-0 win in the first round against the Raiders, the Shamrocks won six straight games, earning the Division 1 state title.

Three years later, North Farmington stood in the way of Catholic Central again, this time, for a district title.

Twenty-five seconds into the game, though, the Shamrocks initiated its control.

Junior captain Vincent Stockton took the feed from Ali Jaffer, kicking across his body past North Farmington goalkeeper David Alam to take a one-goal lead.

Senior captain Clay Moscovic answered minutes later, taking an overhead pass from Jaffer and tucking it in the back of the net to increase the Shamrocks lead to two goals.

And while North Farmington's (6-4-4) defense shut down any other scor-

ing try for the remainder of the contest, Catholic Central (8-0-3) stood strong, earning the 2-0 victory for the team's fourth district title in four years.

"It's just one of those things where things worked out. We were fortunate," Catholic Central head coach Gene Pulice said.

North Farmington head coach Erika Rust felt both goals were miscues, examples — especially on Stockton's goal — of the Raiders getting flat-footed in the open field, pitting one defender against two Shamrocks on a fast break.

But she said the Raiders settled down, stepped up and played the level of soccer that brought them to the district final.

"Once they settled in and realized, 'Yeah, we belong here,' I think it just changed the whole tone and feel of the rest of the game," Rust said.

North Farmington had its fair share of chance, but the Catholic Central defense squashed every chance, whether it was a cross from junior Jacob Marchionda to senior Josh Edelman that was just off or an attempt on a one-on-

one by senior Daniel Hanus against Catholic Central goalkeeper John Browning that was too strong.

In the first 40 minutes, North Farmington recorded no shots on goal compared to the Shamrocks' six, something Browning equates to the defensive communication Catholic Central brings out each game.

Catholic Central recorded its fifth shutout of the season, and have not allowed a goal since Oct. 1.

Pulice said he saw the Raider defense step up as well, watching as his opponent's back line intercepted balls, seemingly knowing what the Shamrock offense was going to look like.

Catholic Central failed to convert on its attacking chances early in the second half, including a deep try by senior defender Jack Leuker that was sent back off a diving stop from Alam.

Rust believes this game is representative of the run North Farmington has been on. She said the seniors laid the foundation for the younger players on the roster, setting the tone of belief not only for a playoff run, but in Oakland

Activities Association Red play in 2021.

"Part of this foundation is believing, 'You know what, we do belong here,'" Rust said. "This isn't a one-off."

"We need to keep going and believe that we can compete in the district every year, we can compete in the Red every year. And it isn't just 'pat on the back, we made it here.' No, let's keep going, let's keep moving forward."

Heading into the regional semifinal against De La Salle, Pulice is feeling good.

He said the Shamrocks are under control, with leadership from its top players. He sees a high spirit and high resolve with eyes on the senior class' second state title in four years.

Facing a familiar Catholic League opponent the Shamrocks drew once and beat once, outsourcing the Pilots 4-1 in two games, Browning said the focus needs to stay on the team.

"We just need to stay focused," Browning said. "We need to do what we did this whole game here: we need to play as a team. It's not one player alone. It's a whole team together."

## Salem

Continued from Page 1B

Chaput, giving Salem the one-goal lead.

But with 1:09 left in the half, the Rocks doubled its score, as sophomore middle Griffin Ellis scored off the find from senior forward Dante Perri, in what Churchill head coach Eric Puroll called, "the backbreaker."

Salem, who averages 3.1 goals per contest, continued its offensive roll into the second half.

Just over five minutes into the second half, senior midfielder Andrew Schwartz found the back of senior defender Mohamad Abdallah's head on a corner kick, who tucked it in the right corner of the net.

Schwartz scored himself four minutes later on a deep ball from the middle of the field, increasing the Rocks' lead to four.

Karns praised Schwartz, calling him

a "key piece" in the center to what Salem does offensively, being able to use his vision to create opportunities.

Salem has scored at least four goals in a game six times this season, in which the Rocks have not lost.

"I've never seen a high school team move as well off the ball as Salem has," Puroll said. "Just an unreal team he has. I wish him all the best."

"But they are just someone if you aren't tracking their best players, you are in a world of hurt, and, unfortunately, we got caught watching the ball a little bit."

While the offense converted, Salem junior goalkeeper Will Pryce made sure Churchill did not answer.

After Chargers senior forward Ryan Richards broke free from a Salem defender in the first half, Pryce stepped up, corralling a shot attempt before Richards had a good enough look. Later in the first half, Pryce snuffed out a close attempt from Churchill junior Tomas Peralta.

Karns said the Salem back line and attacking front have a good relationship, knowing the level of skill each provides and feeds off each other.

"Offensively, we know we have a strong back line and they got our back," Karns said. "And then vice versa: our back line knows we have a pretty good attacking front that should be able to go out and get us some goals and kind of take care of each other."

Salem beat Canton, 2-1, to win the district title.

### Chargers end unexpected season

After starting the season with two draws sandwiched by two losses, Churchill went on a nine-game win streak, something Puroll, the second-year head coach, says is a testament to the buy-in of the kind of soccer he has tried to put in place.

"This was really my senior class that I was able to instill my thoughts on the game, my mentality to the game," Puroll

said. "With the captains and the leadership I had, with the seniors, it gets us over the hump, to get nine wins in a row in a great, over-performed season. I don't think many people expected us to play this well this season."

"It really sets the table for this program: this is the mentality we have to have year in and year out."

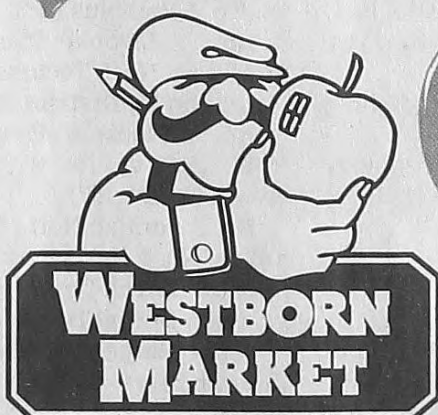
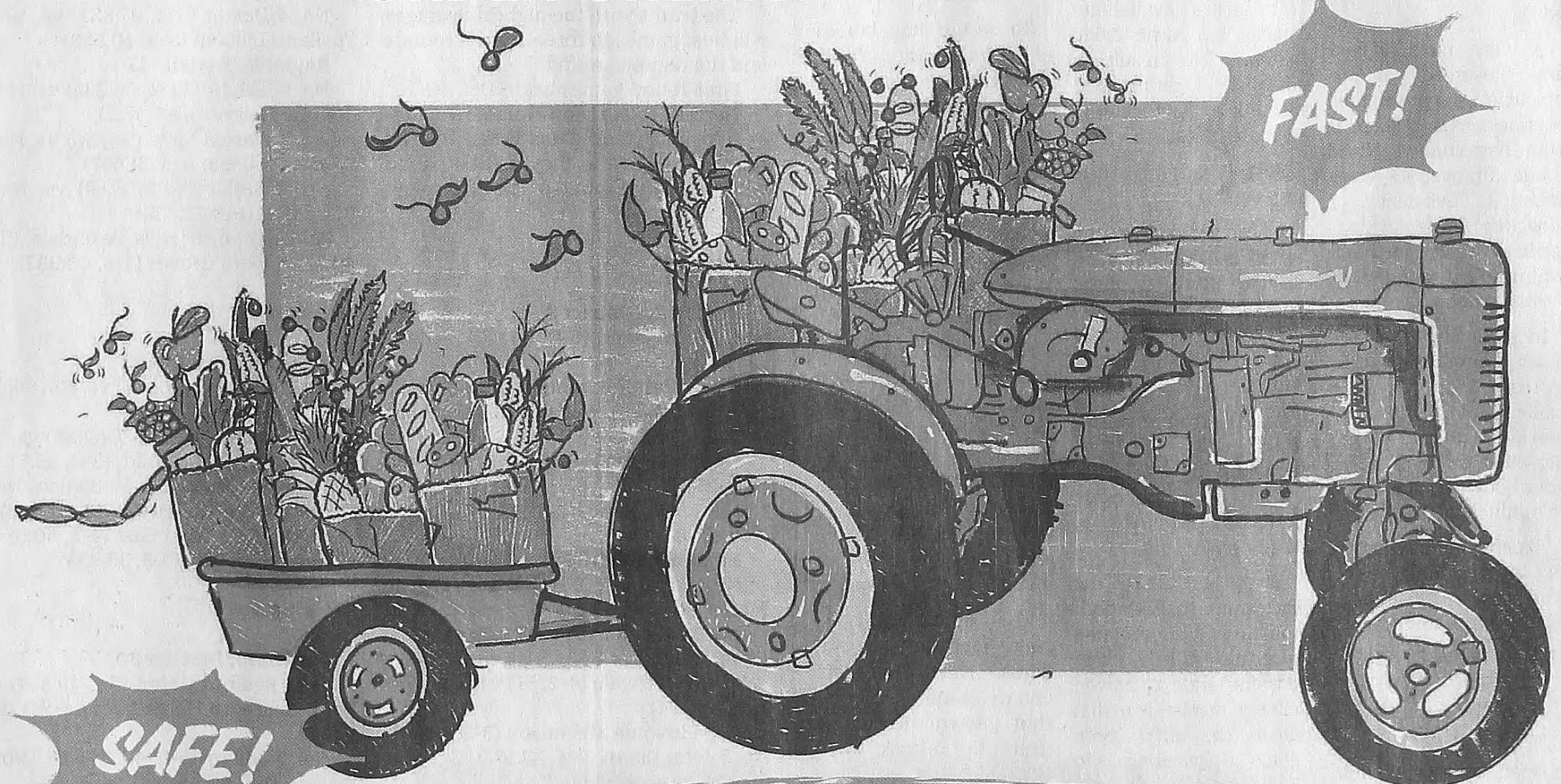
Salem, with its proven game plan that brought the team within a game of the state final a year ago, needs to just continue to take it one game at a time, according to the head coach.

"Stay composed," Karns said. "You can break it down even further than that and just one half at a time. Take care of the things that we can control, whether that's in 10-minute segments or halves. It's just stay in control and play our best."

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).

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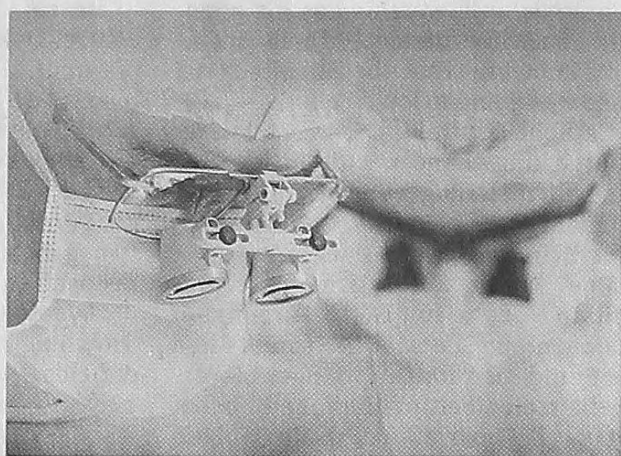
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He's combined those nutrients with proven nitric oxide boosters in a new formula called *Primal Max Red*. In clinical trials, 5,000 mg is required for satisfying



A new discovery that increases nitric oxide availability was recently proven in a clinical trial to boost blood flow 275%

sexual performance. *Primal Max Red* contains a bigger, 9,000 mg per serving dose. It's become so popular, he's having trouble keeping it in stock.

Dr. Sears is the author of more than 500 scientific papers. Thousands of people listened to him speak at the recent Palm Beach Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz. NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Namath recently visited his clinic, the **Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine**.

*Primal Max Red* has only been available for a few months - but everyone who takes it reports a big difference. "I have the energy to have sex three times in one day, WOW! That has not happened in years. Oh, by the way I am 62," says Jonathan K. from Birmingham, AL.

## HOW IT WORKS

Loss of erection power starts with your blood vessels. Specifically, the inside layer called the endothelium where nitric oxide is made.

The problem is various factors THICKEN your blood vessels as you age. This blocks availability causing the nitric oxide "glitch." The result is difficulty in getting and sustaining a healthy erection.

How bad is the problem?

Researcher shows the typical 40-year-old man absorbs 50% less nitric oxide. At 50, that drops to 25%. And once you pass 60 just a measly 15% gets through.

To make matters worse, nitric oxide levels start declining in your 30's. And by 70, nitric oxide production is down an alarming 75%.

*Primal Max Red* is the first formula to tackle both problems. Combining powerful nitric oxide boosters and a proven delivery mechanism that defeats the nitric oxide "glitch" resulting in 275% better blood flow. There's not enough space here to fully explain how it works, so Dr. Sears will send anyone who orders *Primal Max Red* a free special report that explains everything.

## MORE CLINICAL RESULTS

Nutrients in *Primal Max Red* have logged impressive results.

In a *Journal of Applied Physiology* study, one resulted in a 30 times MORE nitric oxide. And these increased levels lasted up to 12 hours.

"I measured my nitric oxide levels, you can buy a test kit from Amazon," reports 48-year-old Jeff O. "Monday night I showed depleted."

Then he used ingredients in *Primal Max Red* and, "The results were off the charts. I first woke around 3 a.m. on Tuesday very excited. My nitric oxide levels measured at the top end of the range."

## FREE BONUS TESTOSTERONE BOOSTER

Every order also gets Dr. Sears testosterone boosting formula *Primal Max Black* for free.

"If you want passionate 'rip your clothes off' sex you had in your younger days, you need nitric oxide to get your erection going. And testosterone for energy and drive," says Dr. Sears. "You get both with *Primal Max Red* and *Primal Max Black*."

## HOW TO GET PRIMAL MAX

To secure free bottles of *Primal Max Black* and get the hot, new *Primal Max Red* formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at 1-800-657-5108 within the next 48 hours. "It's not available in drug stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer."

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about *Primal Max*, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back," he says.

The Hotline will be open for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number will be shut down to allow them to restock. Call 1-800-657-5108 to secure your limited supply of *Primal Max Red* and free bottles of *Primal Max Black*. You don't need a prescription, and those who call in the first 24 hours qualify for a significant discount. Use Promo Code NP1020PMAX719 when you call in. Lines are frequently busy, but all calls will be answered.

# Canton blanks Franklin, wins fourth-straight district semifinal

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One minute separated Livonia Franklin and Canton.

Heading into the 12th minute of the district semifinal with no score, Canton senior Nick Rockafellow was given a penalty kick after a call was made against Franklin in the scoring box. The senior connected on the try, giving the Chiefs the one-score lead.

Thirty-two seconds later, Canton senior Kaelen Flowers took advantage of miscommunication in the Franklin back line, finding the back of the net for the second goal of the game.

Coming into the game with seven shutouts - including two draws against Novi and Brighton - Canton (11-3-5) did enough to hold on, holding Franklin (6-10) scoreless, 2-0, in the district semifinal.

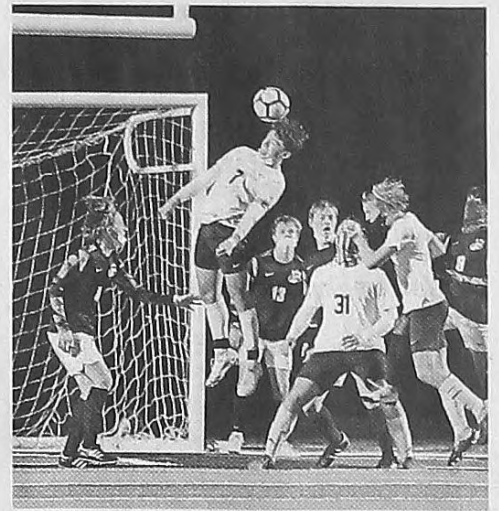
"It's good," Rockafellow said of continuing the district final streak. "I think Canton's a well-respected program, and I think it's only right for us to go to the district final. We've got to have a standard, I guess, to get there."

The Chiefs fell to Salem, 2-1, in the district final.

Franklin head coach Chris Burnette was, overall, satisfied with how his team looked Oct. 20. Other than the "two-minute lapse," he said his players were decent defensively, moving defensive-minded midfielders to the back to create a different look for the Chiefs.

With Franklin's season complete, the Patriots finished 2020 with a losing record, but with an even scoring differential: allowing 41 goals this season, while scoring 41 offensively.

"Our pace was good, our energy was really good," Burnette said. "They were excited to play, and I thought this was a game, just like the rest of the season... I



Franklin midfielder and forward Dante Davidson tries for a header against Canton. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

think we've given a lot of games away. Our team is way better than what the scores have shown.

"I was excited for this game because I thought this would be one where we could do what we should be able to do. And we just couldn't connect up top."

Defensively, Canton stepped up when it counted. Eight minutes into the second half, Canton goalkeeper Justus Clark thwarted Franklin's best chance: stepping up in the box to secure a save and keep the shutout.

With Rockafellow's focus being on the offense, which has averaged 2.2 goals per game, he wants to make sure the attacking front is backing the defense up.

"If they are helping me out, I have to help them out and score goals because it's a team sport," Rockafellow said. "If they are doing their job we have to do our job as offensive players: score goals."

# MHSAA announces 2020 football playoff pairings

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After a shortened six-week regular season, the Michigan high school football postseason is here.

According to Michigan High School Athletic Association regulations set specifically for the 2020 football season, each eligible team was ranked by playoff points, 1-8, in prearranged districts, so that each team, no matter what record, is guaranteed a seventh game.

The teams with the highest averages will host games in three district rounds and the regional round.

First-round games begin Oct. 30.

Here is a look at how Hometown Life-area teams stacked up in its district rankings, and who they will be paired with in the first round of the 2020 playoffs.

## Division 1

### Region 2, District 3

No. 1 Lakeland (6-0, 64.167) - first-round bye.

No. 2 Detroit Catholic Central (6-0, 61.917) vs. No. 7 Walled Lake Northern (2-4, 33.833)

No. 3 Brighton (4-2, 57) vs. No. 6 Novi (2-4, 35)

No. 4 Hartland (3-3, 46) vs. No. 5 Howell (3-3, 42)

### Region 3, District 5

No. 1 Canton (6-0, 75) vs. No. 8 Wayne Memorial (0-6, 15)

No. 2 Belleville (6-0, 74.333) vs. No. 7 Plymouth (1-5, 24)

No. 3 Northville (4-2, 57) vs. No. 6 Salem (1-5, 24)

No. 4 Livonia Stevenson (3-3, 44) vs. No. 5 John Glenn (2-4, 33.167)

### Region 4, District 7

No. 1 Sterling Heights Stevenson (5-1, 64.367) vs. No. 8 Farmington (0-6, 15.4)

No. 2 West Bloomfield (5-1, 64.167) vs. No. 7 Utica Ford (1-5, 25.5)

No. 3 Bloomfield Hills (3-3, 46.067) vs. No. 6 Troy (3-3, 34.867)

No. 4 Southfield Arts and Technology (2-3, 39) vs. No. 5 Troy Athens (2-3, 37)

## Division 2

### Region 6, District 12

No. 1 Fenton (6-0, 67.667) vs. No. 8 Walled Lake Central (0-6, 14.7)

No. 2 South Lyon (4-2, 49.2) vs. No. 7 Milford (1-5, 26.4)

No. 3 Walled Lake Western (4-2, 46.067) vs. No. 6 Waterford Mott (2-3, 30)

No. 4 North Farmington (3-3, 44) vs. No. 5 Waterford Kettering (2-4, 35.233)

### Region 7, District 13

No. 1 Livonia Churchill (4-2, 55.167) - first-round bye

No. 2 Dearborn Heights Crestwood (5-1, 54.167) vs. No. 7 Ypsilanti Community (3-3, 35.167)

No. 3 Livonia Franklin (3-3, 48) vs. No. 6 Temperance Bedford, (3-3, 39.033)

No. 4 Dexter (4-2, 47.333) vs. No. 5 Ypsilanti Lincoln (3-3, 40.533)

### Region 8, District 15

No. 1 Seaholm (4-2, 56.333) vs. No. 8 Sterling Heights (0-5, 12.2)

No. 2 Warren Mott (5-1, 56) vs. No. 7 Warren Cousino (1-5, 21.567)

No. 3 Berkley (4-2, 50.9) vs. No. 6 Royal Oak (1-5, 22.333)

No. 4 Auburn Hills Avondale (3-3, 40.7) vs. No. 5 Groves (3-3, 40.333)

## Division 3

### Region 11, District 22

No. 1 Chelsea (6-0, 67) vs. No. 8 Redford Thurston (1-4, 22)

No. 2 Brother Rice (5-1, 62.25) vs. No. 7 Dearborn Divine Child, (2-4, 25.5)

No. 3 Pinckney (4-2, 50.833) vs. No. 6 Orchard Lake St. Mary's (1-3, 27.083)

No. 4 South Lyon East (4-2, 50.5) vs. No. 5 Garden City (3-3, 35.833)

## Division 4

### Region 15, District 30

No. 1 Redford Union (5-1, 49.667) vs. No. 8 Dearborn Heights Annapolis (1-5, 8.833)

No. 2 Milan (5-1, 49.167) vs. No. 7 Adrian (0-5, 11)

No. 3 Carleton Airport (3-3, 34.833) vs. No. 6 Romulus (2-3, 23.667)

No. 4 Livonia Clarenceville (4-2, 31.333) vs. No. 5 Tecumseh (1-4, 25.2)

### Region 16, District 31

No. 1 Madison Heights Lamphere (6-0, 48.6) vs. No. 8 Cranbrook Kingswood (0-4, 8.167)

No. 2 Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (5-1, 48) vs. No. 7 Hazel Park (1-5, 18.167)

No. 3 Detroit Country Day (3-2, 43.5) vs. No. 6 Detroit Henry Ford (3-3, 24.5)

No. 4 Harper Woods Chandler Park (3-3, 26.5) vs. No. 5 Center Line (2-4, 24.667)

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. RESULTS MAY VARY

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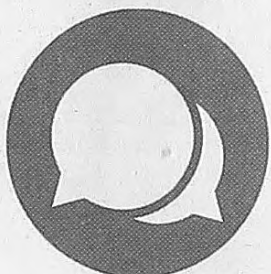
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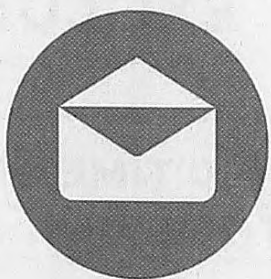
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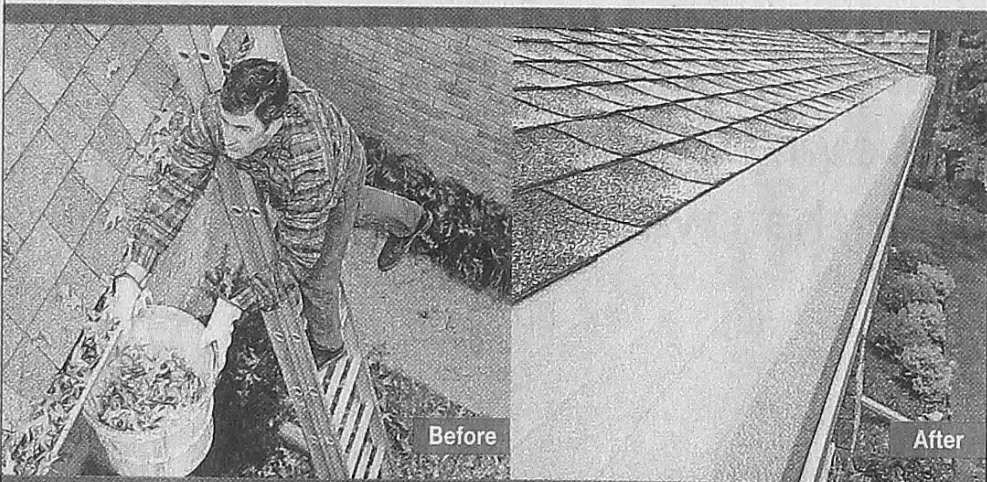
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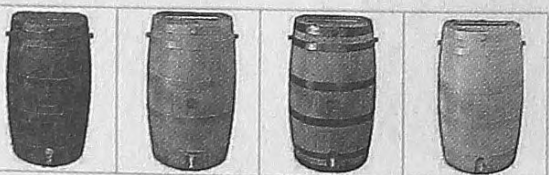


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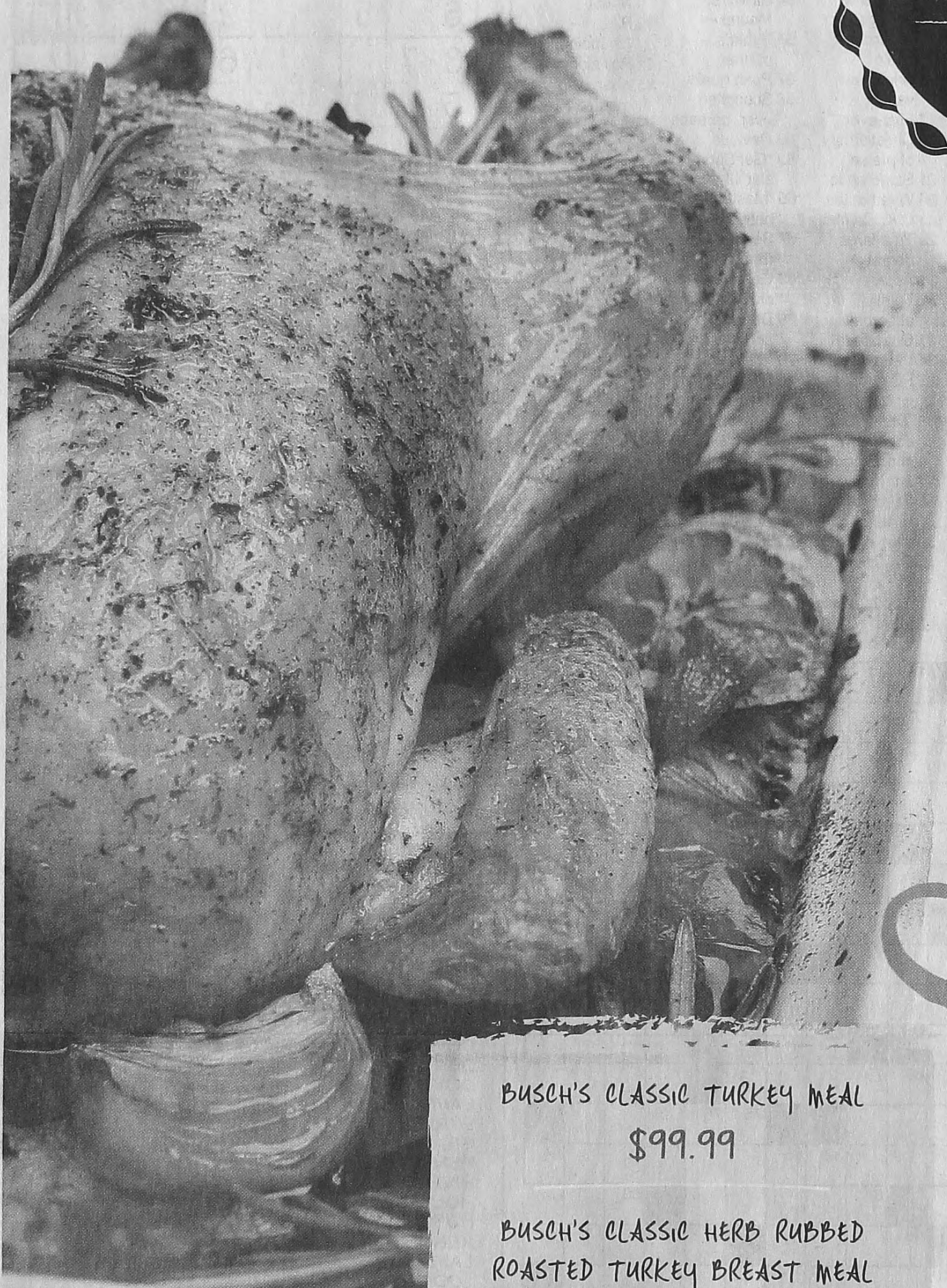
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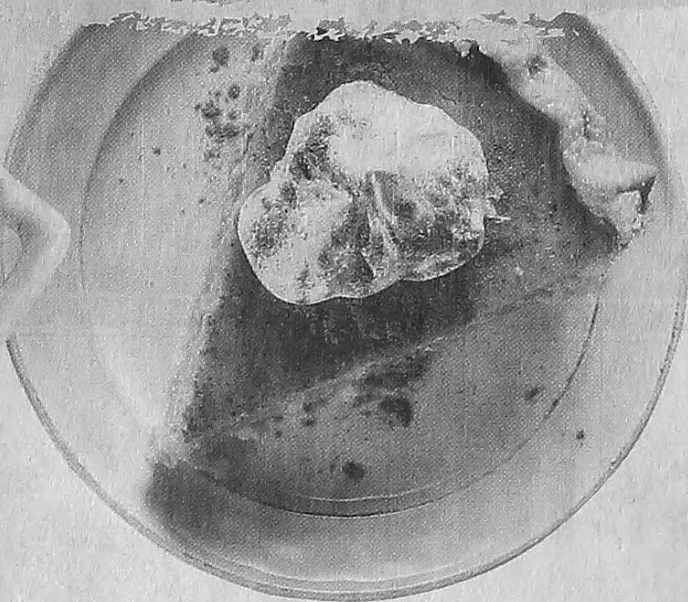
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