

SPORTS

LTM SUPER 7

As we near the midway point of the 2019 regular season, the Times-Mirror highlights Loudoun's top high school football teams with our Super Seven power rankings. The Times-Mirror's Super Seven will be updated weekly through the conclusion of the regular season.

1. STONE BRIDGE (4-0)
The Class 5 Bulldogs claim the top spot in the first installment of the Super Seven. Stone Bridge has outscored its first four opponents 171 to 49. With a plethora of playmakers on offense and "more speed than we've ever had on defense" according to coach Mickey Thompson, the Bulldogs have their sights set on a fourth trip to the state final in the last five seasons.

2. BROAD RUN (4-0)
Following a 28-26 season-opening win over rival Tuscarora, the Class 4 Spartans have racked up 165 points while allowing just 20 points in victories over Brooke Point, Dominion and Urbana (Md.). Broad Run, winners of 13 consecutive regular season games, will host Loudoun County on Friday in a key Dulles District clash.

3. TUSCARORA (4-1)
The Class 4 Huskies have won four of their first five games against a challenging schedule. In addition to quality road wins over Woodgrove, Briar Woods and Potomac Falls, Tuscarora handed visiting Musselman (W.Va.) its only loss of the season, 35-0. The Huskies play at Stafford this week before closing the regular season with four straight Dulles District games.



Times-Mirror/Mike Walgren

Stone Bridge junior Tai Felton is one of several playmakers for an explosive Bulldog offense this season.

4. JOHN CHAMPE (4-1)
The Knights have impressed through five games as Loudoun's first Class 6 school. Three of John Champe's four wins have come by 28 or more points. The lone setback was a road loss to Westfield, who has won Virginia Class 6 state championships three of the last four years. The Knights are in the midst of playing five consecutive Cedar Run District games.

5. WOODGROVE (3-2)
The 2018 Virginia Class 4 state champion Wolverines have lost two of their last three games after opening their first season at the Class 5 level with consecutive wins. Woodgrove's best win is a 20-0 victory over neighborhood rival Loudoun Valley in Derek Barlow's head coaching debut. Following a bye week, the Wolverines dive into their Potomac District schedule.

6. RIVERSIDE (4-1)
The Rams are finding ways to win in their first season at Class 5. Riverside's four victories have each been by six points or less. The Rams rebounded from a Week 2 loss at Loudoun Valley by producing a dramatic last-minute victory over host Loudoun County in Week 3. Riverside opened Potomac District play with a 15-9 win at Potomac Falls.

7. LOUDOUN COUNTY (4-1)
The Class 4 Raiders have been a model of consistency since the start of the 2018 season, going 13-3 during that span. A last-second loss to Riverside is the only blemish this season, with wins over Loudoun Valley, Millbrook, Fauquier and Warren County. The Raiders face a stern test this week at undefeated Broad Run.

ON THE BUBBLE: LOUDOUN VALLEY (3-2)



Football is like life. It requires perseverance, self-denial, hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and respect for authority.
—Vince Lombardi

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Boysko coasts past May in special election

Democrat claims state Senate seat vacated by U.S. Rep. Wexton

BY TREVOR BARATKO

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Democrat Jennifer Boysko will succeed Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D) in the Virginia Senate's 33rd District seat.

Boysko, a now former state delegate, defeated Republican challenger Joe May, a former state delegate and businessman, by nearly 40 percent of the vote in Tuesday's special election.

"Together we will work to expand affordable health care, improve our schools and roads, build an economy that works for everyone and continue our push for gun-violence prevention," Boysko, who celebrated with supporters at O'Faolain's pub in Sterling, said in a prepared statement. "I want to thank all our amazing supporters and volunteers who voted, knocked doors, made phone calls and worked to make this a grass-roots campaign."

Prior to serving in the House of Delegates, Boysko served as a legislative aide to Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D) and in various political and community organizer roles.

May, who served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1994-2014, acknowledged his defeat at a gathering at Loudoun Brewing Company in Leesburg.

A moderate Republican, inventor and founder of technology firm EIT, May said he had no regrets about seeking the seat or the way he ran his campaign.

"The privilege of being a public servant in the commonwealth of Virginia has been one of the high points of my career," he said. "I haven't always liked what went with it, but in the final analysis I believe that I was able to make a difference. And being civil in the course of doing so is part of it."

With the local political puzzle pieces still being sorted out, there will now be a special election to fill the House of Delegates' 86th District seat Boysko is vacating. A Democratic firehouse primary will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Franklin Middle School in Chantilly and Dranesville Elementary School in Herndon. Local Republicans' nomination plans were not immediately set.

"This is the first start to the 'blue wave' in the fall, and [I] look forward to working with my colleagues in the General Assem-



Times-Mirror/Nathaniel Cline

State Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D) at O'Faolain's in Sterling after defeating Joe May (R) in the Jan. 8 special election for the state Senate 33rd District seat, which was previously held by new Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D).

33RD-STATE SENATE ELECTION

District-wide results

- Jennifer Boysko (D)
69.8 percent; 14,766 votes
- Joe May (R)
30.1 percent; 6,376 votes

Loudoun County results

- Boysko 67.4 percent;
10,661 votes
- May 32.5 percent;
5,147 votes

bly to help our community," Boysko said.

The 2019 Virginia General Assembly session began Wednesday.

All 140 seats in the General Assembly will be up for election in November, meaning Boysko will wage another campaign for the 33rd District Senate seat later this year.



Times-Mirror/Trevor Baratko

Despite his loss in the special election, Joe May (R) was in good spirits Tuesday night.



"This is the first start to the 'blue wave' in the fall, and [I] look forward to working with my colleagues ... to help our community."

STATE SEN. JENNIFER BOYSKO (D)



"... being a public servant in the commonwealth of Virginia has been one of the high points of my career."

JOE MAY (R),
WHO SERVED IN THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES FROM 1994-2014

'IT MEANS A HELL OF A LOT'

In wealthy Loudoun County, a small community may soon get clean running water

BY NATHANIEL CLINE
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Outhouses and porta potties. Low roofs and small doors. No running water.

This is still a way of life in the northwestern hamlet of Howardsville, just 20 miles from the modern mixed-use developments and data center alley in Ashburn, one of the most affluent communities in the country.

But after years of planning, the small, historically black community has been approved for a wastewater system to aid the few remaining locals.

"To have one of the highest median incomes and have people living in homes with no running water is just not acceptable," county Chairwoman Phyllis Randall (D-At Large) said. "It is unconscionable that we would let this continue in our county."

Howardsville sits northwest of Middleburg, south of Route 7. Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, it was one of the first predominantly black communities in Loudoun County.

Following the Civil War, white property owners William and Mary Stephenson sold land to a dozen black people. But some of the properties don't adequately perc, preventing a septic system from functioning. The perc issue has dragged down property values and brought about water and sewer concerns that persist today.

"It was basically a tree lot," said Kim Hart, a local workforce housing builder. "It's got good groundwater, but the ground does not perc, and for that reason few of the houses have poor drain fields, and some have none at all. So, it's a mix of those who have sewer and water, and those who don't."

In hopes of helping Howardsville residents, Loudoun County completed a water and wastewater feasibility study in 2011. Last year, the county was able to establish a service district north of the community, Hart said.

"It's been a long-time coming, but really a fabulous thing to have happened," he said. "This is one of the last communities in Loudoun that does not have adequate



Times-Mirror Photos/Nathaniel Cline

Howardsville resident Thomas Reid looks around his community before Loudoun County begins construction on a wastewater sewer system.

water and sewer."

During the Reconstruction era, the Stephensons sold about 28 acres to black families. Each purchase cost between \$12 to \$80, according to descendant and historian Kevin Grigsby.

Grigsby is the author of "Howardsville," a book that details the area's storied past. He says the land was sold due to economic factors; instead of paying wages for farm laborers, property owners sold their land to formerly enslaved residents.

"It's quite a paradox that the early settlers of Howardsville, who had provided years of free labor as slaves, would then purchase land from those who had once enslaved them," Grigsby said in his book. "If ever a group of people was entitled to something for free, it would have been those early Howardsville landowners."

Seventy-four-year-old Thomas Reid, a Howardsville local and descendant of the Reid and Basil families, surveyed his surroundings during a recent walk through

his property. Gone are the days when up to a dozen people would call each Howardsville dwelling a home.

Reid and Grigsby care deeply about preserving what is left.

"It means a hell of a lot," Reid said. "It means a hell of a lot for me just to be here. This is where it all began."

He shared stories about his late mother, Alberta Basil, and the gravel road before it was paved. He chuckled as he talked about baths in a steel tub, where he picked up his nickname "Bubbles." A similar tub still sits in the yard. Reid reminisced about kids playing with tires and using rotary phones and neighbors working as stone masons.

Grigsby said it was important to preserve the community's history by writing "Howardsville," especially considering the dwindling native population. People leaning on each other has been a prevailing theme throughout Howardsville's history.

"If one ever goes through the book,

“

If ever a group of people was entitled to something for free, it would have been those early Howardsville landowners.”

LOCAL HISTORIAN
KEVIN GRIGSBY

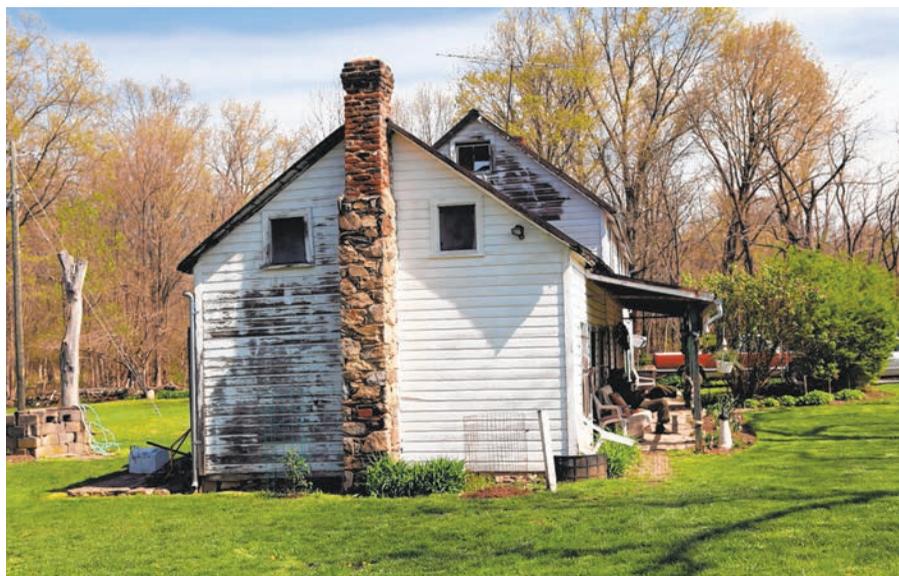
you'll see the sense of caring is a common theme reiterated over and over again," Grigsby said. "I really think that's what helped many of those individuals persevere and helped pass the baton to younger generations to go on and achieve in education and careers, and the backdrop to all of that was a pretty cruel and racist world that a lot of the older generation had to endure."

On April 10, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors ratified and approved the Planning Commission's proposal to create a community wastewater system for Howardsville. Supervisor Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), though absent for the final vote, thanked his colleagues "for supporting this much-needed solution to ensure the health and safety of one of Loudoun's most long-standing and historic communities."

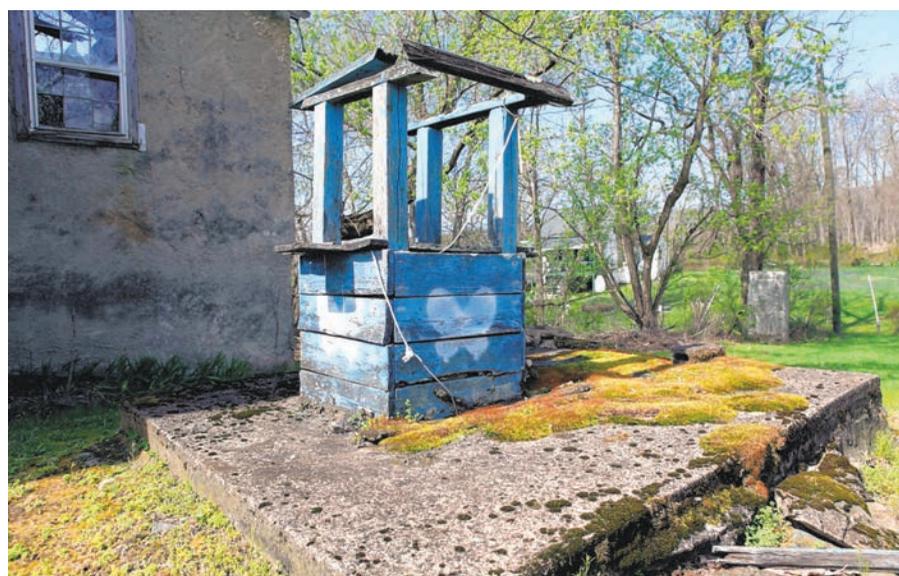
The board in 2015 approved \$1.47 million for the project through the county's Capital Improvement Program. The plans call for developing a community wastewater treatment system in Howardsville and expanding the service district for the Willisville community wastewater treatment system developed in 2007. Construction could begin early as 2020, according to county officials.

Meanwhile, Reid is happy to see people paying attention to the community he has long cherished.

"This is it," he said. "All of my memories, greatest memories, everything is right here."



Since acquiring land in the late 1800s, black people in Howardsville have added some additions to their modest homes.



Howardsville residents used wells to retrieve water after the Civil War. Some locals still use them in 2019.