

# NORTHVILLE RECORD

7, MARCH 21, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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ONLINE COUPONS



## Burger Joint reopens Milford location

**mlcy** Hometownlife.com  
ETWORK — MICHIGAN

lovers rejoice — the Burger ilford is back.

The pop-culture themed restaurant at 312 N. Main St. celebrated a grand reopening March 12 with its new owner, new catering plans and new creations.

Brian Belwood, who has contributed to the increasing popularity of the counter-service restaurant since its inception a decade ago, took over ownership in January.

Last month, he and managing partner Jason Monarch temporarily closed the business for remodeling that included new electrical, plumbing, wood flooring, some new booths and new decor.

"It started off with, we needed a bigger walk-in cooler. We are going to start catering, we're going to get into graduations and parties," Belwood said. "Our growth rate is fantastic."

"Over the last three years, we've had an 18 percent increase in sales per year. Our next logical step is catering."

A special catering-only item will be sliders, which can be ordered by

the dozen as miniature versions of Burger Joint favorites like the Joey Burger with barbecue sauce, cheddar cheese and onion rings; Moe's Pub Burger with organic beef on a pretzel roll with caramelized onions, bacon, sharp cheddar and pub cheese sauce; or the Inferno Burger with ghost pepper

See BURGERS, Page 6A

## Novi ESL instructor named Teacher of the Year

**Susan Bromley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Shannon Hadley, clad in pajamas, clasped her hands over her mouth, eyes wide, as well-wishers streamed into her classroom Monday morning to celebrate Novi's newest Teacher of the Year.

The Novi High School ESL teacher couldn't stop smiling as family, friends and colleagues applauded and she was given flowers, balloons, hugs and told she would also receive a multi-year vehicle lease.

"I am extremely surprised," Hadley said. "Thank you so much!"

She then asked if she could change out of her Pajama Day attire before going outside to see a blue 2019 Nissan Rogue, an example of one of the vehicles she will be able to select to lease from Suburban Collection.

Che Shaydak, general sales manager, said the two- or three-year lease, with a total value of \$12,000, is a small token of the dealership's appreciation for the dedication and inspiration teachers give every day.

"They are kind of a big deal," he said.

Every year, district officials nominate a teacher of the year at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels.

Besides Hadley, this year's nominees were David Kniaz, an eighth-grade U.S. history teacher from Novi Middle School; and Jodi Balconi, a second-grade teacher at Novi Woods Elementary School.

The Novi Educational Foundation executive board decides the top honoree based on a second review of the applications and additional feedback from parents, students and the community.

The task is not easy, said Chris Harpenau, NEF board president.

"With all three candidates, we see how they make connections with students, parents and families," he said.

Hadley, he said, was chosen for her outreach and the connections she made in particular with students

See TEACHER, Page 6A

## 'This was the place to be'



5th Avenue bartender Dan Vercellino pulls a beer from the taps at the Novi bar March 7. The bar is open from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## 5th Avenue in Novi reopens under new ownership



5th Avenue server Heather Pennington shows off the sushi boat.

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

Matt Osborne remembers coming to the 5th Avenue years ago when it was a pool hall and live music concert venue.

"I remember parking out on the grass across the street," he said. "You couldn't get parking here. This was the place to be."

Today, Osborne and his wife, Melissa, hope the bar at Novi Road and Trans X Drive in Novi will become just as popular. The Novi couple reopened the bar just south of Grand River in February and have promised big changes coming as the year moves forward.

The bar has been run by several groups in past years, all of which haven't been successful. The Osbornes are banking on their love of the building and their business plan to keep the bar

running at a high level.

Some minor changes were made to the first floor, which sports plenty of fire and police department paraphernalia on the columns: fire coats, hoses, even a photo of legendary Novi Police Chief Lee BeGole. The decor comes with a personal touch from Matt Osborne, who works as a firefighter for Novi. Upstairs is a work in progress: the couple plan to turn it into a reception hall and reopen the outdoor bar area.

The space, while still under construction, very much breathes the industrial feel of an old building in downtown Detroit. That feel is what made them fall in love with it.

"I just remembered what it looked like and how great of a space it would be for a wedding," Melissa Osborne said.

See 5TH AVENUE, Page 6A

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# Congress considers technology that would lock out drunk drivers

Northville family's deaths spur search for solution

Todd Spangler Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

WASHINGTON — The deaths of a Northville family of five in January when a truck slammed into their car in Kentucky has Congress wondering

whether interlock devices that keep drunken drivers off the road entirely should be mandatory for all vehicles.

On March 14, members of the House Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee specifically invoked the deaths of Issam Abbas, his wife, Rima, and their three children as they questioned whether technology that could keep vehicles from being operated by any drunken driver should be more widely required.

Although any move to mandate devices in all vehicles to keep them from starting without the driver first blowing into a tube or taking some other action to test his or her sobriety is unlikely in the near future, it was clear that some members of Congress and safety advocates believe federal regulators should be moving in that direction.

"What's sad is that this story has been repeated over and over again and Congress needs to step up and do something about it," said U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Dearborn.

At present, interlock devices are generally only required by state courts after someone has been arrested for drunken driving. But with more than 10,000 drunken driving fatalities a year, some safety advocates and members of Congress are pushing legislation, such as Dingell's Abbas Stop Drunk Driving Act, which could mandate interlock devices to keep drunken drivers off the road.

The family was headed home from a vacation trip when a truck operated by 41-year-old Joey Bailey hit their vehicle head-on on Jan. 6 on I-75 in Kentucky. A coroner said Bailey had a blood-alcohol level of .306, well above the .08 legal



The Abbas family, clockwise from left, Ali, Rima, Issam, Isabelle, and Giselle, pose for a photo at a wedding in 2018. The family was killed as they headed home from a vacation trip when a truck hit their vehicle head-on on I-75 in Kentucky in January. The driver had a blood-alcohol level of .306, according to a coroner. The legal limit is .08. COURTESY OF BILL MCDADD

limit to drive.

The only technology currently available involves an interlock device that connects to the car and requires the driver to blow into a tube before the vehicle will start.

But for more than a decade, the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety — an organization funded by domestic and international automakers — has been working on technology that could result in devices that keep a car from starting based on more passive testing, such as automatically measuring the blood-alcohol of a driver as he or she breathes naturally behind the wheel, or a touch-based system that "measures blood alcohol levels by shining an infrared light through the fingertip of the driver."

Robert Strassburger, the president and CEO of the coalition, said the technology is still being developed.

But he hopes it will be available for a wider fleet of vehicles for testing by next year and for commercial use by 2024.

Automakers aren't, at this point, advocating making such technology — or the available interlock devices — mandatory, however, and are generally loathe to have federal regulators or Con-

gress force requirements on them, especially if there are fears that the public isn't ready to accept them or they could result in unacceptably high costs.

The auto industry has also been investing heavily into the promise of automated vehicles, which could potentially make the problem of drunken driving virtually disappear — though that technology is also unlikely to be widely available in the near future.

The Alliance of Auto Manufacturers, a trade group of domestic and international automakers, put out a statement saying that automakers continue to work to address impaired driving and support present-day ignition interlocks and law enforcement's use of them, though it said those rules could always be reviewed.

"Industry, in cooperation with the federal government, is also examining emerging technologies to combat drunk driving," the Alliance statement continued. "Such technology must not hassle the sober driver. It also must be small, quick, noninvasive, accurate, reliable, repeatable, foolproof, durable and easy to maintain. And, of course, it must have the public's support."

## hometownlife.com

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### NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT PTSLU19-0003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for R. A. Smith, agent for Home Depot, is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit in accordance with 7.6.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporary outside storage inside screened enclosure at parcel 50-23-17-226-004, north of Grand River Ave and west of Beck Road from April 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. The property is zoned B-2 (Community Business) and the use is contrary to 3.10.1.B of the Novi Zoning Ordinance.

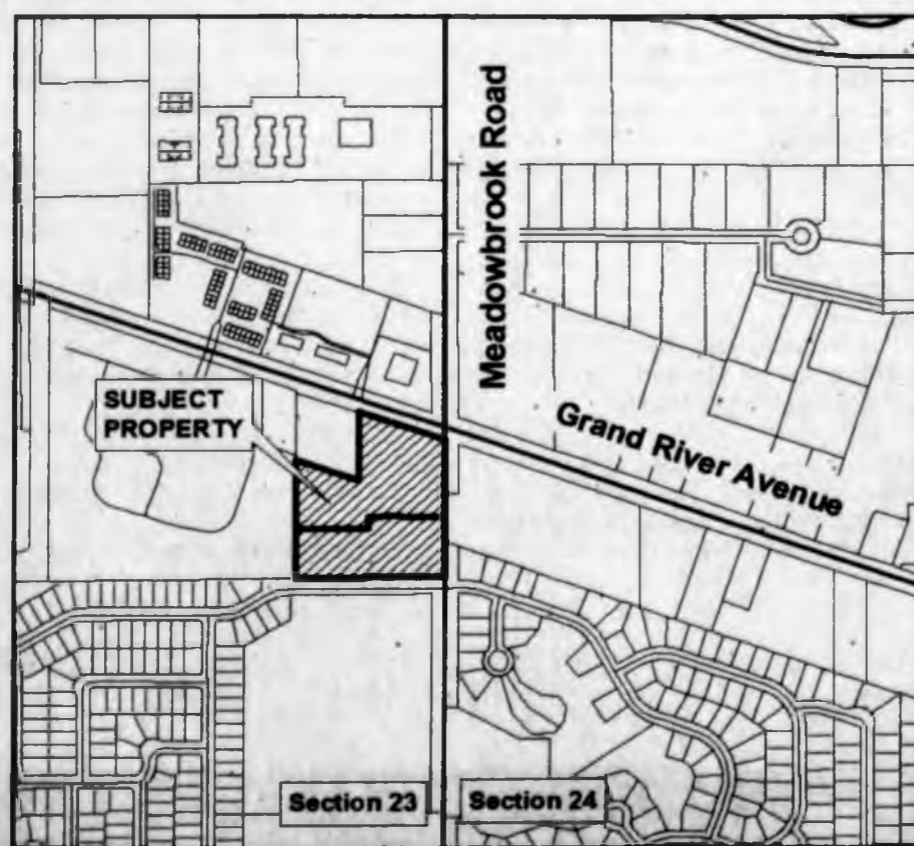
A public hearing can be requested by any property owner whose property is located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary special land use permit.

A public hearing will be held at 10:00am on April 5, 2019 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road in the Community Development Conference Room. All written comments should be directed to Katherine Oppermann and must be received prior to Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 3PM.

Published: March 21, 2019

### CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 1, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider JAGUAR LAND ROVER JSP17-85 FOR APPROVAL OF A PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN WITH A SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT (SDO) OPTION, A WETLAND PERMIT, A WOODLAND PERMIT AND A STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN. The subject property is comprised of two parcels totaling 9.48 acres. It is located on the southwest corner of Grand River Avenue and Meadowbrook Road (Section 23). The applicant is proposing to build a 58,663 square foot car sales facility for Jaguar Land Rover. The site plan proposes 138 parking spaces and 287 parking spaces for storing cars for sale.



Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.

Subject Parcel ID: 50-22-23-251-018 (5.62 acres) and 22-23-251-019(3.86 acres)

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

Published March 21, 2019

### PUBLIC NOTICE

March 21, 2019

#### Re: Notification of Flood Hazard Mapping Revisions

The City of Novi Community Development Department, in accordance with National Flood Insurance Program regulation 65.7(b)(1), hereby gives notice of the City of Novi's intent to revise the flood hazard information, generally located between Eleven Mile Road and a point 1,450 lineal feet downstream of Eleven Mile Road. Specifically, the flood hazard information shall be revised along the Novi-Lyon Drain Tributary C from a point approximately 1,450 lineal feet downstream of Eleven Mile Road to Eleven Mile Road.

As a result of the revision, the floodway shall narrow, the 1% annual chance water-surface elevations shall decrease, and the 1% annual chance floodplain shall narrow within the area of revision. The floodway and 1% annual chance floodplain revisions are located entirely within the requestor's property boundary.

Maps and detailed analysis of the revision can be reviewed at the City of Novi Community Development Office at 45175 Ten Mile Road, City of Novi, MI 48375. Interested persons may call Mr. Larry Butler, Community Development Deputy Director at 248-347-0415 for additional information from Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Sincerely,  
CITY OF NOVI  
Charles Boulard, Community Development Director  
Published: March 21, 2019

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

#### SIX MILE ROAD PATHWAY AND POLICE HEADQUARTERS PARKING LOT REHABILITATION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE MARCH 22, 2019

Sealed Bids for Six Mile Road Pathway and Police Headquarters Parking Lot Rehabilitation will be received at the office of the Charter Township of Northville until 10:00 a.m. local time, on April 16, 2019, by the Township Clerk's Office located at 44405 Six Mile Rd, Northville Township, MI 48168.

The approximate quantities of major items of work involved are as follows:

230 Tons	HMA, Pathway
550 Tons	HMA, Parking Lot
2,600 Square Yards	Pavement Removal
1800 Square Yards	HMA, Crush and Shape
350 Square Yards	Concrete Pavement

The Contract Documents for this project are on file and may be examined on and after 2:00pm on March 22, 2019, at the following locations:

Department of Public Services, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville Township, MI 48168  
OHM Advisors, 34000 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150  
Dodge Data & Analytics, dodge.bidding@construction.com  
Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), 43636 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 camnewsroom@gmail.com  
CMD Group Attn: Production, 30 Technology Pkwy S #100 Norcross, GA 30094-2912 docprocessing@cmdgroup.com

Bidding Documents were prepared by OHM Advisors. Bidders should direct correspondence to that office (734)-466-4562 (attn: Kyle Selter).

Copies thereof may be obtained on or after 2:00pm local time, March 22, 2019 at the office of the ENGINEER, Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc., 34000 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150. A fee of Fifty-Five dollars (\$55.00) non-refundable will be charged for each set of Contract Documents. An additional fee of Fifteen dollars (\$15.00) non-refundable will be charged for each set of Contract Documents which are mailed.

Bid Security in the form of a Cashier's Check or Bid Bond for a sum no less than 5 of the amount of the Bid will be required with each Bid.

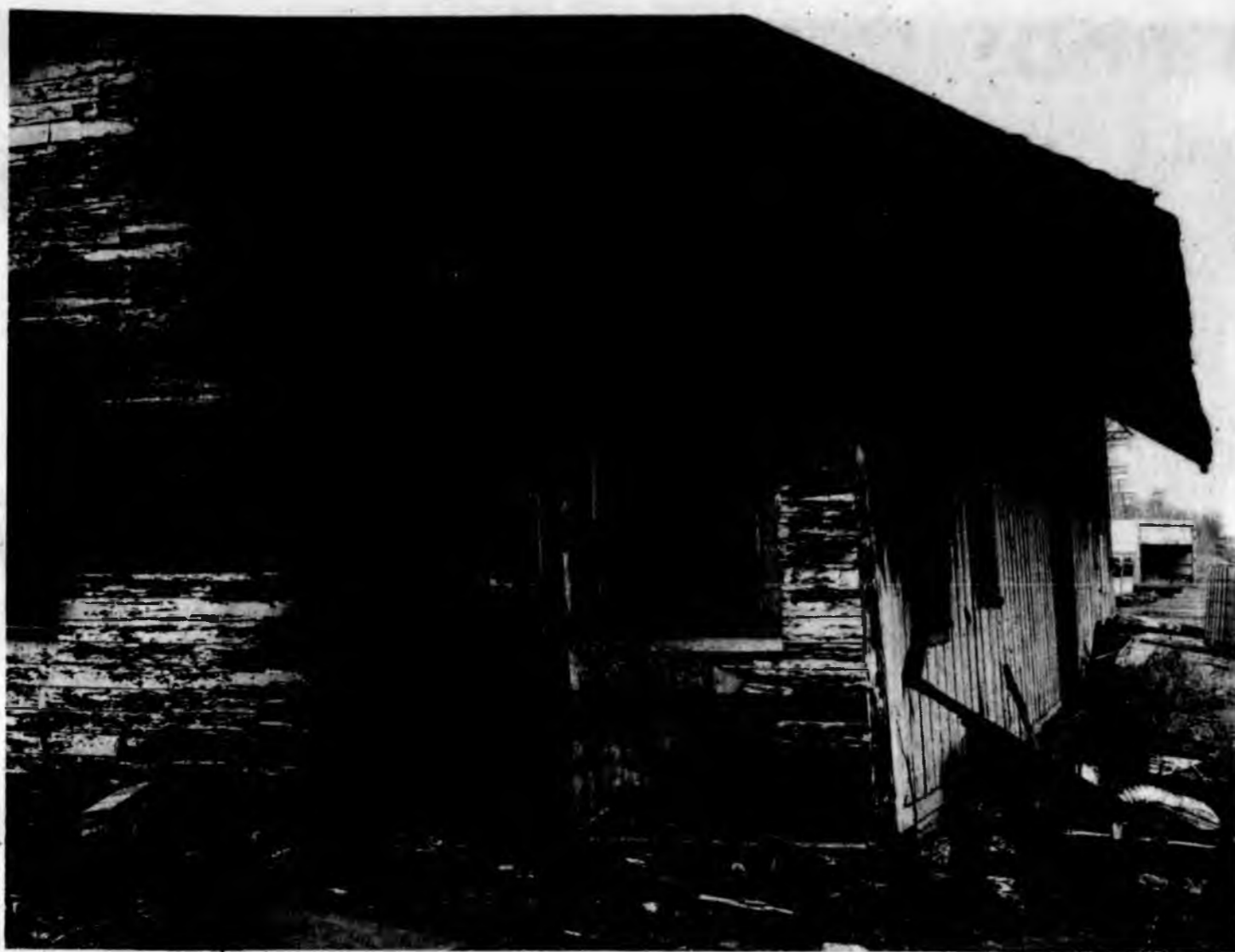
The OWNER reserves the right to accept any Bid, reject any Bid, or waive irregularities in Bids.

No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of 90 calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receipt of the Bids.

No pre-bid meetings are scheduled for this project.

Thomas Casari, PE, Director of Public Services  
Charter Township of Northville

Published: March 21, 2019



The north side of the Novi train depot sustained heavy damage from an early-morning fire March 14. The building lies just below the Grand River Avenue overpass west of Novi Road. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Firefighter injured in Novi train depot blaze

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Fire damaged about a third of an old train depot in Novi the morning of March 14, and city officials must inspect the building to see if it can be revived, said Jeffery Johnson, director of EMS and fire operations.

Firefighters from Novi and Farmington Hills responded to the blaze behind Novi Feed LLC, 43963 Grand River Ave.

A Farmington Hills firefighter was injured when he fell through flooring. He was treated and released from Provi-

dence Park Hospital in Novi.

According to Johnson, dispatchers fielded a call about smoke on the north side of Grand River Avenue near the railroad overpass and then an additional call about flames and black smoke pluming from a building near the railroad.

When firefighters arrived at 7:50 a.m., flames were engulfing nearly half of the building.

Four fire engines and nearly 20 firefighters took about an hour to get the fire under control.

The closest hydrant was on the north

side of the street, requiring police to block off some Grand River Avenue traffic as firefighters worked.

No cause has been determined.

The building apparently was being used to store straw and for some U-Haul rental truck parking.

The owner has told fire officials damage was about \$10,000.

"It definitely could have been a lot worse," said Brendan Stanfield, who works at Novi Feed.

## Police arrest South Lyon woman who fell out of wheelchair in street

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

An older resident was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge last month after South Lyon police found her apparently drunk and blocking traffic in her electric wheelchair on Washington Street, just south of Liberty Street.

Police said in a report the 62-year-old woman called them around 1:30 p.m. Feb. 27, saying she had fallen out of her chair. She did not know her exact location and she was known for making similar calls.

Police were dispatched to West Lake and Warren streets and found the woman soon thereafter.

When police arrived, firefighters were trying to assist the woman as vehicles drove around her slumped figure in the wheelchair.

She appeared lethargic and apparently drunk. Police said in the report they kept yelling at the woman to keep her attention. Because of the cold outside and the woman's scant clothing, police called for an ambulance.

While waiting for the emergency vehicle, the woman refused a breathalyzer test. She pushed away the equipment.

An ambulance later transported her to Providence Park Hospital in Novi.

Fire Chief Robert Vogel and Deputy Chief Mike Weir transported the woman's wheelchair to her residence.

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

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES  
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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – PUBLIC HEARING**

**APRIL 17, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.**

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI. The ZBA will consider variance requests to Chapter 170, Zoning Ordinance as follows:

- 50695 Six Mile Rd. (ID#77 070 99 0002 000), Article 31 (Fences) and Article 18 (Schedule of Regulations).

Written comments regarding these requests will be received by the ZBA at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168. The meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M.

Paul Slatin, Chair  
Zoning Board of Appeals

Publish: March 21, 2019

**CITY OF NORTHVILLE  
INTENT TO REVISE FLOOD HAZARD INFORMATION**

The City of Northville Public Works Department in accordance with National Flood Insurance Program regulation 65.7(b)(1), hereby gives notice of the City of Northville's intent to revise the flood hazard information generally located between the S. Main Street Bridge and the Seven Mile Road Bridge. The flood hazard revisions are being proposed as part of the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) Case No. 18-05-6128R for a proposed project along Middle Rouge River Walled Lake Branch. Hunter Pasteur Homes is proposing to remove a 10-inch diameter sanitary sewer pipe encased in an 18-inch diameter steel casing pipe located within the Middle Rouge River Walled Lake Branch below the Beal Street Bridge and performing minor filling activities at the southern end of the Northville Downs property in order to improve upon and update the floodplain boundaries as part of the Northville Downs Development. Once the project has been completed, a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) request should be submitted that will, in part, revise the following flood hazards along the Middle Rouge River Walled Lake Branch.

1. The floodway will be revised from the S. Main Street Bridge to the Seven Mile Road Bridge along the Middle Rouge River Walled Lake Branch.
2. Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) will decrease along the Middle Rouge River Walled Lake Branch.
3. The Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) will decrease along Middle Rouge River Walled Lake Branch.

Maps and detailed analysis of the revision can be reviewed at the City of Northville Municipal Building - Department of Public Works, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, Monday through Friday, from 8am to 3:30pm. Interested persons may also contact Loyd Cureton, Director of Public Works at 248-305-2708, Monday through Friday, from 7am to 3:30pm with questions or for additional information.

LOYD CURETON, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BRENT STRONG, BUILDING OFFICIAL

Publish: March 14, & 21, 2019

**CITY OF NOVI  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, March 27, 2019** at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **LAKESHORE PARK COMMUNITY BUILDING JSP 19-16 FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLANDS PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED R-4 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL).** The subject property is located along South side of South Lake Drive and west of Old Novi Road in Section 3. The applicant is proposing to redevelop approximately 7.7 acres of a total 32.73-acre site in the entrance area to Lakeshore Park. The modifications include an addition of approximately 6,258 square foot community building, 109-space paved parking lot including removal of 90 existing spaces, a pavilion and other park improvements. The entrance drive includes an addition of bike lane to connect to the mountain biking trails.

Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.

**Subject Property Parcel ID's:** Part of 50-22-03-457-001, part of 50-22-03-477-001, 50-22-03-455-007 and part 50-22-03-455-009

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be submitted to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

Published **March 21, 2019**  
Novi Planning Commission  
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: March 21, 2019

**CITY OF NOVI  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **April 9, 2019 at 7:00PM** in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider:

**PZ19-0006 (Francis and Pamela Schneider) 20825 Meadowbrook Road, West of Meadowbrook Road and North of Eight Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-35-400-048.** The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.2 D for a 2.65 foot variance for a proposed lot width of 117.35 feet, 120 feet minimum required. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-1).

**PZ19-0009 (Marc Zuccato) 1189 E Lake Dr, East of East Lake Drive and South of Fourteen Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-02-127-011.** The applicant is requesting variances from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 4.19.E.i for a variance of 572 square feet to allow a proposed 1422 square feet of garage space, 850 square feet allowed. Section 3.32-10. ii.a, for the building of a proposed 160 square foot structure on the waterfront, 100 square feet allowed by code, and to allow an 11 foot 4 inch height, 8 foot allowed by code. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

**PZ19-0010 (Mark and Karen Lustig) 42496 Thirteen Mile Rd, West of Novi Road and North of Thirteen Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-02-382-002.** The applicant is requesting variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 5.1 to park a recreational vehicle over 6 feet tall in the side yard and extending 6 feet into the front yard. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

**PZ19-0011 (Mark Zawaiden) 40020 Twelve Mile Rd, West of Haggerty Road and North of Twelve Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-12-400-063.** The applicant is requesting variance from the City of Novi Code of Ordinances Section 28-5(d)(7) for a second 72 square foot south facing wall sign, one wall sign facing each thoroughfare permitted by code. This property is zoned Office Service Technology (OST).

**PZ19-0012 (Mark and Jessica Haapala) 41414 Broquet Dr, West of Meadowbrook Road and South of Nine Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-35-429-004.** The applicant is requesting variance from Section 5.11(A)ii to allow a fence to extend past the exterior side yard setback. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-1).

**PZ19-0013 (Interior Environments Inc) 48700 Grand River Ave, East of Wixom Road and North of Grand River Avenue, Parcel #50-22-17-126-009.** The applicant is requesting variances from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.23.D for parking setbacks of less than 20 feet on the Twelve Mile Road (zero feet requested) and Grand River Avenue (16 feet requested), and a variance from Zoning Ordinance Section 5.3.12 for an end island less than 3 feet shorter than the adjacent parking space. This property is zoned General Business (B-3).

**PZ19-0014 (Robertson Brothers Homes) 2293 and 2295 Austin Drive, West of Old Novi Road and South of Thirteen Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-10-231-019 and 50-22-10-231-006.** The applicant is requesting variances from Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.5.D. for 2293 Austin Drive to allow 21 foot rear yard setback, 35 feet allowed and to allow a 6,550 square foot minimum lot area, 10,000 square feet allowed. The applicant is requesting variances from Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.5.D. for 2295 Austin Drive to allow 29% lot coverage, 25% allowed, and to allow a minimum lot area of 6,951 square feet, 10,000 square feet allowed. These properties are zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

Publish: March 21, 2019



Don Ferguson, of Canton, a former vice president with Quicken Loans, and his wife Nayana Ferguson partnered with Michael Rowoldt to produce Teeq tequila. DAN DEAN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Canton man launches brand of tequila

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

If you have nothing but bad experiences when you think of the word "tequila," Don Ferguson wants to change your mind. He thinks he's got a product that will do just that.

"I love tequila. But there are different grades of tequila," said Ferguson, a Canton resident. "When you go back to your old college days and you made \$5 an hour and you can barely afford anything, you were buying, most likely, Jose Cuervo."

His new spirit, Teeq Tequila, aims to

change that perception and bring tequila and non-tequila drinkers into the mix.

The brand launched more than four months ago and it's already for sale in restaurants across western Wayne County and in stores across Michigan.

It's a drink unlike many cheaper tequilas, Ferguson said, aiming to be a

higher-end product.

"We're a premium sipping tequila. We're a tequila that is not going to be conventional in many terms," he said. "Most of the time, from the first taste, we get, 'Wow, that's smooth.' And that's

See TEQUILA, Page 5A



**25**  
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### IHA Medical Center @ Schoolcraft

Jeffress Center | 39201 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia

### IHA Family & Internal Medicine @ Schoolcraft 734.213.3685

Rm. 140-A Mon - Fri: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

OPENING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4!

#### Family Medicine



**Jessica Haddad, MD**, is a board-certified family medicine physician. She has clinical interests in women's health, pediatrics, preventive care, cryotherapy and the management of chronic diseases.

**MEDICAL EDUCATION**  
American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, Sint Maarten  
**RESIDENCY**  
Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center, Chicago

#### Internal Medicine



**Li Li, MD, PhD** is board-certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Li focuses on listening to her patients' needs and concerns, and educating them on preventive care, allowing her to build relationships with the whole family. She is fluent in Chinese.

**MEDICAL EDUCATION**  
Fudan University Shanghai Medical College, China  
**RESIDENCY**  
Wayne State University Detroit Medical Center

Make an appointment online: [www.IHAcares.com/Schoolcraft](http://www.IHAcares.com/Schoolcraft)

### IHA Urgent Care @ Schoolcraft 734.213.3688

Rm. 140-B Mon - Fri: 7:00 am to 9:00 pm Sat - Sun: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

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# Local communities ranked among safest in state

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A sense of security is spreading from several local communities as yet another survey indicates they're some of Michigan's safest.

South Lyon ranked No. 5 in a ranking released in January and conducted by the Washington, D.C.-based National Council for Home Safety and Security, also known as alarms.org.

Berkley was fourth; Rochester, third; Beverly Hills, second; and Grosse Ile Township, first.

Rounding out the Top 10 (in order) were Farmington, Milford, Bloomfield Township, Trenton and Clawson.

Other communities near the top are Plymouth Township (14th), Farmington Hills (21st), Novi (25th), Northville Township (27th) and Livonia (29th).

"We love it," South Lyon Police Lt.



South Lyon was ranked the fifth safest city in Michigan according to a ranking released in January and conducted by alarms.org. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Douglas Baaki said. "We try to do our best."

He said community members do a good job of helping their police keep South Lyon safe. There's some development happening in the region that could bring some challenges, but police offi-

cials said they aim to keep their community as safe as can be.

Milford Police Chief Tom Lindberg noted that several companies do annual rankings and none are quite the same.

He still takes them seriously. Birmingham placed 11th. The sur-

vey's results, Chief Mark Clemence said, are good for the community and its residents.

A better gauge for those wanting to be in the know, he said, is the police department's annual report.

"The best defense against crime is an engaged community," Clemence said.

The chief noted that police work has come a long way because of technology and agencies sharing information.

Michigan is the 11th safest state for property crime, according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security's ranking. It is 34th safest for violent crime.

The council's ranking was based on a review of the most recent FBI Uniform Crime Reports and data regarding violent crimes and property crimes, according to the council's survey results.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432.

## Tequila

Continued from Page 4A

what I was shooting for."

Two styles are currently available: a coconut lime blanco, which Ferguson claims is the only one of its kind in the world; and reposada, tequila aged several months in whiskey barrels. The end result is a smooth taste that has left Ferguson's customers wanting more; he's been blown away by the response since the brand was launched in late summer.

The idea has been in the works for more than a year, Ferguson said. He was employed at a large metro Detroit mortgage company and decided he wanted out of the corporate game. Being a big fan of tequila, he began exploring other options.

Speaking with his wife, who was going through her own career transition, the two looked into distilleries in Mexico before finding one they liked. They then began working on recipes and receiving shipments from the distillery with samples before finalizing the recipe and beginning production.

The hummingbird on the label recalls

the esteem many Aztecs held toward the flitting bird in ancient times, as well as providing good luck whenever one flies by you. That's an experience, Ferguson said, he can relate to.

"I've had a hummingbird fly by my head three times," he said. "The most recent was the day after I picked up most of these bottles. It really resonated."

### On shelves, in bars statewide

Since launching, Teeq has made it into restaurants such as Las Palapas in Livonia and Barrio Cocina Tequileria in Plymouth. It's also in liquor stores across metro Detroit and is served in places such as Jackson and as far north as Marquette.

Because all distilling and bottling takes place in Mexico, politics in Washington have affected business. Ferguson said his product has been impacted by the tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump's administration. It's caused some headaches, costing Ferguson some additional money, but he had enough cushion to pay them and keep his line imported into the United States.

"It created some tariffs that were un-

expected, because they didn't exist," Ferguson said. "It was unexpected. We did not know. We did not forecast that."

The brand has gotten the attention of several restaurants that have begun stocking it behind their bars. Hector Ochoa, owner of Las Palapas, said he stocks about 250 types of tequila at the restaurant and has sold plenty of Teeq since stocking it late last year, with lots of local interest.

"It's actually been good," he said. "I think it's more because it's local and I think everybody's been coming in. We actually sold out for two or three weeks."

"We have regulars that have been big fans of it and they drink it regularly."

The success of the brand has exceeded Ferguson's expectations and he said he's not stopping anytime soon. He's hoping eventually his tequila can be found across the country.

"We really did not think that in four months we would have 100 stores," he said. "Because of word of mouth still, we've been able to pick up 15 more stores and restaurants."

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



Don Ferguson says Teeq Coconut Lime Blanco is the only one of its kind. DAN DEAN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Teacher

Continued from Page 1A

whose first language is not English. He noted she has gone far beyond the bounds of the schools to assist however she can, even going to the police station to help a family who had been involved in a car accident.

"In letters from teachers and students, we saw the difference she has made in their lives," Harpenau said.

Hadley is in her 19th year of teaching and has been an ESL teacher in Novi since 2005.

Konstantina Angjelovski, an NHS junior and a native of Macedonia, is in Hadley's class this year, and also was a student of hers in third grade.

"She's the best, a mom to everyone," Angjelovski said. "I knew if I had problems in school, she would always be there. She's the nicest person and helps us in all our classes."

Jennifer Kerbrat, career development facilitator, said Hadley is the hardest-working person she has ever seen: at school before everyone else, always working late, and working on weekends.

"She was born to be an educator," Kerbrat said. "The kids love her. The day they picked her to be the high school teacher of the year, the kids all said why they loved her and it was so genuine — everyone was crying and that is only one hour of the day. She is utterly amazing."



Shannon Hadley, center, Novi Teacher of the Year, stands with Jennifer Kerbrat and Kostantina Angjelovski, both of whom nominated her for the honor, at Novi High School on March 11. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Hadley learns she has been named Novi Teacher of the Year for 2019.



Hadley tries the driver's seat of a potential lease from Suburban Collection, part of her awards package.

This year, the students in Hadley's classroom have 35 different first languages. She has studied eight languages, and is not fluent in all of those, but her undergraduate degree in fine arts helps, as she uses drawing as a form of communication. Hadley is also adept at finding key words and similarities be-

tween languages and notes that "smiles are universal."

"I love my students," she said. "I learn so much from them and I travel the world every day in my classroom."

Contact Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com). Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.



5th Avenue in Novi has reopened at Novi Road and Trans X Drive. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## 5th Avenue

Continued from Page 1A

"I do a lot of weddings all over Michigan, and downtown Detroit is really the only place you can get a look like that, the industrial vibe. There's nothing out this way."

Downstairs, the room is open with some video games and giant versions games like Jenga and Connect Four made from wood. Live music is expected every few weekends. The bar sports 16 taps with a wide variety of beers, half of which come from Michigan breweries. Some brews on tap include Soft Pa-

rade by Short's, M-43 IPA from Old Nation Brewing Co., Solid Gold from Founders and Amber from Alaskan Brewing Co., to name a few.

The bar keeps its current tap list posted on Untappd.

The couple wants it to be a place everyone can go, not just those looking for craft beer or those looking for a Bud Light.

"Enough that anyone who came in here could find something they like and enjoy their time," Matt Osborne said. "I just wanted something that everyone can drink."

The menu is limited right now, only serving starters and sushi, though the couple hope to expand to serve more

pub food like burgers and chicken wraps. Several food trucks have stopped or plan to stop and serve food inside, including Heroes and Villains and Mac Shack.

The bar is currently open from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, though the Osbornes hope to extend hours as business grows, especially when football season returns.

Those interested in booking the reception space later this year can do so by contacting the bar through their website, the5thnovi.com.

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

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## Burgers

Continued from Page 1A

cheese and jalapeno aioli.

Many of the Burger Joint's favorite permanent additions to the menu are a result of trial runs — Belwood creates "limited time offerings" which are available for about a month. Currently, those offerings include a Mediterranean chicken wrap, feta fries, a Smokehouse Burger and Canadian Poutine.

Belwood, who studied culinary arts at Schoolcraft College and has a bachelor's degree in small business management from the University of Phoenix, said owning a restaurant was always his plan.

"It was never specifically about burgers, but I learned how much creativity you can have making them," he said. "You can take a burger and make it into a million different things."

At the Burger Joint, customers are invited to build their own burger, choosing from chuck meat, Piedmont (organic, lean, grass-fed beef), turkey, chicken or



The Burger Joint at 312 N. Main St. in Milford has been around since 2008. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

beans for the base, and selecting from a variety of toppings, including six different cheeses, a multitude of vegetables, sauces made from scratch, eggs and bacon, and four different types of buns:

See BURGERS, Page 7A

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# It's a pillow fight as companies file suits

Tiny Michigan firm takes on famous MyPillow

JC Reindl Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A small Michigan pillow company is in a back-and-forth court battle — call it a nasty pillow fight — with industry giant MyPillow, made famous by its colorful CEO's TV infomercials, recovery from crack addiction and exuberance for President Donald Trump.

Minnesota-based MyPillow, which says it has 1,600 employees and 44 million customers, last year sued for trademark infringement Wixom-based LMP Worldwide, which sells pillows under the name "I Love My Pillow" and has nine employees.

Last week, I Love My Pillow denied all the allegations and countersued.

MyPillow was started in 2004 and is about three years older than I Love My Pillow. I Love My Pillow's founder, Mark Arthurs, came up with his company's name after his daughter tried his home-made prototype and exclaimed, "Daddy, I love my pillow!"

MyPillow founder Mike Lindell is his company's upbeat marketing pitchman, personally guaranteeing that MyPillow "is going to be the most comfortable pillow you'll ever own."

Lindell is open about his past struggles with crack cocaine, which cost him a marriage, his house, and nearly his company before he sobered up in 2009.

More recently, Lindell has generated headlines for his effusive praise of Trump, including at last month's Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland, when he described Trump as "chosen by God."

MyPillow and I Love My Pillow make competing styles of memory foam-like pillows. Following previous litigation, they signed a co-existence deal in 2013.

But MyPillow accuses I Love My Pillow of breaking the terms of that deal by purchasing the words "my" and "pillow" in Google search ads. Additionally, an I Love My Pillow employee emailed a wholesale customer that "(w)e're confident going head to head with other pillows, especially My Pillow (sic)."

MyPillow has asked the U.S. District Court in Minnesota to force I Love My Pillow to surrender its website, ILoveMyPillow.com, stop using the phrase and design "I (heart) my pillow," and recall and destroy all of its pillows that carry the "I (heart) my pillow" tag.

"They are another company that is trying to piggyback and copy someone else like it's their own idea," Lindell said in a phone interview March 12. "What a shame."

I Love My Pillow denies doing anything that violated the deal.

The company admits to purchasing "my" and "pillow" ad words in late 2016, but insists that it immediately corrected that error within the time allowed under the deal.

## Counterclaim

Last week, I Love My Pillow filed a fiery counterclaim against MyPillow, accusing the Minnesota company of false advertising and unfair competition, demanding that MyPillow share with I Love My Pillow its ill-gotten profits, among other remedies.

"What my client wants is to be able to compete in a market that is fair, where consumers make purchasing decisions based on the quality of the products," said attorney A. Michael Palizzi of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, who is representing I Love My Pillow.

MyPillow has come under scrutiny before for its marketing practices, including ads that referred to Lindell as a "sleep expert." The company settled

various class-action lawsuits and paid a \$1 million-plus California judgment in 2016.

In 2017, the Better Business Bureau dropped MyPillow's grade from an A+ to an F for running a long-standing "buy one, get one free" offer. According to the BBB, "buy one, get one" offers should be offered for 30 or fewer days, or the price becomes continuous and not a sale price, the StarTribune reported at the time.

## It's personal

On March 12, Lindell called that "buy one, get one" flap a false controversy that was manufactured by critics of his political views.

"That was an attack because I backed the greatest president that ever, ever ran the United States of America," he said. "That's where that comes from, and you can print that."

I Love My Pillow's countersuit focuses on a "sleep study" that MyPillow recently touted on its website and in ads as proof that MyPillow is the best pillow.

According to I Love My Pillow, the sleep study was unscientific, flawed and misleading to consumers.

The MyPillow website initially announced this: "NEW SLEEP STUDY PROVED! 100 percent of sleep study participants INCREASED their amount of DEEP SLEEP with MyPillow!"

The website also described the study as a "double-blind randomized placebo-controlled study comparing study participants' sleep between their original pillow, MyPillow Classic pillow and goose-down pillows."

But according to I Love My Pillow, the study could not have been "blind" because the participants would obviously have known whether or not they used their own pillows. What's more, the difference between a foam-stuffed MyPillow and a goose-down pillow would be immediately apparent, the countersuit says.

After learning that I Love My Pillow was filing its counterclaim, MyPillow in January altered the website's wording to remove the statements "double-blind," "randomized" and "placebo-controlled," the countersuit says.

Also:  
■ MyPillow went on to backpedal the reference to "100 percent" of study participants improving their deep sleep.

■ MyPillow actually funded the sleep study, and the company that conducted it had never before done one.

■ The study was to include 520 paid participants, but more than half of them didn't complete the study, usually because they dropped out.

According to I Love My Pillow, those false and misleading medical claims diverted potential business away from its own pillows.

## A money grab?

Lindell insisted March 12 that the sleep study was legitimate.

"Some of the people dropped out (of the study) because they didn't want to go through the horror of using another pillow once they used MyPillow," he said. "You couldn't pay them enough to stay on these other pillows — that's the truth."

For Lindell, the I Love My Pillow countersuit is simply "a money grab."

"This whole system needs to be changed so all the lawyers go to jail for all their frivolous lawsuits," he said.



Milford Burger Joint co-operators Jason Monarch, left, and Brian Belwood show off some of the restaurant's menu options. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Burgers

Continued from Page 6A

brioche, pretzel, ciabatta and gluten-free.

For those following a Keto or low-carb diet, the bun can be ditched in favor of a bowl of greens and averting the eyes from "side-kicks" that include a variety of fries, including hand-cut, "vampire," sweet potato waffle and tater tots.

Onion rings, seasonal soups, and mac-n-cheese (which can also comprise a burger), are also available.

To accompany all the savory, Belwood also offers the sweet, in the form of fountain drinks. Customers can make floats from 381 flavor combinations, or choose a hand-dipped milkshake or malt.

The kids are catered to as well, with a special menu for those 10 and under featuring grilled cheese, chicken tenders, hot dogs and cheeseburgers.

At Burger Joint, it's all about the fun, family atmosphere with delicious food, quotes and art that pay homage

**"We just want to be that family-friendly place that pops into your mind when the family is hungry and you want to go out and eat."**

Brian Belwood Owner, Burger Joint

to burgers, and music that fits Belwood's mood on any given day — it was Motown tunes March 12.

"We are very fun loving, everything we do is with a smile," he said. "There's something about having a job where you can have fun with what you're doing and creative with conversations with people who walk in and I get to know all my neighbors. We just want to be that family-friendly place that pops into your mind when the family is hungry and you want to go out and eat."

For more information, visit [www.burgerjoint.us](http://www.burgerjoint.us).

Contact Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com). Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

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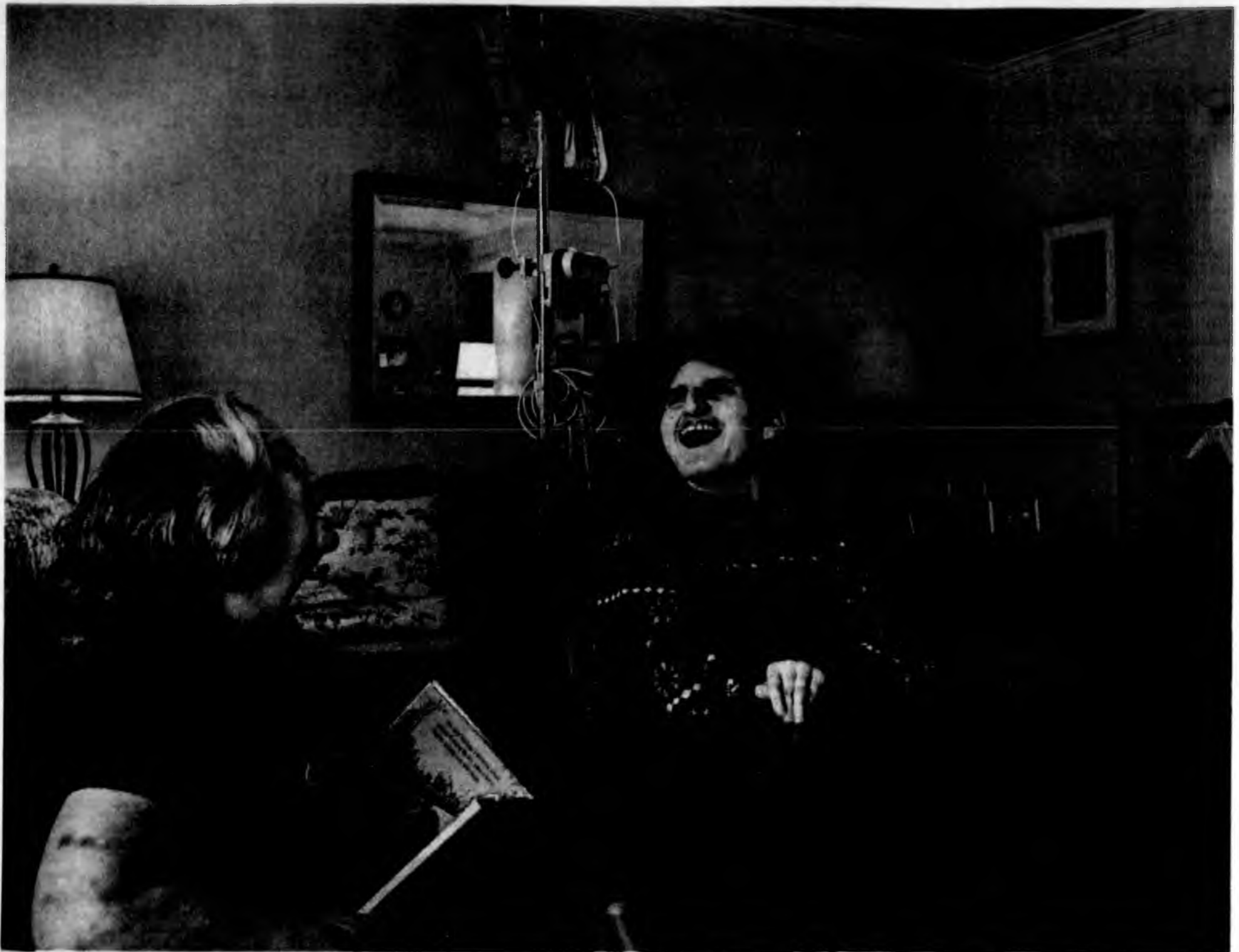
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MyPillow founder Mike Lindell appears in the company's ads. A small Michigan company is in a court battle with the industry giant. COURTESY OF U.S. DISTRICT COURT



Home health-care worker Doreen Bowerman reads to Madeleine Mulder, 23, of Grand Ledge on Jan. 23. Bowerman visits Madeleine for two hours five days a week. MATTHEW DAE SMITH/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

# Home-care workers earn just \$10 an hour

Michigan will need more than 30K of them by 2020

Haley Hansen and Kayla Daugherty  
Lansing State Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

GRAND LEDGE — Doreen and Madeleine are fast friends.

They only met in November, but now they spend hours together each day. Doreen reads to Madeleine, anything from Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations" to the "Berenstain Bears." She asks Madeleine about her favorite music and TV shows. They hold hands and laugh.

Madeleine Mulder is 23. She has cerebral palsy. She talks to Doreen with her hands and a speech-generating device on a tablet. She cranes her neck to see Doreen when Doreen leaves the room.

This is the happiest Doreen Bowerman has been in her working life. As Madeleine's home-care worker, she feels like she makes a difference every day.

During the years she worked as a legal assistant, she had full benefits, she said, "but not these kinds of benefits."

Odds are, someone like Bowerman will one day care for you or someone you love.

But, in Michigan and across the country, there aren't enough home-care workers to help the elderly and people with disabilities.

Michigan alone will need more than 30,000 additional direct-care workers by 2020, and thousands more as the state's senior population spikes over the next 15 years, according to projections from PHI, a worker advocacy organization focused on the direct care workforce.

But home-care jobs pay poorly. Most offer inconsistent hours, no benefits and few opportunities for advancement. Because compensation is often tied to what the federal government will pay, local employers don't have easy solutions.

Researchers and advocates for the elderly say home-care workers are a vital bridge between independent living and more intensive forms of managed care.

## What home-care workers do

Home-care workers help with personal hygiene, cooking and shopping. They administer medication and make sure clients get to doctor appointments. They can help catch health problems early, reduce fall rates, keep their clients out of hospitals and free up time for family members.

Laurel McLeod, of Brighton, said she has worked with a wide variety of families as a respite care worker and each patient has different functioning levels.

She said she has worked with patients who just need assistance around the house, but also with patients who are non-verbal and can't dress or feed themselves.

McLeod, 32, said a lot of people don't understand what home-care workers do. She said some people appreciate the caregivers but others "just use them as glorified babysitters."

"You're non-stop. It's not an easy job," she said. "You don't just sit next to them scrolling on your phone. You're their lifeline."

McLeod got involved with respite care in 2014 while working with Special Olympics. One of the athletes with cerebral palsy needed a respite care worker and she decided to give it a try.

She is still involved in Special Olympics and works as an applied behavior analysis technician for a private medical company.

Currently McLeod works with one family doing respite care. She said she continues the work because she loves the family she works for.

In Michigan and other parts of the country, industry leaders and advocates are searching for ways to alleviate the shortage by beefing up training, pushing new policies and connecting workers with one another.

## 'We're very underpaid for what we do'

If nothing is done to bring more home-care workers into the field, there will be a shortage of at least 350,000 by 2040, Paul Osterman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management argues in his book, "Who Will Care For Us?" Part of the problem is that average pay for a



Home health-care worker Laurel McLeod, 32, mainly works with kids and young adults. SUBMITTED

home-care worker is about \$10 an hour, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

One in five home-care workers lives below the federal poverty line. More than half rely on some form of public assistance, according to PHI.

The Area Agency on Aging 1-B pays agencies in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, and Washtenaw counties anywhere from \$15.80 an hour to \$20 an hour, Communications Manager Kathleen Yanik said. That hourly rate has to cover home-care workers' wages as well as training, background checks, insurance and other costs.

On top of low wages, home-care workers typically use their own vehicles to get to clients. They also aren't guaranteed a 40-hour work week and, for most, there are few to no benefits offered through their employers.

McLeod, who has her master's degree in autism spectrum disorder, said the pay is one of the reasons she doesn't do respite care full-time.

"I do think that the lack of pay deters people," she said. "One time I had to stop working with a patient. ... I was barely getting minimum wage. I know people that do this for a living. We don't get paid enough."

Trained personal-care aides can reduce rates of falls and hospital visits, said Clare Luz, a gerontologist and associate professor of family medicine at Michigan State University.

They can help to manage chronic conditions, catch medical issues before they get serious and expensive, and give the people they care for choices and flexibility. Home-care workers also can help people transition out of a hospital and ensure their clients take medication and follow up with doctors.

A 2011 study from Emory University found that improved transitional care and management of chronic conditions could save about \$240 billion in federal health-care spending over a decade.

Part of that is the fact that keeping people in their own homes is also more cost effective, Luz said.

Staying at home makes it easier for people to contribute economically and socially to their communities.

"It's not just providing care for an individual, it's creating conditions for them to also be enriching society in a variety of ways," she said.

See WORKERS, Page 9A

**PUBLIC NOTICE - UPDATED**

FlexTech High School - Novi, a Tuition-Free Public School Academy located at 24245 Karim Blvd, Novi, MI 48375, announces its Open Enrollment period for the 2019-20 school year for grades 9-12. Applications are available at and may be submitted to FlexTech High School - Novi or by calling (248) 426-8530, during the Open Enrollment period March 25 - April 18, 2019: Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; April 13, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; April 15, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. If enrollment applications exceed the number of available spaces, a random selection drawing will be held at FlexTech High School - Novi on May 1, 2019 at 2 p.m.

Publish March 21, 2019



# Workers

Continued from Page 8A

## Why home care matters

Patricia House, 92, has lived in the same Dimondale home for more than 60 years.

In the summer months, her daughter, Dianna, takes her onto their wrap-around porch. They have a drink and enjoy the weather.

Patricia has Alzheimer's, and Dianna House said taking her mom to a new place would be jarring for her.

House retired early from an office job at Sparrow Hospital so she could move in with her mother and take care of her full time.

House also has a home-care aide 15 hours a week to help with laundry and household chores. House also gets an extra pair of hands to help bathe her mother.

It takes some of the pressure off. "It allows me to go to a movie," House said, "just get out of the house."

Mark Hornbeck, a spokesperson with Michigan AARP, said there are about 1.3 million unpaid home-care workers in Michigan.

An estimated one in five Americans have provided unpaid care in the past 12 months.

About 66 percent of family caregivers are women. Many baby boomers are now part of what's sometimes called the "sandwich generation," taking care of a parent at the same time they're caring for their own children.

"Just think how much bigger the shortage would be if the unpaid workers weren't out there," Hornbeck said.

Adding to the growing need for home-care workers, family structures have also changed. People live farther away from their families and people are less likely to live in multi-generational homes.

Patti Bohn, 62, worked as a home-care nurse for nearly 10 years.

She first became involved with industry in the early '90s when she was working as a shift nurse at McPherson Hospital in Howell.

Bohn, from Brighton, said she started home-care as a part-time job, incorporating it with her work as a hospital nurse.

"I loved that," she said. "Being able to do dual."

She said after she and her husband adopted a third child, she was looking for more flexibility at work and transferred to home-care full time.

"I really, really liked it," Bohn said. "You can really build strong relationships with the patient and the family."

She said home-care work is different from taking care of patients at the hospital because she might see a family for weeks at their home versus just days at the hospital.

"With healthcare, every day is hard and challenging. It is really not easy work," she said. "Most of the patients that we saw, their diseases are theirs for the rest of their lives. We really encouraged the patient to take the responsibility."

She stopped working in home-care several years ago and currently works as a case manager at McPherson Hospital, where she has worked for more than 30 years.

Bohn said her work as a home-care worker helps her every day in her full-time job.

"Because I know how these people are going to react and respond in the home because I have been with people like them," she said. "You can't really grasp that if you haven't to patients' homes."

She said her time in home-care was difficult but current home-care workers now have an even more challenging time.

"Do more work with less time and less staff," she said.

## What's being done to help home-care workers?

Last year, the Minnesota Department of Human Services launched an online job portal that connects people who need home care with caregivers looking for work.

The free program, called Direct Support Connect, was paid for through collective bargaining agreements with Minnesota and Service Employees International Union Healthcare Minnesota, though anyone can use the site.

In Maine, a ballot measure on November's ballot would have created universal home care in the state.

The idea didn't pass, but it would have provided home-based care to people with disabilities and senior citizens regardless of their income, paid for by a 1.9 percent tax on earned income above \$128,400.

On the East Coast are a growing number of cooperatively owned home-care



"Doreen is a blessing," said Cheryl Mulder, right, about her daughter Madeleine's home health-care worker Doreen Bowerman. "Doreen and Madeleine connected instantly." PHOTOS BY MATTHEW DAE SMITH/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

agencies. Under that employee-owned business model, workers buy a share in the company and have voting power regarding big decisions.

But what works in one state might not work in another, said Ryan Cowmeadow, the executive director of Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan.

"It's not an apples to apples situation," he said. "You have to pull pieces out, and that takes time and energy and will to do that."

Funds for Medicaid come from both the federal government and from state governments.

The federal government sets certain standards, but gives states considerable flexibility with regards to the services they provide, which means both state and federal reforms are likely needed, said Josephine Kalipeni, a director at Caring Across Generations, an organization working to expand long-term care services.

"I think there's an obligation from both sides," she said. "States might have the most ripe grounds to make progress given what the federal landscape looks like."

In Michigan, educators and people within the caregiving community founded Impart Alliance, a nonprofit group established to create and expand a person-centered care training program.

Impart Alliance recently was awarded a \$407,000 state grant to establish a Caregiver Training Academy, which provides training for personal-care aides, trainers, family caregivers, and high school students.

Giving people more specialized training can play a part in helping drive up wages, Luz said.

"I will always argue that this is not a one-strategy problem," she said. "Training is a key variable, a key factor. ... We need to hit it from a lot of different angles."

If home-care workers were higher paid, Medicaid and insurance companies would actually benefit economically, because patients would avoid more expensive medical care, she said.

The training focuses on the people receiving care, Luz said. People who take the training don't just learn how to give someone a bath, they learn how to bathe another person in a dignified way, she said.

Impart Alliance is also trying to create an association for personal-care aides that would create best practices and ethical standards while offering support for workers and ideas within the industry, Luz said.

Raising the cap on Medicaid would make a difference for recruiting a workforce, Luz said, but addressing the shortage will need a variety of vantage points: the cooperation of home-care workers, people in the medical field and legislators.

Urena Thomas works around 38 hours a week as a home-care worker, but she's not guaranteed hours. Sometimes, her clients have family visiting or they are hospitalized, which means she's out some of her shifts.

Thomas is taking classes at Lansing Community College. She hopes to become a social worker one day, working primarily with older people.

She has been in home-care for 20 years, an eternity in an industry where turnover is the rule.

"I probably could have switched fields a long time ago," she said. "I have a heart for this."



Tears surface as direct health-care worker Doreen Bowerman talks about her work with clients in January at a home in Grand Ledge. "This is the happiest I've been in my working life," said Bowerman, a former legal assistant turned direct-care worker, "because I know I'm making a difference."

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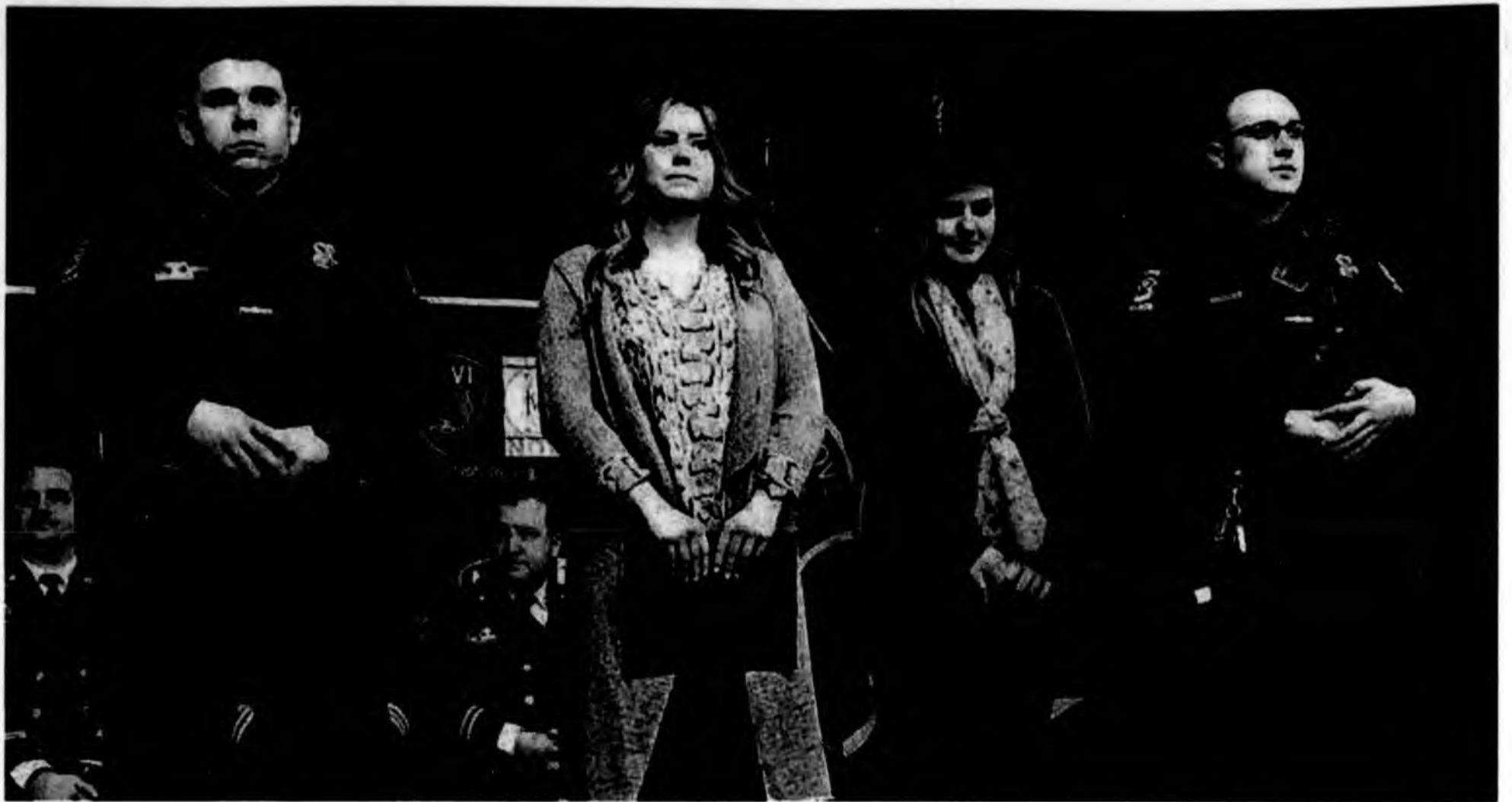


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Civilians Genna Guibord and Rachel Hauk are honored along with Novi Police Officers Jason Bergtold and Eric Carlomusto during the Novi Police and Fire Awards. SUBMITTED

## Harrowing tales of heroism told at Novi Police and Fire Awards

**"I grabbed this girl by the armpit. All she had to do was let go and she would have fallen on to the expressway. ... I was shaking trying to hold her back."**

**Genna Guibord**  
On the incident that led to her recognition at the awards



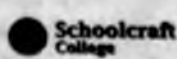
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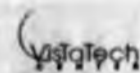
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**Susan Bromley** [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Genna Guibord was in the right place at the right time to save the life of a suicidal woman, and possibly the lives of innocent motorists, on a Wednesday night last year.

The 27-year-old was among those honored for heroic actions and dedication to public safety at the Novi Police and Fire Awards last week.

Guibord, a Livonia resident, had just left her Dale Carnegie training class — one ironically intended to help students learn how to negotiate and make a positive impact on people — near Walsh College in Novi on Nov. 28. The class had ended later than normal, putting her northbound on Meadowbrook Road at the Interstate 96 bridge at 9:45 p.m.

She was on the phone when she saw a southbound motorist brake hard. Guibord slammed on her own brakes as she saw a young woman over the railing, hanging on, only her pom-pom from the top of her winter hat still on the safe side of the bridge.

Guibord told her boyfriend on the other end of the line, "I gotta go, I gotta go," dropped the phone, jumped out of her car and ran to the girl, who was sobbing hysterically, holding on to the bridge with her left hand, while holding a phone in the other.

"I grabbed this girl by the armpits," she recalled. "All she had to do was let go and she would have fallen on to the expressway. ... I was shaking trying to hold her back."

The other driver, whose name Guibord never learned, also held on to the distressed girl, who was facing them and had the Meadowbrook road sign behind her.

Guibord's vehicle and the other motorist's car were blocking the bridge, and Guibord's classmate, Rachel Hauk, arrived in seconds, with Guibord yelling for her to call 9-1-1, which Hauk did before joining in their effort to keep the girl from falling to her death.

The girl, distraught that several family members had died while she was in National Guard basic training and facing the impending loss of another terminally ill family member, begged her rescuers to let her go.

Guibord was nearly speechless as she thought of her 15-year-old cousin who had taken his own life in February 2018 and simply told the girl she could not let her go.

Hauk tried to calm the girl and coax her back from making a terrible mistake, telling her life was worth living.

"It was like a full-circle experience for me," Guibord said. "It's so hard to see someone struggling so much that they think suicide is the only way out. There are people who will listen and who care. ... I had no idea my cousin was struggling. I just wish people would talk."

In a life-or-death moment, adrenaline gave Guibord the strength to hold the girl until police officers Jason Bergtold and Eric Carlomusto arrived.

She recalls the first officer stepping up on to the rail and screaming, "Do not

let her go! Do not let her go!" The second officer pulled her safely back to the side of the bridge on which Guibord stood, still in shock.

A woman Guibord could only presume was the girl's mother was suddenly running on the bridge toward them, screaming, "That's my baby!"

An officer touched Guibord's shoulder and asked if she was OK, telling her she could go. She made her way to her car, emotionally and physically drained.

Four months later, she still thinks of what could have been. What if class had ended earlier or later? What if she had lost her grip and the girl had fallen? What vehicle, carrying what family, could have struck her and ended or changed their own lives forever?

She and Hauk helped prevent a tragedy and were honored with life-saving citations at the 2019 Novi Police and Fire Awards on March 7.

Guibord is happy it brought awareness to mental health and said she is honored to have been recognized alongside men and women who save lives daily.

"They helped us save that girl's life and they put their lives on the line every day and I appreciate them," she said. "I was in the right place at the right time. I just wish I could have done the same for my cousin."

### Scene at a nightclub shooting

Rachel Meier and her husband, Jason Meier, sergeants on the Novi police force, were also among the honorees for their roles in high-stress situations they prevented from escalating into tragedies.

On the evening of Sept. 23, the pair were both on duty when they, along with officers Tim Hartland, Dan Jenkinson, Shawn Penzak and Joshua Russell, responded to shots fired at the 29 Novi nightclub.

Rachel Meier was first to a chaotic scene of about 40 civilians pushing and screaming in each other's faces in the parking lot.

An officer was helping a man lying on the ground as Meier, her husband and others began calming and sorting the situation which had begun with an altercation during a birthday party in the bar.

During the investigation, two intoxicated males both admitted to having guns in their vehicles, although both initially denied firing their weapons.

In a search of the area, Hartland found four shell casings. Jason Meier discovered four rounds missing from the gun of one of the suspects. Fortunately, no one had been struck by a bullet, and the guns were taken from the suspects, who had both violated their license to carry.

Rachel Meier, a cop for 15 years, and in Novi for the last 12, said it is easy for officers to get tunnel vision when such an intense situation occurs.

"You have to shake that out and get head on a swivel, and don't focus so

See AWARDS, Page 11A

## Awards

Continued from Page 10A

much that you miss things in your peripheral," she said, praising the officers she works with for that ability, as well as all the effort they put into interviewing, collecting evidence and more. "You are looking for victims, and to keep them safe. What is most important is to keep it all in perspective."

### Dealing with a homicidal husband

Jason Meier had a unique perspective to an incident that occurred last spring, in which he and fellow officers Jason Bergtold, Alex Marchione, Dan Jenkinson, Tim Hartland and Matt Chylaszek almost certainly prevented a homicide.

"This was a first for me and I've been here almost 21 years," Meier said, recalling the June 1 night during which Novi Police were advised an Eastpointe man was possibly on his way to their city to kill a man he said was having an affair with his wife.

Eastpointe Police reported the suspect had loaded his shotgun and attempted to run over his wife before leaving the scene, on his way to Novi.

Meier said with this information, he and the officers responded to Country Lane to warn the Novi man and his family about the Eastpointe suspect.

Meier said shortly after their arrival, the man received a text message from the suspect that read, "I hope the girl was worth dying for."

Not knowing whether the suspect would arrive at any moment, possibly "guns a-blazing," the Novi officers escorted the man, his pregnant wife, and their child out of the house and rushed them to the station for their own safety.

Moments later, the Novi man received another text from the suspect that reiterated he hoped the girl was worth dying for, and saying he was outside of the man's house and he should "come out, or I am coming in."

At the instruction of officers, the Novi man, now safely at the police station, texted the suspect to stay put, that he was getting his shoes on and coming out.

Meanwhile, Meier and the officers sped back to Country Lane, blocking off the street and taking up positions of safety.

"We don't want a shootout at the house, stray bullets, we wanted to maintain the element of surprise on this guy," Meier said. "We just sat there for five minutes trying to cover every angle. A couple (neighbors) came out, we told them, 'Get back inside.' This guy was on a mission and wasn't going to let us get in his way."

The officers approached the suspect's vehicle on foot and surrounded him. He surrendered without harm to anyone and officers found a loaded shotgun, ammunition and latex gloves in the car. The suspect is awaiting trial on felony charges.

Chief David Molloy praised the offi-



Richard Antuna, volunteer of the year; Captain Mark Theisen, firefighter of the year; Officer Mike Daisley, police officer of the year; and Steve Tallman, civilian employee of the year, were honored at the Novi Police and Fire Awards. SUBMITTED



Novi Public Safety Director Jeff Johnson honors Fire Captain Mark Theisen and two civilians at the awards ceremony, which was conducted on March 7. The trio helped to the life of a baseball umpire who suffered cardiac arrest last year while on the field. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

cers' heroic actions in the face of danger, taking a potential killer off the streets and keeping a family and the community safe.

"If you take up this calling for this job, you're willing to risk your life for the safety of the community you are trying to protect," Meier said. "It's humbling to be appreciated for your work, but at the same time, that is just what me and the guys on our shift would do any night of the week. Our department does an excellent job of paying attention to what we are doing and rewarding us for our work."

### Award recipients

■ **Naloxone-life-saving:** Lt. Maria Risner; Detective Jon Zabick; officers Dan Jenkinson, Samantha Grockau, Shawn Penzak, Michael Walton, Stacy Simon, Kevin Nutter, Joshua Johnson, Eric Tobey, Ryan Haney, and Kyle Smith; Captain Todd Seog; firefighters Nicholas Luschas, Douglas Moebs, and Michel Shank.

■ **Life-saving:** Captain Mark Theisen and firefighter Nathan Ryan; officers Jason Bergtold and Eric Carlomusto; citizens Ian Grant, Doug Rowe, Michell Tarsin, Misty Croteau, Gabrielle Gauruder, Genna Guibord, and Rachel Hauk.

■ **Fire Prevention Service Award:** Fire Protection Officer Andrew Copeland

■ **Merit citations:** Sergeants Jason Meier, Rachel Meier, and Amanda Kulkowski; detectives Bender (2), McCarrey, Jerry Stempien, and Brian Martin; officers Tim Hartland, Shawn Penzak, Dan Jenkinson, Joshua Russell Erick Tapia, and Samantha Grockau; Special Agent Sean Callaghan.

■ **Unit citations:** Sgt. Bob Manar; detectives Mike Wilson, Randy Mince (2), Jeff Brown, and Mike Marchetti (2); officers Paul Leslie, Erick Tapia, Matt Chylaszek (2), Sarah Moulik, Brandon Bidus, Josh Russell, Alex Marchione, Kevin Nutter, Kyle Smith, Ryan Haney (2), Eric Tobey, Andrew Toth, Shawn Penzak (2), Dan Jenkinson, John Corder, Eric Carlomusto, Stacey Simon, Samantha Grockau, Alisa Harwell, and Tim Shea.

■ **Department citations:** Sgt. Jason Meier; officers Dan Jenkinson, Jason

Bergtold, Tim Hartland, Alex Marchione, and Matt Chylaszek.

■ **Life-saving/civilian citation award:** Lt. Paul Mullett; firefighters Dennis (Ron) Barratt, Gregory Lis, Amir Farahani, Ian Patterson, Jack Liao, and Michael Mosian; paramedics Jeremy Beatty and Josh Gramm; officers Michael Walton and Deanna Stevenson; EMT Thomas Brown; citizen Carol Aurilla; doctors Eric Kovan and Scott Laker; and Oakland County Sheriff Court Deputy Mark Ross.

■ **Civilian citations:** Susan Lanczak, Colleen Wilson, and Jeff Douglas.

■ **Letters of Commendation:** Officers Steve Snell, Brandon Bidus, and Matt Chylaszek; Fire Protection Officer Michael Olando; firefighters Dennis Barratt, Michael Moisan, and Jack Liao; Detective Julie Warren; paramedic Terrence Mayfield; EMT Thomas Brown.

■ **MADD Award:** Officer Jason Bergtold

■ **Staff and Command:** Sgt. Bob Manar

■ **Police Heart:** Officer Josh Chapman

■ **FBI National Academy:** Assistant Chief Erick Zinser

■ **Advanced degrees:** Captain Todd Seog, Sgt. Amanda Kulkowski, Lt. Remo Oliverio, Fire Protection Officer Matt Marken, and firefighter Scott Discher.

■ **Lee C. Begole Police Officer of the Year:** Officer Mike Daisley

■ **Volunteer of the Year:** Richard Antuna

■ **Firefighter of the Year:** Captain Mark Theisen

■ **Civilian of the Year:** Lead Mechanic Steve Tallman

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# Schoolcraft College submits plan for new office building

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

It appears Schoolcraft College isn't done building on its campus off Haggerty Road in Livonia.

The college has submitted plans to construct a new several-story office building at the rear of the campus near Interstate 275 and just south of Seven Mile on about eight acres of land.

The project went before the Livonia Planning Commission on Feb. 19 for a rezoning petition, one that was recommended for approval.

The plan would rezone the land from PL-Public Land to PO-High Rise Professional Office.

"We always look and evaluate projects not only for what it's going to do ... for the college, but for the region," said Glenn Cerny, the college's chief financial officer, at the planning commission meeting. "We continue to do that and I think that speaks to the letter."

While the land the building is proposed for is owned by the college, a non-profit foundation overseen by the school has a 99-year lease on the land, Cerny said, and that foundation, which has both trustees and school administrators on the board, would oversee the property's development.

"That entity will be the one doing all of the pieces of the deal for this facility," Cerny said. "It's all supported pieces of the college."

If approved, the plan would be the most recent addition to the Livonia campus. Masco Corporation opened its world headquarters back in 2017. The St. Joe's Sports Dome opened that year as well.

Commissioner Peter Ventura asked Cerny about the status of clients for the building, noting a sign on the property stated it was build-to-suit. Cerny said there is at least one potential client for the property.

"We have a lot of people that we have been evaluating," Cerny said. "This has



A sign on the property makes clear Schoolcraft College's request for rezoning. The college is proposing a new, multi-story office building for an unnamed tenant or tenants at the site off Interstate 275 in Livonia. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

been going on for at least a year."

No client was named at the planning commission meeting, though Cerny said it was safe to say 300-400 high-paying jobs would be coming to the building. Cerny, citing a confidentiality agreement, said he could not say whether it was one client or multiple clients that would occupy the new building when asked in an interview with

Hometown Life.

The rezoning will head to the city council for its review. A site plan will also need reviewing by the city, something Cerny expects to happen later this spring.

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

"We have a lot of people that we have been evaluating. This has been going on for at least a year."

Glenn Cerny  
Chief financial officer of Schoolcraft College

## Tax implications of renting your home



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:  
I have a couple tax questions that I hope you can help me with.

Last summer I took a leave of absence from my job and spent a few months in Florida helping my elderly parents. By a stroke of luck, I was able to rent out my condo for a couple months when I was gone. When I took my tax information to my tax person, who is a friend of mine, he told me that I would have to pay taxes on that money.

I was shocked; I never thought I'd have to pay taxes on renting out my own condo.

My first question is just to confirm my preparer is right.

My second question is what are my chances of getting caught if I don't report it? I didn't go through an agency and nothing was reported to the government.

Thank you.  
Brenda

Dear Brenda:  
Unfortunately, your tax preparer is correct. The money that you received as rental income, less expenses, is taxable to you as ordinary income. It doesn't matter whether you used an agency; the money is taxable.

When someone rents out their owner-occupied home, the IRS gives that taxpayer a break. The break is if the taxpayer rents out their owner-occupied home for no more than 14 days a year, then all the rent received would be tax free.

However, if you rent your house out for 15 days or more, the entire amount is taxable to you.

The next question is one of the more difficult questions I get.

The reason why it makes it so difficult is because it's almost impossible to know the answer.

I cannot tell you what your risk of

being audited is.

The IRS audits for a variety of things including for a sloppy or an inaccurate return, taking inappropriate deductions or failure to report income from a 1099.

In addition, let's not forget that you can do everything right and still be randomly audited.

Furthermore, the person you rented your property to may treat the rental payments differently than you did and that can cause you issues if he is audited.

If you do not report the income and the IRS does audit you, not only would you have to pay the taxes, but they will also assess interest and potentially a penalty, which can be severe.

I always want to be honest so I will say that the chance of getting audited in this situation is slim, particularly if the person you rented to is not deducting the rent on their tax return; however, that should not be the standard.

The standard should be what the law says, and in this case the law is crystal clear.

My advice for people is that they should follow the tax law.

Not only is it the law, and as citizens we have an obligation to follow the law, it will also make life easier. I cannot tell you how many people I've dealt with over the years who were overly aggressive on their taxes and who lived to regret it.

Therefore, my advice is to always follow the law.

I am not suggesting that you do not take every deduction you're entitled to, because you should.

After all, it is not more patriotic to pay more money in taxes than you have to.

However, if you get too aggressive, it could cost you and have other unexpected consequences.

Good luck!

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

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PREP GYMNASTICS

## Farmington team wins state title again

Andrew Vaillencourt  
 Hometownlife.com  
 USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Farmington United gymnastics team secured its second straight state championship, topping second-place Rockford, 145.55-144.25.

The team also finished the season with a perfect record for the second consecutive year.

Rockford had the highest team scores in three events: floor, beam and bars, but Farmington was right there in each event and dominated the vault. Farmington's Elena Vargo scored a 9.8, Sydney Schultz posted a 9.5, Kacey Noseworthy recorded a 9.3 and Ava Farquhar hit a 9.1. That gave United a team score of 37.7 which no other school came close to.

Farmington United coach Jeff Dwyer said this year's title was much different than last year's, but is just as special.

"In 2018 it was much more emotional as we won by .2 on the last competitor of the entire meet," Dwyer said. "This year was harder as we were expected to win,



Kacey Noseworthy served as another captain for Farmington United in March. COURTESY OF ROGER PLAYLE

as we went undefeated in dual meets, we won all three major invitationals and we won our regional meet. We were expected to win and that brings a different pressure. However, this is such a tough group of girls. They have proven themselves."

The meet began with beam. United was the first team to perform, and Farquhar nailed her routine. Her teammates came up big as well, giving the team a good starting point.

On the floor, Farmington scored a 9.1 or higher on all five routines.

"I would like to give a shout out to the following gymnasts who all helped contribute to the teams success: Captains Kacey Noseworthy and Ava Farquhar, Elena Vargo, Shelby Smith, Sydney Schultz, Allison Schultz and Kamini Playle who all held their own and proved so tough under such pressure situations," Dwyer said. "Also to coach Kim Mandrelle, assistant coaches Amanda Pechniuk and Nicole Daihl, who were all associated with championships in their

See TITLE, Page 3B

YOUTH Q&A OUTING



Frank Tanana takes question from the young ball players. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Former MLB pitcher Tanana embraces youth

Andrew Vaillencourt  
 Hometownlife.com  
 USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Playing in the major leagues for 21 seasons taught Frank Tanana all kinds of lessons.

The former Detroit Tigers pitcher, who attended Detroit Catholic Central High School before being selected in the first round by the California Angels, had the opportunity to share some of his baseball knowledge with an eager group of 10 and 11-year-olds Thursday night at The Strike Zone indoor facility in Novi.

Tanana spoke to the Novi Heat 10U and 11U Gold travel teams for about half an hour to start off the night's practice,

sharing stories of his playing days and giving pitching tips before taking the next hour to spend time with each of the 20 players individually on the pitching mound.

"It's always fun to encourage, it's fun to teach, it's fun to show kids and keep them excited about the game of baseball," Tanana said. "It's such a great game. It's fun to be around these kids who obviously love the game."

The outing was organized by 10U assistant coach Jack Janigan, who has known Tanana since he started playing for the Tigers back in 1985. Tanana and the Janigan family got to know each other through Highland Park Baptist

See TANANA, Page 2B



Tanana talks to Novi Heat players.

PREP SWIMMING

## Catholic Central captures historic finish

Andrew Vaillencourt  
 Hometownlife.com  
 USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It was a historic weekend for Detroit Catholic Central's boys swim and dive team.

The Shamrocks came in second place at the Division 1 state meet on March 8 at the Holland Aquatic Center, coming behind Holland West Ottawa by just eight points and .06 seconds. It's the highest finish ever for Catholic Central, which came in third in 1991 and fourth in 2002.

The group also broke four team records, had 17 All-State and five All-American times and recorded two times that are among the 16 fastest in the state's history.

"It was amazing, it was everything I could have asked for. Obviously, losing by .06 is a heart-breaker," Catholic Central coach Jessica Stoddard said. "I'm nothing but proud, I'm so happy for them. My only sadness is that the season is over. While it sucks to come so close and fall short, I think it's going to make us more hungry and keep us more focused on what more we can do as a team. They all stepped up for each other and supported each other, it's what a team should be." The meet's deciding race was the 400-freestyle relay.

West Ottawa came in first, edging Catholic Central by just .06 seconds, who came in second. That event gave West Ottawa the points it needed to claim first place.

See SWIM, Page 6B



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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Brighton quarterback Jontz headed to Indiana; two other Bulldogs sign with colleges



Brighton football players, from left, Will Jontz (Indiana), Colby Ford (Lawrence Tech) and Seth Steinacker (CMU) made their college choices. BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

**Bill Khan**  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

**BRIGHTON** — Will Jontz could have signed with any number of smaller colleges, taken up-front scholarship money and had more of an immediate impact on the field.

Or, the Brighton quarterback could follow his dream of playing on the major college level, even if it comes with no guarantees.

Jontz chose to gamble on himself, signing with Indiana University as a preferred walk-on. As a preferred walk-on, Jontz has a spot on the team, but won't have a scholarship for at least his first year on campus.

"It's a dream come true," Jontz said. "I've been wanting to do this my whole life. It's really a blessing. It's too hard to pass up; it's too big. It's going to be great."

Jontz intends to compete for a job as if he was the Hoosiers' most highly routed recruit.

"Once you get down there, it's all the same," he said.

Indiana didn't have a quarterback in its 21-player signing class. Jack Tuttle, who didn't play as a freshman at Utah last season, transferred to Indiana and will have four years of eligibility.

Jontz, who played quarterback for three varsity seasons, entered his senior year below the radar with college recruiters. That changed on opening night when he ran 21 times for 169 yards and four touchdowns and threw a 41-yard touchdown pass with 3:42 left to give Brighton the lead in a 40-35 loss to state power Belleville.

It was a performance that prompted Belleville coach Jermain Crowell, whose team was loaded with major

college talent, to say, "I don't know who this quarterback is, but I'm going to tell every college in America about him."

Suddenly, Jontz was being contacted by Big Ten Conference schools, taking a game-day visit to Michigan State early in the season.

"I had some help from some of the Belleville kids and especially the Belleville coach," Jontz said. "He got my name out there a lot. Things started rattling in after that."

College football signing day at Brighton was decidedly different than events at Belleville and East Kentwood, two teams stocked with college recruits. The Bulldogs had only three players sign with colleges, but nearly beat each of those teams last season.

Long snapper Seth Steinacker signed with Central Michigan and defensive tackle Colby Ford signed with Lawrence Tech.

"It's pretty cool you get to go in and do me and pave the road for the next few generations of players to come through, even though I'm not the first, I'm still part of that founding team."

**Colby Ford**  
Lawrence Tech signee

"It's a lot about just our grit," Ford said. "We put in 100 percent, executed."

Steinacker made himself into a Division I recruit by refining an often overlooked skill in football as the long snapper on punts and placekicks.

"They moved me up sophomore year to snap," Steinacker said. "After that, I started getting serious about it, snapping all the time, working to try to get better."

It didn't take long for Steinacker to decide he wanted to play for Central Michigan.

"It just felt like home," he said. "I went up there and visited. It was right after that that I committed. I loved the coaches. They have a whole new facility they're putting in next year, so I'm extremely excited to get out there."

Ford will join Lawrence Tech for its second season after reinstating a football program that was dormant for 72 years.

"It's pretty cool you get to go in and do me and pave the road for the next few generations of players to come through," Ford said. "Even though I'm not the first, I'm still part of that founding team."

Lawrence Tech, a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, was 5-3 last season. Ford plans to major in architecture.

"They had what I was looking for," he said. "They had the degree. They had a nice campus. I felt when I went there it was just right for me."

## Tanana

Continued from Page 1B

Church in Southfield, where Janigan worked for a time. In his retirement, Tanana has become quite active in his church.

Janigan, whose son plays on the 10U team, said Tanana jumped at the chance to come work with the two teams and was happy to see the kids learn so much from the experience.

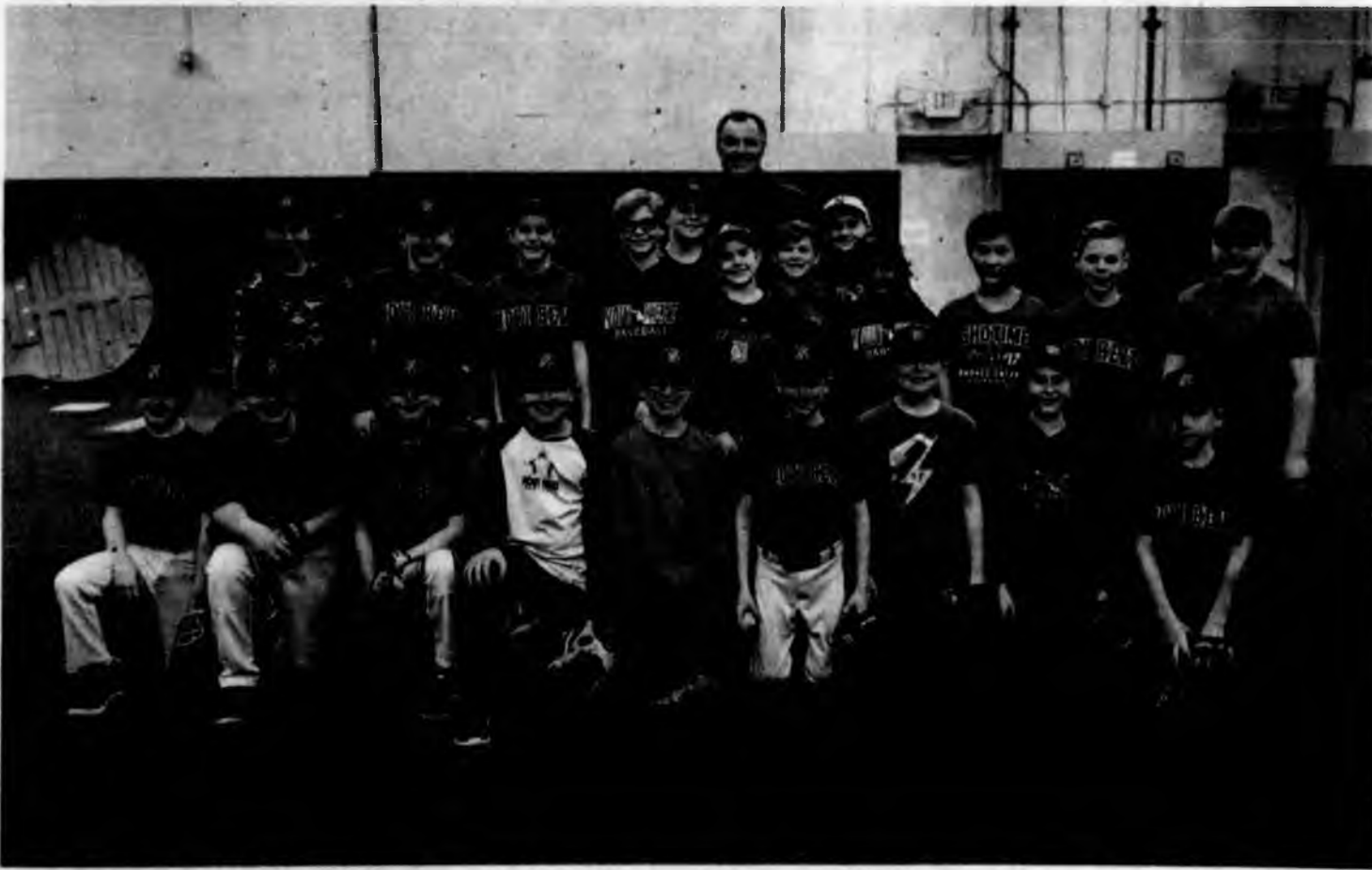
"It's really cool because he's teaching us and making us better pitchers," pitcher and infielder Luke Janigan said. "Some of us might not have been as good but now he's teaching us different skills and teaching us to be better athletes so we have a chance at the majors."

In his opening discussion, Tanana preached the importance of having strong legs and good balance as a pitcher. He demonstrated what a good wind-up and pitch looked like and answered all the players' questions — and even the dads', who were excited to see one of their own childhood heroes teaching their kids. He hopes the players go forward with an understanding of what makes a good pitcher.

"From a physical standpoint, it's the importance of strong legs," Tanana said. "From a pitching standpoint, it's really balance and throwing strikes and throwing a lot to strengthen your arm. That's how you get a stronger arm, you play a lot of catch."

Tanana played for six different teams in his career and was a three-time all-star. He was known as a hard-throwing lefty who could reach the high 90s, and played with Nolan Ryan in the 1970s. An injury early in his career forced him to change the way he pitched, so he became a control pitcher that relied on a variety of good off-speed pitches. He threw nearly 4,200 innings and had 143 complete games before he retired in 1993.

He said he was fortunate to have a father that played professional baseball and loved sports, so he was able to learn from him and grow as an athlete. Now,



Detroit Tigers retired pitcher Frank Tanana takes a group photo with Novi Heat baseball players. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

he has the ability to pass on the lessons he learned years ago and is taking advantage of the opportunity.

"It's awesome, he knows so much," IU catcher and infielder Trevor Reed said. "He was really encouraging and showed me a way to hide the ball."

As youth sports become more competitive, having good coaching is critical to the development of young athletes. Pitchers want to learn curveballs and other off-speed pitches, and while the belief of many is that throwing a curveball too young is damaging to the arm, Tanana says it's most important that players learn how to throw the pitch correctly, regardless of what age it happens.

He picked up on the excitement of the players at Thursday's practice, noting

that they're hungry to learn and show their love for the game — something he takes great joy in.

"I enjoy their enthusiasm, they're fun," Tanana said. "It's sad, I'm glad they have these (indoor training facilities) because when I was growing up, we played in the park when the weather was good. You don't see kids out as much on the fields just playing, so I'm glad they have men and dads that want to coach them and play with them, because they really do need this to develop their skills."

It wasn't just the players he helped. The coaching staffs were as focused as the players, picking up things to better their teams going forward.

"I think it's great," 10U coach Ben Abler said. "He's given us a lot of tips

that even our own coaches haven't picked up on over the years. He's been in the majors for 20-plus years and there's an unbelievable amount of knowledge that he's sharing with us right now and we're very lucky to have him here."

Today, Tanana lives in Farmington Hills and spends most of his time being a grandfather. His four daughters combined to have 14 children, so he's busy traveling across the country to spend time with them all.

In addition to the love he has for his family and faith, he'll always hold baseball close to his heart.

"There's nothing like a summer night at the ballpark," Tanana said.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at [avallenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:avallenc@hometownlife.com), 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



U.S. NATIONAL SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Allegro! Synchronized Skating team won the gold medal at the national championship earlier this month. COURTESY OF CARRIE BROWN

# Michigan Synchronized Skaters take gold

**Andrew Vaillencourt**  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Allegro! Synchronized Skating Teams, based out of Plymouth, were top performers at the 2019 United States National Synchronized Skating Championships, which was held at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth earlier this month.

The Allegro! Masters team won the gold medal and are the 2019 National Champions. They skated to a medley of music by Queen, and received both high technical and performance marks from

the judges.

It's the third national championship for the group this decade, winning it all in 2010 and 2014.

The Masters team brought home another first place finish at the Midwestern Championships held in Kalamazoo, Mich. in February.

"We've been working hard all season, but in the month leading up to Nationals, we really focused on adding stellar skating skills and embodying the emotions of each piece of music," Erin Behrend, an 11-year member of Allegro! Masters, said.

The Allegro! Masters Team is made up of 17 skaters, ranging in age from 28-54. Team members are from various parts of both Michigan and Ohio.

"The program came to life when I saw a trailer for the movie Bohemian Rhapsody last summer while on a rain delay at my son's baseball tournament," Allegro! coach Carrie Brown said. "I knew this program would be special from its first imaginings."

The Allegro! Adult team, with skaters ranging in age from 21-35, finished the season as the sixth best team in the country in their first year of competition,

narrowly missing the podium by .52 of a point. They are the 2019 Midwestern Sectional champions.

The winners of the Adult division were the Crystallettes, also based out of metro-Detroit in Dearborn. In addition, their senior team placed third and novice team placed sixth.

Both Allegro! teams will begin recruitment for the 2019-2020 competitive season with clinics this month and tryouts in May and June.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com), 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



Farmington United's Elena Vargo was the Division 1 State All-Around champion.



Farmington United gymnastics team won its second straight state championship in March. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROGER PLAYLE

## Title

Continued from Page 1B

own careers. They deserve a lot of credit for all their help and influence. They could all be head coaches with other teams with their abilities and I am lucky to work with them."

It's the first time United has won multiple state titles in a row since they did so from 2004-2006.

### Individual Honors

On Saturday, just one day after the team finals, Farmington United gymnasts participated in the state individual championships.

Four members of the team placed in the top 10 of the All-Around competition, which includes routines on bars, vault, floor and beam.

Vargo came in first place and was

named the Division 1 All-Around Champion. She placed first in every event except beam and finished with a score of 38.0, which was 1.325 points higher than the second-place finisher, Katelyn O'Brien of Northville.

"(Vargo) is so powerful and beautiful to watch," Dwyer said. "Many spectators came up to me during the competition and made several comments about her performances."

In Division 2, Noseworthy, Farquhar and Sydney Schultz all finished in the top 10. Noseworthy came in second with a 36.2, just 475 behind the leader. Farquhar came in fourth and Schultz came in sixth in the All-Around competition.

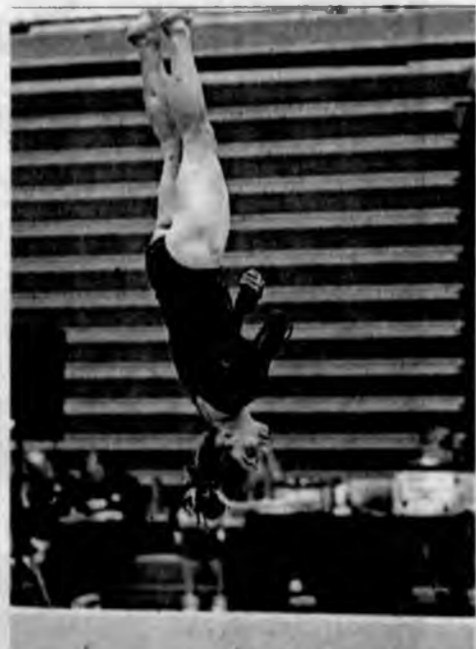
"Kacey has been a gamer her entire career," Dwyer said. "An incredible athlete who always goes full out to win. She gives her heart and soul every practice and every meet. You can often hear her grunting in the way a football player grunts when they hit another player -

yet Kacey does this as she attacks each event. These gymnasts are somewhat rare and it shows in the end. I am so proud of the strides she has made in her career."

Noseworthy was also the recipient of the "Senior-of-the-year" award which comes with a \$1,000 scholarship.

"To do what we did the last two years has been special," Dwyer said. "It takes a core group of individuals to make it happen. Seniors Kacey Noseworthy, Ava Farquhar, and Shelby Smith have been strong leaders the past two years. Sophomores Sydney Schultz and Allie Schultz were also instrumental as freshmen and this year. The work ethic and determination of this group over the past two years is a key reason for two undefeated seasons and two back-to-back state championships."

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com), 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



Farmington United's Ava Farquhar was one of the team's captains.

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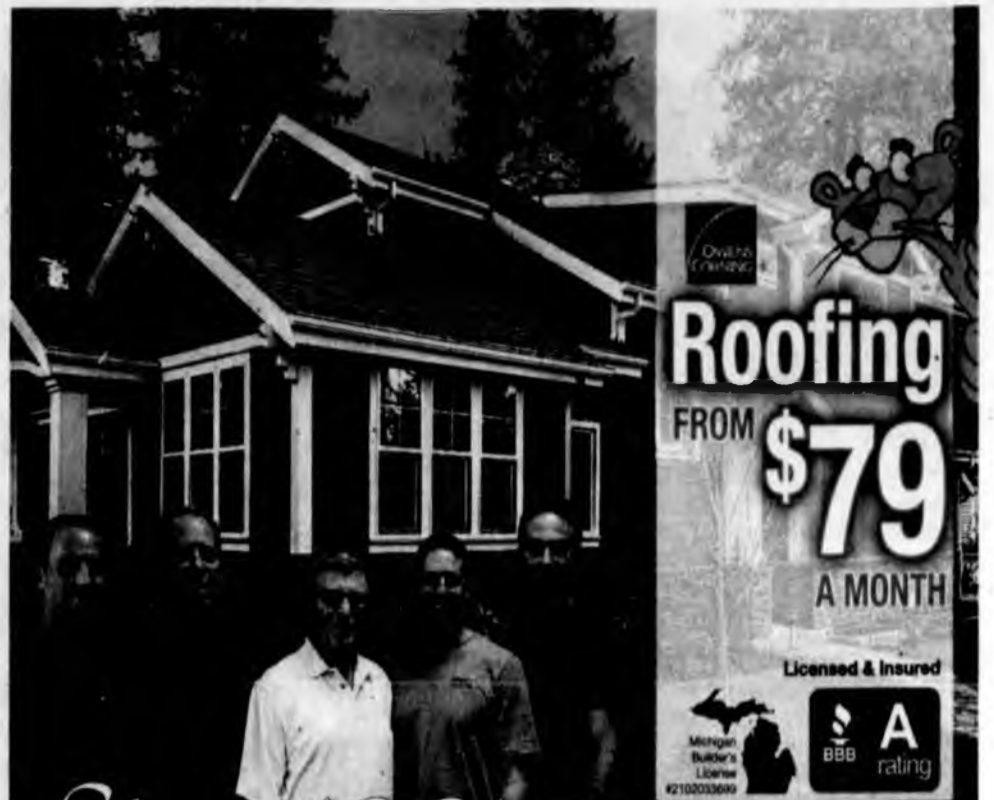
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PREP SWIMMING

# South Lyon swim and dive team wins LVC title

**Andrew Vaillencourt**  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The South Lyon Boys Swim and Dive Unified team captured its second straight Lakes Valley Conference title, marking the first time in program history that the team won the league in back-to-back years.

South Lyon Unified outscored its closest rival, Huron Valley United, 544-395, at Waterford Mott High school to secure the victory. The team finished the season undefeated in conference dual meets. Walled Lake Central scored 350 points followed by Walled Lake Western (296), Walled Lake Northern (212) and Waterford United (150).

The Lakes Valley Conference Championship saw top performances from several members of the South Lyon Unified team in all 12 events starting with the 200 yard individual medley relay where the team of Jared Keeney, Max Topping, Eric Perczak and Josh Mason combined for a Division 1 state cut and took first place with a time of 1:38:86.

South Lyon was victorious in four other events, including a come from behind win in the 400 freestyle relay:

**One meter dive**  
Blake Vaughn, 335.10 points

**500 yard freestyle**  
James Perry, 4:49.14

**100 yard breaststroke**  
Max Topping, 1:00.09

**400 yard freestyle relay, 3:16.45**  
Josh Mason

James Perry

Jared Keeney

Christian Etnyre

"We were a very young team with only four seniors, yet we managed to perform well in all our meets, swim and dive our best at the end of the season and overall have a great and successful season," South Lyon Unified coach John Burch said. "This team was very hardworking. All season long they could be counted on to put in 100 percent effort in practice. This paid off in the end with a great performance at the LVC championship meet."

South Lyon placed in these events at the Championship meet:

**200 yard freestyle**

3rd- James Perry, 1:46.73

4th- Nick Finn, 1:48.77

6th- John Abernathy, 1:53.22

8th- Andrew Brenner, 1:55.21

**200 yard individual medley**

2nd- Jarod Keeney, 2:02.44

4th- Erik Perczak, 2:04.19

**50 yard freestyle**

3rd- Christian Etnyre, 22.22

4th- Josh Mason, 22.30

6th- Aiden Butler, 23.04

8th- Vince Adragna, 23.55

**One Meter Dive**

1st- Blake Vaughn, 335.10 points

9th- Marcus More, 197.30

11th- Manev Shah, 162.10

**100 yard butterfly**

1st- Erik Perczak, 50.38

4th- Max Topping, 54.60

6th- Vince Adragna, 55.78

**100 yard freestyle**

3rd- Christian Etnyre, 48.39

4th- Josh Mason, 50.34

7th- Nick Finn, 50.97

8th- Aiden Butler, 51.83

**500 yard freestyle**

1st- James Perry, 4:49.14

3rd- John Abernathy, 5:02.76

7th- Andrew Brenner, 5:09.65

**200 yard freestyle relay**

2nd- Topping, Etnyre, Perczak, Perry, 1:29.42

**100 Yard backstroke**

2nd- Jared Keeney, 54.14

**100 yard breaststroke**

1st- Max Topping, 1:00:09

6th- Preston Healy, 1:07.65

**400 yard freestyle relay**

1st- Mason, Perry, Keeney, Etnyre: 3:16.45

**Other notable events from the 2018-19 season:**

Erik Perczak broke the sophomore team record in the 100 yard butterfly with a 53.82.

Josh Mason broke the freshman team record in the 50 freestyle with a 22.30 and the 100 freestyle with a 49.21.

Rich Perry contributed to this report.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com), 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewV-court.



The South Lyon Unified boys swim and dive team poses after winning the 2019 LVC title. PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICH PERRY



South Lyon Unified swim and dive seniors Christian Etnyre, James Perry and Preston Healy pose after winning the 2019 LVC title.

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The Catholic Central boys swim and dive team placed second at the 2019 state meet. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAWN BROWNELL

## Swim

Continued from Page 1B

The Shamrocks, despite the second-place finish in the race, set a school record in the relay, with a time of 3:05.90. CC's Mario McDonald beat West Ottawa's Derek Maas in the third leg of the relay by .16 seconds, but it wasn't enough to get the victory.

McDonald's 50-freestyle time was the 8th fastest in Michigan state history, and his 400 freestyle time was 11th fastest in state history.

West Ottawa got second in last year's state meet, which Stoddard felt may have given it a slight edge this time around. With a young team that also now knows that feeling, she believes her team will have a great chance at another special season in 2020.

Stoddard was quite happy with the overall results, saying it allows her program to get the respect it deserves.

"It's pivotal, it's life-changing for our program," Stoddard said. "For the longest time, we've been in the shadows of some pretty great teams ... I think it gives people choices if they want to be a part of not only a phenomenal school but a program that has a history of success in sports. For me, I feel like the boys have never had that respect and our program finally got it."

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at [avai-lienc@hometownlife.com](mailto:avai-lienc@hometownlife.com), 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.

### Standout performers

#### All-American performances

David DeBacker - Diving (Placed 4th)

Mario McDonald - 50-Freestyle (3rd), 100-Freestyle (4th)

400-Freestyle Relay - Matthew Kozma, Bennett Loniewski, Mario McDonald & Conor Brownell (2nd)

200-Freestyle Relay - Mario McDonald, Brian Hussey, Bennett Loniewski & Conor Brownell (3rd)

#### All-State performances

David DeBacker - Diving (4th)

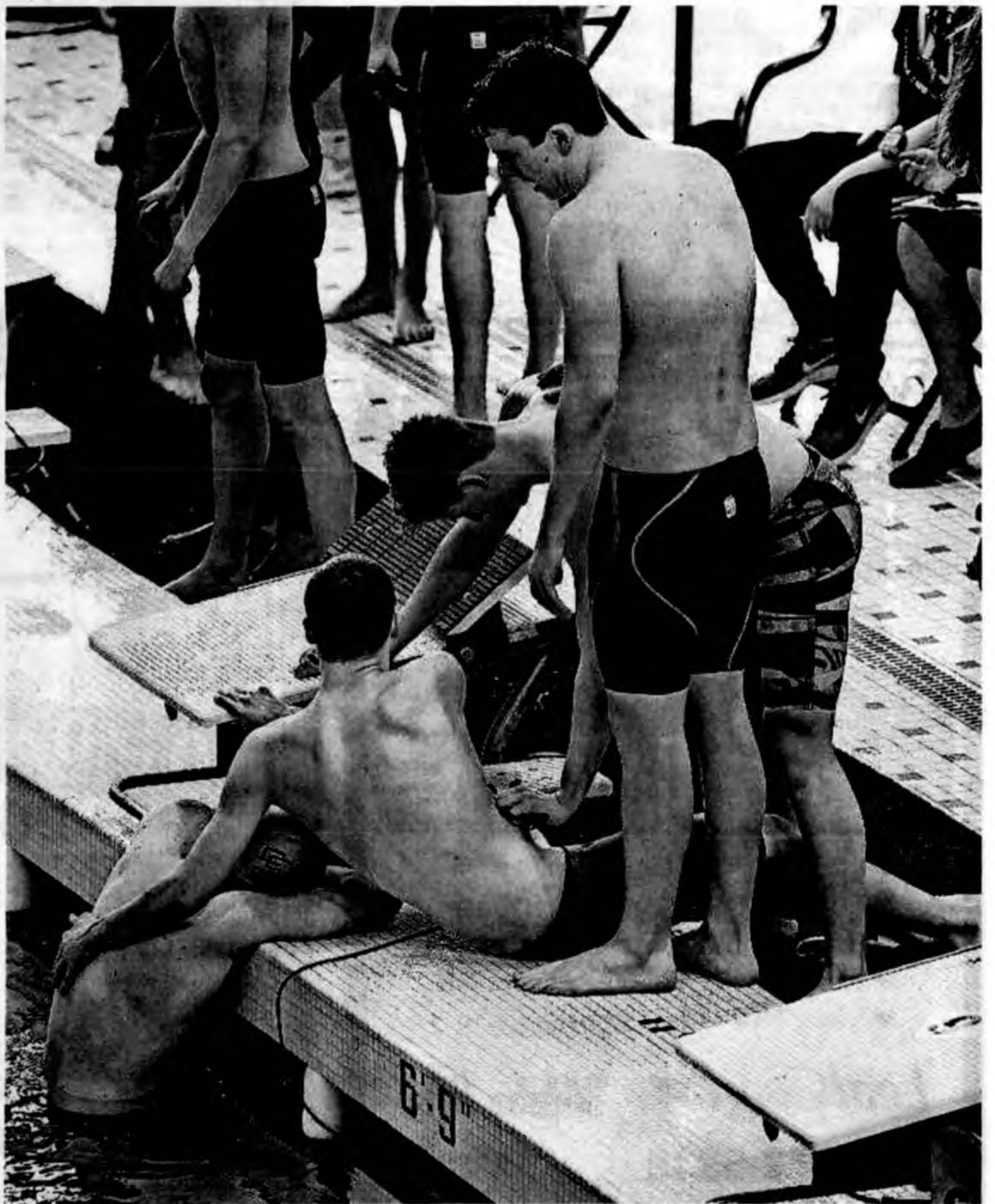
Bennett Loniewski - 200-Free (6th), 500-Free (6th), 200-Freestyle Relay (3rd), 400-Freestyle Relay (2nd)

Matthew Kozma - 200-IM (5th), 100-Backstroke (7th), 400-Freestyle Relay (2nd)

Mario McDonald - 50-Freestyle (3rd), 100-Freestyle (4th), 200-Freestyle Relay (3rd), 400-Freestyle Relay (2nd)

Conor Brownell - 50-Freestyle (6th), 100-Butterfly (4th), 200-Freestyle Relay (3rd), 400-Freestyle Relay (2nd)

Brian Hussey - 200-Freestyle Relay (3rd)



The Shamrocks, despite the second-place finish in the race, set a school record in the relay, with a time of 3:05.90.

### Team Records

50-Freestyle - Mario McDonald - 20.38  
100-Freestyle - Mario McDonald - 45.40 (formerly Jack Walsh's record, who is now a senior captain at Stanford)

200-Freestyle Relay - 1:25.91 - Mario McDonald, Brian Hussey, Bennett Loniewski and Conor Brownell

400-Freestyle Relay - 3:05.90 - Matthew Kozma, Bennett Loniewski, Mario McDonald and Conor Brownell

### State meet full results

- Holland West Ottawa - 248 points
- Detroit Catholic Central - 240 points
- Hudsonville - 164 points
- Saline - 148 points
- Ann Arbor Skyline - 138 points
- Ann Arbor Pioneer - 136 points
- Harrison-Farmington - 125 points
- Northville - 118 points

- Forest Hills Central - 118 points
- Birmingham Brother Rice - 116.5 points

### Other Notable Results

- Salem - 96 points
- Brighton - 65 points
- Novi - 45.5 points
- Livonia Stevenson - 43 points
- South Lyon - 19 points
- Bloomfield Hills - 16 points

YPSILANTI LINCOLN 64, U-D JESUIT 62



Ypsilanti Lincoln players celebrate their 64-62 win over U-D Jesuit at the MHSAA Division 1 final at Breslin Center on March 16. PHOTOS BY JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

# Anatomy of Ypsilanti Lincoln's title-winning, last-second shot



**Mick McCabe**  
Special to Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

U-D Jesuit's Julian Dozier drove to the basket and scored to tie the game with 1:20 left to play in the Division 1 state championship game.

Six seconds later Ypsilanti Lincoln called the first of three timeouts. A second came with 49 seconds left when U-DJ was about to force a turnover.

The third and final came with 14 seconds remaining.

The only question at that point was how was Lincoln going to get the ball to freshman Emoni Bates.

"We wanted to put them in pick-and-roll situations and get Emoni the ball," Lincoln coach Jesse Davis said. "Everybody knows exactly what I wanted to do at the end of the game — even those guys."

The ball did go to Bates in the back court, but there was no way U-DJ was going to allow the 6-foot-8 top-ranked freshman in the country take the final shot.

"We trapped him trying to get the ball out of his hands," said U-D Jesuit coach Pat Donnelly, who sent two players at Bates.

Bates, who has a feel for the game that no 15-year-old should have, passed to Amari Frye, who was open near the top of the key and took a 3-point shot with two seconds left.

"It felt good," Frye said. "I think all of my shots are good."

Frye's shot hit the rim and bounced long, right into the hands of Jalen Fisher, standing on the baseline some 15 feet from the basket.

"Amari came off the top of the key and I thought his shot was good," Fisher said. "The ball just came directly to me. I knew time was running out, but I thought I had a little more time. When I shot it the buzzer just went off."

The buzzer went off and the ball went in Saturday afternoon, giving Lincoln the first state championship in school history following a dramatic 64-62 victory over No. 1 U-D Jesuit before 7,738 fans in the Breslin Center.

It ended an amazing tournament run by Lincoln, which needed two buzzer-beaters just to escape the regionals.

It also ended a spectacular season for Bates, who scored a game-high 23 points on 7 of 22 shooting and was the focal point of U-DJ's defense.

"It was good," Bates said of the Cubs defense. "I really wasn't making shots. I was getting to my spots; my shot wasn't going."

Actually, Daniel Friday did an excel-

lent job guarding Bates.

"I tried to force him left to take away the jumper," Friday said. "I felt like I did an okay job at that, but it wasn't good enough."

This was a game U-D Jesuit (25-3) appeared to be in control of several times. It led 60-51 with five minutes left in the game when it failed to score on five consecutive possessions.

"It was a little disheartening that we had an 11-point lead at halftime and we let them back in in the third quarter with some turnovers and a little lackadaisical defense," Donnelly said. "We had some good opportunities at the rim in the last few minutes of the game that we just didn't convert that we normally do."

Frye and Bates led Lincoln (23-4) back in the final five minutes and Frye's putback was the second costliest offensive board the Cubs allowed.

"When we get going and we do what we do as a team, we're good at it," Davis said. "They make a run at us, we make a run at them."

It was the rebound the Cubs didn't get, which allowed Fisher's final shot, that will haunt Donnelly.

"We just didn't secure the rebound — that's the killer," Donnelly said shaking his head. "You force a tough shot and then you don't collect the rebound and they hit the game-winner off that. That's heartbreaking."

Heartbreaking for U-DJ and almost bone-breaking for Fisher, who was mobbed when his shot fell.

"When it went it I just saw black," he said. "It was people on top of me. It was a good feeling."

Friday had several clutch baskets for the Cubs and scored 19 points while Dozier added 18.

Fisher (16 points) and Frey (15 points) supported Bates' scoring and Lincoln made all 11 of its free throw attempts.

With U-D Jesuit's tradition and Lincoln never having won a regional before, this certainly was an upset. But not to Bates.

"I told my teammates even before I got there I told them we were going to be here," he said. "I told them we just had to trust each other and we should win the state championship."

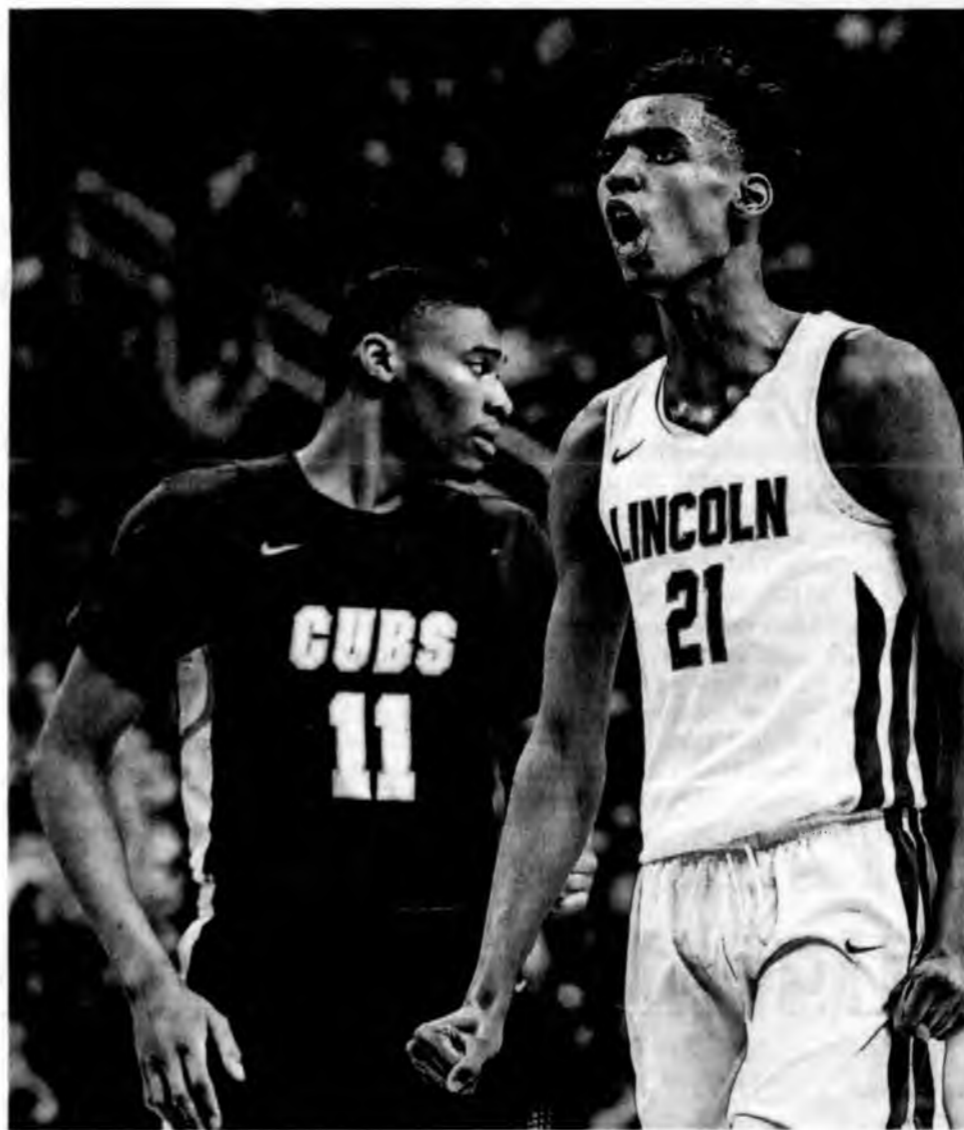
For months people have speculated that Bates would leave Lincoln for a prep school. When asked what is next for him, Bates said:

"I've got three more to win."

When asked in which state he will win those championships, Bates said:

"Here. I'm not leaving. Everybody keeps asking if I'm leaving. I'm staying home."

He is staying home with his first state championship.



Ypsilanti Lincoln's Emoni Bates, right, celebrates a play against U-D Jesuit during the second half.



Ypsilanti Lincoln players celebrate their win over U-D Jesuit.

## PERSONAL FINANCE



Total household debt in the U.S. hit \$13.54 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2018. GETTY IMAGES

## Next financial crisis could be your own



**Susan Tompor**  
Columnist  
USA TODAY NETWORK

We all seem to be on the lookout for clues that we're on the verge of another widespread financial crisis.

The memories from the debacle a decade ago are so bad that no one wants to be caught by surprise again.

So many wonder: Is it a sign that a recession is looming because December's retail sales were weak and just posted the biggest drop in nine years? Should we be focused on worries that the United States will be hurt by a global industrial slowdown? What about student loan debt? Delinquent car loans?

Yet maybe we should tune into what's next for us, rather than the economy. What are the odds that we could be facing our own personal financial fallout?

Are you juggling so much debt – and so many bills – that you're not prepared for your own financial shock? What would happen after a medical emergency? A divorce? A job loss?

Some of the U.S. economic numbers, no doubt, give one reason to pause.

Consumer debt in total hit a little more than \$4 trillion – the largest amount ever – as of December, according to the latest data from the Federal Reserve. That includes auto loans, student loans, personal loans and credit cards. But not mortgages.

A record number of consumers – 178.6 million at the end of 2018 – now have access to a credit card, according to a new report by TransUnion.

Nearly 430 million credit cards are in circulation – up nearly 13 percent from the end of 2015.

The average credit-card debt per borrower is \$5,736 – up about 7.5 percent from 2015, according to TransUnion.

In the past year or so, 4 million more people gained access to a credit card.

Paul Siegfried, senior vice president and credit-card business leader at TransUnion, called the uptick a sign of deliberate growth in a fiercely competitive credit-card industry.

"Issuers are very deliberate in how they extend credit based upon the market competition," Siegfried said.

Much of the growth has been driven by a pickup in consumers with subprime credit – those with credit scores of 600 or lower – gaining access to a credit card. Some of that growth involves younger consumers, including millennials, who are opening credit cards and have lower credit scores because they have little credit history.

But Siegfried noted that balance growth was high at the opposite end of the spectrum, too, including consumers with "super prime" credit scores of 781 or higher under the VantageScore 3.0 credit-scoring model.

While serious delinquency rates for credit-card debt – defined as 90 days past due – rose to 1.94 percent, the rates are well below delinquencies during the

Great Recession, according to TransUnion.

Going back to the fourth quarter of 2009 – a peak time for financial troubles – the delinquency rate for credit cards was 2.97 percent.

Siegfried said he wouldn't call the growth good or bad at this point.

He noted that year-end delinquencies tend to go up for credit cards, as people are juggling various bills during the holidays.

In general, TransUnion sees consumers continuing to have a strong appetite for credit, as well as an overall strong record when it comes to repaying their debt.

Clearly, though, some consumers are feeling more financial pressure.

About 35 percent of those who carry credit card debt said it's because of emergency expenses like car repairs, medical bills or home repairs, according to a report by CreditCards.com.

About 56 percent of those who are carrying balances have been doing so for more than a year, according to that same survey.

Millennials are most likely to carry credit-card debt. The survey said 65 percent of those between the ages of 23 to 38 are most likely to be carrying balances, mainly for day-to-day expenses.

Many times, those who run into financial problems start unraveling because of some unexpected personal

problem – not always a big macro-economic shift.

Some 40 million Americans – or 16 percent of adults – think they will miss at least one credit-card due date in 2019, according to a WalletHub credit cards survey.

"It's people that have been living paycheck to paycheck and there is this final blow or shock," said Donna McNeill, chief operating officer for GreenPath Financial Wellness, a national nonprofit based in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

While people may be making minimum payments on time, they're still not on a stable financial footing. The debt keeps building.

"People can get in the cycle of making the minimum payments and still getting deeper and deeper in debt," McNeill said.

If a credit-card borrower only made the minimum payments on \$5,000 of debt, for example, they'd be in debt for more than 18 years and would end up paying \$6,372 in interest based on national average interest rates, according to Ted Rossman, industry analyst for CreditCards.com.

Since mid-2018, GreenPath said it's seen an increase in client calls and a need for debt-management assistance. The average GreenPath client is managing about \$25,000 in debt.

Under a GreenPath debt-management plan, clients reduce interest, pay off principal faster, and aim to get out of debt in four to five years. Plan fees vary, depending on the amount of debt. The average fee is \$35 a month. But GreenPath said often the reduction in interest paid makes up for the fee.

Trouble might be triggered by a change in job and income, the federal government shutdown, layoff, medical situation or lifestyle change.

"The personal financial crisis is what's driving folks seeking assistance," said David Flores, director of client services for GreenPath.

Many times, people cannot just look only at one type of debt, such as credit cards.

People ages 18 to 44 are most worried about missing credit-card payments, according to WalletHub.

The 45 year-old to 59-year-old demographic is most concerned about their mortgages, according to WalletHub's research, while those over 59 put tax payments as their biggest worry.

Yet one needs to take into account the entire financial picture – including student loans, auto loans, personal loans, credit cards, tax bills, as well as a mortgage.

"Someone may call us with a 'pain-point' but we're always going to look at the full financial picture," Flores said.

A good starting point is to carefully review how much money is coming into a household and how much is being spent each month – and look seriously into any shortfalls.

Try to pay off credit-card bills with high interest rates – or see if you can negotiate a lower rate.

**Consumer debt in total hit a little more than \$4 trillion – the largest amount ever – as of December, according to the latest data from the Federal Reserve.**

## Mistakes can be costly in a divorce

**Liz Weston**  
NerdWallet

If you're getting a divorce, it pays to keep quiet on social media, says New York divorce attorney Jacqueline Newman. Trashing a soon-to-be ex or boasting about your great new life can complicate divorce negotiations.

One client's husband, for example, insisted he couldn't afford a proposed settlement. Then, he inadvertently gave Newman leverage to get a better deal.

"He bragged (on social media) about the great vacation he just took and the big deal he just closed," Newman says. "And I said, 'Thank you very much.'"

Oversharing isn't the only mistake people make when their marriages end. Here are four more that can have significant financial consequences.

### Not getting all the paperwork

You may not know that you need certain documents until years down the road, when your ex may be unwilling or unable to provide them, says David Stolz, a CPA and personal financial specialist in Tacoma, Washington, who is active in the American Institute of CPAs.

While you can, gather paperwork that shows:

- Account numbers and balances for

all of your financial accounts.

- Social Security statements showing your spouse's earnings record and expected future benefits.

- Amounts paid for major assets, including your house.

- Receipts documenting home improvements.

These documents may help not only with the divorce settlement but with future retirement and tax planning, Stolz says. For example, someone who was married for at least 10 years may be able to claim spousal or survivor benefits from Social Security based on an ex's earnings record.

### Ignoring tax consequences

Investments, property and retirement accounts may have the same face value now, but trigger different tax treatments later – and that can dramatically affect how much they're worth, says Kathy Longo, certified financial planner and certified divorce financial analyst in Edina, Minnesota, and author of "Flourish Financially: Values, Transitions, and Big Conversations."

A Roth IRA is worth more than a traditional IRA with the same balance, for example, because Roth withdrawals won't be taxed in retirement. Likewise, a stock or other investment that's grown a



**Oversharing isn't the only mistake people make when their marriages are ending.** GETTY IMAGES

lot in value could trigger a big tax bill that reduces its ultimate value.

Homes can be particularly problematic, especially in high-cost areas. A married couple can exclude up to \$500,000 of home-sale profit from their taxes, but a single person can avoid tax on only \$250,000. Couples need to consider the future, after-tax value of assets during negotiations, Longo says.

Another big change that can affect divorce negotiations is spousal support. Also known as alimony, spousal support used to be taxable to the person receiving it and tax-deductible for the person paying. That's no longer true. Starting with agreements made this year, recipients won't owe taxes on spousal support, and those who pay it can't deduct it.

### Leaving joint credit accounts open

Even if one spouse agrees to take responsibility for a debt, the other spouse can still be held liable if his or her name is on the account. Creditors aren't bound by divorce agreements, since your contract predates the split.

Ideally, divorcing couples would close joint accounts, remove authorized users from credit cards and transfer the debt to new accounts or loans in the responsible spouse's name only.

### Assuming court is inevitable

One survey by Nolo, a self-help legal publisher, found divorce costs among those surveyed averaged \$15,500 in 2015. Divorces involving custody and support issues averaged \$19,200, and costs shoot higher if cases go to trial.

Mediation or collaborative divorce can save people money compared with traditional divorce proceedings, Newman says.

Mediation, an alternative dispute-resolution process, may not involve lawyers and relies on a neutral party to help devise an agreement. With a collaborative divorce, each spouse is represented by an attorney trained in the collaborative process of negotiating deals that are fair to both parties.

## MHSAA OFFICIALS

## Bad calls didn't have to ruin finals



Pewamo-Westphalia's Collin Trierweiler, left, dribbles against Iron Mountain during the second half of the MHSAA Division 3 final at Breslin Center on March 16.

PHOTOS BY JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS



**Mick McCabe**  
Special to Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Traveling? An intentional foul? Those two calls in the final seconds of the Division 3 state championship game between Iron Mountain and Pewamo-Westphalia are the overriding takeaways from the final weekend of the boys basketball season.

Ypsilanti Lincoln and 6-foot-8 freshman wonder Emoni Bates beat U-D Jesuit on Jaylen Fisher's 15-foot jump shot in the final second to win the Division 1 state championship to thrill the Breslin Center crowd.

Hudsonville Unity Christian, which won boys soccer and football state titles in the fall, knocked off River Rouge, which has 14 basketball state titles, in another edge-of-your-seat game.

Those were terrific games, but when all is said and done, the lasting memory of the weekend were two horrific calls by officials who turned Iron Mountain's first basketball championship into a title for Pewamo-Westphalia.

Now, let's get this straight, the P-W players did nothing wrong. They were able to make plays when the officials made arguably two of the worst calls in tournament history only a few seconds apart.

With 11 seconds left and leading by a point, Iron Mountain broke P-W's press and a pass was made to Tony Feira, who caught the ball in stride and laid it into the basket.

**TWEET!**

Somehow, one of the three officials determined it was traveling. It gets better.

The official who made the call was not the one standing near the baseline watching Feira catch the ball and lay it in. The call was made from an official some 50 feet away. He came racing in to make the dramatic call.

Hey, at least everyone knows he worked a state final.

I understand angles and how one official may have a better view of a play, but this was completely out of the primary coverage area of the guy who made the call, showing up his partner in the process.

Still, P-W had to go the length of the court in 5.3 seconds and Iron Mountain still had fouls to give before P-W would shoot free throws. You knew the Mountaineers were going to foul at some point.

It all comes down to situational awareness and these officials failed miserably.

An Iron Mountain player did attempt



Iron Mountain's Marcus Johnson, left, Charlie Gerhard, center, and Foster Wonders react to a call in the last seconds of the second half.

to foul, but it was ignored by the officials. So the player went back and made an obvious grab and eventually wrapped up the player.

That is when the official ruled it an intentional foul, giving P-W two free throws - and maintain possession of the ball - with 0.7 seconds remaining and P-W retained possession of the ball.

Between timeouts, Collin Trierweiler made the two free throws and P-W had the championship.

I know that wrapping up a player is an intentional foul, but this was idiotic.

First, the officials had to know the situation because the Iron Mountain bench was yelling to foul so they should have called the first foul attempt.

Second, the intentional foul may have been a Michigan High School Athletic Association's point of emphasis this year, but I never saw it called in the regular season or the tournament.

But don't take my word for it, Saginaw Nouvel coach Mike Kessler tweeted:

"We were told that wrapping up is an intentional foul all year. We had it happen to us at least 15 times. Never once was called intentional. But now at the end of the game for a state title, we are going letter of the law."

It all comes down to judgement and none of the officials had enough of that to make this right.

In the 2008 Class B semifinals, a Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern player, trailing by three points, threw a running underhanded scoop shot into the basket at the buzzer.

The three officials looked at each other

and shrugged their shoulders before ruling the shot a two-point basket and ending the game.

The replay clearly showed the player was 6 inches behind the 3-point line when he let it go.

What significance does that have to this game? One of the officials worked the Iron Mountain game.

The responsibility for this travesty lies with the MHSAA because it does not always have the best officials working games on the final weekend.

The MHSAA makes officials wait three years before officiating another state championship game, which does not make an ounce of sense.

If you watch the NCAA tournament, you will see many of the same officials working the biggest games year after year because the NCAA wants its games worked by the best officials.

The MHSAA, on the other hand, wants to spread around final assignments to make the officials feel good and give them an incentive to keep officiating.

Listen, if somebody needs a shot at working the finals to keep officiating then that person is officiating for the wrong reasons.

The teams that played at Breslin last weekend earned their way there. Some of the officials did not.

Either work at your craft and get better or get out.

I understand there is an officials shortage so the MHSAA will defend these officials until the end of time.

But the MHSAA should consider what

## Tuesday's girls quarterfinals

(All games at 7 unless noted)

### Division 1

Saginaw Heritage (22-2) vs. Hartland (22-3) at Grand Blanc

Wayne (23-2) vs. Temperance Bedford (20-5) at West Bloomfield, 5

Southfield (22-1) vs. St. Clair Shores Lakeview (19-5) at West Bloomfield

Muskegon (20-4) vs. DeWitt (23-2) at Kalamazoo Loy Norrix

### Division 2

Cadillac (21-3) vs. Freeland (22-2) at Mt. Pleasant, 6

Grand Rapids South Christian (15-9) vs. Hamilton (24-0) at Portage Northern

Haslett (18-6) vs. Chelsea (24-1) at Fowlerville

Detroit Edison (23-1) vs. Goodrich (14-10) at St. Clair Community College

### Division 3

Ishpeming Westwood (24-1) vs. Lake City (21-2) at Gaylord

Royal Oak Shrine (20-5) vs. Flint Hamady (19-5) at Saginaw Heritage, 6

Adrian Madison (23-1) vs. Ypsilanti Arbor Prep (18-6) at Tecumseh

Pewamo-Westphalia (24-1) vs. Niles Brandywine (23-2) at Middleville

### Division 4

Baraga (21-3) vs. St. Ignace (25-0) at Escanaba

Clarkston Everest (14-9) vs. Kingston (23-2) at Burton Bendle, 6

Gaylord St. Mary (22-2) at Fowler (16-7) at Cadillac

Fruitport Calvary Christian (20-5) vs. Adrian Lenawee Christian (23-2) at Richland Gull Lake

these three officials did to the kids at Iron Mountain. They absolutely stole a state championship from them.

These kids are going to grow old and they will still be telling stories about how these three officials ruined their best year of their lives.

Mick McCabe is a former longtime columnist for the Detroit Free Press. Contact him at [mick.mccabe@gmail.com](mailto:mick.mccabe@gmail.com). Follow him on Twitter @mickmccabe1.

# Marijuana proposal could alter market

Kathleen Gray Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Amid concerns about minority businesses being left out and general frustration with the pace at which Michigan is moving on both the medical and recreational marijuana fronts, a group of organizations with marijuana business interests is preparing legislation they hope will make significant changes in how the market will operate.

Their sweeping proposal would make the "gifting" of marijuana illegal; fundamentally change the caregiver system that has been in place since 2008 when voters legalized marijuana for medical use; reimpose the 3 percent excise tax on medical marijuana that ended March 6; allow medical marijuana dispensaries to begin immediately selling marijuana for adult recreational use; require people who grow their own marijuana to register any heavy equipment they use with their local community; and allow unlicensed dispensaries to operate through the end of the year.

"We're not trying to circumvent how recreational will operate," said Eric Foster, a consultant with Banks & Company in Southfield, which has a number of marijuana business clients. "We're just trying to accelerate the market and address some of the concerns from local government."

Besides Banks & Company, the groups involved in developing the bills are the Florida-based Minorities for Medical Marijuana; Cannas Capital, a Muskegon insurance and investment agency that specializes in cannabis businesses; Michigan Economic Stimulus Fund, a Kalamazoo-based cannabis consulting firm; and the Lake Newaygo County chapter of the NAACP.

Applicants for marijuana business licenses have been frustrated by the pace and inconsistency in action taken by the state Medical Marijuana Licensing Board. Since the state started awarding licenses last summer, only 121 licenses have been approved. Of those license approvals, 105 have paid their state regulatory assessments and been awarded licenses. The state has denied 41 license applications, as well as 125 applications seeking preliminary approval.

Minority groups have been worried that they'll be left out of the market. The state doesn't keep statistics on the demographics of people who have been granted or denied licenses, but many Detroit-based marijuana businesses have been denied licenses.

State Rep. Ronnie Peterson, D-Ypsilanti, has met with the group and is interested in sponsoring some aspects of the proposal, but said other areas need to be addressed that aren't included in the initial plan.

"How do the communities benefit from these businesses beyond the taxes? And we still have no legislation dealing with banking and community reinvestment programs," he said, referring to the fact that the marijuana business is almost all done in cash, because the federal government still considers marijuana an illegal substance.

Sen. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, was involved in developing and campaigning for the November ballot proposal that voters approved, legalizing marijuana for adult recreational use. He doesn't think the legislation has much of a chance in the Legislature. First, several aspects would need super-majority votes from three-quarters of both the House and Senate because the bills would change voter-approved proposals. Second, he said, such sweeping changes are premature.

"The citizens just overwhelming passed Proposal 1," Irwin said. "I think we have an obligation to the citizens to let it work and see how it works before we start talking about changing it."

He also questions the motives of those pushing the legislation.

"There is a certain group of deep-pocketed people and people from out of state who are already invested in the cannabis industry who want the Legislature to build a little walled garden so that they can make a lot of money off of Michigan consumers," he said. "Anytime you have the Legislature trying to rope off an industry for a small group of people, I find that very dangerous."

## Medical marijuana caregivers would go away

The biggest change would be scrapping the caregiver system, which was created after the 2008 vote to legalize medical marijuana and allows each registered caregiver to grow up to 72 plants for six medical marijuana cardholders. The proposal would get rid of that category in favor of less expensive transitional licenses for smaller marijuana grow operations, and potentially open the market up to more minority business owners.

In Michigan, there are more than nearly 293,000 medical marijuana cardholders and 41,440 registered caregivers. The caregivers have been selling their excess marijuana to dispensaries, but after March 31, the caregivers will only be able to sell their overages to licensed growers and processors.

Peterson said it would be beneficial to allow caregivers to more easily transition to the licensed market without having the same regulatory expenses — a \$6,000 state application fee, a \$10,000 regulatory assessment and the ability to show \$250,000 in assets.

Irwin said, however, that the November ballot proposal already created another class of license for "micro businesses" that don't carry the same large expenses.

This proposal would require a three-quarters vote because it changes the 2008 ballot proposal on medical marijuana.

The proposed legislation would also allow unlicensed dispensaries that are awaiting a license from the state to continue to operate through the end of 2019. But those dispensaries, which have faced a variety of deadlines to get a license or shut down, are now facing a hard March 31 deadline.

## 3 percent excise tax would be revived

Foster said the 3 percent excise tax on medical marijuana should be reinstated as an incentive to communities to allow legal medical weed businesses in their towns because a portion of those revenues would come back to the communities.

The language to remove the tax was included in the Legislature's 2016 laws that regulated and taxed medical marijuana and stipulated that if recreational marijuana was legalized, the excise tax on medical marijuana would disappear. Medical marijuana is still subject to the state's 6 percent sales tax. When recreational marijuana becomes commercially available for sale early next year, it will carry a 10 percent excise tax, along with the 6 percent sales tax.

Irwin said it will be a hard sell to convince lawmakers to reimpose a tax on those using medical marijuana.

## 'Gifting' of marijuana would be eliminated

In an attempt to tamp down the black market for marijuana, the proposed package would make "gifting" of marijuana illegal. Under the November ballot proposal, individuals can grow up to 12 plants for personal use. They can give that product away, but not sell it. As a result, "gifting" services have cropped up across Michigan in which a person can pay \$55 or more for a muffin and some juice or a T-shirt and get a gram of marijuana or a vape cartridge as a gift.

This also will need a three-quarters vote in the Legislature because it changes a provision of the November ballot proposal.

## Recreational marijuana sales would start immediately

The state has until December to come up with the rules and regulations that will govern the recreational marijuana market and then begin to accept applications for licenses for marijuana businesses.

But under the legislation that's being drafted, medical marijuana dispensaries would be able to immediately begin selling recreational marijuana to people 21 and older, even before the regulations are developed by the state, Foster said.

In other states where recreational marijuana is legal, there are different standards and dosages for medical and recreational marijuana. Those standards haven't been developed yet for the recreational market in Michigan.

Foster said the bills are expected to be drafted and introduced in the next couple of weeks once sponsors have been identified. The state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs is taking a wait-and-see attitude on the proposals.

"We appreciate and evaluate input offered from all stakeholders," said LARA spokesman David Harns.

# Obituaries

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## Thomas L. Prowse

-- Thomas L. Prowse, age 80, passed away March 17, 2019. He was born in 1939 in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, son of the late Mary and Thomas Prowse. He graduated from Cody High School in Detroit, class of 1957. Following high school and college, Tom graduated from Wayne State school of Law. He began his professional career as prosecuting Attorney in Crystal Falls, Michigan. After his time in Crystal Falls, Tom spent the remainder of his career with the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission prior to his retirement. He is survived by his cousins: Anne (Rob) Musial, Robert (Cindy) Lile, Jean Prowse and several other cousins. Tom was preceded in death by his parents and uncles. Visitation was held on Wednesday, March 20 from 10:00AM until the time of the funeral service at 12:00PM at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 West Lake Street, South Lyon. Memorial donations may be made to Fort Street Open Door, 631 West Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226. [phillipsfuneral.com](http://phillipsfuneral.com)



Rene W. Sopher

-- Sopher, Rene W. March 10, 2019 Age 81 Beloved husband of Ann of 51 years. Loving father of David Sopher. Dear brother of Janis Peak, Kim (Robert) Wemer, Bruce (Nancy) Sopher, Barry (Merih Uctum) Sopher and the late Vicki Sopher. Rene graduated from Iowa University. Mr. Sopher retired from Ford Motor Company where he was a Labor Relations Supervisor after 34 years of service. He was world traveler and loved to play golf. Visitation 10:30 to 12:30 pm, Saturday, March 16, 2019 at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home 41555 Grand River Ave Novi 248 348 1800 with a service at 12:30 pm. Memorial contributions may be directed to Arthritis Foundation or American Heart Association.

## Thomas E. Sullivan

MILFORD - Thomas E. Sullivan, age 65, of Milford, passed away March 9, 2019. He was born August 3, 1953 in Battle Creek, Michigan, son of Charles and the late Mildred Sullivan. Tom was a graduate of Battle Creek Lakeview High School, class of 1971. He then attended Michigan State University where he graduated in 1975. Tom had a successful tax preparation business and also became an estate professional. He is survived by his father, Charles Sullivan of Battle Creek, MI; his brothers: Mark Sullivan of Battle Creek, MI, and Dan (Jo) Sullivan of Houston, TX. Tom is also survived by his niece and three nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Colleen in 2001 and his mother. A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 16 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 West Lake Street, South Lyon. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Kellogg Eye Center or Common Ground. [www.phillipsfuneral.com](http://www.phillipsfuneral.com)



# Livonia man's Trump float disrupts vigil for victims of mosque shooting

Jennifer Timar  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICH.

A metro Detroit man faced backlash for interrupting a Cleveland vigil for victims of the mass shooting at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Rob Cortis travels around the country with a pro-Trump float, a decorated bridge he hauls behind a trailer, visiting rallies and events.

Cortis is a Livonia resident who operated the Barnstormer complex in Green Oak Township before the township shut it down in 2012 due to unsafe building conditions.

He made international news after passing by a Friday vigil on the steps of Cleveland City Hall blaring loud music from his float, which was decorated in large letters spelling out "Build the Wall."

Cleveland 19 WOIO news reported that the float's appearance left mourners in disbelief.

Cortis' float, which he calls the "Trump Unity Bridge," can be seen in a video driving by the city hall blaring 1996 Kiss song "I Wanna Rock N Roll All Night" during a speech by Imam Islam Hassan of the Islamic Center of Greater Cleveland posted to the organization's Facebook page Monday.

Messages seeking comment were left Monday with the Islamic Center of Greater



Rob Cortis' "Trump Unity Bridge" float. SUBMITTED

Cleveland and Global Cleveland, the two organizations that organized the vigil.

After making one pass, Cortis headed back to city hall playing the song "God Bless America."

WOIO reported that speakers at the vigil, which included Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, continued speeches about the tragedy in New Zealand during the disruption.

"I've got a lot of hate comments since," Cortis said during a Monday phone interview while traveling in Connecticut.

He denied intentionally offending any vigil attendees or speakers.

"We were coming from a Rock & Roll Hall of Fame rally and drove by (the vigil), and when we saw it, I said, those signs are peaceful, about peace, love and unity, and it was nice to see people in America having a unity rally," Cortis said.

He said he was unaware it was a vigil for the victims of the New Zealand mosque shootings.

A gunman killed at least 50 people in a terrorist attack on two mosques in the city of Christchurch on Friday. Authorities say it appeared to be a carefully planned terrorist attack. The shooting suspect, who police identified as Australian Brenton Tarrant, left a 74-page manifesto against immigrants and livestreamed the attacks.

"Had I known it was them, I would have stopped and shared a moment of prayer," Cortie said. "I circled the block and then came back playing 'God Bless America' to salute them ... a peaceful salute to a peaceful gathering."

He said he turned down the music after being approached by a Cleveland police officer.





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### Here are four careers that suit the hopeless romantic

**Kate Lopaze**  
 thejobnetwork.com

This is the time of year when people tend to have romance on the brain. Flowers! Jewelry commercials! Ads for upscale restaurants! If you're a hopeless romantic, it's kind of like the Super Bowl. But what if you want to turn those lovey-dovey feelings into a career, something you can build professionally? Believe it or not, there are options out there for you.

**Wedding/special event photographer**

If you have a knack with a camera, being a wedding photographer gives you a front-row seat to some of the happiest days of people's lives. Everyone's dressed up, people are (usually) on their best behavior, and your goal is to capture the romance for posterity. Plus, being a photographer has the advantage of being a flexible career, or side business, with many weddings and special events happening outside of standard business hours.

**What you'll need:** High-quality cameras and related equipment, plus training on how to use it. Courses on professional photography are highly recommended.

**What it pays:** The median salary is \$32,490 per year, per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Florist**

Florists and floral designers are usually the go-to retailers for romantic life events, with busy seasons around holidays like Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, etc. Floral designers are there for the good, the bad, and the celebratory, pro-

viding flowers and delivery to a range of customers.

**What you'll need:** Workers in a retail floral shop will need the basics (a high school degree and customer service skills). If you're looking to become a floral designer, you'll likely need vocational courses and on-the-job training. Creativity and artistic flair are very helpful, as are good customer service skills to help your customers find the right way to say it with flowers.

**What it pays:** The median salary for floral designers is \$26,350 per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Chocolatier/Candy maker**

If you're more interested in food service than flower service, you may want to consider becoming a chocolatier. This is not the most common path in food service, but what's more romantic than high-quality chocolates to go with those flowers and gifts? Chocolatiers are artisans who create edible masterpieces, playing with flavors and structures to create the perfect bite.

**What you'll need:** To become a chocolatier, you'll need a solid base in the culinary world, and may need to complete a pastry chef course. You'll also need to meet your state's licensing and food handling regulations, so be sure to check what your state requires.

**What it pays:** The median salary for chocolatiers is \$21,000 per year, but experienced pastry chefs can make more.

**Marriage counselor**

Sometimes love needs a little help, and marriage counselors are licensed health care professionals who can help couples work on their relationships. This is not a job for the starry-eyed ro-



GETTY IMAGES

mantic who thinks all relationships are a romcom ending away from happiness, but rather a practical career for someone who believes that therapy and hard work together can overcome challenges in love and life. Plus, health care careers are a very stable, practical bet for long-term career longevity.

Marriage and family therapy in particular is a field that's growing—the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the number of jobs in this area will grow more than 23% by 2026.

**What you'll need:** Marriage and family therapists typically have a master's degree or higher, plus complete an internship or residency. Licensing requirements may vary by state, so be sure to check your own state's requirements.

**What it pays:** The median salary for marriage and family therapists is \$48,790, per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

If you love the very idea of love, there are ways to live that out in your professional life as well. Choosing a career that helps make other people happy can be a key to long-term career satisfaction. If you have the skills and the inclination to work in one of these service fields, you may find yourself with even more love to go around.

*Kate Lopaze is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com where this article was originally published. She investigates and writes about current strategies, tips, and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.*

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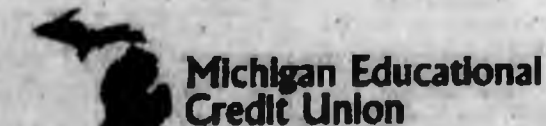
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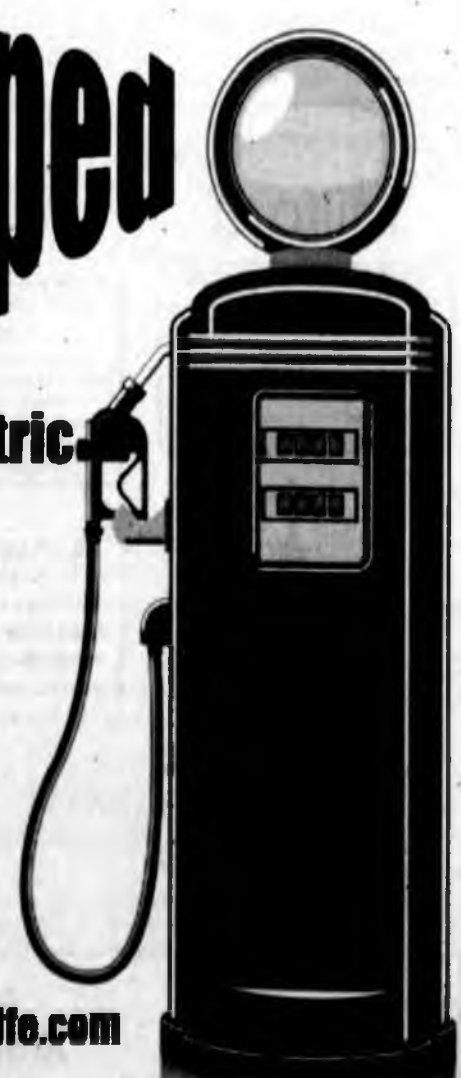
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