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# NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Working toward recovery



Dancing Eye Gallery employee Janine Bauchat brings orders to the sidewalk in front of the North Center Street art shop May 1. Customers can order via phone or online and pick up their items curbside. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Businesses begin long process of reopening

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Theresa Schierloh is happy to have some company again.

The owner of Dancing Eye Gallery at 101 N. Center St. in downtown Northville closed her shop as Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued a stay-at-home order in late March. Since then, she's been filling online orders by herself; with the shop closed, she had to temporarily lay off eight employees.

But Friday, she started brought back a few employees and began offering curbside pickup of specialty gifts, artwork and other items from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. six days a week. Schierloh said it gives her a sense of getting somewhat back to normal.

"It's so nice to be back in the store," she said. "Looking at all the art, looking

at all the handmade stuff ... it just makes you happy."

Dancing Eye Gallery is one of many businesses reopening as Whitmer eases restrictions put in place to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Whitmer's executive order April 24 allows nonessential businesses to resume operations again so long as they keep their shops closed to visitors and open for curbside pickup and delivery. Businesses from restaurants to specialty shops have inched closer to reopening after being closed for more than a month.

Schierloh began listing curbside pickup on her website April 29, and she immediately saw customers signing up to take advantage of the service. With Mother's Day coming, she said she's

See RECOVERY, Page 4A



Simply Wine owner Maria Vasseliou has her North Center Street shop open for phone-in or online orders.

## ER visits drop amid pandemic

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Gary Vella awoke at 2 a.m. one day last month with excruciating stomach pain.

For two hours, he tried to endure it, fearing a visit to an emergency room where he could be exposed to COVID-19 patients. The 50-year-old South Lyon resident feared bringing the coronavirus home to his family after a hospital visit, but in the end, the pain was too much to bear.

"I said, 'One of us is going down,'" Vella joked in describing his decision to go to the ER.

He was shocked to discover he was alone in the waiting room when he arrived at Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi around 4 a.m. April 13.

"It really struck me. Based on the news and everything, I thought there would be people sitting in the

See ER VISITS, Page 5A

## How to help children who are struggling with isolation

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's debatable who is struggling more during quarantine: kids or parents.

Disruptions to routine, lack of a social life and a murky future are all contributors to heightened anxiety.

"Because students are withdrawn from their everyday schedules, from their friends and from everyday productivity, their mood can become more sad or depressed," said Katrina Lorenz, a social worker with Novi schools. "This is largely because they are either lonely or don't feel good about themselves because they aren't producing or achieving ...

See ISOLATION, Page 4A

## SUICIDE AWARENESS

# NHS teen helped others after classmate's suicide

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Annie Heitmeier lost a Northville High School classmate to suicide during freshman year.

The tragedy hardened her commitment to starting a group dedicated to mental health awareness and teen sui-

cide prevention.

When school is in session, NHS' Color My World club meets monthly to discuss teen challenges like depression, eating disorders and striking the right balance between academics and extracurricular activities.

They offer self-care packages to their fellow students during stressful test

times and offer to connect with therapy dogs, meditation teachers, yoga instructors and others who might transform their perspectives and better prepare them for life's difficulties.

With Heitmeier leading the group, Color My World has held 5K color runs

See SUICIDE, Page 3A

## About this series

Suicide has long been a subject most people avoid talking about publicly, yet suicides in metro Detroit counties have increased in recent years.

This is the sixth in a series of stories examining the topic.

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# Bars, restaurants become sellers of household goods

Collin Gay and David Veselenak  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At 11 a.m. April 28, five cars lined up on Michigan Avenue in Wayne in front of UI2 Bar and Grill.

While the light inside the restaurant matched the ambiance of a normal bar at its opening hour - daylight seeping through the windows of a dark room - the tables were loaded with hand sanitizer, disinfectant and masks.

The bar is just one of many similar establishments that have changed their business model to accommodate shoppers in need and keep their doors open during the coronavirus pandemic.

After it was forced to shut down its dining room to in-person customers the day before St. Patrick's Day - the busiest day of the year for the bar - owner John Goci got a call from the Detroit representative of Sysco, a restaurant wholesale company, about opening up an essential items pop-up shop.

"She said, 'People are running out of toilet paper and basic essentials, which we have tons of in our warehouse supply chain because of our restaurants being closed,'" Goci said. "We can provide you with this stuff."

Goci, a Northville native who also works as a real estate agent in Plymouth, saw an opportunity to keep money flowing into the bar.

However, Goci realized quickly that UI2 Bar and Grill was gaining more than just a steady cash flow again. He said when the pop-up shop started, there was a line down the block, and some people said they had driven more than an hour to buy supplies there.

Denise Jennings, of Whittaker, south off Ypsilanti, came to UI2 Bar and Grill with her mother to buy hand sanitizer.

"It shows that this bar cares about the community," Jennings said. "It shows that they took time enough to find somewhere they could partner with and that they can provide for people, not just in their community. People come from all over."

"I can't thank them enough and appreciate the fact that they are doing this."

Working with his wife and two children and his brother's family, Goci has found an equal opportunity to provide for both himself and for the community.

"It's like a war. That's how I'm treating it," Goci said. "People need basic supplies, you know, to stop this thing, to protect their families."

## Big Boy opens the pantry

One of the first eateries to open its cupboards was Big Boy. The Southfield-based restaurant group began offering pancake mix, soup, coffee and pie for sale at its restaurants that remain open.

"People seem to be loving that aspect of it," said Frank Alessandri, the company's director of training.

Alessandri said among the most popular items is Big Boy's own ketchup, made locally at its Warren commissary.

Area company restaurants that remain open to sell pantry items in addition to carryout food orders include the Livonia restaurant at 37123 Six Mile and the Southfield restaurant at 26400 Telegraph.

Alessandri said other locations that are franchises, such as the Big Boy at 28340 Ford Road in Garden City, plan to open again soon.

## Blue Canary provides more than just bread

On 14 Mile Road in Birmingham, Blue Canary Confections is completely surrounded by a residential area, with an elementary school behind it, a church across the street, and houses everywhere else.

In the past 14 months since she opened the bakery, Annie Dennis said she feels right at home in the Birmingham community. To give back for that warm welcome, Blue Canary Confections rolled out another resource for the community it serves.

The bakery is selling limited quantities of flour, eggs, milk and butter, along with normal menu items, such as bread and cookies, to help customers put off a trip to the grocery store.

Before starting this small pantry menu two weeks ago, Dennis said she received requests from customers on the bakery's "note to seller" part of an online order, asking for a few eggs or some flour.

"We realized there is a need out there, there are people who are interested," Dennis said. "Once we added it on to our offerings, it's been super popular and it's just another nice way to help people out a little bit."

During a time of uncertainty for many small businesses, Dennis said it is important, not only for her bakery, but for the community, to stay open as a resource.

"It really does feel like our neighbors are actually our neighbors, not just customers," Dennis said.

## 'We've never done anything like that before'

Among the hardest-hit businesses during the pandemic are banquet halls. No one knows that better than Sam Mass.

The owner of Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft in Livonia, had a full banquet hall just days before the state restricted gatherings of more than a few hundred people.

The hall had even hosted Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for an event attended by several hundred people, hosted by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce on March 9.

But now, Mass has no parties or events. Instead of trying to set up a take-out food or catering business on the fly, he decided to use the space as a pseudo-"pop-up shop," selling items that have been difficult to find in stores such as gloves and toilet paper.

The idea came to him after he saw area residents posting on Facebook that they could not find certain items.

"We're just trying to be an additional resource," he said. "It's a weird thing for me, because we've never done anything like that before."

He began offering the service earlier this month and isn't sure how long it will last.

Anyone interested in purchasing items, which also include hand sanitizer and bottles of wine, can visit the hall's website at burtonmanor.net.

Providing those items for sale, Mass said, is just one way to keep the banquet hall going during the pandemic. Mass said he knows the hall will most likely be one of the last businesses to reopen considering the nature of the coronavirus.

"It's going to hurt for a while, I'm sure," he said. "We just hope the community will ... continue to try and support us."

# Where to get tested for COVID-19 locally

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Here are the locations offering tests around the Hometown Life area and the conditions, if any, the site has, compiled from our own research and from the list maintained by the State of Michigan. Testing has been expanded to include people with mild symptoms and essential workers still reporting to work in person, regardless if they show symptoms of the coronavirus.

If there are testing sites not listed here, or there's an incorrect or outdated listing, please email [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) so we can update this list as it changes.

## Wayne County

### Livonia

MedPost Urgent Care, 11502 Middlebelt, offers COVID-19 testing 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Those looking for a test can inquire for more information, including what needs to be done when visiting the clinic, by calling 734-762-0739.

Healthy Urgent Care, 29531 Plymouth, offers testing for the coronavirus 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, though an appointment is required. More information can be found at [healthyurgentcare.com/livonia](http://healthyurgentcare.com/livonia).

St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, provides screening and testing for the coronavirus for those who qualify 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Those with symptoms can enter the hospital campus from the Five Mile entrance to outside the emergency department. Those who arrive will be screened and those who show symptoms can then be tested. Patients are encouraged to do a virtual screening at home online before heading to the hospital. More information can be found at [stjoeshealth.org](http://stjoeshealth.org).

### Canton Township

The University of Michigan Health Center, 1051 N. Canton Center, offers testing for established Michigan Medicine patients. Those established Michigan Medicine patients are encouraged to call the center's hotline at 734-763-6336 24 hours a day to get more information. Established patients may get tested with an appointment. [Uofmhealth.org](http://Uofmhealth.org).

### Plymouth

Plymouth Urgent Care, 41424 Ann Arbor Road, provides testing for the coronavirus. Call ahead for an appointment at 734-404-7508. [Bloomfieldurgent-medcare.com](http://Bloomfieldurgent-medcare.com).

### Northville Township

Emcura Immediate Care Novi/Northville, 20490 Haggerty, provides COVID-19 screening and testing 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Patients can drive up and have curbside screening and then testing if certain conditions are met. The center also provides testing for COVID-19 antibodies as well. The clinic can be reached at 734-956-6336 and by visiting [emcura.com](http://emcura.com).

### Dearborn

Beaumont Hospital in Dearborn, 18101 Oakwood Blvd., is the lone Beaumont hospital in metro Detroit that conducts COVID-19 curbside testing. Testing and screening is available noon to 8 p.m. each day at the hospital. More information, including how to do a virtual screening, is available at [beaumont.org](http://beaumont.org).

## Oakland County

### New Hudson

Healthy Urgent Care, 30488 Milford Road in New Hudson, offers testing for the coronavirus 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, though an appointment is required. More information can be found at [healthyurgentcare.com/lyon-township](http://healthyurgentcare.com/lyon-township).

### Novi

Ascension Providence Hospital, 47601 Grand River, can provide testing after a phone screening done by a nurse. Those with symptoms can call 833-981-0738 before coming to the hospital for testing. Online screening is also available. [Ascension.org](http://Ascension.org).

Healthy Urgent Care-Novi, 27204 Beck, provides COVID-19 testing for those with an appointment. Contact the clinic at 248-513-3719 and visit its website at [healthyurgentcarenovi.com](http://healthyurgentcarenovi.com).

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

**City of Northville**  
**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF BUDGET**

FY 2021 CITY BUDGET The budget for the various Funds of the City of Northville are proposed for the year ended June 30, 2021 as follows:

	Revenues	SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	Revenues	Expenditures
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>				
Property Taxes	\$5,607,787	Street, Drainage & Sidewalk Improvement Fund	2,577,178	2,577,178
Licenses, Fees and Permits	426,855	Major Streets Fund	513,046	513,046
Grants	5,125	Local Streets Fund	3,740,279	3,740,279
Racetrack Breakage \Police & Fire Service	12,865	Parking Fund	258,418	258,418
Cemetery Revenues	87,500	Arts Commission Fund	179,870	179,870
State Shared Revenue	634,103	Housing Commission Fund	930,850	930,850
Sales and Services	752,047			
Fines and Forfeitures	15,700	<b>ENTERPRISE FUNDS</b>		
Other Revenues	585,974	Refuse & Recycling Fund	632,508	632,508
Interfund Transfers	0	Water & Sewer Fund	4,078,604	4,078,604
Use of Fund Balance	200,000			
General Fund Total	\$8,327,956	<b>DEBT SERVICE FUNDS</b>		
		Street Bond Debt Service Fund	352,598	352,598
<b>Expenditures</b>		DDA Bond Debt Service Fund	174,335	174,335
Administration	\$1,400,900	Housing Debt Service Fund	94,922	94,922
Buildings and Grounds	355,520			
Police Department	3,223,230	<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS</b>		
Fire Department	1,118,440	Public Improvement Fund	264,160	264,160
Technology	95,100	Fire Equipment Replacement Fund	257,750	257,750
Department of Public Works	510,060	Police Equipment Replacement Fund	114,235	114,235
Planning, Zoning & Inspection Services	425,250	Housing Commission Capital		
Shared Services	236,221	Outlay Fund	184,853	184,853
Contributions to Other Funds	692,381	Street Bond Construction Fund	851,656	851,656
Debt Service	52,939			
Insurance & Central Supplies	92,915	<b>INTERNAL SERVICE FUND</b>	564,125	564,125
Contingency	125,000			
	\$8,327,956	<b>COMPONENT UNIT</b>		
		Downtown Development Authority	880,994	880,994

**PUBLIC HEARING** A public hearing will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers of the Northville City Hall, 215 W. Main Street, for the purpose of receiving testimony and discussing the proposed 2020-21 Annual City Budget. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be the subject of this hearing.

**TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS** As provided in State statute, the general appropriations resolution is proposed to allow the City Manager to transfer up to ten percent (10%) of each appropriation to any other appropriation within each fund and up to ten percent (10%) of the total salary and fringe appropriations for distributed Public Works Labor and Equipment Rental between the General, Major Street, Local Street, Equipment, Refuse and Recycling and Water and Sewer Funds. All other interfund transfers require approval of the City Council.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN** The six year capital improvement plan has been prepared and is a part of the annual 2020-21 City budget document.

**COPIES OF PROPOSED BUDGET AVAILABLE** A complete copy of the 2020-21 Annual City Budget document will be available for public inspection beginning May 7, 2020 at the City Clerk's office during regular business hours and on the City's website at [www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us).

Dianne Massa  
City Clerk

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## hometownlife.com

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The club's long-term goals include work at the middle school level, creating mental health resource pamphlets, making the color run an annual event and getting suicide prevention training into schools.

## Suicide

Continued from Page 1A

that raised money for mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

NHS' Class of 2020 also lost a second student to suicide. But there have been students who contacted Heitmeier to say the club saved them.

Heitmeier said teen suicide is a serious issue in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide was the second leading cause of death for ages 10 to 24 in 2017.

Hometown Life contacted local police early this year for information on deaths found to be suicides, and some provided details about juvenile suicides.

Farmington Hills police reported four juvenile suicides for the last five years, 2015 through 2019; and 17 juvenile attempted suicides for the same years.

Canton police reported 32 suicides for the same five years, 10 of which (eight males and two females) were between ages 18 and 30.

Even though the Color My World club members can't meet under one roof, they stay connected through their phones and video apps. Heitmeier said she and her clubmates are staying focused through the coronavirus pandemic.

The club's long-term goals include work at the middle school level, creating Color My World mental health resource pamphlets, making the Color Run an annual event and getting suicide prevention training into Michigan schools.

Heitmeier urged people experiencing mental health crisis to talk to someone they trust. Talking about challenges and problems keeps people responsible. Talking to an adult is likely to result in the realization that there's so much to live for and that pain and crises are temporary.

"Sometimes, it's hard to see past a specific moment in time," Heitmeier said.

The high school senior hopes to pursue public policy and international relations studies in college.

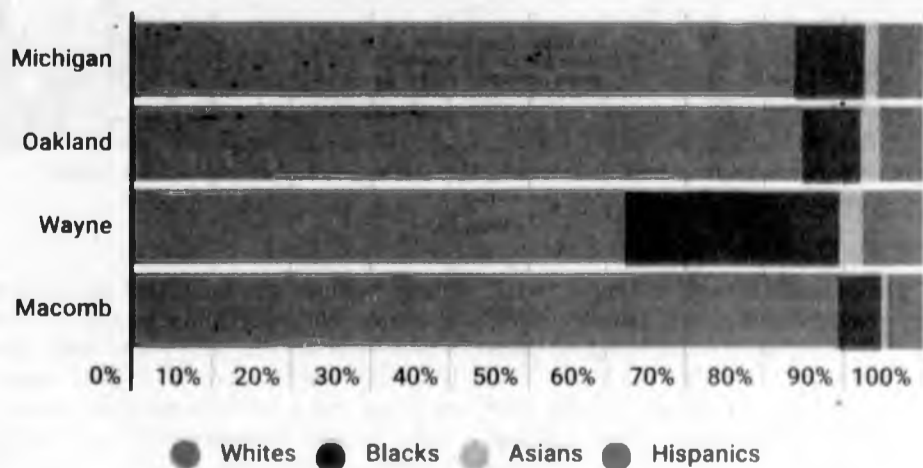
Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.



Northville High School's Color My World club has been holding 5K color runs for the past few years to promote mental health awareness and prevent teen suicide. PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLOR MY WORLD

### 2018 SUICIDES BY ETHNICITY

The state reports that suicide mainly happens among metro Detroit's non-minority demographic group.



Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

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### City of Northville NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2020-21 PROPOSED ANNUAL CITY BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers of the Northville City Hall, 215 W. Main Street, for the purpose of receiving testimony and discussing the proposed 2020-21 Annual City Budget.

**The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be the subject of this hearing.**

**PROPOSED 2020 MILLAGE RATES** The following statements are provided, as required by State statute, concerning the 2020 proposed millage levies for the City of Northville.

The 2020 tax levy for the City Operating Millage is proposed to be 13.1988 mills, compared to 13.3538 mills in 2019, resulting in a decrease of 1.16%. The City Council has authority under the City Charter to set the Operating Millage rate within the maximum allowed rate of 13.1988 mills, as adjusted by the Headlee roll-back formula.

The 2020 levy for the Improvement Program for Streets, Drainage and Sidewalks, approved by the voters on March 4, 1997, is proposed to be 1.6442 mills, compared to 1.6635 mills in 2019, resulting in a 1.16% decrease.

The 2020 levy for Street Bonds for repayment of issued bonds, approved by voters on November 6, 2018, is proposed to be 0.8698 mills, compared to 0.9003 mills in 2019, resulting in a 3.39% decrease.

The total City millage for operating, debt, and improvements is proposed to be 15.7128 mills in 2020. Compared to the 15.9176 mills levied in 2019, the decrease is 0.2048 mills, or 1.29%.

**ANTICIPATED EQUALIZATION FACTORS** The 2020 equalization factors for both Wayne and Oakland County are expected to be 1.00 for all classes of property.

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## Isolation

Continued from Page 1A

"Adults experience that as well. You see everyone across the board struggling with uncertainty."

Routine, predictability and a lot of grace is a good starting point, said Darby Hoppenstedt, director of student support services for Novi Community School District.

Hoppenstedt organized the social/emotional helpline for families in the Novi district. Parents can call 248-429-7422 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday for assistance from mental health professionals.

The helpline is not a crisis line, but rather is meant to offer resources for parents and "affirmation or acknowledgment of what they are experiencing so they can move on and function a little better."

"Sometimes, it is just providing parents with support of knowing when to ease up a bit, and just that push and pull with home learning," Hoppenstedt said.

Lorenz, who is assisting with helpline, offers these tips for struggling parents and children:

### Loosen rigid schedules

There doesn't need to be a plan for every minute of every hour of every day. Kids need a schedule, but it can be

broad and not a packed timeline.

### Let them sleep

Parents often are concerned their children sleep too much, but for kids ages 12 to 18, that is completely natural. Let them rest.

"I don't think that means you have to let the kid sleep until 2 p.m., but you don't have to make sure they are out of bed at 8 a.m.," Lorenz said.

### Ask direct questions

Ask how they are doing. Be specific — ask how they're doing with missing school or specific activities they would normally be doing, or how they are managing their moods. Broad questions invite short answers. Specific questions let them know they can share.

"A lot of kids, if not given permission, assume they can't talk about it," Lorenz said.

### No COVID-19 zone

Spend time with your kids without talking about coronavirus. Taking a break and focusing on things that are consistent and known to your child is important.

### 'V' is for 'virtual' and 'video games'

Connection with friends and family through digital means is good, even if it

means extra video game time, Lorenz said. This is true especially for teens, when all they want is to be with peers and they absolutely can't be.

She knows that some parents will bristle at the idea of kids playing video games more, but Lorenz said the pandemic and resulting social isolation is not the kids' fault, and for some kids, video games are the only thing they want to do when stuck at home.

### It's OK to be not OK

Assure your children that it's normal to feel a bit off. The changes from and uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic have been difficult for everyone.

### Monitor moods

Is your child more withdrawn? Try to engage them. Not eating? Have a meal with them. Eating too much? Go outside together.

A greater level of irritability is a big sign of depression in teens, Lorenz said. A sudden influx of questions can signal increasing worry. Lack of sleep or too much sleeping are also cause for concern.

### Establish a connection

"If you are concerned about your child or feel you are not in touch, have a meal together, ask questions, sit next to them to watch a movie, play a video

game or go for a walk together," Lorenz said. "They need your physical and attentive presence, which is really key to have affection, appreciation, encouragement and gratitude."

### Minimize complaints

Adults are struggling, too, but try to tone down your own complaints in front of the kids so their level of stress does not increase.

### Look on the bright side

Recognize the positives of this situation: the increased time with your children, additional rest, more time to work on hobbies or explore interests.

"Sometimes the positives are eating out less, not running around and you don't have to get all these things done," Lorenz said.

### Throw a house party

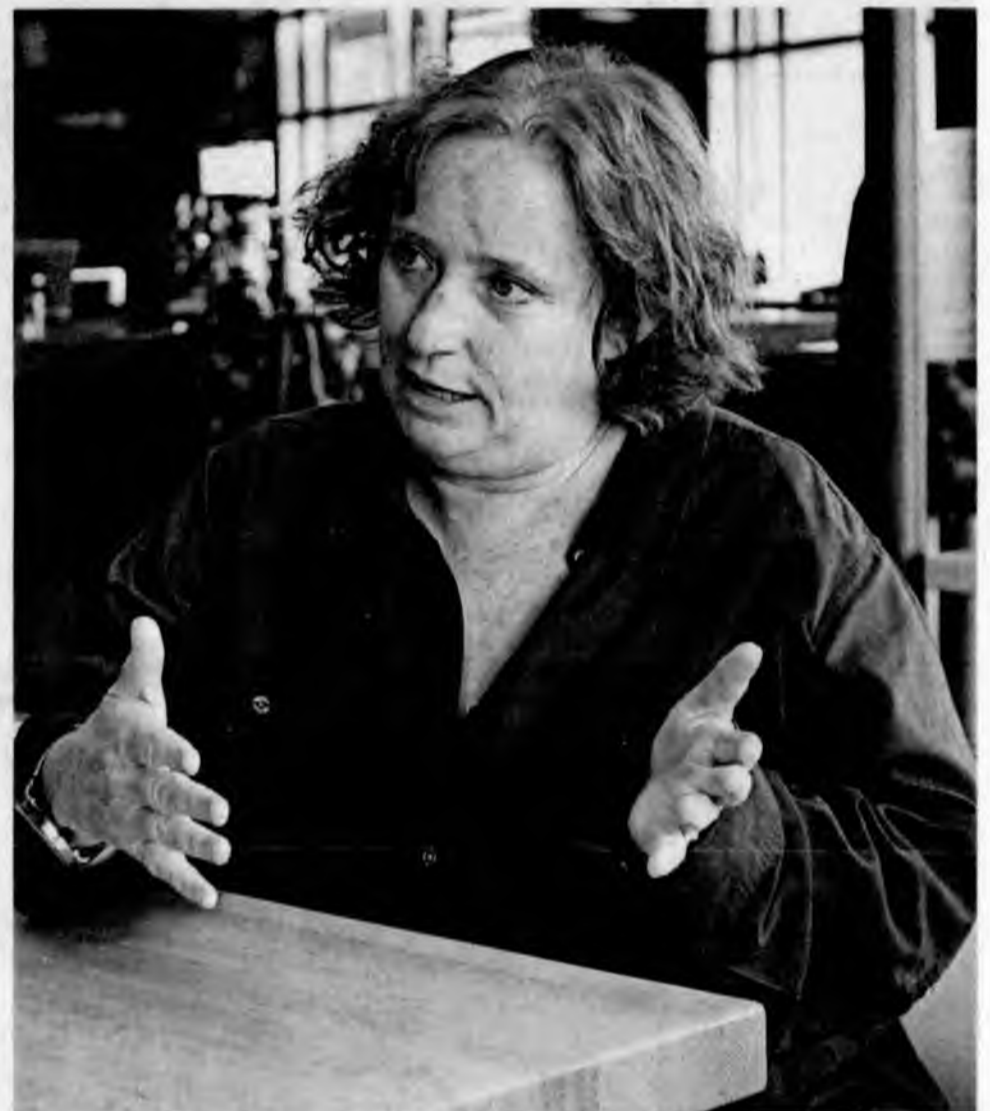
For just those in your house, of course. Lorenz suggests starting a project, making art or playing games.

"Find something in your small home community to find joy in. Give yourselves and your children a path, grace to rest and adjust and acknowledge they, and you, are struggling to try and stay positive," Lorenz said.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Twitter: @SusanBromley10.



Cindy Eckley, owner of Frame Works in Plymouth, reopened her business for curbside pickup April 27. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS



Beth Hussey, co-owner of Hazel, Ravines and Downtown in Birmingham said she felt more comfortable closing the restaurant in March instead of reorganizing.

## Recovery

Continued from Page 1A

been selling plenty of gifts for moms online, as well as face masks designed by metro Detroit artists.

"Every other order, people are getting a face mask," she said. "Honestly, I've sold out of so many so far."

Down the road in Plymouth, many businesses have begun to offer curbside pickup; the city's Downtown Development Authority keeps a running list of local businesses and their activities. One such business, Frame Works, began offering pickup April 27.

Owner Cindy Eckley, who took over the store at 833 Penniman Ave. earlier this year, had several pieces of art dropped off before businesses were ordered closed. She's happy to finally reunite them, now framed, with their owners.

"Especially with art, people have been stuck at home four to six weeks and they're in their room and staring at that wall and contemplating redecorating or rearranging," she said. "Art is a great thing to make a change and ... make people happy."

Eckley said she's tried to fit as many objects for sale in the shop's window as she can to inspire buyers. Given how personal framing can be, she's opted to put other items for sale, including purses and jewelry, in the window.

That strategy worked: she said she's sold some pieces to the few pedestrians passing by.

The types of businesses reopening range in size: The South Lyon Village Bakery, 222 S. Lafayette, reopened Fri-

day after being closed for more than a month. Certain retailers at Laurel Park Place mall at Six Mile and Newburgh in Livonia now allow curbside pickup. The mall lists open businesses on its website, laurelparkplace.com.

While restaurants were never ordered to shut down completely, some opted to do so for several weeks including Hazel, Ravines and Downtown, located off Maple Road just west of Woodward Avenue in Birmingham.

Co-owner Beth Hussey said she felt more comfortable simply closing the restaurant in late March than trying to scramble and recreate the business. Now, after several weeks, she and executive chef/co-owner Emmele Herrold are ready to offer carryout and delivery.

They decided to reopen using one of their most popular items ever to lure customers back: springing off the success of last summer's "lobster pound takeover," the restaurant is serving up hot and cold lobster rolls, lobster bisque and peel-and-eat shrimp.

Hussey said the menu's popularity last year made it the perfect option to offer when reopening.

"It just feels like it's time," she said. "It travels well, it's easy to handle."

Anyone within a 15-minute drive of the eatery — in Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Royal Oak or Troy — can have the restaurant's items delivered right to their door. Customers can order online at the restaurant's website, hrd.kitchen.

Offering such dishes would have been difficult a month ago, Hussey said, with fishing shut down in the Atlantic Ocean. But with some restrictions being relaxed on the East Coast, the restaurant is once again able to get its hands on fresh lobster regularly.



The display case at Northville's Dancing Eye Gallery is full of attractive items. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"They should be able to keep up with our volume right now," Hussey said. "Four, five, six weeks ago, it would have been difficult."

Carryout and delivery will be the main ways for diners to enjoy their favorite restaurants for the next several weeks: Whitmer has extended her executive order closing dining rooms through at least May 28.

While some businesses are navigating through a new venture, the goal for many remains the same: keep employees and customers safe while the coronavirus continues to infect thousands across Michigan.

Completely reopening is a goal for

many businesses, including for Eckley at Frame Works. While it's nice to have some revenue returning, she said, she looks forward to the time when shoppers can come into the store again and make framing selections for their family photos and artwork.

"I hope we'll bounce back when we are allowed to sell stuff. We don't want to rush that. We're safety first," she said. "We want to make this as safe as possible."

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

## ER visits

Continued from Page 1A

hallways, but it was pretty quiet at the time," he said.

Vella was admitted immediately and the next day had surgery to remove his gallbladder.

Dr. Steven McGraw, emergency room physician at Ascension Novi and Ascension Southfield, stressed that cases like Vella's can't wait, and anyone who experiences alarming symptoms shouldn't delay medical attention, either. But they are, and the results can be devastating.

McGraw said there has been a precipitous drop in the number of patients with conditions not related to the coronavirus pandemic visiting the Ascension emergency rooms.

He said he believes many are suffering calamities at home, including heart attacks, strokes or other neurologic injuries such as brain hemorrhages and aneurysms, for which they would otherwise seek immediate treatment. Instead, he said, they brush off or delay needed care for fear of contracting COVID-19 if they go into a hospital.

"I would hate to get us to a point where fear of being in the emergency room makes us suffer consequences that are irreversible and suffer lifelong impacts, but could have been easily improved upon with intervention," he said.

That point may have already been reached, as McGraw noted there has been a "noticeable increase" in the number of people across Michigan who cannot be resuscitated at home. He suspects they failed to go to the hospital when intervention could have saved their lives. The hospital is safe, he said, and has taken all the precautions to protect non-COVID patients from contracting the virus.

"I would appreciate if more of the public can understand our hospitals are places where they can still get health-care," McGraw said. "They saw how things were so bad (with the coronavirus) and they assume it's still that bad. It's not.

McGraw, who is also the medical director for Oakland County, said the middle weeks of March were "strikingly bad" for Oakland County, with hospitals "really stressed." But, he said, things began to change abruptly after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders



**Gary Vella, 50, of South Lyon, was surprised to find Ascension Hospital's ER waiting room empty April 13 when he went in because of gallbladder pain.** COURTESY OF GARY VELLA

took effect around the end of March. That is when the number of new COVID-19 patients in hospitals stopped doubling every three days. At the same time, COVID-19 patients already in the hospital began to come off ventilators or be discharged.

Now, emergency rooms are actually seeing fewer patients than before the pandemic.

Before the pandemic, Ascension's Providence Park Hospital saw 125-150 ER visits per day. Providence in Southfield saw 160-220 per day.

McGraw estimated the volume is down 20 percent to 30 percent, including some of the people who need the most urgent care.

"Even something as simple as strep throat, you think it's not an emergency, but it can attack the valves in your heart," he said.

Untreated chest pain, blood clots and more can all lead to irreversible outcomes.

McGraw said one woman recently came in two days after breaking her ankle, which resulted in a much more difficult surgery than if she had come in right away.

"Bad things can and are still happening, and these are things we can dramatically improve upon," he said. "They give me the greatest pause, when they succumb to disease or live in an incapacitated state. A person who is now a cardiac cripple, or had a blood clot we could have dealt with, but because of a



**Dr. Steve McGraw, emergency room physician for Ascension hospitals in Novi and Southfield, said ER visits for patients with conditions not related to the coronavirus pandemic have decreased.** COURTESY OF DR. STEVE MCGRAW

delay, they can no longer speak, read or move a leg."

McGraw said the problem with elective surgeries or non-emergency care being delayed is that those problems can also worsen without treatment.

As examples, he pointed to cancer patients waiting for a lumpectomy and radiation, or cardiac patients with partially blocked arteries waiting for angioplasties and stents.

The hospitals are gearing up to begin performing these time-sensitive procedures again, but he expects a long wait

list, particularly as patients will need to be tested for COVID-19 one or two days before surgery.

"You can imagine the logistics with limited testing capacity, and we have to do the most urgent first," he said. "There will be a huge backlog. We know the executive order of the governor (allowing various non-emergency medical surgeries, procedures and treatments) is coming and we will be ready as a hospital to do them safely."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com).



# An emergency is still an emergency

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# Missing woman told mom about odd conversation

Susan Vela [HometownLife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A potentially pivotal conversation between mother and daughter could be allowed in the trial of Floyd Galloway Jr., a prison inmate accused of killing a Farmington Hills woman missing for more than three years.

According to court documents, Danielle Stislicki confided to her mother two months before she disappeared that she'd experienced an odd interchange with Galloway, a security guard where both women worked.

Galloway apparently said he could make a body disappear, which an Oakland County judge has ruled admissible for trial.

How the criminal court case proceeds is now up to the Michigan Court of Appeals, where Galloway's case is under review. But, the conversation stands out in a murder trial without a body.

Danielle was visiting her mother, Ann Stislicki, when Ann said she had seen her daughter walking with the married security guard outside the MetLife offices in Southfield.

"Danielle told Ann that Galloway had said he could make a body disappear without a trace and that it was strange," Judge Phyllis McMillen wrote in a transcript of her February ruling. "Ann asked what that meant, and Danielle replied she didn't know."

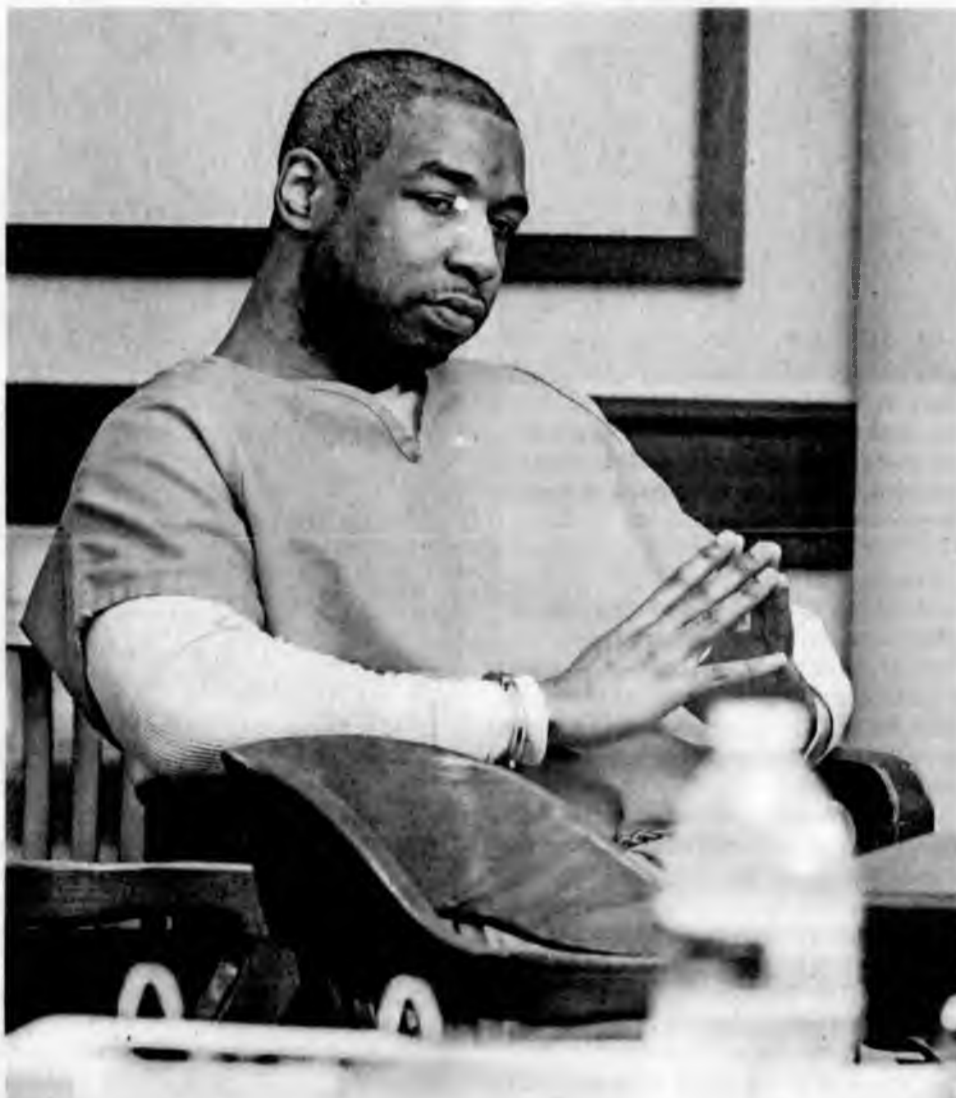
McMillen ruled in February that the mother-daughter conversation should be allowed as testimony when Galloway's murder trial takes place.

The judge's decision was supposed to be sealed. However, Hometown Life ordered several online documents related to Galloway's case, including a transcript of the judge's ruling. The request and payment were made April 14 and the documents were delivered the following day.

On April 16, McMillen ordered the Oakland County Clerk's Office to seal transcripts regarding the motion that prompted her ruling and the ruling itself.

Her order stated that 47th District Court Judge James Brady in Farmington Hills sealed all motions May 22, 2019, "and that order was recognized, continued and followed by Judge Phyllis McMillen on December 20, 2019 and February 11, 2020 and such Order is still in effect."

"We are deeply concerned about the terrible mistake that resulted in the release of transcripts in a case that was ordered by the Court to stay under seal,"



Floyd Galloway Jr. listens to 47th District Court Judge James Brady in 2019. Galloway has been accused of killing Danielle Stislicki of Farmington Hills. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Kelly Rossman-McKinney, the Attorney General's communications director, said in a statement. "This clerical error has the potential to harm and further delay justice for the family of Danielle Stislicki."

## Relevance in murder trial

The mother-daughter conversation could be used at trial to substantiate the contention by Special Assistant Attorney General Jaimie Powell Horowitz that Galloway murdered Danielle, 28, on Dec. 2, 2016, and then figured out a way to make her body disappear.

There have been searches, banners and social media campaigns to #Find-Dani. Danielle grew up in Redford and graduated from Redford Union High School. Known as a friendly, trusting personality, she was close to family and

friends.

Galloway became a prime suspect as the searches continued.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel filed a first-degree premeditated murder charge against Galloway in March 2019 and is pursuing the case in Oakland County Circuit Court. The murder scene is alleged to be Galloway's former Oakland County home.

Ellen K. Michaels became Galloway's defense attorney soon after McMillen issued her ruling on Danielle's comments to her mother.

Michaels said she would not comment on issues still under review by the Michigan Court of Appeals.

## What is allowed

In the transcript regarding the conversation between the Stislicki women,

McMillen noted that MetLife employees said Galloway was known to flirt with Danielle. She had told her mother that she knew he had a crush on her but she didn't reciprocate the interest.

Danielle received flowers from a secret admirer in April 2016. During preliminary examination testimony in open court, an expert said Galloway had written the note attached to the gift.

Also during the preliminary examination, a MetLife coworker said she saw Danielle talking to Galloway in the parking lot. He seemed to be having car trouble. Another testified he saw Galloway and Danielle leave the MetLife parking lot together in Danielle's Jeep the day she went missing.

Experts have said cellphones belonging to Galloway and Danielle were near Galloway's Berkley home in the hours after they left the parking lot.

But should Danielle's chat with her mom regarding Galloway's odd statements about making a body disappear be allowed at trial?

"There is no dispute that Danielle's statement to Ann is hearsay and is inadmissible unless an exception applies," said McMillen, before elaborating on the hearsay exception of trustworthiness. "There are numerous other circumstances to indicate trustworthiness."

"Danielle made the statement to her mother, with whom she was close. The statement was unprompted and spontaneous."

"Danielle told her mother it was strange and that she didn't know why he said that. Her tone of voice was concerned. Danielle's statement to Ann was made just two months before Danielle disappeared. Viewed in totality, these circumstances indicate the statement is trustworthy."

McMillen also ruled that prosecutors could not use Galloway's history with women to establish suspicious patterns.

Galloway, 33, is currently serving prison time for a Hines Park sexual assault committed in September 2016, a few months before Danielle's disappearance. He pleaded guilty to that charge.

"Here, there is virtually nothing in common between the incidents," McMillen said of Galloway's relationship with his sexual assault victim when compared to his relationship with Danielle.

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

## Police investigate dental office break-in

Susan Vela [HometownLife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Milford police found blood on a cabinet, paper towel dispenser, X-ray equipment and other items when investigating a break-in at Superior Family Dental on West Huron Street.

During the April 3 investigation, they

also came across keys, identification and credit cards tied to an automobile larceny that had occurred near the building.

Police said in a report an employee arrived for work about 8 a.m. and noticed papers strewn about and broken items throughout the dental business.

A picture had been pulled off the wall;

a fake plant, thrown down stairs. The office was ransacked, and cabinet doors and drawers had been ripped off their hinges.

The front door was unlocked. Some of the suite doors had pry marks.

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

## Milford police arrest drunk, armed man

Susan Vela [HometownLife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Milford police officers recently arrested a 28-year-old man for allegedly resisting their attempts to take him into custody and for having firearms while under the influence of intoxicants.

According to a police report, officers were called to the 4200 block of Deems Street at 5:04 a.m. April 17 because a woman had called dispatchers from that address.

During the call, she was telling a man

in the background to not shoot. Dispatchers alerted police regarding the man saying he would shoot at police once they arrived. Police asked for assistance from other agencies.

The call was from the Child Lake Estates mobile home park, southeast of Old Plank and East Mapic roads. Police saw a man standing in the middle of Deems Street as they arrived.

The man seemed to have a rifle in a sling close to his chest. He ordered officers to not come near. Then he started walking toward the officers.

By then, other officers had arrived. They tackled him and took him into custody.

Police confiscated the rifle and a pistol from the man, who was engaged to the woman who called dispatchers.

He told police he was upset about not being able to work. His blood-alcohol level tested at 0.168 percent, higher than the legal level.

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

## Deputies use Taser, arrest 2 men in noise check

Susan Vela [HometownLife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A check on loud music in Lyon Township resulted in a Taser deployment and apparent drug bust April 25, according to deputies with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies said in a report they were called to an area near Kensington Boulevard and Grayling Street shortly before 1 a.m.

They found a suspicious vehicle with two men in their early 20s "obviously under the influence of an unknown sub-

stance" near the 300 block of Grayling Street in the Kensington Place manufactured home community.

Their vehicle was parked in the road. The engine was running and deputies could smell marijuana.

The men refused the deputies' request for identification and refused to exit the vehicle.

Deputies opened the driver's door. The driver, 22, of New Hudson, physically resisted arrest, prompting a deputy to use the Taser.

The passenger, 21, of Novi, refused several verbal orders to exit.

Deputies, after several minutes, had both men in custody. They searched the vehicle and found open intoxicants, drug paraphernalia and multiple plastic baggies containing suspected marijuana.

They discovered the driver was on probation stemming from a Wayne County felony. He had multiple arrest warrants out of Northville Township on a suspected larceny.

Both men were taken to the Oakland County Jail.

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

## Teen murder case will go to MI high court

Susan Vela [HometownLife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan Supreme Court will hear the case of Muhammad Al-Tantawi, an 18-year-old accused of killing his mom on their Farmington Hills property more than two years ago.

This might be his last chance to have potentially incriminating DVR material and statements made to police suppressed. The Michigan Court of Appeals denied a similar request last autumn.

The state's highest court ordered oral arguments April 21.

Al-Tantawi's defense team must file a brief "addressing whether the juvenile defendant was subjected to a 'custodial interrogation' without being advised of his Miranda rights."

Because the coronavirus pandemic has interrupted the normal flow of cases, court representatives don't anticipate the case being argued before state justices until December.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Martha Anderson already has ruled there's no legal reason to suppress the video and police interview from trial evidence.

Al-Tantawi is charged with first-degree murder. His parents, Bassel Al-Tantawi and Nada Huranieh, were separated when police found her dead early Aug. 21, 2017, at the family's Howard Road residence. The teen was an International Academy West student.

Police were told Huranieh, 35, fell from an upper-floor window to the patio, but an autopsy analysis indicated she was fatally smothered.

At least three armed police officers interviewed Muhammad, then 16, that same day. His attorney has said a search warrant wasn't issued and no clear consent was given.

## High school graduates should continue education



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

I first would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the high school graduates and their families. Graduating from high school is a milestone that deserves to be celebrated.

Although high school commencement ceremonies have been canceled, depriving high school graduates of their special day, it is important that we all take the time to congratulate them on a job well done.

They may not have a traditional commencement or prom, but that doesn't diminish what they have accomplished.

My advice to high school graduates is to continue their education beyond high school.

My fear is that high school graduates who do not continue their education will end up locked in lower-paying jobs with fewer growth opportunities.

I am not saying college is for everyone, because it is not; however, there are many other ways for graduates to con-

**High school graduates are entering into a very competitive and challenging world where education is not only essential, but also extremely expensive. If your high school graduation gift can help reduce the burden on the graduate, your gift will pay dividends well into the future.**

tinue their education, such as trade schools and apprenticeships. It is important that high school graduates understand that we live in an ever-changing world, and it is critical for them to constantly re-educate themselves.

If you do not have a commitment to some sort of continuing education, you're going to find that you're falling

behind, and once you fall behind, it is very difficult to catch up. I encourage all high school graduates not to look at graduation as an end to their education, but rather, a new beginning.

Because ongoing education is important, but it is not free, we who give high school graduation gifts should take that into consideration. For those of you who are looking for a gift for a high school graduate, as opposed to giving cash or a gift card, why not give something that will have longer term value: an education savings plan.

I recognize that most of our high school graduation gifts are not going to pay for someone's college education or even education at a trade school. However, gifts add up, and before you know it, if more family and friends band together with their gifts, they can make a dent in the cost of the graduate's future education.

I recommend families set up a Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP) ([misaves.com](http://misaves.com)) and encourage family and friends to make gifts to that account in honor of their graduate.

The MESP is a 529 Plan. Money invested does not just have to be used for

college, but rather, for any post high school education. The MESP, if you buy it directly through the state's website, is a very good low-cost plan. Other 529 Plans that are also investor friendly are Vanguard and Fidelity.

I recognize that contributing to a 529 Plan may not be what the graduate would want. I have no doubt that many would prefer a gift card; however, that should not be the criteria. High school graduates are entering into a very competitive and challenging world where education is not only essential, but also extremely expensive. If your high school graduation gift can help reduce the burden on the graduate, your gift will pay dividends well into the future.

To all high school graduates and their families, I congratulate you again on a job well done! However, remember your educational journey is not over; it is just beginning.

Good luck!

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

## How co-owner board can get developer to fix problems



**Robert Meisner**  
Guest columnist

**Q:** We're feeling rather stuck. Our community association has just transitioned to a co-owner-controlled board of directors from the developer. There are many remaining issues that we need the developer to address, including repairs and significant funds that we believe they are illegally keeping from us, and our requests are falling on deaf ears.

The developer included a provision in the master deed that says we have to obtain the approval of the co-owners before initiating a lawsuit, along with a bunch of other procedural hurdles that

have to be cleared first.

What do we do?

**A:** These types of provisions have been popular for a long time now, and in fact they first came about due in no small part to the success that our firm has had in pursuing developers in construction defect claims over the years.

While you could attempt to obtain the required co-owner approval of legal action and satisfy the other requirements under the current provision, there is another option available to you.

Depending on the specific circumstances, it may be advisable for boards of directors in your position to cut the poison off at its source and propose that the co-owners approve an amendment to the master deed that will delete that provision in its entirety.

This may be the more advantageous route because you would not have to deal with holding another vote when considering future litigation, assuming the amendment is approved.

Also, the question can be framed in terms of ensuring the board of directors is vested with the proper authority to make these decisions, and the board remains answerable to the co-owners who elect them. You would also save money from not having to hold additional votes on future litigation.

In any case, you can expect an opposing public relations campaign from the developer saying don't worry, there has been some confusion but we'll take care of everything, you don't need to pay expensive attorney fees, it's all the board's fault, etc. But you can rest assured that

those messages are being crafted by the developer's attorney.

Our firm recently helped another client successfully remove such a provision by amendment and obtain funds that were being wrongfully withheld from the association by the developer.

So, it is possible to get "unstuck" from this situation with the assistance of legal counsel.

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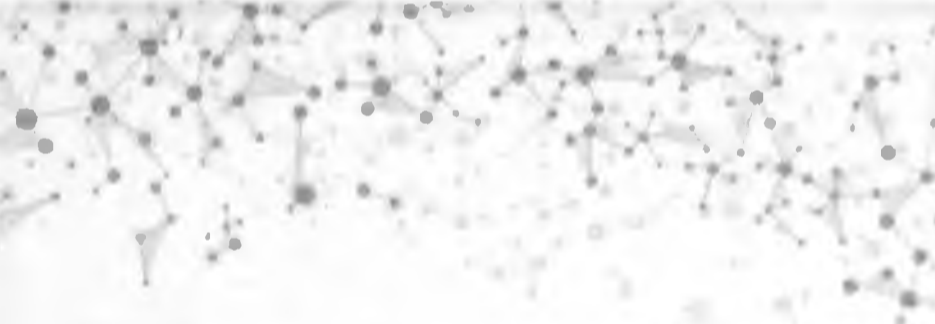
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Bloomfield Township K-9 Officer Angela Carlson with her police dog, Kody, are part of a new docuseries about K-9 teams. COURTESY OF LIFEWORK PRODUCTIONS



Novi K-9 Officer Stacey Simon with her police dog, Becker, named after Air Force Maj. Andrew Christopher Becker, a Novi native. COURTESY OF NOVI POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Bloomfield Twp., Novi K-9 teams star in video

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

A new docuseries featuring metro Detroit K-9 officers and their canine sidekicks is breaking a major myth about the production's stars: They're not mean and aggressive.

In fact, the humans may get emotional and the dogs may express extreme loyalty, because that's who they are: there's a special bond that's part of training, working and representing their communities together.

"It's a real positive project," said Bloomfield Township K-9 Officer Angela Carlson about "Under the Vest: Inside the World of Police Dogs," now available streaming online.

The first of potentially 10 or more episodes recently aired and featured K-9 teams from Southfield, Hazel Park, Sterling Heights and other metro Detroit communities.

Included were Carlson and Kody, a people-loving police dog, and, representing the Novi Police Department, K-9 Officer Stacey Simon and Becker.

Becker is named after Air Force Maj. Andrew Christopher Becker, a Novi native who died during a flight training mission.

"It's not just a PR thing," Simon said during the near half-hour first episode. "He's not just for photos. If he was, we wouldn't be doing all the training that we are."

"He needs to be depended on."

Simon is looking forward to seeing more of the docuseries and being able to return to the episodes after Becker retires.

"It's something that I can look back on and really kind of cherish," she said.

Police dogs are known for assists in searches for bodies, drugs and bombs. Metro Detroit law enforcers also emphasized that they're always right by their side, doing what humans can't do and conducting some tasks more efficiently.

Carlson explained in the first episode that she most appreciates Kody on traffic stops.

"They're going to hear him barking," she said. "He's a super-friendly dog, right? They don't know the difference."

His deterrence on that can be a life saver."

Oak Park filmmaker Jon Kopacz produced "Under the Vest." He's a local multimedia instructor who has spent more than a year working within metro Detroit's K-9 community.

His company, Lifework Productions, also produced "Fur Courage," which focused on Oakland County's K-9 teams.

"I've never been more proud of anything in my life," he said of his latest production. "This is what I've completely devoted myself to for the last year."

Visit [lifeworkproductions.com](http://lifeworkproductions.com) to learn more about his work.

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



Northville Lumber seeks to expand into a lot near its facility on Baseline Road. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Northville Lumber expanding

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

One of Northville's biggest material suppliers is growing.

Northville Lumber, 777 Baseline, has acquired several acres to the northeast of its property and plans to expand with an existing warehouse and add some parking areas.

The expansion's special land use and preliminary site plan were discussed April 21 at the Northville Planning Commission meeting, held virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The expansion totals more than 4 acres and includes a warehouse of more than 23,000 square feet located to the northeast of Northville Lumber's current operation. That warehouse would store materials and serve as a distribution facility. No new buildings would be constructed.

The plans were first brought before the commission last summer and postponed to address some issues, including usage and prohibition of storing materials that could leach pollutants.

"They are requesting a special land use to permit outdoor storage in an industrial-zoned parcel," said Sally Elmiger, city planner. "After the public hearing, the planning commission moved to give the applicant more time to address a number of items."

Some discussion focused on potential disturbances to nearby residences with activity around the warehouse. But Northville Lumber owner Stewart Old-

ford, said activity around the warehouse will be minimal, limited to getting materials in and out, and would not cause any concerns.

"Because there's materials stored there, obviously, we have to access it, generally speaking, by forklift," he said. "In a lot of cases, because the trucks are parked there adjacent, we will put that material there on the truck in the southeastern corner and the truck will leave the facility."

"I would be very surprised if that activity caused anybody heartburn given the generous buffer that exists between any of this activity ... and any adjacent parcel."

Elmiger said having conditions in place for what can and cannot be done is important before the special land use is granted, because it would be applied to the property, not to Northville Lumber as a business. If the company were to leave the space, those conditions would remain, she said.

"The language for the special land use has to be clear enough to tell the person, the next owner, what can and can't happen there," Elmiger said. "Special land uses run with the land, not the owner."

The planning commission voted to approve the special land use and preliminary site plan during its meeting. A final site plan is still required.

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

## South Lyon school board picks two superintendent finalists

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

The South Lyon Board of Education selected two finalists for the superintendent position April 30, but not without internal struggle.

If all goes according to the school board's plan, Steven Archibald or Matthew Outlaw will be the next leader of the district.

Outlaw has worked as the Brandon School District superintendent for the past six years. Archibald has worked as assistant superintendent of human resources and district services for Livonia Public Schools for the past two years.

Missing the cut was South Lyon Assistant Superintendent Ben Kirby, the only internal candidate interviewed for the position.

John Silveri of the Michigan Leadership Institute is leading the superintendent search for the district. He asked the board members during a special meeting held virtually to tell him who their favorite candidates were from the six virtually interviewed earlier in the week.

"For me, what it comes down to is who can see us into the fall and moving forward and being the servant to move the bond forward ... and for the long-term and short-term challenges," Board Vice President Eric Kennedy said.

He then chose Outlaw, who he found to be "expressive, focused and to the point."

"He wants 20 years here, for us to be the pinnacle of his career. I think we could be the pinnacle of his career," Kennedy said.

Kennedy named Archibald as the other candidate he would like brought back for a second interview.

"I like his idea of being part of a bigger system, adjunct to the larger picture," he said. "I liked seeing his enthusiasm for South Lyon and I liked his idea of a unified community district and presenting a unified front."

Trustee Jennifer Urtel also had Archibald and Outlaw as her top choices.

Anthony Abbate, principal of Frost Middle School in the Livonia district, said he had worked with Archibald for more than a decade and had seen firsthand his connection with students and staff.

He chose Kirby as a "known commodity," saying that as South Lyon's

assistant superintendent, he had shown a strong skill set for the work, praising policy revisions and organizational skills during the pandemic.

Board Treasurer Craig Dashner and President Carrie Hanshaw also chose Archibald and Kirby. Trustee Randy Clark named Outlaw as the only candidate he wanted.

In the end, Trustee Daniel Schwegler, who initially named Outlaw and Kirby, was the deciding vote.

"I didn't want to choose this round; it was supposed to be next week," Schwegler said. "They were my two top choices for a lot of reasons. ... We have a bond coming forward, and Mr. Outlaw has dealt with them and significantly more challenging situations and makes me more comfortable that he is a better choice to lead the district with the uncertainty we will have the next few years. I am going to choose Dr. Outlaw for now."

Abbate made a motion, supported by Clark, to advance Archibald and Outlaw to second interviews. The motion passed unanimously.

The board expects to make its final decision May 18, Silveri said.

Outlaw, who earned a doctor of education degree in educational leadership from Wayne State University in 2009, began his career in 1996 as a Novi High School social studies and Spanish teacher, moving up to dean of students until 2003, when he left for Grosse Pointe Public Schools. There, he had an 11-year career, serving as assistant principal, athletic director, and high school principal before accepting the top role in the Brandon School District.

Archibald, who earned an education specialist degree from Oakland University in 1999, has been in Livonia his entire career. From 1990-94, he taught math at Churchill High School and math and physical education at Frost Middle School. From 1994-2011, he served as assistant high school principal and principal, and for the past nine years has been in administrative roles at the central office.

One of the two men is expected to replace Melissa Baker, who stepped down in January. George Heitsch has served as interim superintendent and expects to hand over the reins to the new superintendent July 1.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com) or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.





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Armand Vigna, left, led Livonia Franklin to its only football state title in school history in 1975. Vigna, 84, died April 28. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS KELBERT

## Vigna, coach of Franklin football state champs, dies

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Armand Vigna was detail-oriented, well respected, a teacher and a friend to many.

The former Livonia Franklin head coach, who coached football for more than 40 years, helped the Patriots to its only state title in 1975, the first Division 1 state title in the history of Michigan high school football.

Dearborn residents Vigna and his wife Ruthie died April 28 from the coronavirus within 12 hours of each other. Both were 84.

In his head coaching career at Livonia Franklin, Cherry Hill and Ravenna, Vigna posted a record of 157-114-2, according to the Michigan High School Football Association Coaches Hall of Fame, earning regional coach of the year honors in 1975 and 1982.

See VIGNA, Page 2B



Vigna, kneeling, poses with his coaching staff, including George Lovich, center.

## CC AD named CHSL Hall of Fame inductee

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When walking around Detroit Catholic Central, there are sayings that have become commonplace.

"The Mountain" — a phrase taken from Alabama head football coach Nick Saban and New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick — is used to encourage students to push past complacency and the point of satisfaction, no matter how successful one is.



"The standard is the standard," is a phrase that creates a mentality of excellence spiritually, academically and athletically, inspiring students to get to a standard they never thought they could get to.

"The brotherhood," the mantra of the Shamrocks, unites the school. It's something that is real from the student body to the faculty and staff.

To Aaron Babicz, athletic director at Catholic Central, these are only a few of numerous hashtags he uses on social media to showcase the Shamrocks.

But to him, it's more than just mindless phrases.

"Some places might say it, and it's a hashtag to use. It's a sexy hashtag so people buy into it on the outside," Babicz said. "But when we say it, I feel like there is a lot of substance behind it."

"We mean it." Over the past 11 years, this has been the mentality of Babicz, growing up in the Catholic High School League, graduating from Catholic Central in 1993 before returning as a freshman football coach, admissions director and, eventually, athletic director.

On April 21, the CHSL announced that Babicz would be a part of its 2020 Hall of Fame induction class.

"I just told (the students), 'This just proves to you guys that I tried to crush it as hard as possible for you,'" Babicz said.

Since taking the athletic director job in 2009, he has seen 24 teams from nine different sports earn state titles, along with CHSL titles from 13 of the 14 teams at Catholic Central.

However, Babicz said this does not have to do with the amount of talent the Shamrocks have had. Instead, the cohesion of the team off the field or off

See INDUCTEE, Page 2B

## Former Detroit Mercy lacrosse player working as ICU nurse

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Jessica Snyder wanted to play lacrosse because it was different, it was new.

The Northville resident watched her brother play when she was in seventh grade, already having tried softball, tennis, volleyball and basketball. She said it

was easy to catch on, playing with her sister in both high school at the now-closed Ladywood and college.

Snyder knew that she was going to attend University of Detroit Mercy, calling it a "double-whammy," when she earned a roster spot on the women's lacrosse team. But she did not know what she was going to study.

Again, Snyder turned to something

different, something new.

"It was just different," Snyder said. "No one was a nurse in my immediate family. I had no idea what the profession was really about. I always knew nurses take care of patients just like doctors treat patients, but I never really knew exactly what nursing was."

While both lacrosse and nursing were both new experiences for Snyder,

both have prepared her for where she is now: working as a nurse in the ICU at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, working to help fight the coronavirus.

Each day, prior to the start of her shift, while she puts on the personal protection equipment, Snyder's mindset reverts back to when she would put

See SNYDER, Page 3B

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# Soccer club cancels 2020 Canton Cup

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton will be without its marquee soccer tournament of the year later this month due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Canton Soccer Club has canceled the 2020 Canton Cup, which was supposed to take place at Independence Park over Memorial Day Weekend. The youth soccer tournament typically brings in between 500-700 teams from all across the country.

"Everybody in the township knows when it's happening," Canton Soccer Club President Jim Harkins said. "We bring in 30-40,000 people to the township and the couple big parks that we use."

It would've been the 38th annual Canton Cup. The tournament also serves as a fundraiser for the club and Canton Township.

"The tournament itself is a fundraising opportunity for the club and the township," Harkins said. "A lot of what happens there goes into our capital improvement plan that helps keep Independence Park one of the premier parks in the area."

Harkins added that he doesn't expect the loss of this year's tournament to affect finances much, but that it's disappointing for the area's soccer teams that will not be able to participate.

The Canton Cup isn't the only thing that the Canton Soccer Club has been forced to cancel either. All spring seasons for both recreational and select teams have been shut down. Instead, the club is hoping it can salvage at least a partial summer season, with the earliest possible starting date June 1.

"What we've been doing is focusing on what we might be able to get into a shortened summer season," Harkins said. "We have a list of partner clubs that we already have side agreements with that if deemed safe, we will work



The Canton Soccer Club had to cancel this year's Canton Cup due to the coronavirus pandemic. COURTESY OF JIM HARKINS

with them on setting up a short scrimmage season where the results don't mean anything but gets our kids out on the field doing what they love to do."

The Canton Soccer Club usually has spring, summer and fall leagues for ages 5-18. Scheduling was already finished for the spring season when the CO-

VID-19 outbreak began. The club then followed the lead of the US Soccer Federation and the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) which recommended events be canceled.

Information on future leagues and updates on the 2021 Canton Cup can be found on the club's website: cantonsoc-

cerclub.com. Information on the club's partnership with pro soccer team Detroit City FC can be found at: DCFCyouthwest.com.

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at [avaiillenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:avaiillenc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.

## Inductee

Continued from Page 1B

the court determines long-term success.

"The teams of ours that win are a family before they become a team," Babicz said. "That's the secret. If we lose that, then we won't be successful. If we can keep that high level of faith in the brotherhood, then, God willing, we'll keep going."

To coaches that are a part of the Catholic Central athletic program, culture is what separates the Shamrocks from other schools.

Mitch Hancock, the head wrestling coach, describes Babicz as "an incredible leader and mentor" for the players, coaches and community, investing his time and platform in helping lead people to become better people.

"Our guys love him and he's as invested as you can get," Hancock said. "He sets the standard."

Brandon Kaleniecki, the head hockey coach, sees it in Babicz's day-to-day interactions inside the school.

"The biggest thing to me is that Aaron is so committed to the kids in every way. He always has time for a kid walking by



Catholic Central wrestling has won four straight Division 1 team state titles. COURTESY OF SCOTT CONFER

his office. I see that daily in the school," Kaleniecki said. "He genuinely loves his job and enjoys helping kids who are striving to reach something."

Brandon Sinawi first saw this from the outside. As a former head boys basketball

coach at Novi, he saw what Babicz built, even though he had never met him before his job interview with Catholic Central.

It's something Sinawi did not understand completely until he became part of the coaching family.

"Culture's huge. Not a lot of people understand that unless you are in the building and you have experienced these hallways, and the brotherhood and those type of things," Sinawi said.

This idea is something Babicz has tried to give opponents glimpses of when they have faced Catholic Central.

In his time as athletic director with the Shamrocks, Babicz said he has tried to build relationships with surrounding athletic directors — from both public and private schools — treating each team and opposing player with respect.

But the message Babicz consistently tells the students at Catholic Central is he would suit up and go to war with them, that he loves them.

For him, that's what separates his athletic program from others in the state: the brotherhood leads to success.

That mentality does not only affect the gyms, the fields or the coaches' offices in the school, either.

"I tell our kids all the time: 'I don't care if you are a student athlete or not,'" Babicz said. "I care about every kid here."

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

## Vigna

Continued from Page 1B

"I have never heard anyone say ill words toward Armand Vigna. He was intense, he was competitive to the nth degree," Livonia Franklin athletic director Ron Hammye said. "Just a person who motivated young people."

### Ahead of his time

George Lovich's first impression of Vigna was that of a jitterbug.

The head coach of Franklin described his newest hire — the junior varsity football coach — as always wanting to get something done right away, eager to refine the game and better himself and the people around him in any way that he knew how.

Vigna did this in a way that the sports world had not seen at the high-school level: programming.

Through computer code, data and help from a friend that worked for the Ford Motor Company, Vigna would create detailed scouting reports and game plans about upcoming opponents: everything from statistics regarding suc-

cess at different down and distances to which formations were used in different in-game situations.

"We could tell you the last time you took a glass of water onto the football field," Lovich jokingly said.

Lovich stepped down from the head coaching position in 1975 to take the vacant athletic director job, paving the way for Vigna to take over. With Vigna as a trusted assistant in the years prior, nothing really changed, as he still ran the offense and Lovich coached the defense.

But the stats affected both sides of the ball.

Lovich remembers a time when Franklin took on Fordson in a game when Vigna was head coach. The Patriots knew that when the Tractors got within the 30-yard line and faced a fourth down and short yardage, they would always throw a look to the tight end.

That's what Vigna's numbers and data showed Lovich, and it paid off.

"We knew it, our kids knew it and we intercepted the pass when they did it," Lovich said.

Vigna retired in 1992, but returned to the Patriots coaching staff in 2001 when Kelbert took over the program, bringing

the same computer program as he had in 1975.

"On Sundays we would get our game plan, our scout plan, and that thing would be 20 to 30 pages long of just old computer code that none of us could decipher except for him," Kelbert said. "He would take game film, VHS tape, break it down, put it in his computer and give us all the percentages of first down, third down, areas of the field."

To Kelbert, he called it Hudl, a video and analytics tool primarily used for high school athletics, before Hudl existed.

But to the veteran head coach at Franklin, Vigna was a source of instant credibility, bringing generations upon generations of experience to the sideline.

"Being a first-time head coach and being a 26-year-old, I didn't know a whole lot, thought I knew a whole lot," Kelbert said. "Just having him with me, and all the things he had already done and the things he had been through really helped me: his wisdom and just a wealth of knowledge for us."

### More than a coach

To Lovich, Vigna was more than just

a fellow coach.

When he was called and told that Vigna had died, he was told that every time he would call his co-worker after both had retired, Vigna's daughters would always say, "Dad, your girlfriend is calling."

With that, all Lovich could do was laugh.

"That's what my daughters would say when Armand would call me."

Lovich described the family dynamic between him and Vigna to be as close as close can be.

Lovich said what he will miss most is talking football with Vigna, talking about Franklin, long after the two stopped walking the sidelines together.

"But the part that you can't pick up the phone, call him and start talking football," Lovich said. "I'll miss that. It's not there anymore, even though I knew it was happening."

"For the past two years, I knew it was coming. We tried to keep it going as long as we could."

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

# Snyder

Continued from Page 1B

on her Titans jersey:

"It's time to go to work."  
When Snyder was at Detroit Mercy, she admits she did not have much of a social life.

As an attackman with the women's lacrosse team studying in a four-year nursing program, life was constant, trying to find time between practice and games to study.

In December 2016, Snyder started her nursing career, earning an externship at Henry Ford Hospital working in the ICU – the same ICU where she would eventually be hired full time.

In this process, Snyder figured out that she does extremely well under pressure and with a lot on her plate. But in her four years of school, she learned that no matter the situation, or how she felt, she was expected to perform.

"You don't really have an option," Snyder said. "If you are not feeling well or you just don't feel like it, you really don't have an option."

## Go to work

Snyder was not working the weekend her ICU unit became the first COVID-19 unit in the area.

On March 14, the unit became the first COVID-19 unit at Henry Ford, turning the largest private rooms in the hospital into the required 16-bed unit for proper droplet plus airborne isolation.

Snyder said this was before Michigan or any other state really got hit. This was back when she did not think this coronavirus would be that big of a deal.

Then, things changed.

"We got slammed," she said.

As of April 28, the city of Detroit has 8,811 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 988 deaths – 27.7% of the total deaths in the state.

For Snyder, a wave of emotions came with the wave of COVID-19 patients. With all of the pressure, everything was changing: There were different guidelines and regulations for patient care that changed on a week-by-week basis.

While things may have not settled down in the hospital, Snyder said everyone is accustomed to "the new normal," never changing the mentality that encourages her to put on her personal pro-



Jessica Snyder played lacrosse for Ladywood and Detroit Mercy. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JESSICA SNYDER

**"I don't really think anything of it. It's my job, it's what I have to do. But when you take a step back and you see from the outside community and you hear, 'Oh my gosh, you're a hero,' I don't think I'm a hero in any way. I just think I'm doing my job."**

Jessica Snyder

ective equipment each and every day.

"I go to work, I treat patients day in and day out, and that, for me, never changed," Snyder said. "In my head, I was like, 'This is my job. Anyone, if they were a nurse, I feel like they would be doing the same thing.'"

"It just so happened that I work during the middle of a pandemic."

Snyder works more shifts than normal each week, but it's something that she wants. She said, when home in Northville, it's been tough quarantining, being forced to stay away from her sister



Snyder, of Northville, works as an ICU nurse at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

– who is pregnant – due to fear of the unknown.

But one of the things Snyder has learned during this pandemic is how resilient the nursing profession is, as a whole. Knowing that each have family and friends to protect from the virus, Snyder and her co-workers have no choice but to treat positive coronavirus patients.

"I don't really think anything of it. It's my job, it's what I have to do," Snyder said. "But when you take a step back

and you see from the outside community and you hear, 'Oh my gosh, you're a hero,' I don't think I'm a hero in any way. I just think I'm doing my job."

To her, it's that lacrosse mentality: It's time to put on the uniform, it's time to go out onto the field. It's time to go to work.

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

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# State's campgrounds closed until June

Amy Huschka Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Although the weather is warming up and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has encouraged folks to get outside during the coronavirus pandemic, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is saying "not so fast" on everything getting back to normal.

To help slow the spread of COVID-19 and carry out Whitmer's extended "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order through May 15, the DNR has updated anticipated opening dates at many of its public outdoor recreation sites and facilities.

Most state parks and recreation areas and state-managed trails and boating access sites are open, but social distancing is encouraged.

Proposed facility reopening dates are being staggered to allow for proper preparation.

Details on closures and changes in services, as well as frequently asked questions, are available on the DNR's COVID-19 response webpage at [Michigan.gov/DNR](http://Michigan.gov/DNR).

Ron Olson, chief of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division, said he and his staff are eager to welcome back campers and visitors, but proper safety precautions and maintenance work must happen first.

"We know millions of residents are eager to return to state parks and recreation areas, and we will be here to serve them and make their visits as enjoyable as possible, but we have to open the right way and be certain that facilities and sites are clean, safe and ready to accommodate everyone," Olson said.

To prepare state-managed parks, trails and boating facilities, many tasks must be completed once nonessential work is permitted. The department anticipates staff can start work May 15. Prep work is expected to take five weeks.

## Camping, overnight lodging, shelters set to open June 22

Camping and overnight lodging reservations for dates between May 15 and June 21 have been canceled, but reimbursement options are available. Please



A family fishes from a boat on Interlochen State Park in the summer of 2019. State parks are set to reopen this year in June. COURTESY OF TYLER LEIPPRANDT/MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

call the reservation call center at 800-447-2757 for details.

## June 10 opening for state forest campgrounds, DNR-operated harbors

The DNR will extend closures in state forest campgrounds and DNR-operated harbors through at least June 9, allowing for additional time to prepare for public reopening.

Reservations for dates between May 15 and June 9 will automatically be canceled after May 15 for a full refund to the original payment method, unless a customer calls the call center at 800-447-2757 by 8 p.m. May 15 to request a reservation be changed to a later date as outlined above (including one free night).

## Boating access sites availability

DNR-managed boating access sites that already were open for the season and remained open during the stay-at-home order will remain open. The addition of various amenities, such as the placement of piers and the reopening of bathrooms at boating access sites, will begin as staff time and maintenance schedules allow.

Boating (including motorized) is allowed, but people from different households are encouraged to practice social distancing.

## Other operational announcements

Bathroom buildings and hand-washing stations are closed through at least June 3, although those facilities at campgrounds will remain closed until the campground opens. Trash service

also has been halted during the same time frame; please leave the sites as you found them. Bring bags to carry out any trash with you.

Dispersed camping on approved state-managed lands is not permitted until at least May 15.

Due to the extended stay-at-home order and operational functions associated with starting the season, the tentative opening date at Silver Lake State Park ORV Area in Oceana County is June 3. Staff is scheduled to return May 15 and the prep work is anticipated to take about three weeks.

To minimize face-to-face interaction and the exchange of money, the Recreation Passport requirement for vehicle entry to state parks and recreation areas, state forest campgrounds and state-managed boating access sites has been suspended until two weeks after the stay-at-home order ends.

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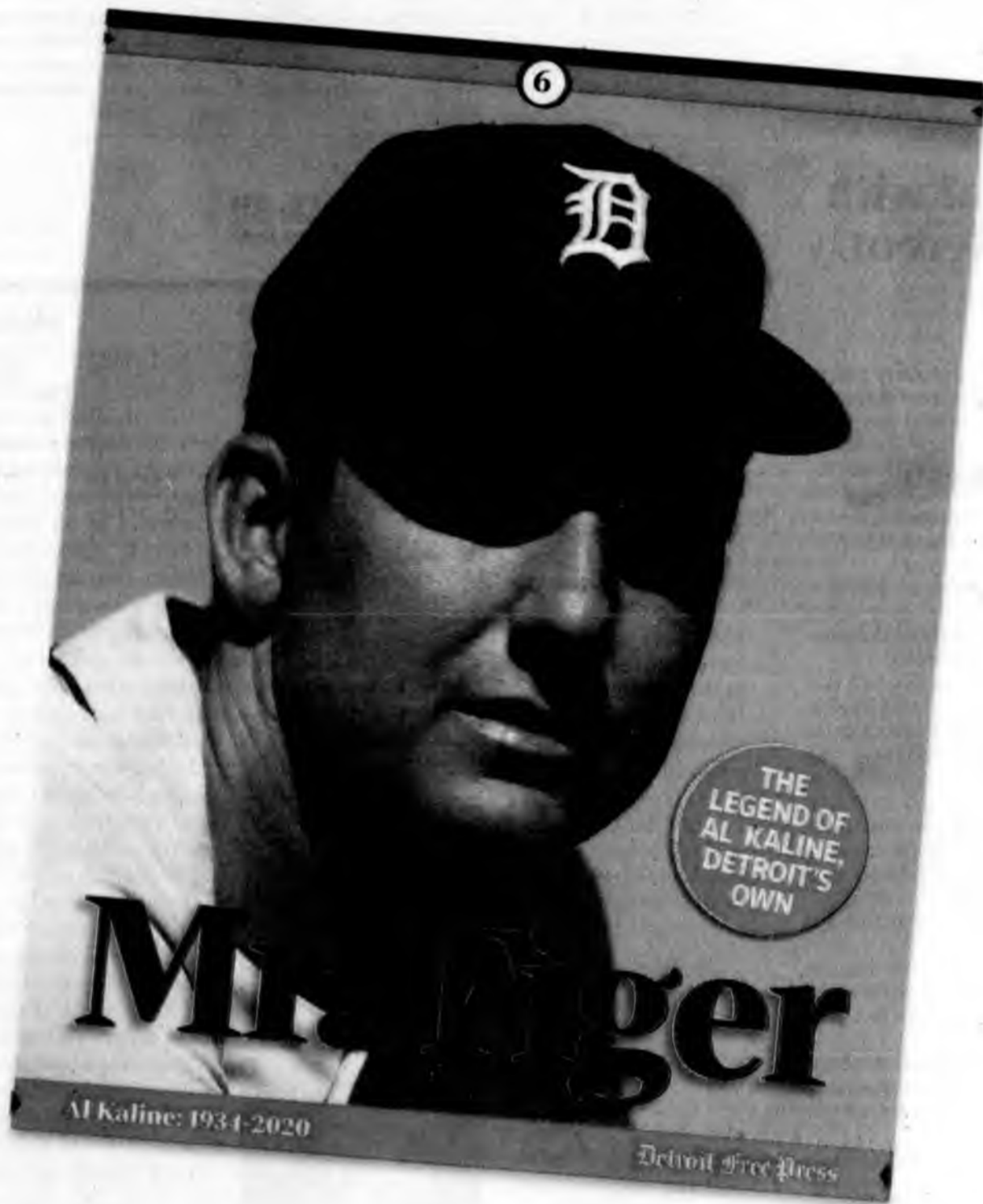
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Detroit Free Press



# 'Make A Vet Smile' lifts veterans' spirits

Jada Fisher Lansing State Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency is asking for community members to submit short videos and letters to cheer up Michigan veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MVAA recently launched their "Make A Vet Smile" campaign to lift veterans' spirits during such a trying time. Residents of Michigan Veteran Homes, which offer psychiatric, diagnostic and other medical services to former service members, are receiving these heartfelt messages as many of them are unable to have visitors.

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director Zaneta Adams sang a rendition of "God Bless America" in a video posted to the MVAA Facebook page to kick off the campaign.

"The campaign is off to a great start and the members of our Homes are enjoying the show of support from Michigan residents," said Anne Zerbe, director of Michigan Veterans Home.

Within the first 10 days of the Make A Vet Smile campaign, more than 200 cards, letters, photos and videos were submitted in support of Michigan veterans.

## How you can help

If you would like to write a letter or card to cheer up a veteran and offer your support, you can mail them to either of the two locations:

■ Grand Rapids Home for Veterans 3000 Monroe Ave. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505 ATTN: Letters for Vets

■ D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans 425 Fisher St. Marquette, MI 49855 ATTN: Letters for Vets

If you would like to record a short video of yourself, your children or your family sharing a positive message in support of Michigan veterans, you are encouraged to:

■ Use the hashtags #MakeAVet Smile, #DoingMIPart and #MVAA

■ Upload your video

■ Email the link to DMVA-MIVeteran-Homes@michigan.gov



Students at Holt Lutheran School & SonShine Early Childhood Center in Holt attend a flag ceremony in 2019. LANSING STATE JOURNAL FILE

These videos will be shared with members of both the Marquette and Grand Rapids locations as well as the MVAA Facebook page.

The mission of the MVAA is to provide support, care

and advocacy for veterans and their families. You may call 800-MICH-VET or 800-642-4838 to get access to information, resources and services. For more information, visit MichiganVeterans.com.

## Homeless deal with COVID-19 differently

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Through at least May 15, Michiganders will be under "stay home, stay safe" orders from state government. But what does "stay home" mean when you don't have a home to go to?

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that 8,575 Michigan residents are homeless on any given day. In Westland, the Samaritas Family Center, 30600 Michigan Ave., tries to help families without a home.

The center helps feed and clothe people, provides shelter, provides childcare and even has a clinic. But that has changed quite a bit as the community battles the coronavirus pandemic.

"The rooms have always been meant to be a safe haven for families, and it's a blessing," said DeeDee McVety, Samaritas' director of major and planned gifts. "Now with COVID-19 and social distancing, we're primarily asking families to shelter in place in their rooms."

McVety said families can't meet in the dining hall or use the center's clinic right now. The center also has been spending more money on food as people stay at the shelter all day, every day.

"You and I feel terribly constrained and confined in our homes, with several rooms and spaces to use," said Tamiaka Andrews, the center's director. "Imagine what it's like for our 40 children, who range from 3 months to 17 years old, and their families who share one room."

At the same time, McVety said donors have been generous enough to donate WiFi connections and televisions to families so staying in a room all day isn't so boring.

But it's difficult for the shelter's tenants to lose their sense of community.

"Generally what is so wonderful about this is the community you build with others who are kind of in the same boat. ... When you're in a tough situation, sometimes having someone who's there, too, can be helpful to you," McVety said. "All of those connections, we're trying to say, have to happen now six feet apart."

But the shelter hopes isolation will help, as homeless people can be especially susceptible to the coronavirus.

"One of the things that we know is so many of those who have perished from the virus died as a result of underlying conditions," McVety said. "Those are things like hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and those kind of things."

"We also know those chronic illnesses are disproportionately represented in homeless people."

As coronavirus cases continue to climb in Michigan, McVety said Samaritas is trying to cope with a growing need they're sure is coming.

"We know that the need is just stacking up because as more people lose jobs, as more people have to deal with illnesses, it's going to increase," she said. "We know it's going to increase."

McVety said people who want to help can go to samaritas.org to learn how to donate online or by mail. The center is also accepting donations of food, household supplies and games or activities families can enjoy.

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

## Obituaries

### Patricia Karpenko

Patricia Karpenko, at the age of 92, passed away Thursday April 23, 2020. She was preceded by her husband Jerome Karpenko.

Patricia is survived by her brother Dennis, sister Eunice, sister-in-law Margaret, son David, daughter-in-law Susan and her three grandchildren Joshua, Jacob, and Alexis.

Patricia will be laid to rest with her husband at the Great Lakes National Cemetery. She will be missed dearly by all who knew her.



### Laura M. Rubritius

MILFORD - RUBRITIUS, LAURA M. of Milford; April 16, 2020; age 97; Loving wife of the late Herman Rubritius and the late Stig Danielson; Beloved mother of Alice (Mark) Shanburn and the late Jack Danielson; Step-mother of Carolyn (Mike) Gould, Dave (Sandy) Rubritius,

Jim (Kim) Rubritius, Sheila (Gene) Walk and Jeff (Jill) Rubritius; Sister of the late William H. Miller and the late Robert G. Miller (Betty). Also cherished by 5 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, several step-grandchildren and several step-great-grandchildren. Mrs. Rubritius was a founding member of the Pontiac Creative Arts Center, a member of the Milford Senior Center and the Order of Eastern Star. She was a member of the Pi Omicron National Sorority Lota Eta Chapter, was a member of the American Business Women's Association, the Federated Garden Club of Michigan, and the Better Homes and Garden Club of Pontiac. Mrs. Rubritius also volunteered at Huron Valley Hospital, was Past President of the Pontiac Area Federation of Women's Club, and was an accomplished china painter. A family graveside service will be held on Monday, May 4, 2020 at Christian Memorial Cemetery, Rochester Hills. Arrangements by the Riverside Chapel, Simpson-Modetz Funeral Home, Waterford. Online guest book www.modetzfuneralhomes.com

Modetz Funeral Homes

### Michael L. Soden

MILFORD - Soden, Michael L., age 75, of Milford, died on April 17, 2020, from complications related to Parkinson's Disease. Beloved husband of 53 years of Cheryl (Borchardt) Soden, dearest father of James (Shannon) Soden, adored grandfather of Michael, Christie, and Faith Soden. Dear brother of Grant (Catherine) Cooper and Bonnie Cooper Simpkin. Favorite brother-in-law of Douglas Borchardt, Betty Gray (the late Gary), Joanie Houghtaling (the late Greg), James Borchardt (Connie), Julie Champine (Lou) and Wendy Staniszeski (Mark). Dear uncle of 26 nieces and nephews, great-uncle of 11 great nieces and great nephews. Also survived by cousins Sue Soden (the late James) Korfhagen and Pat Soden (Elwood) Schneider of Kentucky. Mike was predeceased by his beloved grandson Derek, his brother Marvin Cooper, his father Robert Soden, his mother Ruby Cooper, his father-in-law Gordon Borchardt and mother-in-law Joan Borchardt.

Mike was a graduate of Farmington High School, Class of 1962. He joined the US Navy after graduation, and served aboard the destroyer USS Massey 1962-1966. Mike's last cruise took him around the world, departing Newport, Rhode Island, January 1966. His destroyer cruised off the coast of Vietnam for 3 months, providing gunfire support for ground forces and rescue service for carriers.

Mike joined the Detroit Police Dept in 1967 and served 1-1/2 years. He joined the Milford Police Department in 1968 and served as a police officer and police sergeant for 32 years until retirement in 2000 in the very town that he loved. He will be very much missed by his family and friends. A memorial will be held in his honor at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Community Sharing, P.O. Box 405, Highland, MI 48357.





# Discover the magic of zucchini casserole

**Dominic Armato**  
Arizona Republic  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Grandma Leslie was a little surprised to learn that her zucchini casserole would soon grace the newspaper.

"It must be a really slow news day," she said over the phone, with a laugh.

Of course, she knows that's not the case. Quite the opposite, in fact. But that's precisely when we need recipes like hers the most.

My mother-in-law's signature dish is a homey throwback – a pointedly unfancy casserole brimming with fresh vegetables, a pile of potatoes, a bit of meat and way more cheese than anybody should be cramming into one helping. A staple she grew up eating at her family's farm in Michigan, it holds the dual distinction of being perfectly designed for quarantine cookery and wielding mystical powers over all who try it.

"They had nothing, but they had lots of zucchini and lots of potatoes and lots of tomatoes. I don't even know if they had ground beef, but that's in the recipe. I had it from my Grandma Sophie starting when I was five years old, and it's been in my family even longer. It was designed to take care of whatever was in your garden."

Or whatever's in your crisper drawer, as the case may be.

Not only is this the perfect catch-all recipe for whatever produce you need to use up, it also has the unique power to make otherwise finicky kids plow headlong into a big pile of vegetables. Back when my daughter refused to eat anything other than white bread, white rice, spaghetti and Special K Red Berries with the berries picked out (but not plain Special K... long story), she'd make an exception to demolish a hunk of zucchini casserole.

My wife recalls devouring it with similar zeal as a kid. And her sister, once so enthused to describe her favorite dinner for a school project, was the family member who officially codified the zucchini casserole serving size.

"My dad eats two hunks, and I eat one hunk and my mom eats one and a half hunks," the grade-schooler dutifully reported some three decades ago.

A glance at the stained, aging recipe card typewritten by Leslie's Aunt Phyl reveals that the formula has evolved over time. Grandma Mark abhors bell peppers, so they disappeared for a generation. Grandma Leslie is a fan of melted cheese, and her daughters wouldn't have it any other way, so neither would I. I have no idea if Grandma Sophie would approve, but I think some corn kernels lend a gorgeous, fresh pop. (And a



Grandma Leslie's zucchini casserole makes fine comfort food.  
DOMINIC ARMATO/ARIZONA REPUBLIC

splash of Cutino Sauce Co.'s Verde isn't half bad either.)

So, here is my lightly modified take on Grandma Leslie's zucchini casserole. I make it once a month, and we eat it all week.

I expect we'll be eating it all quarantine long. And who knows how long thereafter.

"Here's the thing about it," Grandma Leslie gently intones. "Everybody loves it. That's what's so funny. It's so basic, but there's something about it."

Reach the reporter at [dominic.armato@arizonarepublic.com](mailto:dominic.armato@arizonarepublic.com) or at 602-444-8533. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @skilletdoux, and on Facebook at facebook.com/darmato.

## Grandma Leslie's Zucchini Casserole

Makes: A dozen hunks.

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound ground beef
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 3 medium carrots, sliced
- 2 medium green bell peppers, stemmed, seeded and chopped
- 2 medium zucchini, sliced
- 1 cup corn kernels (preferably from two ears of fresh corn)
- 28 ounces canned tomatoes (crushed or squished by hand as you add them to the pan)
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1½ pounds potatoes, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- ½ cup milk
- 8 ounces shredded cheddar cheese

Heat the oil in a very large saute pan over high heat and when it starts to shimmer, add the ground beef. Cook, stirring and breaking up, until deeply browned. Remove the beef from the pan and set aside, leaving any juices and rendered fat behind in the pan.

Reduce heat to medium-high and cook onions, stirring frequently, until well-browned. Add the carrots and cook for 2-3 minutes longer. Add the bell peppers, zucchini, corn, tomatoes, Worcestershire, oregano and salt and pepper to taste, scraping the bottom of the pan to release any browned bits. Reduce heat to medium and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 15-20 minutes, until vegetables are somewhat softened. Adjust seasoning.

Meanwhile, place potatoes in a pot with salted water to cover, bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 15-20 minutes, until tender and easily pierced with a fork. Drain the potatoes well, return to the pot and whip with the butter, sour cream, milk and salt and pepper to taste.

To assemble the casserole, transfer the vegetable mixture to a 9x13" baking dish, then top in layers with the ground beef, then the mashed potatoes, then the cheddar cheese.

Bake the casserole in a 350° oven for 20 minutes, then turn on the broiler until the cheese is lightly browned. Remove casserole from the oven, allow to cool for 5-10 minutes, cut into hunks and serve.

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### Do's and don'ts of an exit interview when leaving job

Eric Titner  
 thejobnetwork.com

It's been said that every journey has a beginning and an end, and our career journeys are no different. Most of us start our trek through the work world with lofty goals, some semblance of a plan, and a desire to succeed. Hopefully, with a little luck and a lot of effort, we get to realize some or all of these goals, but those of us who've been in the work world for a while quickly come to realize that things rarely go precisely according to plan.

Some jobs turn out to be life-changing opportunities, while others may fail to live up to expectations or not last as long as we'd hoped – and like all things good and bad, they inevitably come to an end.

Leaving a job is an almost unavoidable aspect of our career journeys – these days, very few of us stay in one job for our entire work lives. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the average worker will hold over a dozen jobs across their lifetime. Simply put, leaving a job (hopefully for greener pastures) is a facet of professional life that we all need to get used to.

When some jobs end, there's an exit interview component to the process. Exit interviews serve a dual purpose. They allow employers to gather valuable feedback from those who know the company best, leading them to learn, make necessary adjustments and helpful improvements, and evolve. It also allows soon-to-be-former employees to express their feelings about a variety of company-related issues, which can be a helpful and cathartic process while coping with the loss of a job.

That said – an exit interview should not be approached as a reckless free-



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for-all or an opportunity to unload and rant at will about everything you've ever disliked about the company during your tenure. Remember, it never helps you to burn a potential bridge as you travel through your career path – especially if you ever need to provide a reference when you're back on the job search trail.

If you're about to enter an exit interview, consider the following dos and don'ts to ensure that it's a helpful and productive experience.

**Do be constructive**

Above all else, your exit interview will be your final opportunity to provide the company with helpful ideas to make improvements and ensure that current and future employees have a positive

environment to work in. So, if your company uses exit interviews as part of its HR process for outgoing employees, why not take the opportunity to make it a productive experience? Do your best to answer each question thoughtfully and provide constructive feedback where possible. Wouldn't you want your colleagues to do the same if they were leaving before you?

**Don't brush off the experience**

Some people choose not to take exit interviews seriously. Instead, they simply shut down, watch the clock, barely speak, contribute nothing meaningful, and just wait for the opportunity to bolt out of the room. Bad move. Don't approach the interview as a throwaway

moment or something to quickly get through. Instead, invest some time to think carefully and critically about your tenure so you'll be able to provide valuable feedback during the experience – it'll likely be your last chance to do so, so make it count.

**Do be honest**

It's often been said that honesty is the best policy, and this holds true for exit interviews. When fielding questions during the process, make sure you answer with care. Avoiding or obfuscating the truth, or simply flat-out lying will only ensure that the feedback you provide will not help the company improve and will not lead to a better work environment for others – a real lose-lose result.

**Don't be angry**

Yes, sometimes leaving a job can be an emotionally volatile time, especially if it wasn't your choice and you're anxious or stressed out about what will happen next. But that doesn't mean that you should approach an exit interview as your chance to unload all of your angry or charged feelings onto the unfortunate individual conducting the experience. It will not only make you seem unprofessional and immature, but it will also leave a bad (and potentially lasting) final impression, and likely lead to any feedback you do have not to be taken seriously. Instead, rise above and do your best to handle the exit interview in a professional and mature manner.

*Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education- and career-related topics. He currently lives in New York City.*

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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### ACROSS

- 1 June hrs.
- 4 Cobbling tool
- 7 Birthstone after opal
- 12 Run-down 73-Down
- 19 Deep musing
- 21 Calm down
- 22 Filled pasta squares
- 23 Shady public walk
- 24 1909 Literature Nobelist [Alabama]
- 26 Runner-up of tennis' 2017 U.S. Open [Wisconsin]
- 28 Enkindled
- 29 Authorize to
- 30 "Ye olde" place
- 31 Quarterback Brady
- 32 Counterparts of egos
- 35 Cutely shy
- 38 Cosmetics company founder [Montana]
- 46 Paris-based cultural gp.
- 49 Mysterious letters
- 50 Washington subway system, familiarly
- 51 Alfred Lunt's comedy partner [Massachusetts]
- 54 Poker champ Ungar
- 55 Spicy cuisine
- 56 Last line on an invoice
- 57 Abu — (emirate)
- 59 Navy off.
- 60 Plaintiff
- 61 "Today" co-anchor [Georgia]
- 67 Take in
- 70 Higher
- 71 Take in
- 72 "Jane Eyre" novelist [North Carolina]
- 79 Goad
- 83 Go bad
- 84 — -ski bar
- 85 Sedentary
- 88 LAX stats
- 90 Comic Carrey
- 91 Star of the reality show subtitled "Life's a Tripp" [Connecticut]
- 95 Birthstone after ruby
- 97 "The Liberty Bell" march composer
- 98 Passionate
- 99 "Weeds" actress [New Jersey]
- 103 — Plains
- 104 Mag heads
- 105 That lad's
- 106 Motorola competitor
- 109 Saturate
- 112 Iceberg part
- 113 "National Velvet" novelist [Oklahoma]
- 119 1970 #1 hit for The Guess Who that's apt for this puzzle?
- 124 "Woe Is I" author Patricia T. — Abbr.
- 125 Price ceiling
- 126 Part of FDA: Abbr.
- 127 Toto's owner
- 128 Having been banished
- 129 Decade units
- 130 Golf course units: Abbr.
- 131 Grafton's "— for Outlaw"
- 1 State of a surviving wife
- 6 Romance novelist Banks
- 7 Stun with a charge
- 8 Stay in line
- 9 Good friends
- 10 \$\$\$ holder
- 11 Passionate
- 12 Greek society
- 13 Delay
- 14 Abel's mom
- 15 Broadcast
- 16 — weevil
- 17 Healing plant
- 18 Donation
- 20 Send out
- 25 See 31-Down
- 27 Kenan's sitcom buddy
- 31 With 25-Down, perch for a nest
- 32 Night demon
- 33 Mil. award
- 34 "Keep it in"
- 35 Niche sects
- 36 "The joke's —"
- 37 "Fiddler on the Roof" matchmaker
- 39 Age
- 40 Ursuline, e.g.
- 41 Actress Miller
- 42 Fido's jingler
- 43 Antiquated anesthetic
- 44 From Tehran
- 45 Clamor
- 47 Spider web, at times
- 48 Toronto-based gridiron org.
- 52 Sorority letters
- 53 Caddy drink
- 54 "Zip it up!"
- 57 "Aw, rats!"
- 58 Suffix with social
- 62 Old Saturn SUVs
- 63 LAPD alert
- 64 "Weekend Edition" network
- 65 Natal lead-in
- 66 Set of seven
- 68 Similar to
- 69 Superbly done tasks
- 72 Delicate pancake
- 73 The Ritz, e.g.
- 74 Pong creator
- 75 Overused
- 76 Pro —
- 77 — for tat
- 78 Rock's Brian
- 80 Irritated
- 81 Sheeplike
- 82 Auto dings
- 86 Northwestern Pacific fish
- 87 ER skill
- 89 Large or medium
- 91 Enjoys some 1940s jazz
- 92 Regret
- 93 Syr. neighbor
- 94 Hefty Cinch —
- 96 "Old man"
- 97 Slope on which a vessel is built
- 100 Wispy
- 101 Pol. wild card
- 102 Unimportant person
- 107 Stravinsky and Sikorsky
- 108 Part of A.D.
- 109 Indian dress
- 110 Arab nation
- 111 Singer Seeger
- 112 Racket grip enhancer
- 113 "The Circle" actress Watson
- 114 Brand of hair remover
- 115 Stay-the-night sites
- 116 Informed of
- 117 Utah city near Provo
- 118 Abstainers from alcohol
- 120 Writer Stout
- 121 French for "here"
- 122 Shortstop Ripken
- 123 Poem type

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or [smcclellan@michigan.com](mailto:smcclellan@michigan.com). Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at [QuillDriverBooks.com](http://QuillDriverBooks.com)

## SUDOKU

	6		8	2			1	
7			1				9	8
					9		7	
1	9					3		
8								6
		2					9	4
	8		7					
9		6			4			7
	2			9	8		4	

Difficulty Level ★★★  
 Here's How It Works:  
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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L C C H I V L L R I V N C F F E R C G S  
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 O E M K N O I L N I C B N G O I V O B L  
 N R A H H A C T T P Y O U I T V E U I A  
 T E R B C E G A L H S F T T L C L E I I  
 N N F O L U N R M G N A I S A B C R N N  
 O N B W U I C W O O N N R B T O W W G N  
 D I V L M W F E T I G E R W M O O M N E  
 R A W R H E A O L D P E U P G R O R V I  
 O L E B R R O L E R H H O M C G K R I B  
 C G C T R R O A D D A S O S N S C D C H  
 R I I L E P D D E R T E F I B E U U H G  
 C L B R D H U C D R V Y R V T O L O Y R  
 E D A Y E C I Y K Y E A D T G D T P B A  
 O B W A I D H Y I E E N I K U H I O R F  
 L D D N U H R E S B T N N B U V V N I T  
 D B G O T E L O R H G U M U A V A G D E  
 L N U H B D W E T A G A P O R P R C E D  
 L S V U V O V B C E K L Y N N N O I N U  
 V W T V M E E N A C S U O E C A C I R E

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

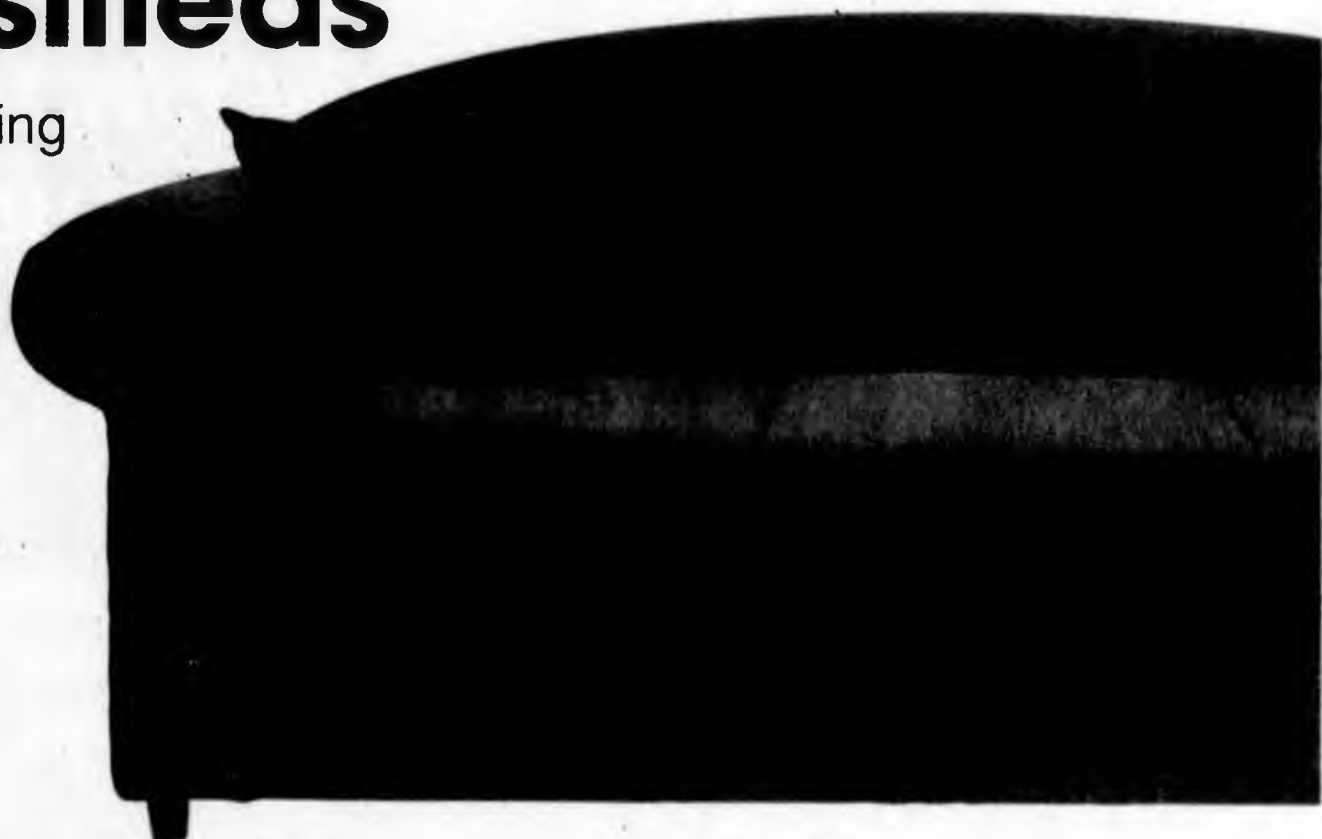
### WORDS

- ANNUAL
- BARE ROOT
- BIENNIAL
- BUD
- BULB
- CANE
- CHITTING
- CLOCHE
- COMPOST
- CORDON
- CORN
- CROWN
- CULTIVAR
- DEADHEAD
- DECIDUOUS
- ERICACEOUS
- EVERBEARING
- FERTILE
- FRAME
- GERMINATION
- GRAFTED
- HARDY
- HERBACEOUS
- HYBRID
- MULCH
- ORGANIC
- PERENNIAL
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