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# WILLOWVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

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## Twelve Oaks Mall reopens with limited hours

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

All Cathy Giuffre wanted was a cinnamon roll. So the Westland resident made the drive May 28 to Novi to wait in line at the Cinnabon at Twelve Oaks Mall. She got what she wanted and couldn't have been happier. "I tore it up," she said. "It was to die for." Giuffre was one of hundreds of people who descended on the shopping

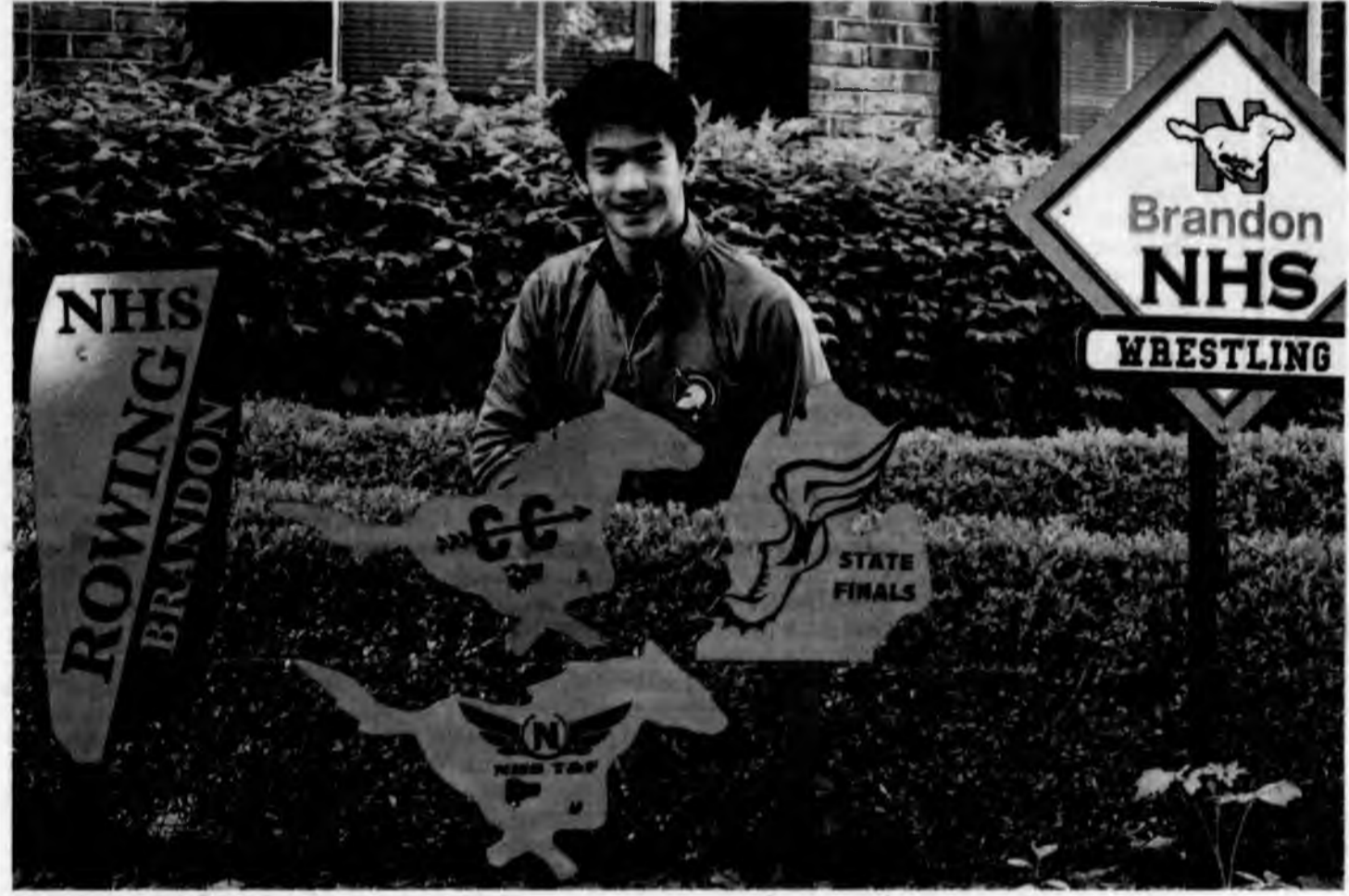
mall at 27500 Novi Road for its reopening day. The mall reopened with limited hours and offerings after being closed for more than two months due to the coronavirus pandemic. Many stores remained closed for business or are still only offering curbside pickup, but lines formed outside the others as shoppers waited patiently to get into XXI Forever/Forever 21 and more. Shopping is currently by appointment only and with limited numbers of



The line at the Cinnabon/Auntie Anne's at Twelve Oaks Mall on its reopening day, May 28, is a testament to its popularity with shoppers who have been shut out of the Novi mall for two months. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See MALL, Page 8A

## Structure breeds success for Northville multi-sport athlete



Northville High School's Brandon Liu competed in cross country, track, wrestling and crew. Structure defined Liu's high school years, from the classroom to the track, as he seemed to succeed in everything he did. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### Liu to attend US Military Academy at West Point

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brandon Liu can sleep anywhere. When he wrestled or ran track for Northville High School, competing in events that would take up the majority of his Saturday, Liu would finish his event, eat something and find a spot in the bleachers to rest and rejuvenate. "This is how I catch up on my sleep and store up energy," Liu said. "My schedule is very packed." Structure defined Liu's four years at Northville, from the classroom to the track, as he seemed to succeed in everything he did.



Liu will attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. COURTESY OF SAM LIU

See SUCCESS, Page 7A

## South Lyon approves RCA building tax abatement

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon's first tax abatement project received the green light from the city council. The council unanimously approved a commercial rehabilitation tax exemption certificate for the RCA building at 135 E. Lake St. on the edge of downtown during its virtual meeting May 26. The certificate, if approved by the state, allows for a tax abatement on the property for the next three years, and an additional year if the value of the investment is determined to be more than \$1.5 million. That last condition was the subject of much discussion by the city council. "This is the biggest deal at the center of town at this time," said Councilman Carl Richards. "This is a lot of money and resources being put into this this one site and it's on the center of town and other people will be affected by it." The abatement would provide some tax relief for the redevelopment project currently underway at the building where an electronics repair business once operated. Owner Dan Schwegler told the council he jumped at the opportunity to purchase the building and rehabilitate it when it became available last year. Originally, he said he planned to move his business to it after redeveloping it, but conversations with former Downtown Development Authority Director Bob Donohue led him to a more grandiose idea: to open the building as a restaurant. "Bob had different ideas and I give him a lot of credit for it," Schwegler said. "He talked about the vision of the DDA, wanting to enhance what we have in our downtown." "I bought into his vision." The project is the first tax abatement brought before the city council. The city approved an ordinance earlier this year that allowed for the creation of such tax abatements, and Schwegler was the first applicant for the new program.

See RCA BUILDING, Page 7A

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# Chick-fil-A to open in Novi on June 18

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's perhaps the best news anyone's heard since the coronavirus pandemic shut everything down: the Chick-fil-A in Novi is opening in a few weeks.

The restaurant, located at the site of the former Denny's at 27750 Novi Road, plans to hold its grand opening June 18, according to a post on its Facebook page.

"Here at Chick-fil-A, we are excited to announce our

grand opening date!! Novi are you ready?! June 18th we will be opening our drive-thru and mobile app ordering!!" was posted May 27.

The announcement comes at a time when local restaurants are only offering carryout, delivery or are closed altogether due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The restaurant has been in the works for more than a year and received approval from the Novi City Council last spring, even after some discussion surrounding traffic issues. The chicken fast-food joint enjoys cult status in the area, drawing large crowds to new open-

ings and clamoring online from metro Detroit residents begging for more locations in the region.

Once open, it would become the first Chick-fil-A to open in western Oakland County.

In addition to the Novi location, Chick-fil-A plans to open a restaurant along Haggerty Road between Seven Mile and Eight Mile in Northville Township, though there's no word on when that eatery will open its doors. It was first reviewed by the Northville Township Planning Commission in April 2019.

## South Lyon firefighters rescue elderly woman

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon firefighters rescued an elderly woman from an apartment fire May 28.

They were dispatched to a single-story apartment fire in the 400 block of Washington Street at about 1:34 p.m., Chief Robert Vogel said in a report.

Smoke was coming from the home and the deaf woman was still inside. She had used her video phone to call an interpreter about the fire. The interpreter then called 911.

Firefighters took the woman from the apartment and extinguished the fire. Flames were contained to the kitchen.

Vogel said the fire seems to have started in the microwave. The woman was heating wrapped food.

A Huron Valley Ambulance crew treated the woman on the scene. Although apartment damage was minor, she will stay with family for a few days.

## Chubb Road in Lyon Twp. to close for paving project

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Chubb Road, between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads in Lyon Township, will be closed for a gravel road paving project starting Monday and is expected to re-open in late August.

The Road Commission for Oakland County issued the permit for the closure to allow for the section of Chubb Road to be paved from 10 Mile Road to just south of Hidden River Drive.

A detour will carry traffic from 10 Mile Road to Napier Road to Nine Mile Road, and back to Chubb Road. Access to homes in the area under construction will be maintained.

cgay@hometownlife.com

## hometownlife.com

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2020-2021 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., at the Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan, the Board of Education of Novi Community School District will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2020-2021 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2020-2021 budget until after the public hearing. Beginning June 5, 2020, a copy of the 2020-2021 proposed budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan.

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

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Willy Mena, Secretary  
Novi Community School District Board of Education

Publish: June 4, 2020

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Sunrise in North Palm Beach from Dave and Valerie Mamo's boat, Sea Major. The Mamos are in the midst of America's Great Loop, a boat adventure they began last July, leaving from Lake St. Clair. The coronavirus pandemic has left them stranded at a Charleston, South Carolina, marina. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVE MAMO

## Coronavirus throws boaters for a loop

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

For one Milford couple, the coronavirus pandemic is a storm that has stranded them on a year-long boat journey.

Dave and Valerie Mamo are in the midst of America's Great Loop, a boat adventure which they began last July, leaving from Lake St. Clair.

Now they are doing the ultimate in social distancing while stuck on Sea Major, their boat, in a Charleston, S.C., marina, and pondering their next move.

"We wanted to be back by July 4 or earlier, now we are in a dilemma," Dave Mamo said. "We are stuck in not being able to complete our Loop. We have 2,000 miles more to go."

The coronavirus pandemic, he explained, is keeping the Erie Canal closed as maintenance was delayed by two months. The canal is an essential part of their route home to complete America's Great Loop.

The loop is a trip that, depending on route, spans 5,200 miles to 6,000 miles through eastern U.S. waterways including the Great Lakes and Atlantic and Gulf intracoastal waterways, as well as the Mississippi and Tennessee-Tombigbee waterways.

According to the America's Great Loop Cruiser's Association,

only about 100 boats complete the journey per year. How many will complete it this year, including the Mamos, remains in question.

The Mamos began their journey July 27 from MacRay Harbor on Lake St. Clair. Dave, 60, retired as a union electrician one week before they left. Valerie, 61, retired as a nurse a few years prior.

As they left on the 39-foot Sea Major, a "go-fast" boat that can travel up to 40 mph, they headed north to the Mackinac area and enjoyed the Beaver Island Music Festival in which Valerie's violin coach played.

Music also featured in other stops on their journey as they traveled south on Lake Michigan, stayed in Chicago for about a week and then continued to travel rivers and took a two-week detour to Nashville, where they visited the Grand Ole Opry.

As they continued south down the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, hitting logs twice and pulling the boat from the water to use spare propellers, Dave said the muddiness of the rivers really struck him.

"I have a new respect for how clean the Detroit River is," he said. "As well as white sand in the Gulf and any civilized Walmart. ... We hit Orange Beach, Alabama, and it was like coming to civilization."

Crossing the Gulf of Mexico to the western shore of Florida also had its challenges. Two-foot seas were predicted for the 170-mile crossing and instead they were greeted with double that: 4-foot waves with 8-foot swells.

Upon arrival in Tar-



The Mamos visited Bob Wilson, Valerie's father, from a safe distance in Titusville, Florida.

pon Springs, they enjoyed a more relaxing part of their journey, spending Thanksgiving and Christmas in Florida, including a visit with Valerie's father. Following was a month-long stay in the Bahamas.

"When we did the crossing, the ocean was more than 9,000 feet deep. I was worried about a submarine coming up under us," Valerie said. "We saw a lot of sea turtles, dolphins, pelicans. ..."

"Whoever does the trip and doesn't go to the Bahamas misses out big time."

They planned to stay six weeks in the Bahamas, but it was there they first heard of the coronavirus. The undercurrent of the pandemic was rolling, and in the third week of March, the wave was about to overtake them. They left the islands a week ahead of schedule when the U.S. issued a level 4 travel advisory, telling all Americans to come home.

On March 22, they docked at a marina in North Palm Beach. Valerie noted that within three days of their departure, the Bahaman government was rationing fuel

and water and those who had stayed were stuck.

The Mamos planned to visit Valerie's dad again, but instead only saw the 84-year-old for an hour, while socially distanced.

"All the things we thought we could do, we couldn't, and that is the way it has been since we got back to the U.S.," Valerie said. "Everything is closed."

The whole trip, she added, has been going downhill, despite 80 degree weather and sunny skies. They described St. Augustine as a "ghost town." Now they are left in Charleston.

They are wondering if they should continue up the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to Baltimore and Chesapeake Bay and wait for the canal system to open, or leave the boat in Charleston and come home, then return in the fall for another winter down south. Or they could put the boat on a trailer and truck it home.

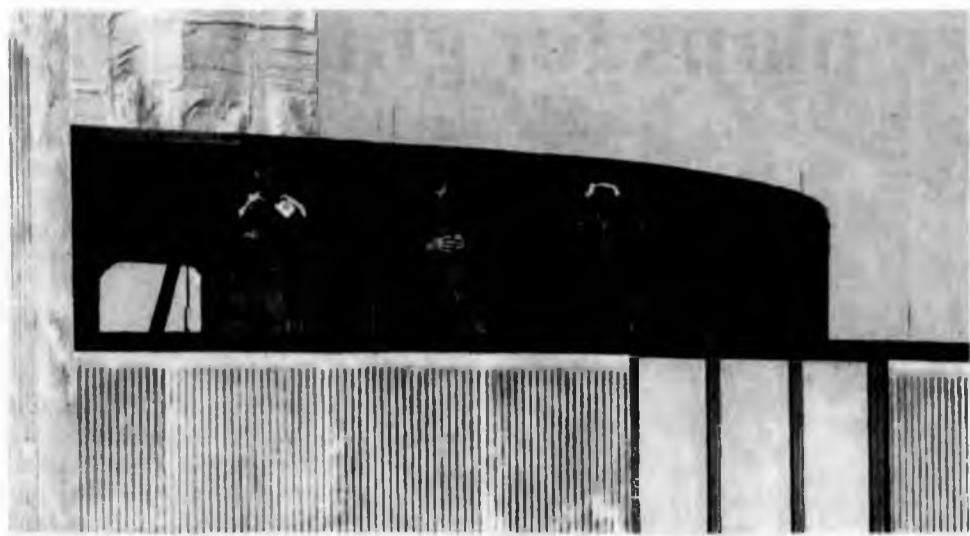
Dave notes that if they bring the boat home, they could do the remainder of the Loop when the canal opens and go backwards the final 2,000 miles, but then they wouldn't cross their own wake.

The trip has been full of unforeseen challenges, like the lock closures on the Illinois River that forced the couple to wake at 3 a.m. to lead other boats through fog at the only time that was open for pleasure craft.

Still, Dave said it was more enjoyable than he expected, too, and they've made a lot of friends.

To follow the Mamos' Great Loop journey, visit seamajor.net.





Police officers stand on the roof Livonia City Hall.

# 'Fed up' protesters picket Livonia PD

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The national swell of protests against police brutality came Sunday to Livonia as dozens of protesters marched on the sidewalks around the city's police station and city hall.

Carrying signs that read "Fire racist cops" and "Black lives matter," protesters walked and sat in the area near the city's civic center campus as they joined thousands across the country participating in similar acts.

Demonstrations across the country stemmed from the death of George Floyd, a black man who died in Minneapolis after a police officer there knelt on his neck for several minutes.

Protests have taken place in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and other cities, and some have descended into chaos. Protests were entering their third day in Detroit on Sunday night, with Mayor Mike Duggan issuing a curfew in the city.

One protester who came to Five Mile and Farmington on Sunday was Dale Bryant, a Livonia resident who believes the criminal justice system needs to change.

Bryant, who is black, said he has had a gun put to his head by a Livonia police officer in the past. He said he wants to see reform across the country to help hold police officers more accountable for their actions.

"I wanted to make sure that if we have people protesting, we have a message that is more about establishing the powers to stop doing this and less about violence," he said. "Things need to change, for sure. It's not that they need to change, it's that they have to change. 'People are fed up.'"

Several other protesters sitting along Farmington Road, who were white, declined to speak about their reasoning for coming out, saying it "wasn't their place."

## Police presence

The protest in Livonia appeared largely peaceful. Police Chief Curtis Caid said no arrests were made.

Livonia police were visibly present at the protest, with the parking lot to the police department taped off and officers standing at each entrance. Other officers could be seen on the roofs of the police department and city hall.

Caid said he spoke to some of the protesters about the department's training protocols and incidents that involved use of force in the past, incidents which he said are rare.

He said he's aware of the reputation Livonia has had over the years when it comes to the police force and its relationship with minorities, and he said it's something he's trying to improve on and show that that's not the case in the city.

"I've been working very, very hard over my years as chief to change that reputation," he said. "To establish a rapport and a dialogue and do what I can to get the truth out there and negate that."

One of the biggest criticisms, he said, comes from having a non-diverse police force. He said recruitment efforts to bring more minorities on the force have been a challenge.

"One of the criticisms I hear frequently is that the makeup of the Livonia Police Department being predominantly white and we don't have African Americans. And that is difficult," he said. "And that's a challenge we've been working at, but when you look at the opportunity to hire people for this job ... back in my day, you were tested with 300 people. We're testing with 20. And out of that, there are very few people of a minority background that are applying."

## 'This just has to change'

Some protesters said they came out to support the department. One was Livonia resident Rob Cortis, best known for being the owner of the "Trump Unity Bridge," a float-sized display on a trailer that makes appearances at state and national events.

Cortis said those who do wrong should be investigated and punished, though he believes it can take time before that conclusion is reached. He said he made it a point to speak to individual protesters during the event, expressing his concern that he wants justice as well. How he believes that justice comes, he said, is different than how the protesters see it.

"What they're fighting for is the same thing. But they want it to be instant," he said. "They just say, 'What we saw is enough.' A lot of times, you jump to conclusions and you make the wrong choice. I'm sure the right answer will come out when the investigation's complete."

Bryant said the laws need to change to help protect more citizens across the country. He also decried police officers that observe bad behavior and don't do anything to stop it.

"If there is somebody that does something wrong and you don't step up, then you're just as bad," he said. "They never were giving us a fair shake. 'This just has to change.'"



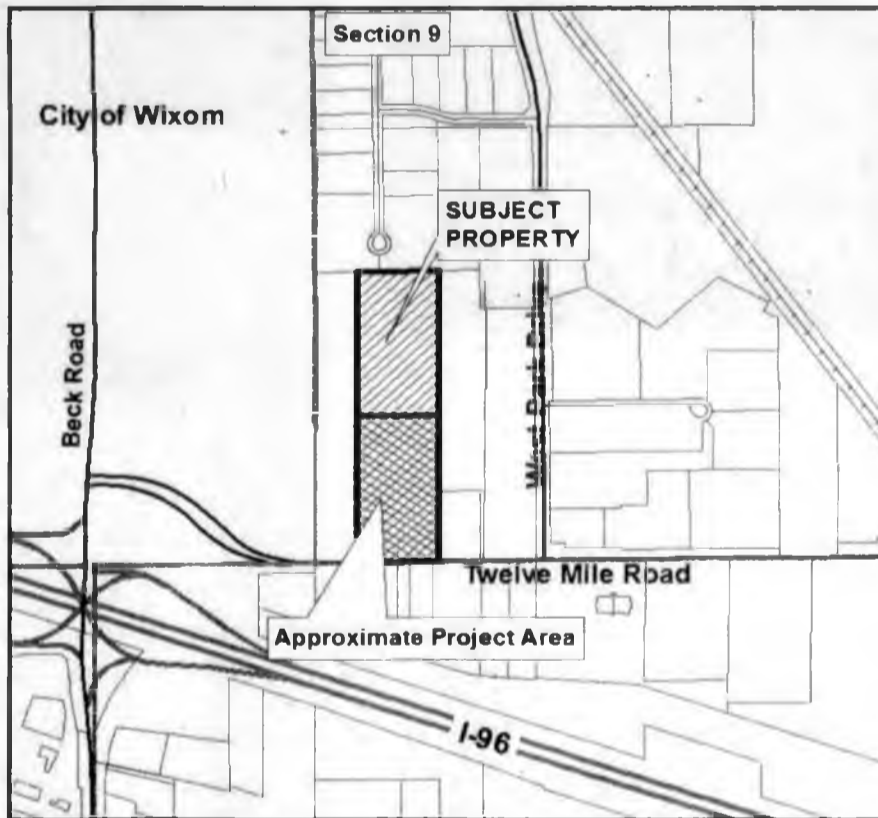
A group of protesters sits outside the old 16th District Court building in Livonia early Sunday evening. Police Chief Curtis Caid said no arrests were made. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The "Trump Unity Bridge" was parked near the Livonia Police Department.

## CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE ELECTRONIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. on the Zoom Video Conference electronic meeting platform to consider **GREAT OAKS INDUSTRIAL PARK #1 JSP 19-35, FOR SPECIAL LAND USE, PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WETLAND PERMIT, WOODLAND PERMIT, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 46844 TWELVE MILE ROAD IN SECTION 9, ON THE NORTH SIDE OF TWELVE MILE ROAD BETWEEN BECK ROAD AND WEST PARK DRIVE, IN I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AND I-2 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICTS.** The applicant is proposing to construct a 98,650 square foot research and development building with associated site improvements. The parcel is approximately 20.04 acres. A Special Land Use Permit is required as the site is adjacent to a residential zoning district to the south (Sec. 3.1.18.B). Plans are available for review by contacting the Community Development Department at the following email address: [bmcbeth@cityofnovi.org](mailto:bmcbeth@cityofnovi.org).



Subject Parcel ID: 50-22-09-300-032

### Special Instructions for Remote Meeting Procedure:

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak the City will be utilizing the video/audio conferencing platform ZOOM to conduct the June 24, 2020 Planning Commission meeting. In order to connect to the meeting through ZOOM a member of the public needs to do the following:

- Install Zoom App on mobile device or phone. A link to download the Zoom App may be found online at [Cityofnovi.org](http://Cityofnovi.org)
- Click the link provided to join the meeting

Members of the public participating in the public comment via ZOOM will wait in a virtual queue until called during the public comment period.

When public comment is permitted, members of the public will be called one at a time, as would happen during an in-person meeting. A meeting coordinator will determine the order of public speakers. If you want to speak, you must use the "Raise Hand" feature in order for our moderator to know they need to be unmuted. When you are un-muted you will have three (3) minutes to share your comments to the public body. At the conclusion of your comments or your three (3) minutes, you will be re-muted and then removed from the queue.

Participants may also choose to submit comments that can be read into the record. Comments can be submitted via an electronic form on [www.cityofnovi.org](http://www.cityofnovi.org). Comments shall be done prior to 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The electronic form can be found at: [www.cityofnovi.org/pcomment](http://www.cityofnovi.org/pcomment)

In compliance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-75, as of the date of this notice, Planning Commission members are expected to log in to Zoom. There may also be some City personnel at City Hall overseeing this meeting.

Novi Planning Commission  
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: June 4, 2020

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# School districts announce plans for graduation

From Staff Reports [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Like the caps tossed skyward at the conclusion of traditional high school graduation ceremonies, plans for 2020 graduation events are up in the air, most school district decision-makers reveal.

## Livonia Public Schools

Students at Livonia's Churchill, Franklin and Stevenson high schools can participate in several socially distanced or virtual ceremonies to celebrate the end of high school. If it's safe, the district hopes to have commencement at the USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth Aug. 8 and 9.

Before then, here's everything seniors can look forward to:

- May 30 and 31: Drive-through diploma reception

- June 2: Virtual senior honor night

- June 19: Virtual commencement and car parades for each high school

Right now, the district has no plans to host or recreate prom.

## Wayne-Westland Community School District

In June, seniors at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial will have car parades to celebrate high school's end. The district will not hold commencement or prom but plans to give students diplomas, caps and gowns in a safe manner at some point.

On June 6, John Glenn will host a parade for the class of 2020. At noon, students will drive from the Westland Public Library to the school. School administration will also give students a special gift at the event.

On June 12, Wayne Memorial will host a "senior roll out" parade at 1 p.m. After traveling a route given to students by email, teachers and administrators will meet students at the school to congratulate them.

## Clarenceville High School

Students and families have told district officials they hope to have some version of an in-person commencement ceremony. But the district is waiting on



A Plymouth Christian Academy senior waves to during the school's special parade through Plymouth on May 19. COURTESY OF PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

state and CDC guidance.

In the meantime, seniors have lawn signs and banners posted to recognize their achievement. A group of students is also recognizing seniors on social media.

On May 28, staff rode in decorated vehicles to deliver caps and gowns to the class of 2020.

## Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

The results of a pending survey sent out to all families of seniors will determine how P-CCS celebrates its seniors.

The options being considered are a drive-through graduation, a virtual ceremony, and a face-to-face ceremony with a limited number of spectators.

The survey results will be discussed by P-CCS administrators to help them determine a final plan.

A final communication will be sent out to families once the graduation plans have been solidified.

## Northville High School

Northville High School will follow a three-scenario process that will, depending on the circumstances, unfold

Aug. 5, with a commencement ceremony for seniors.

The best-case scenario: a "full" graduation ceremony starting at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Township's USA Hockey Arena (with live stream broadcast).

"We are hopeful for this scenario, but being transparent, we certainly need to plan for other options that are special and will celebrate our seniors," the district explained in a release.

The better-case scenario: a face-to-face graduation ceremony with social distancing either at USA Hockey Arena or Tom Holzer Field at 7 p.m., with limited spectators and a live-streamed option for other family members.

With this scenario, there is also the possibility of staggered graduation formats and adjusted times, the district said. A rain date if the site is Tom Holzer Field is Aug. 6.

The good-case scenario: a drive-in graduation celebration at USA Hockey Arena (times possible are 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.) and/or another virtual graduation option. Graduates and their families would also receive a commemorative video from the drive-in and/or virtual option.

One vehicle would be slotted for each graduate's family (extenuating circumstances would be considered by NHS administration) with parent presence in each vehicle if the scenario becomes some type of drive-in celebration at USA Hockey Arena.

The rain date for the drive-in graduation at USA Hockey Arena is Aug. 10.

"If we did have a best-case scenario" or better-case scenario, NHS 2020 graduates and families will still receive a commemorative video from the planned drive-in and/or virtual option.

The NHS 2020 prom is tentatively set for 6 p.m. July 30, at the Suburban Collection Showcase in Novi. This later date is set, but the event probably is doubtful, the district admitted.

More information will be shared through school email as the events draw closer.

## Plymouth Christian Academy

In 2016, Plymouth Christian Academy began the tradition of a Senior Walk, which takes place approximately two weeks before graduation and allows the seniors to put on their caps and gowns and take one of their final walks through the hallways of their school.

The PCA campus is spread over two buildings, so along the way, students from preschool through 11th grade, parents, and family members line the hallways and sidewalks, cheering for the seniors.

Since the coronavirus pandemic kept PCA students from their Senior Walk this year, the school's decision-makers decided to turn it into a full-blown police-escorted parade through Plymouth on May 19. Following the parade, all guests were invited back to the campus for a reverse parade; this time, they drove past the seniors' cars to congratulate them.

"The seniors were overwhelmed by both the number of people lining the streets of Plymouth and the line of cars that waited to drive through and congratulate them," said PCA representative Peggy Paulson.

## Birmingham School District

Birmingham Groves held "Senior Goodbye Drive-Thru" to recognize the class of 2020. Seniors and their family members drove through the school parking lot on a loop route. The event took place May 31, the originally-planned graduation date.

Birmingham Seaholm plans to air a virtual celebration Sunday afternoon of the Class of 2020 in acknowledgment of this important day, put together by a

committee of teachers and parents. Administrators said more events are possible, too.

The district has plans for in-person graduations, if feasible, for both schools the last week of July.

## Farmington Public Schools

Seniors at Farmington, Farmington Central and North Farmington said goodbye to their schools with parades, and picked up their caps, gowns and yearbooks before taking a "victory lap" around their school's parking lot.

The district will also release senior honor and tribute videos this month.

If it's safe, students and their families will head to the USA Hockey Arena on Aug. 8 and 9 for commencement ceremonies.

## South Lyon Community Schools

Graduation for South Lyon and South Lyon East has been delayed to July 25.

School officials said they hope to hold an in-person ceremony if social distancing guidelines allow; otherwise a virtual ceremony will replace in-person ceremonies, which would be held at the two schools' football stadiums.

Final decisions are expected two weeks prior.

## Huron Valley Schools

For now, Huron Valley plans a drive-in style commencement for Milford, Lakeland and Harbor high schools, as well as International Academy West.

Students can arrive in their vehicles to receive their diploma from a school board member who, along with administrators and staff, will line the sidewalks.

Adult education graduation was June 3. Harbor High is June 4; IA West and Lakeland are June 6 and Milford High is June 7.

The schools also plan to release a video commencement featuring student photos and recorded speeches. Later this month, students can get a professional photo taken in cap and gown.

## Novi High School

Novi High School holds out hope for an in-person graduation, moving its date back two months to 3 p.m. Aug. 2.

What that graduation looks like remains up in the air.

"It will hopefully be at Eastern Michigan University," said Superintendent Steve Matthews. "If we cannot gather as a community, we will instead have a virtual ceremony."

"Either way, we will celebrate our graduating seniors on Aug. 2."

He said the school is still holding out hope it can host prom this summer.

## South Redford School District

The district's high school, Thurston, has an outdoor graduation stage. For this year's commencement, district officials will invite students to participate in a socially distanced ceremony there. A date hasn't been chosen.

Students will be welcome throughout the day to get their diploma and, if they were invited to, give a speech.

The district will film the day and edit it down to appear as if it all took place at one ceremony. Every student will get a digital copy as a memento.

The district hasn't solidified plans for other senior events, including prom.

## Redford Union School District

While district officials remain uncertain about whether students will have an in-person or virtual commencement ceremony, students celebrated "under the lights" together May 29.

At 8 p.m., students gathered at the Hilbert Middle School football field to pick up or purchase caps and gowns. Participants were welcome to drive the track around the field.

On June 12, the school will release its commencement video on the district's website and Facebook page.

On June 13, it will distribute diplomas and senior gifts 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the circle drive at the high school.


## Garden City Public Schools

If it's possible, the district will hold a ceremony Aug. 7.

The district also hopes to hold prom in August.

But students will also get some socially distanced recognition. On June 5, students can pick up their caps and gowns at Garden City High School in a drive-through format. Later that day, the district will broadcast a virtual commencement ceremony.

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## Need short-term cash flow fix? Check out the CARES Act rules



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

As Michigan and the rest of the country begin to reopen, unfortunately, many people's financial problems will not go away. Some will find they have permanently lost their jobs. Others may have more of a temporary cash flow problem and need a short-term fix.

For those in this category, the recently passed CARES Act and the new rule regarding forbearance on federally backed mortgages provides an option you may want to consider. The option is not perfect, but it can be a lifeline for those in financial need.

Let's start with the term "forbearance" and what it actually means. Forbearance on your mortgage is like hitting the pause button; your payments are temporarily suspended. Under the CARES Act, the law provides for a 180-day initial forbearance and the possibility of an extension for another 180 days. It is important to understand that a forbearance is not forgiveness.

You will still need to repay the money; however, it does give you a temporary reprieve.

The ability to receive a forbearance on a mortgage has been with us for quite a while. However, it is not easy to get and generally requires a substantial amount of paperwork. What has changed under the CARES Act is the qualification requirements.

All you need to do is notify your mortgage service company that you are experiencing a pandemic-related financial hardship, and you will qualify.

The one caveat is that this form of forbearance only applies to federally backed mortgages. The most common federally backed mortgages are through federal agencies such as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), and the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA).

If you have one of these types of mortgages, which most people do, you qualify for the new rules regarding forbearance.

If this program could be of help to you and your family, I recommend contacting your mortgage service provider to get the process going as soon as possible. You do not have to provide paperwork, and in many situations, the loan forbearance is approved immediately over the phone.

Before you accept the forbearance, ensure you have an agreement with your service provider regarding your repayment options. There are different ways to repay the forbearance amount and you don't want to be in the position where you have to make an unexpected balloon payment for all the missed payments.

There is nothing in the CARES Act that requires a borrower to repay the loan in a lump sum and therefore, you can negotiate repayment options. Before you accept the forbearance, make sure you fully understand the repayment terms. In fact, make sure your forbearance agreement is in writing.

Many of you may be asking, if you accept a forbearance agreement will it hurt your credit rating? The short answer is no. If your mortgage account was current at the time of your forbearance, it will remain current throughout the forbearance period. On the other hand, if for example you were 30 days delinquent on your mortgage prior to receiving the forbearance, you will remain 30 days delinquent during the period of the forbearance. That being said, even though a forbearance is not going to affect your credit scores, lenders will be able to see that you were in forbearance and that may or may not be a factor in deciding to give you a future loan.

If you do not have a federally backed mortgage and you are experiencing financial difficulty, you can contact your mortgage service provider to seek a forbearance or even a loan modification; however, the process is more cumbersome.

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).*

## Madonna University plans for in-person fall classes

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

The full college experience may return to Livonia later this summer.

Madonna University hopes to join several other higher educational institutions in Michigan in bringing back in-person instruction for its fall semester, which begins Aug. 31.

What that will look like is still unclear, said Karen Sanborn, the university's director of communications.

Like other educational institutions across the state, Madonna suspended in-person classes in mid-March, moving all its classes online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Since then, students' connections have been virtual, but university officials hope they will have in-person offerings in the fall.

Exact details on what those offerings will be are still being decided, but Sanborn said university officials are looking at every facet of college life, from instruction and living in the residence halls to extra-curricular activities and athletics.

"The various work groups are looking at, what are the protocols? How do we safely bring people on campus? What does student life look like?" she said. "How do we have campus events? How do we have off-campus events?"

Summer classes this year will remain online.

Sanborn said in addition to offering classes at the main campus in Livonia, the university hopes to reopen classes at its two satellite locations in Clinton Township and Gaylord.

Sanborn said the university will look to comply with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and the State of Michigan for reopening with precautions.

She said they will also work with the Michigan Independent College and Universities association for best practices.

University President Michael Grandillo said part of the plan to reopen includes expanding testing, something he's working with the Michigan Inde-

pendent Colleges and Universities to secure. Even with those tests, he said the view of Madonna University will look very different than when students arrived for the start of a new semester in January.

"When we go back to in-person (classes), I wanted to have some idea of testing and how that would take place in America and Livonia in particular," he said. "We don't know exactly what we're going to look like."

Sanborn said the university is planning to keep some online components in the fall, especially given the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We have to still maintain the online presence, because you don't know what the fall is going to bring," she said. "It's still contingent on other forces saying 'yay' or 'nay.'"

Madonna University joins several other universities across Michigan that have announced intentions to reopen their campuses later this summer.

Public schools such as Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, Lake Superior State University and Saginaw Valley State University are planning to reopen campuses in the fall. Smaller private schools, such as Siena Heights University, Concordia University and Hillsdale College have also announced plans to reopen campuses in the fall.

Hopefully before the fall semester begins, Grandillo said, the university wants to recognize those who graduated with degrees earlier in the year with some sort of ceremony.

Whether it's gathering by college with a few hundred people at a time or even if Grandillo has to dress in his academic regalia and go to each senior's house, he wants to recognize each student's achievement.

"I'm committed to handing each person their diploma in person," he said. "I committed to having an in-person commencement with each individual."

"We'll make it special and we'll have all the pomp and circumstance."

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



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**Ascension  
Providence**



An exquisitely detailed 1909 Rolls-Royce starred at the Concours d'Elegance of America in a previous year. This year's event has been postponed to July 2021. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

## Concours d'Elegance postponed to July 2021

Mark Phelan Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Concours d'Elegance of America, the massive classic car show that annually kicks off a month of Detroit-area automotive celebrations in August, has been postponed until July 2021.

It's the latest blow to summer tourism and to southeast Michigan car culture that draws people to the region.

The show was expected to display more than 300 classic vehicles from all eras on the golf course at the Inn at St. Johns in Plymouth.

The vehicles expected this year will now be at the concours July 23-25, 2021.

The Sunday concours is the anchor for a weekend of automotive events that annually draw about 15,000 attendees.

Events earlier in the weekend range from a free Saturday morning cars and coffee to visits to historic sites and private collections around the region.

The concours is one of the United States' top classic car events, on a par with shows in Pebble Beach, California, and Amelia Island, Florida.

The 2020 editions of those shows have also been postponed to 2021.

One of the things that makes the 42-year-old Concours of America special is the wide variety and creative classes of vehicles on display.

Novel categories for the 2021 show will include "Wedge cars," a school of design inspired by Modernism. Wedge cars inspired a generation of designers who went on to create the Toyota MR2, Cadillac XLR and Subaru XT.

Examples include the Lamborghini Countach, Lotus Esprit and Triumph TR8 and DeLorean.

The 2021 concours will also feature "100-point cars," vehicles that got perfect scores at other elite car shows.

Popular categories like 1970s muscle cars and "jet-age" design are likely.

## Ascension Michigan surgeries, elective services returning

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After battling the coronavirus pandemic for nearly three months, Ascension Michigan hospitals are returning to more normal operations.

Starting May 29, the health system's hospitals began a phased plan to bring back elective services and surgeries, eventually resuming business as usual. That plan includes Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi, located at 47601 Grand River Ave.

"Ascension Michigan looks forward to safely providing additional non-emergent surgical and medical procedures as appropriate across all of our facilities," said Dr. Ken Berkovitz, a senior vice president for Ascension Michigan. "Our approach for returning to scheduled surgeries is clinically-led, working with our physicians, clinicians and facility experts on a strategy that will keep our patients, associates and physicians safe."

Ascension Michigan locations include those in Novi, Brighton, Southfield, Warren, Detroit, Rochester and Grand Blanc.

The plan will prioritize procedures considered time-sensitive or otherwise urgent.

Leading up to surgery, patients will be asked to self-quarantine for seven days and adhere to social distancing guidelines. Patients will also receive COVID-19 tests two days before procedures and be screened for symptoms the day of.

"As we look ahead, we ask not only our staff, but our community to remain

**"Ascension Michigan looks forward to safely providing additional non-emergent surgical and medical procedures as appropriate across all of our facilities."**

**Dr. Ken Berkovitz**  
Senior vice president for Ascension Michigan

vigilant in masking, practicing social distancing and continuing to follow local orders to stop the spread of the virus," said Dr. Charles Husson, Ascension Michigan's chief medical officer.

While some patients will return to procedures and in-person care, Ascension will continue doing virtual office visits, requiring masks from everyone inside facilities, continue some visitor restrictions and will continually do COVID-19 symptom screening. Staff will also continually extensively clean all facilities.

"We know this is a fluid situation, and we are prepared to be flexible and responsive to rapidly evolving conditions in our community and our sites of care," Husson said. "Our collective efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are working, but the pandemic is not yet over."

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

## RCA building

Continued from Page 1A

The building was approved for a tax abatement district in March, which gave the city council some time to decide on approving the application for an exemption certificate.

Work has been taking place for several months on the building, which has largely been vacant for many years.

Construction paused for the coronavirus pandemic, but Schwegler said work started again in May. Original projections of completing the work in early 2021 have been delayed by about two months; the projected completion date is now spring 2021, Schwegler said.

Schwegler came to the council to ask for a four-year abatement, which will allow him to recoup additional costs that were not planned when first acquiring the building. Those costs include complete renovations on the ground level and the addition of an elevator. He said he expects to invest close to \$2 million into the building by the time the project is completed.

"The tax abatement program is something that can give me an opportunity over the next three, four years to catch my breath, if you will," he said. "It will be a significant increase in the tax base of the city."

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



A rendering of what the former RCA building at 135 E. Lake in South Lyon could look like after renovation work is completed. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF SOUTH LYON

## Success

Continued from Page 1A

In college, structure will define Liu's life again. He has chosen to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point after going through a rigorous appointment process.

But to him, the accolades and the success are not about building up a personal resume. It's about being a part of something bigger, something greater than himself.

"There was this one quote that stands out to me: 'Aspire not to be the best on the team, but the best for the team,'" Liu said. "This is something I focused on especially during wrestling and track, just because it might seem like an individual sport, but there is still that team aspect."

"I think that's what draws out a lot of good traits in people."

### The lightweight mentality

When asked the best way to describe her son Brandon, Irene Liu called him a lightweight.

It's the way Brandon carries himself, she said: Lightweights don't normally exude swagger. Lightweights are often underestimated.

"A lot of times, Brandon is considered the underdog, but he just keeps going," Irene Liu said. "It does not faze him."

The Liu family moved to Northville from New York in 2016, prior to the start of Brandon's freshman year. He is used to change; he attended eight different schools between preschool and high school.

But heading into Northville for the first time, Brandon Liu was not passive. He took advantage of every opportunity



Brandon Liu was a three-time regional qualifier for Northville wrestling. COURTESY OF SAM LIU

he could fit in. And he fit a lot into four years.

Liu was a four-time varsity letterman for wrestling and cross country, and a three-year varsity letterman for track and rowing.

Academically, he was a member of the National Honor Society and was a four-time state qualifier in DECA and HOSA.

Liu never participated in any of the activities thinking about which college he would attend. To him, it was just enjoyable, giving him an opportunity to see what he liked.

Once he got into something, though,

the drive was there to be successful.

"He was never doing well for a college," Irene Liu said. "He's doing it for himself."

However, the amount of success and the amount of work Brandon Liu put in put him into a position not many get to: a path to a military academy.

### '... It is not easy at all'

As a freshman on the Northville cross country team, Liu looked up to team captain Ben Cracraft. To Liu, he was athletic and humble, a nice person and very smart: all attributes that represented the type of person Liu wanted to be.

Cracraft went to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, to run cross country, and was Liu's first introduction to the world of military academies.

Liu saw it as an option, but did not give it too much thought until he talked to a field officer from West Point, applied and got into a summer leadership experience camp at the U.S. Military Academy there. He attended a similar camp at the Naval Academy that same summer.

"That gave me a good taste of what it would be like, and I enjoyed it," Liu said. "Never really thought of military academies before, but then, after that, I realized it was an option."

For Liu's parents Sam and Irene, military academies were off their radar entirely, not knowing the process ahead of them as a family.

The application requires not only the traditional transcript and recommendation letters, but a physical training test, medical exams and a nomination from a U.S. senator through a 15-minute interview.

"I could imagine some people starting it and after seeing what you need to

go through - you have to go through hoops, it is not easy at all," Irene Liu said.

Brandon Liu earned appointments to both the U.S. Military and Naval academies, allowing him to choose where he would spend his college career. After strenuous deliberation, he chose West Point, saying it would be a better choice based on his athletic and academic background, as well as his long-term goals.

Sam Liu looks more at the leadership experience his son will get at West Point, saying the combination of athletics and academics is where Brandon thrives.

"This will not only challenge him, but build him up to be a leader," Sam Liu said.

That's the combination Brandon Liu wants to be remembered for at Northville: as a scholar-athlete who balanced his time for a bit of everything, and who shined in nearly everything.

Irene Liu described her son's journey as a challenge, saying that West Point will be a continuation of that challenge. "Brandon, are you ever into doing things easily?" Irene jokingly asked.

But for Brandon Liu, who is scheduled to start training at West Point at the end of June, high school memories will not be about the challenges or the things he has had to overcome. It was about being a part of something bigger.

"I would like to be remembered as a good athlete, but also a good friend and good teammate, not someone who is caring for themselves, but someone who is best for the team," Liu said. "We all want to be a part of something."

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

# Laurel Park Place, Westland Shopping Center reopen

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

Laurel Park Place, 37700 Six Mile in Livonia, has announced it will reopen its doors Friday morning for shoppers on an appointment-only basis.

The mall will be open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

The mall has a list of shops that are open and available for appointment shopping at [laurelparkplace.com](http://laurelparkplace.com). Shoppers are encouraged to call ahead to make an appointment.

"The health and well-being of our customers, employees, retail partners,

and the communities we serve is always a top priority. As such, we have implemented a number of protective measures to keep our employees, retail partners, and community healthy," reads a statement on the mall's website. "We ask that the public exercise good judgment when visiting the property; including following CDC guidelines for social distancing and hygiene practices. We also ask anyone with a fever or experiencing other symptoms to stay home."

The Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren, also opens Friday. The mall will be open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Shops are open by ap-

pointment only and customers are encouraged to contact individual shops.

Both malls began to allow retailers to sell goods via curbside pickup in May.

They have several policy changes related to the coronavirus pandemic in place, including suspending events and closing off certain common areas such as children's play zones.

Hand sanitizing stations and additional signage reminding customers of social-distancing practices are posted in both malls, as well.

The reopening of the malls comes after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive order that allows for retailers to schedule appointment shopping, another

step toward reopening the state after it was shut down to slow the spread of the coronavirus, which has infected more than 56,000 residents and killed more than 5,300 in the state.

The reopenings join several others across the region, including Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

Hundreds of customers flocked to the Novi mall Thursday, which had just a fraction of shops open. Lines formed outside several shops.

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



Lisa Roelfs, right, and her mother, Betty McCracken, visit Twelve Oaks Mall on May 28, its first day open since mid-March. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Mall

Continued from Page 1A

guests allowed inside each store. The food court is devoid of chairs, though some benches remain in place for customers to enjoy some food. Only a handful of eateries are open.

A full list of shops that are open by appointment or for curbside pickup can be found at [shoptwelveoaks.com](http://shoptwelveoaks.com).

The opening of Twelve Oaks Mall marked perhaps the largest recent step toward normalcy in a span of more than two months.

Malls across the state closed down in March by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's order to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, which has infected more than 56,000 people and killed more than 5,300 in the state.

Several other malls in the region announced plans to reopen, including Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills, Laurel Park Place in Livonia, the Somerset Collection in Troy and Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor.

Twelve Oaks has put several safety measures in place for its customers, including hand sanitizing stations set up around the mall, as well as signs reminding people to follow social-distancing guidelines.

Masks are encouraged by the mall, a measure most visitors complied with on reopening day.

Retailers were excited to be back in front of customers, as well. Bin Cheng, who works at the Relax and Wellness Center massage spa, said the shop had several clients swing by for massages.

Precautions taken at the shop include plenty of hand sanitizing and checking clients' temperatures.

"Customers are happy to come back," she said. "Today we served four people."

The mall announced earlier in the week it would reopen for some by-appointment-only shopping and for mall walkers. Twelve Oaks is open 11 a.m. to



A Twelve Oaks Mall employee cleans hand rails and partitions on May 28.

7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, with mall walkers allowed in an hour earlier.

Detroit's Deanna Savine, a showroom manager for Bath Planet, was happy to return to work. She built out a spring display for the bathroom remodeling showroom in the mall right before it closed down.

"It's absolutely wonderful. We've done everything we can do to hang on during the shutdown," she said. "We love talking to people, that's our job here. It's a great place to be and it's great that it's back open."

The reopening even brought out people who don't describe themselves as mall people. One such person was Lisa Roelfs, who came in family and friends just to catch up and reconnect with society.

They hoped to scope out the food court and see if anything was serving food, just to feel like they're eating at a restaurant again.

"I usually just avoid the mall, but actually I was pretty excited," the Commerce Township resident said. "I never thought I'd say that."

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



Cathy Giuffre, left, and her mother, Diane Giuffre, of Westland, visited Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall on May 28 for cinnamon rolls and a chance to leave the house.





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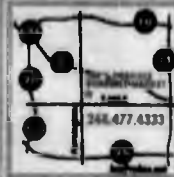
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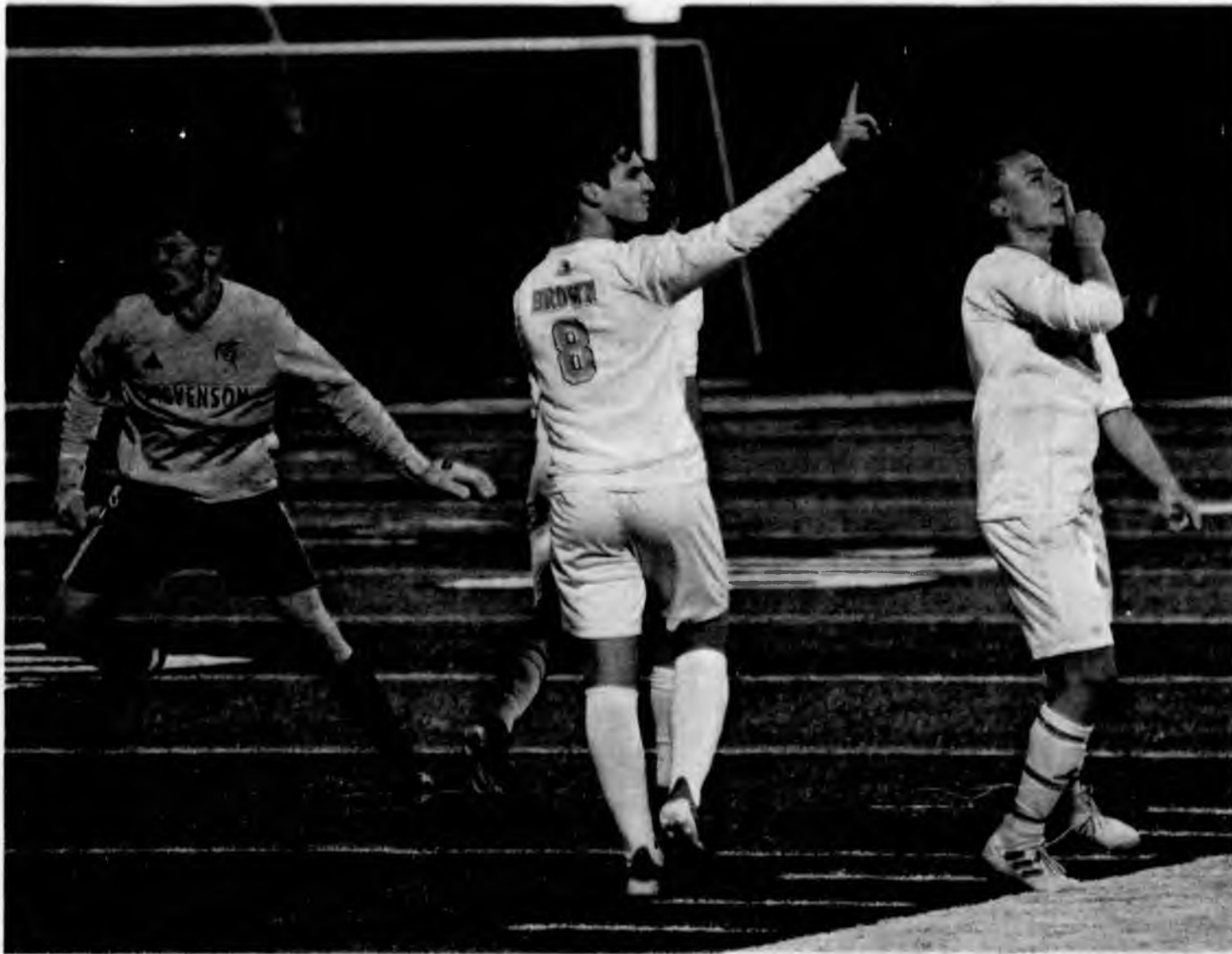
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Stevenson forward Reece Brown and defender Alec Alaouieh celebrate a goal against Dearborn Fordson in September. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS

## Churchill football sees bright future after juniors' college offers

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The 2019 football season was one that featured a lot of growth for the Livonia Churchill Chargers.

After starting the season with a 1-4 record with one of, if not the toughest schedule in the state (losses to Brighton, Belleville, Fordson and Franklin), the Chargers roared back and finished the regular season 5-4 and clinched a playoff berth. They continued their winning streak all the way to regionals, where they lost a close game to Walled Lake Western.

The 7-5 finish and six-game winning streak showed that the future is bright for the program, which returns a vast majority of its starters on both sides of the ball — including quarterback Gavin Brooks, who enjoyed a breakout junior season.

Livonia Franklin has been the dominant team in the city in recent seasons, earning a one-point triple overtime victory over Churchill last year, but Brooks is confident Churchill will take the top spot in Livonia this fall.

"Last year we were super young and we're bringing back a ton of starters on both sides of the ball this year," Brooks said. "It's looking very bright for us this year and next year also with the amount of talent we have in these two classes."

Brooks is one of four Churchill juniors that have already received college scholarship offers after a busy spring of recruiting. By the end of football season, that number will likely grow from four. Here are updates on each of those players who currently have offers:

### Brooks earns seven offers

Brooks saw his recruitment pick up in the beginning of April, with offers rolling in from there throughout May. He now has seven offers from: Lawrence Tech, Ave Maria (Florida), Valparaiso, Trine, Olivet, Dordt (Iowa) and Kalamazoo.

"I've been dreaming of playing college football my whole life," Brooks said. "I've been working my entire life to accomplish that goal and to be able to have that dream be able to come true really meant a lot to me."

Last season, he threw for 1,855 yards and 19 touchdowns with just three interceptions. He also rushed for 363 yards and five scores. In 2020, he wants to improve his ability as a runner.

See CHURCHILL, Page 4B

## ADs, coaches say MHSAA brings path to restart athletics

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After the suspension and the cancellation of Michigan high school sports April 3 due to the spread of the coronavirus, no one really knew when they would be back, and what they would look like.

Friday, the Michigan High School Athletic Association gave member schools an idea of what a return would look like with a set of guidelines and rules that would bring athletics back safely.

Even without a distinct timetable — with executive director Mark Uyl pointing to the "Safer-at-Home" deadline of June 12 as a starting point — area coaches and athletic directors view the guidelines as a step in the right direction.

"What it means for us is, the same sense of hope we have been pushing this whole time now has some validity to it," Detroit Catholic Central athletic director Aaron Babicz said.

The MHSAA, along with the National Federation of State High School Association, has released a three-step process to return to full athletic participation, taking actions in areas such as screen-

See MHSAA, Page 2B



The Raiders and Falcons meet at the scrimmage line.

**"You are sitting on the couch for six weeks going, 'This isn't going to happen,' and suddenly it happens. ... So stay ready I think has been a major message to all the kids."**

Ken Shingledecker Stevenson soccer head coach

## Livonia Stevenson runners find college homes

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Colin Sheahan knew he wanted to run at the next level since entering his sophomore year. But it took some time for him to realize his dream to make it to the college level.

Sheahan is one of two senior runners at Stevenson — the other is Cassie

McDougall — planning to run at the college level.

Coming into high school at Livonia Stevenson, Sheahan planned to play hockey for the Spartans, but he jumped in on cross country practices in the summer before his freshman year. He saw the senior class and strove to be



Sheahan



McDougall

like them.

But despite his eventual success in the long-distance sport, for his first two years he admits he was not all in.

"I didn't have the short shorts my freshman or sophomore year. I wasn't really in the game, you know," Sheahan said. "Look

good, feel good, play good: came in and I definitely trained more. I took it seriously starting junior year."

Others were more optimistic. From the moment Sheahan joined the Spartans cross country and track team, head coach Chris Inch could see that potential right away.

See RUNNERS, Page 3B

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# MHSAA sets guidelines for return of sports

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

The Michigan High School Athletic Association released updated timelines and recommendations Friday to guide the return of high school sports after it suspended the remainder of the sports year on April 3.

According to a release sent by the MHSAA, there will be no use or any organized on-site athletic activities at schools until the "Safer-at-Home" order is lifted by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. The order currently runs until June 12.

The MHSAA teamed up with the National Federation of State High School Associations' Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to come up with a three-step process to returning to full athletic participation, taking actions in five major areas: pre-workout/contest screening of athletes and coaches for sickness, limitations of the number of participants who may be involved in a gathering, proper cleaning for facilities and the use of equipment during activity and best practices for keeping participants safely hydrated.

Also, the plan designates sports into different categories based on risk for transmitting the coronavirus with adjusted steps based on the level of risk.

According to the guidelines, wrestling, football, boys lacrosse and girls competitive cheer are listed as having higher risk. Basketball, soccer and volleyball are listed as examples of moderate risks, while golf and cross country are lower risk.

"The MHSAA and its Representative Council believe restarting school sports is essential to the physical and mental well-being of students, and the guidelines outlined for schools today provide the 'How' for schools to return to athletics when they've received the go-ahead from state and county health officials," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said in a statement. "We are thankful for our state government, state education and health departments, our medical partners and the NFHS for their guidance these last few months, and we will continue to follow and pass on their recommendations as we prepare our schools to bring back this part of student life that's been sorely missed."

As for social distancing, individuals are grouped into tiers from essential to non-essential in terms of who is allowed at an event. Athletes, coaches, officials and other event staff are in the first tier, media is in the second tier, and spectators and vendors coming in the third tier.

School district administrators will be the ones to determine which steps in the MHSAA/NFHS plan their schools are operating under based on the number of people allowed to gather by state medical rules and regulations.



Churchill's girls basketball team circles up after its three-set loss to Ann Arbor Skyline in the state quarterfinal.

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

"The MHSAA and its Representative Council believe restarting school sports is essential to the physical and mental well-being of students, and the guidelines outlined for schools today provide the 'How' for schools to return to athletics when they've received the go-ahead from state and county health officials," Uyl said. "We are thankful for our state government, state education and health departments, our medical partners and the NFHS for their guidance these last few months, and we will continue to follow and pass on their recommendations as we prepare our schools to bring back this part of student life that's been sorely missed."

The guidelines state the MHSAA will also prepare for periodic school closures

and the possibility of teams being forced to isolate during their respective seasons, due to the expecting recurrent outbreaks in the fall and winter.

With this, teams are expected to schedule contests that require less travel when possible.

Until the executive order is lifted, the only activity allowed by the MHSAA is individual outdoor activities like walking and running in groups of 10 or fewer people with social distancing involved. The activity cannot involve coaches, be school sponsored or be at any school facility until at least June 13.

"The concept is that students can continue to individually condition themselves (by walking, hiking, running), but there should be no organized,

group activity by any person until at least June 13. We must all continue to do our part to flatten the curve in hopes of increased activity over the coming weeks," Uyl said. "Again, it is important to note that this document addresses 'How' schools can return to activity; the decision on 'When' schools can return to activity will be done under the direction of state government and health department officials. As government actions impact this timeline, the MHSAA will continue to update all involved."

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

## MHSAA

Continued from Page 1B

ing athletes and coaches at practices and games for sickness and proper cleaning of equipment used.

Babicz said this is something the Shamrocks have been planning for, with him talking to fellow athletic directors around the country, getting safety measures and plans in place to best protect students and families when the process starts.

Despite purchasing cleaning equipment and setting contingency plans in place, Babicz said he really does not know when this plan will be put into motion, citing some key dates, such as the deadline for the "Safer-at-Home" order and the MHSAA's next meeting on June 15.

"As we get closer to those and get through those, I think we will have a clearer idea," Babicz said. "But do I think we can return to activity with fall sports? Yes. Do I think they will look the same? No, but I think with the proper regulations and paper trails and things like that to keep everyone safe, I think we can get back to that sense of normalcy."

While the MHSAA has started the process, Livonia Franklin athletic director Ron Hammye believes there is a lot more information that is needed that is not provided.

"Certainly going into this thing, we knew there would be a lot more prep going into practice and after practice," Hammye said. "But still, so many things remain vague: What are we going to do about spectators? When will we be able to start?"

"There are still more questions than answers in the document."

### Higher risk means longer path

For North Farmington head football coach Jon Herstein, the plan given is what he expected it to be.

The MHSAA separated each of the high school athletics into three categories: lower, moderate and higher risk. The start of practices and competitions depend on which category the sport is in.

For football, the process still seems daunting. Higher risk practices, also including boys lacrosse and wrestling, may only begin in Step 3 of the association's three-step plan. Competition can only resume after "reassessing the epidemiology data, experiences in other states and government or health department directives."

Herstein has been realistic, saying that he does understand it will take time to get back to where the sport was before the pandemic.

"We don't want to see anybody get sick, from our players to the coaches to family members," Herstein said. "We want to make sure we are doing this the right way."

Herstein is focused on making preparations for a safe return, looking into team masks, and utilizing space to enforce proper social distancing measures during weight and physical training. The program has also purchased sanitizers and soaps to clean equipment after use.

However, his main focus during the time of uncertainty has been on the state of his players mentally, making sure each one is contacted and heard during the pandemic.

"This is an obstacle that we are all facing," Herstein said. "We can come together and come out of this even stronger, even more together, and we can take the opportunity to grow in different ways than we might have been growing



Detroit Catholic Central head coach Dan Anderson addresses his team after they defeated Brother Rice 7-3 on Sept. 29. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

when we were together."

### A sense of hope

Stevenson soccer head coach Ken Shingledecker said he is more in a "wait and see" mentality, waiting for direction from Livonia Public Schools as to what to do based on the information given by the MHSAA.

According to Hammye, the district is putting together committees for discussion of every aspect of the start of high school athletics, including after school activities, such as athletics.

However, Shingledecker said, the release does provide a level of progress.

"I think today was an important day to get these guidelines out there so that everyone can start to head down the right path," Shingledecker said.

Right now, he is focused on preaching

to his players to "Stay ready," to do what they can to better prepare themselves for what could happen.

"If it does come back online, we want to make sure we are not behind the curve," Shingledecker said. "You are sitting on the couch for six weeks going, 'This isn't going to happen,' and suddenly it happens and you're not ready. So stay ready I think has been a major message to all the kids."

To coaches and athletic directors, this release showing the "how," even if it may not say the "when," is a message to their kids that says there is a level of hope for a return.

To them, these guidelines make high school athletics more tangible.

"If I'm a kid and I know that document came out, and I know there is going to be stuff all over the place, I'm so excited," Babicz said.

# Salem baseball sends 3 seniors to college level

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

Salem High School's baseball team entered this spring heavy on experience with a whopping 10 seniors, all ready to lead the Rocks to a successful season.

Unfortunately, just like the rest of the state's seniors, they already played their final games in a high school uniform. Three of those seniors, however, signed to continue playing baseball in college.

Leading the way is catcher Tyler Overaitis, who will attend Western Michigan.

Overaitis was a two-year captain of the baseball team and moved to catcher as a sophomore. The coaching staff thought he'd have a better chance at playing in college by switching from shortstop to catcher.

"Tyler is just a great leader," Salem baseball coach John Wright said. "That's why as a junior we made him a captain. He puts the work in. He's not afraid to tell somebody on the team when they're not doing what they should do on or off the field. He's a really good kid."

He is the school's third player to play Division I baseball in Wright's six years as coach.

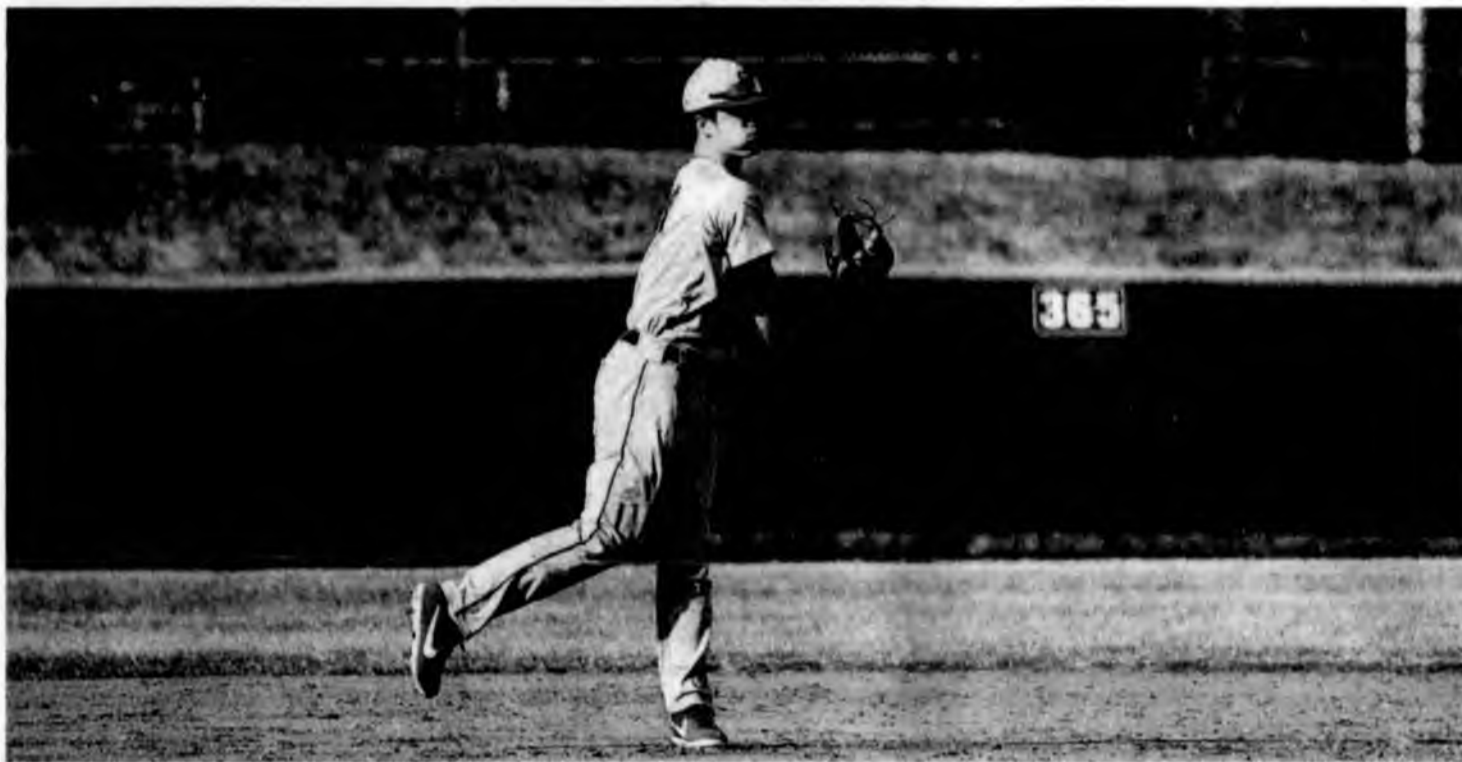
Pitcher Jacob Nastally is headed to Lourdes University in Ohio after his continued development in the Rocks' program.

"He's going to be strong," Wright said. "I don't know where he'll end up for them because I don't know what his upside velocity wise will be, but I would say that he's going to come in and contribute right away. He throws strikes, he works hard and he's got a really good slider out pitch."

Nastally hits 82-83 mph with his fastball and shines with his off-speed pitches.

"He's a competitor, he competes," Wright said. "What we worked on over the years with him is just keeping his cool because he doesn't even like to give up a hit. It's hard to tell a kid that people are going to get hits, but he doesn't want to give up one."

The third member of the Rocks playing in college is infielder Matt Claerhout, who will play ball at Northwood.



Salem senior Matthew Claerhout is headed to Northwood to play college baseball. COURTESY OF MATTHEW CLAERHOUT



Salem's Jacob Nastally is headed to Lourdes University for baseball. COURTESY OF SCOTT NASTALLY



Salem High catcher Tyler Overaitis is headed to Western Michigan. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

"He's got a very strong arm," Wright said. "He throws about 84-85 from the mound. He's got a ton of power and runs really well."

Claerhout was also the football team's starting quarterback as a junior but suffered a torn ACL that affected his baseball season. He decided not to play

football this school-year in order to stay healthy for baseball, only for the season to be canceled.

"In talking to Northwood, I told them he's a steal because if he doesn't tear his ACL his junior year, I think that he's a Division I baseball player," Wright said.

Claerhout wasn't the only one to tear

his ACL playing football for Salem. Overaitis tore his this past fall and would have missed a good portion of the baseball season.

"(Overaitis) is one of the top 2-3 left-handed bats I've coached for sure at Salem, but in my career of coaching which has been about 18 years," Wright said. "I think his bat is going to play at the Division I level and in two years of catching he's come so far, he's going to get nothing but better."

Wright said all three players work extremely hard, which is what will separate them from their peers at the college level. He added that each player picked a school where they can be successful both on the field and in the classroom.

The 2020 senior class was Wright's third full class with the program under his leadership. The other seven seniors on this year's team were: Austin Daugherty, Sawyer Hindt, August Jostes, Connor Kelley, Owen Keyes, Matthew Kuechler and Zach Salinas.

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

## Runners

Continued from Page 1B

"He's pretty slender, he looks like a distance runner - not a lot of muscle on him - but he was born to run," Inch said. "He's got great form and efficiency when he runs."

As a junior, Sheahan began to meet his coach's expectations. He finished in first place at the Livonia City Meet in 2018 and 2019, finishing his season at the regional meet at Ann Arbor Huron.

After winning the Livonia City Meet his junior year, Sheahan realized he could be successful as a collegiate runner.

"I was like, 'Yeah, I'm pretty good. I think I can do something with this,'" Sheahan said.

Sheahan reached out to Wayne State. Despite there being only two recruiting spots left, he was confident, signing up for an in-person visit.

Sheahan was impressed right away, and he committed.

"It's in the middle of Detroit," Sheahan said. "When I went on the on-campus visit, I just absolutely loved it. We went on a 5-mile run with the guys around Detroit. I saw Little Caesars, the river and all the people in Detroit."

"They really brought me in and they are just super friendly."

He said he has the opportunity to be pushed and to get better by joining Wayne State.

Inch sees that potential.

"They are getting a kid that, I think, has some upside, if he continues to focus and enjoy the process and take care of the things on the team and the things outside the team," Inch said.

### High upside

Cassie McDougall already had an idea of what she was getting into when she joined the team. Her brother was a cross country and track runner at Stevenson, two years older than her.

Watching her brother run, McDougall said she might as well give it a shot.

"He would drive me to practice and he knew a lot of the people on the team," she said. "I guess I did feel more comfortable knowing somebody on the team."

But after her freshman season - joining the team for fun and for an opportu-

nity to make friends - McDougall quickly realized how much she enjoyed it, turning her four years with the Spartans into a spot on the University of Michigan Dearborn cross country team in the fall.

During the 2017 outdoor track season, McDougall hit the ground running.

She was a member of the 4-by-800 relay team that placed 11th at the Division 1 state final, earning a spot at the New Balance outdoor national championships.

McDougall returned to the state finals in the 4-by-800 relay her sophomore season as well. In cross country as a freshman, she made it to the state finals in the 5,000-meter race.

Stevenson girls cross country head coach and track and field assistant coach Rick Brauer saw the potential from the moment she entered high school.

"Far and away, the four years that she was there, she far and away had the most talent out of anybody that I worked with," Brauer said. "Her upside is tremendous."

At the college level, Brauer said, McDougall will go through a maturation process, taking on stronger and faster college runners, which, he said, has a high attrition rate.

However, with that upside he saw in McDougall her freshman season, he sees now in McDougall heading off to college.

"She definitely could be one of the better NAIA runners in the country," Brauer said. "She has that kind of talent. It depends on how she fits into the program and the coaching philosophy down there and how it all plays out."

McDougall said the U-M Dearborn cross country team reminds her of the Spartans: small and family oriented. Talking to members of the team, it was first on her list during the recruiting process.

Now, as an official member of the team heading into the fall, McDougall said she strives for a personal record in the 5,000 meters.

Looking back at her time at Stevenson, McDougall's advice is to embrace the time given.

"Enjoy it because it goes by very quickly," she said. "Just always encourage each other, even if people are having a hard time."

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

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## Churchill

Continued from Page 1B

"A big thing for me is being more active in the run game," Brooks said. "I have clips on my junior film that show spurts of me being able to run the ball, and I think a big emphasis this year is to show that I truly can be a dual-threat and take over the game not only in the air but on the ground too."

In addition to the schools he has offers from, he's been in contact with coaches at Hillsdale, Michigan Tech, Butler and Davidson. Michigan Tech, and playing in the GLIAC is highly appealing to Brooks.

He said he wants to attend a school where he can play early and that all of the schools recruiting him should provide that opportunity.

"I think my biggest thing is that I'm extremely accurate and I can do things mentally that other quarterbacks are unable to do," Brooks said. "I can dissect coverages and see things quicker than other quarterbacks. When I throw, I usually don't ever miss."

### Hattar overcomes injury, seeks MAC offer

2019 was a wild year for junior offensive lineman Lawrence Hattar.

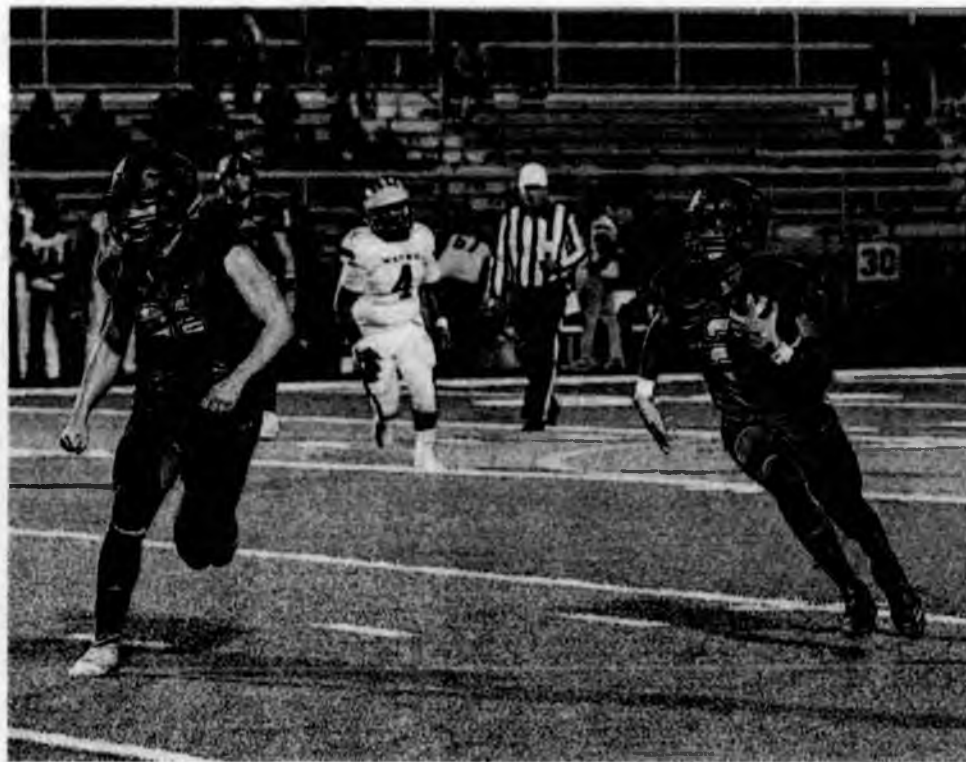
The 6-foot-4, 295-pound guard played the entire season with a hairline fracture in his hip and a broken hand.

Now, he's fully healthy and plans to show he belongs at the Division I FBS level.

"I just never really felt the pain," Hattar said. "I was on crutches during the day and once practice hit I was on a time management schedule throughout the week. It just never really bothered me."

He tried wearing a cast on his hand, but found it uncomfortable and played without it.

This spring, he's earned offers from Urbana (Ohio), Lake Erie College, Ave Maria, Valparaiso and Davenport. He's been talking to quite a number of schools that are excited about his future, including a number of MAC schools. Some of the interested schools include Central Michigan, Western Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Kent State, Ohio, Buffalo, Grand Valley State, Saginaw Valley State, Ferris State, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech and



Livonia Churchill receiver Jordan Garcia, right, has picked up his first college offer from Olivet. COURTESY OF RM PADGET

Michigan Tech.

"Once I got my first offer, I was really excited," Hattar said. "I was speechless. Then they just all started rolling through."

He said Kent State and Ohio University are really impressing him at this time.

"I'm just taking it day by day and hoping more (offers) come because I'm talking to a bunch of schools, so we'll see how it goes," Hattar said. "I feel like I have the talent to play in the MAC."

Education will also play a big role in his recruitment. He said he plans to study either nursing or engineering.

On the field, Hattar is looking forward to a healthy season where he can continue to show his improvement.

"I feel like I'm a big kid who is able to move better than other people, I'm stronger than most people and have a better core," Hattar said. "I have good feet for an O-lineman."

### Targosz following football dreams over baseball

Junior Jimmy Targosz wasn't sure if he'd ever have the chance to play football at the next level. A standout baseball player, it seemed that would be his

path forward in college athletics until a breakout season on the gridiron last fall.

"Until last year, I was a big baseball guy and really thought I was going to try to play baseball in college until I had an amazing season last year," Targosz said. "I was so happy with how much I helped my team. It was an amazing feeling, I've always wanted to play football but baseball was my better sport I thought."

The 6-foot-4, 195-pound safety already has good size, but plans to get his weight up to 210 before the season starts this year.

"I'm very big for my position," Targosz said. "When I hit that 210, that's like a Power Five type safety. I have some speed too, I run a 4.69 40-yard dash and I really do work hard. If I set my eyes on a prize, I need it, it's mine."

Targosz, who will play both ways this year, has earned offers from Urbana, Olivet, Trine, Valparaiso and Lake Erie College. He's currently talking to several other teams as well, including Michigan Tech and Air Force.

There's one school he is gunning for an offer from though that hasn't come yet.

"Since I was in eighth grade, I've always wanted to play football at Grand Valley State, so that's what I'm trying to

work toward," Targosz said.

He plans to use this fall to score his explosiveness both as a safety and a wide receiver and be an impact player for the Chargers defense. Last season he recorded 64 tackles, 10 pass breakups, four interceptions and one fumble recovery for a touchdown.

Targosz said he doesn't know what he wants to study in college yet, but is hoping for a good all-around education.

"I want to go to a school that really wants me," Targosz said. "One that works hard to try to get me into their program."

### Garcia earns first offer

Every quarterback needs a good slot receiver and that's exactly what Brooks has in junior Jordan Garcia.

The 5-foot-10, 175-pound wideout picked up his first college offer from Olivet this spring.

"Honestly I was starstruck," Garcia said. "I was in bed doing my homework when I got a text from the coach. I immediately ran to my mom because we pray every night and send out so many emails, it was a surreal moment."

Garcia said he's talking to a few other schools as well and is excited for what the fall can bring.

"Probably the most important thing for me is where I'd have to pay the least amount of money and what is the best fit," Garcia said. "I don't want to go somewhere and just sit and be on the roster. I want to play and show what I can do on the field. Also the education, because at the end of the day I need to graduate so I can have a successful career."

Garcia said his strengths are his hands and speed and is someone that can be counted on to pick up first downs. He's focused on his improvement and surrounding himself with others that are doing things the right way. His goal is to reach 185 pounds before the season begins.

Just last week, Garcia was running routes with Brooks optimistically preparing for the start of football.

"It's great to be a part of a team that wants the same things as you," Garcia said. "Obviously our goal is to win it all."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at [availlien@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlien@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Send story ideas to [LivSports@hometownlife.com](mailto:LivSports@hometownlife.com).

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# Jeep Gladiator at home on deserts, streets

Mojave combines comfort, performance

**Mark Phelan**  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Coming soon: The neighbor with endless stories about why their "desert rated" truck is the cat's pajamas, not just for the legendary Baja 1000 race, but for daily drives on Woodward Avenue, the Long Island Expressway and Lakeshore Drive.

Why? The same reason people who've never set foot on a drag strip buy Ford Mustang Shelby GT 500s and Dodge Charger Hellcats: image and exclusivity.

Unlike those specialty cars, the first desert-rated pickup, the 2020 Jeep Gladiator Mojave, isn't just more capable, it's also more comfortable.

Fiat Chrysler, which does special editions and limited-run models as well as anybody in the auto industry, has done it again, creating a model with unique looks and performance benefits that should rub off on the rest of the model line.

Gladiator Mojaves, which feature shocks and other running gear tuned for flying over sand dunes - but are surprisingly smooth and comfortable in daily use - will roll into dealerships when the Toledo, Ohio, plant that builds them resumes production after shutting down for COVID-19.

"Jeep and Fiat Chrysler are really good at special editions in line with the vehicle's purpose and the brand's DNA," IHS Markit analyst Stephanie Brinley said. "The Mojave is credible and competitive, with a level of detail that shows Jeep thought the vehicle through."

Prices start at \$43,875, high for a midsize pickup, but reasonable for a specialty model at the top of the Gladiator lineup, alongside the "trail-rated" Gladiator Rubicon.

**Is it a Raptor beater?**

Ford created the idea, if not the term, of desert rating for vehicles meant to go fast off road with its F-150



The 2020 Jeep Gladiator Mojave starts at \$43,875. MARK PHELAN/USA TODAY NETWORK

**Raptor.**

The Gladiator Mojave isn't exactly a competitor for the Raptor though. The Raptor is longer, wider, heavier, more powerful and expensive. Prices start at \$53,455. The Raptor also is probably faster, though the Gladiator Mojave's ride comfort will be tough to beat, and its smaller size promises maneuverability that will be welcome on the trail and in neighborhood parking lots.

The next all-new vehicle likely to test demand for desert-rated vehicles, or whatever name Ford chooses to use, will likely be a top model of the upcoming Bronco midsize SUV.

Other automakers are likely to follow suit.

**Potholes for breakfast**

What's the difference between "trail-rated" in Jeep speak - and desert-rated? Speed and terrain.

Speed is not your friend when picking your way over boulders, around hairpin bends and between trees on the legendary Rubicon trail. Speed's an ally if you want to clear the top of a sand dune or slalom through the Empty Quarter in the Arabian Peninsula, where the sand can be as fine as sifted flour.

That's the Mojave's sweet spot. The truck has a revised four-wheel-drive system that allows for some wheelspin in sand and allows you to hit 50 mph in the lowest range of gears. A Rubicon, tuned to pick its way carefully over shifting rocks, slows the wheels to avoid spin and tops out at 30 mph in its low range, or crawl ratio.

An "off-road plus" setting available only in four-wheel drive activates the system's ability to sense when some wheelspin is desirable and when the driver's likely to want max traction.

The suspension, particularly shocks, is different, too. Rock-crawling requires the ability to protect the frame, transmission and driveline from impacts at low speed. Sand racing, which almost nobody does but everybody thinks looks super cool, depends on absorbing high-speed impacts, as when the truck lands after going airborne or is going fast when it reaches level ground at the bottom of a dune.

To my surprise, that capability also made the Mojave smoother and more comfortable over potholes and rough roads. In a week of driving fast on winter-ravaged roads, I found the Mojave to be a very pleasant daily driver.

"There will be people who buy the

Mojave for its looks, but really appreciate the smoother ride," Jeep North America boss Jim Morrison told me.

I tested a well-equipped soft-top Gladiator Mojave that stickered at \$59,450. All prices exclude destination charges.

Wind noise from the soft top is noticeable at highway speed, but people had no trouble understanding me on hands-free phone calls.

The Gladiator's interior is roomy and accommodating. Headroom is plentiful, the front seat has plenty of storage space - but not a good place for smartphones - in the center console.

The Mojave's 11.6 inches of ground clearance is 1.6 inches more than a base Gladiator and half an inch higher than a Rubicon.

Climbing into the cab will be challenging for kids and shorter adults, despite well-placed grab handles inside each door. Running boards would defeat the purpose of increased ride height though. A tall step into the cab is the price you pay for the height and suspension travel that allow racing through the desert.

**Standard equipment included:**

- 3.6L V6 engine
- Four-wheel drive
- Removable soft top
- Fox performance shocks
- Fox Hydro Jounce bumpers
- Heavy duty Dana axles
- 33-inch Falken all-terrain tires
- Skid plates for front, fuel tank and transfer case

**Options on my test vehicle:**

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- Navigation
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# The lure of Sparky led Fielder to pick Tigers

Bill Dow Special to Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Free Press special writer Bill Dow catches up with former Detroit Tigers player Cecil Fielder:

## How we remember him

As one of the greatest power hitters in Detroit Tigers history, no one hit more home runs between 1990 and 1995 than Fielder. In his six-plus seasons with the Tigers, he had 245 homers with 758 RBIs and became the first Tiger to hit at least 25 homers in six consecutive seasons.

In 1990, Fielder became just the 11th player in MLB history to hit at least 50 home runs in a season. He won three straight American League RBI titles (1990-92), a feat accomplished by only two other players, Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth.

After playing for Toronto from 1985 to 1988 and one year in Japan, he signed as a free agent with Detroit in 1990, the same year he became just the third player to hit a ball over the left-field roof at Tiger Stadium.

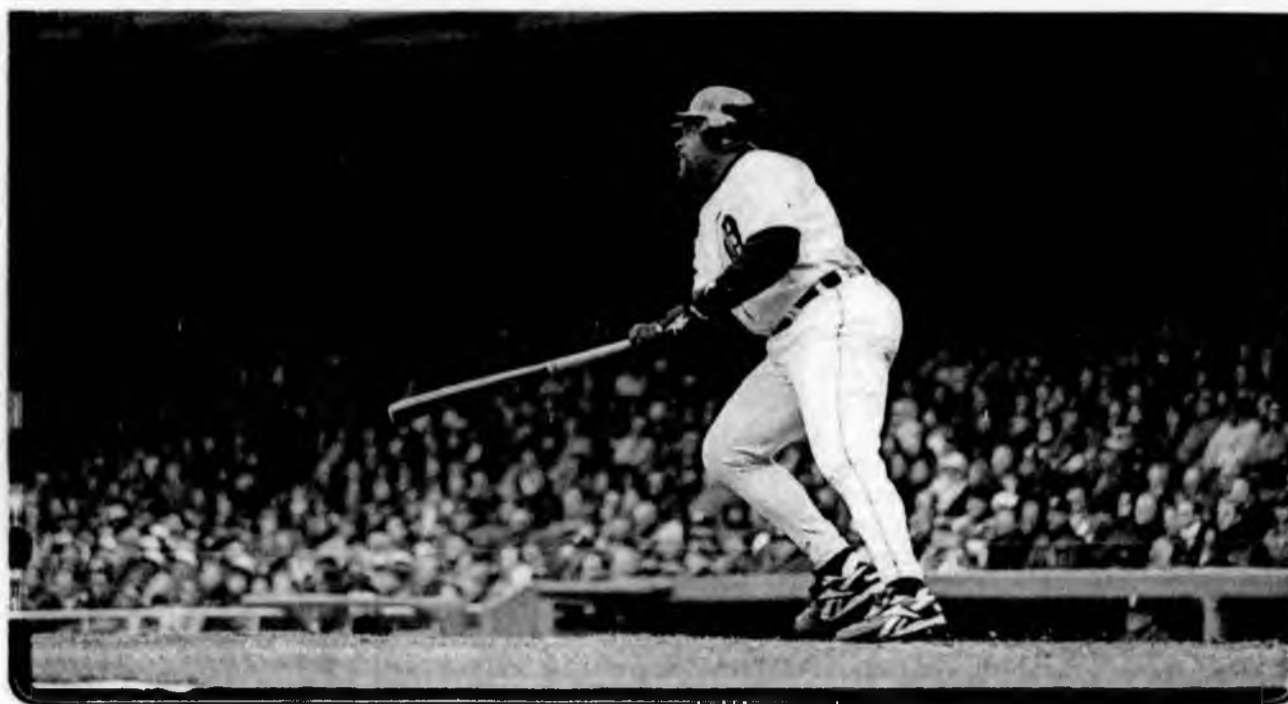
He and his son, former Tiger Prince Fielder, represent one of the most successful father-son power-hitting duos in history; both finished their careers with 319 home runs.

## After the Tigers

Granting his request to be traded, the Tigers sent him to the Yankees on July 31, 1996, for slugger Ruben Sierra and pitcher Matt Drews. In the World Series that year, he batted .391 against Atlanta and helped the Yankees win the world championship for the first time in 18 years. After one more season in New York, he finished his career in 1998 with the Angels and Indians.

## Today

Fielder, 56, lives in Tampa, Florida, with his wife, Diana, and their son, Maksim. He has four other children and four grandchildren. He makes numerous personal appearances as an ambassador for the Yankees.



Tigers first baseman Cecil Fielder hits a grand slam against the Mariners on April 9, 1996, at Tiger Stadium.  
DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

## On playing in Japan

"It was great playing in Japan and it really worked out for me. Those are my folks over there. They used to follow me everywhere and always showed me love. It was a learning experience for me because I got to play every day, I learned who I was as a hitter and it gave me a big boost for my confidence.

"I remember hitting this big Toyota gorilla sign in the back of the Tokyo Dome and no one had ever done that. I was supposed to win a car but I never got it. I guess it was only for the Japanese players. I also hit two homers out of Yokohama Stadium in one game."

## On signing with the Tigers in 1990

"The Tigers and Red Sox were both trying to sign me. My agent said the Tigers were horrible, they really

need some help and that I would be able to play every day. Plus, they had Sparky Anderson and I really wanted to play for him."

## On playing for Sparky Anderson

"He was like my dude, man. When he died, I cried. I remember giving a speech in Detroit and I started to talk about him and I just cried. He was so important to my development and for building up my confidence.

"Everything he said about me was positive. Sometimes he would get on my butt and say he never wanted me to give up an at-bat to move a man over because he didn't trust the guys hitting behind me sometimes. When there was a man in scoring position, Skip would say, 'don't hold up, let it go.' Sometimes all you need is positivity. If you don't have positivity, that's when you go into a bad slump."

## On playing at Tiger Stadium

"I liked everything about that ballpark and it was my favorite stadium. It was fan-friendly and the fans were right there on you. You just had to stay away from that 440-foot center field. To hit in that ballpark 81 games a year was a blessing."

## On his success as a home run hitter

"If I centered that ball up, I knew it was going to go. Your swing has to be violent but under control, that's how you drive in 130 runs. If it's violent and under control, oh my God, oh my God. But driving in runs was more important to me than hitting home runs."

## On insisting to play every day

"Skip wanted to give me a day off but I didn't want any part of that, man. I loved playing baseball. I'm not going to give it to Wally Pipp. I'm playing every day. I told Skip, we got Tony (Phillips) up front, Sweet Lou (Whitaker), Tram (Trammell), and then me. If I take a day off, I'm putting more pressure on them. My cats in front of me need some good pitches to hit because I need them on base to drive them in.

"To stay focused and stay sharp, I needed to play every day. I had so many things going on in my batting stance that if I wasn't getting four or five at-bats a day, everything could go wrong. When I played in Toronto, I was nervous not playing every day and always looking over my shoulder so I wasn't totally confident yet."

## On his trade to the Yankees

"Our team was really bad and so many had already left. Tony Phillips and Mickey Tettleton were gone, Lou had retired and Tram was retiring. I had two years left on my contract but I asked to be traded. I liked my time in Detroit but I wanted to win so I was thrilled to go to the Yankees. To help them win a world championship was so great."

## On his son, Prince

"I knew Prince was going to do well and if he hadn't gotten hurt, he would have been a 500-homer guy. Everyone knew he was going to be a good player from the time he hit balls into the upper deck at Tiger Stadium as a 12-year-old. Prince and I enjoy watching his two sons, Jady (15) who is an all-around, nationally ranked player, and Haven (13) who can do deep. They are both going to be players."

## How his teammate remembers him

Jack Morris: "Cecil was just a good-natured guy that everyone enjoyed being around. When I left the Tigers and faced each other we tried hard to keep from laughing. I remember the first time he came up to the plate he was laughing and yelled, 'I'm gonna get you!' I was then laughing and said, 'Cecil you're not going anywhere.' I had to step off the mound and regroup because I was laughing.

"I remember throwing him a change-up, and if he had had augers on his feet he would have ended up in China. One time he got on first base and I probably walked him which was probably a smart move. There was either no outs or one out and he takes this big lead and yells to me, 'I'm gonna get a bag' and I yelled back, 'I don't care.' Sure enough he steals the first base of his career (he had only two). He picks up the bag and holds it over his head like Rickey Henderson setting the record. He yells, 'I got you!'

"I said, 'Cec, you can't do that, it's not right.' We had a lot of fun together and he was one of my favorite guys."

# Obituaries

## Carole Lee Dubin

Carole Lee Dubin, a resident of Milford, native of Detroit, and former resident of Livonia, Franklin and West Bloomfield died peacefully at her home surrounded by family on May 25, 2020 at the age of 77.

Carole received her undergraduate degree in nursing from Mercy Madonna and her Master's Degree from Wayne State University. She was one of the first Nurse Practitioners in the State of Michigan and was the Director of Nursing at Northwest General Hospital. One of her proudest achievements was as the founder of the Pet Pantry at Highland/Milford Community Sharing. She competed in the Port Huron to Mackinac Race many times and competed in Dressage. She enjoyed sailing, camping, horseback riding, spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchild and with her loving husband and their pet dogs at their lakefront home.

She is survived by her beloved husband of over twenty-nine years, Dr. Howard Dubin; her children, Michael (Angel) Thompson, Bruce (Julie) Thompson, and Jill Hunter; step-children, Susan (Michael) Light, Robert Dubin, David (Stephanie) Dubin, and Jeffrey (Beth) Dubin; grandchildren, Eva, Grant and Raquel Thompson, Joshua and Emily Thompson, Matthew (Whitley) Olah, Casey Olah, Brandon and Dylan Light, Joshua, Samantha and Ariana Dubin, James and Eli Dubin, Nathaniel and Gabriel Dubin, and Tyler Jones; great granddaughter, Kaylee Poster; siblings, James Madsen and Mary Alice (Tom) Johnson; brother-in-law, Bruce (Karen) Dubin. She was preceded in death by her mother, Muriel Wright, mother-in-law, Yetta Dubin, and brother-in-law, Brian Dubin.

A service will be held privately with interment in Milford Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Pet Pantry c/o Community Sharing Outreach Center, PO Box 405, Highland MI 48357. Condolences may be left at [www.LynchandSonsMilford.com](http://www.LynchandSonsMilford.com)

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## Lawrence Larabell

NOVI - Lawrence "Larry" Larabell, 77, passed away on the morning of May 25, 2020 after a years-long battle with cancer. Larry is survived by his beloved wife Suzanne of 52 years; his four children: Mary Beth Connolly (Tim), John (Piera), Renée, and Denise Edmund (Dan); and nine grandchildren: Cassidy, Brendan, Sophie, Finnegan, Ezio, Sawyer, Hugo, Lucy, and Milo. His five siblings, in-laws, and a host of nieces and nephews remember him with fondness. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made in Larry's name to the Alzheimer's Association, Angela Hospice, or Capuchin Soup Kitchen. A celebration of Larry's life will occur at an as-yet undetermined future date. His family entrusted his care and services to the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Northville. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at [www.griffinfuneralhome.com](http://www.griffinfuneralhome.com)



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## Dorothy Bena McGaffigan

In loving memory of Dorothy Bena McGaffigan, who was born in Pewaukee, WI on October 10, 1925 and passed in Novi, MI on May 18, 2020 at the age of 94 from natural causes. Beloved wife of the late Robert Owen McGaffigan. Loving mother of Steven (Laurie) McGaffigan, Susan (William) Grimshaw, and Peter (Sandy) McGaffigan. Dear grandmother of Jason (Kellie) McGaffigan, Caitlin (Antonio) Branham, Megan, Aaron, Adam McGaffigan, and great grandmother to AJ Branham, Autumn Branham, and Cameron McGaffigan. Daughter of the late Olaf and Anna Swenson. Sister of the late Hilda Swanson, Raymond Swenson, and Gertrude Keske. Inurnment will take place at Forest Hill Cemetery, Pewaukee, WI. Dorothy will be deeply missed by friends and family. Mrs. McGaffigan retired to Michigan to live by her daughter and son-in-law. A devout Christian, member of Galilee Lutheran Church, Pewaukee, Wisconsin, she passed with complete faith into Jesus loving arms. Online condolences may be sent to [www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com](http://www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com).





# Fight shutdown isolation with smart speakers

**Marc Saltzman**  
Special to USA TODAY

With many Americans still ordered to stay at home to quell the spread of COVID-19, at the very least technology is helping us remain connected, entertained and productive.

From group video conferencing calls and bingeing TV shows to playing multiplayer video games and downloading ebooks, quarantine life – if healthy – could be far worse.

And don't forget about your smart speaker, as it, too, can help you feel less "alone" while self-isolated.

After all, it's estimated that more than 160 million smart speakers are in U.S. households, so chances are you have one of these voice-enabled devices, be it an Amazon Echo or Google Nest (both from \$29).

Here are several ways you can lean on this technology to get through these unprecedented times.

## Hands-free calls

Cooking a meal and hit with a memory of your favorite cousin? Call them with your smart speaker.

An underrated feature of the devices is the ability to make free phone calls to any 10-digit number in the U.S. and Canada. With Amazon devices you can also call Mexico, while Google Assistant lets you call a U.K. number, too.

It uses the Internet to make calls (using Voice Over Internet Protocol or "VoIP" technology), so no landline is needed, and it's completely free.

There are a few ways to do it:

First, say the wake word – "Alexa" for Amazon devices, or "OK Google" for Google Home speakers – and then say "call" or "dial" followed by the 10-digit number.

If a person is in your smartphone's Contacts, you can say "Call John Smith or Mary Jones, or call Dad," and so on.

Or you can use a smart speaker to call a business – even if you don't know the specific address – by saying something like "Call the Home Depot near Yonge Street and High Tech Road," and that will work, too.

If you have a "smart display," like an Amazon Echo Show (from \$69) or Google Nest Hub (from \$99), you can also place video calls to see friends, family, and colleagues.

## 'OK Google, let's play a game'

Did you know there are thousands of games to play on your favorite smart speaker?

Whether you're home alone or with family, both Amazon and Google devices support many kinds of games.



There's nothing tricky about getting Amazon's Echo Show 5 up and running.

AMAZON



Some, but not all, smart displays let you make free hands-free video calls to others. But all let you make free phone calls over Wi-Fi.

GOOGLE INC.

"Song Quiz," for example, is a music trivia game similar to "Name That Tune." Challenge a family member beside you, or, if alone, play over the internet against someone else also cooped up at home.

"Akinator," on the other hand, is a "Twenty Questions"-like game, playable using your voice. You must first think of a character that's real or fictitious, and "Akinator" will try to read your mind.

Both games work with both Google and Amazon.

If you prefer a virtual escape, verbal adventure game "The Magic Door" (for Amazon) has you explore a magical land with several regions including moun-

tains, sea, and dark forest. In unraveling the tale, you collect hidden items, solve puzzles, and help magical creatures.

Can you help a princess find her crown? Will you escort a gnome to his home? Or pay heed to a fortune teller who is directing you to a lighthouse?

Depending on the decisions you make, the 10- to 15-minute story veers off into different directions like a "Choose Your Own Adventure" book.

Those who own a Google Home speaker might try a similar verbal role-playing adventure game, "The Game of Castle."

## Music, podcasts and audiobooks

Research shows music can be effective therapy to improve your mental wellness. And with more than 50 million songs at your beck and call, smart speakers might just be what the doctor ordered.

With streaming services, use your voice to call up a song, album, artist, genre, year, or playlist. And you can get creative by adding extra words to get specific, such as asking for a "live" version of a song you like, or a "remix" or "cover" version.

Even if you don't know what the song is called you can say something like "Play that song that says 'Ooh, I'm blinded by the lights ... I can't sleep until I feel your touch'" and it will tell you it's

"Blinding Lights" by The Weeknd.

Or ask something like "Play me the song in the new Cadillac commercial" (it's "Nobody Speak" by DJ Shadow featuring Run The Jewels).

Don't forget, you can also play local radio stations – and ones from any city around the globe. Say "Alexa, play a blues radio station from New Orleans," for instance.

Your smart speaker can also play audiobooks (which will often require a subscription to a service, like Audible) and podcasts covering a myriad of topics (most are free).

## 'Alexa, tell me a joke'

Feel like you need a laugh? Along with some very funny podcasts, you can subscribe to and play on your smart speaker, you can also ask your personal assistant to tell you some random jokes. Say "Alexa, tell me a joke" and you may hear "Why was the chiropractor so busy? Back to back meetings."

Or "Knock knock. Who's there? Justice. Justice who? Justice once I wish you'd laugh at my knock-knock jokes." (OK, so we didn't say there were good jokes.)

Personally, I like a Google Nest joke better: "Why won't the shrimp share its treasure? Because it's shellfish."

Badum-bum.

If desired, there also are several joke "skills" (add-ons) to play on your Amazon speaker, with all kinds of different kinds of jokes, including "adult" ones.

## Meditation and breathing

Finally, your smart speaker can also guide you through mindfulness and meditation sessions.

On an Amazon device, say "Alexa, open Guided Meditation," and the free skill will open, offering a new meditation session every day.

There are more than four dozen meditation and breathing exercises focusing on stress, depression, focus, or falling asleep.

A soothing voice will walk you through various exercises; the session typically runs from three to eight minutes in length.

Another good one for Alexa devices is called Mindful Meditation. Ask to open it and follow along with the sessions at a desired length that suits you.

If you own a Google Nest device, say "OK Google, open Meditation Guide," and your Google Assistant will take you through a two- or three-minute guided meditation.

Finally, if you like to use a meditation app like Calm or Headspace, both of these popular platforms support Amazon Echo and Google Nest devices.

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For more information regarding this directory, please call Anthony Dixon at 313-222-2401 or amdixon@gannett.com

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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### ACROSS

- 1 V-J Day prez
- 4 Not cooked
- 7 Epoch
- 10 Nails, as an exam
- 14 "— boy!"
- 18 "There it is!"
- 19 Went by, as hours
- 21 Whet
- 22 Unmask
- 23 Giving monikers to flower holders?
- 25 Whale type
- 26 Bride's ride, perhaps
- 27 It might follow "So I lied!"
- 28 That, to Juanita
- 29 The lass I love with a twangy voice?
- 31 Fill with fury
- 33 Alaskan panhandle city
- 36 "No fooling!"
- 37 Embryonic thyroids and pituitaries?
- 40 Many a shareable PC file
- 41 Cry loudly
- 43 "Chairman —" (NBA moniker)
- 44 Brief review
- 46 Lake in north Minnesota
- 48 Broken stone used in paving
- 53 Actor Lane after improving his skills?
- 55 Amazed
- 56 "Will you allow me?"
- 58 Father, in France
- 59 Be disposed
- 60 "Batman Forever" star commanding a warship?
- 63 Barrage of shots
- 66 Fail to feed
- 67 Actress on HBO's "Insecure"
- 70 Matador
- 74 Levi's material
- 76 Homer hit by poet Tate?
- 78 Swing about
- 81 Old soda brand
- 84 The Beatles' "— Tired"
- 85 "Better in Time" singer Lewis
- 86 Title of a sommelier training video hosted by novelist Gordimer?
- 90 Goes into overtime, say
- 92 Rival of Sampras
- 93 Heat energy unit
- 94 See 115-Across
- 95 Sharks' org.
- 96 Signing tool
- 98 Dilemma caused by quarterback Joe?
- 105 Men's neckwear accessory
- 108 Island porch
- 109 Beethoven's Third
- 110 Really mean porkers?
- 112 Biology subj.
- 114 Financier Carl
- 115 With 94-Across, designer with the fragrance Fantasia
- 116 QED's "E"
- 117 Rich founder of a loafah-producing company?
- 120 Newsy note
- 121 Jazzy Simone
- 122 Feeling bad for
- 123 Rural tract
- 124 California city known for its zinfandel
- 125 Highlander, e.g.
- 126 Positive reply
- 127 Negative replies
- 128 Bit of work

### DOWN

- 1 Broadway's "Dear Evan —"
- 2 Debi Mazar's "Entourage" role
- 3 Beast breakers
- 4 Go back (on)
- 5 N. Afr. country
- 6 Surfer's ride
- 7 Attack verbally
- 8 "No fooling!"
- 9 Mag VIPs
- 10 Shout at sea
- 11 Breed of herding dog
- 12 Set up tents
- 13 Totally enclosed
- 14 Lion in "Narnia" tales
- 15 "Speaking," for a woman on the phone
- 16 Redpack container
- 17 GI on the run
- 20 "Do not —" (Monopoly directive)
- 24 Non-PC computer
- 29 Reckless
- 30 U.S.-Can. Mex. pact
- 32 "Only Time" singer
- 34 Dawdles
- 35 Pant leg part
- 38 Singer Terrell
- 39 Fill totally
- 42 U2, for one
- 45 Medusa's killer
- 47 ABA member
- 48 Hr. fractions
- 49 Biology subj.
- 50 Vena —
- 51 Tony winners, e.g.
- 52 Probe (into)
- 53 Fitness sites
- 54 Stephen of "The Heavy"
- 57 Foodstuff
- 61 Griffey of baseball
- 62 Operated
- 64 Kin of "Inc."
- 65 "There it is!"
- 68 Best Picture of 1988
- 69 Cry of woe
- 71 Big heads
- 72 Nevada city
- 73 City in 5-Down
- 75 Not Rep. or Dem.
- 77 Clean a spill
- 78 Stately bird
- 79 Attack verbally
- 80 Not trued up
- 82 Violinist Hilary
- 83 Paragons
- 87 U.S. humane org.
- 88 TV ratings system
- 89 "— la Douce"
- 91 Old Italian coins
- 94 Climb, as a tree or rope
- 97 — acid (aqua fortis)
- 99 Seer's cards
- 100 Circular gaskets
- 101 — Raton
- 102 Likely (to)
- 103 Parrot, often
- 104 Guy's stylish carrier
- 106 As a friend, in France
- 107 Kind of bar
- 110 Sandbox toy
- 111 Coup d'—
- 113 Not "fer"
- 117 Operative
- 118 Crusty treat
- 119 Brian of rock

## SUDOKU

		2				8	5	
		4						2
5	9				6			1
				8	4	9		
			6		1			
		8	7	5				
7			5				6	8
6						1		
	4	3				2		

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!

## DAIRY INDUSTRY WORD SEARCH

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

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

### WORDS

- ANTIBIOTIC
- BIOTECHNOLOGY
- BOVINE
- BULL
- BUTTER
- CALVES
- CASEIN
- CATTLE
- CHEESE
- CLONING
- COLOSTRUM
- COW
- CREAM
- CURD
- DAIRY
- FARM
- HEIFER
- HOMOGENIZATION
- NUTRIENTS
- ORGANIC
- PASTEURIZATION
- TANK
- UDDER
- YOGURT

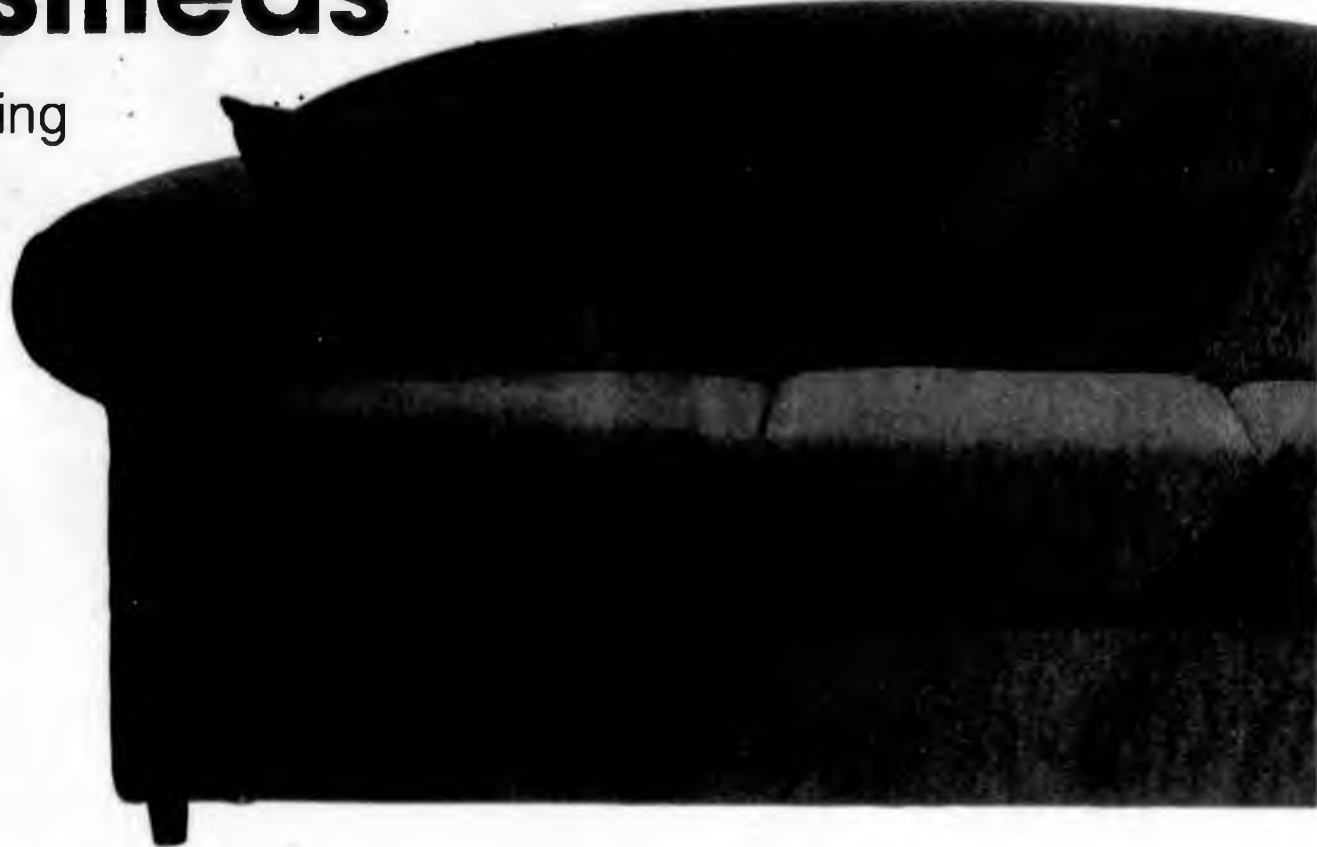
### ANSWER KEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128
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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

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- 5. salt
- 6. pepper
- 7. garlic powder
- 8. onion powder
- 9. brown sugar
- 10. soy sauce
- 11. vinegar
- 12. mustard
- 13. hot sauce
- 14. Worcestershire sauce
- 15. Worcestershire sauce
- 16. Worcestershire sauce
- 17. Worcestershire sauce
- 18. Worcestershire sauce
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