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# VILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Diners enjoy an afternoon meal on the patio of Poole's Tavern in downtown Northville. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Northville to close several streets for business space

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Downtown Northville will have a different feel to it this summer due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The city opted to close several downtown streets through Halloween to create more open space for restaurants and retailers in a new era where people try to stay six feet apart. The closures mean Main Street between Center Street and Hutton will close to vehicle traffic, as well as Center Street between Main Street and Dunlap. The city council unanimously approved the street closures during a special meeting.

"It takes each and every one of us to help the downtown and support it," said Mayor Brian Turnbull after the June 4 vote was taken. "Now the work begins for all of us in how we get this done."

The street closures will allow more space for those coming to downtown Northville to shop and dine out as businesses continue to reopen following a historic closure enacted by the state to slow the spread of COVID-19. Retail shops were allowed to open their doors for non-appointment shopping earlier this month. Restaurant dining rooms opened at reduced capacity June 8.

See STREETS, Page 5A

**"It takes each and every one of us to help the downtown and support it. Now the work begins for all of us in how we get this done."**

Northville Mayor Brian Turnbull

## Novi has parade for two inaugural graduates

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A special parade June 8 in Novi celebrated a graduating class of two.

About 20 cars, two buses, a fire truck and a police car proceeded to the homes of Fabian Israel and Matthew Murphy, best friends and the first two students to complete the Novi Adult Transition Center program.

Murphy jumped up and down in his driveway, waving and grinning as lights flashed, sirens sounded, horns beeped and the song "Celebration" by Kool and the Gang played.

His friends, teachers and community members in the parade showed their joy, too, some stopping to elbow bump and deliver more well wishes.

See PARADE, Page 3A

## Lyon Twp. approves Walbridge building

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Walbridge continues to move forward with developments in Lyon Township.

The planning commission approved a site plan for a 280,000-square-foot industrial building to be constructed by the company on 22 acres on the southwest corner of Grand River and South Hill roads.

Approval is contingent upon the township board's approval of a special land use for the building, which is located in a wellhead protection overlay district and upon a height variance.

See BUILDING, Page 5A

## White Lake restaurant The Root reopens as Stella's Table

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The coronavirus pandemic has had a rough effect on businesses everywhere, restaurants included. But the team at The Root Restaurant and Bar in White Lake Township saw it as an opportunity.

With major changes coming to dining out across the state, owner Steve Suser decided now was the time to make a change. He rebranded The Root as Stella's Table, an urban Italian restaurant concept that aims for a more casual environment.

"Coming out with a finer dining res-

taurant in a pandemic probably wasn't a sustainable future for this building," said Matt Mullins, the restaurant's general manager. "There was a thought process before. Steve had an idea, and when all this happened the trigger was pulled."

The restaurant, located in the shop-

ping center at 340 Town Center Blvd., off M-59 between Teggerdine and Elizabeth Lake roads, was expected to reopen for table service this week after offering a limited carryout menu for about two weeks.

See RESTAURANT, Page 4A

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# Trio arrested after Novi teen fatally shot in Westland

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland police made three arrests June 8 connected to a Novi teen's death.

Police found 17-year-old Robert Bigham of Novi dead from gunshot wounds in the area of Grand Traverse and Missaukee Court around 8:55 p.m. June 7. The teen was killed while riding his bicycle.

The next day, police arrested three other teens in connection to the murder: Duan Jones, Sarah Jones-

Moody and Timothy Stevenson Jr. All three were arraigned June 11 in the 18th District Court before Judge Sandra Cicirelli.

Jones, an 18-year-old Westland resident, is charged with first-degree murder, tampering with evidence and three counts of felony firearm.

Jones was remanded to jail with no bond.

Jones-Moody, a 17-year-old from Wayne, is charged with being an accessory after the fact to a felony and felony firearm. She was given a cash bond of \$75,000 with 10%, and she will have to wear a GPS tether if able

to post bond.

Stevenson, a 19-year-old Detroit resident, is charged with larceny and tampering with evidence. He was given \$20,000 cash bond and will have to wear a GPS tether if able to post bond.

All three are scheduled to return to 18th District Court June 18 for a probable cause conference.

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

## Beyond Juice opening in downtown Milford

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Matthew Long, a White Lake Township resident, plans to bring a Beyond Juicery + Eatery to downtown Milford in the space formerly occupied by Up-town Threads, as well as the Milford Times, at 405 N. Main St.

The store is Long's first, with him deciding to look at Milford for a location after what he saw another family do with the company.

"My sister is the owner of the Clarkston location on Sashabaw. I was just so impressed with the brand, the support they gave her," he said.

Signs have since popped up at the business promoting its arrival, which Long said will hopefully happen by the second week of August.

Long said he's been working to secure a location for some time. After looking across the region, he said he knew the vibrant downtown area of Milford was the perfect spot for such a concept.

The eatery is known for serving up smoothies, salads and sandwiches. It opened a location last summer in Northville Township, one of its first expansions into Detroit's western suburbs.

### hometownlife.com

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on July 7, 2020 at 7:00p.m. to receive public input on a Special Land Use requested by the property owner at 150 & 156 N. Center St., Northville, Michigan, 48167. The applicant is seeking a Special Land Use Permit to allow upper floor residential uses on premises zoned CBD, Central Business District, parcels number 48-001-04-0697-003 and 48-001-04-0697-005. Section 10.03 of the City's Zoning Ordinance permits the Planning Commission to allow upper floor residential units as a Special Land Use, pursuant to meeting the criteria in Section 15.02 for multi-family structures.

#### Meeting Location and Participation Information

If the Governor's Executive Order pertaining to temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings and hearings is extended, the meeting will take place via Zoom at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85663110640>. 646-558-8656 or 301-715-8592, Webinar ID: 856 6311 0640. Members of the public body and members of the public participating electronically will be considered present at the meeting and may participate as if physically present at the meeting.

Log in Instructions, Meeting Rules and Tips are available on the City's website at this link: <https://www.ci.northville.mi.us/cms/one.aspx?portalId=11895963&pageId=13505469#pc> OR from the main Home page, click on the Government tab, then Agendas and Minutes, scroll to the Planning Commission section of the webpage, and scroll down to the link for this meeting. "Zoom Webinar User Guide for City of Northville Public" is also available on this website page.

If the Governor's Executive Order pertaining to video meetings is not extended, the meeting will take place at the City of Northville Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902.

Please monitor the City's website at [www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us) (from the Home page, click on the Government tab, then Agendas and Minutes, and scroll to Planning Commission) or the public notice board located in the City Hall 24-hour vestibule to confirm the final meeting location (Zoom or at City Hall).

For either meeting format, all of those wishing to participate in public comment will be given the opportunity during the public comment periods. Individuals requiring auxiliary aides or services should contact Dianne Massa, the City of Northville Clerk, at [dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us](mailto:dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

#### Application Review and Written Comments

The Special Land Use application is available for review on the City's website: <https://www.ci.northville.mi.us/cms/one.aspx?portalId=11895963&pageId=13607626>, OR from the main Home page, click on the Services tab, then Building and Planning, then Planning Commission.

Written comments pertaining to the Special Land Use must be submitted by 4:00pm on July 6, 2020 at City of Northville Municipal Building, City Clerk, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, or using the City Hall drop box located in the 24-hour vestibule, or by email to [dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us](mailto:dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us).

DIANNE MASSA, CMC, CITY CLERK

Publish: June 18, 2020

LD 0000000016 3x7

# Sale of Great Lakes Crossing Outlets, Twelve Oaks Mall in jeopardy

JC Reindl Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The coronavirus may take a new victim: the \$3.6-billion acquisition deal involving Bloomfield Hills-based mall owner and developer Taubman Centers.

Indianapolis-based Simon Property Group, the largest mall operator in the U.S., announced that it is terminating its purchase agreement for Taubman Centers, including for Taubman's remaining two Michigan malls: Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills and Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

The agreement dates to Feb. 9, weeks before the coronavirus pandemic brought the closure of malls, retail stores and shopping centers across the country. The deal, which would end Taubman family control of the company, has yet to close.

Simon said the pandemic put tremendous financial strain on Taubman and that "extreme actions" may be necessary to "rescue" the company.

In response, Taubman said it will fight Simon's attempt to terminate the sale and insisted that Simon remains legally bound to finish the deal. Taubman said it has called a special June 25 meeting of its shareholders to approve the



Customers approach an entrance to Twelve Oaks mall in Novi in 2011. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

deal.

"Taubman intends to hold Simon to its obligations under the (deal) and the agreed transaction, and to vigorously contest Simon's purported termination and legal claims," the company said in a news release.

Simon announced it is terminating the deal for two chief reasons.

"First, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a uniquely material and disproportionate effect on Taubman compared with other participants in the retail real estate industry," the statement said.

"Second, in the wake of the pandemic, Taubman has breached its obligations, which are conditions to closing, relating to the operation of its business," the statement said. "In particular, Taubman has failed to take steps to mitigate the impact of the pandemic as others in the industry have, including by not making essential cuts in operating expenses and capital expenditures."

Simon said the agreement specifically gave it a right to back out if a pandemic disproportionately hurt Taubman's business. That scenario occurred, according to Simon, because Taubman has many enclosed malls in major metropolitan areas, and some of them depend on domestic and international tourism.

Taubman's malls also are typically aimed at

high-end shopping, which has been hard hit by the pandemic.

In the legal realm, Taubman may have the upper hand in its fight to preserve the deal.

"Taubman has a good chance of winning in court if it decides to fight instead of giving Simon what it might really be after — a lower price," said professor Erik Gordon of the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. "Companies usually lose claims that they can back out of a deal because of a material adverse change that affected the target company differently than it affected other similar companies."

#### Details emerge in court filings

Simon took legal action June 10 in Oakland County Circuit Court that seeks a declaration that Taubman suffered a "material adverse event" and breached covenants in the deal.

Under the deal, the Taubman family was to sell one-third of their stake and continue to own 20% of Taubman Realty Group LP; Taubman Chairman and CEO Robert S. Taubman, the founder's son, was to keep his management posts.

In the Oakland County court filings, Simon claims that many financial analysts expect indoor malls like Taub-

man's to be the last places that consumers will want to shop after the pandemic.

Simon says the wealthier shoppers courted by Taubman malls will be more likely to shop online and not inside stores because of virus fears, and that change will hurt the malls and their ability to charge premium rents.

Simon's legal filings also claim that Taubman is facing "severe financial problems" and is too short on cash to successfully repurpose mall space that could empty as more retailers struggle to survive after the pandemic, which has already led to bankruptcies by Neiman Marcus, JC Penney and J. Crew.

The filings claim Taubman failed to significantly cut expenses, do layoffs or cut executive salaries when the pandemic hit, and therefore "has been financially devastated."

The publicly available version of Simon's filing redacts what appear to be recent Taubman financial results, which Simon says are "far worse than the experience of (Taubman's) competitors."

Taubman drew down \$350 million on its primary \$1.1 billion credit line at the end of March, nearly the entire amount available, the filing says.

"As a result of Taubman's failure to operate in the ordinary course, even more extreme actions will be necessary in the future in an attempt to rescue its business," the filing says.

#### Taubman once fought off Simon

Ironically, Taubman Centers once waged war to stop Simon Property Group from buying it in 2003. The Taubman family then told the Simon group that their company was "not for sale."

That \$1.7-billion hostile takeover attempt was scuttled when then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed changes to Michigan's anti-takeover law — the Michigan Control Share Acquisitions Act — that allowed the Taubman family to block the all-cash offer by Simon and a partner, Westfield America Inc. The legislation was known in Lansing as the "Taubman Bill."

The takeover attempt played out while company founder A. Alfred Taubman, who was also chairman of the Sotheby's art auction house, served a 9½-month prison sentence for having conspired with his counterpart at Christie's to fix prices in the art auction market.

The elder Taubman died in 2015 at age 91.

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Fabian Israel, one of two graduates of the Novi Adult Transition Center, thanks everyone who helped him celebrate with a parade. COURTESY OF GEORGE SIPPLE



Matthew Murphy, the center's other graduate, was also honored in the parade that included Novi Police Officer Kyle Smith and Fire Protection officers Joe Carpenter and Pat Deneau. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Parade

Continued from Page 1A

A similar scene played out at Israel's home just minutes before, with the music of "Pomp and Circumstance" one of the only traditional elements in an increasingly common form of commencement amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Murphy described the parade as "awesome" and Israel said it made him "really happy."

The friends comprise the inaugural graduating class of NATC, which serves students ages 18-26 who have special needs, teaching them life and work skills.

Murphy and Israel are both Novi High School graduates on the autism spectrum who began attending NATC after its inception in 2016.

Beth Murphy tearfully expressed her gratitude to district officials and staff of the program, which she said helped hone her son's focus and reinforced how to follow rules and stay safe at his job cleaning a TJ Maxx store.

He also learned about finances and acquired computer and basic communication skills, and learned how to cook and do laundry so he can live independently one day.

All of this means the world to his mother, who has had occasion to worry about what would happen to him as she and her husband, Michael, age.

"Sometimes you think, 'Gee, I can never die,' but he has the skills and he can do this and he is making friends," she said. "Novi has always been fantastic."

She is thankful for all

his teachers, particularly Sebrina Shields, who she called "amazing" and who Matthew said he would miss, along with "Mr. Joe."

Shields and Joe Pruchnik, NATC resource teachers, were in the parade to congratulate Murphy and Israel and sang their students' praises.

"They're great success stories and set a great example for other kids," Pruchnik said.

Shields said the parade for Murphy and Israel, a different graduation celebration than what would have occurred in a non-pandemic world, still stands as an example of what the district is about: "showing up and showing support" for "wonderful, caring" students.

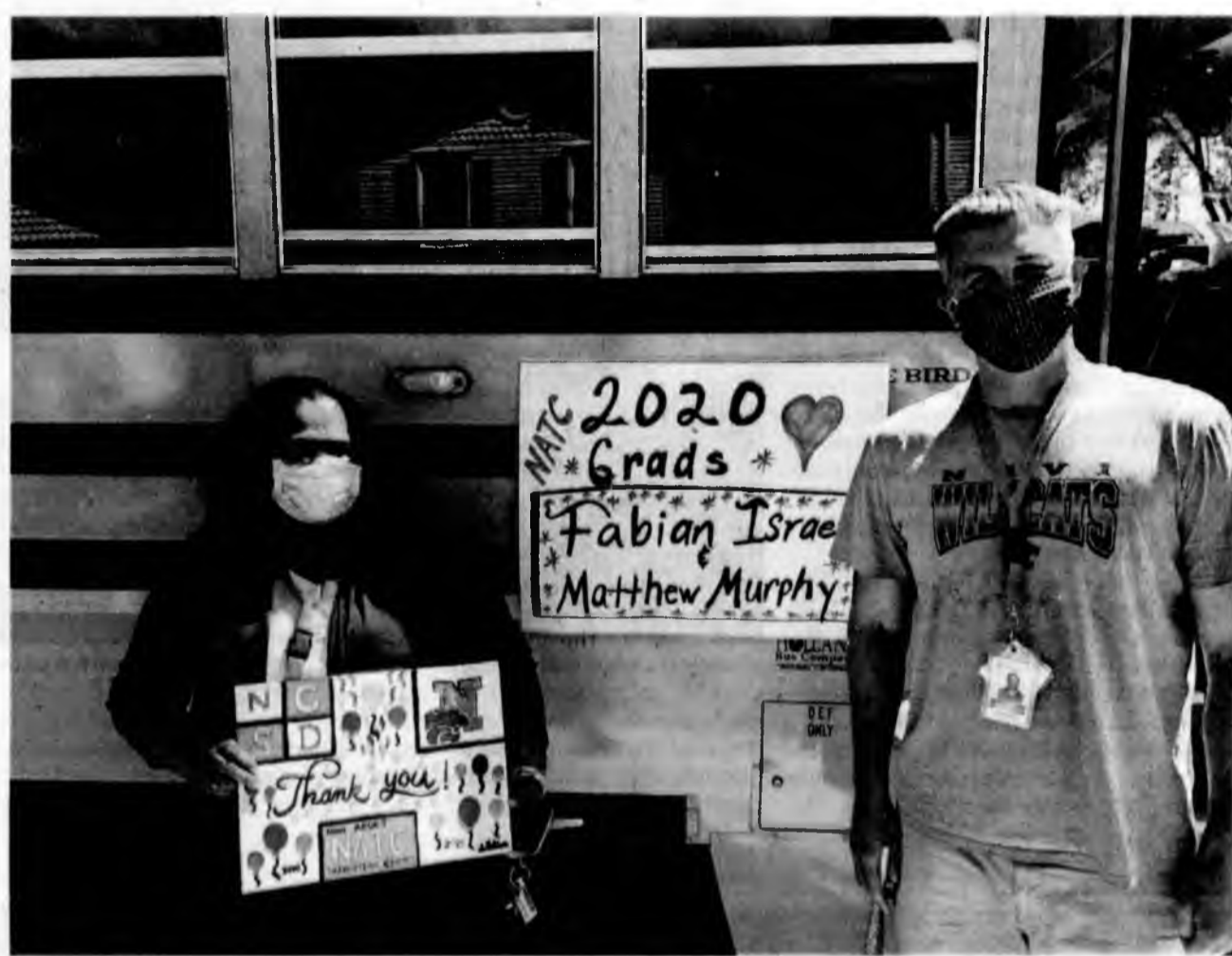
"My hope for them is they continue to be the people they are and enrich the world with the skills they've gained," Shields said.

Israel's parents, Josephine and Albert Israel, are grateful for the support their son has received through NATC and feel blessed to be part of the district.

Fabian Israel sells paintings on commission through the Farber Center Soul Studio, but the life and social skills imparted from NATC are equally valued by the Israels.

Josephine said her son and Matthew Murphy have bowled and played basketball together and been best friends since sixth grade, all without much talking.

"They don't know how to proceed with conversation," she said. "Fabian by nature doesn't know how to talk much, but he is doing better now. ... He's improved a lot and we are really going to



Sebrina Shields and Joe Pruchnik, resource teachers for the Novi Adult Transition Center, join the parade.

miss school. We are so proud of him, each and every day is an improvement."

The parade was icing on a bittersweet graduation cake, a much-appreciated gesture.

"I never saw anything like this, apart from this COVID situation," Josephine said.

Albert agreed, saying the parade "shook us" in a great way after Fabian's initial disappointment that there wouldn't be a traditional party.

"They were the first two graduates from this program, then COVID hit, and Fabian was disappointed it wasn't going to happen, but the district more than made up for that disappointment," Albert said.

"This was an extremely joyous occasion for Fabian and us. ... To be part of the parade in this time of social distancing is really, really touching."

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



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### NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT PTSLU20-0002

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for Florence Cement Company is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit in accordance with 7.6.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporary concrete batch plant for parcel 50-22-15-301-008, North of Grand River Ave and East of Taft Road from July 2, 2020 through November 30, 2020. The property is zoned I-1 (Light Industrial) and the use is contrary to 3.14 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance.

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

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-75, this meeting will tentatively be held remotely over ZOOM at 10:00 a.m. on July 2nd. As Executive Order 2020-75 will expire on June 30th, 2020, please reach out to the Community Development Department on July 1st, 2020 to be apprised of changes to the location of meeting.

#### 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 July 2, 2020 PTSLU20-0002 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
- 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 unmuted 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.

In compliance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-75, as of the date of this notice, City employees are expected to log in to Zoom. However, depending upon whether new or revised Executive Order(s) are issued, there may be members present at City Hall for the meeting.

All written comments should be directed to Katherine Oppermann and must be received prior to July 1st.



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## Restaurant

Continued from Page 1A

Suser — who also owns Sparkies Kitchen and Bar in Highland Township and Union 212 Catering in Milford — purchased The Root in 2018 from Ed Mamou. Suser took over the restaurant, which was the 2012 Detroit Free Press Restaurant of the Year, and continued operating it as The Root until it closed in March due to the coronavirus pandemic. He has taken the time during the closure to move the restaurant in a new direction, including some renovations to make the interior a little brighter and more inviting.

The new name pays homage to Suser's wife's family, who came to the White Lake area in the 1950s and regularly gathered at the table for good food and even better conversation.

"We're trying to go back to those times where it's about togetherness and being around good food and having a good time," he said.

The menu, designed by executive chef Michael Olday, will see a complete transformation, with a focus on Italian cuisine with a twist. Items include arancini, a fried ball of mozzarella and parmesan risotto with a pomodoro sauce; a cauliflower risotto with cauliflower rice, shrimp, peas, roasted mushrooms and creamy parmesan; and a Bianco pizza, topped with olive oil, roasted garlic, gorgonzola, mozzarella, ricotta, parmesan and house-made Italian sausage.

For dessert, the restaurant serves up pistachio cannoli with a touch of citrus and a pistachio cheesecake with a homemade caramel sauce.

"A lot more people are going to be looking for comfort-type food, comfort-type atmospheres through all the pandemic," Olday said. "It just made it easier for us to make a change knowing that people are going to need that comfort instead of that high-dollar, fine dining-type atmosphere."

Once the restaurant is open for table service, some additional items will join the menu, including a Parmesan-crust whitefish.

"We believe that's going to be a pretty big hit for us in the area," Mullins said.

Olday said he hopes to locally source as many ingredients as possible, though several come straight from Italy. He



General manager Matt Mullins, left, owner Steve Suser and executive chef Michael Olday have turned The Root Restaurant and Bar in White Lake Township into Stella's Table, serving urban Italian cuisine. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Arancini, a fried ball of mozzarella and parmesan risotto, with a pomodoro sauce.

stressed the food will be as natural as possible with no high-fructose corn syrup or GMOs.

"It's all good, clean ingredients," he said.

While many things have changed,

Mullins said one major component of The Root has stayed the same: the staff. Nearly all the staff who worked at The Root will return, bringing familiar faces back to the space.

Heightened safety precautions are being made at the new eatery, Mullins said. In addition to having a staff member solely dedicated to cleaning during the restaurant's operating hours, the team plans to integrate a carryout option as a permanent service for any customers who remain uncertain about dining out during the pandemic.

Mullins said it's an exciting time to reopen and introduce a new concept to the White Lake community.

"It's like your first date. You get butterflies, you're excited, you're nervous," he said. "It's amazing."

The restaurant will be open for dinner seven days a week. A full menu can be found at [stellastablemi.com](http://stellastablemi.com).

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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## Rep. Stevens' boyfriend proposes during boat ride

Todd Spangler Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

On June 7, U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, D-Rochester Hills, posted photos on social media of her and her boyfriend on Orchard Lake shortly after he proposed marriage to her the previous evening.

Stevens, 36, said yes.

In the photos, the first-term congresswoman and former chief of staff to President Barack Obama's auto task force is seen with a beaming smile and a stunning sunset in the background.

The ring, by the way, doesn't look bad either — though she didn't immediately offer up any details about it.

"As the sun slipped beneath the hori-

zon on Orchard Lake, Rob proposed and I said yes! Here is to love in all times," Stevens wrote on Twitter, where she posted the pictures.

Stevens' fiancé is 35-year-old Rob Gulley, a software architect at Rightpoint, a firm in Royal Oak. According to her office, they first met at Seaholm High School in Birmingham when they were both students there but they only started dating more recently, having had their first date at the Wintergarden Tavern in Livonia.

Gulley, by the way, has two dogs and he and Stevens spend a lot of time fre-



Stevens

quenting parks and other outdoor sites and campgrounds in and around Michigan.

There was no immediate word, however, on a wedding date, or what dating was like, given social distancing requirements and masks in recent months — though the couple looks none the worse for the experience in the photos.

Stevens flipped a traditionally Republican-held district covering parts of western Wayne and southeastern Oakland counties two years ago after former U.S. Rep. Dave Trott, R-Birmingham, declined to run for a third two-year term. She is running for reelection this year.

## Streets

Continued from Page 1A

"I think it's really critical for the retailers to have the opportunity to spill out and to be more visible in this time and not just the restaurants that are talked about so much, but the retailers as well," said Lori Ward, the Northville Downtown Development Authority director.

Some council members had some concerns over closing off the roads for an extended period and what that would do to the traffic in outlying neighborhoods.

Councilman Sam Ekong said he has talked to many members of the community who have shared thoughts that road closures could mean increased traffic in residential areas.

"I've gotten a lot of calls from folks who live down there," he said. "That's going to be a big onslaught of traffic coming through the city."

Councilwoman Barbara Moroski-Browne said she wanted to make sure any customers walking the streets downtown would be safe from rogue vehicles that could go past any type of barriers blocking the road.

"Safety and the barriers are a big issue for me, just making sure we have a safe pedestrian mall, which is what we're talking about here," she said. "We need to have a good barrier. And that makes it more difficult to move."

City Manager Patrick Sullivan said police vehicles may be placed at the entrance of the downtown to block the space, as well as provide for an easy way for emergency vehicles to gain access to the streets if needed.

Several other communities across the region have explored the idea of closing streets to expand areas for shopping and dining. Having more space allows customers to stay farther apart in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control guidelines to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Livonia and Farmington Hills have relaxed their outdoor seating ordinances. Milford has discussed using outdoor platforms downtown for restaurants to have expanded seating.

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

## Building

Continued from Page 1A

which must be granted from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The proposed height of the one-story building is 52 feet; the current allowable height in that district is 45 feet.

Township Planner Brian Keesey said the height variance would need to be addressed with the fire marshal regarding the fire department's ability to safely perform its duties on the structure in the event of a fire.

Other concerns raised by planning commissioners included landscaping, pathways and sidewalks, but most of the commissioners agreed those were items that could be worked out.

"If the planner and engineer have no problem, I hate to hold up this building for another month," Commissioner and township Treasurer Patty Carcone said. "... I've seen so many things that were supposed to come to this property, Toyota, an amusement park and a Kroger, I could go on and on. ... I don't think there is an issue to hold up the developer for a whole month."

The soonest construction could start would be the end of July if everything is approved, Keesey said.

The project is expected to complete the Walbridge development on all four



Walbridge plans to construct a 280,000-square-foot industrial building at the southwest corner of Grand River and South Hill roads in Lyon Township.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

corners of South Hill and Grand River roads.

Earlier this month, the township board renewed Walbridge's plan for a 95-acre industrial park on the east side of South Hill Road.

Keesey said the Walbridge projects

have been planned for a long time.

"We like to see industrial developments along Grand River," he said.

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

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Supervisor helped subdivision

I would like to send a huge thank you to Salem Township Supervisor Gary Whittaker.

On June 11 the Washtenaw County Road Commission closed the intersection of Seven Mile and Pontiac Trail. Even though it had months to figure out signage they completely dropped the ball.

Logically the road closed barricade should have been at the intersection of Seven Mile and Angle roads allowing people to turn right and go down 7 Mile. Instead a crew put it at the entrance to our subdivision, Wilderness Ponds, where there is no way to detour.

Our road is private and maintained by our homeowner's association and does not have an outlet. Starting early on June 11 we had gravel haulers, dump trucks, tandem trailers, huge motorhomes and all manner of vehicles parading through our sub because it was the only way for them to turn around.

I called the road commission and was told "block the driveway." When I stated there would not be a way for people to turn around, I was told "who cares? If they get stuck they can call a tow truck."

I hung up and called Supervisor Whittaker knowing he had more influence with the road commission than I did. He came over, checked out the barricade situation and within 24 hours had a barricade put up at Angle and 7 Mile which has all but eliminated the extra traffic in our sub.

As the HOA President I am sending a huge thank you and great job done to Salem Township Supervisor Gary Whittaker. We appreciate he took our complaint seriously and acted immediately to fix the problem.

Jo Ann Heyl  
Salem Township

## Refusing federal aid makes no sense

Once again local state Reps. Ryan Berman and Matt Maddock have teamed up to put the screws to Michiganders, all for the sake of scoring political points. Berman and Maddock are among several Republican co-sponsors of HB 0267, Refusal to Accept Federal

Coronavirus Relief. Michigan is looking at an estimated \$6.1 billion revenue shortfall over the next two fiscal years due to the pandemic.

The rainy day fund will only cover about \$1 billion. Why would they short change their own constituents like this? Berman maintains that other states like Illinois and California mismanage their spending, and Michigan uses sound financial management, so Michigan should refuse its share. Huh? What do other states have to do with Michigan?

Shouldn't Berman and Maddock put Michigan first? Isn't that their job and their responsibility? Berman said he would rather use spending cuts rather than try to get back some of the hard earned federal tax money we already send to Washington, D.C.

Roads, education and health care are already underfunded in this state. Where is he going to find \$6.1 billion? Contact your state legislator and urge a vote against this anti-Michigan bill.

Tim Sawmiller  
Commerce

## Keep Northville Twp. leaders

Bob Nix and trustees have restored the Northville Township finances. He and his team are totally dedicated to our priorities and way beyond any political party.

I served on the Planning Commission and chair of the Senior Advisory Board under Township Supervisor Mark Abbo. His lack of financial leadership became very obvious. As supervisor, he directed the purchase of the 7 Mile state hospital property for \$23.5 million. We all paid way too much with many dilapidated buildings. Bob Nix renegotiated the prison property at 5 Mile with the state to capture some of the sale income to demolish the 7 Mile hospital buildings.

While on the planning commission I offered Abbo to drive him to the top of the smelly Salem landfill. He ignored my many offers and ignored the problem in general. Nix and trustees have employed an outside consultant who specializes in landfills, and he is working in concert with the area residents, the DNR and EPA on this issue.

Nix and the outstanding trustee team need to get re-elected to complete the many projects they are doing a great job managing, plus maintain our solid fi-

nances going forward. Bob Nix's leadership with the city and downtown is very important to every Northville resident.

Jim Nield  
Northville

## Response to march upsetting

Above is a screenshot of a tweet (now deleted) by Meshawn Maddock, wife of Matt Maddock, House Rep of the 44th district. My family, along with over 500 others, participated in this event which drew all ages.

Meshawn Maddock, along with her husband Matt and a group of others, congregated outside a Main Street restaurant during a march through Milford June 7. My family, along with over 500 others, participated in this event which drew all ages.

Meshawn Maddock and her group heckled and jeered while she took video on her phone of those who walked in support of Black Lives Matter. She has since deleted the tweet without apology or explanation. What I witnessed was a clear effort to target and instigate young people, some of whom were angered by her booing, thumbs-down and shouts of "Get a job!"

Several took the bait by extending their middle fingers. She seemed pleased to document this. Having participated in this march from start to finish, I can report that it was entirely peaceful. Attended by both young and old, the event was held with the support of the Milford Police Department. All gathered in the name of racial equality and racial justice.

Maddock's tweet attempting to shame young people by calling them "twisted, little, disrespectful brats" was disgraceful. Shaming me and other proud mothers for marching in the name of equality and justice alongside our children was equally egregious. Worse, she enjoys political power as the wife of our representative, a man who has pledged to represent all constituents, including those with whom he may disagree.

This town belongs to all of us, not a select few. Community members with political influence, regardless of party affiliation, are expected to act in an adult manner.

Mindy Denton  
Milford

## Supports Green for state House

Kelly Breen has been an activist in Novi for several years now. She has advocated for the needs of her local community and delivered real solutions during her time on the Novi City Council over the last three years. Kelly is now running to be the next State Representative from the 38th House District to advocate for the entire district.

During her tenure on the Novi City Council, she secured new funding for the Novi Fire Department to replace outdated equipment. She proposed the city's first wildlife study since 1993 to gather information on the effects of overdevelopment in the area. Kelly also championed the city's policy which requires that the city and its contractors not discriminate against the LGBT community.

Kelly knows how to get things done and has the record to prove it.

Kelly is an advocate, a lawyer, a wife and a mother. She is a strong supporter of our public schools and in 2018 lost her bid for the state House by only 588 votes. Our current state representative is term limited and we have a real opportunity to make positive change in our area. I know Kelly is the most experienced candidate and will be a strong voice in Lansing for all of us.

I urge you to request an absentee ballot from your local clerk, and support Kelly Breen in the Aug. 4 primary election.

Karen Zyczynski  
Novi

## Governor showed leadership

When the coronavirus pandemic struck Gov. Gretchen Whitmer took swift and decisive action to protect the people of Michigan. The governor's sheltering-in-place orders vastly decreased the spread of the Covid-19 infection saving many thousands of lives. Long before and during this deadly health crisis she demonstrated responsible reasoned and compassionate leadership.

Gov. Whitmer is one of those leaders.  
Jill Farber-Bramson  
West Bloomfield



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## Gymnast beats cancer, qualifies for states

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

Jessica Huddleston's junior year already was going to be challenging. The Livonia Franklin student decided to move on from club gymnastics and make the switch to the high school squad, Livonia Red, which is comprised

of girls from both Franklin and Churchill high schools. She was worried about the transition and hoped she'd fit in well with her new teammates. She had no idea just how difficult that year would become — and not for any reason related to sports or team chemistry.



**Huddleston**

In January 2019, Huddleston was diagnosed with solid pseudopapillary neoplasm of the pancreas, a cancerous tumor (not pancreatic cancer). It was right in the middle of gymnastics season. It would require surgery to remove the tumor. "Emotionally, it was really difficult at first, but I knew the percentage rate of success for the surgery," Huddleston

said. "I had a really great support group, so that's what helped me." Doctors told Huddleston that they could perform the surgery at the end of January, but she wanted to wait — the state gymnastics competition was scheduled for March 9. "I was still in gymnastics mode so I

See GYMNAST, Page 2B

## Catholic schools return to football practice

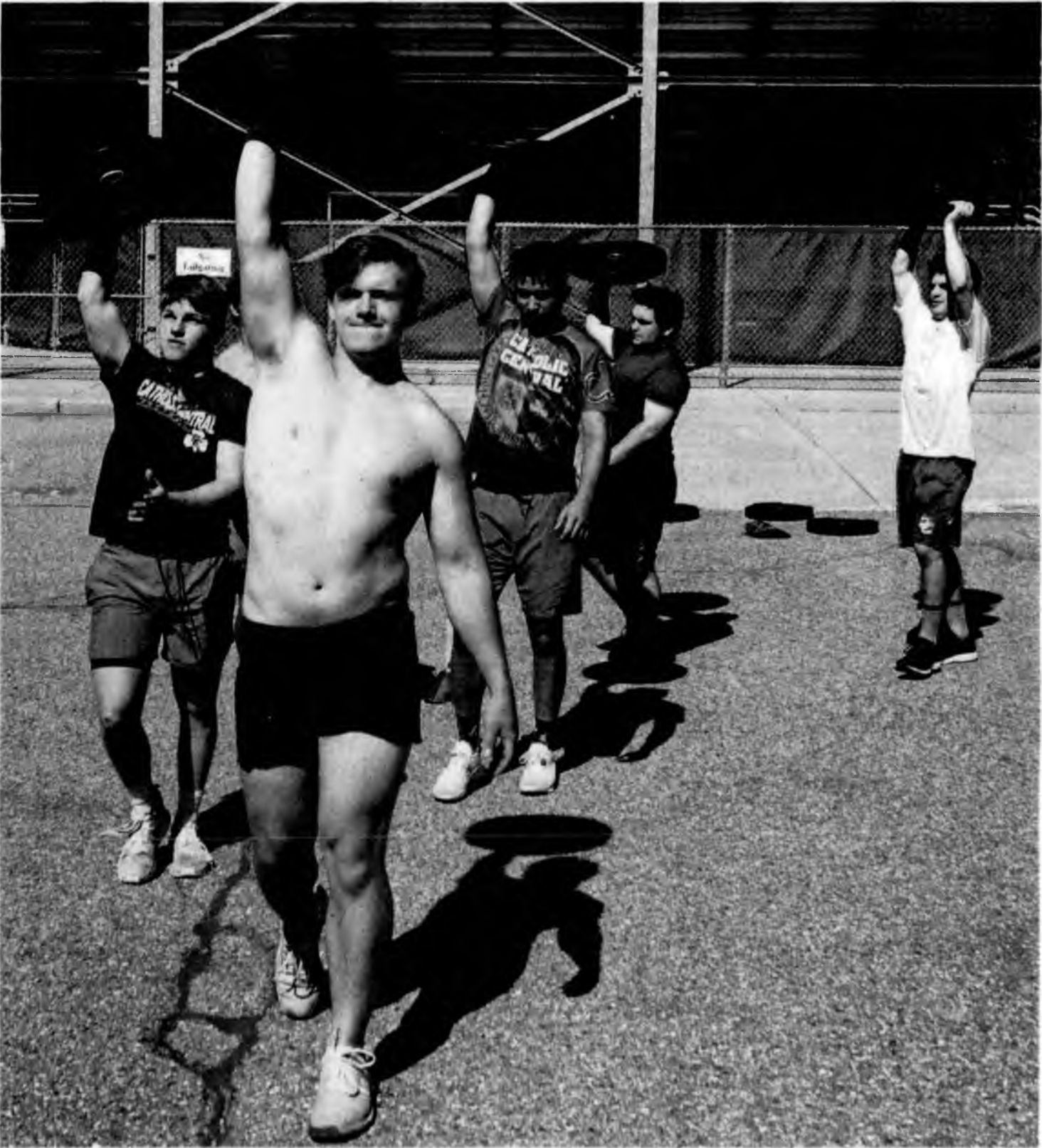
**Colin Gay** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As the Michigan High School Athletic Association implements its plan for the return of high school athletics, many football programs around the state are starting their processes to get back to football, while not being able to play actual football. Here is a look at how two Catholic High School League rivals are preparing for the upcoming football season without pads or contact.

### Making do

As Dan Anderson looked at his football team — separated six feet apart in seven rows between the 10- and 50-yard line of the Detroit Catholic Central football field — he said it was like being like a kid in a candy store. "Words can't describe it," the Shamrocks head coach said. "It's good to be out here with the boys and see the boys working hard." After months of Zoom calls and meetings with his players, the Catholic Central football team returned to the field this week, physically preparing for a season scheduled to start Aug. 27 against Chippewa Valley. But this training looks different than it has in years past. Players are not allowed inside and are using all aspects of the football stadium on the campus in Novi. Student groups of 100 or less will train outside with minimal equipment used, with all coaches present wearing masks. "We have the parking lot as our locker room and every kid has their parking

See PRACTICE, Page 2B



Led by junior Sean Field, center, Shamrock football co-captains and leaders hoist 25-pound weights during a June 15 workout at Detroit Catholic Central's campus. Also pictured are Dan Scott, left, Michael Ramirez, center-right, Danny Turek, Jackson Ewald, far right, and the partially-hidden Sam Dersa. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**"It's good to be out here with the boys and see the boys working hard."**

**Dan Anderson** Head coach, Detroit Catholic Central football, on returning to practice after the MHSAA's ban on sports was lifted

## Madonna brings in recruits for first football team

**Colin Gay** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Madonna University has yet to play its first game. The program will take the field for the first time with only freshmen and red-shirt freshmen players, facing teams

with much older and more experienced players in the same conference. But Brian Foos knew the message that would make high school players interested in his program. The Madonna head coach helped build a college football program from scratch before at Ohio Dominican Uni-

versity and Lindsey Wilson College. He knew the message of being a part of a foundation of something new was not a normal promise for a high school recruit. "When you look back on the things you got to do in your life, you don't have many opportunities to be the first to do

something. That doesn't come along very often," Foos said. "That's a pretty powerful thing to be able to say to them is, 'You are a part of the first team in school history. No one can ever take that away from you.'"

See RECRUITS, Page 5B

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## Gymnast

Continued from Page 1B

was trying to finish the season as strong as I possibly could while thinking about it," Huddleston said. "I had lots and lots of support from my peers around me."

The doctors determined they could wait until March 15 for the surgery, allowing Huddleston to finish out her gymnastics season.

She not only finished the season, she qualified for states and placed fifth in the state in the all-around competition.

"If you were to look at her, or know her or be around her at practice, you would've never known anything," Livonia Red gymnastics coach Mandy Brown said. "Obviously when she first told me we were all devastated."

Also a member of the track team, Huddleston had one thing on her mind after the surgery was complete: she wanted to get back to playing sports. So that's exactly what she did.

Track season was difficult; she lacked energy and had a tough time with endurance and speed because of the strength that she lost. Nevertheless, she pushed through.

As a senior this year, Huddleston was back in the gym and motivated for another trip to the state meet. She was named a captain and was consistently one of the team's highest scorers.

This spring, she finished in first place all-around at regionals, but had her high school career cut short due to the coro-



Jessica Huddleston beat cancer and made the state meet two years in a row. COURTESY OF DANIELLE HUDDLESTON

navirus shutdown. She ended the season on the highest note possible.

Now, Huddleston, a gymnast for 15 years, is headed to Grand Valley State University where she will study criminal

justice and behavioral neuroscience.

"I've just always found the brain fascinating," Huddleston said.

An MRI this month showed she is still cancer free.

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send story ideas to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).



Brother Rice players warm up prior to the start of a recent practice session. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Practice

Continued from Page 1B

space," Anderson said.

With the MHSAA's "return-to-play" phased plan, which started June 2, players are not permitted to perform football drills or practice. And the weight room, usually a key aspect of offseason training, is closed for the immediate future.

Instead, the Shamrocks coaching staff were focusing on conditioning, Anderson's plan of finding a way to "adapt and overcome."

The Catholic Central football captains sent out "captains' workouts" periodically during the stay-at-home periods, encouraging teammates to stay in shape and ready for whenever in-person training began.

"By the looks of the kids, they did it," Anderson said. "They look in good shape right now."

Catholic Central junior quarterback Declan Byle said the limitations are a bit discouraging, but that he is now just focused on the positives of the situation

the Shamrocks are in.

"I'm just grateful we can be out here in June because if you told me two months ago that we would be out here working out in the summer, I might not have believed you," Byle said.

Byle said he thinks the entire state of Michigan is behind in terms of preparation for the upcoming football season. However, with the effort the faculty and coaching staff has put to bringing players back into a safe environment, Byle said the Shamrocks will be ready.

"I think we will be two steps ahead of everyone else," Byle said.

### 'It's not habitual'

When you enter the football field during a practice, there are things that are normal to hear: the sound of a whistle, the bark of a coach yelling, "Don't walk on my field."

However, wearing a Brother Rice boater hat and a mask over his face, head coach Adam Korzeniewski had to continue to repeat messages that brought reality back to those on the football field.

"Space out," he repeated to coaches and players alike. "It's not what we have been known to do."

Along with the message imploring social distancing, Korzeniewski reminded players and coaches to wipe down equipment and sanitize weights and dumbbells before someone else touches it with spray bottles and paper towels accessible on the sideline.

Korzeniewski described himself as the "watchdog," urging his staff and team to keep these things at the back of their mind.

"It's not habitual," Korzeniewski said. "It's not the first thing they think about when they are here. I feel bad for them."

For the most part, though, the Brother Rice head coach saw excitement in the eyes of his players. He said that the program had 90 players show up to its first practice walk-through Thursday, saying that many have been diligent in the workouts provided by the staff, and look to be in shape heading into these first practices.

Warriors senior safety and wide receiver Rocco Milia knows this practice looks nothing like the training camps he

has been a part of before. But he is excited to start the process back to football.

"It feels amazing," Milia said. "I'm just glad to be back with my teammates and coaches. It's good to see everyone again. It's been a long three months."

While football is not allowed on the field, Korzeniewski has tried to maximize the football opportunities, using Zoom meetings for installation of the playbook.

But the head coach realizes that it's just not the same as it normally would be at this time.

In these first practices ahead of the 2020 season, Korzeniewski said he, his staff and his players have to accept that as reality.

"Relative to the world we are operating in, we feel fine with it. We are good," Korzeniewski said. "I don't know if I would say I am satisfied because I'm used to being here, and I'm only here. But I'm constantly reminding myself and our coaches that we are not going to be where we were in years before at this point. And everyone is in that position."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com).

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Brian Clark, right, joins his wife and his sister-in-law in Plymouth on June 3 to protest racism and police brutality. PHOTOS BY COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Hundreds join Black Lives Matter protest in Plymouth

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

When Morgan Stephens, a 20-year-old Central Michigan University senior, approached the Plymouth Police Department about a Black Lives Matter protest at Kellogg Park, right in the middle of her hometown, she said only to expect 30 people.

On the day of the June 3 event, she raised that number to 70.

More than 500 people from around the metro Detroit area flocked to Kellogg Park to raise awareness and peacefully protest police brutality and racism in response to the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis May 25.

With protesters holding signs that read "No lives matter until black

lives matter," and "I refuse to be silent," chanting "No justice, no peace" and marching around downtown Plymouth, protests have continued for weeks across metro Detroit and the country.

And while Plymouth had seen its share of demonstrations and protests in Kellogg Park in its history, Mayor Oliver Wolcott said this one feels different.

"It's powerful," Wolcott said. "I think it's galvanized people of all backgrounds, all races and really all ages. I commend the organizers of this group: it was done peacefully, it was organized, it had a message and, hopefully, people across the country are listening and part of the larger conversation."

While many came to protest the same cause, different people had different paths to downtown Plymouth that day.

Here are three of their stories.

### 'Am I next?'

Brian Clark has never lived in Detroit.

The South Lyon resident said he grew up in an all-white neighborhood and went to school primarily with white people.

"I remember being young and learning about civil rights," Clark said. "I said, 'Man, if I was alive during that time, I would march with Dr. King, I would have sat with Rosa Parks.' But here I am, still facing the same issues, and I have nothing. I have not allocated my time, my money or my resources, or even my skill set, making a difference."

With all of the racial protests occurring in a city 30 minutes away — a city that he does not frequent very often, he said — Clark said his biggest inspiration for protesting the young people, specifically his niece.

"She had been posting things that I had been afraid to say my whole life," Clark said.



Protesters observe a moment of silence with their fists raised to honor the death of George Floyd.

When he saw the young people going out and make a difference, Clark said he could not just sit back and watch.

Carrying a sign that said 'Am I next?' along with odes to Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement, Clark marched with his wife and her sister, continuing the example that those younger than him set.

"I've allowed myself so many times in my life to believe it couldn't happen to me because I'm educated, I speak a certain way, if I get pulled over, it's going be 'Yes sir, No sir' — my objective is to go home," Clark said.

"Am I next?" makes it real to me."

### Next steps

John Nemick has lived in the Plymouth area for more than 40 years. He has seen his share of rallies and people congregating in Kellogg Park.

But to him, it was

nothing like this.

"This is people walking and doing something for a good cause, and it's good to see that the community turns out like this," Nemick said.

Watching signs referencing white privilege, Nemick, a white man, said Plymouth is the kind of town being referred to.

"You know, the clock tower in the middle of town, the small-town feel, the nice restaurants," Nemick said. "And it's not that it's our fault. It doesn't have to be your fault to want to change how the system operates."

Nemick said he is hopeful, watching as the protests stretch from cities to suburbs, hoping that with this, progress will be initiated.

However, he said it will take more than standing or marching. It will have to take action from those outside of the black community.

"It's the job of people that look like you and me

to do something about this so that people who don't look like you and me can, because unfortunately, their voice isn't heard," Nemick said.

### Feeling fulfilled

Morgan Stephens grew up in Plymouth-Canton. She went to Canton High School.

But she said, at times, she did not feel at home because of her skin color.

"People looking at you like you don't belong," Stephens said. "It just sucks to go out in your own hometown and have people look at you like you are not a human."

"I get that more in Canton than if I went to Detroit."

That is part of the reason why she set up the protest in the middle of downtown Plymouth: to give herself a voice she did not feel she had in a predominantly white community growing up.

Heading into the pro-

test, Stephens said she hopes she would help develop awareness, helping people in the community to speak out and to ignite change.

"I want people in Plymouth-Canton to know things happen outside of Plymouth and Canton," Stephens said.

As the chanting and the raising of signs continued near the fountain in the middle of the park, Stephens found herself near the back as people began to disperse. She said she was pleasantly surprised by the turnout, well exceeding the 30-70 people she expected to come in the first place.

More than that, Stephens felt she had started something in her hometown.

"I feel full," she said after the protest. "I feel like I fulfilled something."

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

## Obituaries



George E. Mounsey

**OWOSSO** - George E. Mounsey, age 82 of Owosso, passed away peacefully on May 21, 2020. Surviving is his wife of 34 years, Jacquelyn Mounsey, and a wonderful blended family of children & grandchildren. He was predeceased by a special angel. Cremation has taken place. To sign online guestbook, visit [www.cremationsociety-midmi.com](http://www.cremationsociety-midmi.com)

# CC senior places 8th in statewide tourney with dad as caddie

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

Detroit Catholic Central senior Connor Krzywiecki got an opportunity to close out his high school career in style.

The Diamond Springs Golf Course in Hamilton hosted the Diamond Springs Junior Open welcoming 97 high school golfers from around Michigan for a two-day tournament. The golfers were able

to have a caddie for the event. Krzywiecki knew exactly who he wanted walking alongside him: his dad.

Krzywiecki placed eighth overall with a score of 9-over on the par 72 course. He shot a 76 on Saturday and a 77 on Sunday.

"I think that's what made it one of my favorite tournaments, was having my dad by my side," Krzywiecki said.

Krzywiecki, who lives in Brighton,

grew up playing golf but gave up the sport around age 10 to continue playing baseball.

He played baseball until his junior year, when he was cut from varsity. He opted to try out for the CC golf team with a friend on just three days notice.

It turns out that changing sports was a blessing in disguise.

Krzywiecki will be attending Albion College this fall on a golf scholarship.



Connor Krzywiecki and his father, Keith. COURTESY OF KEITH KRZYWIECKI

## Recruits

Continued from Page 1B

And while the start may have been pushed back to at least Sept. 12 due to the coronavirus, that message reached players from metro Detroit to around the country, filling a roster of unknown and untapped potential ahead of the first season.

### Starting in the home state

Despite not knowing the Detroit area at all prior to taking the job at Madonna, Foos knew that in this type of city — like Columbus, Ohio, when he was with the Panthers as a graduate assistant — you are going to find good football.

But finding a good football player was not the main issue. It was finding the right player for the program, one who is active and representing the Crusaders positively both on and off the field.

"We want the total person, not just the guy that can go out on Saturdays and make everyone feel warm and fuzzy about what they did," Foos said.

So Foos and the rest of his coaching staff started to visit schools in the area to find that total package.

Churchill football head coach Bill DeFillipo remembers the Madonna head coach stopping by practices during the program's first redshirt season, starting to build relationships with local players and coaches.

Caleb Baker, a senior offensive lineman at South Lyon, remembers Madonna's first presentation to his team.

"It's a first year, so you can leave your legacy. You can start there. You can build something," Baker said the message was from Madonna defensive line coach Jonathan Black. "I was like, 'Wow, that's very interesting.' You can be the first — that was one of their mottos: 'Be the first.'"

Baker said his head coach at South Lyon, Jeff Henson, reminded the team that this was how the Lions won their games: as a team, not exactly based on the talent on the sideline.

With this, Madonna football felt fa-

miliar to Baker. It felt like home.

He, along with 2020 South Lyon tight end Darien Maynarich, committed to Madonna soon after, committing to something new.

### Branching out

Like Foos, Jayden Henderson did not know anything about Madonna University.

The offensive lineman from Cypress Lakes High School in Katy, Texas, a suburb of Houston, had posted his highlight reel on the Next College Student Athlete website, and got a call from the staff during his seventh period class.

Foos said this is one of the many ways he and his staff found talent outside state lines for his program.

"I have to give credit to the staff on that," Foos said. "They find guys on Twitter, reach out (to them) on email, whatever it is, and they follow up with them, do FaceTime calls, do whatever we need to do to make them comfortable."

When talking to the coaching staff, distance was not the main priority for Henderson. Actually, it was something in favor of the Crusaders.

"I kind of always wanted to (move across the country) just to experience somewhere outside of Texas," Henderson said.

Henderson was more focused on how he would fit into the offense, and what kind of look Madonna would be given.

When he found out Madonna would run a spread offense similar to what he ran at Cypress Lakes, he was all in, committing to Madonna prior to National Signing Day on Feb. 5.

Henderson was one of four out-of-state signees that day, including Khi Ulrich from Toledo, Ohio, Gunner Golden from Fremont, Ohio, and Jacob Zafarano from Las Vegas.

As he moves across the country to play college football, Henderson is ready for whatever lay ahead of him, coming in with a level of confidence after playing four years of Texas high school football.

"I'm kind of going in blind right now," Henderson said. "I don't really have any

expectations. I was told that there would be a bunch of competition. Being a first-year program, everyone has a chance to fight for a starting spot."

### Learning period

Members of 2020 class are not the only ones fighting for a starting spot at Madonna prior to its program-opening game. Members of 2019 class that were a part of the redshirt season have been waiting their turn to earn their spot.

Anthony Reaves, a quarterback-turned-wide receiver, who graduated from Farmington in 2019, has a similar story to many in the upcoming class.

"The way that (Madonna) approached me, it was a real good way to approach someone that you don't know," Reaves said. "It was very friendly, a lot of promising things. They were offering more than a lot of other schools."

Reaves said the Madonna coaching staff promised him equal opportunity to earn a starting spot, along with scholarship money. The aspect of a redshirt season also appealed to the former quarterback, saying he did not want to jump right into college football without any experience.

However, that redshirt season proved to be different than expected for Reaves. The Crusaders did not put pads on during the fall, barely touching a football and focusing on conditioning.

It was also different for a freshman to not have some sort of leadership to follow on the team itself.

"We didn't have that older figure to show, 'This is how you do things,'" Reaves said. "We had to really learn and figure out on our own. It was more of a learning process."

Reaves and the other members of the 2019 class have not had much football experience with Madonna after the cancellation of spring ball due to COVID-19. Reaves said he has not had a chance to look at the playbook or get an in-depth look at what offense the Crusaders will run in 2020.

"I expect a lot of learning," Reaves said. "I'm still learning a lot. I still have a lot to learn about myself and about me

with football."

### Expectations remain unknown

Whether it's a coach, a player or a member of the 2020 recruiting class, all agree that Madonna football has potential.

The unknown is whether or not that potential will show up in that first season.

Madonna athletic director Scott Kennell said the university has seen startup programs find success quickly after they had started. However, with football, his focus is more on the long-term build.

"You get through your first recruiting class after four years, and that's when it starts to transpire a lot more because those players, those student-athletes that come in those first four years are setting the foundation for success," Kennell said. "They are laying everything to make everything possible for those student-athletes."

As a high school coach, DeFillipo knows what it is like to build up a program, and in those first few games, maybe even the first season, he expects to see Madonna struggle a bit.

"If you are playing schools that have kids that are up to their fifth year of college football and you have a bunch of first and second-year guys, usually you expect to maybe take a few lumps or two until you get older and get a full roster," DeFillipo said.

Reaves knows it will be a transition, already focused on the first game, saying that, "It's not a high school game anymore."

But Baker feels that when he steps onto the field for the first time, a field he had played on at the high school level, Madonna will be ready to shock the Livonia area.

"It's funny because I kind of do," Baker said when asked if he expects success from the start. "Even though I have not personally met some of the guys — I've seen a couple of pictures — it looks like we have a mean bunch of dudes."

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

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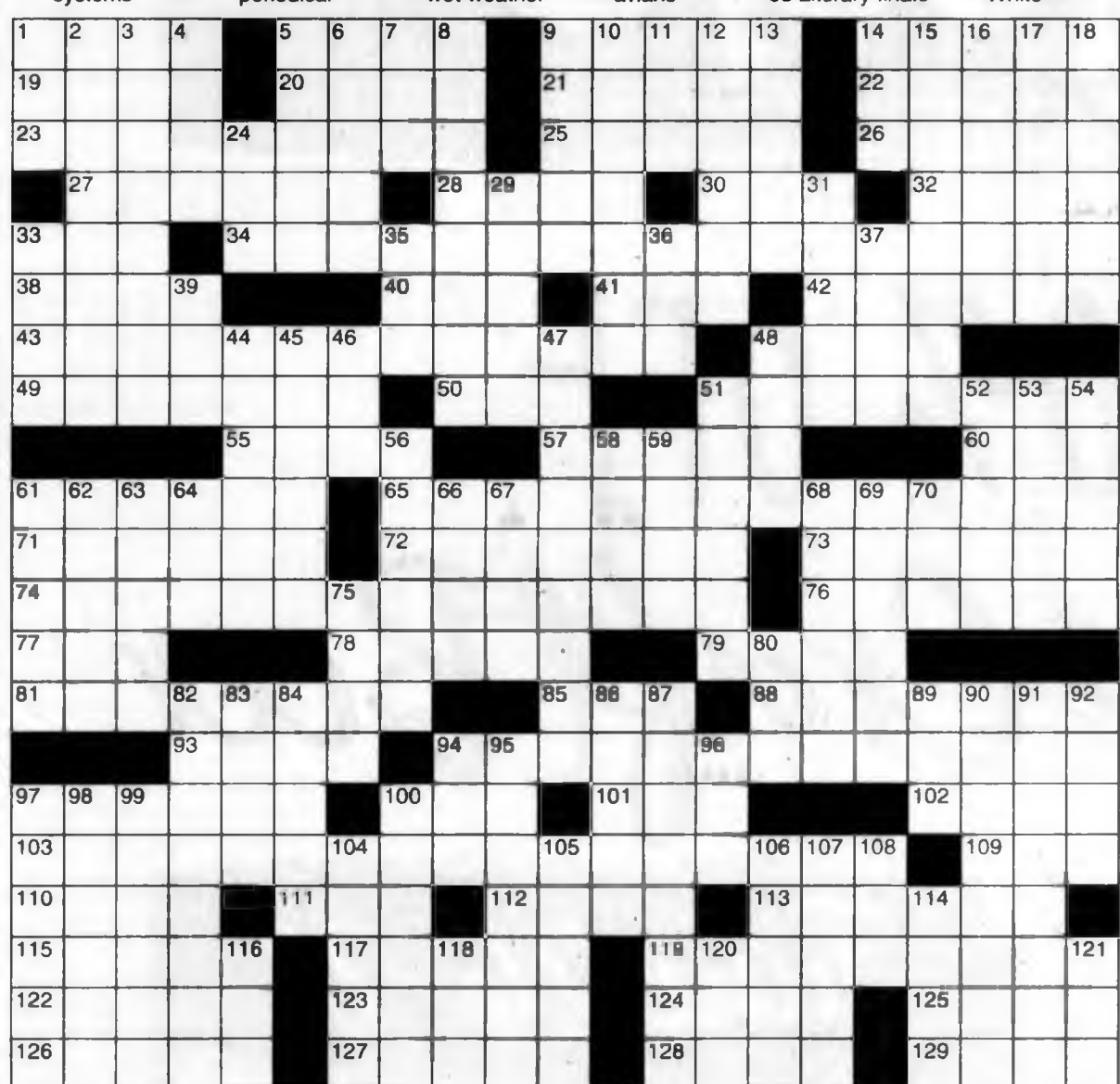
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110 TV's Swenson  
111 Lead-in to nuptial  
112 — Field (Mets' home)  
113 Language of Libya  
115 Really militant sort  
117 Claims  
119 Option lists that might include the starts of seven answers in this puzzle
- 120 Plant stem  
123 River to the Rio Grande  
124 Many 4WD autos  
125 "Quo Vadis" emperor  
126 Weight allowances  
127 Like white, wet weather

### DOWN

- 1 Colts' and Broncos' gp.  
2 Light bulb wire  
3 Day's end, poetically  
4 Not potent  
5 Olympic skiing champ  
6 Actor Ryan  
7 Ortiz of the screen  
8 Mattress supporter  
9 Metal-industry giant  
10 Illegal booze  
11 Tavern  
12 Anxiety-free  
13 SeaWorld whale, once  
14 Counterpart to trans-  
15 At no cost, slangily  
16 Emotion-hiding types  
17 Group beliefs  
18 Milano of "Mistresses"  
24 "Cool, dude!"  
29 "I wanna!"  
31 Foppish scarf  
33 Australian avians
- 35 Roush of baseball  
36 Soap ingredient  
37 Addition sign  
39 Neither here — there  
44 Join forces  
45 TV doctor  
46 Immigrant's course; Abbr.  
47 Pneumatic engines  
48 Hugh Finn's polite assent  
51 Reactions to corny puns  
52 Refrigerator brand  
53 Christina of "Cursed"  
54 Stolen  
56 Enterprise engineer  
58 Caesar's "I came"  
59 This, in Peru  
61 East Asian gambling mecca  
62 States openly  
63 Old-time lawyer and senator  
64 At least one  
66 Les — et les autres (both, in French)  
67 Gumshoes  
68 Literary finale
- 69 California wine county  
70 Adore, on a candy heart  
75 Lubricants  
80 A Gershwin  
82 Not too hard to get around  
83 Designer  
84 Make excited  
86 Ready to hit the baseball  
87 Most tired  
89 Israeli gun  
90 Cosmetic accentuating the kisser  
91 Not behind a firewall, say  
92 Ovule, e.g.  
94 Oom- —  
95 Parloak of humble pie  
96 Miffed  
97 It hasn't been seen before  
98 Fiesta target  
99 Bergman of film  
100 Rocker Tyler  
104 Snares  
105 Type of fit  
106 Forgo  
107 — crafts  
108 Holiday tuber  
114 Bowled  
116 Green-lights  
118 — friendly  
120 "Obviously!"  
121 Chicago White —



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

## SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level ★★

6/18

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!

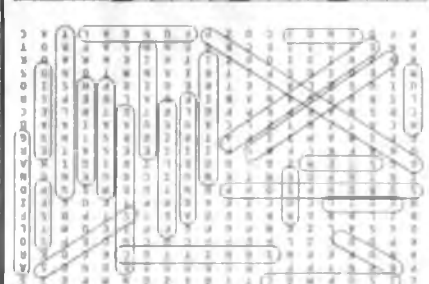
## ROSE GARDEN WORD SEARCH

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

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

### WORDS

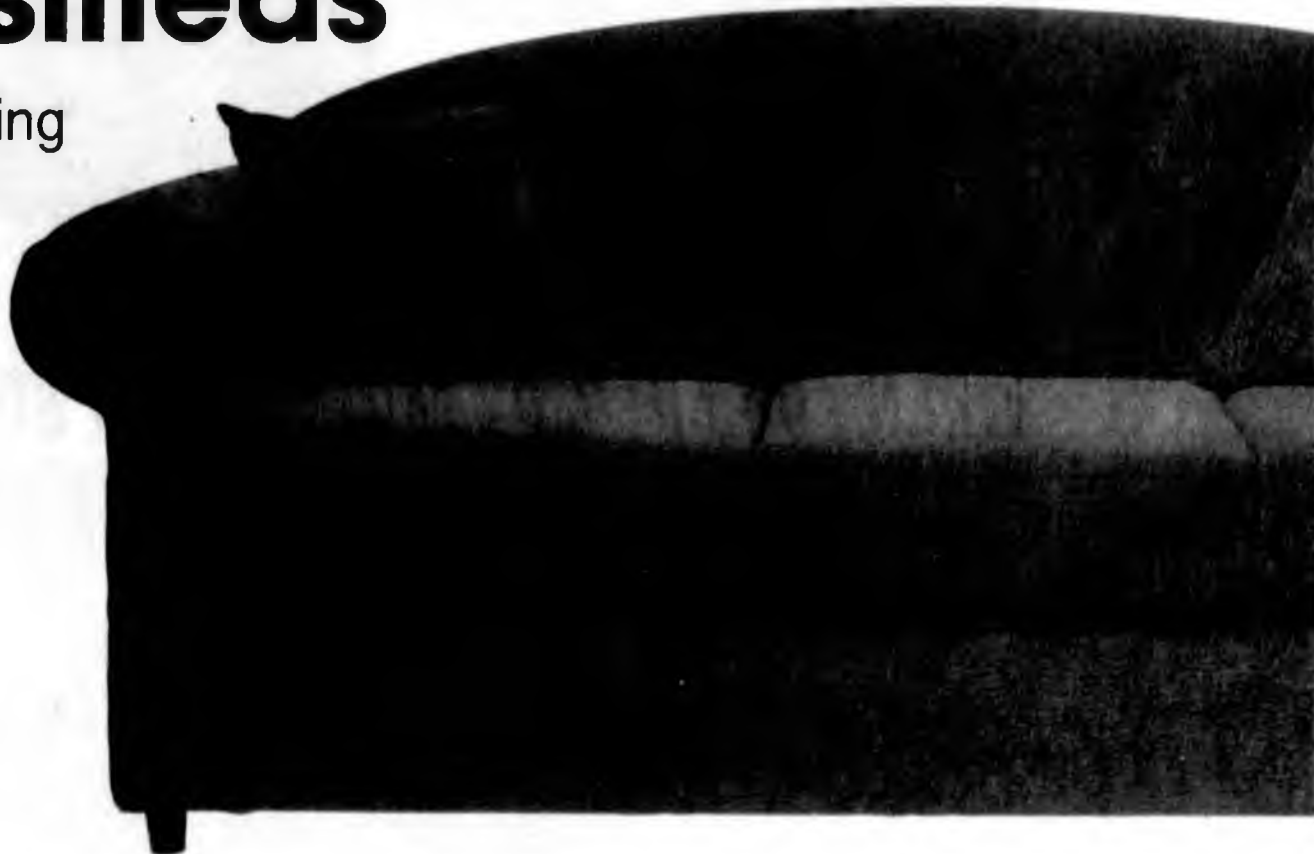
ALKALINE  
BARE ROOT STOCK  
BUD  
COMPOST  
CUTTINGS  
DISEASE  
FERTILIZER  
FLORIBUNDA  
FUNGAL  
GRANDIFLORA  
HERITAGE  
IRRIGATION  
MINIATURE  
MULCH  
NITROGEN  
PESTS  
PHOSPHORUS  
POTASSIUM  
PROPAGATING  
ROSE  
SEEDS  
SOIL  
STEM  
TRANSPLANTING  
ZONE



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

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