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NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



South Lyon wrestlers perform at state

SPORTS, 1B

Schools refuse Whitmer's request to close

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Local districts are taking a hard pass on the governor's request to shut down high school buildings and sports as COVID-19 cases surge across the region.

Novi, Huron Valley, and South Lyon will continue in-person learning and

athletics despite Gov. Gretchen Whitmer urging them to pause both for two weeks.

Novi Superintendent Steve Matthews said if the rise in COVID-19 cases is an emergency, then state and county health officials should mandate closing schools rather than asking for districts to do it voluntarily.

"We don't believe that schools are a significant cause of the spread of COVID-19," Matthews said. "If this is an emergency, the state needs to take the lead and tell us to close down."

Huron Valley Superintendent Paul Salah agreed, noting he is not an epidemiologist and he depends on health officials to say whether schools are safe to

be open.

"If there is a public health issue here at play, either directly linked to athletics or high school operations, then we should be required to pause, not encouraged," Salah said. "That is not our area of expertise, that is the area of

See SCHOOLS, Page 2A



Some of the ongoing retail development at the northwest corner of Five Mile and Beck. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

More drive-up options pitched at Northville Twp. development

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Additional changes that appear to stem from changes in the way business is conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic are planned for the Village at Northville shopping center at Five Mile and Beck roads in Northville Township.

A few modifications to the plans on the northwest corner of the intersection include eliminating a larger, single restaurant building on the northern part of the project and replacing it with two

separate buildings, including one that would house a drive-thru.

In addition to those changes, a drive-up window is also planned for an eatery on the southern portion of the property, a change from the original plans.

Part of the changes to the plan, said petitioner John Ackerman, is the changing landscape with food service and restaurants. With more people opting to pick up items with less contact, the plans better reflect what customers require in a COVID-19 world, especially with "drive-up" window on the south

side of the property.

"Based on what's happened in the last year, a lot more people are more comfortable just picking up their food than dining in," he said. "The restaurant does not want to do a full-service drive-thru; they just want some place where the cars can just drive up, pick up their food out of a window versus having to have their staff walk out curbside and drop the food off in the car."

See OPTIONS, Page 2A

Lyon family adjusts to life months after plane crash

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Spring 2021 is like no other for the young Mudzwova family.

Instead of planting seeds and watching them take root in their Lyon Township garden, they're moving forward with plans to raze their ruined Dakota Drive domicile.

They want the claws of construction equipment to rip at every sooty, melted or burnt residual reminding them of Jan. 2, the day a plane crashed into their home of nearly a decade, killing a Northville family of three.

From their original basement foundation, they'll rebuild. The long-term project won't come easy.

"It's very stressful," Danielle Mudzwova said. "When you think about building a house, it's usually something that you've been preparing for. You're excited. You've got all these ideas and images and, you know, you're going to have fun with it."

"Building was always an option for us, but that's like five to 10 years down the road. I don't want to think about it right now. I feel like I don't have any energy to give to it at this point. We're being forced to go through it."

A loud plane

The holidays were barely over when Seraphina, 4, and Nyasha, 2, came downstairs from an afternoon nap.

Along with their parents Pride and Danielle, they prepared to cuddle up in the living room to watch "Shrek 2". They had already seen the first fable about the grumpy ogre who falls in love with a princess.

"We were sitting there trying to find the movie and it happened," Danielle

See FAMILY, Page 6A

Investors quietly buy 80-acre Milford property for \$1.6M

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was all kept quiet and vague, but with the pandemic as a distraction, two investors bought a controversial Milford property for \$1.6 million.

Matt McConnell and his business partner Mark Wilkie formed Vague En-

terprises, LLC last fall in order to purchase four parcels of property totaling 80 acres at 930 Weaver Road. The property includes a 10-acre piece with the historic Stricker home, built circa 1860.

McConnell's wife, Melissa McConnell, is the Coldwell Banker Town & Country realtor who had listed the property for the Stricker family in 2019 at a

price of \$2.1 million.

"It's been pretty hush-hush. Everyone was focused on taking care of themselves, and I've been focused on my family," Melissa McConnell said, confirming the sale. "It's a great piece and the purchase was exciting. My husband and his partner, they fell in love with it. They've never owned property like this

before, especially in Milford."

McConnell said she fielded several offers for the property, which was on the market for nearly two years. A developer was interested in building 121 homes on the property north of Muir Middle School but after the township planning

See PROPERTY, Page 4A

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Check 401(k), bank, mutual fund statements for accuracy



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

The other day I received a call from a client who explained that he was having a problem with his Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP).

Based upon his transaction report, he noticed a variety of unauthorized transactions on his MESP account. He also explained to me the frustration he was having in dealing with the MESP to get the situation corrected. Despite his persistence, he was running into roadblocks.

The purpose of this column is not to pick on the MESP because I still think it is a great program. In fact, the client himself still likes the MESP. However, your attitudes toward an investment are not material at this

point. What is material is the importance of reviewing financial statements, no matter who they come from.

Whenever you receive a financial statement, whether it is from a 401(k), a mutual fund or your bank, you need to review it for accuracy. Financial companies are not immune to mistakes. It is our obligation to review all financial statements for accuracy.

To start, when you receive a statement from your 401(k) Plan, make sure that the beginning balance is the same as your last statement's ending balance. In addition, you should review all your new deposits to ensure they have been properly accounted for and that any withdrawals are ones that you authorized. Furthermore, always review charges and fees. Be sure these fees are appropriate and, where possible, try to have them waived.

Generally, when people review their statements and find a mistake, they assume that it must be their mistake as opposed to the bank or financial institution. Never make that assumption. Whether it is a

computer glitch or human error, mistakes do happen, and they happen more often than you think.

In addition to identifying mistakes, reviewing your statements provides another opportunity to ensure there is no misconduct by your broker or brokerage house. By reviewing your statements, you'll be able to identify if there were any unauthorized transactions or other irregularities on your account.

If you do find an error, contact the company that issued your statement immediately. Be sure to keep notes of whom you spoke with and the conversation in general. If that does not resolve the issue, then for example, if it's a brokerage statement, it's appropriate to send a letter or email to the branch manager. If the manager does not resolve your issue, you should never hesitate to contact government regulators.

My client was smart enough to review his statements and be proactive and persistent when he identified a mistake. I hope you follow in his footsteps.

Good luck.

Options

Continued from Page 1A

Still finalizing tenants

The development is one that's been years in the making. Formerly the site of the state-run Robert Scott Correctional Facility, plans to redevelop several aspects of the site have worked their way through the township government for years. Currently on the property are several shops, including a Five Guys Burger and Fries and a Verizon Wireless shop. A hotel is

also under construction, and plenty of residential properties are located on the western portion of the property.

Plans to try and bring a higher-end grocer to the site have also slowed, Ackerman said, but his hope is something will be able to locate in that space.

"They have courted a tremendous amount of grocers," he said. "You name a high-end grocer, they have discussed this site. At some point, the hope is one of them will see the need to come in. We just have to wait out the current economy and current market to get to that point."

Some of the potential businesses planned for the site include Starbucks, which Ackerman said would occupy the new drive-thru lane on the site, as well as potentially First Watch. Ackerman said the breakfast-and-lunch restaurant turned down locating in a building on the south side of the development, citing the noisy traffic, though he said developers were still seeking a deal to bring the restaurant to the northern end of the property to the building encompassing 3,500 square feet.

He declined to mention exactly which business

would locate in the southern building of the development with the drive-up window, though said it would serve fast-casual Mexican food. He said similar lanes would be proposed elsewhere.

Planning commissioner Matthew Wilk said he was concerned over such a plan and whether or not such a model would be sustainable in the future if the drive-up lane isn't used as often.

"There's an argument that they could be permanent, there's an argument also that they could be very, very temporary," he said. "At the end of the day, it looks to me like it's 10 spaces in exchange for that, and that's probably something that, if a future tenant came in and decided, 'We don't really need that, we need some more parking close to our door,' there's probably the availability to reverse that at a relatively low cost."

The planning commission voted to recommend approval of the changes to the planned unit development during its March 23 meeting, sending the issue to the township board of trustees for its review and final determination.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.

hometownlife.com

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Schools

Continued from Page 1A

expertise of public health officials."

Both Huron Valley and Novi are at five days per week in-person instruction after starting the school year in a two days per week hybrid plan. South Lyon is in school 4-days per week after starting the year remote for all students. All three school districts also offer a fully virtual school option.

South Lyon Superintendent Steve Archibald said students at both high schools in the district would return from spring break to in-person learning this week and there will be no pause in athletics.

In his letter to families, Archibald said after testing at the beginning of the week, students would be given the option on April 15-16 to attend remotely or in-person "out of an abundance of caution."

"We will continue to monitor our district case data throughout the week and make any further adjustments as necessary," he added.

Students in Huron Valley and Novi returned from spring break last week and as of April 9, Salah said 35 Huron Valley students were positive for COVID-19 with 45 students districtwide quarantined.

Matthews said 75 Novi High School students were in quarantine as of April 9, either because they had tested positive for COVID-19 or had been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive person.

Matthews said about 20% of the student population would have to be in quarantine before the district would consider closing a building for in-person learning. At that point, "we would say schools are part of the spread."

Salah was reluctant to put a threshold on when

the district might consider pausing in-person learning, but said if a building saw 10-11 positive COVID-19 cases with resulting quarantines of 100-150 students, "it could precipitate a call to the health department."

Vaccinations of teachers, meanwhile, had improved the number of staff quarantines and operational concerns "tremendously," and are keeping Salah optimistic about the future. About 80% of Huron Valley wanted and have obtained the vaccine, with only one or two staff members quarantining since.

All districts will continue with sporting events as planned.

Matthews said the district has been testing hundreds of athletes per week with only two testing positive for COVID-19 as a result.

While Matthews said there is "no doubt" COVID-19 is spreading in the community with num-

bers that are "concerning" he plans to continue what he considers successful mitigation strategies including masking and hand-washing.

Salah is also urging parents to be hyper-vigilant and to keep kids home if they are showing any symptoms.

Matthews noted there are only nine weeks of school before summer break and the district is working hard to get to the finish line and keep students engaged, a tough job in normal school years that is made tougher now with kids wondering where they may learn.

"We're running out of steam here, and it has just become a very frustrating school year," Matthews said. "It's been hard all year long, I think we've done a great job, the teachers are tremendous. We want to keep kids in school."

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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on May 5, 2021 at 7:00p.m. to receive public input on the following request in regard to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance:

- To consider a variance request on premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District on property located at 410 East St., Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48 002 01 0581 001. The applicant is seeking a variance to construct a new residence in the front yard setback. The variance needed is 3.917 feet from the front yard requirement in Sections 3.04 and 15.01.
- To consider a variance request on premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District on property located at 438 Eaton Dr., Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48 005 03 0001 000. The applicant is seeking a variance to construct a new garage in the same location as an existing garage, which is proposed to be demolished. The location of the new garage is proposed at 2.5-feet off of the side lot line. A 2.5-foot side yard variance is needed to permit a new garage in the same location as the existing garage. The variance is from the requirements of Section 18.04.

Meeting Location and Participation

The meeting will be held via video conference as allowed by City Council's Local State of Emergency Declaration due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. 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. The following is a link to attend the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85712615949>. US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799. Webinar ID: 857 1261 5949

Those needing assistance or accommodations should contact the City Manager's office at 248-449-9905. Log in instructions, information about electronic meetings, and a user guide can be found at: <https://www.ci.northville.mi.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=11895963&pageId=13505469#zoning>. OR from the main Home page, click on the Government tab, Agendas and Minutes, and scroll to the Board of Zoning Appeals section of the webpage.

Application Review and Written Comments

The variance application is available for review at www.ci.northville.mi.us. From the Home Page, click Services, Building and Planning, Board of Zoning Appeals.

Written comments to the BZA pertaining to the proposed variance request must be submitted by 4:30pm May 4, 2021 to City of Northville Municipal Building, City Clerk, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, or use the City Hall drop box, or emailed to dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us.

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Published April 15, 2021



Daniel Lee, a Novi High School junior, plays baritone euphonium while wearing a modified mask and staying socially distanced during band class in October.

SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Novi woman dies in early Monday condo fire

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Novi woman and her two small dogs died in an early morning condo fire along East Glen Haven Circle.

Fire Chief Jeff Johnson said firefighters went to the Country Place Condominiums northwest of Meadowbrook and Eight Mile roads after a 911 call was made at 2:06 a.m. on April 5.

They saw smoke and flames through the front win-

dow. They entered the two-story condo and saw that the flames were in the living room area.

Smoke had permeated through the home. When firefighters went upstairs, they found the 44-year-old woman unresponsive on a bedroom floor and evacuated her from the building.

Paramedics began CPR and the woman was transported to Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi, where she was pronounced dead.

"It was a pretty tough morning for us," Johnson

said. "We lost somebody. We never like to see that happen."

Johnson said the fire was accidental.

He said the flames did not spread beyond the living room but firefighters also found the dogs who died from the blaze.

The four-unit condo structure is salvageable, according to the fire chief, who did not provide the name of the deceased. She apparently was living alone.

svela@hometownlife.com

Police transparency dashboards aim to build public trust

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi's public safety officers have made nearly 200 arrests in the first three months of the year, and Black people made up the vast majority of those numbers, according to the city's new public safety transparency dashboard.

2021 data at the start of April indicated approximately 60% of the arrests were for alleged Black violators; 37.5% were white; and about 2% were of Asian descent.

The numbers were more balanced in 2020. Data for last year showed 950 arrests. Blacks comprised 49.1% of that tally; whites, 46.7%; and those of Asian descent, 1.89%.

In both years, mainly males were arrested.

The new dashboard that includes race, gender and age data for arrests, citations and calls for service is happening because of a \$300,000 Oakland County

endeavor.

The sheriff's office worked with law enforcers in Novi, Southfield and Lathrup Village to develop the dashboard that's free of charge for agencies for two years. All Oakland County agencies can participate.

Sheriff Michael Bouchard has said the dashboard is another means of highlighting local law enforcers' transparency efforts.

"The Novi Police Department has always believed that an open and transparent government is crucial to building public trust," Public Safety Director David Molloy said in a statement.

Every Oakland County agency belongs to CLEMIS, a courts and law enforcement records management system.

More than 100 agencies across the state also subscribe.

The dashboard relies on reports initiated by the agencies and then verified, approved and entered into the CLEMIS database.

The data goes through the Arx Community software and then appears in the agencies' dashboards for the public.

The goal is to refresh the data every 24 hours, county officials said.

Northville City Council agreed April 5 to equip the police department with Arx Alert software for an internal dashboard.

Data would go directly to the police administration for analysis of risk factors like police pursuits and use of force.

Northville council members also agreed to participate in the county's transparency dashboard project.

Chief Alan Maciag expects to know how soon that data will be available for public consumption.

Westland and Livonia police departments also have transparency dashboards.

Novi candidate race starts with April deadline

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

If you didn't get your fill of political campaigns last year, you've got another chance.

In Novi, the mayor and three council seats are up for grabs this year. The deadline to file to have your name on the ballot as a candidate for one of these available positions is April 20.

The number of candidates will dictate whether there is an August pri-

mary election to narrow the field. The November election will ultimately determine who fills the seats.

As of April 5, current Mayor Bob Gatt was the only candidate listed on the Oakland County website as having filed for the top seat, a 2-year term.

There are three 4-year council seats available. Julie Maday, who was appointed earlier this year to fulfill the term of Kelly Breen, elected to the state house in November, has filed to be elected to the

seat. Justin Fischer and Andrew Mutch's council terms will be completed in November, with those seats also up for election. Fischer has filed for election, as has Karyn Chopjian.

Candidates for Novi mayor or city council must be residents who are registered to vote in the city and must not have been convicted of a felony.

To file for candidacy, an applicant must submit a nominating petition with at least 100 qualified

voters' signatures, but not more than 200, or alternatively, candidates may pay a filing fee of \$100.

Petitions or fee, and candidate affidavit of identity, must be filed by 4 p.m., April 20 at the city clerk's office, 45175 Ten Mile Road.

For more election and candidate information, visit the city's website.

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

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Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process: Public Participation

T-Mobile proposes the upgrade of two utility tower telecommunications facilities and associated ground level equipment on the west side of Taft Rd, approximately 1600 ft south of Twelve Mile Rd, Novi, Oakland County, MI and approximately 360 ft north of E West Maple Rd & N Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake, Oakland County, MI. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects on historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Andrew Smith, RESCOM Environmental Corp., PO Box 361 Petoskey, MI 49770 or call 260-385-6999.

Published April 15, 2021

(1) 0000358043 (2)

COVID-19 cases surge 14 percent in Michigan

Mike Stucka USA TODAY NETWORK

New coronavirus cases leaped in Michigan in the week ending Sunday, rising 14% as 51,512 cases were reported. The previous week had 45,192 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked first among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week the United States added 490,277 reported cases of coronavirus, an increase of 10.3% from the week before.

Many states did not report cases on Easter. That will make some state-to-state comparisons inaccurate, and also some in-state week-to-week comparisons inaccurate.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in St. Clair, Huron and Sanilac counties. Adding the most new cases overall were Wayne County, with 10,198 cases; Oakland County, with 6,452 cases; and Macomb County, with 6,070. Weekly case counts rose in 67 counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Wayne, Oakland and Genesee counties.

Michigan ranked 30th among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 35% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 35.9%, a USA TODAY analysis of CDC data shows.

In the week ending Sunday, Michigan reported administering another

647,780 vaccine doses, compared to 633,463 the week before that. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 5,496,030 doses.

Across Michigan, cases fell in 15 counties, with the best declines in Macomb, Ingham and Monroe counties.

In Michigan, 304 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 212 people were reported dead.

A total of 820,404 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 17,563 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 31,97,873 people have tested positive and 562,066 people have died.

ENGAGEMENT

Shaw-Richter plan October wedding

Natasha Shah and Eric Richter are excited to announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Nav and Pai Shah of Northville. She is a 2009 graduate of Northville High School and earned a degree in marketing from Michigan State University. She is employed with Nielsen in St. Louis, Missouri.

The groom-to-be is the

son of Steve and Brenda Richter of Columbia, Illinois. He is a 2009 graduate of Columbia High School and earned a degree in accounting from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. He is employed with Sunbelt Rentals in St. Louis, Missouri.

An October 2021 wedding is planned in St. Louis, Missouri, where the couple resides.



Natasha Shah and Eric Richter. COURTESY OF YOUR STORY PHOTO + CINEMA

Novi Community School District 2019 Bond SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Novi Community School District, 2019 Bond, Bid Package #7, consisting of Bid Package #7 - Novi Gardenbrook Building (Old Wash Collage) will be received through Building Connected until 1:00PM on May 3rd, 2021.

1. All proposals shall be submitted electronically through Building Connected: <https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/5ae227ade0d395000fd24541> (McCarthy and Smith Plan Room)
2. For instructions on how to submit a bid please go to the following link: <https://buildingconnected.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360010222793-How-to-submit-your-bid-through-Building-Connected>

Bids submitted after this time and date will not be considered or accepted. Faxed and or E-mail proposals will not be accepted.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened, read aloud and tabulated, beginning at approx. 1:00PM on May 3rd, 2021. Bid Opening will be publicly conducted via a Zoom meeting.

Zoom Link:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88462025165?pwd=V2hYWU1vbnVrNG9iYk4L2dnRk1qU>
T09&from=addon
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+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Meeting ID: 884 6202 5165
Passcode: 160008 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88462025165>

This Bid Package will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions:
108: General Trades/Carpentry 114: Aluminum Entrances/Storefronts/Glazing
140 & 143: Plumbing & HVAC 143: Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture will be available for public inspection at the main office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills, and the Builder's Exchange, Lansing. Bidding Documents will be available beginning at 10:00 AM on Monday, April 19, 2021 via Building Connected.

There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting on Wednesday, April 28th, at 1:00 P.M. at Novi Gardenbrook Building (Old Walsh Building) located at 41500 Gardenbrook Rd. MI, 48375. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project bid documents & schedule, and to answer any questions bidders may have. Following the meeting, the bidders will have the opportunity to visit the project site. The pre-bid meeting is not a mandatory meeting however, bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. A FACE MASK WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE WORN INSIDE OF THE BUILDING DURING THE PRE-BID MEETING.

All bids must include the Familial Disclosure Affidavit (Section 004205), the Iran Linked Business Affidavit (Section 004210), and the Criminal Background Check Affidavit (Section 004220).

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the Bid, payable to Novi Community School District, as a guarantee that if the Bid is accepted, the School District is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid or failure of the Bidder to enter a Contract for performance. Further, the Bidder will execute the Contract, provide the required insurance certificate(s) and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of Contract but prior to Work commencing.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of the contract price.

Novi Community School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids received, to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding, and to accept a bid other than the lowest bid.

Published April 15, 2021



The Moore property (named after its initial owners) has about 80 acres and a large barn (seen partially at left). PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Property

Continued from Page 1A

commission denied rezoning and an attempt to get the property annexed to the village failed, the property bid was withdrawn.

The minimum lot size in that area as currently zoned is 1.5 acres, McConnell said.

Among the concepts floated for the property is turning the historical home into a bed and breakfast, particularly since there is no hotel in Milford, McConnell said, or even using the 80 acres for a golf course.

Besides the 10 acre parcel with the house, the sale included two 20 acre parcels and a 30-acre parcel.

Matt McConnell said he has no plans for the property and emphasized that he and Wilkie are not developers.

"The property was bought as an investment with no definite plans in mind," he said. "We have been in talks with local builders, but are not currently. We would like to see the existing historical home remain and would consider splitting it off from the remaining acres

if anyone is interested in purchasing it."

McConnell added the house would be unique as a bed and breakfast inn, but admitted he has done very little research and bought it for multiple options.

"Yes, we spent \$1.6 million on a property we don't know what we're doing with," he laughed. "If someone came to us with a plan that makes sense, we would entertain it. We don't have expectations. It was a good investment in our eyes."

Melissa McConnell said the property has great potential to be split up, but there is no intention to tear down the house and said her husband is getting prices together on restoring it.

"It all comes down to what is allowed (with zoning)," she said. "The structure is in good shape. The sky's the limit, what will fall within the allowance. Regardless of what direction, we plan to keep the house. Not looking to tear down something functional and in use, unless we're told it needs to be. That house is solid."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @Susan-Bromley10.



The Moore house on Weaver Road in Milford. The eight-room mansion was built around 1860 and sits on a 10-acre parcel. That and another 70 acres just north of the Village of Milford were recently sold.

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The Michigan Elder Law Reporter™

APRIL 2021 31 Years Serving Michigan Seniors VOLUME 31, ISSUE 4.2

THE MIDDLE CLASS IS BROKE BECAUSE ESTATE PLANNING IS BROKEN

YOUR LIFETIME OF WORK AND SAVING WILL BE SACRIFICED TO STUPIDITY

THE WAY IT IS...

How THE RICH DO LONG-TERM CARE. Spoke with a smart person last week. She works for a gigantic financial services company. You know the name. The company is excellent. She is excellent. Her team's job is to look out for about 150 families. "Wealth Management." They are good at it. Her families do not go broke.

I was curious... "How do you deal with long term care?"

"A cornerstone of our work, of course. You cannot ignore it." She said.

"But how do you do it?" I persisted.

I was disappointed in her reply. She talked about "asset allocation." Used the same words and phrases I had heard from other financial professionals. Stuff I have seen fail over and over again. Very disappointing. Burst my bubble. No insight here. And she had seemed so perceptive. But it was the same old, same old. Recycled stuff. Your own financial advisor gave you the same advice. Put so much over here, so much over there. Et cetera.

"That's all well and good," I said. "But don't your folks go broke?"

She laughed. "No, never."

"Never? I find that hard to believe. Long-term care is expensive."

"Yes, it is," she agreed. "But fifty million dollars is quite a bit of money."

Demonstrating my keen intelligence, I replied, "Huh?"

"Well, our minimum is fifty million of investable assets..."

And then the lightbulb moment... "Ohhh!"

How the rich do long-term care. From their (minimum) fifty million, their team of professional investors allocates a few million to

long-term care issues. Problem solved. For them. Unfortunately, that is what your financial advisor is doing for you. That is why your family faces nursing home poverty.

WE ARE NOT THE RICH. THEIR SOLUTIONS DO NOT WORK FOR US

Let me tell you about the very rich. They are different from you and me. [Unless you were born rich, it is very difficult to understand.]

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Why aren't your advisors looking out for you? Why all the parrot talk about asset allocation, hybrid insurance products, investment strategies? Why the outright denial and plain avoidance? Why won't they level with you?

Maybe they do not know any better. Maybe they think that the same strategies that work for the wealthy will work for the middle class. Maybe they are doing the best that they can. Maybe they cannot help it.

Consider the possibility that your advisor learned "best practices" from a "wealth management" guru. Your advisor's teacher excelled at preserving and growing "old money." Your advisor was inspired by someone who hobnobs with wealthy folk day-in and day-out. The result: Your advisor may know how to deal with rich people. But what does that have to do with you?

Exactly nothing. According to Ernest Hemingway, the rich are different than you and me. "Yes, they have more money." Planning for \$50,000,000 is not like planning for \$500,000. How is that not obvious?

BROKEN: HOW THE MIDDLE-CLASS DOES LONG-TERM CARE

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A. We will get right to work, drafting your LifePlan™ documents. You receive your review LifePlan™ (usually email, but paper if you like). Let's go over them together. Everything just right!

B. In the meantime, carefully note how your sleep is improved by your choice of pillow, white noise or tea. (Forget about that metronome... it is annoying.)

C. At one of our comfortable, homelike offices, or such other place as may be convenient, you create your LifePlan™ by signing a truly impressive array of documents.

D. Calming waves of relief and security wash over you and your family.

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d. Your friends will accuse you of plastic surgery as deep lines of worry and anxiety fade quickly away! *Wow!*

If your LifePlan™ does not "knit up the ravell'd sleeve of care" (as Shakespeare said), select a different item. *Maybe that will do the trick! Verily!*

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IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT...

You faithful readers are probably bored hearing about PACE all over again. I apologize! But there are new readers with no idea what the heck PACE is. Sorry!

So, without boring the regulars too much, if you don't know what all the fuss is about, go get last week's paper. Lots of detail.

Old hat to the peanut gallery, but new to you. Go check it out!

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Last year the State of Michigan said the special rules would expire in June. Then the State of Michigan said the COVID rules would expire in November. Then the State of Michigan said the emergency rules would expire in April. Getting dizzy yet?

Last week, the State of Michigan changed its mind again. Remember, these expanded rules have saved thousands of middle-class families like yours from nursing home poverty. Well, the State of Michigan

said that these very beneficial rules would remain in effect. "UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!"

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38 Years Practicing Law
 BA, Notre Dame; JD, Boston University Law
 Master of Laws, Tax, Georgetown University Law
 Captain, US Army, JAGC (Veteran)

Family

Continued from Page 1A

Mudzwova said. "I remember hearing the airplane. It was really loud."

They were accustomed to small planes flying overhead since they lived in a subdivision near the Oakland/Southwest Airport. However, this volume caused Mudzwova to turn to her husband, who was sitting to her left.

"There was a big boom," she continued. "A split second later, it was like our dining room exploded into the kitchen. I knew that a plane had crashed, but I thought it had just crashed in our backyard and exploded the windows into the house."

They escaped through a sliding door that led to their back yard. Pride Mudzwova returned briefly to grab the extinguisher under the kitchen sink to put out the giant flames.

Then he obeyed his wife's orders to abandon their home. A small Piper plane was sticking out of the house.

The plane exploded more than once.

Neighbors removed the children from the horrific nightmare.

Firefighters swarmed their property to douse the fire.

In time, Pride and Danielle Mudzwova would learn the plane crash killed a family: David Compo, his wife Michele and their son Dawson. They were returning from Georgia.

"I wasn't expecting it to be an entire family. That was really hard," Danielle Mudzwova, a labor and delivery nurse for The University of Michigan, said. "The first initial thought once we were out was, 'I know that there is somebody in that plane that is dying right in front of our eyes.'"

"The whole half of the house was engulfed within seconds. There was no way for anybody to even get close to the house, let alone help them."

She and her husband walked through the wreckage of their home that night. It looked like a volcano exploded. Firefighters would remind Danielle Mudzwova that the belongings she considered taking, like a hairbrush, were health risks because of their smoke damage.

Pictures were gone. Heirlooms were destroyed. Baby stuff, their cat, mementoes of their family vacations ... gone.

The plane's explosions and resulting



A plane crashed into the Mudzwova family's Lyon Township home Jan. 2. COURTESY OF LYON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

fire had gobbled up half of the house, leaving the remnants clear for cold winter air.

"It was gone. That side of the house is just totally disintegrated almost," Danielle Mudzwova said. "The other side of the house is covered with a thick layer of just black ash and smoke. Everything that could melt is melted. It was so hot, even if it didn't burn, it melted. It was a really hot, fast fire."

Life goes on

There were things to do, insurance agents to take through the home and therapy to seek, considering the threat that the family survived.

They rented a home in Novi. Three months later, the family has adjusted.

They still miss their home where Pride Mudzwova had a built a soundproof basement studio for producing

music and studying for a doctorate degree in nurse anesthesia.

His wife misses their back yard where the family grew vegetables, including corn. Seraphina liked to visit the garden, munching on spinach, carrots or green beans.

Of course, the children miss their friends. They've made new ones and have filled hours by running back and forth from yard to yard, smiling and laughing as they navigate an obstacle course of playsets and trampolines.

Their trauma comes to the fore when they talk about the crash, which is often enough to concern their parents.

Nyasha tends to tell people his house is broken and his daddy will fix it. Seraphina watched her home burn from a neighbor's window and likes to revisit with her mother the smoke, colors,



The Mudzwova family. SUBMITTED



“
I believe my staff
would say I'm an ally,
problem solver, good
listener and teacher.
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”

Abby Ruiz,
Retention Specialist,
The Arizona Republic

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Danielle Mudzwova said the plane struck the ground in her neighbor's yard before smashing against her family's home on Dakota Drive in Lyon Township in January. All three people on the plane were killed in the crash. SUBMITTED

Family

Continued from Page 6A

noises and other details from the day that changed their lives.

Danielle Mudzwova said she imagines worst-case scenarios – like what would have happened if the children were in another room when the plane crashed or if she had gone back inside to get the cat.

"I've definitely been feeling a lot more anxious," she said. "I've had several panic attacks. It's getting easier. (But) it's a struggle."

Rebuilding

The Mudzovas moved into their Dakota Drive home around the time they married.

It was a nice house in good condition and not too far from where they worked. Their children, the couple knew, would attend good South Lyon schools.

While the residence wasn't their forever home, they could remain comfortable there for quite some time.

Then the decades-old plane crashed. In a preliminary report, the National Transportation Safety Board cited some key decisions and lack of training as possible causes.

Their Dakota Drive neighborhood and their response to the fire inspired the Mudzovas to consider building a new home on top of their foundation.

"I feel like, before we even talked about it, we kind of just knew that we wanted to rebuild there," Danielle Mudzwova said. "Our neighbors are our best friends. More than just our immediate neighbors...The whole neighborhood just came together and just supported us so much and still are to this day."

"I can't really imagine not rebuilding there right now."

She and her husband have already talked to a builder and architect. They want heavy equipment to tear down their non-salvageable house this summer.

They hope to move into their restored home in a year or two. If they move during the school year, Seraphina won't have to switch schools or make new friends again.

Insurance is supposed to cover the reconstruction costs.

All For

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Catholic Central grad is deputy press secretary for White House

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Chris Meagher enjoys understanding how things work. Even as a kid, he enjoyed reading through the daily news.

"I've always liked the behind-the-scenes stuff and how the sausage is made," he said. "I grew up a big sports fan and always liked the locker room interviews after the game."

The interest led him to pursue a career in journalism and later in the political arena.

Meagher, who grew up in Livonia and graduated from Detroit Catholic Central in Novi, worked for prominent Democrats including Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg in his career. Now, he works in U.S. President Joe Biden's White House as a deputy press secretary. He replaced T.J. Ducklo, who resigned following allegations that he threatened a reporter.

"It's obviously a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Meagher said. "You kind of just realize every day when you're walking into the office how special it is and how important it is. You're working on projects that are going to affect people's lives."

Meagher has been on the job for about two weeks and said his work includes prepping White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki for her daily press briefings and answering a lot of questions.

"A big part of the job is just talking with reporters and answering their questions," he said. "My office is right off the briefing room, so reporters have access to my office. They can just kind of walk to it, come in the door and ask whatever they want to ask."

Meagher's work in politics has mostly meant working with the press after having spent a few years as a local reporter himself. He said handling communications for Whitmer in the spring of 2020 felt especially meaningful.

"It was really cool to see her up close and see how much she cares about her



Chris Meagher, right, who now works as White House deputy press secretary, talks with U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg during Buttigieg's presidential campaign. COURTESY OF CHRIS MEAGHER

state, which also happens to be my home state," he said. "It was pretty cool to work for my home state governor."

Before working for Buttigieg as a spokesman in his secretary role, Meagher was the national press secretary for his presidential campaign, which ended in March 2020. He said working on the campaign trail was the experience of a lifetime, and he loved meeting people from across the country. At the end of the day, he enjoys seeing government do what he says it's supposed to: Help people.

"As you can imagine, rural Montana is very different from Chicago and the issues they care about, the needs their communities just look a lot different," he said. "I think Pete and his candidacy meant a lot to a lot of people who finally felt like they were being heard. It was cool to see people respond to his message."

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

"My office is right off the briefing room, so reporters have access to my office. They can just kind of walk to it, come in the door and ask whatever they want to ask."

Chris Meagher
White House deputy press secretary

Oakland County animal shelter passes test

National expert gives high marks following assessment

Bill Laitner DetroitFreePress.com
USA TODAY NETWORK

When Oakland County's new animal shelter opened in 2017, officials said it was an old concept that learned new tricks.

Calling it state of the art, they said the \$15.5 million building would fix all of the old shelter's shortcomings. Former county executive L. Brooks Patterson said it would make Oakland County a leader in animal sheltering and adoption.

Yet, critics soon began finding fault with the new shelter and its adoption program. On Wednesday, a nationally prominent expert on animal shelters deflected much of the criticism after conducting a detailed assessment of the shelter, which sits in the middle of Michigan's most affluent county.

Veterinarian Dr. Sara Pizano gave an hour-long public presentation of her findings in Oakland County, combined with her views of "best shelter practices" from nationwide studies. Pizano was hired last year by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to assess the shelter's performance.

"Amazing work!" Pizano said, when citing the Oakland County shelter's 2020 statistic for the vital "save rate" — the percentage of animals brought in that are not euthanized. Oakland County "hit that magical 90%, so congratulations," Dr. Pizano said. The national average is 79%, she said.

She also had words of praise for the county's plan this spring to launch what the shelter industry calls a "community cat program," sparing most wild cats from euthanasia by returning them to where they were found, after spaying or neutering them. The tactic "stops the population explosion" of wild felines in a given area while vastly reducing the number of strays that shelters traditionally have destroyed, she said.

The main problem with Oakland County's shelter is that it's understaffed "and now facing a 4% budget cut," Pizano said.

Pizano's report will let county officials revisit how the shelter is staffed and budgeted, County Board Vice Chair

"... we know we can get better. We've already implemented several of her suggestions."

Bob Gatt, manager of the Oakland County's shelter and Oakland County Animal Control

Marcia Gershenson said, in an interview Monday. Gershenson chairs a subcommittee that oversees the Oakland County Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center.

"We clearly will need more staff," she said, in a text following the online meeting.

Pizano studied statistics from Oakland County and the many communities that send animals to the county shelter, then spent last week visiting the shelter, said Bob Gatt, manager of the shelter and Oakland County Animal Control.

"I'm very proud of the committed and compassionate people that work and volunteer with us. Having said that, we know we can get better," Gatt said Wednesday, after watching Pizano's presentation.

"We've already implemented several of her suggestions," he said.

In 2017, when officials cut the ribbon on the facility that's just east of Telegraph Road and south of M-59, they touted its design as ideal. The building put significant distance and sound insulation between dogs and cats because, designers said, research had shown that felines suffer stress just from hearing dogs bark.

In addition, the new shelter had space to hold many more animals than the old facility, and its central location in the county would be far more convenient to most residents and to the many volunteers who walk the shelter's dogs. Most important, the new shelter had the resources to bring Oakland's euthanasia rate as close as possible to the "no-kill" ideal touted by animal-welfare groups.

With those bragging rights, officials said they thought the new shelter, built on Oakland County's campus at the



This photo from Jan. 3, 2020, shows a volunteer walking a dog outside the Oakland County Animal Shelter in Pontiac. The shelter received high marks for its "save rate" of animals. BILL LAITNER/DFP

northwest edge of Pontiac, would put an end to the stream of complaints they'd heard for years about the county's old animal shelter.

But when critics continued to voice concerns, Gershenson, D-Bloomfield Township, said she and other commissioners wanted outside expertise to help them answer a nagging question: Was Oakland County's animal shelter as bad as the critics were saying? Gershenson said Oakland County commissioned Pizano and her nationally prominent consulting firm, Team Shelter USA, to evaluate Oakland's facility.

Pizano has conducted more than 100 assessments of animal-control practices, according to the Team Shelter USA website. More than 50 people

signed up in advance to view her presentation to Oakland County, county officials said.

Debbie Schutt, founder and chair of the nonprofit Michigan Pet Alliance, has long been a critic of many shelters in Michigan, including Oakland County's. Schutt said she had a high regard for Pizano and hoped that her report would spur the county to hire more staff.

"It shouldn't just be clean the kennels and feed them. You need someone to analyze each animal's behavior and devise a plan of action," Schutt said before the presentation.

She added: "I'm thrilled that the board and Marcia (Gershenson) have taken the lead and want to find out what are best practices."



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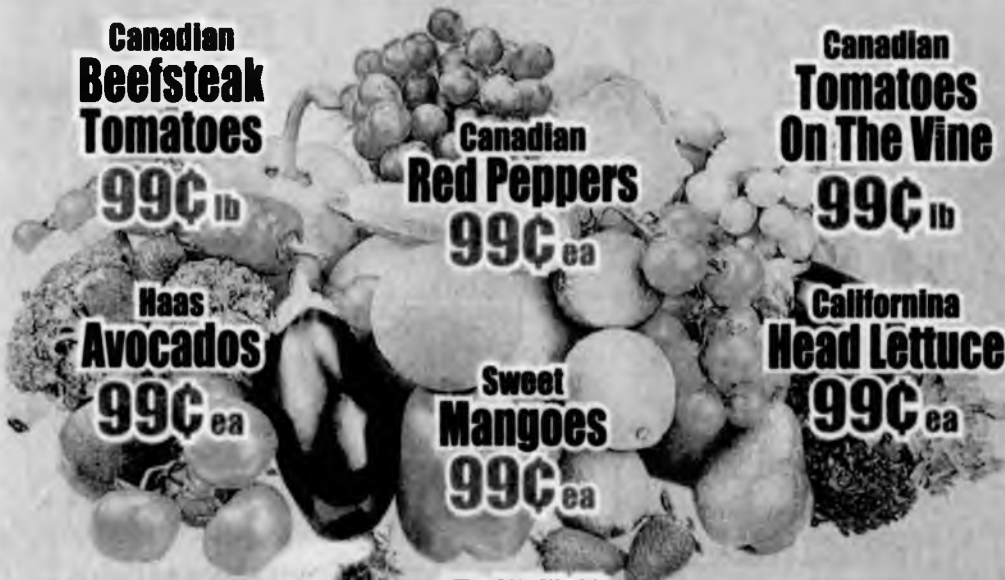
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HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Stevenson keeps championship mentality

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Heading into her first doubleheader of the 2021 season — Livonia Stevenson softball's first game in 690 days — Grace Ozog was nervous.

The senior had experience on the team before, playing with the Spartans

as a sophomore. But the first-game jitters had returned, even though she and returners from the 2019 roster had an idea of what they were getting into.

Once she took the field, though, Ozog said it started to feel normal again.

"We were playing as a team, which I haven't felt in so long," Ozog said.

With that normalcy, with that com-

fortability on the softball field came an offensive onslaught in the season-opening doubleheader, as Stevenson won both of its first two games against city rival Livonia Churchill, 12-2 and 16-1, in a combined eight innings of play.

The Spartans combined for 28 runs on 24 hits and seven walks.

"Once we got our foot down, we just

started to find the center of the ball," Stevenson head coach Kevin Hannigan said. "They were relaxed. They were nervous — we had a big crowd here today, which is great. Once the nerves kind of settled down, we were able to grip it and rip it."

See STEVENSON, Page 3B



Mayia Ham brings the ball upcourt for the Zebras. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Wayne Memorial collapses in state semis

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With 2:39 left in the Division 1 state semifinal, Wayne Memorial head coach Jarvis Mitchell took a timeout, holding onto a seven-point lead. At the end of the allotted time on the bench, the players broke the circle with one word: Finish.

Instead, the Zebras (17-3) crumbled, allowing their lead to evaporate and the Phoenix (13-4) to rise from the ashes of the third quarter, leading to a 75-72 win in the state semifinal at the Breslin Center in Lansing.

Renaissance turned to its bread-and-butter — its press defense — in the final moments, using steal after steal to evaporate its deficit to tie the game at 69

with a 3 by senior Kailee Davis.

Four free-throw makes later — something that wasn't given for a Renaissance team that hit only 24-of-46 from the line in the game — the Phoenix took a four-point lead heading into the final seconds, which was cut to one quickly after a bank 3 by Wayne Memorial senior Lachelle Austin.

After two more makes at the line, Da-

vis did not settle and give the Zebras another chance at a 3, which ended both the second and third quarters, switching momentum from Renaissance to Wayne Memorial.

Instead, the Renaissance senior stepped up, recording a steal and possession with 7.3 seconds to go in the

See WAYNE, Page 4B

Meyers, Taylor represent South Lyon wrestling at states

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Heading into the Michigan high school wrestling individual state finals, South Lyon head coach Zaq Makowski expected more members of his team to make the trip to Kalamazoo.

But after a season ravaged by COVID-19 and uncertainty, he only had

two: freshman Aidan Meyers at 103 and senior Gus Taylor at 285.

Both wrestlers came with no experience at the state finals, but were at opposite points of their high school career. Taylor's was ending after it had just started.

He joined the team as a junior as an offseason workout to stay fit for football. Meyers was just beginning, coming in as

a highly-touted freshman from the youth wrestling ranks.

While both had expectations for success, both also experienced something not many in the school's history had a chance to do: represent South Lyon on the wrestling mat.

"It's honestly kind of an honor," Taylor said. "It's kind of sweet to keep the school on my back."

Just the start

Wrestling was not a family tradition for Meyers, but he did start young: being introduced to the sport in kindergarten by neighbors, inviting him to a few Michigan Matcats practices.

From the moment he stepped on the

See WRESTLING, Page 5B



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Livonia Franklin tennis wins season opener

After the cancellation of the 2020 spring sports season, the Livonia Franklin girls tennis team hadn't played a match in 691 days. The Patriots returned to the courts Wednesday, beating Farmington, 5-4.

All five Franklin doubles flights pulled out victories, while Farmington won all four singles flights in straight sets.

Singles

No. 1 - Katie Miller, Farmington High School defeated Katie Callaghan, Livonia Franklin, 6-4, 6-1

No. 2 - Mary Blossom, Farmington High School defeated Sandrea Cueva, Livonia Franklin, 6-1, 6-3

No. 3 - Scarlet Richter, Farmington High School defeated Gabbie McCoy, Livonia Franklin, 6-0, 6-1

No. 4 - Kareena Nyalakonda, Farmington High School defeated Celing Li, Livonia Franklin, 6-0, 6-4

Doubles

No. 1 - Kelly Engler, Livonia Franklin-Marissa Muller, Livonia Franklin defeated Lilly Schwalm, Farmington High School - Sarah Chappell, Farmington



The Livonia Franklin girls tennis team opened the 2021 season with a win against Farmington. COURTESY OF TOM MULLER

High School, 7-6 (5), 6-1

No. 2 - Daphne Millross, Livonia Franklin - Brittney Winn, Livonia Franklin defeated Isabel Watson, Farmington High School - Nicole Waun, Farmington High School, 6-3, 6-0

No. 3 - Jade Fabian, Livonia Franklin

- Kate Montie, Livonia Franklin defeated Grace O'Connor, Farmington High School - Laxmi Shankar, Farmington High School, 6-0, 6-2

No. 4 - Jasmine Dumitru, Livonia Franklin - Cypress Burns, Livonia Franklin defeated Dhara Patel, Far-

mington High School - Farah Shakir, Farmington High School, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3

No. 5 - Leeda Gharibi, Livonia Franklin - Katie Thiele, Livonia Franklin defeated Sophia Buatti, Farmington High School - Stuti Goel, Farmington High School, 6-1, 6-3

Mercy hoops player reflects on four-year career

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Basketball was not in Alexis Roberts' family growing up. Her father swam and played tennis while her mother played volleyball.

But basketball was one of the first sports Roberts tried, and she quickly found a love for the game, beginning her career as a point guard with the Michigan Monarchs travel team in fourth grade.

"As a kid, my dad would always say... 'Alexis, you're the floor general,'" Roberts said. "'You have to know where everybody else is and you have to know what everyone is supposed to do.'

"Having that responsibility at such a young age kind of prepared me for the next level and beyond."

Over the past four years, Roberts bloomed into the floor general for Mercy basketball, serving as the team's starting point guard for the past three seasons after fluctuating in and out of the starting lineup as a freshman for a senior-heavy 2017-18 team.

In four years, Roberts and the rest of the Marlins have won 70 games and three consecutive district titles.

Mercy head coach Gary Morris knows how tough it is to play point guard, yet has high expectations for whoever is in the role.

"You are kind of, generally speaking, the coach on the floor," he said. "The basketball is going to be in your hands quite often, and you have to make the right decisions with the basketball in terms of when to go fast, when to go slow, when to look for your shot, when to think pass first."

When Morris first met Roberts before her freshman year, he noticed her maturity. Putting her on the varsity roster from the moment she stepped onto campus, Roberts learned from senior point guard Jenna Schluter, starting at



Marian forward Sarah Sylvester tries to drive past Mercy guard Alexis Roberts. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

times next to her at shooting guard, but scrimmaging against her at point guard in practices.

For Roberts, it took some time to find her role with the team, but when she came into the gym for her sophomore season she knew she wanted to be more of a leader for the group.

As a junior, the responsibility heightened as Morris challenged his point guard to take charge and be an anchor for the offense, the centerpiece to the team's success.

"If they can't stop you, we won't be stopped," Roberts remembers her head coach telling her.

Roberts' career has an advantage that many other players do not have: to grow her basketball game with many of the same teammates around.

"Not everybody has the opportunity to play with the same girls for three or four years," Roberts said. "I think that gave my class an advantage almost because we got to learn about each other: our strengths, our weaknesses, what are our better parts on the floor, learning

when to pass, when we don't.

"It's brought us together off the court because we have grown this wonderful bond on the court."

Even while the Marlins played without senior Julia Bishop for the majority of the 2021 season — a forward who Roberts said is destined to record a double-double each time she steps on the floor — that experience showed on the court. After losing three of its first five games, Mercy won 13-straight games before losing to Detroit Renaissance in the regional semifinal.

Roberts never expected for Mercy's season to end in any place except the state final. To her, the ending was abrupt. Each of the seniors were in awe and in tears on the bench as the realization came to each of them.

"I don't think it really hit me until I got subbed out at the end and I was like, 'Wow, this is it,'" Roberts said. "I watched the clock go down and thought that this is my last high school basketball game."

Roberts' basketball career isn't over. She knows she will be playing basketball somewhere next season, despite not knowing where.

But after playing with a team for four seasons, with many of the same teammates, Roberts is just thankful, imploring her younger teammates to never take a game, a practice or a time with their teammates for granted.

Morris knows Roberts and the rest of the senior class have left more than that one lesson through their play over the past four years.

"If anybody saw us play, all seven of our seniors... they get on the floor, they are going to compete," Morris said. "I think that might be the legacy that Alexis and the seniors leave for our program is the importance of... and it sounds simple to go out and compete, but it's something you don't have happen every year."

Euro Stars gymnasts advance to regional finals

Euro Stars Gymnastics' Ella Chemotti, Nikki Smith and Sophia Reddy took a three-gymnast team and turned it into a state title.

The team finished in first place at the Level 10 state finals March 28. The trio will travel to Cincinnati, OH April 15-16 to participate in the Region 5 finals, competing against gymnasts from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan.

If the team qualifies at regionals, it will compete in nationals at Daytona, FL.

The minimum amount of gymnasts that can qualify as a team is three.

Chemotti, a senior at Canton, is committed to Eastern Michigan on an athletic scholarship.

Smith, a junior at North Farmington, is committed to Michigan State on a full athletic scholarship.

Reddy is a sophomore at Northville, and has not yet decided on a college.



Ella Chemotti, Nikki Smith and Sophia Reddy celebrate their first-place finish at the 2021 Level 10 state finals for EuroStars Gymnastics. COURTESY OF JIM REDDY

GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFF SCOREBOARD

Regionals

Division 1

Regional 5 — Northville

Final

Wayne Memorial (16-2) 68, Saline (18-2) 60

Semifinal

Wayne Memorial (15-2) 51, Plymouth (12-8) 27

Regional 7 — Detroit Renaissance

Final

Detroit Renaissance (11-4) 48, Mercy (15-4) 34

Semifinal

Mercy (15-3) 66, Groves (9-9) 14

Regional 2 — Holly

Final

Hartland (20-0) 51, Marian (13-6) 34

Semifinal

Hartland (18-0) 69, Lakeland (11-7) 31

Marian (13-5) 63, Clarkston (15-4) 50

Division 2

Regional 15 — Livonia Clarenceville

Final

Detroit Country Day (13-2) 76, East-pointe (10-7) 27

Semifinal

Detroit Country Day (12-2) 55, Warren Regina (3-10) 37

Districts

Division 1

District 20 — Livonia Franklin

First round

Livonia Franklin (6-10) 57, Garden City (5-10) 28

District semifinal

Wayne Memorial (13-1) 68, Redford Thurston (6-5) 17

John Glenn (8-7) 45, Livonia Franklin (6-11) 44

District final

Wayne Memorial (14-1) 65, John Glenn (8-8) 46

District 19 — Plymouth

First round

Northville (7-10) 50, Livonia Churchill (1-15) 25

District semifinal

Plymouth (11-7) 62, Salem (2-15) 54

Canton (6-10) 39, Northville (7-11) 31

District final

Plymouth (12-7) 44, Canton (6-11) 33

District 17 — Ann Arbor Skyline

First round

South Lyon (7-6) 41, Ann Arbor Skyline (2-14) 33

District semifinal

South Lyon East (12-6) 58, South Lyon

(7-7) 31

District final

Brighton (15-3) 43, South Lyon East (12-7) 38

District 26 — Royal Oak

First round

Seaholm (5-11) 47, Royal Oak (8-7) 35

District semifinal

Groves (8-8) 48, Southfield Arts and Technology (1-12) 44

Berkley (11-5) 49, Seaholm (5-12) 40

District final

Groves (9-8) 54, Berkley (11-6) 44

District 25 — Novi

First round

North Farmington (5-9) 48, Livonia Stevenson (6-12) 47

District semifinal

Mercy (13-3) 55, Novi (4-13) 38

North Farmington (6-9) 47, Farmington (9-5) 41

District final

Mercy (14-3) 56, North Farmington (6-10) 32

District 7 — Walled Lake Northern

First round

Milford (8-6) 33, Walled Lake Western (3-11) 13

District semifinal

Lakeland (10-6) 30, Walled Lake Central

(9-3) 13

Walled Lake Northern (10-4) 39, Milford (8-7) 31

District final

Lakeland (11-6) 52, Walled Lake Northern (10-5) 34

District 6 — Waterford Mott

First round

Avondale (2-10) 55, Bloomfield Hills (2-11) 53; OT

District semifinal

Marian (11-5) 73, Avondale (2-11) 21

District final

Marian (12-5) 59, Waterford Mott (1-12) 10

Division 2

District 57 — Wixom St. Catherine

District semifinal

Wixom St. Catherine (10-7) 46, Livonia Clarenceville (6-7) 24

District final

Detroit Country Day (11-2) 51, Wixom St. Catherine (10-8)

Division 4

District 122 — Allen Park Inter-City Baptist

District final

Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (7-5) 45, Plymouth Christian Academy (10-4) 32



Stevenson senior Alisyn Collins started game two for the Spartans against city rival Churchill. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Stevenson

Continued from Page 1B

However, Hannigan was not relaxed in the hours leading up to first pitch. He instead was nervous, not knowing if his team would get an opportunity to touch the field.

In a press conference Friday, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recommended that all organized youth sports would be halted for the next two weeks to help decrease the spread of COVID-19. Hannigan didn't know if the start of the season would be able to be played as scheduled, texting his captains to wait for him to tell them if the season would be able to begin.

The Spartans got the go-ahead, with Livonia Public Schools following the lead of many other area school districts in the area: to continue spring sports with their weekly antigen COVID-19

testing protocols and mask wearing.

But with almost losing the start of the 2021 season, Hannigan's approach to the first game was only heightened.

"Every game, every practice, try and act like it's the championship game," Hannigan said. "We might not be able to play again, we don't know. But right now, (it's) Opening Day, and we took it like a championship game."

In game one, the offensive barrage started early, scoring three runs in the first inning off five hits, including three triples by shortstop Kaitlin Trantham, Janie West and Alisyn Collins.

But after senior starter Sophie Bater allowed a two-run home run by Churchill center fielder Paige Proudlock in the top of the fourth inning, the Spartans offense roared for eight more runs on eight hits and two errors, ending the game after four innings.

The offensive success continued into the second game, as Stevenson opened the game with 12-straight baserunners,

chasing Proudlock, Churchill's starting pitcher, out of the game before she was able to record a single out.

Stevenson finished the second game with 16 runs on 11 hits and seven walks.

"We've been hitting great at practice and great in the offseason," Ozog said, who got on base in each of her eight at-bats with five hits, four runs and two RBI. "I'm honestly not surprised about the numbers. I'm just glad we kept the energy going in both games. We didn't die down at all."

Stevenson third baseman McKenzie Cook finished the game with five hits in six at-bats, scoring two runs and four RBI on four singles and a double.

Collins added an RBI triple and an RBI single in game one, along with a two-RBI double in game two. Starting game two on the mound, the senior recorded three hitless innings, striking out two.

"I think we played just as hard today as we did at practice," Collins said. "It's

just become a habit for us to go 100% every single time, and I think that's just showing off."

Ozog doesn't know what's next for Stevenson or how many games the Spartans will be able to play in 2021. She just knows that when the team had the opportunity to play, Stevenson showed up.

"I'm just grateful we actually got a game," Ozog said. "And with a score like that, who can be disappointed in that?"

Along with it being the first game of the season, Stevenson and Churchill teamed up to raise money for Sean Dewitt, Hannigan's cousin who is a sophomore basketball player at U-D Jesuit, who was diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoma. Those in attendance were able to raise more than \$5,000 for Dewitt and his family.

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Wayne

Continued from Page 1B

game to secure the victory.

"It was just about not giving up," Davis said. "I believed in my teammates and they believed in me. Once they told me to go, I just wanted to win it for them."

After recording eight turnovers in each of the first three quarters, Wayne Memorial turned the ball over 12 times in the final eight minutes, allowing for a Renaissance comeback and, according to Mitchell, a chance for the crowd to see who wanted to advance more.

"Top to bottom, she absolutely willed them to win," Mitchell said of Davis. "Phenomenal. We tried to make her work as much as possible, but at the end of the day, when a kid is resilient and they want to win... I don't think it wasn't that my kids didn't want to win. I think she wanted to win a little bit more."

Wayne Memorial finished the game with 36 turnovers.

Mitchell knew the final moments came down to resiliency. He saw it in his own team earlier in the game.

Trailing by eight late in the second quarter, Wayne Memorial used a 7-0 run, capped off by buzzer 3 by Austin, to go into halftime trailing by one. The momentum continued into the third quarter as Austin and senior forward Alanna Micheaux led the Zebras on a 7-5 run that gave them their first lead with 4:58 left in the third quarter.

At that point, the Phoenix began to collapse, missing nine of its next 12 attempts from the free-throw line, sending junior Shannon Wheeler to the bench due to foul trouble and Micheaux taking over inside the paint, using simple layups to increase Wayne Memorial's lead to as many as 11 with 7:46 left in the game.

But Mitchell saw an opponent that never let up in the fourth quarter, chipping away, turnover after turnover, to switch momentum and silence the Wayne Memorial faithful.

"It's organized chaos," Renaissance head coach Shane Lawal said of his team's approach. "I think to certain people, they are like, 'it's kind of sloppy.' Yeah, that's cool, but we believe we can play at that speed better than you can play at that speed. If we play at that speed long enough and you play at that



Alanna Micheaux puts up a shot in the first half of Wayne Memorial's game against Temperance Bedford.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

speed long enough, eventually you are going to break before us."

Davis led Renaissance with 33 points — 19 of which were scored in the fourth quarter alone — to lead the Phoenix to a chance at a state title.

Micheaux led the way for Wayne Memorial, scoring a team-high 29 points and 17 rebounds, hitting 13-of-20 from the field.

"The kid laid it all on the floor. She's going to be an absolutely amazing player at the University of Minnesota. She absolutely gave her heart," Mitchell said of Micheaux. "I felt so bad for her because, in the locker room, she was inconsolable. That's when you know a kid laid it all out on the line."

"I'm so proud. If you guys could have seen her four years ago, her maturity, her growth has just been an amazing thing."

Mitchell never thought this team would make it to this point. With only three seniors, he knew the Zebras were not expected to make a run to the final four — Wayne Memorial's third semifinal in the past four years. It makes him confident for next season, returning three starters ready to chip away until the Zebras hoist a state title trophy.

But the Wayne Memorial head coach knows what could have happened with this 2021 team if the turnover total would have been just a little lower.

"To have 36 turnovers and lose by three? I think we're a good basketball team," Mitchell said. "You take three of those possessions away, I think we are having a different conversation."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17.



Wayne Memorial asks the referee a question during a play against Bedford in the state quarterfinal.

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South Lyon freshman Aidan Meyers finished in eighth place at 103.
SCOTT CONFER/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Gus Taylor finished his South Lyon wrestling career in the blood round of the 2021 Michigan high school state individual tournament. COURTESY OF RANDY HONISS

Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

mat, Meyers, loved the sport's competitiveness.

"The win is all you and the loss is all yourself," Meyers said. "You have no one to blame but yourself, and that kind of pushes you to do better."

Prior to the start of Meyers' freshman season, Makowski had an idea of who he was getting. He knew his rich history in the youth wrestling ranks — competing in numerous state and national competitions — and knew he was going to get a polished wrestler.

Meyers' goals were high from the start, wanting to be the first South Lyon freshman to qualify for the state tournament since 1966.

He broke that streak with relative ease, winning both the district and the regional title at 103.

Heading into the state tournament, Meyers held a record of 28-2. But what separated the freshman from others, Makowski said, was his response to each of his losses.

"The beauty is his ability to take a loss or some matches that don't go well and don't get too down on himself and go back into the wrestling room and work on the things he needs to work on," Makowski said. "We knew going in that the kid has a work ethic that no one can

compete with. He knows what he needs to work on and works on it. We can close that gap relatively quickly."

After winning his first-round match at the state tournament, Meyers lost to Birmingham Seaholm sophomore Zachary Simon by one point in the state quarterfinals, eventually losing in both the wrestle backs and eighth place match.

"Your head's got to stay in it. My head really wasn't in it most of the day. And it showed," Meyers said. "I could have done a lot better. I just have to stay focused."

To Makowski, Meyers was just learning what the experience was like, knowing that in the future, he has to remain mentally sharp in each match, hoping that the 103-pound competitor won't be the only one from South Lyon in the tournament moving forward.

"Aidan established a really good foundation for his career," the South Lyon head coach said. "I'm excited to get back into the wrestling room and work on some of the stuff that we saw today. We'll be back next year and be at the top of the podium. He's good enough."

After his first season with the Lions, this is where Meyers' head is at: that he is good enough to be a four-time state qualifier and a four-time state placer. He knows his journey has just begun.

"At the end of the day, I'm the first freshman to do it in five decades, so I'm happy to be here," Meyers said.

Finishing up

When Taylor first walked into the South Lyon wrestling room, Makowski saw someone who was willing to put in the work.

Taylor was a junior, coming off a season with the Lions' football team as a lineman. He needed something to continue and further his conditioning, to keep him fresh through the winter before he took the field for lacrosse in the spring.

"He loves to be challenged, and that is a staple in wrestling culture, but he already had it," Makowski said. "We were lucky getting a kid of his size, his athleticism and his drive just out of the gate."

But when he first took the mat, Taylor found another sport that he fell in love with.

"I love the adrenaline rush coming into the match, the feeling of winning," he said. "It's a great feeling."

Taylor quickly became good at the sport, too. The heavyweight advanced to the blood round of regionals as a junior, but fell short — getting called for a stall with five seconds left in triple overtime in what would have given him a spot in the state tournament.

Heading into his senior year, Taylor used those five seconds to fuel him, coming into the final weekend of the year with a 28-7 record.

"I've taken revenge tours this season," Taylor said. "I can see myself keep

improving, so I'm very happy with that."

But in his first taste of the state tournament, Taylor fell victim to the blood round again.

Finishing fourth at districts and third at regionals, the South Lyon senior slugged through the blood round match after losing his first-round match to Rochester Hills Stoney Creek senior Austin Jordan.

By the third period, Taylor was gassed, just trying to stay upright. But De La Salle junior Jeffery Roskopp started from bottom, earning one last escape in the final minute of an overtime tiebreaker to end the South Lyon senior's wrestling career.

"Honestly, at first I was like: 'Was that it?' Taylor said. "It just kind of happened so fast, you know? Like they say, it all flies by, and it's true."

After his final bout, all Makowski was only proud of Taylor.

"Hold your head high, man. Not everyone gets here," the head coach told the senior after he was done. Not everyone gets here on the experience you have. You are right there. We knew you were good enough, you showed it."

Taylor's South Lyon athletic career is not complete. He will compete with the Lions' lacrosse team for the spring season before joining the Wayne State football team in the fall. The senior said variety is something college teams like to see, using different skill sets in different situations.

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Obituaries

Harold L. Wright, Jr., MD

NORTHVILLE TWP. - Harold L. Wright Jr. MD died in his home on April 7, 2021 in Northville Township in the presence of his loving family.

Hal was born in Jackson, Michigan September 5, 1926. He was the only child of Harold L. Wright Sr. and Florence Waterman Wright. His family moved from Jackson to Detroit when he was 5 years old. He attended high school in Ferndale, MI and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1944. He met his future wife Pat in Algebra class at Lincoln High School in Ferndale, MI.

Upon graduation he attended the University of Michigan where he graduated with a BS in Science. After graduation he attended University of Michigan Medical School and graduated in 1948. He did his internship at Harper Hospital in Detroit and then started a residency in Pediatrics in Ann Arbor. He was called to serve during the Korean War and remained stateside at Great Lakes Illinois Naval Base. While serving he finished a residency in Adult Psychiatry.

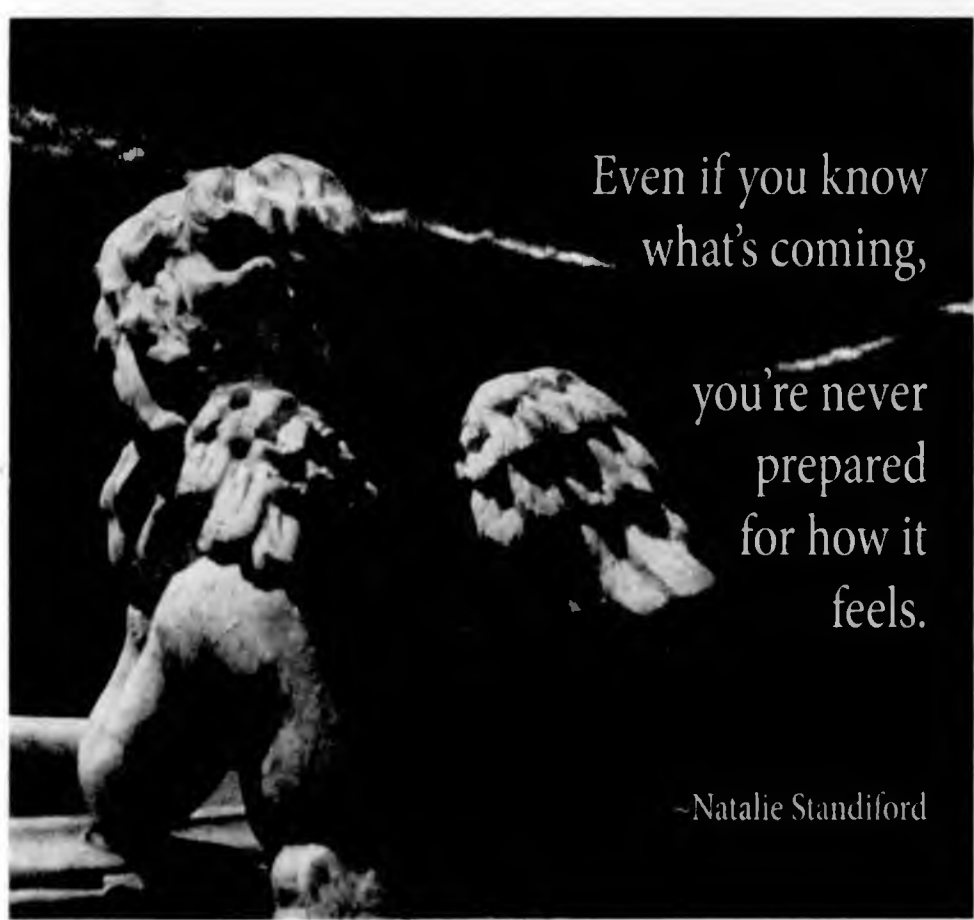
He returned to Ann Arbor after the war and completed his Pediatric and Child Psychiatry Residencies. He began work at Hawthorn Center in Northville Michigan in 1956. He became the director in 1970 and retired in 1990. He had a special interest in selective mutism and anorexia. He continued to work in the field of Child Psychiatry part time as a consultant for area schools until he retired completely from his medical practice at age 81. He was an active member of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry and a past president of the Michigan Council of Child Psychiatrists.

Hal had many interests outside of medicine and his family. These included his lifelong love for the piano, listening to classical music and opera, attending theater and gardening. He had five different gardens which he cultivated and nurtured at his home in Northville.

Harold was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Patsy Dorman Wright. He is survived by his 3 children, David (Julie Quinn), Lisa Engles (Leif), and Peter (Sue Townsend); 6 grandchildren, Elizabeth Engles, Kelsey Wright, Andrea Meyer, Amelia Wright, Tori Wright, Kelly Wright; 1 great grandchild, Elliot Meyer; and his devoted Brussels Griffon, Lucy.

Arrangements entrusted to Casterline Funeral Home in Northville. Memorial donations to the Dean's Scholarship Fund in the Medical School at the University of Michigan, checks payable to "University of Michigan", Michigan Medicine Office of Development, 1000 Oakbrook Dr., Ste. 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 or visit the website victors.us/haroldwright to make your gift.

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Duane Howard Bidwell

LYON TWP. - Duane Howard Bidwell, age 89, a lifelong resident of Lyon Township, passed away at his home on March 19, 2021, from congested heart failure. He was born January 31, 1932, son of the late Ralph and Doris (Hopkins) Bidwell, the seventh of eleven children. He attended rural schools in the South Lyon and Salem areas, and graduated from South Lyon High School in 1950. He then went on to become a building contractor for many years, a master carpenter, furniture maker, arborist, outdoorsman and a part-time resident of Beaver Island. His entire life was spent helping others and caring for his family.

He is survived by his daughter, Tracey Bidwell, and sons: Todd, Kurtis, and Duane; grandchildren: Alexis, Connor, Bree, Ryker, and Harlow; sisters: Dorene Van Orsdale of South Carolina, Ann Polan of New Hudson, and brother, Gary Bidwell of South Lyon. Preceded in death by his wife, Mary (Farley), son Colin, his parents, and seven siblings.

A family remembrance will be held at a future date. Arrangements entrusted to Phillips Funeral Home.

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George R. Lippert

OF BRIGHTON - George Robert Lippert "Bob" Age 82 Brighton, Michigan Passed away peacefully away on Thursday, March 25, 2021. He was born in Pontiac, Michigan to George & Ellen (Hunter) Lippert on July 10, 1938. Bob graduated from Waterford Township High School in 1956 and went on to attend The University of Michigan receiving his Bachelor's degree in 1960. Bob taught in Avondale schools for 2 years before, beginning his long teaching career at Huron Valley Schools Milford Middle School and he finished his career as a Counselor and Teacher at Muir Junior High. For many years Bob worked as a Ranger at Kensington Metro park and as a Board Member of the Huron Valley Schools Credit Union. After Retirement Bob worked at Waldecker Chevrolet in Fowlerville performing dealer trades and as an office assistant and the Gino P Conedera Insurance Agency. Bob thoroughly enjoyed reading, world history and traveling throughout Europe and the United States with his longtime friend Art Geyer. He was someone you would not want to challenge in Trivial Pursuit unless you wanted to lose. He relaxed during the Summer at his cottage on Black Lake at the Bored of Education cottage property with many of his lifelong teaching friends. Throughout the year he enjoyed watching his Michigan Wolverine's Play Football and Basketball. Bob is survived by sisters Judy (Mike) Skelton and Sharon (Gerry) Masica and his "adopted" Son Gino Conedera. Bob also leaves behind nieces, Nicole Countryman, Andrea Skelton, Michele Bourdo and Nephews, Matt Skelton and Sam Bourdo. Bob was preceded in death by his parents and Sister Susann Bourdo and his loving Dalmatian Rescue. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated Tuesday April 20, 2021 at 10:30 A.M. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Brighton. The family will receive friends at the Church after 9:30 A.M.

Memorial Contributions in Bob's name are suggested to Livingston Catholic Charities or to the Humane Society of Livingston County. Envelopes are available from the Keehn Griffin Funeral Home, Brighton. Please feel free to leave the family a message of comfort at www.keehngriffinfuneralhome.com. May Jesus welcome you Bob into his eternal Kingdom! You will be dearly missed here.

KEEHN-GRIFFIN
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Mary Cole Rack

Age 85 of Northville, passed away peacefully on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. Born Mary Louise Oglevee on June 6, 1935 in Moline, Illinois to Donovan and Bessie (nee Simpson) Oglevee. She grew up in Rock Island and Sterling, small towns west of Chicago, Illinois. An only child with a keen interest in the sciences. Mary graduated from Sterling Township High School, class of 1953. She continued her education at Grinnell College in Iowa and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. Mary went on to earn two master's degrees: first from Western Michigan University in Education and second from Michigan State University in Labor and Industrial Relations.

Mary was married to Roger L. Cole on June 9, 1956 and the marriage ended in January of 1968. They had six children. Juggling work, school, and children ranging from 3-12 years old Mary never stopped providing for her family and devoted herself to being an incredible single mom.

Mary entered the IT field in 1968; her first job was a computer programmer in Kalamazoo later in the same year she became a high school counselor and school-community liaison during a period of racial unrest. She was passionate about her career, working in the IT field for governments, higher education, and publishing. Her focus in all her jobs was end-user support and skill development.

In 1984 Mary took a "deferred retirement" from Michigan state government and began a 3-year tour of the United States in an old motor home with her new husband Charles W. Rack. They settled in Santa Fe, New Mexico where they spent the next 5 years. In 1989 she returned to the Midwest to be closer to family. She reentered the work force slowly at the age of 54. Mary worked in Cincinnati, Ohio working part-time for the IRS, then moving to India-



napolis, Indiana where she worked for the Department of Corrections. She also worked as a development editor at Prentice Hall Computer Publishing. In 1998, she retired from the Department of Corrections as the assistant to the IT department director. In 2011, after moving back to Michigan, Mary began working at Great Harvest Bread Company in Northville with her son.

Mary was an active member of the American Association of University Women in Ann Arbor and Midland. She loved to travel, expanding her travels internationally visiting Russia, England, Australia, South America, Mexico, and many areas of Canada. While living in Cleveland she was able to enjoy many arts and activities. Mary was a volunteer docent at Cleveland Symphony and a volunteer film reviewer for Cleveland International Film Festival. She was an amazing and dedicated mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend.

Mary is survived by her children, John Cole, Gregory (Laurie) Cole, Catherine (Glen) Gillespie, Diane (John) Manley, Paul (Cindy) Cole, and David (Julie) Cole; her grandchildren, Benjamin, Timothy, Bonnie, Hannah, Rebekah, Sarah, Melody, Erica, Jonathon, Eloise, Catherine, Daniel, Scott, Bill, Laura, David Tyler, Travis, and Jackie; and 13 great grandchildren with one more on the way. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband Charles W. Rack.

A celebration of life will be held this summer. Please go to casterlinefuneralhome.com to receive updated information and to share memories and condolences. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to The International Museum of Dinnerware Design, 520 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. The Director is establishing a \$5,000 Internship in Mary's name because she was an enthusiastic volunteer and supporter for many years. Donations can be made online at www.dinnerwaremuseum.org.

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Flight, hotel prices to rise as more people get vaccinated

Sam Kemmis
Nerdwallet.com

The cost of travel will slowly rebound from historic lows as more people receive COVID-19 vaccinations and book long-deferred trips, according to industry experts.

This time last year, air traffic in the U.S. plummeted, with 95% fewer travelers passing through Transportation Security Administration checkpoints in April 2020 compared with April 2019. This reduced demand led to a corresponding decrease in airfare prices.

The average cost of a domestic round-trip ticket in the second quarter of 2020 dropped 28% from the same period in 2019, down to \$259, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

Few travelers were monitoring these prices at the time since so few were booking flights. But now, with COVID-19 vaccinations opening the possibility of travel to millions more Americans each week, prices are once again set to change.

If you're one of those would-be travelers, experts cautiously advise booking your travel soon. Much remains uncertain, but prices are unlikely to return to 2020 levels.

Flight demand set to take off

Experts who track travel deals and consumer interest say demand for airplane seats is likely to increase, driving prices back up.

Domestic airfare prices are expected to rise 4%-5% every month until summer 2021, said Adit Damodaran, an economist with Hopper, a travel search tool. "A lot of that is based on the vaccination rollout." And this increased demand might combine with decreased supply.

Airlines scaled back routes and flight frequency in 2020, parking aircraft and furloughing staff. They may be slow to return capacity to pre-pandemic levels, even as bookings pick up steam.

"Airlines are burning so much cash, so what we're seeing is that they're slowly expanding supply," said Jesse Neugarten, who founded the flight deal newsletter Dollar Flight Club.

"If we have to shut down travel again, they don't want to get caught in a similar situation as they did in 2020."

Hotel prices may rise slightly

Hotel prices also have dropped, though not as uniformly. Room rates in February in New York City were down 37% year-over-year according to Hopper's data, while small-town hotels saw only a 5% dip. This reflects a larger exodus from cities during the pandemic. This pattern could reverse as travelers



Travelers enter a parking garage at Nashville International Airport last month in Nashville, Tenn. The airport is busier now with travelers than at any time since the COVID-19 outbreak. JOSIE NORRIS/USA TODAY NETWORK

flock back into metropolitan areas later in 2021, driving prices up.

But tourism accounts for only part of travel demand. Business travel, which has all but ceased during the pandemic, will likely be slower to return. This could keep hotel prices low through 2021. It could also suppress airfare prices even as more tourists take to the skies.

Booking flexibility likely to continue

Neugarten, who tracks flight deals, points to a changing travel landscape that extends beyond considerations of supply and demand.

The pandemic changed how airlines and hotels handle flexibility, with many eliminating change and cancellation fees altogether. This, in turn, has changed the logic for how and when to book travel.

"I'm not going to book last-minute because I can get a good deal if I'm booking three months in advance," Neugar-

ten said.

"There's a lot of incentive to book a deal now because of the flexibility." Furthermore, the travel trends that mark a typical year remain in flux.

Memorial Day and July Fourth travel could follow unusual trends, especially in terms of when bookings will occur.

"The traditional events of the year in travel are simply not happening, so there isn't the same 'best time to book' that we would normally see," said Mark Crossey, travel expert for Skyscanner, a flight search tool.

And then there is the question of international travel. Many countries have limited tourists, particularly from the U.S., and these restrictions may remain even as more travelers receive vaccinations.

"We're not expecting an increase in prices for international airfare until May," said Damodaran.

And changing prices are unlikely to be geographically uniform, as countries update their policies one by one. Da-

modaran noted that Hopper is seeing the strongest interest in Caribbean and Latin American destinations.

Uncertainties abound. Vaccine distribution hiccups could dampen prices, as could surges in COVID-19 variants. Flexible booking options, although good for customers, could lead to mass re-bookings later in the year.

And volatile oil markets could impact airfare prices, as they do in normal years.

Despite these unknowns, experts remain cautiously confident that those looking to book 2021 travel should do so sooner rather than later.

Greater flexibility reduces the risk of changing plans, and increased travel demand is unlikely to drive prices below current levels.

"I booked a one-way (flight) to Portugal in July for \$109," Neugarten says. "We'll see if I get the vaccination before. If not, I'll push it out."

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Construction industry HEATS UP

ZANE LEE/UNSPASH



Julia Pollak
ZipRecruiter.com

If you're looking for a job in construction, now's the time to dust off your application materials and references, and renew lapsed credentials or occupational licenses. That's because we're entering the peak earning period for contractors and subcontractors.

Between March and April each year, new construction hires jump by 40%, on average, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey.

Last year was an anomaly, of course. Construction employment and hires fell last April amid lockdowns and broader panic over the COVID-19 pandemic. But the spring/summer hiring surge came a month later as most projects resumed.

Whereas past recessions have generally caused steeper job losses in construction than in most service-sector industries, the COVID-19 recession has seen the reverse. As of February 2021, employment levels were "only" down 4% in construction, compared with 6.5% in service-sector industries, according to BLS' Current Employment Statistics.

Companies primarily involved in residential building have experienced something of a boom since pre-pandemic February and homebuilder confidence has been historically high. Amid record-low mortgage rates, new housing starts reached a new record high in December and investments in home renovations surged as Americans pulled cash out of their homes through refinancing and poured it

back into home offices, home gyms, play spaces and swimming pools.

As of late March 2021, increases in lumber prices and mortgage rates have posed a challenge for home builders. But there is plenty of good news on the way for the industry, too. COVID-19 cases have fallen, vaccination rates have increased, job growth is rising again, and the economic recovery appears to be picking up. The Federal Reserve expects the economy to grow 6.5% in 2021, but has indicated it will keep rates low for the foreseeable future.

Further, unprecedented fiscal stimulus is making its way into Americans' bank accounts. Especially for the many Americans who have neither lost jobs nor income since the pandemic began, some of that money will go into new housing or home improvements. And for those who put home purchase or home improvement plans on hold last spring/summer amid heightened uncertainty, the coming building season offers the chance for a fresh start.

That is good news for construction workers, 9.6% of whom were unemployed as of February 2021, according to BLS. The industry currently has the fourth-highest unemployment rate, after mining, leisure and hospitality, and agriculture, but that could change in the coming months. As of mid-March, construction-related fields dominated the list of fastest-growing jobs in the ZipRecruiter marketplace.

To the extent that online job posting volumes are a crystal ball, offering insight into employer sentiment and future hiring plans, they point to a strong recovery in the construction industry this spring and summer.

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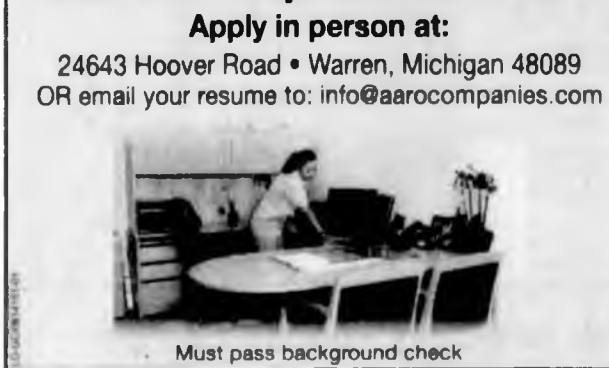
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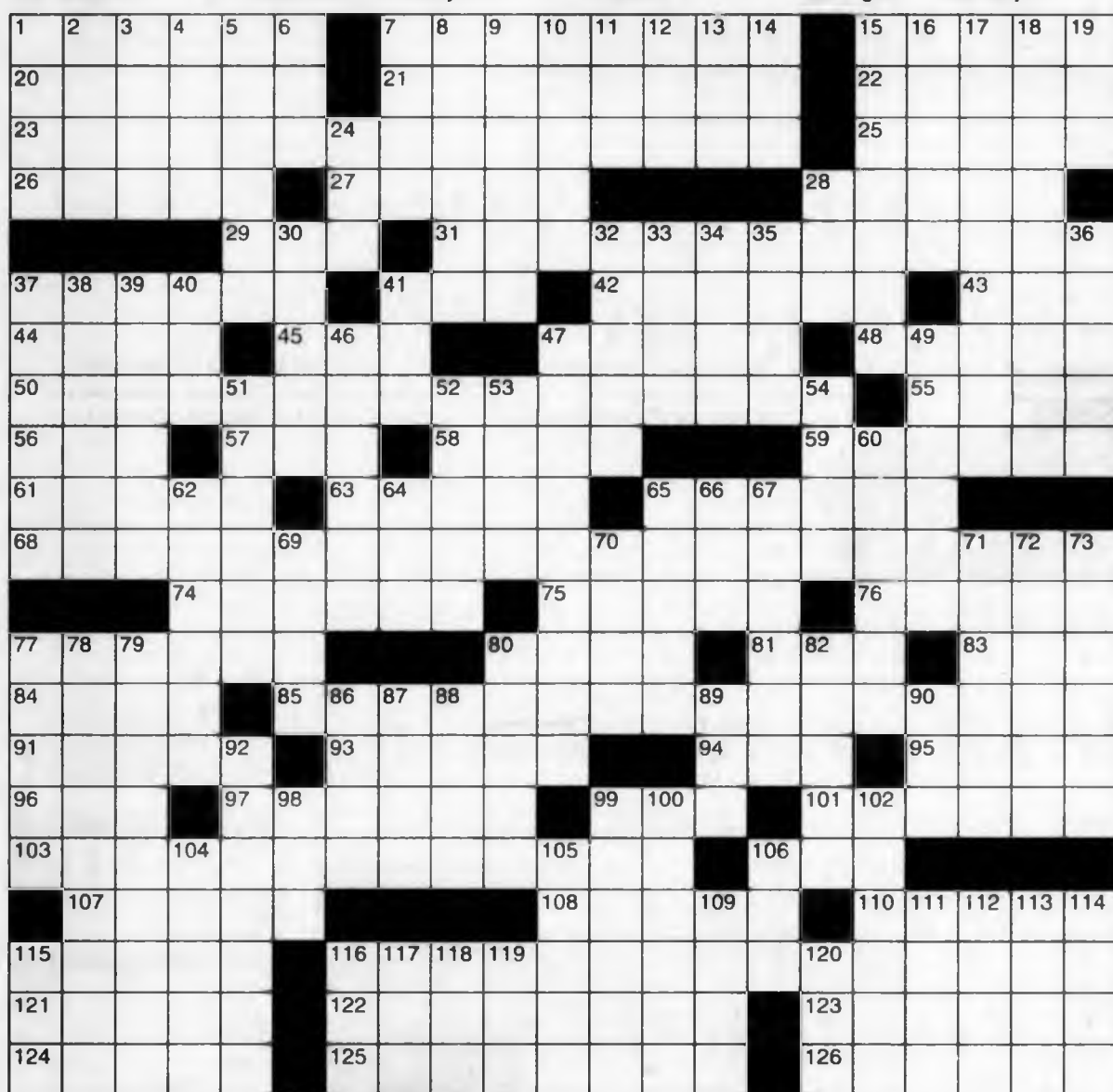
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Bases for hair plugs
7 Makes out incorrectly, as text
15 Acronym for a PC character set
20 Without breaking a sweat
21 Radio-signal rods
22 Flowerless office plants
23 Start of a riddle
25 Police actions
26 Serpent
27 Foam at the top of an espresso
28 Low-carb kind of diet
29 Highway with a no.
31 Riddle, part 2
37 In a new way
41 Mornings, for short
42 Rub away
43 To and —
44 Boorish sort
45 Be incorrect
47 Pigs' places
48 Merit badge earmer
50 Riddle, part 3
55 "Silence!"
- 56 Altar vow
57 Hoover product, in brief
58 Second-largest city in Algeria
59 Wears a grin
61 Lawn pests
63 Automated PC program that may generate pop-ups
65 Aviating guy, informally
68 Riddle, part 4
74 Equine, to kids
75 Piccolo, e.g.
76 Comaneci of gymnastics
77 Neighbor of Tanzania
80 James who played Brian Piccolo
81 Letter before upsilon
83 Two, in Peru
84 As neat as —
85 Riddle, part 5
91 Rattan artisan
93 Iraqi money
94 "—War" (William Shatner novel)
95 Big name in frozen drinks
- 96 Noshed
97 Puts in office
99 Ending for Taiwan
101 Ones running 5,280 feet
103 End of the riddle
106 Party for Biden: Abbr.
107 Arab bigwigs
108 Maine university city
110 Texas river to the Rio Grande
115 Shorthand whiz
116 Riddle's answer
121 Group dialect
122 Outperformed
123 Online brokerage
124 Eight-item set
125 People feeling hate
126 Got closer to
- DOWN**
- 1 Constructs clothes
2 "All the Way" lyricist
3 On a cruise
4 Connection
5 Common toolbox item
6 DOS part: Abbr.
7 Bryn —
8 Line down a pant leg
9 Steps loudly
10 Make a new chart of
11 Suffix with acetyl
12 Year, in Lisbon
13 Actor Aykroyd
14 Atlanta-to-Tampa dir.
15 Many ski chalets
16 Rival of Seta
17 Protested about an injustice
18 What spinning bikes are intended for
19 Mag. edition
24 Killer serve
28 Third deg., often
30 Letter before iota
32 Boca —
33 Somber paper notice
34 Territory
35 Wine barrel
36 Invaders of ancient Rome
37 Actor Marc of "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine"
38 Sweet on
39 Nureyev of ballet
40 Guess at JFK or LGA
41 Una locale
46 Summarizes
47 Big annual Minnesota event
49 Novelist
51 Sitcom, e.g.
52 New Orleans sub
53 Quick pace
54 Title girl in a Salinger story
60 — opus (great work)
62 Gas in fuel mixtures
64 "Dr." of hip-hop
65 Attacked like a wasp
66 Model-building set
67 Mimieux of "The Reward"
69 Children's author Carle
70 Family group
71 Bring forward as evidence
72 Violent insurgent
73 Fast races
77 Big parrot
78 Uninterested
79 Distinctive facial contour
80 Smash-up
82 Help desk message
86 Had way too much, for short
87 End of Caesar's boast
88 Strep-studying docs
89 Ending with Harlem
90 Grease
92 North American plant that's a dye source
98 Fleur-de- —
99 Poland is part of it
100 Russell — (chocolatier)
102 Ascribe
104 Bit of color
105 Gusto
106 — good deed
109 Rorem and Beatty
111 Poet Pound
112 Peter the Great, e.g.
113 Aged, quaintly
114 Bird feeder tidbit
115 — mo
116 100 cents: Abbr.
117 Yoko of music and art
118 Three R's gp.
119 "Tsk!"
120 Guys



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com.

SUDOKU



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!

WHAT TO BE

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

W F A R M E R B M K A U T H O R Q J
F R E D L E W D G N D E Y X V Y S U
N T C E T I H C R A N Q S K P U R D
R T U I S E G A W A R W U R R G E G
T N A T N U O C C A U D O G U W V E
A W T D B U I L D E R G E L I N I N
N N D S R P I L O T R O Y N C W R A
R R V R I U I E S A N T U D E Y D I
E E R E B T M I M H T A I L O R N D
T Y R X R Q R M R E T N I A P B I E
N W O O O O E A E E N A I C I G A M
E A T B L R H R J R S O L D I E R O
P L C F I P L A Y W R I G H T S T C
R J A W A P J O U R N A L I S T U Z
A T D E S I G N E R R A C I V H T M
C J R E C N U O B H T E O P F E H C
T O V R E H P A R G O T O H P O C K
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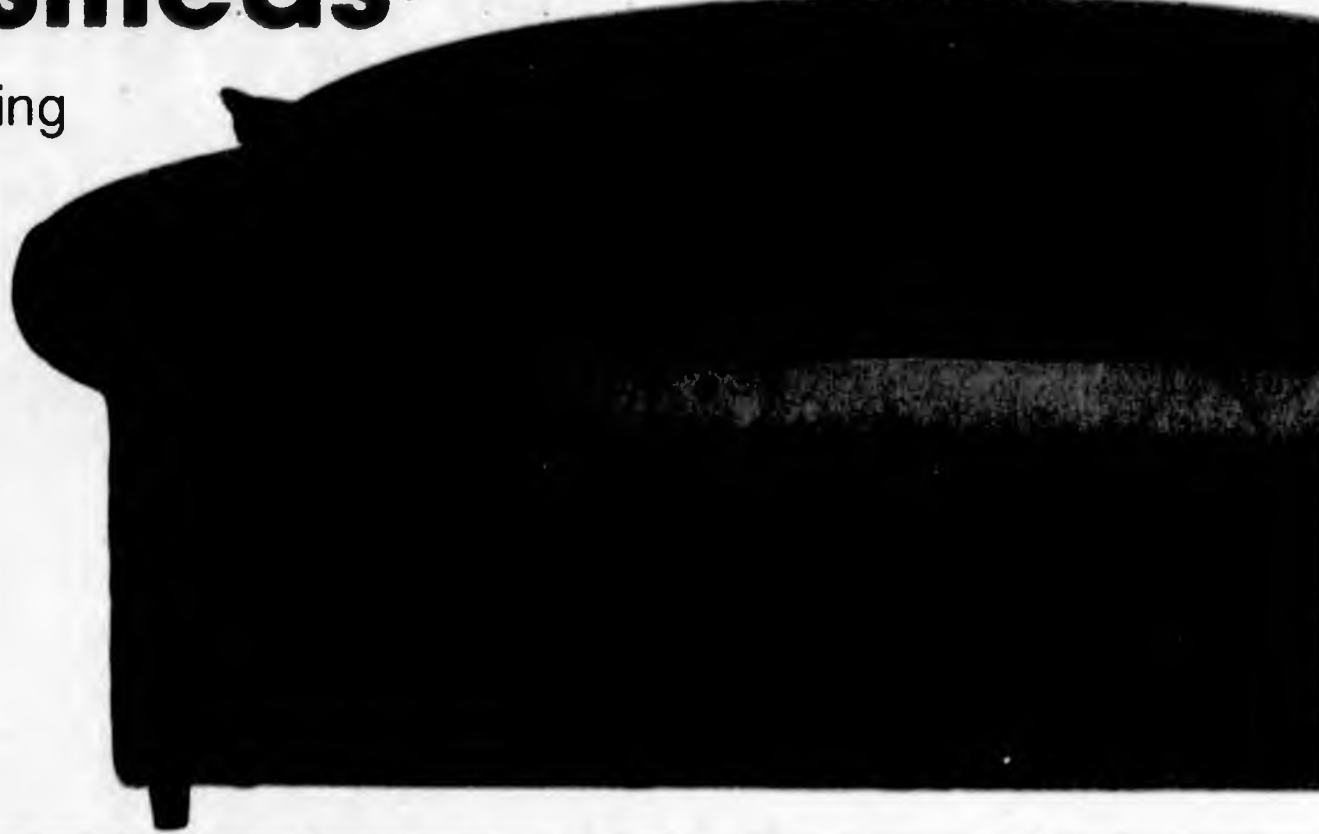
ACCOUNTANT
ACTOR
ARCHITECT
ARTIST
AUTHOR
BODYGUARD
BOUNCER
BOXER
BUILDER
CARPENTER
CHEF
CLOWN
COMEDIAN
DANCER
DESIGNER
DOCTOR
DRUMMER
FARMER
FLORIST
GARDENER
JOB
JOURNALIST
JUDGE
LAWYER
MAGICIAN
MUSICIAN
NURSE
PAINTER
PHOTOGRAPHER
PILOT
PLAYWRIGHT
POET
PROGRAMMER
SAILOR
SINGER
SOLDIER
SURGEON
TAILOR
TRAIN DRIVER
VET
VICAR
WAGES
WAITER
WELDER



WHAT TO BE
9 2 4 1 8 6 9 8 2
5 1 8 4 7 2 6 8 9
2 6 3 9 5 8 7 1 4
1 2 5 8 6 7 8 9 7
3 4 6 2 1 9 8 7 5
7 8 9 3 4 5 2 1 6
6 9 7 5 8 1 7 2 8
4 5 1 7 2 8 9 6 8
8 8 2 6 9 4 1 5 7

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