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NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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LVC boys hoops honors released

SPORTS, 3B

Developer proposes new plan for orchard

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Erwin Orchards in Lyon Township remains attractive to developers under-terred by the pandemic and previous denials.

Lombardo Homes has submitted a new plan to put 161 homes, an event ven-

ue and a tasting room on the Erwin Orchards property in Lyon Township, while keeping the cider mill and a portion of the orchards.

The planning commission will be presented with a conceptual plan for Orchards Crossing, a planned development on 181 acres, at its April 26 meeting.

This plan differs significantly from a previously controversial project offered for the property, which was called a "crappy plan" and ultimately denied by the township board.

"The density is a lot lower," Planning Department Coordinator Katherine Des Rochers said. "It's very different from previous plans, with less homes and fo-

cused on maintaining a bigger part of the orchard, cider mill, and (putting in) a special event venue. The overall crossing development has 126 acres of open space, 70 percent of the overall site."

The proposed development would put 121 single family homes off of Silver

See DEVELOPER, Page 6A



Wendy Ringo begins to prepare a cheesecake shake cake creation at Twelve Oaks Mall's Sugah Please.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Enjoy a wild milkshake at new Twelve Oaks Mall shop

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wendy Ringo added some southern hospitality to Twelve Oaks Mall.

The owner of Sugah Please Coffee House opened her shop at the Novi shopping center earlier this year, bringing with her all kinds of sweets and treats. The name and products are reminiscent of time spent with family, including some from places like Georgia and Florida.

"When I think of Sugah Please, I just think of all the things that made me excited as a child," she said. "Whenever we would have a (family) gathering, it would always center around coffee and tea."

"We do have a strong constituency in the South on my dad's side."

The shop is her first venture into serving treats such as coffee, cake and more. Ringo jumped from working in the medical industry to deciding to open her own business, a process than began in

2019. She began looking around for a spot, including in places such as Detroit and at Oakland Mall in Troy. She then found the space at the mall at 12 Mile and Novi roads and decided it was the right spot for serving up sweets, though the actual opening was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions put in place last spring.

The shop occupies the space that formerly held Sanders Candy and Ice

See SHOP, Page 6A

Schools try to normalize events for end of year

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Class of 2020's fate — drive-through graduations, canceled proms — was supposed to be a one-off.

But a year later, a new class of graduating seniors are wondering if they are destined to also miss these traditional milestone celebrations.

A Huron Valley student recently asked School Board Vice President Sean Carlson what would happen if they were "tagged" with COVID-19 and quarantined one or two days before prom or graduation.

"I said the best way to avoid that situation is to get the vaccination," Carlson explained as he relayed the encounter to other school board members at their April 12 meeting. "That's one way to enhance your odds to experience those things. We need to get that message out."

Everyone ages 16 and older is now eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Moderna is available to those 18 and older. Michigan stopped using Johnson & Johnson's one-dose vaccination for now while it investigates a possible link to blood clots that occurred in six women.

Regardless of vaccine status for students, school officials have been making end-of-year plans, some since last fall, some with multiple alternatives.

Huron Valley secured Suburban Collection Showplace for June 6 as its first choice to ensure a traditional graduation, albeit with social distancing.

Renting the venue for the Milford and Lakeland high school students' graduations will cost the district roughly \$40,000. Historically the schools held graduation ceremonies at the schools.

"It will be worth it — absolutely worth it — to have a safe, traditional, respectable ceremony that appropriately honors our seniors," Salah said. "They have been flexible, agile, and we want to send them off in a great way, we want them recognized and properly."

The problem Salah currently faces is uncertainty over what COVID-19 restrictions will be in place at that time and how many guests will be permitted inside the 64,000-square-foot

See EVENTS, Page 7A



Novella's Pizza opens in downtown Milford

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There was a small fear from Brandon Davis and his team at Novella's Pizza that opening a second location just miles away from their original home in New Hudson might not work.

After several weeks of operation in downtown Milford and plenty of customers recognizing the sign, Davis said that's clearly not the case.

"Everything's good. We've been busy," he said. "The area's been super supportive. Everyone's really excited. You can just feel it."

Novella's Pizza opened in mid-March at 426 N. Main St., in the space formerly occupied by the Blue Grill, which closed its doors last spring. Davis said he drove by the building after the Blue Grill closed and thought it would make the perfect fit for a second location for the pizza business, which launched in 2018 at Grand River and Milford roads in New Hudson.

The new shop serves much of the same items as the New Hudson shop, though there are some differences. With a fryer at the Milford restaurant, Novella's can now serve delicacies such as chicken wings or their newly-popular fried brussels sprouts, which come topped with a spicy honey and everything bagel seasoning.

In addition to the classic pies they've created since the beginning, Davis said their Detroit-style pizza slowly is becoming a big hit at both stores. Launched about a year ago, the pies are baked in authentic pans and with the sauce poured on after baking, he said the word is getting out.

"They're becoming crazy," Davis said. "They're really good."



A Novella's Supreme pizza with pepperoni, mozzarella, roasted garlic, meatballs, and basil.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A very popular appetizer at Novella's at the moment: deep fried Brussels sprouts with a spicy honey sauce.

Also on the menu is the shop's best-known pizza, the Pig and Fig, which comes topped with figs, pork belly, caramelized onion, goat cheese, pizza cheese, arugula and a balsamic glaze. The pizza was named the 12th best pie in the world at a competition back in 2019.

Earning that accolade, Davis said, is a big reason Novella's could add a second location.

"That competition changed our business," Davis said. "We were a struggling business before that."

The restaurant was completely re-modeled from when it was the Blue Grill



R.J. Karsnick heads to the ovens at Novella's with two lunch-time pizzas.

with Davis and his crew revamping the space in its entirety. It sports a modern look in the dining room and bar area, complete with space for bartenders to serve up beer, wine and spirits. Davis said they had to delay serving alcohol until they had their license is finalized. There are also a handful of outdoor tables in front of the restaurant.

Guests can come to Novella's through one of two doors: one along Main Street and another on the back of the building. That rear entrance is where those picking up orders can come in and get a peek at the kitchen operations.

Delivery is not currently offered at the Milford location, though Davis said that could come in the future.

The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. More information, including a menu for both locations and the online ordering system, can be found at novellaspizza.com.

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

Help plan future development in Lyon Township

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

More restaurants and retailers? Fewer car dealerships and auto repair shops?

What kind of housing?
What do you envision for Lyon Township?

Planning officials are seeking the input of residents as they prepare to update the township master plan. An ex-

tensive survey was completed by more than 200 people in its first two days online. Officials are hoping to receive responses from hundreds more from the estimated 20,000 residents in the township.

Some of the questions will be familiar to residents who completed the 2012 master plan survey, including ones about parks and recreation facilities. Others will be new, including ones on housing types, and transportation trends.

"We're still early in the process, but that feedback plays a role in how the plan shapes out," Township Planner Brian Keesey said. "The planning commission will take in responses from the public, but they will be the filter on what is realistic and what are more far-reaching goals and what can be implemented on a day-to-day basis."

The master plan is a long-range vision for land use and guides zoning regulation changes. Townships are required by the state to update master plans every five years, with Lyon's last update in 2015.

The township has seen a lot of growth in Tina Archer's seven years as the township's Downtown Development Director. Archer will leave the position in June as she relocates out of state.

In her time here, she has seen the addition of 93 businesses. The township now has roughly 391 commercial and in-

dustrial enterprises, which excludes the city of South Lyon, which has nearly 200 alone.

But some types of businesses are sorely lacking or completely absent in the township, while others are excessive for the area. Archer points to a marketing profile of the township provided by Esri, an international supplier of geographic information system software.

Among businesses in the high supply category: auto dealers, auto parts stores, building material suppliers and dealers.

Among those for which there is a greater need in the township: Independent sit-down restaurants, food and beverage stores, clothing retailers and gas stations.

"Restaurants are always in demand, entertainment for families is something we could benefit from, and more retailers," Archer said.

But not big box retailers, she added, which appear to be a thing of the past due to the advent of online shopping. Bed, Bath & Beyond and Target are not looking to construct buildings here anymore and Archer notes that is part of the reason why the Watermark apartments were approved at Lyon Crossing in a space formerly slotted for retail.

"I think we've seen a great deal of residential, commercial and industrial growth over the last five years, and with this master plan, new residents will have an opportunity for input and legacy residents will provide feedback to the master plan," Archer said.

Knowledge about business deficits and surpluses in the area will help commissioners make decisions regarding the plan. Industrial businesses will play a role in providing jobs and a strong tax base.

Planning for business and residential growth will also mean planning for traffic improvements and potentially expanding other infrastructure, including water and sewer systems.

The pandemic makes the future a bit harder to plan.

"Growth is hard to predict because of economic factors in play," Archer said. "Construction materials are at an all-time high cost and we're still seeing labor shortages. Until those are corrected in the economy, there is a significant impact on both growth and timing."

While the commissioners have a number of factors to take into consideration, the survey is critical input from residents.

"I need their input," Keesey said simply. "I encourage residents to participate quickly and early on."

To complete the survey, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/Lyon-TownshipMasterPlan2021.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

NOTICE OF ELECTION CITY OF NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN

To the qualified electors, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Special Election will be held in the City of Northville, Counties of Oakland and Wayne, on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. The election will be conducted in all polling places in the City of Northville for the purpose of voting on the following ballot proposal as presented and listed below:

School District:

Northville Public Schools

Operating Millage Renewal Proposal Exempting Principal Residence and Other Property Exempted by Law 19 2383 Mills for 5 Years

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of Northville Public Schools, 405 W. Main Street Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-344-3500

Polling Place Locations

Precinct 1 (Wayne County)

Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St.

Precinct 2 (Oakland County)

Amerman Elementary School, 847 N. Center St.

The polls open at 7am and remain open until 8pm. Polling places are ADA accessible and each precinct is equipped with Braille and audio voting instructions and ADA compliant voting equipment.

Absent Voter Ballot Deadlines

• **Friday, April 30** by 5pm is the last day the City Clerk can mail an absent voter ballot (exceptions apply).

• **Saturday, May 1** the City Clerk's Office will be open from 8am to 4pm. Voters may obtain an absent voter ballot in-person.

• **Monday, May 3** by 4pm, AV ballots are available for voters that are already registered to vote. The ballot must be voted at City Hall.

Absent voter ballot applications are available at the City Clerk's office, on the City's website at www.ci.northville.mi.us, or by calling 248-449-9914

DIANNE MASSA, CMC, CITY CLERK

Publish: April 22, 2021

LC-0000398085 3x4.5

NOTICE OF ELECTION CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN MAY 4, 2021 ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Novi:

Notice is hereby given that a presidential primary election will be held in the City of Novi on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

16 Novi Civic Center

45175 West Ten Mile Road

17 Novi Civic Center

45175 West Ten Mile Road

24 St. James Catholic Church

46325 West Ten Mile Road

25 Thornton Creek Elementary School

46180 West Nine Mile Road

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Northville Public Schools will be voting on the following ballot proposition as presented and listed below:

NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL
EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE
AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW
19 2383 MILLS FOR 5 YEARS

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Northville Public Schools, 405 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan 48167, telephone: (248) 344-3500.

A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the City of Novi Clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot.

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the township clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

Cortney Hanson, CMC, MiPMC II
City Clerk, City of Novi
(248) 347-0456
cityofnovi.org

Publish: April 22, 2021

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With 20/40 vision in her left eye as the result of an October 2020 incident in which a 40-pound sandbag crashed through her car's windshield, Plymouth Frame Works owner Cindy Eckley uses her fingers to check alignment as she puts together frames. PHOTOS JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Man in I-95 sandbag drop incident plans insanity defense

Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Cindy Eckley's recovery blipped this spring when she learned the man accused of hurling a 40-pound sandbag at her from an Interstate 96 overpass was pursuing an insanity defense.

The latest in the prosecution of David Vincent-Charles Garcia seemed more than vexing to the Plymouth business owner.

Her vision was permanently damaged by the glass that pierced her left eye once a 40-pound load of construction materials shattered her windshield six months ago.

"He has a long criminal history," said Eckley, rejecting Garcia's claims of mental illness. "He has a long record. Not once on any of his other charges has this been brought up. It's just a stall tactic."

"He needs to do time. His behavior has escalated to the point where he could have killed me. He's a danger to society."

In the case that determines how soon Eckley, 48, can move on with her life, Garcia, 41, of Brighton is awaiting trial on felony charges of throwing objects at cars causing serious impairment, assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and malicious destruction of personal property.

Criminal record

Garcia does have an extensive court record that stretches back to at least 2003, where he faced a domestic violence charge and a driving infraction in Canton's 35th District Court.

Garcia then had a Romulus address, and the charges are more plentiful in that city's 34th District Court. Online records indicate Garcia was a frequent visitor to the courthouse because of allegations involving drugs, larceny, assault, domestic violence and driving infractions.

An assault and domestic violence case out of Romulus took Garcia to Third Circuit Court in Detroit in 2007, after he waived a preliminary examination and the case automatically moved to the higher court.

There, Garcia pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon. The

domestic violence charge was dismissed, and he was given two years' probation. He returned to court four years later because of a probation violation.

There were a couple more driving infractions to deal with in Livingston and Oakland counties before the night of Oct. 4, when Garcia apparently hurled several 40-pound sandbags from the Old Plank Road overpass in Lyon Township as Eckley drove toward her Livonia home on I-96.

She had spent the day with the women in her family, a reunion she hadn't experienced in a while because of COVID-19.

As Eckley felt around for her phone to call 911, Garcia apparently left the overpass. He ran toward a truck with a flashlight.

Court testimony

In court, David Masters testified that he was driving toward his New Hudson place of work when he saw Garcia and agreed to take the man home. Garcia had told him that his vehicle broke down on the interstate.

During the ride, Garcia apparently confessed that he feels an urge to hurt people when bad things happen.

He also told Masters that he walked up to the bridge and threw the sandbags onto the highway.

"I asked him if he had hit any cars. He said, yeah, he did. He hit one," Masters testified. "He seemed very calm and collected."

Masters called 911 upon dropping off Garcia, a self-employed man who had shared his name, age, phone number and that he was trained in siding and roofing work when hitching a ride.

Garcia is awaiting trial on home confinement. He must wear a tether but



Garcia

can leave home for work and other specific purposes. His attorney Andrew Mikos notified the court of his intent to pursue an insanity defense in February. The notice reads as follows: "Defendant, by and through his undersigned counsel, notifies the plaintiff and the court that, pursuant to MCL 768.20a, the defendant intends to introduce an insanity defense."

Oakland Circuit Court Judge Victoria Valentine has ordered an evaluation of Garcia. A forensic psychiatrist or other qualified personnel will provide their opinion on Garcia's mental state.

The overpass

Eckley was driving her dream car — a sleek 2014 metallic charcoal gray Chevy Camaro — when sand and glass blasted through the interior, wrecking the vehicle and threatening her life.

The double vision is gone. However, a shard cut her left cornea and permanently damaged the left eye, leaving her stuck with 20/40 vision — with trifocal glasses — on that side of her face.

She now prepares frames by both sight and touch at her downtown Plymouth art gallery, Frame Works.

Realizing the magnitude of what she survived, Eckley has spent days fighting insurance companies to get medical bills totaling thousands of dollars paid. She fears Garcia's insanity defense will push back a court resolution and thus some car issues.

She took pictures and video of the damaged Camaro for the car insurance company, which said the car could be restored for about \$3,000.

"This car, after I've seen it in person, is pretty much totaled," Eckley said. "The entire interior of the car was sand-blasted with 40 pounds of sand and gravel at 73 miles an hour. It shot past me and is piled up in the back windshield. The back windshield is completely etched. The VIN number was sand-blasted off the front of the dash."

"My car is being held as evidence and who knows when the actual trial is going to happen. I have to wait for the actual trial to happen to then be able to go after (the car insurance company) to get money for the car. It's ridiculous."

She has purchased a new car and done her best to move beyond the night she was sand-bagged and sandblasted.

Trying to move on

Eckley returned to full-time hours just before Christmas.

"Christmas is our busiest season and we had a record-breaking December," she shared. "That was great but it just meant that I had to be here. I would work for a few hours. Then I would sit back here, kind of nauseous, put my head between my legs for about 20 minutes. Then it was like 'OK.' I'd force myself to go at it because who else is going to do it and there's deadlines and everyone is helping as much as they can."

Existence has been a definite struggle for this female business owner.

And so she navigates her anger slowly.

"I saw him up there," Eckley said. "He waited for my vehicle. It's not like he was angry and at the spur of the moment was just throwing things and didn't know what he was doing."

Hartland Twp. man charged with attempted murder

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Hartland Township man attempted to murder his father, a Livingston County Sheriff's Office detective testified in a hearing that led to charges in February.

Clay Garner, 26, was charged in February with attempted murder and assault with intent to cause great bodily harm less than murder. He is also charged with domestic violence and resisting, obstructing police.

Garner stood over his father, punching him in the face, ribs and shoulder for approximately an hour, the detective testified.

"During that time Clay threatened to kill him while assaulting him and told him that this may be his last day," the detective said.

Garner was arrested following the assault after trying to flee police and was arraigned on charges on Feb. 19.

"Your honor, this is a case where I don't believe you have the legal authority to deny Mr. Garner bond. But if you could then I would ask for it based on the allegations in this case," Livingston County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Brandon Ciciotti said. "The defendant, I believe, was trying to murder the victim."

Livingston County Magistrate Jerry Sherwood set Garner's bond at \$500,000 cash or surety.

"The events of the case are very disturbing to the court," Sherwood said after setting Garner's bond. "This was a brutal beating."

Garner is scheduled to appear in front of Livingston County District Court Judge Shauna Murphy for a preliminary hearing Monday afternoon.

He is currently lodged in the Livingston County Jail.

Ex-teacher pleads no contest to sexual assault charges

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Jason Dean, a teacher accused of grooming and sexually assaulting students, pleaded no contest to five counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

The 37-year-old Livonia resident accused by a former 2010 student at Cedar Crest Academy in Springfield Township entered his pleas over Zoom the morning of April 15.

"That's five counts total," Oakland Circuit Court Judge Yasmine Poles said. "Do you understand that, Mr. Dean? There's two counts as to one of your files and three counts as to the other. You're taking responsibility for all of those."

"Yes," he replied.

Dean was to report to Oakland County Jail by the afternoon. He is scheduled for a May 20 sentencing.

No contest pleas do not include admissions of guilt, but judges are allowed to treat defendants as guilty when deciding on sentences for such pleas.

While attorneys have agreed that he should spend at least nine years in prison, Poles reminded them that she is not bound by their agreement. Dean could still be sentenced up to life behind bars.

Prosecuting Attorney Shannon O'Brien shared during the plea hearing the incident report completed by Detective Sam Marzban of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

The victim shared details about being assaulted by her teacher for most of 2010 — at the child's home in White Lake Township, inside a van parked outside of a Springfield Township dance, in his classroom, at a hotel, on an airplane, and, for months, at the teacher's secret apartment in the Rivers Edge complex in Waterford Township.

Dean was in his late 20s. She was in eighth grade.



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**NOTICE OF ELECTION
NOVI TOWNSHIP**

To the Qualified Electors of NOVI TOWNSHIP, County of Oakland:

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election for the purposes of determining a Northville Public Schools millage renewal will be held in Novi Twp., County of Oakland on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 from 7 AM to 8 PM. The polling place for said election is 44114 Wyngate Dr., Northville, MI 48167.

For assistance in determining the accessibility of the polling place location and the availability of voting instructions in alternative formats such as audio and Braille, please contact the clerk's office. Persons wishing to obtain an absentee ballot may do so by contacting the Novi Twp. Clerk's office. The Clerk or their designee, will be available on the Saturday preceding the election, May 1, 2021 until 2:00 pm, the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot.

Janeen Crittenden
Novi Twp. Clerk
(248) 404-7529

Published April 22, 2021

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How do I avoid heavy taxes from the new law on my retirement plans (like my IRA or 401k)?

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APRIL 2021

31 Years Serving Michigan Seniors

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 4.3

LETTERS WE GET LETTERS...

WE GET LOTS AND LOTS OF LETTERS

LETTERS YOU ARE GLAD YOU DID NOT WRITE

(NOT EDITED FOR SPELLING OR PUNCTUATION) (NOTE: NOT LEGAL ADVICE!)

Long answers are boring, short punchy answers are fun! Time for some fun...

Letter #1**How should I word a letter to say I withdraw specific grants of authority on a POA?**

I am primary agent on my father's POA, but need to produce a letter that says I will not act as agent with respect to obtaining financial assistance from or communicating with Medicaid. Is that wording correct? Do I have to title it as an affidavit?

The Answer Is: "With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility!"

Do Not Do This Bad, Awful, Evil Thing

Point #1 This is total BULL. You have been given the great power to make your father's remaining life a life worth living. You are being asked to throw away that power, to sacrifice your father's well-being. Your father granted you authority to make decisions on his behalf. You accepted that responsibility. You have a duty to your father to exercise the authority you have been given to your father's best interest. Your father's best interest. Not the interest of somebody who wants to take advantage of your father.**Point #2** Who is asking for this? Who says you "need to produce a letter"? No reputable care facility would ask for this. No one who cares about your father would ask for this. There is no GOOD reason for anyone would ask for you to give up your father's entitlement to federal health care benefits. There are lots of BAD reasons, though.**Point #3** Middle class America already won this fight. Back in the day (as the kids say) or used to say (or never said but I thought they did). When I first started doing this stuff, 31 years ago, it was not uncommon to see demands like this in long term care contracts. The State of Ohio even prohibited Medicaid recipients from speaking with attorneys about their benefits. All blatantly wrong. All clearly illegal. Federal law is clear: no one can require you to give up your federal health care benefits. And that means you cannot give up your father's federal health care benefits. You do not "need" to produce any such letter. Whoever asked for the letter was probably breaking federal law.**Point #4** Faithful readers know that Medicaid simply is the way America pays for long-term care.a. Folks spend themselves into nursing home poverty.
b. Savings exhausted, farm sold, cottage gone, destitute.
c. Apply for Medicaid.

d. Get basic level of care, paid by Medicaid.

Point #5 Faithful readers know that middle class savers can obtain Medicaid benefits in full compliance with state and federal law without going broke. Your savings can supplement Medicaid so that you receive the highest level of care, tailored to your unique needs.**Point #6** Private Pay Rates are about 50% higher than Medicaid rates for the same services. Reality Check: Look at your last medical or hospital bill. Do you think the hospital is paying \$12 per aspirin? Conclusion: Do not betray your father. Dear old Dad trusted you to act in his best interest. Accept the great responsibility that comes with great power. Make his remaining time on this planet the best time of his life.**Letter #2****My husband's step grandmother died in August. Her son (not our blood relative obviously) contacted us as the executor.**

He told us that he is distributing the proceeds of her estate and that he is sending us a check, even though we are not named as beneficiaries. My mother-in-law is livid (she has a number of mental and health issues) she cares for her disabled brother (both are beneficiaries) he is concerned she is not adequately caring for her brother. She is demanding that we not accept the check. What should we do here??

The Answer Is: Only Santa Claus Can Give Things Away for Free

You know you are not a beneficiary. If the money you are receiving was supposed to go to other people, that is a problem.

Point #1 Most folks do not leave money to grandchildren. And it is even more unusual to include step-grandchildren. As you observe, your husband is not a relative or named beneficiary. It is hard to see that he has any entitlement to a distribution.**Point #2** Your mother-in-law and her disabled

brother appear to be children of the deceased step grandmother. They are legitimate beneficiaries.

Point #3 If somebody is giving away your inheritance, you are justified in getting hot under the collar. BONUS POINTS: Extra aggravation if your disabled brother's inheritance is being given away. Especially when you are caring for said disabled brother.**Point #4** Proper estate distribution is up to the personal representative (aka executor). Unless you acted improperly, distribution problems are on the executor-brother.**Head-scratcher:** What the hell is going on here? See Point #1. This is strange.**Possibility #1:** The executor-step-uncle is giving a portion of the executor-step-uncle's own share to your husband. If so, no problem.**Possibility #2:** The executor-step-uncle is making an unauthorized distribution of the estate. If so, the Probate Court could order your husband to disgorge the money. Also, executor-step-uncle is in deep doo-doo.**Conclusion:** "Livid" mothers-in-law with "a number of mental and health issues" are not always wrong. Find out whether executor-step-uncle has any legal basis to make the distribution. If no legal basis can be determined by your own lawyer, do not take the money. Better safe than sorry.**Letter #3****Can an executrix of a will evict a sibling who is also a beneficiary and has lived in the house for 40 years?**

My ex-husband has been unable to work for the past 10 years in order to take care of his 99 year old dad. He passed late last year. His sister took her dad to a lawyer when he was about 90 to create a will 70% her/30% him. Ex-husband has lived in the very modest home for 40 years. He has no means to start over. She is the owner of 2 homes and made enough money to retire at 68 (probably not relevant).

The Answer Is: Yes

Point #1 Father opened his home to son for 30 years before father needed son's help. Perhaps that helps explain the 70/30 split. Maybe sister isn't such a "rhymes with witch" after all...**Point #2** Nowadays it is not so unusual to have the holdover tenant child. The kid moves home for

a week. Or two. Or THIRTY YEARS! How is it that the kid could not save an apartment rental deposit in thirty years of working plus ten more years of not working and living off dad's social security and pension. Jeepers!!

Point #3 Eviction is the remedy. In my experience, the "Irish Bachelor" son or daughter has no intention of going soft into that good night of leases, mortgages, rent and maintenance. EEEK! Responsibility! Oh no! Oysters have less attachment to their shells. Frequently the other siblings let "Timmy" stay in the house after the funeral. "For a little while." Five years later somebody wakes up to the fact that Timmy ain't goin' nowhere! Far from being grateful, Timmy is angry that anyone has figured it out...**Point #4** The COVID moratorium on evictions is still in effect. That means you cannot legally evict Timmy. Serve him with the eviction papers anyway. You could try reasoning with Timmy. It will not do any good. At least you can get your ducks in a row for the moment evictions are once more possible.**Point #5** If dad had put Timmy on the deed, you could never get him out. So do not put your kids on deeds.**Point #6** A parent can give a caregiver child the house without screwing up their own Medicaid. The key is that the child has to reside with the parent and provide two (2) years of care services that keep the parent out of the nursing home.**Conclusion:** There are dangers and opportunities when a child moves home. Mostly dangers. Consult with your friendly, neighborhood elder law attorney to avoid the mistakes and maximize the advantages. YOU CHOOSE!

Applying for benefits does not mean Nursing Home Poverty or silly Spend Down. Learn how to preserve your loved one's lifesavings, business, cottage, life insurance. Thousands of middle-class families have learned and use these techniques. Why not yours?

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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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Developer

Continued from Page 1A

Lake and Dixboro and 40 duplex homes on the northwest corner of Silver Lake and Kent Lake roads. Combined, the residential is on 77 acres of property.

In the Orchard Crossing concept plan, a 15,000-square-foot banquet hall type venue would have capacity for 400 patrons and would include a full-service kitchen/bar and outdoor patio overlooking preserved, wooded wetlands on a 40-acre parcel on the northeast corner of Kent Lake and Silver Lake roads.

On the remaining 64 acres of property on the southeast corner of Kent Lake and Silver Lake roads, the developer proposed 17,000-square-foot tasting room featuring a full-service restaurant, bar service, cider/beer brewing,

retail sales and to go cider, beer and wine sales.

The current cider mill and orchards would remain and continue operations on this portion of the property, open all four seasons. The "Orchard Square" would focus on patron interaction through a mixture of greenspace, masonry walkways / patio areas, seasonal merchandise tents and pavilion for rent, and outdoor seating for the tasting room, including igloos in the winter.

There would also be a fee-based "agritainment area" with animal petting farm, haunted village, John Deere speedway, barnyard 500 tricycle track, Amish play structures, mazes, sports zone and more.

The Cider Mill Village proposal denied by the township in October 2019 had 490 housing units on 264 acres.

Des Rochers said the last project also had additional land including a 62-acre parcel at the southeast corner of Silver

Lombardo Homes has submitted a new plan to put 161 homes, an event venue and a tasting room on the Erwin Orchards property in Lyon Township, while keeping the cider mill and a portion of the orchards.

Lake and Pontiac Trail that was not owned by the Erwins and is not in play this time around.

Greg Windingland, vice president of land development for Lombardo Homes, did not immediately return a call for comment, nor did Bill and Linda Erwin.

Des Rochers said, however, that Lombardo Homes officials had reached out to approximately 92 neighbors and had held a virtual meeting with them to learn more about their concerns.

The planning department has received only one phone call thus far re-

garding the Orchard Crossing project from a neighbor concerned with what would happen if the developer decided some years down the road that they wanted to scrap the cider mill and orchard.

Des Rochers said that scenario "couldn't just sneakily happen with the cider mill one day being demolished." A planned development must receive approval from the township to be modified.

The Orchard Crossing planned development is a conceptual plan at this time, she added. It will require at least seven planning commission and township board meetings before final approval to alter the landscape of the orchard that celebrated its 100th anniversary last year.

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

Shop

Continued from Page 1A

Cream Shoppe located between Nordstrom and where Lord & Taylor operated before closing earlier this year.

With the transition, Ringo said she hopes to earn the loyalty of those who would frequent Sanders.

"I would say we're replacing one Detroit original for another," she said.

Customers can grab a traditional coffee or other espresso-based drinks and pair it with a baked good such as a cupcake or pound cake. They can also purchase several prepackaged local items, including Kars Nuts and some Sanders candy. Ringo also sells a variety of prepackaged coffee with an assortment of hard-to-find flavors, including a peach cobbler-flavored coffee. She also serves Hudsonville Ice Cream by the scoop, one more commitment she has to selling as much Michigan-made products as possible.

For those looking for a photo worthy for Instagram, the shop also makes milkshakes extravagantly dressed. One such creation? A strawberry cheesecake milkshake topped with a chocolate-covered strawberry, chocolate-covered pretzel and a whole slice of cheesecake.



A Sugah Please cheesecake shake creation.

Overloading the milkshake, Ringo said, also highlights all the items the shop already carries.

"These are amazing. They're good," she said. "We're not going out of the way. We already have the ice cream, we have the cake, we already have the



Twelve Oaks Mall's Sugah Please makes most of its baked good in-house, including caramel brownie cheesecake. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

strawberries, we do have the pretzels. We just combined them all."

Ringo said she hopes to expand and add more shops across the region and said she has a few opportunities coming up in the future.

The shop is open when the mall is

open, which currently is 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. More information can be found at sugahplease.com.

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

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Events

Continued from Page 1A

venue to see roughly 300 students graduate in the morning, and another 300 in the afternoon. He is hoping to reach at least 1,000 capacity, allowing at least two guests per graduate.

"It would be fantastic if we could have 1,500 or more," Salah said. "With Suburban, there is no question we could socially distance 6 feet apart. To accomplish our goal, we need the state to loosen restrictions."

Novi High School Principal Nicole Carter's plan A for graduation is a June 5 ceremony at Eastern Michigan University.

But she has multiple backup plans in case of prohibitive restrictions. Plan B is Wildcats Stadium, where NHS graduates would accept their diplomas on the football field while their families watch from the stands.

Plan C, forced by inclement weather and prohibitive restrictions, would be a repeat of last year's 9-hour endeavor where students would enter the high school's auditorium one at a time to walk across the stage, with only immediate family members allowed in for a few minutes to witness the moment before the next student and family were ushered in.

Novi High School has about 500 graduating seniors, and Carter hopes to allow each to have at least four guests, particularly with so many students coming from blended families. With graduation just seven weeks away, she is not confident that is doable at EMU.

"EMU, to me, I feel like maybe if a miracle were to happen," she said, noting the numbers keep changing and shifting. "(Our graduates) want their families to be a part of this momentous occasion. They worked so hard for 13 years to graduate, we don't want anyone from their families to be excluded. We need a profound change in shift for COVID numbers for EMU to come to pass... If I can't have 2,100 people in that space, I already know I can't utilize that space."

Based on current state orders, if the graduation were held at the Wildcats Stadium, four to five ceremonies would have to be held, conducted alphabetically through the day.

"We will do whatever it takes to honor kids," she said. "June 5 is game day for



Milford High students begin their 2016 prom at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace. Huron Valley officials are planning prom again, but if it happens, it will look different as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Novi High School, no matter what. All different plans will be communicated, they will know in advance. If you look outside and it's raining, (you will know) this is what NHS is doing."

In South Lyon, Superintendent Steve Archibald said graduation plans for June 12 are "really in the very, very preliminary stage," as the district tried to get a good understanding of state restrictions and what type of facilities, either on or off district property, were available.

"Our intent is to offer typical end-of-year celebrations for our seniors in some format," he said. "It's too early to make any final decisions. In a normal year, we would have graduation at Eastern. We don't have them booked but are in communication with them."

Archibald said the district is also planning for multiple contingencies.

Proms planned

Both high schools in South Lyon are

also planning prom, as are Novi and Huron Valley.

Milford High School's prom tentatively will be May 28 at Suburban Collection Showplace, and Lakeland's is planned for June 3, both hinging on state restrictions.

Principals at both high schools have determined that a "safe, healthy prom" will at this time would be one without food and with social distancing limitations.

"Dancing might look a little different," Salah said. "There will be masking."

In Novi, Carter is planning an outdoor "Senior Sunset" prom at Wildcat Stadium with several tents and a red carpet with a series of professional photographers from 1-3:30 on May 15. The district is working with the Novi Chamber of Commerce and local restaurants so that students who want to go out to dinner have places to safely go.

The students will then be able to return to the stadium that evening and

participate in a prom complete with a DJ, from 7 p.m. until 9 or 10 p.m. A rain date is planned for the next day, May 16.

Students will wear masks, but will be allowed to remove them for the photo shoot.

Water bottles and individually packaged "COVID-friendly" snacks will be offered. On the stadium jumbotron, "senior superlatives" will be announced — those students winning "most likely to succeed," "best smile," "most athletic," etc.

"It will turn out really nice," Carter said. "We empathize with the graduating class, just like from last year, with students stressed and not able to live out their dreams of what their senior year looks like. We are doing our best to let them know they are valued, loved and we are proud of what they have overcome."

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



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Time to spring clean your financial records



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Spring has finally arrived in Michigan, and it feels great. The arrival of spring also means the majority of taxpayers have already filed their 2020 returns. Therefore, this is a great time of year to do a little spring cleaning of your financial records.

Many people have a fear of destroying financial records over concerns that they will need the documentation sometime in the future. However, over saving leads to clutter, which means when you actually need to find something, you most likely will run in to trouble.

From a tax standpoint, people tend to

save their tax records from the beginning of time. However, it's unnecessary.

The Internal Revenue Service can audit taxpayers up to three years after the return is filed. That means if you filed your 2017 tax return on April 15, 2018, the audit period ends April 15, 2021.

The one exception to the rule is if the IRS claims fraud, such as you underreported your income by at least 25 percent. In that case, they can extend the audit period. However, for the great majority of people, tax records before 2017 no longer need to be saved. I recommend keeping a copy of the return itself, but shredding all of the backup information. If the paperwork is stored digitally, I would recommend organizing the files.

When it comes to retaining items such as brokerage statements and statements from mutual fund companies, there's no reason to retain every

statement ever received. Most statements today are cumulative and are saved by the financial institution.

In fact, for most people you probably want to do away with paper statements all together. If you still like paper statements, I recommend that once you receive a statement and review it for accuracy, shred the previous statement. You should only save the most current statement.

Every year we also receive new insurance policies from our auto and homeowner's insurance companies. After receiving a new policy, there is no reason to retain the old documents.

There are certain documents that are important to keep long term. For example, mortgage documents should be retained until you dispose of that mortgage. The same thing applies to wills and trusts. Once you execute a new will or trust, there is no reason to retain the

old ones. All they do is add clutter.

You will notice when I referred to disposing of your information, I said it should be shredded. Identity theft is a major issue today, and it's important to properly destroy documents that contain sensitive financial information such as account numbers or Social Security numbers.

By pruning out your financial files, not only will you have an easier to navigate file cabinet, but you'll be in the situation that if you need any documents, you'll have no problem finding them. Spend the time going through your financial files and pruning your files or even go completely paperless. Just like cleaning out your closets, cleaning out your financial records can feel very liberating.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. Email rick@bloomadvisors.com.

Personal income in Oakland, Wayne counties increased in 2019

Kristi Tanner and Adrienne Roberts
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Before the pandemic caused widespread job losses last year, personal income per capita in Oakland County increased in 2019 compared with the year prior, rising to \$73,271, a 2.7% increase.

Personal income per capita is measured as the total personal income of an area divided by the population. In 2019, Oakland County ranked 64th in Michigan in terms of personal income per capita growth. In 2018, income grew by 3.8%.

Personal income per capita in Wayne County increased in 2019 compared with the year prior, rising to \$44,512, a 3.3% increase. In 2019, Wayne County ranked 40th in Michigan in terms of personal income per capita growth. In 2018, income grew by 5.5%.

Nationwide, personal income per capita increased by 3.5% to \$56,490 in 2019 compared with 2018. That increase was smaller than the previous year's 4.8%. The majority of the 3,000-plus

counties the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) tracks continued to see personal income per capita rise in 2019, the latest data available.

The fastest growth could be found in two rural Kansas counties: Sheridan and Greeley.

Sheridan County grew at a rate of 35% to \$62,156 per capita in 2019. And in West Kansas, Greeley County grew at a rate of 30% to \$98,916.

Xan Wedel, who leads the state data center at the Institute for Policy and Social Research at the University of Kansas, says government payments such as tariff subsidies under former President Trump's administration influenced the growth. In Greeley and Sheridan counties the ratio of farms to people is roughly one farm for every five and eight residents, respectively.

Farm income was a clear driver of growth in both counties, with cash receipts from the marketing of livestock and other products being the primary contributor to annual gains followed by government payments. Farm proprietor income, which includes government

payments, increased by 125% statewide between 2018 and 2019. And government payments to Kansas farms nearly doubled to \$1.37 billion during the same time period, according to BEA data. The Market Facilitation Program, provided about \$1 billion in direct payments to Kansas farms negatively impacted by trade disruptions, an average of \$17,247 per farming operation in 2019, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Nationwide, three counties saw income levels drop by more than 10%: Townner, N.D.; Cavalier, N.D.; and Buffalo, S.D.

Despite the annual declines, both North Dakota counties have income levels above the U.S. average and experienced large gains in personal income per capita, greater than 30%, the year prior.

On the other hand, Buffalo County located in central South Dakota has experienced two consecutive years of declining income, down to \$20,682 in 2019, and is one of the lowest-ranked counties in the country for personal income

per capita. The Crow Creek Indian Reservation comprises a large share of the county.

The U.S. county with the highest income per capita is Teton, Wyoming, at \$229,825.

While it's too early to tell the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on personal income at the county level, 2020 estimates are due in December, the pandemic did result in businesses closing and laying off employees, and freelance work drying up as companies tightened their purse strings.

Preliminary national data shows that personal income per capita is up 5.7% to \$59,729 in 2020. A boost in transfer receipts such as supplemental unemployment benefits and federal stimulus checks provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act of 2020 was the leading contributor to personal income growth last year, the BEA said in a press release.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing separate versions of this article with localized statistics on its news sites across the country.

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Churchill splits doubleheader against Franklin

Collin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Churchill had its fair share of opportunities in the first of two games against city rival Livonia Franklin.

The Chargers mustered six walks and five hits, but scored only two runs, leaving seven runners on base. The Patriots, however, were clicking, as freshman TJ

Calleja recorded three of the team's seven hits while also shutting the door on the final two innings, saving a 4-2 Franklin win.

Churchill head coach Lawrence Scheffer knew in tight games, players can't make mistakes. He grouped his players together after the first game, telling them to keep working, to emphasize how important splitting a double-

header was in KLAA action.

Churchill junior Dominic Krupinski was told to throw the first game out the window.

"It's something that we changed in the second game, doing the little things," Krupinski said.

The little things turned into a big rally for the Churchill offense. The Chargers broke open the floodgates in the fifth in-

ning, scoring six runs on four hits — including a two-RBI double by the sophomore — and two errors to help lead to a 9-4 victory in six innings.

"That was a big inning for us, especially this whole season," Krupinski said. "We've kind of been in a drought as a team."

See CHURCHILL, Page 2B



Plymouth's Tanner Younglas records a hit against rival team Canton on April 15. Plymouth won, 8-5. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth baseball defeats rival Canton in first win of the season

Collin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth baseball has not gotten off to the hottest start in 2021. Coming into the April 15 game, the Wildcats had not won a game, losing eight-straight games to start the spring campaign.

But head coach Scott McGregor had a rallying cry for his team ahead of its first

meeting with Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rivals Canton: Are you going to remember your winless start to the season, or are you going to remember beating your rival at home?

"They bought into it and right now, that's what you are going after," the head coach said.

That proved to be enough juice, fueling a four-run sixth inning that helped

Plymouth (1-8) to an 8-5 win against Canton (1-4).

"We're just putting it together. We're just learning," McGregor said. "We're learning what kind of team we have because we finally got everyone back from COVID quarantines. We're still learning. We're going to peak when we peak, but right now, we're just trying to find out who we are and we're going to compete."

Deadlocked at one run a piece in the bottom of the fourth inning, Devin Beauchamp gave Plymouth the two-run lead, scoring both Benjamin Withem and Ethan Todd on a two-RBI single in the gap.

McGregor has not had a set lineup yet this season, rewarding Beauchamp with

See WIN, Page 2B

Novi, Salem girls soccer learn from early-season draw

Collin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Todd Pheiffer's team never really talked about Novi's win streak.

If anything, when it came to an end April 8 against Northville, there was a sigh of relief. It was off the shoulders of the three seniors — the only returning varsity players — and an amalgamation

of seven freshmen and sophomores who had never played Wildcats soccer before.

Early on in the 2021 season, Pheiffer said Novi's goal is simple: get better each game, something he feels the Wildcats (1-1-1) have done, tying Salem (1-0-1) in their third game of the season, 1-1.

Even after winning its first game, 3-1,

against Howell, the head coach felt his team improved against Northville, allowing a single goal with five minutes left against the Mustangs to suffer its first loss since May 21, 2018.

Pheiffer saw it against the Rocks Tuesday night.

After an uninspired offensive start in the first half, Novi pressed on the gas at the start of the second, pressing the Sa-

lem defense hard until it mustered a goal from freshman Lindsay Dahlinger — who opened the season with two assists against Howell — assisted by junior Samantha Maday.

"They are not afraid to be out there," Pheiffer said of his seven newcomers to the starting lineup. "They are not

See SOCCER, Page 5B



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Merchant becomes Stevenson's main offensive weapon

Colin Gay hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Luke Merchant comes from a family of athletes.

His father played baseball for Michigan State. His aunt is Suzy Merchant, the Michigan State women's basketball coach. And for Luke, he started playing basketball at age 5 just because of his size.

"I was just a bigger kid growing up," he said. "Basketball was just the go-to sport for that, and it ended up working out."

As one of nine seniors on the 2021 Livonia Stevenson basketball roster, Merchant helped the Spartans return to prominence in the KLAA. The 6-foot-2 forward led the team with 11.3 points and 9.4 rebounds, earning all-conference honors while helping Stevenson to its first district title since 2007.

The Stevenson coaching staff saw promise from Merchant immediately, promoting him to the junior varsity roster as a freshman and to the varsity team as a sophomore, playing three seasons with the Spartans.

Merchant's first two seasons on varsity were spent more as a complimentary piece to the standout scorers: picking up players like Evan Bradford or Steven Shimko on the boards or in assist totals instead of being the main guy.

In 2021, heading into his first year as Stevenson's head coach, Eoghann Stephens made it clear to Merchant that he

Athlete of the Week

Luke Merchant won Hometown Life's Athlete of the Week award for the week of April 5, earning 8,903 (61.72%) of the 14,424 total votes cast. Detroit Catholic Central wrestler Drew Heethuis finished in second place with 4,357 votes (30.21%). Wayne Memorial basketball player Lachelle Austin and Seaholm wrestler Jackson Vance finished in third and fourth place, respectively.

would be forced to become that main guy.

"This year was a lot of responsibility like, 'Look Luke: you have to score,'" Stephens said. "You have to help run our offense."

The offense was something Merchant was already comfortable with.

The senior had been playing with many of the same guys for eight years, increasing his level of trust in his teammates and having a better idea of the role he would play: the attack-first forward that specializes in doing what his head coach describes as the "dirty work" down low.

As Merchant stepped up, Stephens saw him as an example of a leader without being a huge character. Merchant was somebody the coaches and the players trusted.

It showed in the final seconds of Stevenson's regional semifinal against



Spartan Luke Merchant puts up a shot.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Salem.

After inbound the ball to senior teammate Evan Asante, Merchant got the ball back. Senior center Ethan Young immediately stepped up, setting the screen and giving the senior forward room to work. Merchant took the ball to the basket, passing a slew of Rocks defenders to give the Spartans the lead as the clock ticked toward the final buzzer.

"At the end of the game, there was no doubt about what we wanted to run, who we wanted to have the ball and where we wanted everybody else around that situation," Stephens said.

"We wanted the ball in Luke's hands, drive to the rim. You know he's going to get that shot at the rim. He's not going to let anyone else stop him. He's going to finish it."

Merchant was driven by the fact he never liked to lose. Each time he took the court, he wanted to leave his all.

This bloomed into confidence for the senior, a player who, three years ago, wanted to play college basketball but didn't see any opportunities coming his way. Now, after his senior season came to a close, that goal is becoming a reality.

Merchant said he has talked to multiple programs and plans to play basketball somewhere next year without knowing exactly where yet.

As for Stevenson, he hopes the five juniors and one sophomore on the 2021 roster took notes. He hopes his tenacity, his mantra of never giving up continues to ring in the gym even after he's no longer a Spartan.

"Stevenson basketball has been off the map for awhile," Merchant said. "Getting to regionals for the first time since 2007 hopefully put us on the map, gives us some more love."

"I think it's going to show all the younger kids what Stevenson basketball is about. Hopefully they can do what we did this year."

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

Churchill

Continued from Page 1B

"That was kind of a big pick-me-up for the guys energy wise. That was our best inning of the year so far, and it's something to build on."

In the two games, Krupinski recorded four hits and a walk in eight at bats, driving in four runs for the Patriots from the No. 3 spot in the lineup.

After going hitless in four at bats in the first game Churchill senior Jimmy Targosz, who had been out 10 days due to COVID-19 contact tracing, gave the Chargers its first lead of the day with an RBI double, adding two walks in game two.

If the fifth inning of the second game did not happen, Franklin head coach Matt Fournier would have been extremely happy with what his team did against rival Churchill, especially with only having 10 players that were available to play.

"We're always a team that wants to be gritty over pretty," Fournier said. "We said no matter what, we're going to come out today and keep punching, keep punching and make the plays we are capable of making and limit what they can do. Game one, we did that all day long."

"Twelve out of the 13 were great innings today. The kids played their hearts out. We're extremely proud of that, but again our goal was to win two."

While Calleja shut the door in the final two innings of the first game, earning the save after five innings of two-run baseball by Kevin Davis, he struggled in game two. The sophomore allowed seven runs on five hits, striking out one in one inning of work.

"He's a youngster. For him, the high-



Livonia Franklin sophomore TJ Calleja waits for the pitch from Livonia Churchill. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

est of the highs in the first one, and the second: they hit the ball on him a little bit," Fournier said.

"We just said, 'Listen, you did what you were supposed to do. You got ground ball and they found spots.'"

After throwing a shutout inning in

game one, Churchill sophomore Jack Schwesing allowed four runs on six hits, striking out three and letting the defense do much of the work.

"This kid's been unbelievable so far," Krupinski said of the sophomore. "His first two or three outings have been

lights out. Nobody's really touched him so far."

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

Win

Continued from Page 1B

the leadoff spot after seeing the success the first baseman had early, finishing the game with two hits and two RBI.

"He's earned it. He's been hitting the heck out of the ball," McGregor said. "He earned his spot to take the leadoff role and he showed it today."

Canton put together a chance at an answer in the top of the fifth against Todd, who relieved starter William Holmes after 4.1 innings of work — allowing two hits and two walks while striking out six.

The Canton offense loaded the bases on two walks and a single with one out. Senior Nathan Herberholtz hit a sacrifice fly to Plymouth's Ryan Campbell in center field. Instead of trying to beat the runner home, Campbell threw the ball to his shortstop, who fired it right at third base to record the double play, allowing the Wildcats to keep their lead.

In response, the Plymouth offense went on a two-out rally of its own in the bottom of the sixth.

After Canton sophomore Jack Will recorded a strikeout and a groundout to



The Plymouth team meets in the outfield after its first win of the season.
COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

second to open the inning, the Wildcats burst open their offense, scoring four runs on four hits, a walk and an error by shortstop Caleb Williams to take a 8-3 lead.

Will kept runners in motion, recording two balks in the inning that led to ejections of both Canton's first-base

coach and pitching coach.

Canton head coach Mark Blomshield declined to comment for this story.

Canton tried to mount a comeback in the seventh inning against Plymouth pitcher Tannery Coffey, scoring three runs on three hits and a walk, but the reliever stranded the bases loaded, forc-

ing a ground out to shortstop to end the game.

Along with starting the double-play in the fifth inning to keep the lead, Campbell finished with three hits in four at bats — including a double — two RBI and two runs scored.

Herberholtz finished with three RBI for Canton, including two on an RBI double in the seventh.

After earning his first win as the head coach of Plymouth baseball, McGregor learned how Wildcats baseball will be won: as a team, playing hard for all seven innings of work.

In the midst of the uncertainty surrounding the season, this is the mentality McGregor expects in each game played.

"Any given day, you don't know if you are going to a practice or a game or what teammates are going to a practice or a game," McGregor said. "Facing that adversity and being able to adapt to it and run with it and knowing that if one guy's down, another guy will pick up that spot, that's really what we are learning."

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

Henry heads to draft, will sign with agent

Chris Solari Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Aaron Henry will enter the NBA draft for the second straight spring.

The Michigan State basketball junior announced via social media he will again test the process of turning pro. This time, however, Henry said he plans to sign with an agent and likely forgo his remaining eligibility at MSU. He declared for the 2020 draft last April but withdrew his name in August.

"Being a professional basketball player has been my dream since I was a kid...," Henry wrote on Instagram. "My time at Michigan State has prepared me for anything and I will always be a Spartan for Life."

Henry spent the weekend working out with Chris Brickley in New York according to videos posted to the NBA skills trainer's Instagram. The 6-foot-6, 210-pound wing from Indianapolis earned third-team All-Big Ten honors this season, leading the Spartans with 15.4 points, 5.6 rebounds, 3.6 assists, 1.3 blocks and 1.3 steals in 32.5 minutes. Henry shot 44.9% overall and 29.6% on 3-pointers.

"Aaron coming back this year was I think the best thing with all the uncertainties with COVID," Henry's father, James, told the Free Press on March 9. "Aaron was going to get drafted, although it was going to be in a lower place than what it's gonna be this year ultimately. But I was like, 'Man, go back, do this the right way, show the things that the teams say that you needed to show.'"

Recent mock drafts put Henry in the



Michigan State's Aaron Henry dunks in front of U-M's Hunter Dickinson (1) and Franz Wagner in March. GETTY IMAGES

early second round, with ESPN ranking him as the No. 32 prospect, CBSSports.com ranking him No. 33 and Sports Illustrated projecting him to go to Brooklyn at pick No. 42.

However, The Athletic's Sam Vecenie in his most recent mock draft projects Henry as a late first-round pick to the Philadelphia 76ers at No. 28. Bleacher Report's Jonathan Wasserman projects Henry to the Nets one pick earlier at No. 27 due to his offensive development this season.

"Few players have helped themselves

more over the last month than Henry," Vecenie wrote. "He's long been one of the best wing defenders in college hoops, but he's starting to add the offensive aggressiveness to match. ... He's tough and plays with a real edge as a driver. He's not a great shooter, but he's much better directly off the catch than he is off the bounce. He's asked to create more plays now than he will be in the pros, which leads to some inefficiency."

"But if you think the shooting can improve, he's a great defender with NBA size on the wing, a good passer and a tough dude who knows what it takes to win from his years under (coach) Tom Izzo. I'm a believer in Henry, and teams are starting to come around on him."

The NBA has yet to announce if the annual scouting combine was canceled a year ago will be held, or when and where this year's draft will be held.

Henry had two more years of eligibility left with the COVID-19 waiver for the 2020-21 season. Izzo in a statement late Monday said he plans to "give him all the help that I can so that he can achieve his dreams."

"Aaron Henry making the decision to put his name in for the NBA draft this year is not surprising and is something I fully support," Izzo said. "He and his family went through the exploration process last year and came away with a much better understanding of what he'd need to do in order to make the next step for his basketball career. ...

LVC boys hoops all-conference honorees named

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With the high school basketball season complete, postseason awards are still coming in. Here's a look at who earned All-Conference honors for Hometown Life's four Lakes Valley Conference teams.

South Lyon East

Senior guard Bryce Bird
Senior forward Drake Willenborg
Senior guard Zander Desentz
Senior guard Adam Trent (Honorable Mention)

South Lyon

Senior guard Lucas Doty
Junior guard Quinn Fracassi
Junior guard Logan Doty (Honorable Mention)

Lakeland

Senior guard Shane Ells
Junior forward Caleb Zurek
Sophomore forward Andrew Turnquist (Honorable Mention)

Milford

Sophomore forward Sam Lewis
Senior guard Eric Elizondo (Honorable Mention)

MSU to allow 6,000 fans at next Saturday's spring game

Chris Solari Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan State football's spring game will return with fans.

The university announced it will cap attendance at 6,000 fans — about 8% of the 75,005 capacity — for the 2 p.m. Green and White scrimmage next Saturday at Spartan Stadium. The game will be broadcast on Big Ten Network.

"We have great fans, and our fans are hungry," MSU coach Mel Tucker said. "They want to see the Spartans, they want to see us out there playing, they want to see us out there winning."

In a statement, athletic director Bill Beekman echoed Tucker's excitement.

"There's a buzz building around the Spartan football program, and I know our student-athletes and coaches will love to have fans in attendance, with

many more tuning in on television and radio," Beekman said.

Tickets are available to the general public on msuspartans.com, with a chance to secure up to four per person. Five hundred tickets also are open for MSU students.

MSU's protocols require everyone ordering a digital ticket to enter a valid email address to receive the tickets. The email addresses will be documented by

the Spartan Ticket Office for contact tracing purposes. All email addresses receiving digital tickets from the Spartan Ticket Office will be sent a link 24 hours prior to the event to complete a mandatory health screening. The completed health screening form must be shown to stadium personnel before entering Spartan Stadium.

Face masks and coverings are required on campus, per MSU policy.

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Cleary esports coach turns gaming passion into career

Sara Kellner Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Jarod Ericksen has always loved video games and recently turned his passion for gaming into a career. Now he wants to extend that opportunity to prospective students at Cleary University.

Cleary hired Ericksen in February to be the head coach of its newly established esports team - a group of athletes who play video games competitively.

Esports is one of the fastest-growing sports in college athletics. There were less than 10 teams in 2016 and today there are almost 200, according to the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE).

As a member of NACE, Cleary's athletes will compete in tournaments against esports teams across the nation. Ericksen is also working with other coaches in the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference to organize conference tournaments.

Ericksen has dabbled in a few different careers, including coaching soccer, teaching piano lessons and working at a barbershop. But one passion Ericksen always had was video games. And he was good at them too; he was ranked in the top 1% of players in League of Legends and Heroes of the Storm, two battle arena games where teams of players try to destroy other teams' bases.

He considered becoming a professional esports athlete. Pro gamers make a living by winning prize money at competitions, signing with a professional team or gaining sponsorships.

But instead, Ericksen decided to turn his focus to coaching esports. He provided private lessons, started a coaching company, and eventually began working at a junior college in Illinois as the coach of its newly formed esports team.

This spring, he moved to Michigan to step into a full-time position as Cleary's esports coach.

As he begins laying out plans for the team and their new practice and tournament facility, Ericksen is trying to recruit 15 athletes to be on the esports team and is offering partial scholarships to those who are selected.

"There are tons of kids out there, and probably tons of kids who play video



Jarod Ericksen, esports coach at Cleary University, plays League of Legends in his Tyrone Township home April 9.
GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

games," Ericksen said. "Through this program, they can do what they would do otherwise - play video games - but be part of something bigger and get money to go to school."

Cleary's esports team will compete in four games: League of Legends, Overwatch, Rocket League and Hearthstone. League of Legends and Overwatch are team-based strategy games, Rocket League is a sports game with similar rules to soccer and Hearthstone is an online multiplayer card game.

Prospective athletes can be of any skill level - although Ericksen said they need to have at least some experience with the game in which they choose to

compete.

Athletes are expected to attend practices several times a week, as well as team workouts with Cleary's athletic trainers. Ericksen said he follows the "healthy body, healthy mind" philosophy, so he wants his athletes to be physically fit just like other athletes on campus.

Not only is the team a good way for Cleary to recruit students, but Ericksen is hoping to integrate academics into the team. Students interested in sports management or marketing can benefit from competing on or assisting with the team.

Construction is just beginning on a

practice and tournament facility in Cleary Commons - one of the main buildings on campus. Ericksen said the new home for the esports team will include 24 computer stations, and a viewing gallery with multiple TV screens for spectators to watch competitions.

Ericksen is recruiting athletes locally in high schools and globally online. He is hoping to find students who enjoy video games and want to earn a college degree while competing. Athletes must be undergraduate students, but they can be any age or gender.

Those who are interested in the team can fill out Cleary's recruitment form online.



"It felt great to have someone see my potential and enable me to advance."

Amanda Brizendine,
Assistant
District Manager,
The Indianapolis Star

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South Lyon East beats rival South Lyon in season opener

The South Lyon East girls soccer team opened its 2021 season March 30 — the Cougars' first game since May 23, 2019 — beating cross-town rival South Lyon in a friendly, 6-1.

South Lyon East earned its first win against rival South Lyon since May 3, 2016.

"I was honestly very impressed, with just a couple of practices under our belt, how well the combination play was

amongst each other," head coach Pete Stoyanovich said. "The combination passing game was fantastic for our first outing."

Sophomore Reganne Koskela, junior Emma Pompo — who also assisted Koskela's score — sophomore Alyssa Melquist sophomore Kaylie Samluk and sophomore Kate Mazur scored each of the Cougars' goals, with Mazur scoring twice.

Rhianna Schermerhorn scored South Lyon's only goal of the game.

Marissa Hamilton, Annika Gilson, and Shannon Seaver are South Lyon East's three returning seniors.

South Lyon East will next take on Holly April 15th, while South Lyon travels to Saline to take on the Hornets on April 13.

Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



Marissa Hamilton is one of South Lyon East's three returning seniors. COURTESY OF JILL OHLAND

Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

intimidated by the situation, and a lot of credit for that goes to our seniors. We've welcomed them in."

The seniors, including goalkeeper Abbey Pheiffer, have given the group confidence too.

After allowing a first-half goal from Salem's Olivia Schuck, Pheiffer stepped up late when the Novi defense needed her, saving two shots at the end of the game — including a dive to her right — to secure the one-goal draw.

"There's a lot of confidence," Todd Pheiffer said. "Abbey's confidence in the defense and the defense's confidence in her that we can take a couple of chances, go out and press them and not be caught on our heels because we know Abbey is able to make that big save."

Salem head coach Kyle Karns has an idea of what he's working with, but has not seen it fully in action.

The Rocks came into the season with 14 seniors, all of which played significant minutes for their 2019 team that finished 5-9-4 and in third place in the KLA Black.

But in 2021, Karns has not seen them all together.

"We're still at a place where we don't have our full team back," he said. "I think that's going to be the case for everybody. Just bits and pieces here and there, and we are still trying to figure things out."

With only two games played this season, Karns knows Salem is still a work in progress. He saw improvement from the Rocks' 1-0 opening win against Har-



Salem goalie Ava Holloway scoops up a shot from Novi near the net.

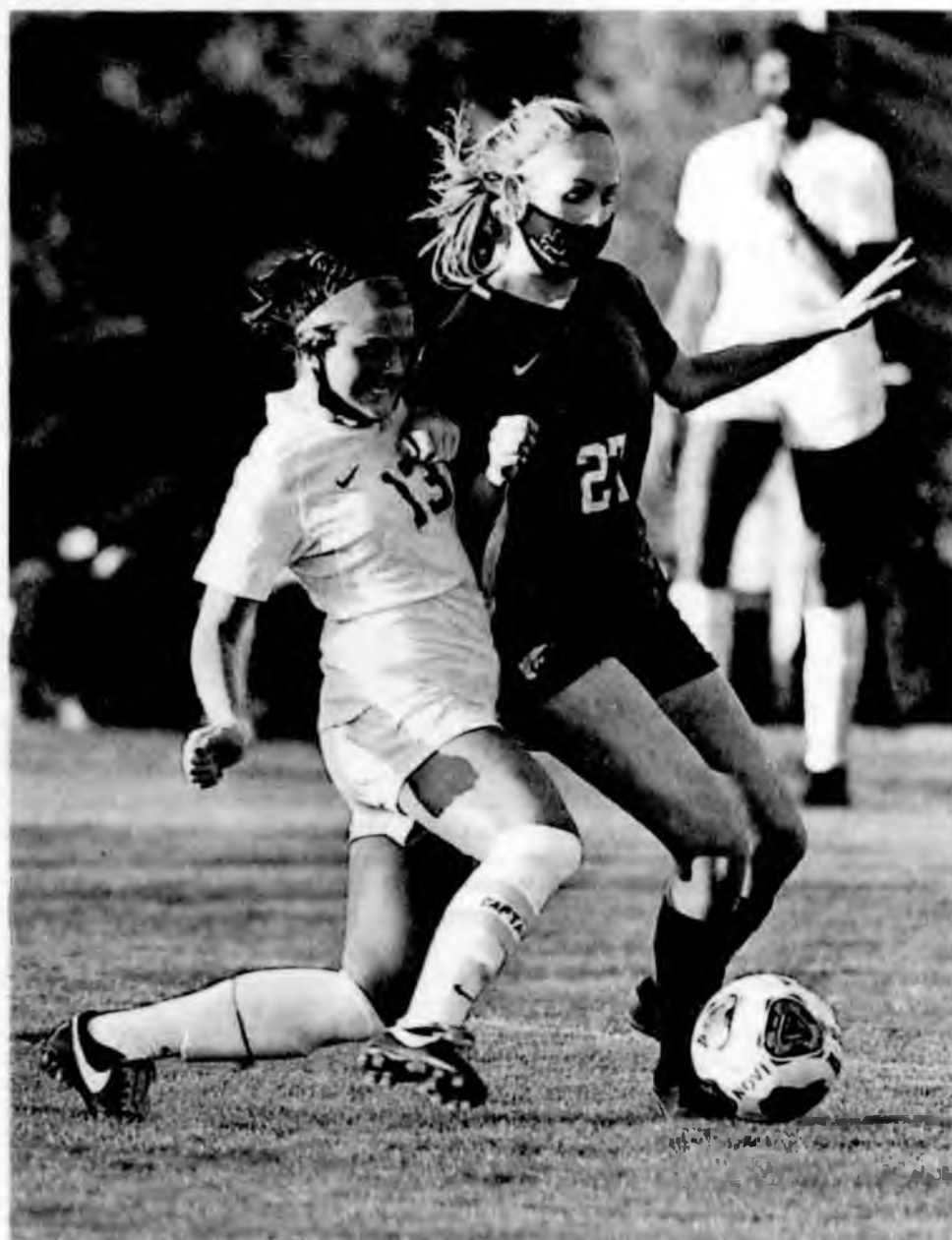
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tland, ruling shots on goal and corner kicks against Novi, but failed to finish all but one: a Schuck spike with no keeper in sight.

Karns has seen only 80 minutes of soccer from a team that is incomplete. He knows there are things to learn and areas to grow into. But he has something that many teams don't have in 2021: experience.

"It's a group that knows the system that we like to play and played together in that format before," Karns said. "It is a luxury to have, but again, it's kind of getting everybody back together again, getting back into the groove of things."

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



Novi girls soccer hosted Salem on April 13. The game ended as a draw, 1-1.

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Sale of Plymouth Elks lodge saddens members

Ed Wright | HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

The very first time Canton residents Marc and Julie Godman walked into the Plymouth Elks Lodge and settled into their seats at the bar, they felt an immediate warmth.

"It was like walking into Cheers," said Marc Godman, who joined the Plymouth Elks lodge when Julie transferred her membership from one in Grand Blanc after relocating to metro Detroit. "Even though we were new and a couple of the younger people in the place, it felt like family."

"Every time we visited thereafter — for Friday fish fries, Thursday burger nights or just dropping in on random Fridays — we were treated like long-time members."

In February — not long after merging with the Ann Arbor Elks lodge in search of a lodge-saving adrenaline shot — the building and 4.22-acre property that has been the gathering place for local Elks for decades was sold to a developer.

Members voted 52-0 to approve the sale, according to the lodge's website.

A press release distributed by Gerdorn Realty and Investment announced that the property had been sold to a senior-living developer; however, Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise revealed on April 13, that a formal decision on the future use of the site had not been determined.

Hometown Life reached out to the lodge's



Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780 and its property on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township has been sold to a developer.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

exultant ruler, Charley Dawson, but had not received a reply as of April 15.

"I know it's frustrating being a member of the Elks and not having a lodge to go to," Dawson said on a website post. "We're currently trying to find a location where we can meet temporarily until we can set up a new

lodge."

Trustee Ken Hines said the lodge's search for a new home has been unsuccessful.

"Our realtors have a search for any property in the vicinity of the old lodge just crossing the borders of Livonia, Canton, Westland and Northville," Hines said on a building committee page.

"Anytime new properties that fit our criteria pop up for sale, we get the listings and see how it could work for a potential new lodge building."

"We have looked at a couple of these potential opportunities, but the taxes have been very high and most of the issue. Our mission is to find the right-sized facility, with

the amenities we need, along with the right-sized tax bill to provide the best possible option to survive for a very long time."

Plymouth-Ann Arbor members have been encouraged to attend events at other area Elks lodges until a permanent home can be found.

The Godmans have attended a Dearborn-based

lodge since the closing of the Plymouth lodge.

When a lodge closes, assets are held in trust, unless there is a local effort to revive the lodge, said said Elks official Malcolm McPherson in an article published on Gannett's northjersey.com website.

"What happens ... is any proceeds they have — bank accounts, sale of real property, the liquor license — that money is held in trust for a period of five years, McPherson explained. "Just in case, if the lodge local wants to re-establish itself in the community or another town, then that money is held in trust for them."

If locals wish to form a new lodge "within a reasonable time," the assets can be transferred, said James Nicholson, a spokesman for the Grand Lodge. "If that isn't done, those funds are ordered transferred to the major charity of the state Elks association."

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was founded on Feb. 16, 1868, in New York. With a motto of, "Elks care, Elks share," the fraternal organization distributed an estimated \$3.5 billion to charitable, welfare, educational and veterans programs since its inception.

However, the rising average age of members (65) and declining membership ledgers have made survival a struggle for local lodges like the one based in Plymouth.

"The Elks lodge I was a member at in Grand Blanc had a golf course and a swimming pool, amenities that made it easier to maintain strong membership numbers and recruit new ones," Julie Godman said.

"This place does so much for underprivileged youth, veterans groups, you name it," Marc Godman said. "It's sad that it had to be sold. I just hope they find a new home and can continue to help the community."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

Obituaries

John Douglas Hansen

MILFORD - John Douglas Hansen, 77, of Milford, Michigan, passed away peacefully on February 16, 2021 in Naples, Florida after a lengthy battle with prostate cancer.

He is survived by his loving wife of 23 years, Carol; his children, Victoria (Klayton) Dillon of Novi, Michigan and Dennis Hansen of Fenton, Michigan, both with former spouse Judith Hansen, Christopher (Lia) Rooks of Sherwood, Wisconsin; Diane Rooks of Fort Wayne, Indiana and Nicole (David) Murphy of Fort Wayne, Indiana. John adored his eight grandchildren: David Dillon and Kendall Dillon; Samantha Rooks and Nicholas Rooks; Kelsie Rooks and Joshua Armstrong; Jacob Borland and Madison Murphy and three great-grandchildren Maxlynn, James and Xavier. He is also survived by his brother William Michael Hansen of Spring Lake, Michigan and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents William Charles and Marion Ruth Hansen.

John or "Doug" as many knew him, was born at Scott Air Force Base near Belleville, Illinois to William and Marion Hansen. He grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, graduating from Union High School in 1961, then went on to Northern Michigan University where he studied Industrial Technology. After graduating, he began a long career in sales and went on to start his own business that would serve as a driving force in his life for many years. He loved the relationships his work brought to his life and was frequently known to drive hundreds of miles for a personal conversation and handshake with a customer when a simple phone call would do.

John had a lifelong love of automobiles and car racing, starting with go-cart and sprint car racing as a teen. He spent years traveling with friends and family to various raceways and particularly relished his season passes and race weekends each year at Michigan Speedway. He also enjoyed working on his own classic cars as a hobby and could always be found polishing chrome or putting a coat of wax on something somewhere.

He also had a passion for boating, keeping boats on northern Michigan lakes and Lake St. Clair over the years and treasured his family's annual summer getaways on Lake Michigan, where even the youngest grandchildren could not keep up with his antics. More recently, he developed a love of travel by motorcoach and enjoyed planning trips and traveling together with friends, frequently pushing the legal length limits on U.S. Interstates. He and Carol enjoyed spending the winter months in Naples, Florida in recent years with their cherished feline, Gabby.

A memorial mass to celebrate John's life will take place at 10:30 am Saturday, May 22 at St. James Catholic Church, 46325 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi MI. Visitation will begin at 9:30 am. Tributes may be shared and obituary viewed online at Legacy.com

In lieu of flowers, for those who wish, memorial contributions may be made to Adopt-a-Pet of Fenton.



Eileen M. Foley

Eileen M. Foley, died on April 11, 2021. She was 92 years old.

Beloved wife of the late Raymond Ignatius Foley. Loving mother of Leo (Barbara), Nora (Robert Ayuso), Raymond (Terri), Kenneth (Josephine), Margaret (Thomas Kokoszka), Dominic (Stacey), Lawrence (Julie), Patrick (Dorothy), Eileen (Craig Reickert)

Cherished grandmother of Leo (Leah), Lucy (Christopher), Joseph (Christine), Matthew (Grace), Kenneth (Gretchen), Daniel (Rachel), Rob, Nicholas (Maggie), Emily, Raymond (Brittany), Courtney (Greg Potter), Tyler (Lauren), Ryan, Christine, Dominique, the late Noah, Brenden (Likang), Gabriel, Erin, Benjamin, Christopher, Elizabeth, Mitchell, Shane, Connor, Lauren, Brigit, Pearce, Aidan, Evan.

Great grandmother to James, Alice, Jackson, Caela, Jocelyn, Liam, Joseph, Willa, Jack, Angela and at least one on the way.

Sister to the late James McKiernan, the late Marie (George Gonczar),

Virginia (Robert Foley, deceased) Foley, Winifred Doane, John T. (Barbara) McKiernan, Don Patrick (Patricia) McKiernan, Ronald Joseph (Nancy) McKiernan.

Visitation will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 East Liberty St. Milford on Sunday, April 25th, 2021 from 1 - 8pm. Rosary at 6 PM - held outdoors - please plan accordingly.

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette Street, South Lyon, MI 48178, on Monday, April 26th, 2021 at 11 AM with gathering beginning at 10AM. The Rev. Fr. Stan Tokarski to officiate. Burial at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Milford.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliot St., Detroit, MI, 48207.

For further information on Covid and CDC restrictions visit www.LynchandSonsMilford.com or call 248-684-6645.



Too familiar sorrow at Sikh house of worship

Slone Terranella and Niraj Warikoo
Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

In the parking lot of Plymouth's Mata Tripta Ji Gurdwara Sahib, a familiar sense of sorrow cloaked community members as they prayed for the Indianapolis FedEx facility shooting victims on Sunday.

It was a feeling gurdwara members felt before as they placed memorial candles in front of the building. The vigil was held at the same house of worship where hundreds gathered nine years ago for a vigil after a white supremacist fatally shot six Sikhs at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, in 2012.

On Thursday, 19-year-old Brandon Scott Hole shot and killed eight people and wounded several others at a FedEx Ground Plainfield Operations Center, USA Today reports. Hole died by suicide, and four of the eight shooting victims belonged to the Sikh community.

During Sunday's vigil, Sona Sandhu, 41, of Northville, said when news first broke of the shooting, her first reaction was sadness. Her second thought, she said, centered on the need to improve cultural awareness.

"We all have to treat each other equally. This is America. This is a melting pot," she said. "We all should respect and value each other's religious beliefs, and each other's appearances. Sikhs, they have a different appearance than most other Americans, and I think people need to educate themselves, or maybe we as a Sikh faith have to come up and start educating people better."

Sandhu said she hopes there is more education regarding different values and cultures, but she also hopes for more gun laws.

Joining members of the gurdwara Sunday was FedEx worker Veronica Goldwater, 64, of Lincoln Park, who said she showed up to support the Sikh and FedEx communities.

"We all mourn. We are a FedEx family. When one is hurt, we are all still bleeding," she said. "We call it bleeding purple."

Goldwater said she found out about Thursday's shooting when she woke up for work and turned on the radio. She instantly heard the broadcast announcing eight people had been killed at a FedEx facility. However, she still needed to go to work that day.

"It was quiet, everybody was quiet. We still did our jobs," Goldwater said. "We were trying to figure out if it was an employee, if it was from someone outside or if it was ongoing. We did not know until the next day."

Goldwater said her heart goes out to everyone affected by the situation, and fear lingers in the back of her mind when she goes into work now.



Members of the local Sikh community listen to speakers during a vigil at Plymouth's Mata Tripta Ji Gurdwara Sahib in honor of four members of the Sikh community who were killed during a mass shooting in Indianapolis last week.



Birinderjit Singh lights a candle during the vigil. He said elected officials must act to prevent this kind of senseless violence. PHOTOS BY ANTRANIK TAVITIAN/DFP

"Everyone (victims) was there just making a living. It's hard when a lot of people are still at home and that we, FedEx, we're essential," Goldwater said.

The parents of state Rep. Ranjeev Puri, D-Canton, the first Sikh to serve in the Michigan Legislature, helped estab-

lish the Sikh temple in Oak Creek that was targeted in 2012. Two days before the FedEx shooting, Sikhs were celebrating Vaisakhi, an annual religious holiday. Puri took part in an online forum Tuesday to celebrate Vaisakhi with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, U.S. Sen. Deb-

bie Stabenow, and other politicians.

And now, Puri and other Sikhs are mourning those killed at the FedEx facility in Indiana.

"I am exhausted, I am broken, I have no more tears left to shed," Puri wrote on Twitter on Friday. "It is seemingly everyday we are hearing of innocent lives lost to gun violence. My heart aches for all the victims of the shooting in Indianapolis — which include members of the Sikh community."

Members from other gurdwaras also came to support and honor the victims.

Birinderjit Singh, 40, of Canton, is part of the Singh Sabha of Michigan located in Canton. He said elected officials must act to prevent this kind of senseless violence.

"Unfortunately, most of the victims (FedEx shooting) were Sikhs. As Sikhs because of the way we look, we are always misunderstood," Singh said. "We want all of these politicians to not always favor the lobbies, but also think about the citizens because we are the ones who pay the taxes."

Singh said he hopes politicians can enact legislative change to ensure this situation doesn't happen again.

"I would like to give my message to all of the politicians because we can only hope," Singh said.

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Most of the job hunt is focused on doing everything you can to find a new job. But the last part of the process needs to be handled with equal attention: gracefully exiting your current role.

Quitting a job can be filled with mixed emotions, and the truth is that you — and the people you're leaving — will be fine. Especially if you follow these steps on how to resign without burning bridges:

1. Notify your direct manager first

Your departure will affect your supervisors directly. They should hear the news from you, rather than be caught off-guard hearing it elsewhere. It's also important to remember you may need them for a reference in the future, so don't let a bad farewell be what they remember.

2. Explain why you accepted (not why you're leaving)

Instead of telling your boss why you want to leave, keep things

positive by sharing what excites you about the new opportunity. Bonus points for telling your boss how their guidance helped you grow into that new role.

3. Set a communication plan

Ask your manager how they would like to share your news with the team. It's always helpful to have your own suggestions, but the more they feel in control, the easier your last couple of weeks will be.

4. Offer to assist in hiring a replacement

You know how to do your job best, and could have the best idea as to what skills are needed. Volunteer to help write the job description, vet candidates and conduct interviews while you are still around.

5. Make a list of your current responsibilities

Think about the projects you have worked on in the last year and make a list of what you do weekly, monthly and annually. List them out so there is a record of what needs to be done in the future.



6. Offer to train someone internally

Once you've got that list together, work with your manager to identify who might be best at taking each task on and offer to train them. This hand-off could be a temporary solution or an opportunity for someone more junior to step up.

7. No touchdown dances

While this is an exciting time for you, it's likely to be stressful

for the rest of your team who will need to pick up the slack and train your replacement. Your gain is their loss, so don't rub it in.

In most cases, your manager and team will be happy to see you move on to a new opportunity. At the same time, your departure means that their jobs will get a little harder, at least in the short term. Approach your last days with empathy, thank your teammates for their help, and leave on a positive note that will stick with them when you inevitably meet again.

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Sr. Software Developer for Novi, MI dsgn, dev, implement, test & deploy sw that meets bus needs. Req's Bachelor's in Computer Science, Electronics Engineering, Computer Information Systems or closely related field & 3 years progressive post Bachelor's exp performing sw & program dev, incl data modeling & reporting utilizing Oracle SQL, PL/SQL, Cobol, IBM Focus and/or .NET; programming DB queries utilizing IBM Focus programming lang; utilizing the sw dev't lifecycle in an Agile environment to dsgn, dev, implement, test & deploy sw; & writing complex functions, scripts, stored procedures, views, and tables. Mail resume to Brian Gutierrez, Hornuckle Partners, LLC d/b/a EngageIT, LLC, 18267 W. 14 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025

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Oxford - Call Carrie at 248-444-8959
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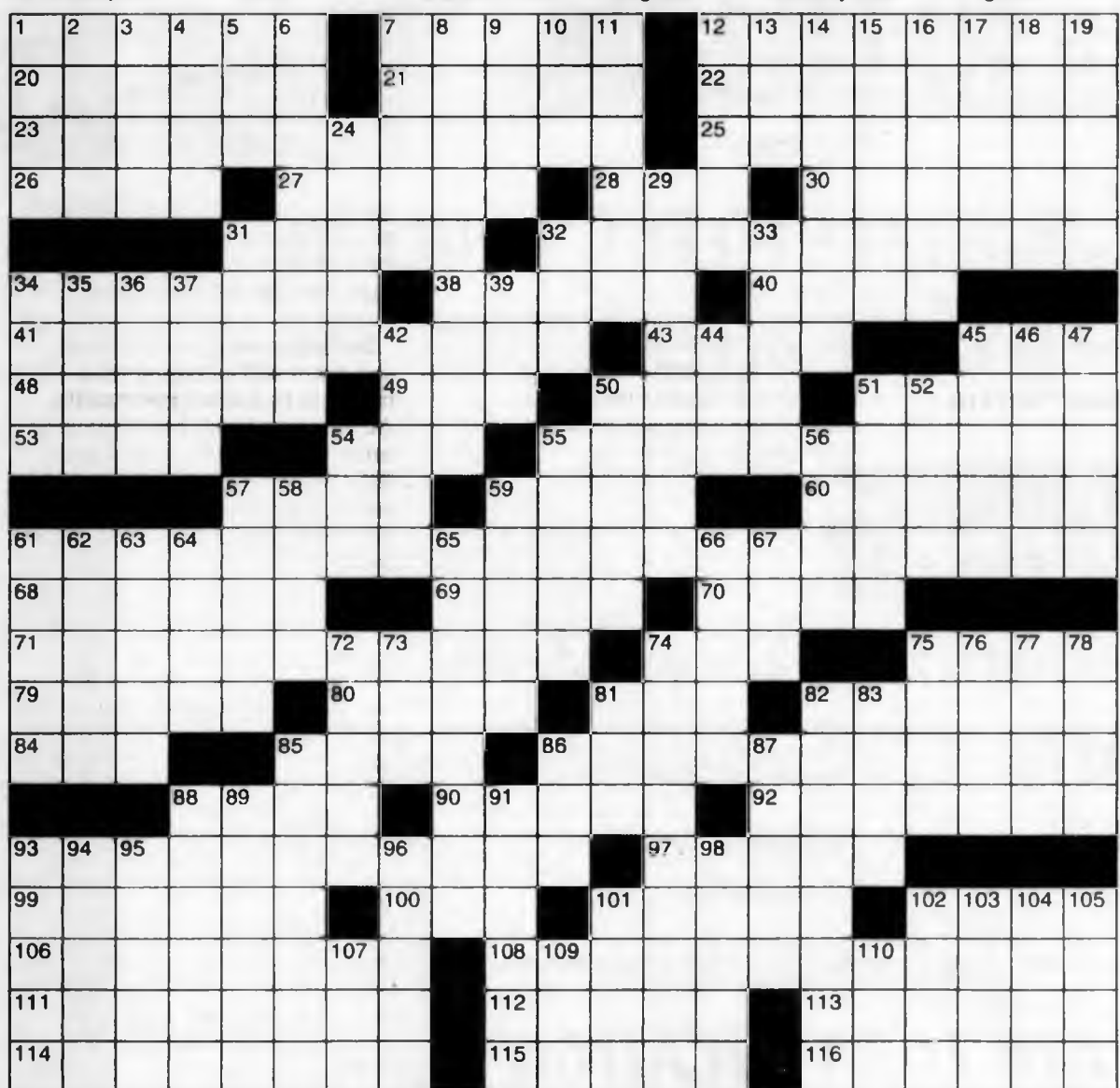
THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

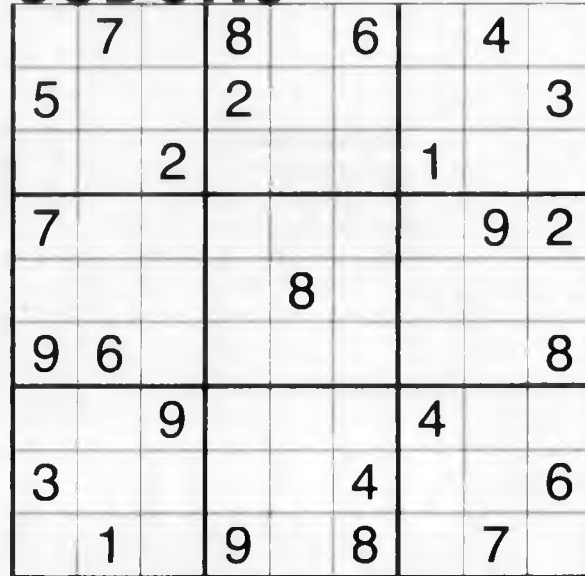
RECORD
PLAYING

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Same Old Love" singer Gomez
7 Taken-back autos, e.g.
12 Most adultlike
20 Sanctuary
21 Novelist Jong
22 Undeveloped expanse
23 Carole King album hanging as a decoration?
25 Surpass
26 Drags to court
27 Endures
28 Big primate
30 San — (Texas city, informally)
31 Nixon veep Spiro
32 Taylor Swift album signed for a Catholic dignitary?
34 Title ship in a 1997 Spielberg epic
38 Hullabaloo
40 Hoodwink
41 John Lennon album sitting there all by itself?
43 Shoe parts
- 45 "Attack, dog!"
48 Portions out
49 In the style of
50 Closest buds, in brief
51 Savoir- —
53 Get as profit
54 Historic start?
55 Write preliminary lyrics to a Patti Smith album?
57 Healing sign
59 Cello's ancestor
60 Pop's Grande
61 Michael Jackson album that plays mind games?
68 Pope before Stephen IV
69 Having no depth, in brief
70 Spellbound
71 Bob Marley album that's very popular in big cities?
74 Granola bit
75 Dearth
79 Works by painter Joan
80 Small bouquet
81 Polymer used in piping, for short
- 82 U.S. Navy builder
84 Major Calif. airport code
85 General — chicken
86 Looking to buy a Beatles album?
88 Only OK
90 Frequently
92 Least distant
93 Badly damaged Fleetwood Mac album?
97 Assessed
99 Mad magazine's Alfred E. —
100 Dryly funny
101 Peeling knife
102 Smartphone extras
106 Mark up with comments
108 Joni Mitchell album upon being hit by lightning?
111 Billy Joel hit
112 Stones
113 Celestial dust cloud
114 Parts of car wheels
115 Cheeky
116 Old Faithful is a famous one
- DOWN**
- 1 Toothed tools
2 Jacob's twin
3 Actor Waggoner
4 Edifice extensions
5 Granola bit
6 Mixtures
7 Della of song
8 Of times past
9 Fruit stones
10 Scanner of bar codes, for short
11 Doc's throat-checking request
12 Copied a cow
13 Clerk on "The Simpsons"
14 The "T" of the DPT vaccine
15 Detach, as a jacket fastener
16 Toy in a crib
17 Mistake
18 River by the Louvre
19 Affixed, as gift wrap
24 Bamboo-eating bear
29 Comical tumble in slapstick
31 Very busy
32 Sebastian of England
33 That is, to Tiberius
34 Not closed all the way
35 Stubborn sort
36 Land in el agua
37 Go no further
39 Go — diet
42 Greta of the silver screen
44 Part of OTB
45 Cordage fiber
46 Dunne of the silver screen
47 Labor leader Chávez
50 Extensive
51 Supporting the idea
52 Seed casing
54 Compadre
55 Chopped into small cubes
56 Lyre relative
57 Tibias' places
58 Spiral shape
59 Title cousin in a 1992 film
61 Purple fruits
62 Letter flourish
63 "Hey, dude!"
64 Turin "Ta-ta!"
65 Turns rancid
66 Part of OTB
67 Chapeau
72 — salts
73 Slimy stuff
74 Bakers get their mitts on them
75 Oz lion player Bert
76 Busy as —
77 Cartoon pics
78 Retained
81 — wee Herman
82 Smiling evilly
83 "Yikes!"
85 Huge wave
86 Rds.
87 Bury
88 Actress Raven- —
89 Speechifier
91 Fast-food cookers
93 Not inclined
94 Spirits in lamps
95 Of the moon
96 "Hee Haw" co-host Buck
98 Bohemian
101 Delts' neighbors
102 "Dear" advice columnist
103 In addition to
104 Cry feebly
105 Blacken, as a steak
107 Scot's cap
109 Mauna —
110 Mediocre grade



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

SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★

4/22

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!

AM-PM

Can you find all the words with AM or PM? 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.

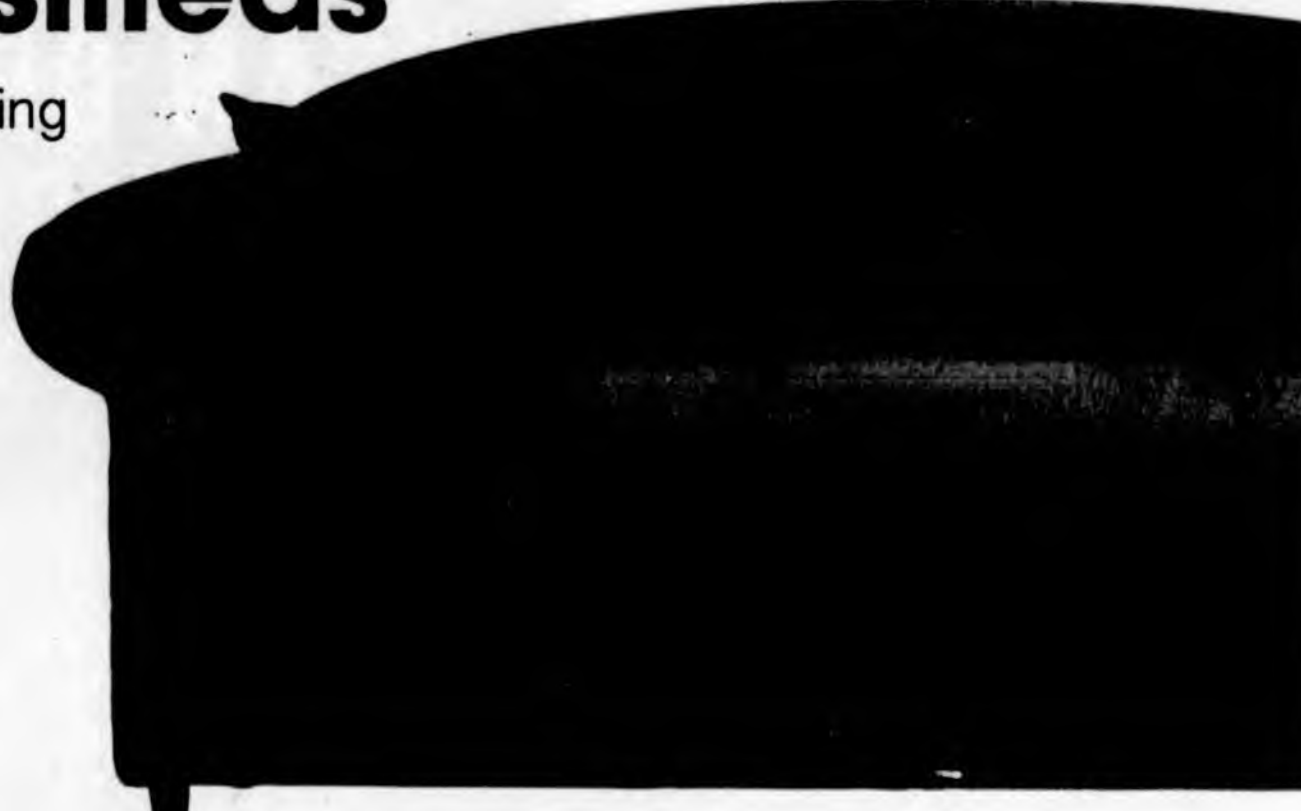
M V F E M A N C E B L A M E T B X
O A D L M G T T A J A M C N L E A
O M R U A O A C T M T A E F E A M
B B S G P M A N L B P M S J M M I
M E B M P M E E U W P N W E A B D
A R O I E M M P M O J E A T N G M
B S H R P A M A L C O S M A E D V
T S A I C O T E M O W I P M N E K
N A H Z S E V N U A H A A P E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

AMATEUR
AMBER
AMID
AMINO
AMNESIA
AMUSE
BAMBOO
BEAM
BLAME
CAMEL
CAMERA
CAMP
CAMPMATE
CHAMPION
CHIPMUNK
CLAM
CREAM
DAMAGED
DEVELOPMENT
DRAMA
ENAMEL
ENCAMPMENT
EQUIPMENT
FLAME
GRAM
HAM
HELPMATE
JAM
MADAM
NAME
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SHIPMENT
STAMP
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