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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Auto dealer becomes blood donation center

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For DeeDee Rawlins, giving blood Monday afternoon – her birthday – was personal.

The Washtenaw County resident who works in Garden City stopped by a blood drive at the Livonia Chrysler Jeep dealership Monday wearing a button

featuring a picture of her son, Michael, who died seven years ago.

Rawlins said giving blood to help patients who have contracted COVID-19 during the coronavirus pandemic was an appropriate thing to do.

“To honor him and in memory of him, I’m giving blood, and my daughter-in-law is giving blood, too,” she said.

The dealership, which reopened as a

Chrysler dealership in 2015 after a lengthy court battle that almost made it to the U.S. Supreme Court, opted to hold a blood drive in its showroom at 30777 Plymouth Road to help collect blood donations for health care providers battling the pandemic that has shut down much of the world.

Colleen McDonald, who owns the dealership with her husband, Dave, said

they moved vehicles out of the interior showroom to mitigate the potential spread of the coronavirus. After seeing the empty showroom, they decided to trade in vehicles for medical supplies.

The dealership will host a total of five days of blood collection conducted by Versiti, a Grand Rapids-based company

See **AUTO DEALER**, Page 4A

Pandemic brings ‘wartime nursing’ to hospital

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

During a brief break from the emergency room where she works, Lauren Tierney was asked how she is doing.

“We are surviving,” Tierney, 35, responded. “We are still seeing regular emergency and trauma patients, we still see and treat everyone, but we are inundated with COVID patients.”

Tierney, a Westland native now living in Royal Oak, is clinical nurse manager of the emergency and trauma center at Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills. Eight years into her nursing career, she got a trial run for a pandemic when the first suspected COVID-19 case arrived in her ER about two weeks ago. Since, then, it has been an avalanche of patients.

“Over the past two weeks we are just seeing more and more. ... People have gotten sicker as the weeks go on,” she said. “Some were discharged with CDC instructions and now we have to intubate a lot of people.”

“The ICU is full and a lot of sick people (with COVID-19 are) all over the hospital.”

While there are beds still available and designated units for COVID-19 patients, as hospital staff attempt to separate these patients from other areas,

See **PANDEMIC**, Page 4A



Lauren Tierney, clinical nurse manager of the emergency and trauma center at Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills, said the hospital is reaching capacity in its battle against the coronavirus pandemic. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

SUICIDE AWARENESS

Suicide rates increasing across state, metro Detroit

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Suicide deaths were climbing across Michigan and metro Detroit before the coronavirus pandemic forced people into greater isolation.

That has suicide prevention experts worried about the future since studies have linked perceived social isolation with risky health issues like depression, sleep issues, cognitive decline and weakened immune systems.

“We have seen a large increase in calls regarding COVID -19,” said Melissa Bowman, whose duties include suicide prevention at Common Ground, a 24-hour crisis services agency serving metro Detroit. “Contacts are feeling confused and helpless. All calls, chats and texts end up talking about how this epidemic is affecting them in all ways.”

“People are scared for themselves and others, feeling trapped and in ways lost, not knowing what to do.”

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The voluntary health organization also reports that 48,344 people died by suicide in 2018. An alarming 1.4 million attempted suicide that year.

For metro Detroit, the number of suicides climbed an average of 20 percent in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties from 2009 to 2018, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services’ data.

These counties also had the greatest number of suicides in 2018, the last year with data available. Wayne had 225 suicides that year; Oakland, 168; and Macomb, 145.

In the same 10-year time frame, not including the suspected under-reporting, Michigan had a total of 13,261 suicides. The numbers jumped by about 33 percent, going from 1,164 in 2009 to 1,547 in 2018.

Bowman said there are “so many reasons” for the upticks.

“Talking to people who are thinking about killing themselves is pretty much our every day,” Bowman said. “We notice it going up drastically around any national events. (If) someone famous dies by suicide, our calls

See **SUICIDE**, Page 2A

During pandemic, we need a shot – of good news



John Heider
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

We’ve all heard of the sad and frustrating coronavirus pandemic in our communities: shoppers hoarding and fighting over toilet paper, hand sanitizer and bottled water.

Some gathered up those essentials, jacked up the price and sold them at

price-gouging levels. Scams racing through the area touted miracle snake-oil cures for the virus and others already are trying to con people out of their promised coronavirus relief checks from the federal government.

It’s enough to make a frightening time even more weighty for the soul. We need a shot of good news like we need that eventual vaccine: desperately.

So if you can, in these uncertain times, share with us at Hometown Life your stories of hope: of neighbor helping

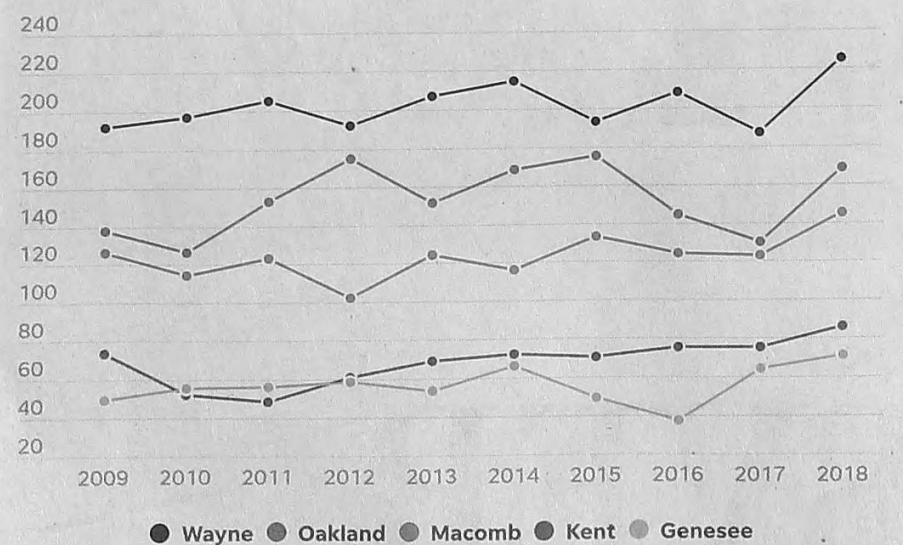
neighbor, of organizations going the extra mile to make sure no one goes hungry, homeless or uncared for.

It probably won’t bring a quicker end to our new shelter-in-place, contact avoidance way of life, but it’ll help remind us all that even when the going gets tough, the tough get going on a plan to lift all our hearts.

Send your stories, photos and messages of hope to John Heider, staff photographer, at jheider@hometownlife.com or 734-972-65456.



Michigan: Most suicides in 2018



“If we reach one person, everything we’re doing is good.”
Ken Massey, advocate for families coping with suicide
Data Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

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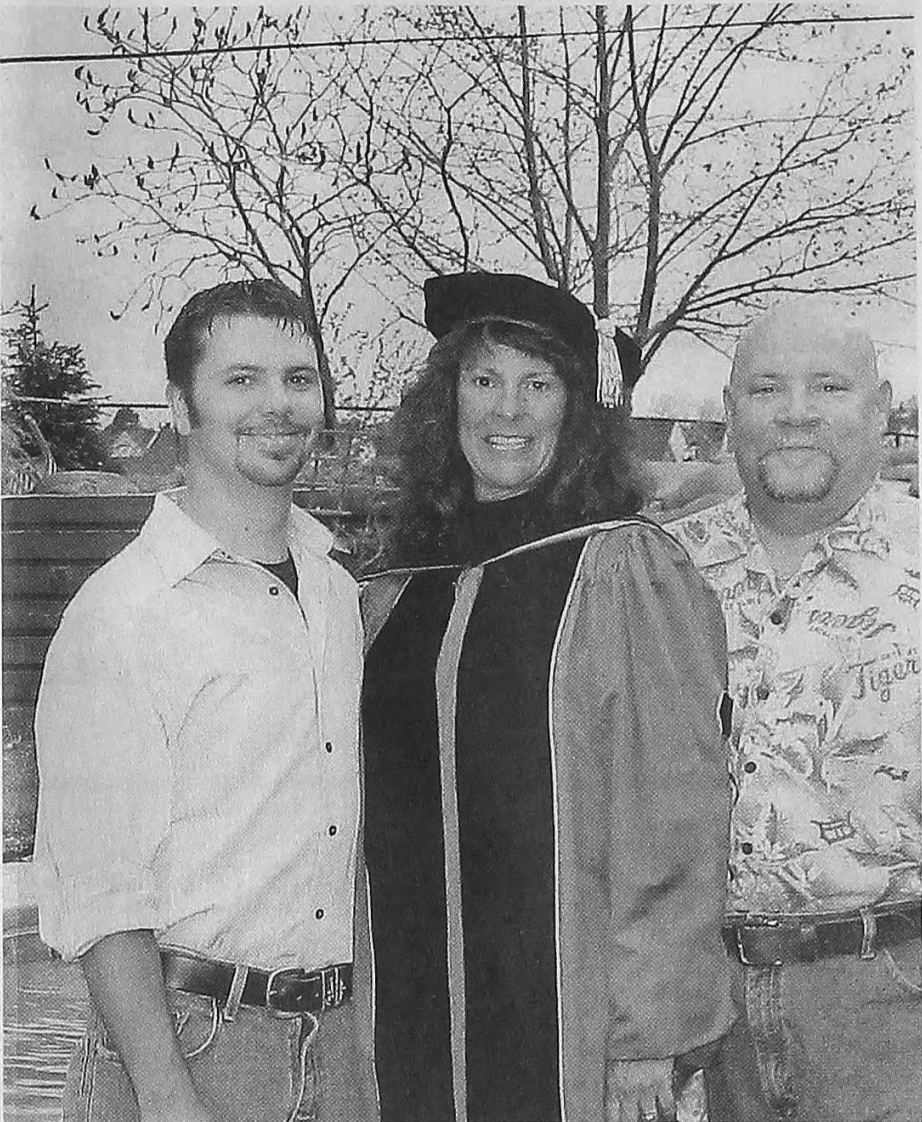
LOCAL SUICIDES SPORADIC

Community	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
South Lyon	2	2	2	1	1
Milford	3	0	3	3	3
Novi	5	2	3	2	4
Northville City	1	0	0	0	0
Northville Twp	2	0	4	5	5
Farmington	0	0	1	0	2
Farmington Hills	18	11	6	5	6
Wayne	1	2	1	1	1
Livonia	5	15	9	15	10
Plymouth	1	0	0	0	1
Plymouth Twp.	4	2	3	3	1
Birmingham	1	1	2	1	2
Bloomfield Twp.	4	2	1	2	0
Westland	27	23	13	30	21
Canton Twp.	9	2	10	8	3
Lyon Twp.	2	2	0	2	0
Highland Twp.	0	1	5	4	3

Source: Metro Detroit law enforcement agencies

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Graham E. Smith, left, stands with his parents Katherine and Ken Massey, of Farmington Hills. Smith fatally shot himself in 2011. His parents frequently share their story, trying to fight the stigma of suicide. COURTESY OF MASSEY FAMILY

Suicide

Continued from Page 1A

increase. A lot of it has a lot to do with just society, a lack of resources, a lack of mental health care, a lack of financial resources.

“There’s not a lot of support for people and there’s a lot of crisis.”

She advised people to look out for others who feel isolated or burdensome. Key words to stay alert to are “hopeless” and “helpless.”

And people should find someone to talk to.

“People don’t talk about how to handle anxiety, how to handle anger – these normal, everyday emotions that people aren’t really trained on how to work with and handle and deal with,” Bowman said. “The brain is just another part of the body. Some people have what I like to call like a brain glitch. Something happens (and), just like a computer, it glitches. They suicide. They kill themselves usually due to lots of different things.”

She noted that there’s no demographic that hasn’t been touched by suicide.

Hometown Life filed Freedom of Information Act requests to find the number of suicides local law enforcement agencies responded to in each of the past five years.

Westland police officers responded to 21 in 2019, far outpacing other communities but still lower than the 27 they reported in 2015.

“The numbers are pretty high,” Chief Jeff Jedrusik wrote in an email. “There are many factors that play into them. Westland is a very large community with a much larger population than most of the comparable communities.”

“There are stress factors that unfortunately lead to suicide. People living in the Westland community may be more susceptible to these stressful factors.”

About this series

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

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

He listed gambling, finances, and drug or alcohol abuse among stress factors.

Jedrusik pointed out Westland’s median income, which was about \$48,000 in a 2019, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, compared to about \$55,000 across Michigan.

“Limited income results in limited health care and mental health care options,” he wrote. “People with mental health issues are much more likely to commit suicide than others.”

He noted that Westland has more parks, cemeteries, and other communities, which may draw people from outside the city who want to kill themselves.

Livonia police officers responded to the second-highest number of suicides in Hometown Life’s coverage area: 10 in 2019, compared to five in 2015.

“It’s a very daily, routine part of our job to come across someone who is emotionally disturbed whether it’s temporary or chronic,” Lt. Charles Lister said.

Canton Deputy Police Director Chad Baugh agreed.

“In almost every situation, there’s a component of mental health that can be addressed,” he said.

His police officers have responded to 32 suicides, mostly hangings, from the start of 2015 through the end of 2019.

Police have been closing their offices for non-essential services because of the coronavirus pandemic. But they have emphasized that their police presence has not diminished.

Baugh is preaching calmness: “If we can help calm each other and be a calming voice. ...”

Law enforcement agencies that discovered more suicides in 2019 than in 2015 were Birmingham, Northville Township and Livonia police officers; Farmington public safety officers and Oakland County Sheriff’s deputies in Highland Township.

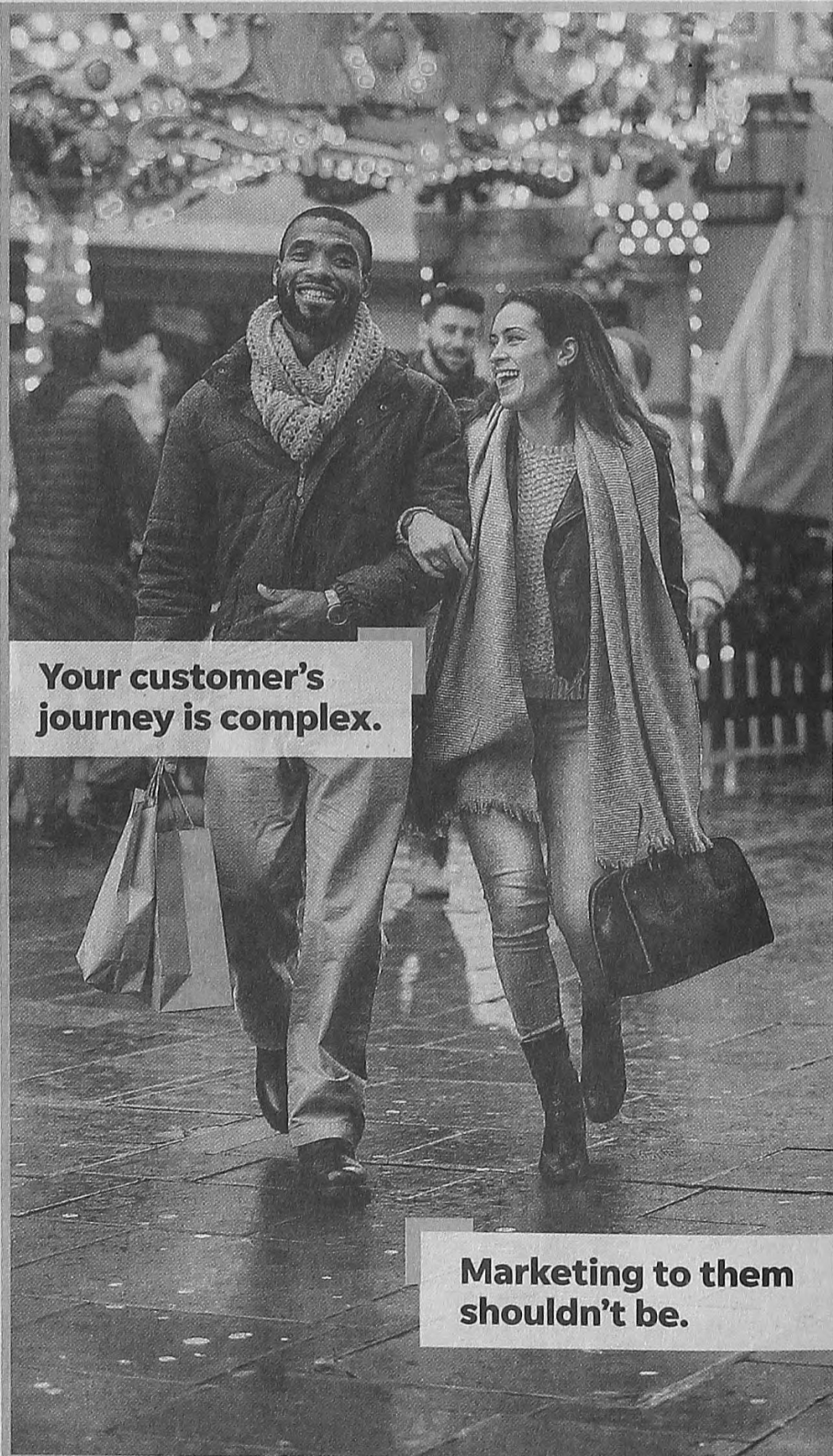
Included were:

■ A South Lyon High School senior who died by suicide about a week before graduation. His father found him dead when returning home from work on a May morning.

■ A 58-year-old Novi gunman who barricaded himself inside his Venice Drive during a July standoff with police. It took 21 hours for police to enter the home. When they did, the man was dead.

■ In December, Plymouth Township police said they responded to a possible murder-suicide in a mobile home park. Historic District Commissioner James Salamay, 46, apparently fatally shot his estranged wife Christina, 37, and then himself.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susan-vela.



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Plymouth group sends care packages to nurses

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Cat Golden knows firsthand how tough it can be to work as a nurse during a normal time. Add in a pandemic and she knows it is more important than ever to make sure nurses across the country feel appreciated.

Her organization, Nurses Inspire Nurses, has been sending out care packages to nurses for almost two years. Now, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the Detroit resident who grew up in western Wayne County said the program, and people's donations to support it, are essential.

"Mostly, we're wanting nurses to feel supported," she said. "This is the foundation of everything we do."

The organization is accepting donations of thank-you notes and personal care items, such as snacks, pens, lotions and other necessary non-medical supplies.

She's compiling those items at her Plymouth Township warehouse, though sending them out has been made a little tougher with the state's stay-at-home order that continues until April 13.

Golden said she has sent out 100 care packages since the coronavirus pandemic ramped up, with a majority of those going to nurses at local health care systems such as the St. Joseph Mercy Health System and Beaumont Health.

Golden hopes to send out hundreds more care packages, and may ship them to individuals instead to hospital units, given how busy many hospitals have become as they treat patients who have COVID-19.

Anyone interested in providing letters of support or supplies for nurses can send items to the Nurses Inspire Nurses warehouse at 15087 Northville Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Anyone looking to purchase items to donate can look at the organization's Amazon wish list, which can be found on the organization's website, nursesinspirenurses.com.

In addition to the care packages, the organization provides virtual support to nurses across the country, from resources for dealing with tough times to a "nurse giveback night" that hosts a party for nurses in metro Detroit to celebrate the work they do.



Nurses Inspire Nurses founder Cat Golden, foreground, a former practicing RN, and nursing student Mackenzie Lago, background, put together care packages March 24 at the organization's Plymouth location. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

brate the work they do.

Golden, who worked in hospitals in Denver and in metro Detroit before launching Nurses Inspire Nurses, said she understands the demands the nursing industry can have and wanted to begin an organization to support those in the grueling profession.

"I was really burned out as a nurse

myself," she said. "If we helped ourselves and supported each other, we can make a difference."

"We want to inspire and encourage them."

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

Anyone looking to purchase items to donate can view the group's Amazon wish list at nursesinspirenurses.com.

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Where normally there would be Chrysler and Jeep automobiles on the showroom floor at Livonia Chrysler and Jeep, on March 30, there were instead blood donors and personnel from Versitir Blood Centers as the Plymouth dealership owners hosted the first day of a five-day blood drive. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Auto dealer

Continued from Page 1A

that has a facility in Livonia. Medical staff replaced sales staff in the showroom, collecting information before people donated blood.

McDonald, the drive's first donor, said the goal was to get several dozen donations a day, a benchmark she believes they will hit every day and then some.

"The goal is 30 donors a day, and today (Monday) we're at 40-something," she said. "Tomorrow we're filling up pretty good, too."

The Red Cross has called on healthy Americans to donate blood amid the coronavirus pandemic, since hospitals are in need after blood drives had been canceled because it's not safe for large gatherings of people to take place.

The State of Michigan has launched a website for volunteer efforts during the pandemic, which also includes links to find blood donation centers.

Michigan is currently one of the worst-hit states by the coronavirus, with more than 6,400 cases and more than 180 deaths as of Monday afternoon, according to figures released by the State of Michigan. Wayne and Oakland counties are being hit especially hard.

The couple closed the sales division of the dealership when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered all nones-

sential businesses to close to help slow the spread of coronavirus. The dealership kept its service repair division open for a week, but McDonald said they have since closed it, too.

But that hasn't stopped anyone from coming in to donate blood.

"I have customers, I have employees, I have just people who have heard about it," she said. "People are sharing it nicely."

One person who drove to the dealership on a whim was Deidre Brown, a Romulus resident who heard about the blood drive and decided to drive up to donate blood.

She was sad to find out she needed an appointment, but made one to come back the next day.

"I feel so powerless. If I can help save a few lives, I'm all for that," she said. "Not just to get out of the house, but to do something."

The blood drive resumes 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Anyone looking to sign up to donate blood can do so by making an appointment at livoniachryslerjeepmichigan.com.

McDonald said she's been happy with how it's gone and hopes to bring people back for future blood drives.

"I think I'll want to continue this effort," she said.

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



Colleen McDonald, co-owner of Livonia Chrysler and Jeep with her husband, Dave, talks about the need for a blood drive during the coronavirus pandemic.

Pandemic

Continued from Page 1A

Tierney said all units in the hospital will eventually be COVID-19 units "if it keeps up at this rate."

As of 3 p.m. Sunday, 810 COVID-19 patients were being cared for in Beaumont hospitals, with 210 more awaiting test results. The deaths of 35 Beaumont patients were related to COVID-19. Statewide, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases was more than 6,498 Monday with 184 deaths. The U.S. tops all other nations in the number of confirmed coronavirus cases at more than 140,000, including 2,400 deaths.

Numbers were not available for just the Farmington Hills hospital, particularly with so many tests pend-

"Everyone deserves to be safe and not be at risk for this."

Lauren Tierney Clinical nurse manager, emergency and trauma center at Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills

ing, and it is ever changing.

Tierney said the turnaround time to get coronavirus test results is anywhere from two to eight hours.

The emergency department looks much different than two weeks ago, with medical staff all wearing personal protection equipment – N95 masks, goggles, protective gowns and gloves – throughout their shifts. For nurses, that ranges from 12 to 16 hours right now.

The personal protection gear is typically only worn if a doctor or nurse is caring for a patient with active tuberculosis, which is rarely seen.

"Walking through the ER now is like wartime nursing," Tierney said. "Everyone is sick. Nurses are in protective gear, intubating patients much more frequently than before the outbreak, and we are so fortunate to have drive-through screening, keeping less sick patients out so A: nurses are not exposed, and B: the nurses are able to care for the people who really need care."

The ER is not seeing "lower acuity folks" anymore and Tierney said more people are observing the stay-at-home advisory. Critically ill patients are brought in by ambulance or by family. These are patients with "serious respiratory issues."

"They probably couldn't walk from the couch to the kitchen sink without struggling to breathe," Tierney

said. "Their oxygen saturation is in the 70s or lower."

How long a patient remains in the emergency center depends on the day. Some get beds quickly, and some have to wait. Most are staying longer in the ER than ideal.

Tierney said she is aware of the national shortage of medical supplies, but said at Beaumont they have been blessed with a great supply chain and a ton of donations. Still, the staff can "always use more N95 masks, goggles and face shields."

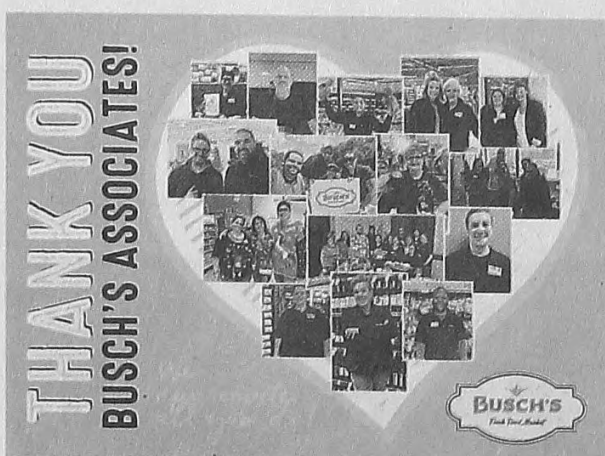
The protocol for wearing N95 masks has changed. Before the coronavirus pandemic, the masks were only used when in a room with a patient and then discarded. They are now worn through an entire shift unless they become soiled.

Not having enough ventilators for patients is always a worry in a time like this, Tierney said, but right now, no one is sharing ventilators, and every patient who needs one, has one. There are no plans to rent ventilators, but she said that can be done if a ventilator shortage comes to fruition.

Tierney, the mother of a 14-year-old girl, asks everyone to stay home. Doing so will prevent further spread and allow medical staff to continue caring for those suffering dire effects from COVID-19.

"Think about the person you love the most, and remember that all these people who are compromised, whether they are sick or elderly or have some condition that makes them more susceptible, someone loves them, too," Tierney said. "Everyone deserves to be safe and not be at risk for this."

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



Police cite man selling toilet paper for \$60 per case

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Mike Arcuragi was heading home after another day of sorting and delivering mail when he saw a shocking sign: There, in the Meijer parking lot along Ford Road in Canton Township, a man was selling toilet paper for \$60 per case.

Arcuragi took a picture of the sign – “toilet tissue \$60.00 case, cash only.”

He uploaded it to his Facebook account and watched as his fellow Facebook users shared the photo nearly 4,000 times.

A postal worker for 25 years, Arcuragi said he was amazed at the number of shares the photo received.

But they haven’t erased his irritation with the toilet paper seller.

“It’s not right. It’s not fair for everybody else,” said Arcuragi, a Brighton resident.

He hopes some sort of fine is levied against the 64-year-old Canton Township resident.

He is scheduled for a May 5 arraignment in Plymouth’s 35th District Court

on a misdemeanor charge of soliciting, canvassing and peddling because of the March 18 incident.

“I feel that it is people like this that gives a bad name to all mankind,” Arcuragi wrote in a Facebook response to Hometown Life’s interview request. “That toilet paper could have been donated to several different locations.”

“I wish people that do go into the stores would buy what they need and not hoard. They are not thinking of the next person but only of themselves.”

The Michigan Attorney General’s office reported Monday that price-gouging complaints tied to the coronavirus pandemic have passed 2,000 reports since early March, when the office’s tracking began.

The complaints, filed online and by phone, have included reports that A.M. Cleaning & Supplies in Ann Arbor has tried to sell 12-ounce bottles of hand sanitizer for \$60.

Canton Township police seemed appalled in their narratives about the March 18 toilet paper.

According to the redacted report re-



A postal worker spotted this sign in Canton Township advertising toilet paper for \$60 per case.

COURTESY OF MIKE ARCURAGI

ceived after filing a Freedom of Information Act request:

“The United States has declared a state of emergency. Shelves are emptying in stores as people (hoard) various items. Toilet paper has been difficult to find.”

Police said they were dispatched to Meijer around 3:30 p.m. March 18, a few days after President Donald Trump declared a national state of emergency due to the coronavirus pandemic.

They saw a Ford Escape with an open rear hatch and several cases of toilet paper. A large sign declaring the items for sale was leaning against the vehicle.

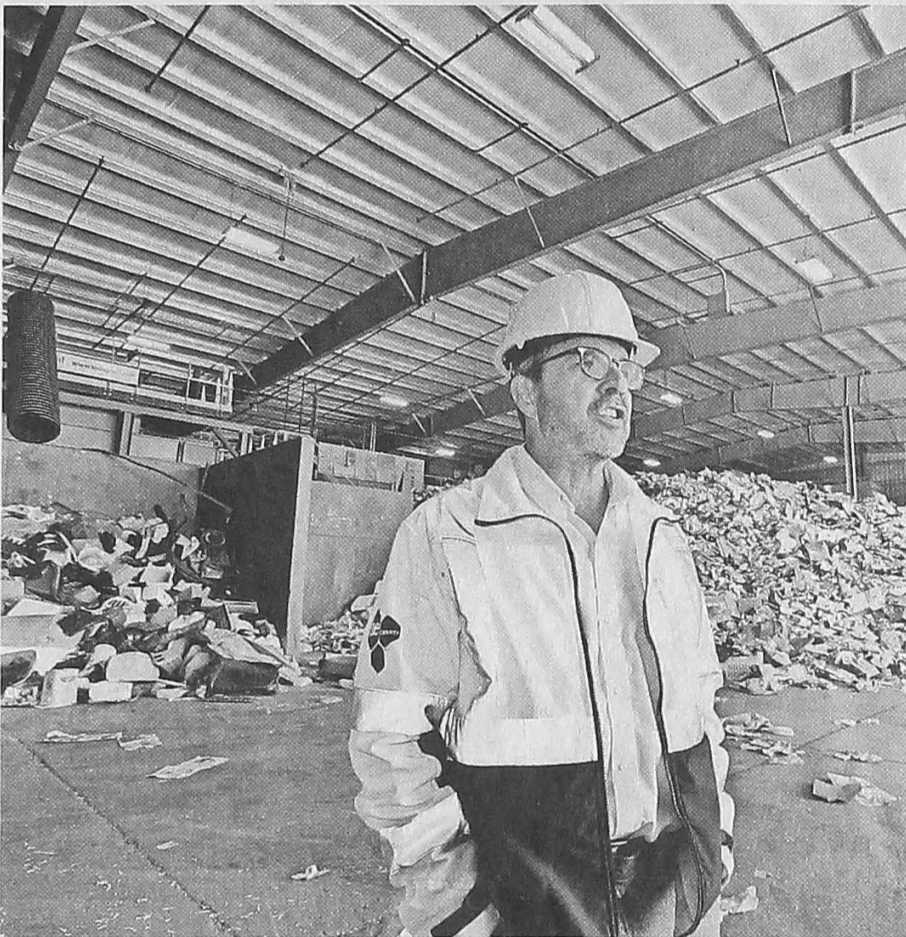
An officer asked the unnamed man if he had a permit to solicit the toilet paper in the township. He responded no and claimed he “was trying to help people during a troubled time.”

He told the officer the toilet paper he was selling typically sold for \$90 a case.

Police cited him for soliciting without a permit. At Meijer’s request, police also issued him a trespass notice and warned he would be arrested if he returned.

“When I first seen this sign, I thought that I read it wrong, so I circled around and yup there it was – \$60 for a case of toilet paper,” Arcuragi wrote. “I was in awe, I was shocked, I was mad.”

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432.



Manager Mike Csapo stands in front of piles of recycling at the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County facility. It’s one option for Westland as it looks for a recycling vendor. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Curbside recycling still a priority for Westland

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

On March 10, the night Westland residents found out the city sanitation millage proposal, which will bring back recycling, had passed, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced Michigan’s first two confirmed COVID-19 cases.

By March 30, Wayne County had 1,162 confirmed cases, not including those in Detroit, according to the state.

“I think it’s fair to say that it got put on the back burner, unfortunately,” Mayor Bill Wild said. “When the millage was passed is when we started down this road with coronavirus.”

But officials are working to send out a request for proposals to regional recycling processors. Wild said he knows of options in New Boston, Ann Arbor, Oakland County and Washtenaw County the city could use, but he will be looking for “the best deal.”

Midwest Recycling, which handles Westland’s trash pickup, likely will continue to do so.

Wild said the city could pay anywhere between \$550,000 and \$600,000 annually for recycling processing, but added that he does not know whether, or how, coronavirus may affect those figures.

Wild did not expect to have a contract proposal to give to city council when he submitted a budget April 1, but is confident the city will have a contractor in place when the budget receives final approval in May or June.

“I’m 100 percent committed to bringing recycling back,” he said. “I’ve said it publicly and to our city council. It’s certainly still near the top of our priority list, even during the coronavirus.”

To keep important conversations going between council members and the administration, Council President Jim Hart is working with the city technology

“I’m 100 percent committed to bringing recycling back. I’ve said it publicly and to our city council. It’s certainly still near the top of our priority list, even during the coronavirus.”

Bill Wild Mayor of Westland

department to conduct virtual meetings, the first of which could be April 13. Council’s March 30 meeting was canceled.

“We’re working under the assumption that we’re probably not going to be able to have large gatherings still during that time,” Wild said. “So, it will give us a good test case on that city council meeting as to how we could have budget sessions.”

As the city continues to adjust to life in a pandemic, Wild advised residents to keep calm and get information from reputable sources.

“I know people are scared, and I would just recommend that they try to stay in touch with the City of Westland through our website,” he said. “I think that trusted news sources are best for information at times like these, not necessarily social media. But we’ll get through this and I think in Westland our residents have done a pretty good job of not venturing out when they don’t need to.”

The city is updating residents about COVID-19 in the city at cityofwestland.com and on its social media platforms.

Contact Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Twitter: @shelby_tankk.

Two Plymouth Township residents die of COVID-19

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Two Plymouth Township residents have succumbed to the coronavirus, according to Wayne County Public Health.

The victims are a 90-year-old woman and a 60-year-old woman. No other details concerning the victims were available from Wayne County Public Health.

Confirmed case totals by community through Monday:

■ Canton: 85 confirmed cases

■ Garden City: 17 confirmed cases and one death

■ Livonia: 118 confirmed cases and five deaths

■ Plymouth City: 9 confirmed cases

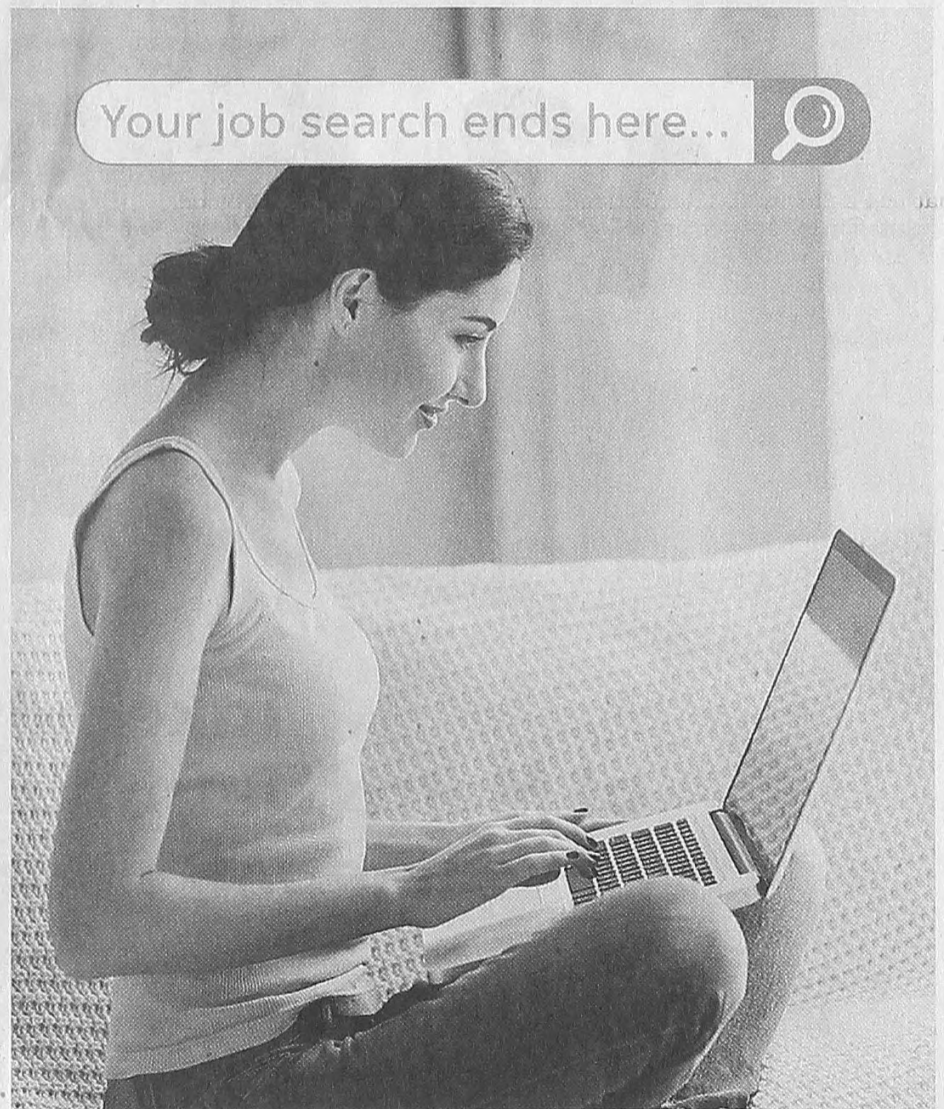
■ Plymouth Township: 15 confirmed cases and two deaths

■ Redford: 128 confirmed cases and three deaths

■ Wayne: 22 confirmed cases

■ Westland: 123 confirmed cases and one death

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



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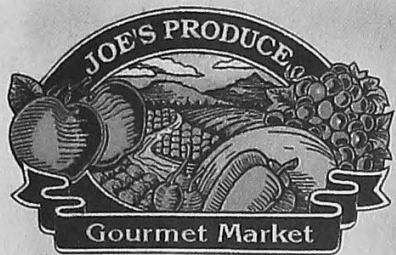
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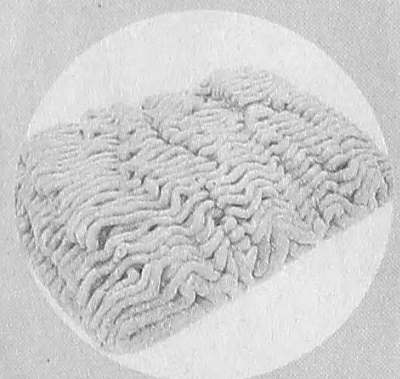
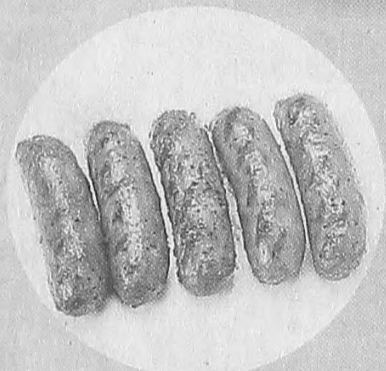
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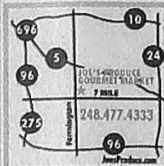
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Sports



Franklin junior Kyle Fugedi has verbally committed to play football for Miami (Ohio). COURTESY OF KYLE FUGEDI

Franklin's Fugedi commits to play Division 1 football

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The current outbreak of the coronavirus COVID-19 has paralyzed the sports world at all levels, including college football recruiting, where coaches

around the country are now dealing with new restrictions designed to limit the spread of the virus.

Despite the changes, one school has always stood out to Livonia Franklin offensive tackle Kyle Fugedi — Miami University in Ohio.

The three-star junior verbally com-

mitted March 12 to the RedHawks. He had offers from Indiana, Kentucky, Central Michigan, Western Michigan, Bowling Green and Eastern Michigan, in addition to Miami. He also received some interest from Michigan State.

See FUGEDI, Page 2B

Help Hometown Life tell local sports stories

Colin Gay and Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

From pros to preps, sports are in an unprecedented standstill.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association placed an indefinite suspension on the winter sports playoff tournaments and spring sports as schools have been ordered closed

throughout the state.

We at Hometown Life continue to find stories of those athletes and teams that would have been playing at this point every other year.

But we need your help to tell more.

If you have an athlete or a team that you feel should get showcased, if you have a story that needs to be shared, reach out to us with information and a few pictures, and we will help make sure

these compelling stories are told.

We want to showcase the athletes who may otherwise not get a chance to show what they can do during their senior year. We want to showcase our local teams.

Reach out to Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com, Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or both at Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com if you have a story to share.

HOCKEY

Stevenson coach aims to continue dad's legacy

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

David Mitchell grew up as a self-described "rink rat."

He followed his father Adam Mitchell around, watching him coach at University of Michigan Dearborn. David attended all the games, followed the team around, soaking in everything he possibly could.

It's where David Mitchell, the future head hockey coach at Livonia Stevenson, fell in love with the sport.

From that moment, David and Adam Mitchell were inseparable, establishing a connection that went past just father and son.

"It turned into my passion, my love," David Mitchell said. "It was his passion and his love."

"For me, it was not only 45 years of having a dad, it was 40-plus years of having that connection with your dad with the world of hockey."

Adam Mitchell died March 8 at the age of 74. Three weeks later, David Mitchell's life has not been the same.

After the death of a loved one, Mitchell said normally, the approach is to get back into a familiar routine, finding a way to get used to life without the person you lost.

But with the world at a standstill, schools and business closed and the majority of people sequestered in their homes due to the emergence of the COVID-19 virus, David Mitchell says he is still facing a level of shock and disbelief about his father's death.

Facing a life of balancing grief and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, David Mitchell has reverted to looking back at the impact Adam Mitchell made, and how he can use that to move him forward.

Hockey advocate

Adam Mitchell used to have a joke with his son.

When watching David Mitchell coach his players at Stevenson, he would always tell his son "you yell too much." But as David remembered watching his father coach at U-M Dearborn and Livonia Churchill in the 1970s and '80s, he saw where he got it from.

"He was intense, he was loud," David Mitchell said. "We are very, very similar."

"You'd hear him, he was vocal. Like I

See LEGACY, Page 2B

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Fugedi

Continued from Page 1B

“Miami checked all my boxes compared to the other schools,” Fugedi said. “They gave me everything that I wanted. With their education being like a public ivy (league school), that’s really what I wanted.”

He added that the Miami coaches were always 100 percent honest with him, which was something he appreciated.

Offers from power five schools were intriguing, but the fit at Miami proved to be best for Fugedi.

“Personally it didn’t matter to me how big the school is or how much it’s talked about,” Fugedi said. “Big Ten, SEC, anything, it won’t affect me. I wanted to go to a good football school, a good academic school and one that will help me in the future.”

Fugedi played both offensive tackle positions for Franklin, often ending up on the right side to protect the blind side of left-handed quarterback Jake Kelbert (who signed with Northwood). He expects to compete at both left and right tackle in college, wherever the coaching staff needs him.

“His athletic ability at his size is what all the colleges that came in (noticed),” Livonia Franklin football coach Chris Kelbert said. “They didn’t expect him to be as big as he was, and then when watching him on film how athletic he was for 6-foot-6, 280 pounds.”

Fugedi pairs that size and athleticism with elite footwork and agility, which he’s gained from his experience as a hockey player at Franklin.

The Patriots playoff run came to an end just a few weeks ago in the regional semifinal.

He began playing hockey at a young age, following in the footsteps of his cousin.

“His hockey has definitely helped him,” Kelbert said. “The balance, the footwork and the foot speed you need to play hockey has definitely helped him in this whole process and helped him become a better football player.”

Fugedi was recruited by Miami’s offensive line coach George Barnett and wide receivers coach Israel Woolfork, who also happens to be a 2008 Livonia Franklin graduate.

Woolfork went on to play college

football at Grand Valley State before taking a coaching position at Miami.

Kelbert said he thinks Miami is a good fit for Fugedi and is a place where he can secure playing time.

“He’s an easy-going kid, loves to joke-around and be the funny guy a lot of the time,” Kelbert said. “He’s kind of stress free is how I’d put it.

“He doesn’t get really high, doesn’t get really low. I think that’s another thing that makes him successful, he can stay even-keel and doesn’t get the highs and lows that some of the other guys do.”

Franklin’s coaching staff places a lot of emphasis on watching film, and it’s another area where Fugedi feels he excels. He spends considerable time during the season preparing for opposing rushers.

“I watch so much film on the other teams that I know what they’re going to do every time,” Fugedi said. “It helps me to be able to predict what they’re going to do. With my footwork from hockey, it helps me really excel over players on the other team.”

In the fall, he’ll have the opportunity to keep growing his game both on and off the field before he signs in December. He wants to keep improving his footwork and get stronger, something he’ll need to do in order to compete at the college level.

“He still has some improvement in his strength in the weight room,” Kelbert said. “From where he was at this time last year to where he is now, spring to spring, he’s already really made big improvements there.

“In high school, he’s one of the bigger kids. In college, he’s going to be a normal offensive lineman at Miami.”

Before he joins the RedHawks, Fugedi said he wants to get Franklin to another state title game. When the Patriots last made the state final in 2017, he was just a freshman and didn’t play due to an injury.

“I want to be able to prove that Franklin is a better football program than a lot of people think,” Fugedi said.

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at availlien@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



Franklin’s Kyle Fugedi chose to commit to play football for Miami (Ohio) over a number of other schools, including power five programs. COURTESY OF KYLE FUGEDI



Fugedi, who also plays hockey for Franklin, races toward the puck. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



David Mitchell bonded over hockey from a young age with his father, Adam Mitchell. At right, they pose for a photo. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID MITCHELL

Legacy

Continued from Page 1B

try to, he was never demeaning. He was just loud with an encouraging motivational voice. He always wanted guys to do more, to do their best, to get the most out of his players, for the players to give their absolute best. He never, ever, ever put down kids and put down anything that they were doing. It was always trying to instill confidence in them, instill motivation in them to inspire them.”

When Adam Mitchell yelled, he was loud. But he was always an advocate.

Adam assisted the Stevenson coaching staff throughout the season, heading up the yearly showcase the team hosts and coaching the fall team. He also went around the state, preaching and selling Spartans hockey to anyone who would listen.

“To me, that’s the biggest hole we are

going to have to fill,” David Mitchell said.

Adam Mitchell cemented his imprint into the Stevenson hockey program simply by his presence.

David described his father as someone who was a giver, right until his last days. That is something the Stevenson head coach has tried to build his team around.

“It’s what I try to do and what our coaches try to do: we try and make sure our players know that anything that we can absolutely do for them to help their career, to help them personally, academically, socially, whatever it is they need, they have a resource in us as coaches,” Mitchell said. “They have a family.”

Continue the trend

Adam Mitchell was a larger-than-life figure in many circles, whether it was as a hockey coach or working for the Detroit Red Wings for 36 years charting

statistics in the press box.

But to David, he was always Dad. He was always there for him.

“In a good way, he was always there. He was always there for me in the good times and the bad, the successes and the failures,” Mitchell said. “He’s not going to be replaced.”

David Mitchell knows about the series of “firsts” someone goes through when they lose someone dear to them. For him, it’s going to be the first time he takes the ice without Adam, the first time Stevenson has a fall game.

But for David, it won’t be only the first time. It will be the second, the third, the fourth. The loss of Adam Mitchell will never be normalized.

Instead, David Mitchell said it will change him, continue to mold him into the person his father hoped he would be, instilling that drive to help others the way his father did.

“I want to make sure I keep feeling this way, with that type of inspiration

and that type of drive, two weeks from now, two months from now, two years from now, two decades from now,” David Mitchell said. “I’ll never forget what he did, how he did it, how much he did, how involved he was and, ultimately, how committed he was to his family, to my mother, to my brother and sister and to me and my kids.”

David Mitchell will take the ice again. He will lead Stevenson to another season, a season in which they will honor Adam Mitchell in multiple ways.

Moving on is inevitable, but the Spartans head coach will never doubt how his father felt about him.

“One thing he did, he always made it known to me how proud he was of me,” David Mitchell said. “I’ll always hold that very special.”

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.



Golfers share thoughts on last swings for weeks, months

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Dusk was fast approaching at Mickey's Golf Range in Westland.

Worse yet for good friends Jeremy Sterner and Prash Mallya, who occupied adjoining driving range bays at the otherwise vacant facility, was the pending midnight start of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's edict that stated everyone except essential workers should stay at home to combat the spread of coronavirus.

Until the statewide order, golf courses were exempt from closing, giving driving range diehards like Sterner and Mallya a place to feel normalcy, a space for camaraderie, even if there are no hugs or handshakes after nailing a 30-foot putt.

While insisting that the public's health is far more important than hitting golf balls, the duo agreed that golf has served as a form of therapy during the recent days of social distancing.

"Is this essential? No," Sterner said, pausing between swings at his heated bay. "But is it safe? Yes. When the state of Washington put its whole shelter-in-place program in place, they let golf courses remain open because golfers aren't in each other's pockets. It's easy to maintain a safe distance."

During a recent 18-hole round at Superior Township's Hickory Creek Golf Course, Mallya felt safe in light of the facility's seemingly beyond-clean protocol.

"First of all, they sanitized and cleaned the golf carts and made everyone ride in separate carts so that they could maintain the proper distancing," Mallya said. "All of the employees wore gloves, we could only use credit cards because paper money is a carrier of the virus. All the safety measures were in place."

"We both work out of our homes now, so we're cooped up until at least 5 p.m. every day. Once our work was done, it was nice to be able to come out here and



Jeremy Sterner points at his target during a recent night at Mickey's Golf Range in Westland. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

hit some balls. It was like therapy."

Mickey's owner, Donald Trosper, had his driving range set up without employees since the coronavirus crisis started — a scenario that appealed to both Sterner and Mallya.

"You park your car, get your clubs, but your money in the golf ball vending machine, then hit some balls," Sterner said. "There are no crowds here, it's outdoors and it's refreshing to get out of the

house. We're not touching anything except our own clubs."

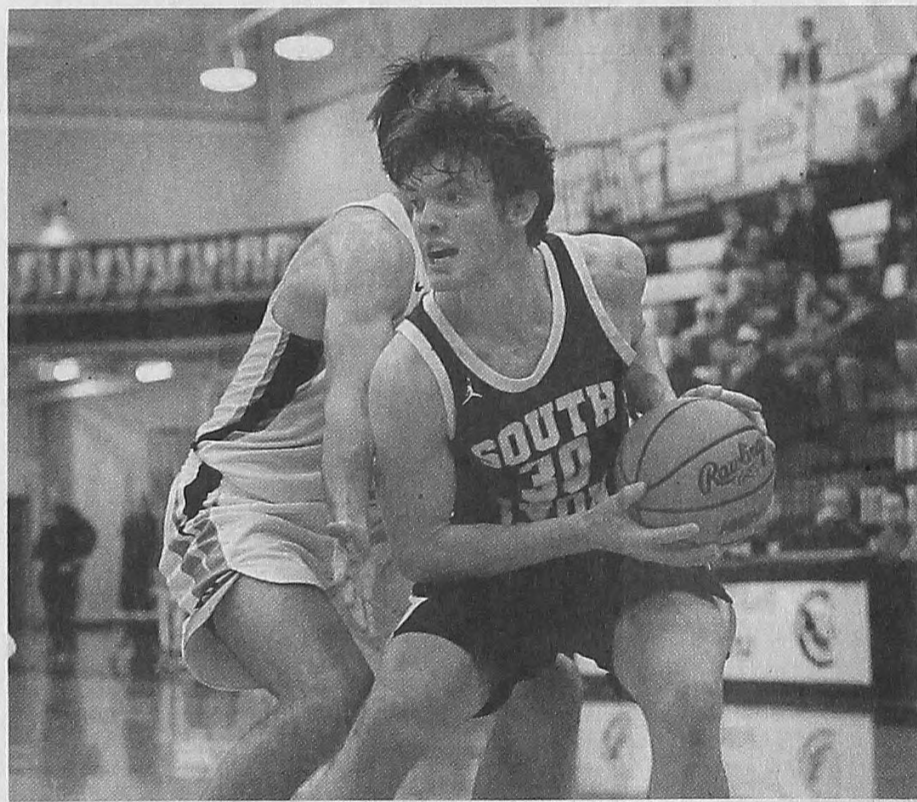
"We need something to keep our sanity," Mallya quipped, smiling. "If we feel like we're going to cough or sneeze, we step away. It feels safe here."

Sterner and Mallya both wear gloves during these uncertain times on the links and the golf balls sprayed across the driving range's acreage are collected with machines before being delivered

untouched by human hands into the vending machines.

While admitting they are going to miss the benefits — both mental and physical — that come with golf, both Sterner and Mallya said they'll do whatever is best for the well-being of the community.

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



South Lyon High's Joseph Carano. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

LVC BOYS BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

With the basketball season suspended and seemingly unlikely to resume, it's time to take a look back at some of the areas top players.

The Lakes Valley Conference released its boys basketball all-conference team, which includes six athletes from Hometown Life area teams (South Lyon, South Lyon East, Lakeland, Milford), plus several more that earned honorable mentions.

Waterford Mott won the league for the third year in a row, posting a perfect 16-0 record in LVC play. Lakeland placed second with a 13-3 record.

The coronavirus suspension especially hurts the conference, which still had four teams alive in the playoffs, all playing for district titles. Mott, South Lyon East, Lakeland and Walled Lake Northern will have to wait and see if their seasons can continue.

Here is the full LVC all-conference team:

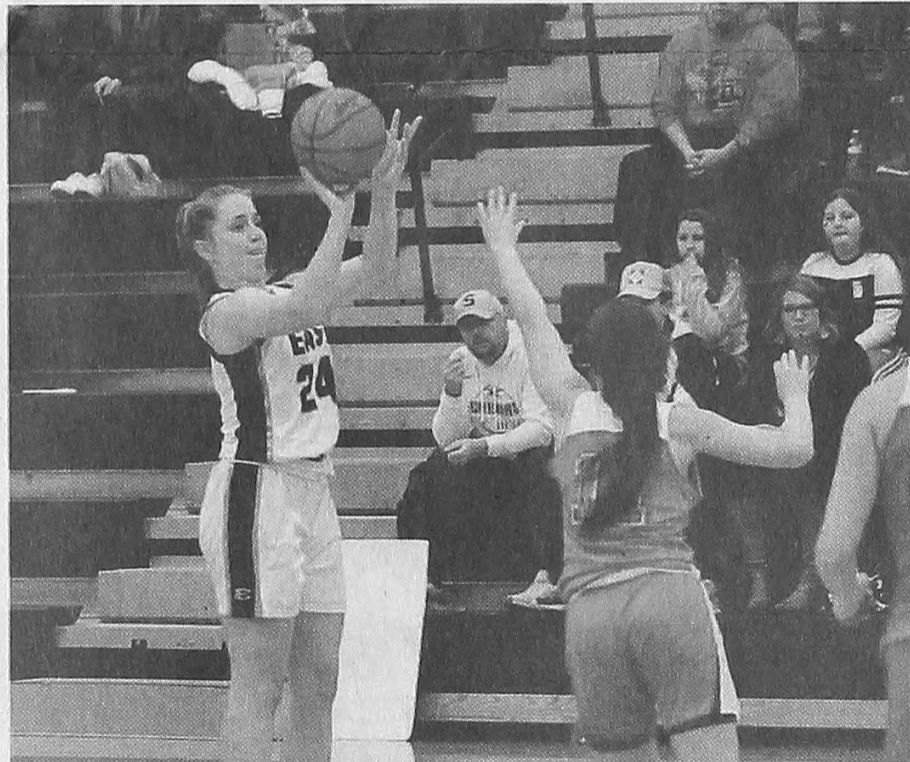
LVC All-Conference team

- Isaiah Jackson, Mott, Senior
- Dequaveon Washington, Mott, Senior
- Damarion Bonds, Mott, Senior
- Austin Boughton, Lakeland, Senior
- David Jabiro, Lakeland, Senior

- Nick Branton, South Lyon East, Senior
- Bryce Bird, South Lyon East, Junior
- Kevyn Robertson, Walled Lake Northern, Junior
- Jesse Lawson Jr., Walled Lake Northern, Junior
- Joe Carano, South Lyon, Senior
- Jeremy Eppes, Walled Lake Central, Senior
- Ronnie Savage, Milford, Senior
- Ben Crenshaw Jr., Kettering, Junior
- Sam Ahern, Walled Lake Western, Senior

Honorable Mention

- A'zion Price, Mott, Junior
- Caleb Zurek, Lakeland, Sophomore
- Zander Desentz, South Lyon East, Junior
- Alex Klein, Walled Lake Northern, Junior
- Connor McCollum, South Lyon, Senior
- Donovan Dickerson, Walled Lake Central, Senior
- Eric Elizondo, Milford, Junior
- Dominick Phifer, Kettering, Senior
- Noah Chambers, Walled Lake Western, Senior



South Lyon East's Lucy Cronin was just the second player in school history to score more than 1,000 points in her career. COURTESY OF ANN BOSS-CRONIN

LVC GIRLS BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

For the third year in a row, Walled Lake Western was the Lakes Valley Conference girls basketball champion, finishing the regular season with a 14-2 league record.

That was good enough to top Waterford Mott and South Lyon East, which both went 13-3 in conference play. All four Hometown Life area schools in the LVC (South Lyon, South Lyon East, Lakeland, Milford) were represented in the league's all-conference team. Walled Lake Western is the only team from the LVC still alive in the state playoffs, which are suspended indefinitely. If the postseason is able to be resumed at a later date, Western would play Hartland in the regional finals.

LVC All-Conference team

- Jenna Galecki, Walled Lake Western, Senior
- Lia Krawiec, Walled Lake Western, Senior
- Olivia Warren, Walled Lake Western, Senior
- Abby Upleger, Mott, Senior
- Makayla Fuerst, Mott, Junior
- Lucy Cronin, South Lyon East, Senior

- Rachel Waranauckas, South Lyon East, Senior
- Angelina Haisha, Walled Lake Central, Senior
- Abbey Renner, Walled Lake Central, Junior
- Markayla Hollins, Kettering, Sophomore
- Izzy Dugal, Kettering, Senior
- Andie Wolfe, Walled Lake Northern, Junior
- Chloe Gilbert, Milford, Junior
- Molly Libby, Lakeland, Sophomore
- Megan MacDonald, South Lyon, Sophomore

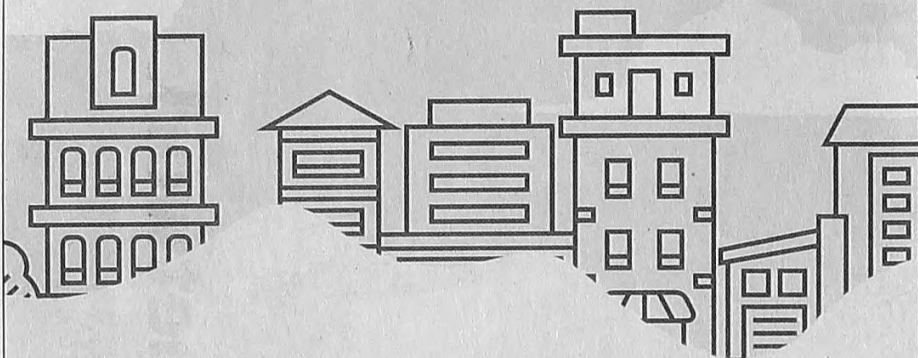
Honorable Mention

- Riley Dillon, Walled Lake Western, Senior
- Mikaila Proctor, Mott, Junior
- Nina Perl, South Lyon East, Junior
- Joanna Zahra, Walled Lake Central, Senior
- Ireland Schoof, Kettering, Senior
- Kelly Hickey, Walled Lake Northern, Junior
- Jenna Hoppe, Milford, Sophomore
- Grace Goodnough, Lakeland, Sophomore
- Taylor Plummer, South Lyon, Senior

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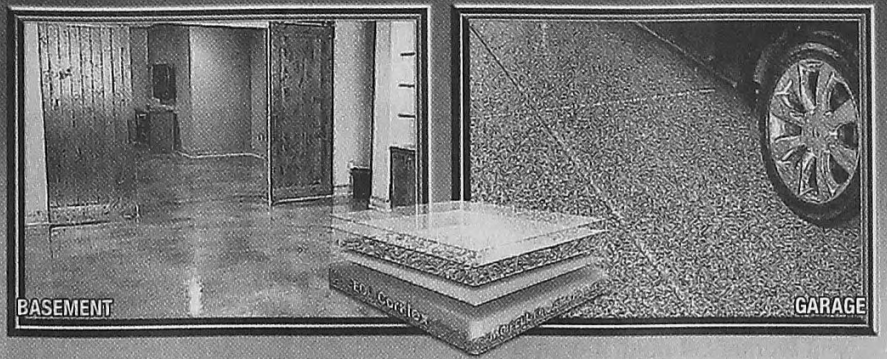


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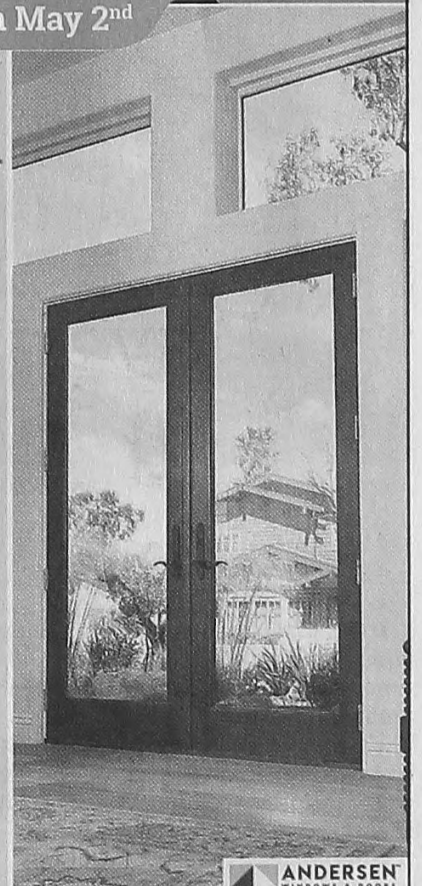
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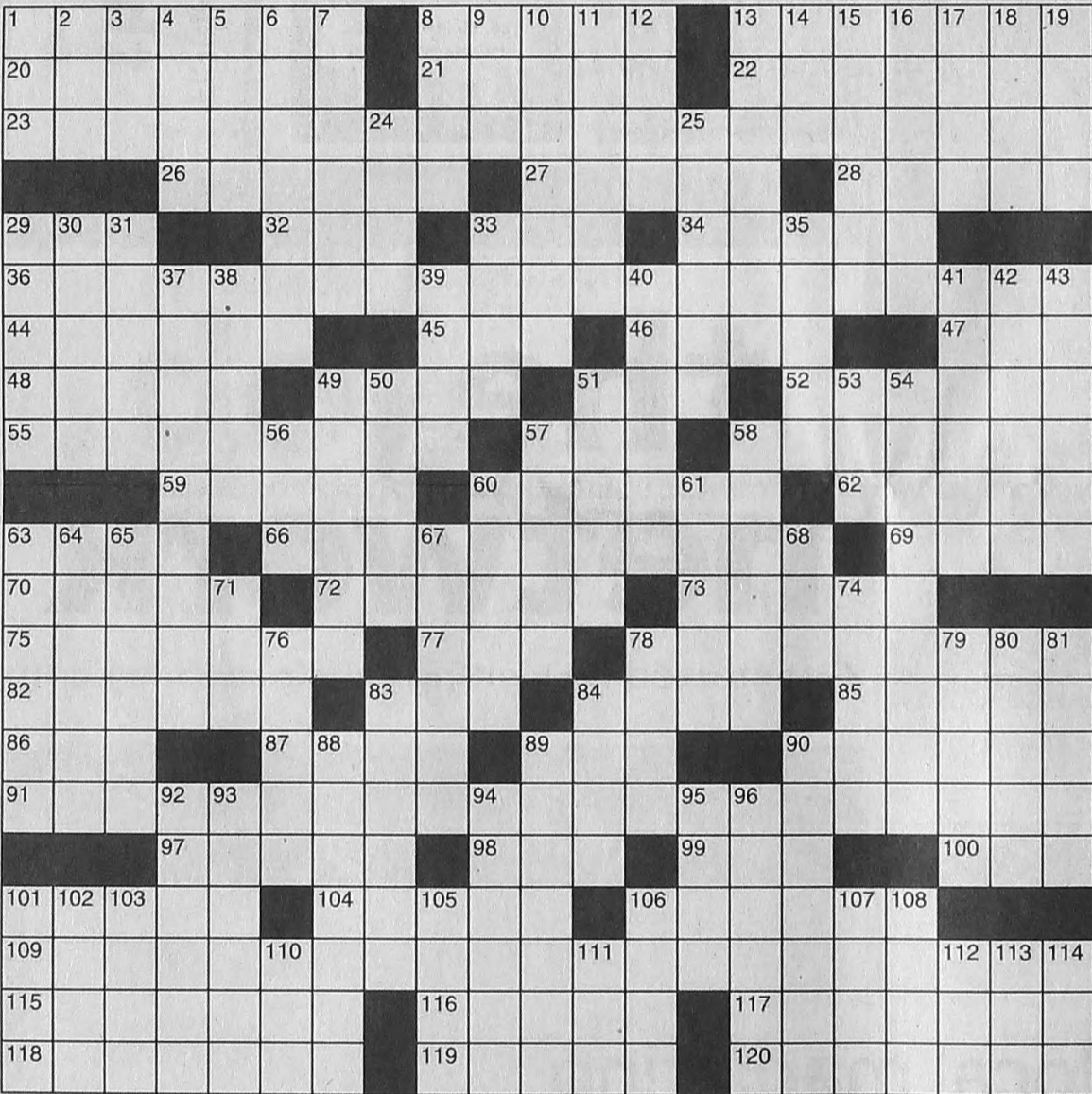
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

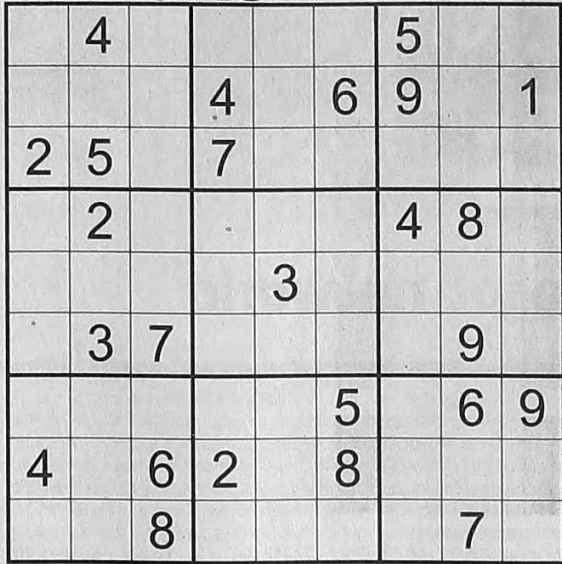
ACROSS

- 1 Hero-worship
8 Not — (fair to middling)
13 Gave a prize to
20 Big name in cassette tapes, once
21 Bad booze
22 "Wouldn't It Be —" ("My Fair Lady" song)
23 Start of a riddle
26 Came after that
27 Violin master
28 Library no-no
29 Aflame
32 "Every day — new day"
33 ETs' craft
34 Brief tussle
36 Riddle, part 2
44 Not wholly
45 "Cool" moola amount
46 Bottom
47 Pro-school gp.
48 "Hi, Don Ho!"
49 Tease in fun
51 Store window info: Abbr.
52 Smear all over
55 Riddle, part 3
- 57 — -bah (big wheel: Var.)
58 Reach as far as
59 "On the Beach" novelist
60 Jimmy Dorsey hit
62 More furtive
63 "Uncle Moses" novelist
66 Riddle, part 4
69 Gen — (millennials)
70 Rental for relocation
72 Flip out
73 Feudal toilers
75 Novelty
77 Miniver's title
78 Riddle, part 5
82 Moon of Neptune
83 Be the victor
84 Sci-fi sage
85 Lasso part
86 Suffix with east
87 "Oh, really?"
89 Country singer Tillis
90 Charge to run a promo
91 End of the riddle
97 Firebug's crime
- 98 Possible reply to "Are you sure?"
99 "That's the guy!"
100 Calendar spans: Abbr.
101 Tehran native
104 Candle parts
106 Dominion
109 Riddle's answer
115 Barbuda's partner island
116 — two (a few)
117 Books filled with maps
118 Most sharp
119 Spacek of "3 Women"
120 Pedicure target
- 12 — McAn (big name in footwear)
13 Format of AP Radio Network
14 "Alas!"
15 Lemmon/Wilder comedy
16 Take hold again, as a plant
17 Three, in Munich
18 Yale alumni
19 Bit of force
24 Try, as a case
25 Turkish VIPs of old
29 Wash gently against, as the shore
30 Novelist
31 Dice toss
33 Infantry division
35 1990s fitness fad
37 Tom Cruise's role in "Mission: Impossible"
38 Get — start (not begin on time)
39 "Sure, put me down for it"
40 Not in the country
- 41 Neck and neck, scorewise
42 Fix at the vet's
43 Eva, Magda and Zsa Zsa
49 Objects
50 Middle name of Emerson
51 Rhino's pair
53 Canon camera series
54 Under oath legally
56 Roman 106
57 Odists, e.g.
58 Swiss canton or its capital
60 Reject rudely
61 Lay new turf on
63 Her niece is Dorothy Gale
64 Shepherd once of "The View"
65 Sounding like a crow
67 Bad blood
68 Prefix with cuspid
71 Zodiac feline
74 Italian handbag brand
76 Pouty states
78 Shed feathers
79 Composer Carmichael
- 80 On the move
81 Many minors
83 Hot dog, informally
84 Rural assent to a woman
88 Feline in competitions
89 Ailment with red spots
90 Confess about
92 Submit, as homework
93 Emergency room sorting
94 Waikiki wear
95 "Alas!"
96 Bites lightly
101 "Out of Africa" writer
102 Bit of Viking writing
103 Poker post
105 Corp. money handlers
106 "Climb — Mountain"
107 Make mad
108 Israeli statesman
110 Frat letters
111 Calendar spans: Abbr.
112 Onetime foe of the USSR
113 Waikiki wear
114 Immigrants' class, in brief



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

SUDOKU



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

JAZZ MUSIC WORD SEARCH

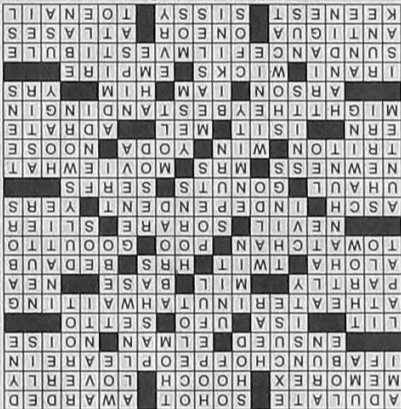
F E M M T M I E C J Y U U G Y P K D E S
S Z C S H A F V V C C P S L S D N A B E
Z E Y T C F C O R D G H D A B S S F D C
Y B Y M M M I Y B N R G O B M E A W G T
Z H A T A I Y M T K J O A R U Y A B T I
R Z S A E E R C P U H C H L U A I B C O
J S A V R G R K E R K C B C A S Z A I N
U U G J T D M Z D B O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

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

WORDS

- BACK-BEAT
BALLAD
BAND
BARS
BASS
BEBOP
BLOW
BLUES
BOOGIE
BRIDGE
CHANGES
DIATONIC
DOUBLE TIME
FUSION
GROOVE
HARMONY
HORN
IMPROVISE
INTERLUDE
JAZZ
LICK
MAINSTREAM
RHYTHM
SECTION
SYNCOPIATION
VOICE

ANSWER KEY



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

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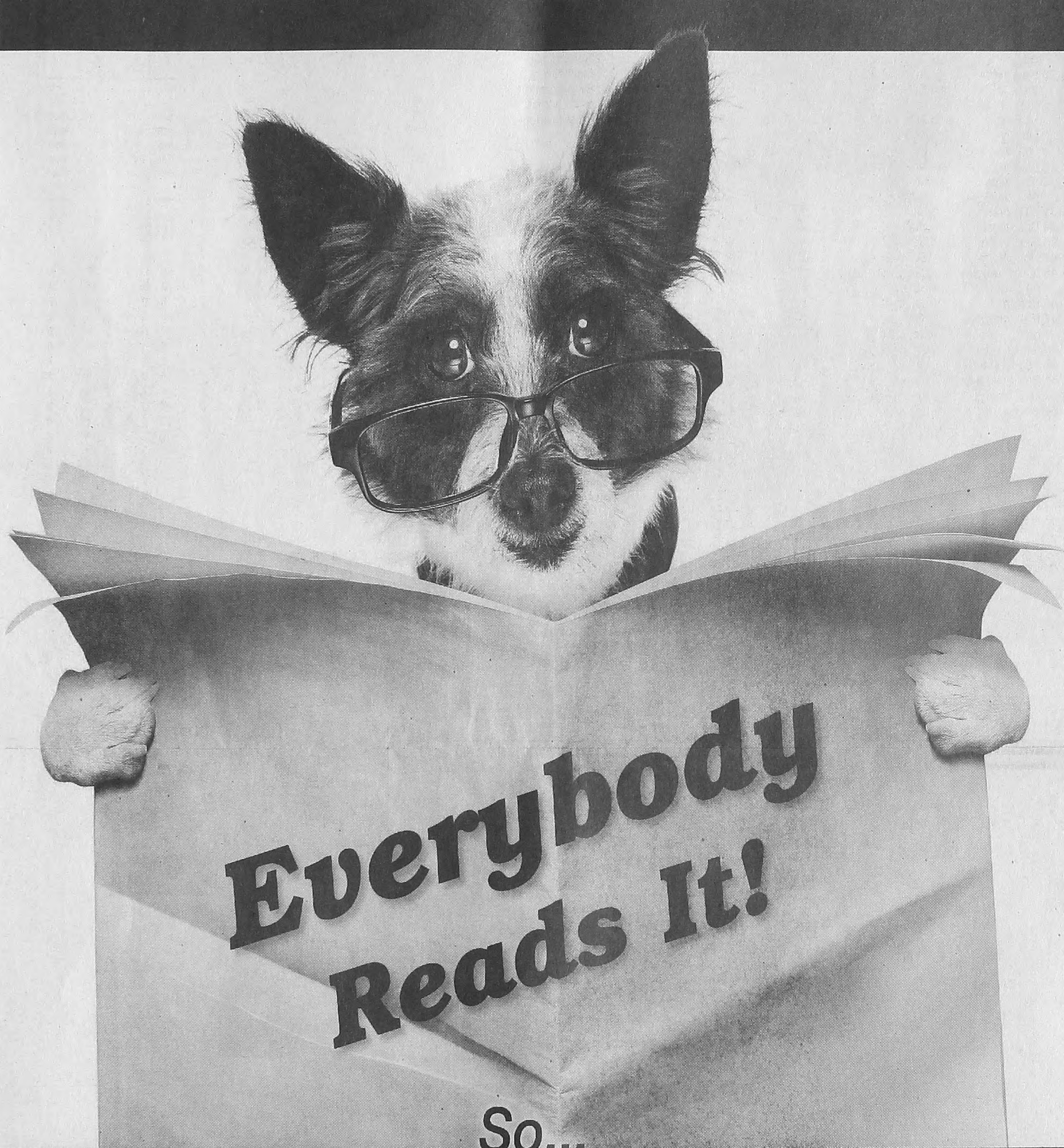
Notice of Sale

Tenant:	Unit #
AccuDry Inc	356629
Holloway, Chris	803641
Holloway, Chris	803415
Jones, Kevin	B60341
Peters, Nita	D54346
Soilberry, Cheryl	803061
Tayton, Lawrence	D57516
Kimberly Males	B60461

1-800-Pack-Rat (MI-Plymouth-5514), 46201 5 Mile Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170, has possessory lien on all of the goods stored in the units above. All these items of personal property are being sold pursuant to the assertion of the lien on 4/21/2020 at 10:00 AM in order to collect the amounts due from you. The sale will take place on www.Acceleratedlisting.com from 4/21/2020 to 4/28/2020 at 6:00p.m.

Publish: April 2 & 9, 2020

LD-000036034 3x3



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