



## Groves RB prepares for Navy

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Plymouth revises Memorial Day parade plan

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's going to take more than a mere pandemic to cancel Plymouth's annual celebration of the area's military heroes.

Fueled by some innovative thinking and dogged determination - both vital during the coronavirus pandemic - the

city's annual Memorial Day celebration will unfold Monday, with a few alterations.

Instead of a parade through the heart of the city with sidewalks along Main Street jam-packed with onlookers, this year's event will kick off with a short ceremony at the Veterans Memorial located south of the Plymouth Arts & Rec-

reation Complex.

A parade featuring vehicle-bound veterans will then snake through the city's neighborhoods so residents can salute the heroes from the socially-distant comfort of their own front yards.

The Plymouth Lions Club and the City of Plymouth, which organize the annual celebration, are encouraging

residents to decorate their homes and yards to support members of the armed forces.

As a bonus, members of the Plymouth-Canton chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America will supply volunteers to blow Taps at the Veterans

See **PARADE**, Page 4A

## Batman begins house calls



Tom Burger, of Canton, has been making birthdays memorable during the coronavirus pandemic by dressing as Batman.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALICIA DOWNEY

## Canton man dresses as superhero to cheer children's birthdays

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Believe it or not, Batman pumps his own gas.

Well, at least 6-foot-9 caped crusading doppelganger Tom Burger does. And, yes, the head-turning sight draws its fair share of stares.

"I haven't caused any accidents yet," quipped Burger, "as least that I know of."

Burger has been the cause of a recent string of unforgettable birthday celebrations for kids in the metro Detroit area.

Equipped with a dead-ringer, down-to-the-slightest-detail Batman costume and a slick three-wheeled Batmobile, the Canton resident has made himself available (for a reasonable fee) to make surprise birthday visits to the homes youngsters like Logan Downey, who turned 7 on Monday.

See **BATMAN**, Page 4A



Logan Downey, 7, sits in the passenger seat of the Batmobile on his birthday.

## Westland seeking marijuana license applicants

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland is one step closer to having marijuana shops in town.

Following council approval, applications for business licenses will open June 1 and close July 16.

At its May 18 meeting, council approved a 45-day application window during which officials expect to get an eager response from hopeful business owners.

Council unanimously passed the item after addressing concerns from a number of residents. A few residents addressed the council that night, expressing overall concerns or a desire to have local entrepreneurs approved.

Council approved an ordinance that allows recreational and medicinal

See **APPLICANTS**, Page 4A

## Farmington OKs outdoor seating for restaurant

**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There soon may be another place to eat outdoors in Farmington when dining rooms reopen.

Rao Gari Vindu, an Indian restaurant at 37085 Grand River inside the Freedom Plaza building, received approval to add some outdoor seating to the year-old restaurant.

Seating would be on the north and west side of the mixed-use building, which contains the restaurant and other office buildings above.

"We want them to watch the Grand River traffic and other things," said Venkat Gutta, who owns Rao Gari Vindu.

The proposal would see space for between 20 and 25 diners, and would be handicap-accessible, said Richard

See **RESTAURANT**, Page 5A



# Courts use video apps to keep cases moving

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The 52nd District Court in Novi began returning to some semblance of normal operations amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Judge Travis Reeds sat on the bench in an empty courtroom wearing a mask as he conducted court business via Zoom, a video conferencing platform.

The court building remained closed to the general public and cases and jury trials have been pushed back because of the health crisis.

But a masked judge conducting hearings was forward movement amid the legal paralysis that came with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's state of emergency and stay-at-home orders.

The 52nd District Court has broadcast on its website: "The court will be hearing informal matters, small claims, and some criminal matters via Zoom, starting May 4, 2020, and until further

notice. Please contact the court if you have received a notice to appear in person, to determine if your matter will be handled via remote technology."

Judge Joseph Fabrizio, chief judge for the 52nd District courts, said court employees made a concerted effort to get cases flowing again.

Adapting to their new normal, judges throughout metro Detroit have conducted court proceedings with Zoom. Others, Fabrizio included, live-stream proceedings via YouTube.

"We're kind of rolling it out slowly," Fabrizio said. "There's a lot of work that goes into it, at least initially."

The Michigan Supreme Court's "Process for Triaging Case Actions During the COVID-19 Crisis" suggested that courts keep moving "essential" matters during the pandemic: cases with immediate safety concerns, criminal search and arrest warrants, neglect and abuse matters, and mental health commitment hearings.

"Every day it seemed like we had a good game plan," Fabrizio said. "Then the circumstances would change."

Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper likened her job during the pandemic to that of a firefighter, constantly putting out fires and dousing hotspots.

Her nearly 100 attorneys and 200 overall employees play a role in court locations throughout the county, involving judges who aren't always able to make the most of technology.

But she's working with a skeleton crew at the Pontiac campus and doing what she can to remotely place and manage her employees.

"Once this pandemic is over, we have to have a democracy left, right?" Cooper said. "We're going to do what we have to do because that's what we're here for," Cooper said.

She said she can recall heavier dockets in the '90s and has faith that cases will be reviewed to make sure nothing has been missed. She also predicts trials

will proceed one after another once the courts return to a more normal speed. Until then, trials aren't expected to resume until summer, at the earliest.

"We don't know what the future holds," said Jelani Jefferson Exum, a University of Detroit Mercy law professor who mentioned the possibility of new rules regarding wearing masks in courtrooms. "We know it will be difficult to say, 'Courts are open and everybody proceed as normal.'"

In Westland, 18th District judges gained experience conducting remote hearings before the pandemic.

Judge Mark McConnell initially had some concerns about credibility because, for testimony, he might not perceive attorneys and defendants as he could in person.

Judge Sandra Cicirelli said she recently held an exam with videoconferencing and had no such concern.

"It has been working wonderfully," she said of technology in the courtroom.

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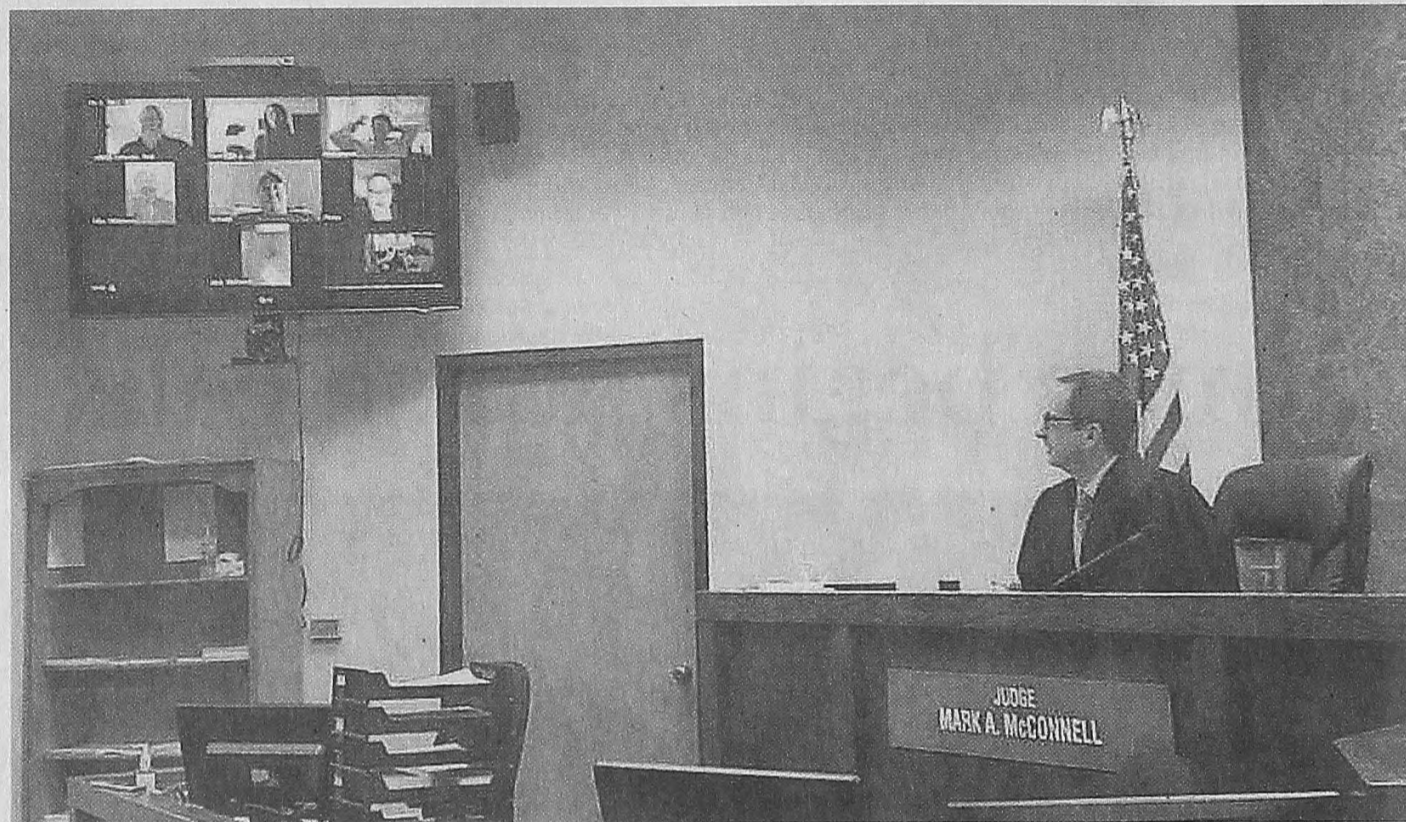
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Westland's 18th District Judge Mark McConnell has been using Zoom, a video conferencing app, and YouTube's live-streaming capabilities to conduct court hearings during the coronavirus pandemic. COURTESY OF THE 18TH DISTRICT COURT

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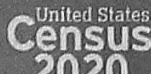
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## Plymouth-Canton Schools prepare for state-funding cuts

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Just weeks after savoring the passage of a \$275 million bond request, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools leaders are bracing for a potential devastating cut in state funding.

Yes, the coronavirus pandemic is the instigator.

Last week, the severity of funding cuts was uncertain, however, estimates of as much as \$2,000 per student (out of the \$8,411 the district receives for each student) were mentioned during a virtual school board meeting.

Revenue for the state's school funding is generated in part by sales taxes and income taxes, which have plummeted due to the pandemic's stranglehold on the economy.

"Funding from sales taxes has been decimated because retail sales are non-existent now," said Chief Finance and Operations Manager Deborah Piesz. "And individual income tax was deferred on April 15 until July 15, so that's a three-month amount of revenue that we won't be seeing."

Piesz said the district's budget was right on target until COVID-19 started deconstructing the financial world.

The projection of a slight reduction in enrollment in the district for 2020-21 will have an effect on PCCS, Piesz added.

During the Zoom-hosted meeting that was cloaked in gray undertones, Superintendent Monica Merritt asserted the district's decision-makers will do

everything in their power to minimize the sobering effects of the cuts.

"There are some disturbing cutbacks that will more than likely come to our district next school year," Merritt said. "Our team is working together to find reductions as far away from the classroom as possible.

"I am confident we will get through this because this pandemic has shown me, more than ever, that we are PCCS strong and we can get through any challenges together."

Conservative per-pupil cuts are estimated at \$300 to \$500, but that would be a best-case scenario, according to some experts.

A recent Bridge magazine article stated that a 20-25% cut in student funding is more realistic.

"As we all know, we could not sustain ourselves with a \$2,000-per-student cut," Merritt said, adding that all the numbers being discussed are projections.

"As we move forward, since we've been such good stewards and have a strong fund balance ... it should give us more time if it comes to that."

Potential cuts could come from enforcing a hiring freeze for teachers and not replacing, at least for the time being, educators who have retired.

"Hopefully we don't see the \$2,000 cuts, but we have to be prepared for anything," said board member Kate Borninski, who was one of multiple board members who said they'd be willing to forfeit their annual stipend.

### Ivywood Classical Academy

#### Public Budget Hearing

Ivywood Classical Academy Board of Directors will hold a public budget hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM. If the government issued Shelter-In-Place order is still in effect, the meeting will be held via Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/135018066> or dial in 929-205-6099, meeting ID: 135 018 066#. If small gatherings are permitted, the meeting will be held at the Academy located at 14356 Genoa Ct, Plymouth, MI 48170. Copies of the budget may be reviewed at the Academy office or received by calling 616-785-8440.

**Purpose of the meeting is for the Academy Board to receive public comments on the proposed school budget for the 2020-2021 school year. Public is invited to attend.**



Around the start of April, Barrett Harr, right, a self-taught quilter, heard Jewish Senior Life still needed masks, so she began making them at her dining room table. Now, she has the whole family pitching in and they're donating some of their creations daily to their Rolling Oaks neighbors. PHOTOS BY SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Farmington Hills family sews, donates masks

Susan Vela [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's a porch along Farmington Hills' Old Timber Road where a handmade sign says "free reusable masks, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m."

Around the start of April, Barrett Harr, a self-taught quilter, heard Jewish Senior Life still needed masks.

She had wanted to help but was worried about her own health considering chronic kidney problems and the global health crisis. Making masks at her dining room table seemed safe.

"The more people who have masks, the sooner we're all going to be able to get out of our houses again," said Harr, 40, who works for Jewish Family Service of Metro Detroit.

Now, she has the whole family pitching in and they're donating some of their



Harr works on a mask at her table.

creations daily to their Rolling Oaks neighborhood.

One recent Thursday the Harr family placed about 70 masks on their porch. By evening, only one lonely mask waited for someone in need.

When they're not working or studying, Harr, her husband David and two daughters - Elana, 14, and Shoshanna,

12 - gather at the dining room table to piece together masks.

They put the finishing touches on about 80 a day and were expected to sew up 2,000 by the end of last week.

"It sort of snowballed," the family's matriarch said. "We're working (like) the Ford automation assembly process. For the most part, it's been donations that have been keeping me in cloth."

She has committed to crafting masks for groups meaningful to the family, like the Sterling Heights postal workers, Farmington schools employees and meals-on-wheels drivers.

Extras go outside with an envelope for people who want to help.

A note attached to the envelope states the Harr family will take 100% cotton quilting fabric and cash contributions so they can keep their community masked against COVID-19.

The Harrs also have a GoFundMe page, "Free Homemade Cloth Face Masks in Farmington."

Each mask takes about six minutes to complete. Production goes smoothly when Harr and her daughters post themselves at the cutting, sewing and ironing stations.

"It's really cool to know that you're part of helping, too," said Shoshanna Harr, taking a break at her mother's sewing machine. "Just making masks is, like, a small thing but it really makes an impact because the more people wear makes, the more people stay safe, as my mom keeps saying."

She stopped to giggle.

"It just really makes me happy to know that I'm helping in a way, even if it is just by cutting strings on a mask that someone will eventually wear. It makes me feel more positive."

## Stevens to Pelosi: Livonia needs more attention in CARES 2.0

Shelby Tankersley [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

As Livonia experiences a particularly high fatality rate from the coronavirus, city leaders have pushed national representatives to get Livonia more federal relief money.

Livonia is Michigan's ninth-largest city and has the second-most COVID-19 deaths in the state. But the city ranked 38th in distributions from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or CARES, funding. Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan took issue with the CARES's distribution formula, a community development block grant formula, which doesn't consider a city

or state's current coronavirus situation.

Brosnan said she expects the pandemic to have long standing economic effects in Livonia, and said federal relief money should help determine how quickly the city does or does not "rebound."

"We are going to continue to fight for Livonia's fair share," Brosnan said. "The financial implications and long-term ramifications of COVID-19 are going to be apart of our budgeting and planning for years and years to come."

Now, as U.S. House Democrats prepare to introduce "CARES 2.0" this week, Rep. Haley Stevens is asking House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12) to make cities like Livonia a bigger prior-

ity.

"The utilization of this formula means that communities in my district, like the city of Livonia, that have some of the highest death rates per capita in the country have not received the proportionate funds they need as they work on the front lines of this crisis," Stevens wrote Pelosi.

Brosnan previously wrote Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) and Stevens (D-MI-II) asking them to make cities like Livonia a bigger priority. She's since been in touch with Stevens and Peters.

"The general reaction was one of surprise," the mayor said. "I don't know that anybody has really paid particular

attention to how heavily Livonia was impacted and is impacted by COVID-19. I don't think that that's odd, either. You know, we have been standing in the eye of the storm and not even knowing it until a couple weeks ago."

But, Brosnan admits it may be an uphill climb for representatives to change minds. The CDBG formula has been around since the 1970s and is a "convenient" tool for Congress to use.

"It was not a formula that was designed to help during a pandemic and that's becoming abundantly clear to both Rep. Stevens and Sen. Peters," Brosnan said. "Now they have the huge lift of convincing others that this is not the best formula to be using."

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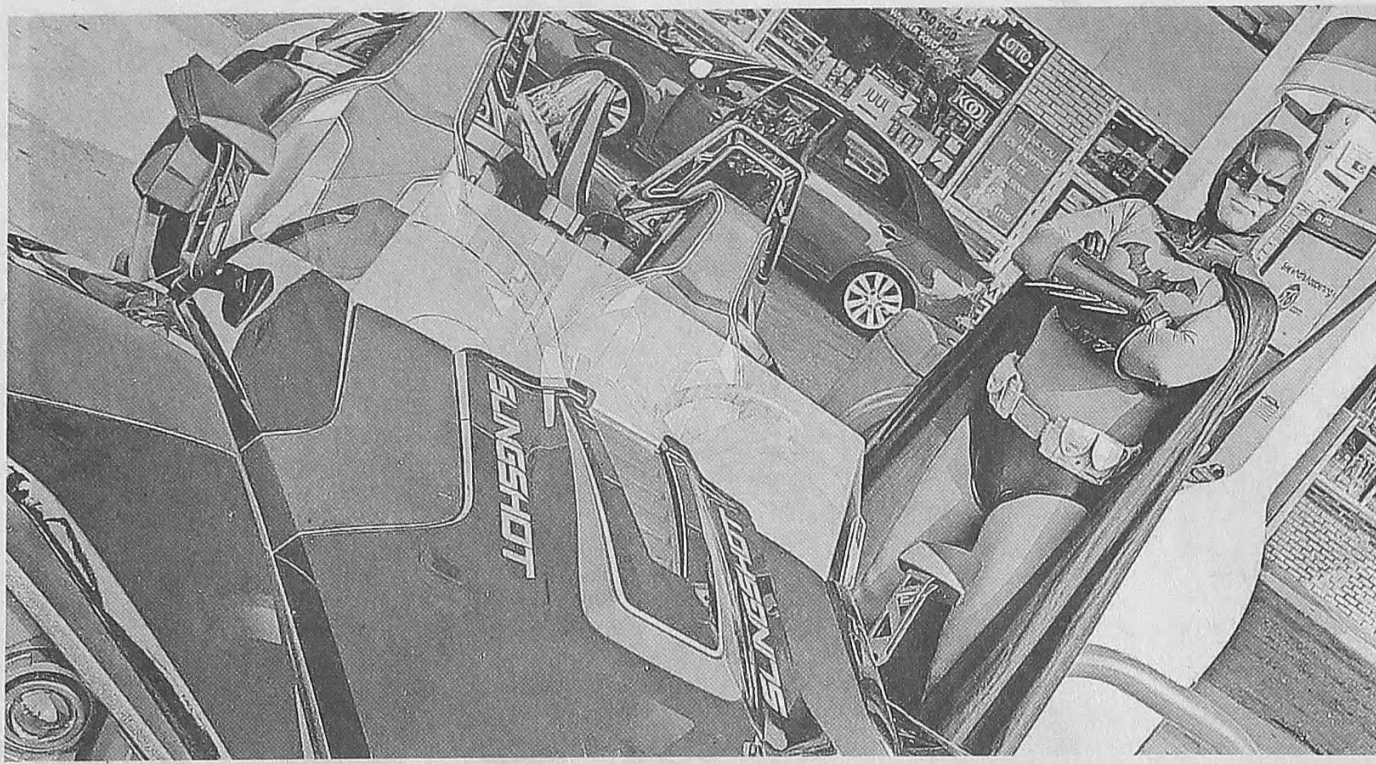
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Tom Burger proves that Batman pumps his own gas when the Batmobile's fuel tank is running low. COURTESY OF TOM BURGER

## Batman

Continued from Page 1A

"When I saw Batman drive up to our house, I said, 'Logan, I think you have a visitor,'" recalled Alicia Downey, Logan's mom. "When Logan opened the door, Batman was standing there and Logan was just flabbergasted. I don't think he knew what to say.

"Batman said, 'I heard someone is celebrating a special day today.' Logan went out and got to sit in the Batmobile and we got some photos with Logan, Batman and Robin."

A huge superhero fan – and the son of a true-life hero (Alicia Downey is a paramedic) – Logan asked Batman if it was true he didn't get along with Superman.

"That's when Batman went to his car and pulled out his kryptonite to show Logan," Downey said. "After Batman left, we asked Logan what he thought and he said it was one of the the best days of his life."

Burger's ascension to Batman status didn't happen overnight. An engineer for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles by day, western Pennsylvania native dressed

up as Spider-Man for a Halloween party a few years back at Calvary Baptist Church in Canton.

"My wife jokingly asked me, 'When are you going to buy a Batman costume?'" Burger said. "That was all I needed to hear."

He sought out and purchased top-of-the-line parts for his Batman outfit before making the ultimate purchase: a three-wheeled Batmobile-ish vehicle that a good friend helped him transport from Butler, Pennsylvania, to Canton.

"It drives really nice," he said. "Although I have to be careful when there is a pothole in the middle of a lane, because with the back wheel being centered, it's hard to remember sometimes to avoid it."

Burger's uncanny portrayal of the caped crusader comes with a serious tone to his voice and a ramped-up fitness regimen.

"When I decided I was going to go all in on this, I figured I better start working out more than I had been," he joked. "The last thing these kids want to see is an out-of-shape Batman. And when I'm talking to the kids, I lower the tone of my voice, although not quite as low as Christian Bale."

Burger has purchased Robin, Catwoman and Batgirl costumes in case birthday planners request sidekicks.

"One of my daughters will wear the Batgirl costume during some of the gigs and a friend of our family's son occasionally comes along as Robin. It's nice to have a Robin with me because the kids can relate to him more. Batman is more of a father figure, but Robin is more of a peer."

Burger said he puts no age limit on the birthday celebrants.

"There is a 55-year-old man with special needs who I'm going to visit soon," he said. "Unfortunately, the man is starting to suffer from some dementia symptoms and his family said he's been playing with superhero figures. They said he'll love it when I show up for his birthday."

For now, Burger's lone source of marketing is his Facebook page, where people can schedule a visit and check out rates.

"It really feels good to be able to bring some happiness to children's lives, especially during this lockdown," Burger said.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com).

## Parade

Continued from Page 1A

Memorial every 15 minutes from 8 a.m. to noon.

The VVA members will observe proper social distancing protocols and there will never be more than two veterans at the memorial at any given time.

Monday's parade is tentatively scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and will last 90 minutes, depending on traffic and trains.

Veterans who would like to participate in the procession are encouraged to arrive in their vehicles at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St., no later than 9 a.m. Veterans must be in a vehicle to participate in the parade.

Other metro Detroit communities, including Milford, South Lyon and Birmingham, have canceled their Memorial Day parades to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.

## Applicants

Continued from Page 1A

marijuana establishments in October 2019.

Prior to that vote, Westland hosted nine study sessions on the topic.

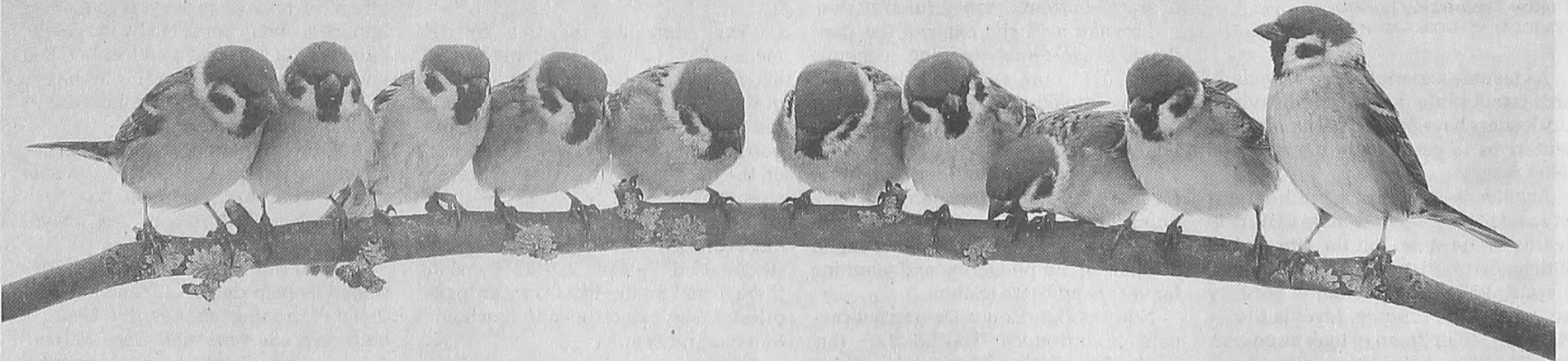
The businesses submitting applications will inject some cash into the city as it deals with economic struggles related to the coronavirus pandemic. Westland officials announced May 1 that the city had furloughed 77 employees.

The applications require a \$5,000 fee. Grower license applications will cost hopefuls another \$5,000.

Once submitted, applications will go to a city selection committee for approval.

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

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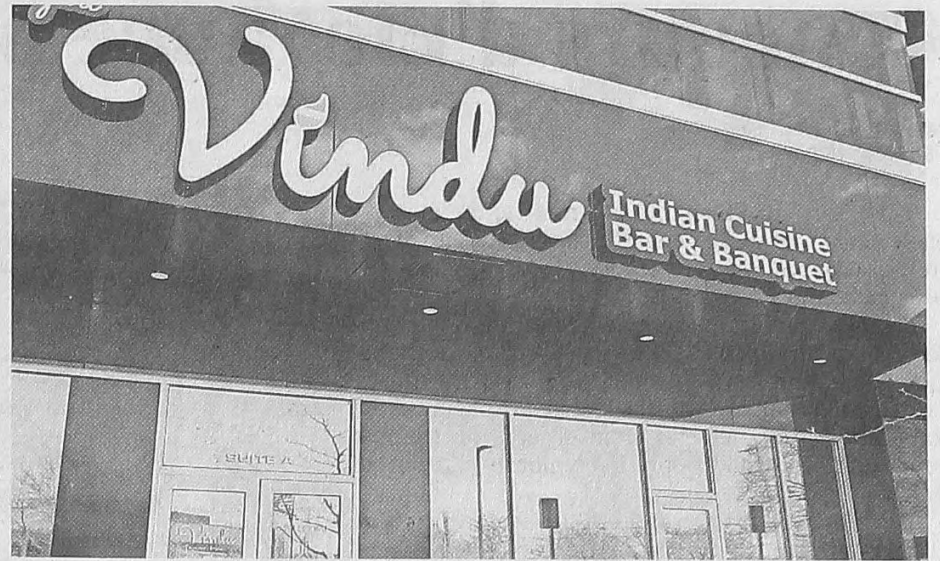


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Rao Gari Vindu offers butter chicken, naan and rice among other Indian fare.



The restaurant sits along Grand River Avenue in Farmington.

## Restaurant

Continued from Page 1A

Konik, an architect working on the project.

"Any one of them could be barrier free," he said. "Any of those chairs could be pulled away from the table and any one of those spots could be accessible."

Gutta said so long as work can begin, he hopes to have the outdoor seating set up in time for the warm months this year.

He said he's hopeful patrons can enjoy dining outside by the time the state allows for dining rooms to reopen.

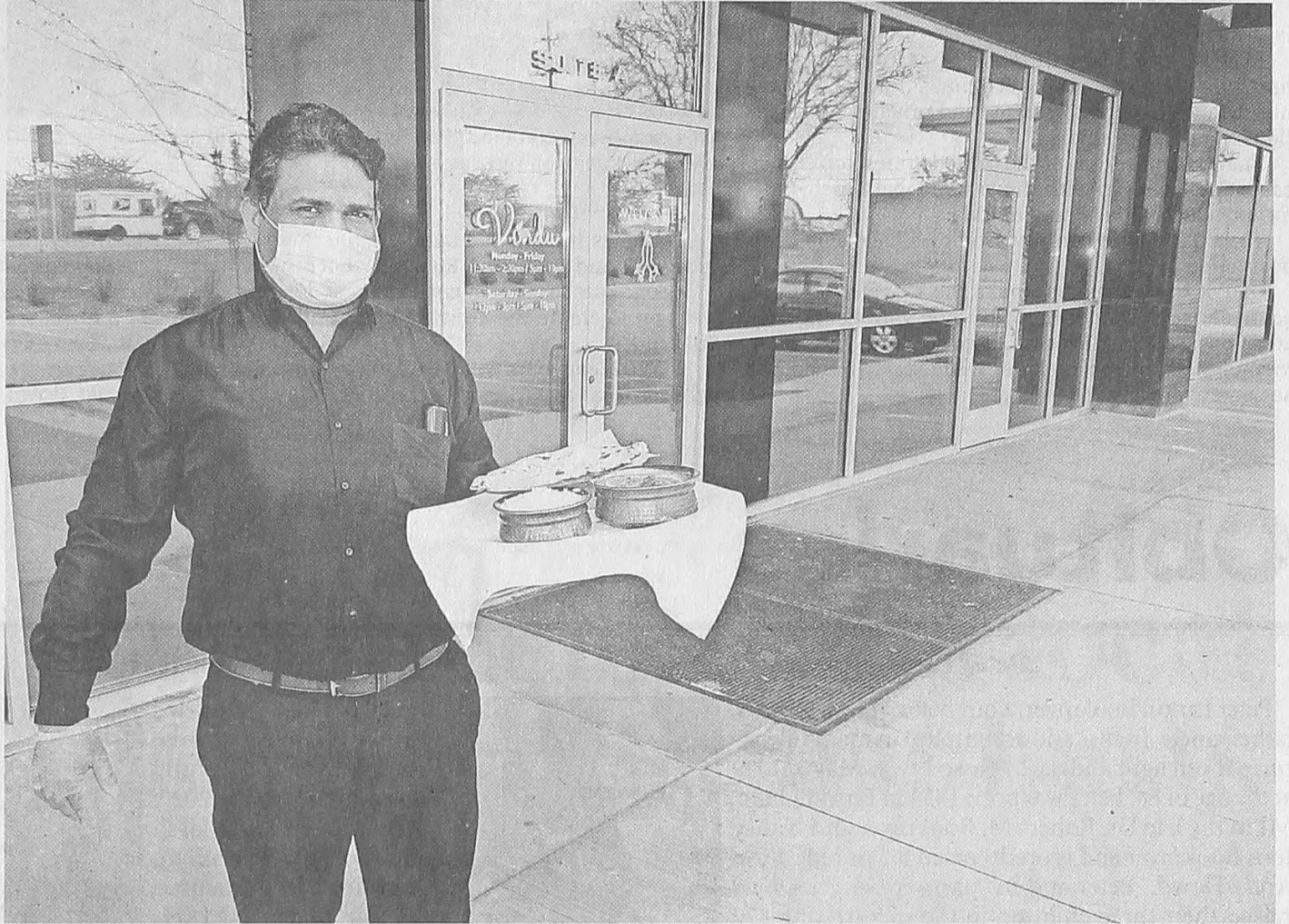
A fence would contain the dining area and keep it separate from the parking lot.

The proposal was unanimously approved by the Farmington planning commissioners present during the May 11 meeting, which was held online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Gutta said the patio would likely include some umbrellas to shield guests from the weather, and said there would be no trash cans outside.

"Everything would be cleared by our servers and bussers," he said. "They'll clean right after the customers are done."

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



Rao Gari Vindu employee Rajeev Malgi holds a tray of butter chicken, rice and naan. The Farmington eatery received approval from the planning commission May 11 to set up some outdoor seating. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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# Concours d'Elegance postponed to July 2021

Mark Phelan Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

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

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

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

The vehicles expected at the 2020 event will now be at the concours July 23-25, 2021.

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

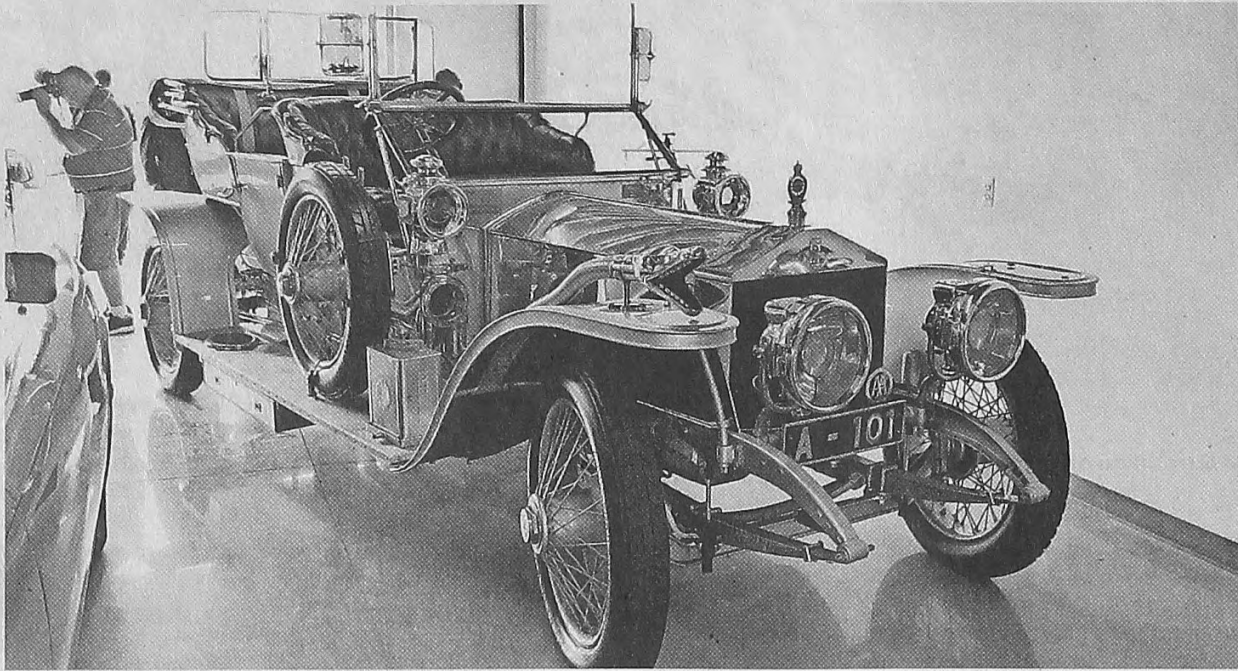
Paid attendance the Sunday of the official concours is about 10,000.

Events earlier in the weekend range from a free Saturday morning cars and coffee that's drawn 1,000 vehicles to visits to historic sites and private car collections around the region.

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

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

One of the things that make the 42-year-old Concours of America special is the wide variety and creative classes of vehicles on display. Novel categories for the 2021 show will include "Wedge cars," a school of design inspired by Modernism.



This exquisitely detailed 1909 Rolls-Royce starred in a previous Concours d'Elegance of America.

MARK PHELAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

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

Wedge cars inspired a generation of designers who went on to create the Toyota MR2, Cadillac XLR and Subaru XT.

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

shows.

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

Detroit's first big annual auto event, the Father's Day Eyes on Design show at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores, has also been postponed. It will take place June 20, 2021.

## Obituaries

### Peter Larkin Bookmyer

Peter Larkin Bookmyer...our beloved son, brother, father, uncle, friend, and accomplice in many adventures (both light and dark) passed away May 7, 2020 at the age of 66. Peter was born 1954 in Birmingham, MI to the late Dr. Robert M. Bookmyer and Nancy Joos Bookmyer and is predeceased by his oldest son Andy Dowd. Peter and his partner Ginger Dowd raised their three children in the picturesque 470 acre Poet Place in the Klinaklini Valley, BC Canada. The property straddles the Klinaklini River and is a prime habitat for grizzly bear, moose, mule deer, wolf, and bull trout. Peter was in motion as often as possible, but at his core, he was tethered with great conviction to his ideals: peace, love, and freedom. Nature was his church. The less he had, the happier he was...unless he had enough to share or give away to others. Peter was always one to cheer up someone with his phone calls, his stories at a kitchen table, or his loud renditions on a beat-up guitar of a seemingly endless list of songs that he memorized over the years. We hope he has found peace as he steps back into the river after standing on the shore for a while. He is survived by the mother of his children Ginger Dowd, his son Dr. Casimir Dowd (Sandy), his daughter Snow Dowd (Rob), two beautiful grand daughters Maia and Isla, his siblings Mike Bookmyer (Allison), Kelly Sallee, Brad Bookmyer (Becky), Julie Murphy (Dan), Thad Bookmyer, Robert Bookmyer (Janet) and numerous nieces and nephews.

Note: Nancy Bookmyer's reflections on visiting her son Peter and family 30 some years ago..."Flying over the Canadian Rockies and looking down on the snow-capped peaks and the shining McKenzie river was thrilling! On a small plane headed for Kleena Klene British Columbia to visit a free-spirited son his wife and three children was excitement for me, the wilderness below reminded me of the vast difference between the Detroit, Michigan suburb I had just left and the wild, uncivilized area of British Columbia in which I would soon find myself. I have gone back to "Poets Place" several times since that first visit but the first is always the best and gave me a real understanding about the world and the things that are important and the things that are trivial and not worth stewing about. Other visits included a canoe trip to visit a friend and a music concert with swimming! But those stories are for another time!"



### Charles Pinto

LIVONIA - Charles Pinto, 92, of Livonia, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 2, 2020.

He was born on March 11, 1928 in Brooklyn, New York to Francisco "Frank" and Mary (Kelly) Pinto. Charlie and his family moved to Detroit in 1942 when he was 14 years old. He is a graduate of Detroit Denby High School and Wayne State University where he earned degrees in Education, School Administration, and Law. He is an Army veteran, having served in Korea.

Charlie met and married his wife Trudy, the love of his life, in 1954 while both were teachers at Goodale School in Detroit. He began his law career as Livonia's City Attorney from 1956-1963. He spent the next 29 years as an attorney for General Motors. Over the years, he also served on the Livonia City Council and Zoning boards.

Above all, Charlie loved his family and adored his grandchildren, Mike and Jake. His greatest pleasure was in watching them persevere and achieve their dreams. He closely followed Wolverine, Spartan, and Boilermaker sports.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Trudy, and brother, Frank. He is survived by daughters, Martha (Mary Timmons) Pinto of Massachusetts and Mary Jo (Al) Spencer of Fort Gratiot, and grandchildren Michael and Jakelyn Spencer.

Cremation arrangements were provided by Smith Family Funeral Home of Port Huron.

For information and guestbook, [www.smithfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhome.com).



## Rezoning request made at Farmington Hills Ruby Tuesday site

David Veselenak  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

A prominent piece of property as drivers exit Interstate 696 in Farmington Hills is being prepped for some sort of development.

During its April 16 meeting, the Farmington Hills Planning Commission took up a rezoning request for part of the land occupied by the former Ruby Tuesday restaurant at 31066 12 Mile, just east of Orchard Lake Road. That request, said Farmington Hills City Planner Mark Stec, only dealt with a small portion of the parking lot in the rear of the restaurant. The request was to rezone the land from B-3 General Business District to P-1 Parking, a move, Stec said, that would bring that area in line with the city's master plan.

"Now it would mean the zoning is not abutting the single family residential," he said. "Our master plan is to call for P-1. If they do get this rezoning, this part of the parcel could not be developed as a building."

The planning commission approved the first reading of the rezoning request, which will bring a public hearing at a meeting in May. If approved, the city council would then review the request before any rezoning takes place.

The plan does not address the future for the former restaurant, which closed down last year. Stec said he did not have any specific information about what the petitioners, The Barbat Organization based in Birmingham, planned to do with the site. He said they informed the planning commission the site could be developed as a gas station with some sort of drive-thru user.

A request seeking additional information on the plans for the property was not returned by The Barbat Organization by press time.

### Sandra Jean Loeding

TRAVERSE CITY - Sandra Jean Loeding, of Traverse City, Michigan, died Monday, May 11, 2020 in Ascension Providence Hospital, Rochester, MI at the age of 82 years old. Sandra was born in Everett, Massachusetts on April 22, 1938, daughter of Jean and James Gross.



On May 24, 1958, Sandy married Richard E. Loeding in Birmingham, Michigan. Sandy and Richard were married 61 plus years. Sandra was a homemaker and enjoyed cooking, reading and spending time with her family and her many friends.

Sandra is survived by her husband, Richard E. Loeding; her sons, Scott (Carol) Loeding of Romeo, MI; Erik (Elyse) of Austin, TX; five grandchildren, Cameron, Caitlin (MI), Graham, Cecilia & Miles (TX). Sandy was predeceased by her beloved siblings, Bruce & Peter Gross and Brenda Lemieux.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a future date in Michigan, notification to be sent as soon as a date can be determined. We hope that everyone can join us to celebrate Sandy and the beautiful woman we were lucky to have known, cherish and love.





Stadium Cards & Comics employee Michael Atkinson fills an order for curbside pickup May 15 in the store in Ypsilanti. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

# Coronavirus pandemic hits local sports businesses where it hurts

Dave Birkett Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

For most of his 63 years, basketball has been the drumbeat of Fred Procter's life.

He played the sport at Wayne State. He coached it at Detroit St. Martin De Porres, where he won a high school state championship. He coached it at Lake Superior State and the University of Detroit. And two years ago, he opened his own basketball training facility, The Practice Zone, in Farmington Hills.

For the past two months, though, Procter's soundtrack has gone silent as he has dealt with the chilling new reality facing many small business owners with ties to local sports.

With no games to be played, no workouts to hold and no teams to support because of the coronavirus pandemic, Procter and others are unsure what the future holds for them and their businesses.

"My life changed dramatically, especially at the beginning," he said. "I was like, 'I have no idea what I'm supposed to do. I'm supposed to be in the place every day.' I've kind of found ways to fill my time, but it's interesting to try to figure this whole thing out."

Shut down since Michigan's stay-at-home order went in place March 16, Procter said he's weighing how and if he can re-open the facility he launched in March 2018 to help aspiring young players work on the fundamentals of basketball.

His 8,100-square-foot facility, tucked inside a business park, features seven basketball hoops, or shooting zones, where rebounding machines spit balls back to dues-paying members and drop-in players looking for their basketball fix.

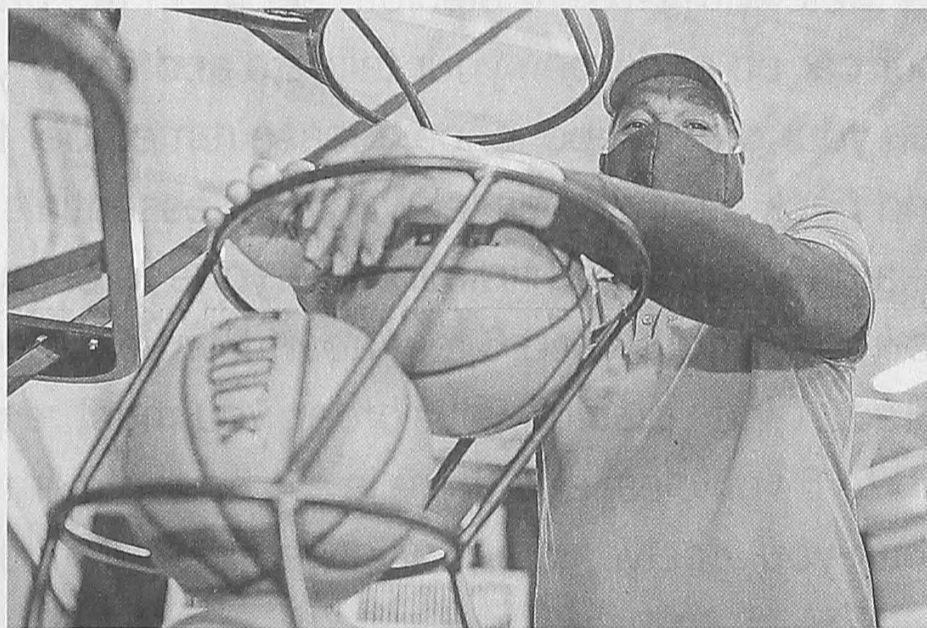
The Practice Zone also holds skill development classes in shooting and ball handling, hosts birthday parties for kids, and runs games and courses in pickleball, some in conjunction with Novi parks and recreation.

Before the pandemic, Procter said he had his two highest-grossing months of business.

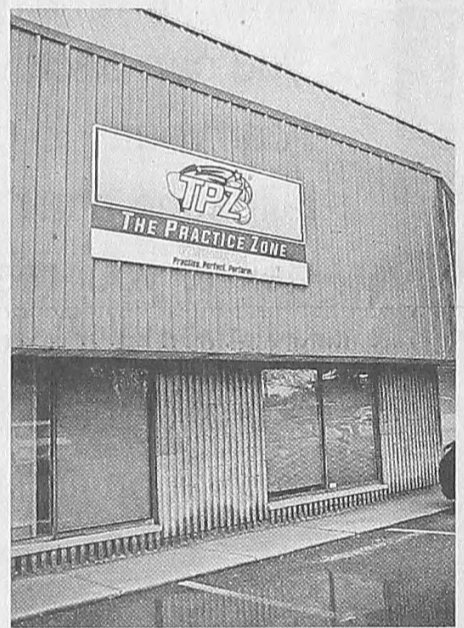
"We were pretty much on our way to the place being the kind of profitable situation that we wanted it to be," he said. "And then the virus hit and, boom, we went to zero."

Some of The Practice Zone's 100 or so regulars canceled their memberships because of the pandemic, and Procter suspended the memberships of others so no one was penalized for not being able to use the facility during the shutdown.

Memberships account for about 50% of The Practice Zone's basketball-related revenue, but with no kids allowed in for after-school work, no pickleball classes to run and no parties to host,



Fred Procter is unsure what the future holds for his The Practice Zone business in Farmington Hills. TPZ, a basketball and pickleball facility, has been forced to close because of the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTOS BY MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS



Procter said business had dried up completely.

"People have been calling for weeks saying, 'Hey, are you open?'" Procter said. "I'm like, 'Hey, didn't you see what the government said? I mean, no, we're not open. You should be at home. Stay at home.' So I think there's a lot of people who would come back ..."

"I think some of them will not right away because people are afraid. Rightfully so. Rightfully so. This is nothing to play with. But many of them will come back."

Even so, Procter said he's not sure if his business will come back.

He knows of at least 10 people who've died from COVID-19, including a cousin, an uncle and teachers and coaches he has worked with throughout his career. And he's trying to figure out how to run a gym and keep basketballs and other equipment sanitized to prevent the spread of the virus to himself and others.

For now, Procter has two thermometers on order to run temperature checks once he's allowed to re-open his doors, and he's considering limiting use to only members for the time being, and adding masks to the standard "no shirt, no shoes, no service" policy.

"But I got to be honest with you, I'm a little afraid to open myself," he said. "Cause I have to try and be responsible for keeping people safe, but at the same time I have to try and keep myself safe."

In downtown South Lyon, George Daraban, owner of KV Sports, is wrestling with what to do with the small sporting goods store he has run since 2004.

Daraban started his business not long after he moved to Green Oak Township, when — as a weekend athlete playing baseball, softball and hockey, and coaching his three boys in a variety of

sports — he got tired of having to drive across town to Plymouth or Novi for sporting goods.

He has stayed afloat for 16 years despite the rise in e-commerce and fly-by-night print shops because of the relationships he has built in his fast-growing community.

"It's kind of like 'Cheers' where the same people kept coming back just to come in and shoot the (breeze) for what's going on locally and with these kids," Daraban said. "It's what I love to do and the industry that I liked. My kids were all in sports."

"At first, like probably for the first five years, it was basically just me working till 1 o'clock to press shirts or do whatever, but once I kind of got established and found some good employees, then I was able to have a lot more flexibility and take time off to go to my kids' games instead of missing them or showing up late or whatever."

Daraban had to lay off all of his employees — one salaried and three part-time workers — after the shutdown shuttered his 3,500 square-foot shop and left him with boxes of spring sports inventory stacked in his store.

In order to compete with online retailers and major big-box chains such as Dick's Sporting Goods, Daraban said he books orders in September for spring sports, his busiest time of year.

Typically, he outfits all recreational baseball and softball leagues in Northville and South Lyon, a total of about 1,500 kids, plus several travel lacrosse and basketball teams and assorted local and high school programs.

With spring leagues canceled because of the pandemic and no guarantee when youth and prep sports will return — both Northville and South Lyon are considering summer or fall baseball/

softball leagues, though likely with fewer players while athletes migrate to their regular in-season sports — Daraban said he's sitting on thousands of pairs of baseball pants, roughly 100 helmets in an array of colors and a variety of other goods.

"Pants, socks, belts, jerseys, hats, spirit wear. Bats and bags and helmets. Everything," he said. "I'm sitting on pants for Northville and for South Lyon that I've already kind of paid for, or I'm still paying off. I'm assuming because of the extreme nature and what's going on, I might be able to return a lot of inventory just because things got canceled, but who's to say? Every state's different."

In addition to the inventory he already has paid for, Daraban has lost out on the sale of trophies, team stickers and other specialty orders he fills for locals in the community, and has been left to chase down old debts.

His landlord has forgiven the past two months of rent, but he still has other bills to pay, such as wireless, electricity, \$300 a month on his laser engraver and \$2,200 that's coming due for his Intuit financial software.

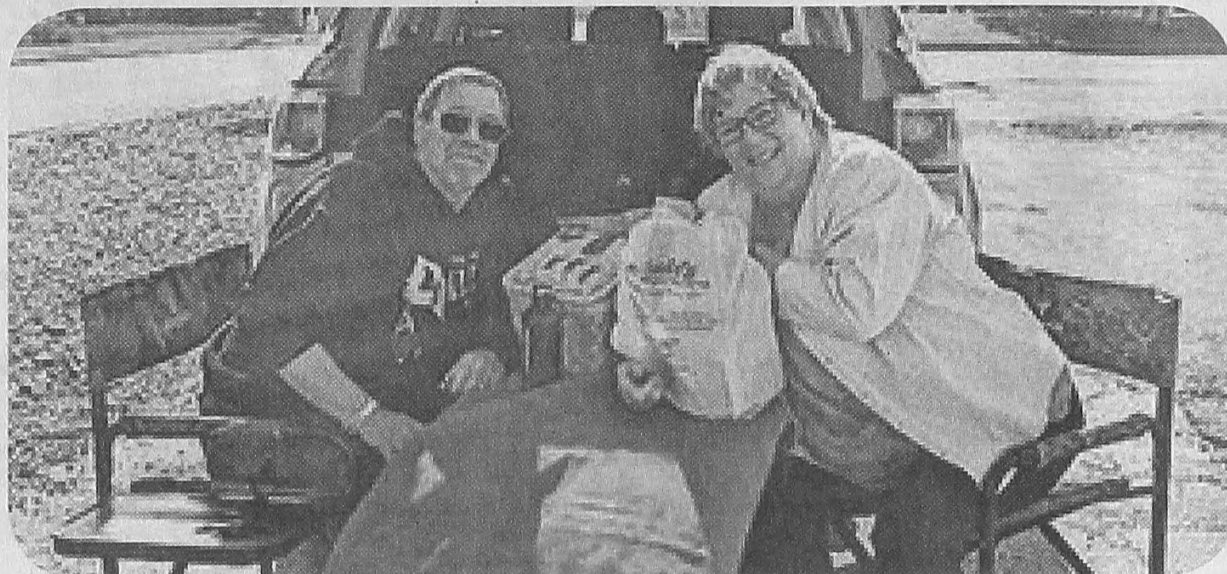
Daraban, whose son, Cody, will play football at Michigan Tech this fall, said he's not sure if he'll reopen when the state gives the go-ahead to conduct business again. He received about \$4,000 on a small business loan, one of several he has applied for, but that hasn't been enough to keep him afloat.

"Right now, today, I already told my landlord it's not looking good," Daraban said. "To be honest, if I had to answer that question today, I'm bankrupt, I'm going out of business. This has been since middle of March, when I had to shut down and everything got canceled."

**Antonio's** **Roman Village** **Antonio's**  
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# Sports

## CHEER

### Plymouth's Koehler named coach of the year

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was a year of firsts for the Plymouth cheer program.

The Wildcats won their first KLAAs championship, district championship and earned the state runner-up for the first time in school history. Those accomplishments helped Plymouth cheer coach Sam Koehler earn the Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan (CCCAM) Coach of the Year award.

The award was voted on by coaches of the eight state finalist teams, which of course included Koehler, who was unable to vote for herself. She found out she won the award after receiving a message from Livonia Churchill coach Amanda Buyers, who was congratulating her on the honor. Koehler was caught completely off guard.

"I had no idea what she was referring to until I got the email," Koehler said.

She said she views the honor as more of a team award, since none of this would have been possible without her assistant coaches and athletes.

"Pure joy honestly, it's so much more than me, it's my whole coaching staff receiving that award," Koehler said. "It was very humbling to be able to be voted on by my peers and the other coaches who were at state finals. It's really amazing."

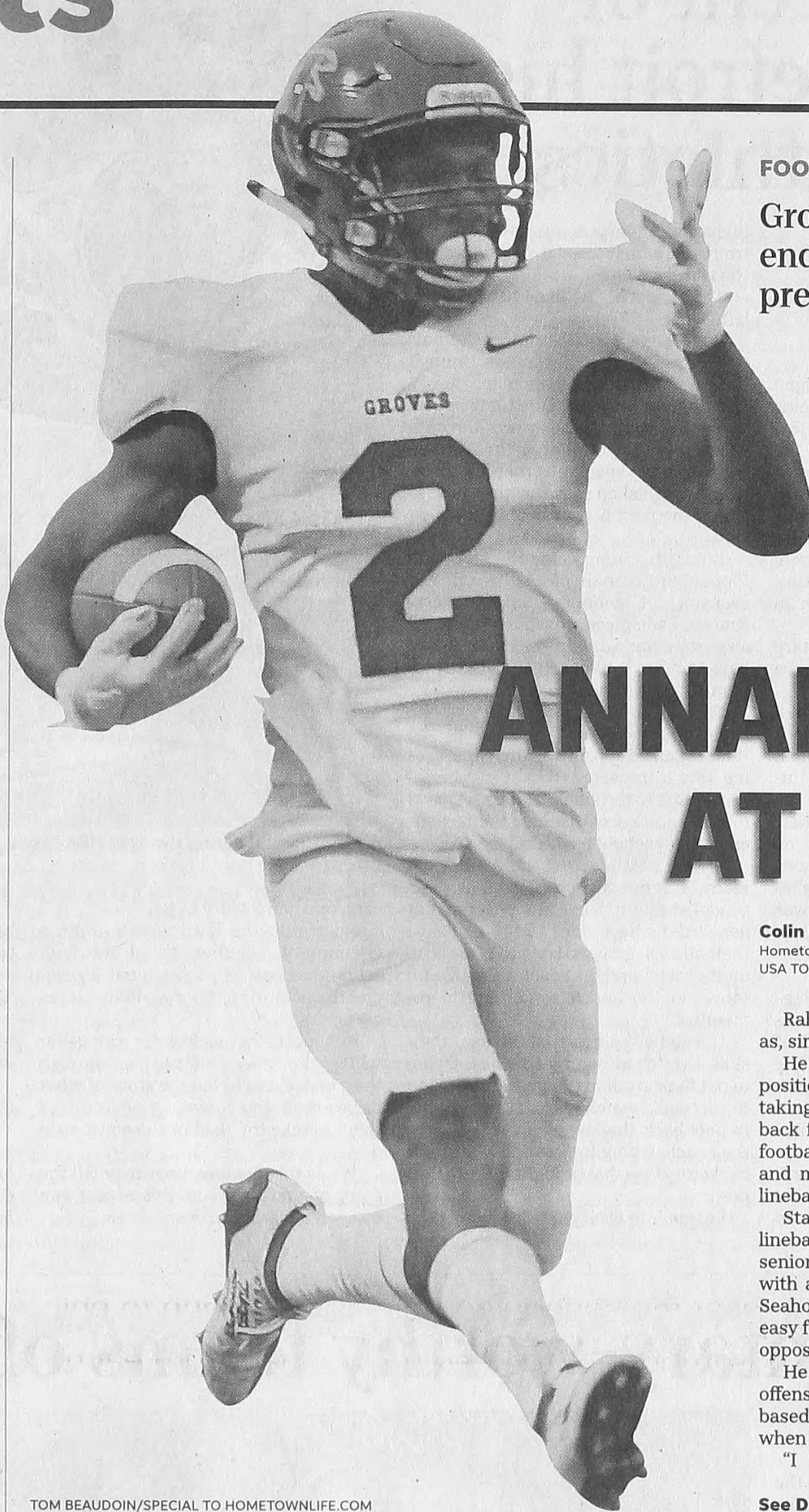
Koehler said that this year's team was led by a great group of seniors that had been with the program through thick and thin. She said those seniors put their heart and souls into taking Plymouth cheer to the top and dedicated their time to accomplishing that goal.

"This year was special since we had a strong senior class and a team that really bought in and worked for each other," Plymouth Athletic Director Ray Miller said. "Building a program takes time and it seemed like to me that everything came together when they performed. Every time I walked into their practices I could tell that they were focused and doing what was needed to be successful. It's great to see all the hard pay off for the team and Coach

See **KOEHLER**, Page 3B



Plymouth cheer coach Sam Koehler has been named the Michigan cheer coach of the year. PLYMOUTH ATHLETICS



TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## FOOTBALL

### Groves' Donaldson endures recruitment, prepares for Navy

# ANNAPOLIS AT LAST

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ralph Donaldson describes himself as, simply, an athlete.

He has not specialized his play to one position on the football field, instead taking the skills he learned as a running back from three years with the varsity football team at Birmingham Groves, and moving it to defense as a middle linebacker.

Starting at both running back and linebacker for the Falcons during his senior season - he finished his final year with a postseason loss to Birmingham Seaholm in the district finals - it was easy for Donaldson to put himself in the opposing running back's shoes.

He could see where the holes in the offense were developing, knowing, based on what the back would be given, when he would cut and find space.

"I would know the back's moves

See **DONALDSON**, Page 3B

## HIGH SCHOOLS

### State's ADs honor Franklin's Hammye

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ron Hammye has the most wins in Wayne State men's basketball history, coaching the Warriors for 19 years, including 13 as head coach. He's a three-time Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year recipient, a six-time GLIAC conference champion and a Wayne State Hall of Fame recipient.

To most, after leaving the Warriors after the 2001 season to take the athletic director job at Livonia Franklin High School, Hammye was taking a step back.

But to him, it was a step forward, a fulfillment of a promise he had made to himself.

"I had a goal: I didn't want to be 50 years old on a bus to Michigan Tech University," Hammye said.

Since taking the athletic director's job at Franklin in 2001, Hammye has not looked back. And 19 years later, he has been named as the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Region II Athletic Director of the Year.

"The Franklin student-athletes, his coaches and the parent community have all been exceptionally served by his wisdom and his leadership," Daniel Wilenborg, the director of secondary programs for Livonia Public Schools said in a statement. "His genuine kindness and service to others is without parallel."

When interviewing for the job, Hammye remembers emphasizing the importance of high school athletics, how being involved with students through these four years is the reason why he wanted the job in the first place.

There was a sense of pride in athletics that he felt was even more prevalent at Franklin than at the college level.

"It's pureness of the sport," Hammye said. "It's not about scholarships, it's not about the next level. It's just about kids

enjoying the opportunity to play a sport, to be involved in their school, to be recognized as a member of a team."

During his time with the Patriots, Franklin has seen a resurgence in multiple sports, from the wrestling mat to the girls basketball court to the football field, where Franklin made it to the Division 2 state final in 2017.

However, Hammye did not define his success as an athletic director by the team's success.

His main objective was to make every student involved in athletics feel good about themselves, from the jerseys they wore to the facilities they were in each and every day.

"That's always been my main goal: to make our kids, our people feel good about their experience at Franklin High School," Hammye said. "You don't get a second chance to make that happen."

That is what brought Hammye to Livonia, praising the upper administration for its involvement in athletics for

See **HAMMYE**, Page 3B

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# 'The Last Dance' reminiscent of metro Detroit high school athletics



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

Life continues on hold in Michigan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It seems people want an escape or to move forward.

People want life to return to normal. But there was a two-hour period each week where COVID-19 thoughts seemed to disappear. For the past five weeks, we were back in the 1997-98 NBA season, following Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls' quest for its sixth title in eight years.

For me, ESPN's 10-part documentary "The Last Dance" was a history lesson, a glimpse into what I missed.

I witnessed the majesty of Jordan himself, watching as supporting pieces like Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman created this team that was deemed unstoppable.

I witnessed a fan frenzy, the emergence of a true superstar without the help of Twitter and Instagram. I witnessed media coverage, watching as reporters tried to cover a legend who was confident and dominant, knowing he was the best player in the world, yet incredibly reserved.

I witnessed the opponents: the Reggie Millers, the Patrick Ewings, the Larry Birds. I was introduced to the "Bad Boy" Detroit Pistons teams, and the traumatizing 1991 Eastern Conference Finals.

For two hours each Sunday night, I watched the heartbreaking yet heroic rise of a basketball player from North Carolina, who defined a game, who developed a superstardom that players on

high school courts across the metro Detroit area, across the country and across the world strive for.

The aspect of "Be like Mike" has not left.

But for me, the most impactful part was to see this history lesson through the eyes, primarily, of one man.

Is there a bias to it? Sure there is. Jordan saw it through the eyes of the self-described best player of all time, taking every slight – even ones that may have been embellished – as fuel for the next game, the next buzzer beater, the next ring.

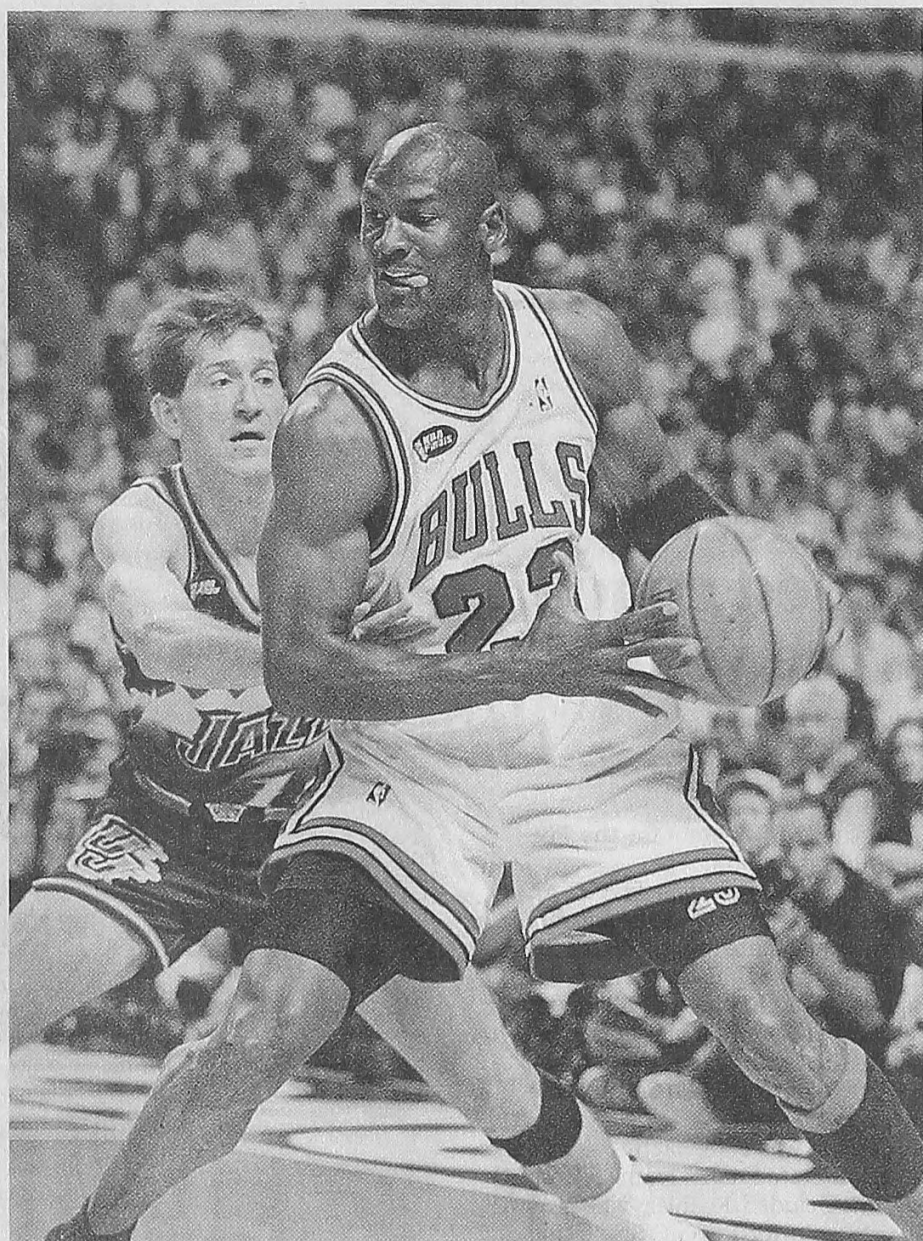
But with Jordan came the stories of Pippen, of Rodman, of head coach Phil Jackson, of general manager Jerry Krause. Each piece woven together into a sportswriter's dream getting an inside look at what it took to get to the aptly named "Last Dance" season.

To me, watching the stories of the players and coaches involved in the Bulls organization during this time, seeing who it impacted, who it inspired, I think back to the sideline at high school football and soccer games, the bleachers at high school basketball games.

With a notebook out and pen at the ready, I remember watching as high school students tried to replicate what generations have done prior, who gave their all each game to try and give those on the roster and the coaching staff, and those on the bench something to remember.

I watched players showcase their skill, I watched nearby coaches, trying to put their students in the best position to succeed. I watched their drive, trying to peel back the layers of the player or the coach, trying to find out what their backstory was that brought them to that point.

I came into each game knowing this:



Michael Jordan during the 1998 NBA Finals. ROBERT HANASHIRO/USA TODAY FILE PHOTO

each one had a story to tell.

No matter the level, sports unite a community, whether it's at the high school, college or professional. Sports create memories. Sports define legacies.

But sports themselves are a stage for telling the stories of people, through their own eyes. To tell the story of what drives them to success, of what drives them to take the field or the court each day.

While this documentary may tell the story of professionals, this aspect can be seen at each and every level.

I admit, I will miss Sunday nights: brewing a fresh cup of coffee and being transported away from present day to witness the dominance of a team, as a 23-year-old, I pretty much missed.

For the past five weeks, Sunday nights were that escape. Sunday nights were normal.

"The Last Dance" was that time machine I needed.

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

## Documentary-worthy teams of 1990s

**Paul Myerberg**  
USA TODAY

The absence of sports caused by the COVID-19 pandemic played the largest part in "The Last Dance" transcending television to become a ratings smash for ESPN, if not an outright national phenomenon.

Another factor was the show's ability, over the course of 10 episodes, to tap into a powerful sense of nostalgia for viewers who witnessed Michael Jordan's dominance during the 1990s.

Even for those who came of age after the end of the Chicago Bulls' dynasty, the series kindled offshoots of debate over how that decade's best compares with the NBA's biggest stars of the present.

As it turns out, the 1990s are ripe for the documentary treatment. It made us wonder: What other teams from the decade, across all sports, are worthy of being dissected across multiple hours of programming? Here are a few worthy of a trip down memory lane.

### 1996-99 New York Yankees

The show can begin with the Seattle Mariners' win in Game 5 of the 1995 ALDS, which propelled the Yankees' ensuing dynasty. The franchise would cap the decade with World Series wins in three of the next four seasons, with the 1998 team winning 114 games during the regular season to make a case for being the best in MLB history.

Derek Jeter can be the Jordan-like hinge, joined by manager Joe Torre and stars such as Mariano Rivera, Roger Clemens and Paul O'Neill.

### 1990s Dallas Cowboys

The whole decade is ripe for the picking. The construction of the dynasty. The fallout between Jimmy Johnson and Jerry Jones. The Super Bowl under Barry Switzer. Limping into the 2000s under Chan Gailey.

With Johnson, Jones and Switzer joined by a parade of high-profile names ready to provide commentary – Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Deion Sanders and more – this might match "The Last Dance" for meme-ready moments and



Cowboys cornerback Deion Sanders during a 1996 game against the San Francisco 49ers at Candlestick Park. The Cowboys defeated the 49ers 20-17 in overtime. USA TODAY SPORTS

soundbites.

### 1990s Atlanta Braves

The Braves were the epitome of consistency from 1991 through the end of the decade, which makes for an interesting if not entirely engrossing topic for an extended documentary series.

The juice would come from the decade's failures, relatively speaking: Atlanta won just a single World Series, in 1995, out of five trips during the 1990s.

### 1990-92 Duke basketball

Former Duke star Christian Laettner has already been the subject of his own "30 for 30" documentary – the wonderfully named "I Hate Christian Laettner"

– but the story of the Blue Devils' first two championship teams under Mike Krzyzewski could devote an entire episode just to the famous overtime win against Kentucky in the 1992 East Regional.

These were the defining college basketball teams of the decade, the back-to-back champions left a legacy that still resonates 30 years later.

### 1995 Nebraska football

Nebraska's national championship wasn't without controversy, namely in the midseason suspension and return of star running back Lawrence Phillips.

That story line and others would add drama and intrigue to the tale of the most dominant team in the past half-

century or more of college football, one that outscored opponents by an average of nearly 39 points per game in winning its second title in a row.

### 1996-99 Los Angeles Lakers

Picking up where "Last Dance" left off, the late Kobe Bryant would be the centerpiece of a documentary that could detail his humbling transition to the NBA and development into stardom alongside teammate Shaquille O'Neal.

As the accompanying piece to the documentary focusing on the Jordan dynasty, this series would close with Bryant and O'Neal ending the 1990s and ushering in the 2000s with a championship under former Bulls coach Phil Jackson.

## Donaldson

Continued from Page 1B

when he made it, like I would be there," Donaldson said. "It was almost like I was in that running back's head if anything."

With the skills developed at the high school level, Donaldson thought he would be a hot commodity for colleges around the area and around the country.

However, recruiting was not what he expected it to be.

While the Groves senior found his college place, it was a process that proved to be difficult, and proved to be unexpected.

For Donaldson, it ignited a fire to show what he can do on the defensive side of the ball for Navy as a safety. It ignited a desire to prove other schools that they missed out.

### D-I potential

Donaldson thought he knew how the recruiting process worked. Once that first Division I offer came in, offers from Division I schools from around the country would come pouring in.

He received his first offer from Eastern Michigan during his junior year, and then he waited.

"I would see people after they get their first offer, they blow up and get seven others," Donaldson said. "But for me, it was different because when I got my first offer it was a good three or four months before I got a phone call from another coach."

"It was kind of scary because I got the first one, and I didn't know if I was going to get a second one, even though I knew I was good enough to play at a higher level."

Brendan Flaherty saw that potential, too.

The Groves head football coach saw the speed Donaldson possessed, saying it puts him on another level than many in the Oakland Activities Association and around the area. He said his hybrid running back/linebacker uses that speed well, having a level of intuition that helped the Falcons to success on both sides of the ball.

However, when asked about Donaldson's recruitment, Flaherty described it as frustrating.

"He's a Division I football player," Flaherty said. "I thought he would have gotten more attention, more recruitment."

On social media, Donaldson saw what could have been. He saw area players getting offers from top-tier programs around the country, from places like Michigan and Michigan State.



Groves' Ralph Donaldson decommitted from Ball State before committing to Navy.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

As the process continued for Donaldson, even with the confidence that he could join a top-25 program and be a factor, he realized that is not how recruiting works. Instead, it's more about what pieces work best for individual schools.

The Groves senior committed to Ball State Oct. 22, but his recruitment story was not quite over.

Donaldson had been in talks with Navy throughout his recruitment, saying the school was consistent, but not persistent throughout the process. But once he committed to play for the Cardinals, conversations with the Midshipmen picked

up.

Once he visited Annapolis, Maryland, and saw what could be in his future, it was a no-brainer for the senior.

"Not knocking anything about Ball State, but once I saw the different level of the game, I kind of knew where I wanted to be and where I didn't want to be," Donaldson said.

Donaldson decommitted from Ball State Nov. 10, making his decision to join Navy football two days later.

### Non-traditional experience

Donaldson knew that a football career at Navy would not be the traditional college experience, something the coaches, he said, were up front about from Day 1.

He said there would be more structure than he was used to, on top of the fact that he would be required to serve five years in the U.S. Navy after his graduation.

"From the jump, they told me Navy is like a place where you go and if you don't think you can handle it, then don't go," Donaldson said.

However, he knew the benefits it would give him as both a student and as a player, coming out with a degree from a military academy, while getting an

opportunity to play in front of national television audiences, including one of the most iconic games in college football history: the Army/Navy game.

To Flaherty, watching Donaldson's recruiting journey from the start, he views it as a chance for his player to prove people wrong, to secure a better future and for him to have the opportunity to showcase his talent on a big stage.

In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, Donaldson is doing his best to prepare for the transition, working out at home, running and lifting to prepare for boot camp and for fall training for football.

He's grinding, a message that Donaldson left with those players on the Groves roster that may be in a similar position that he was.

"If you are going to get offers, they'll come," Donaldson said. "But in order for that to happen, you have to work your butt off to put yourself in the best position you can."

"If you want exposure, you want people to look at you, give them something to look at."

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

## Hammye

Continued from Page 1B

his school and others in the district, with which he has developed good relationships during his tenure.

"The respect with which he treats both students and staff is unparalleled," Livonia Churchill athletic director Marc Hage said. "The student body and Mr. Hammye have developed a mutual admiration for each other, based largely upon his sincerity, kindness and genuine enjoyment of his occupation."

Along with his role as a coach and athletic director, Hammye has served as a secretary and sports commissioner of the Kensington Lakes Activity Association. Franklin has hosted MHSAA district and regional competitions for multiple sports during his tenure.

Also, Hammye has been a major contributor to the Special Olympics of Michigan, serving as a referee, coach and chaperone.

Hammye is not done with Franklin yet, but he knows his time with the program is coming to an end sooner than later — jokingly saying he got the

award because of his old age of 63.

But now, he is still focused on the pride and accomplishment he feels working with the coaches and student athletes each day, feeding off their success.

"I'm in no way indicating that I had anything to do with that," Hammye said. "I was just kind of along for the ride."

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

## Koehler

Continued from Page 1B

Koehler."

Miller himself knows something about great coaching, having won a Coach of the Year award for boys lacrosse.

"I am very proud of Coach Koehler for growing our competitive cheer program to one that is respected by the state and for earning this prestigious accomplishment," Miller said.

Since Plymouth opened in 2002, the school has had five coaches recognized as coaches

of the year.

"It's really gratifying to be noticed by such big names in the coaching community," Koehler said. "Me and my staff work really hard so to have that recognition and know we're on the right path and are doing the right thing, it's really humbling to see that award from other coaches that have been in the game for so long."

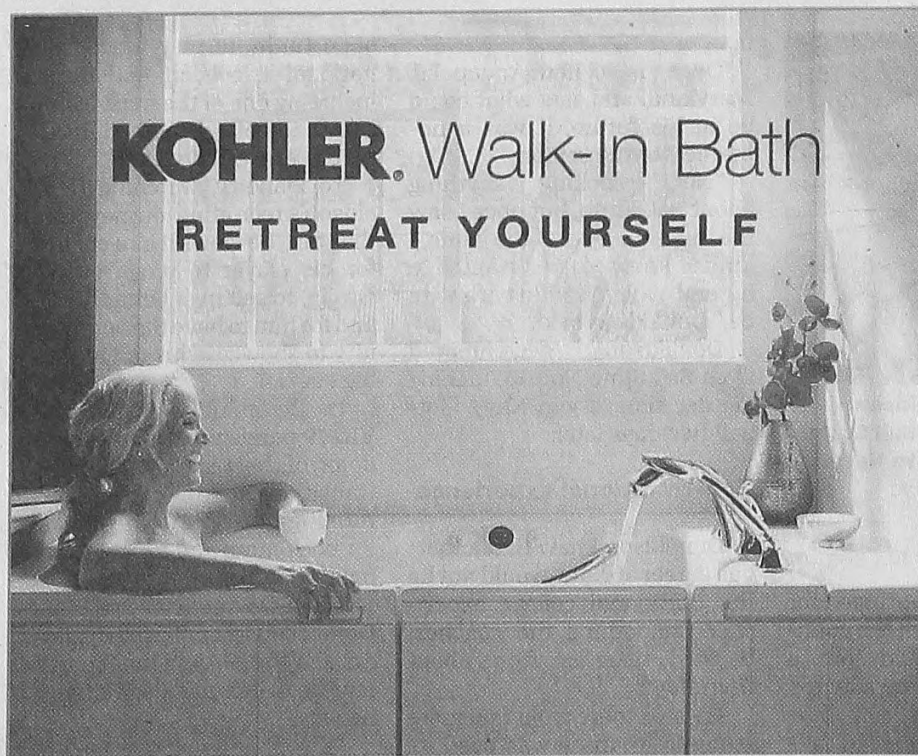
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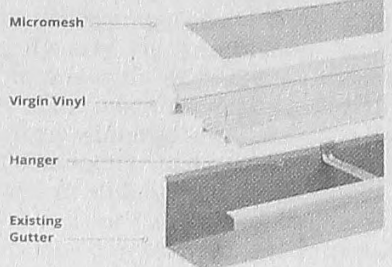
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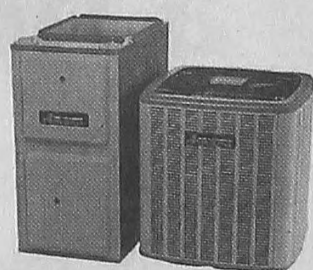


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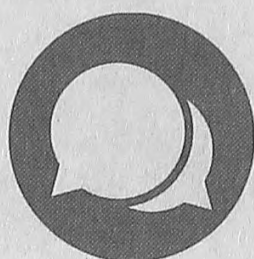
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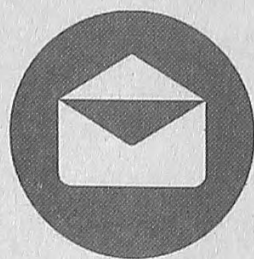
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## SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

1 Completed  
 4 Tea leaf readers, e.g.  
 9 Title for Macbeth  
 14 Places to pitch tents  
 19 Transgress  
 20 Bow go-with  
 21 Dignity  
 22 Largest city in Nebraska  
 23 Arthur of TV  
 24 White of TV  
 25 Writer Dillard  
 26 Prohibited acts  
 27 Gougers charge them  
 30 Warrants  
 31 Sioux division  
 32 Just OK  
 33 Papa Doc's country  
 35 First-aid flora  
 36 No-see-ums  
 38 Symptom of mumps  
 41 Tumult  
 44 Air safety gp.  
 45 1492, e.g.  
 46 Pesto ingredient  
 51 Portable enplaning bridge

56 — Banos, California  
 57 All tangled up  
 58 Friable soil  
 61 — degree or another  
 62 Arthur of tennis  
 64 Home of Iowa State  
 65 Organisms of a region  
 66 Chew the scenery  
 67 Hand-softened "superfood" dish  
 71 "1492" director  
 73 Pierces  
 74 Condé —  
 75 Cyberjunk  
 78 More ticked  
 79 A Great Lake  
 80 Turns back to 000  
 82 Sci-fi hoverer  
 83 Like paradise  
 85 Result of dropping a bushel, maybe  
 88 Plant "pet"  
 91 45s' relatives  
 92 Flimsy pancakes

93 What a great ad campaign leads to  
 99 Plant pest  
 101 Grimm nasty  
 102 Pan-fry  
 103 Lane of song  
 105 Gymnast  
 109 Encore-eliciting cries  
 111 What many shards are  
 114 Handle the party food  
 115 Lake — Vista, Florida  
 116 George who played Sulu  
 117 Suffix with neat  
 118 Love to bits  
 119 Scourges  
 120 Sister of Fred Astaire  
 121 Blasting aid  
 122 Car rollers, in London  
 123 Actor Gable  
 124 Jewish ritual meal  
 125 Something associated with the first words of this puzzle's seven longest answers

**DOWN**

1 Credit's opposite  
 2 2011 hurricane  
 3 Air current  
 4 Safari sites  
 5 Part of QED  
 6 "Marty" star  
 7 Sonatina  
 8 Exchanges  
 9 Hot cuisine  
 10 Bigwig  
 11 Heat to prevent stress  
 12 In a racket-filled way  
 13 Prior to, in poems  
 14 Pylon shape  
 15 Indifferent to ethics  
 16 Capital of the Philippines  
 17 Light particle  
 18 Wised off to  
 28 Corporate symbols  
 29 Nun's beads  
 30 Rapper Nicki  
 34 Driving range peg  
 37 Concert sites  
 39 — -Mart

40 Sister of Hansel  
 41 Sch. near Beverly Hills  
 42 Experts  
 43 Mount with presidents' heads  
 44 Bone of the lower chest  
 47 Bring harm to  
 48 Mendel of genetics  
 49 Skater Kulik  
 50 Fonz's quality  
 52 "Traffic" actor Milian  
 53 Fiber for newsprint  
 54 Wee colonist  
 55 "— -haw!"  
 59 "Relax, Gil!"  
 60 Assembled as one body  
 63 All gone, as dinner  
 65 Bible divs.  
 68 Not lax at all  
 69 Elk's kin  
 70 Fasten  
 71 Reno-to-Riverside dir.  
 72 Chowder fish  
 76 For — (not gratis)

77 Peat source  
 80 Tries to shred  
 81 More elastic  
 84 Fischer's skill  
 86 Suffix with glob or duct  
 87 Apt rhyme for "treadle"  
 89 Lupino of film  
 90 Like always  
 93 Lynx variety  
 94 "Hellcats" actress Gail  
 95 Expert talker  
 96 Intense  
 97 Goddess with an owl  
 98 Less fat  
 99 Chafe  
 100 Snuck a look  
 104 Test models  
 106 "Purgatorio" poet  
 107 "Of Thee —"  
 108 Invite to join at  
 110 Mined finds  
 112 Duty  
 113 Editor's strike-out  
 115 Telly giant

### SUDOKU

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

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!

### BURGER TIME WORD SEARCH

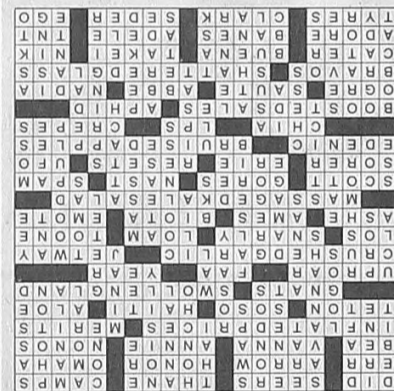
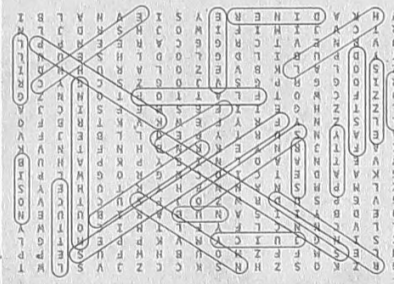
G R Z K O S Z H N S K C C Z J V S L W T  
 N L E S M F F Z M O U B H W F U S E F P  
 C S I N G J U I C Y M V K P P E M T G L  
 L L V C N N C L F Y F L T M I C O T W Y  
 O E D B Y I I S A N U B A R I B U U E N  
 G V E P S U D R W Z O J F S U C T C V O  
 Z L M P M S N A N N B H Y R T U H E Y S  
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

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

### WORDS

- BEEF
- BISON
- BUN
- BURGER
- CHEESE
- DINER
- DINNER
- FAST FOOD
- FLAT TOP
- FRENCH FRIES
- GRILL
- JUICY
- KETCHUP
- LETTUCE
- LUNCH
- MOUTH WATERING
- ONION RINGS
- ONIONS
- PATTY
- ROLL
- SALMON
- SEAR
- SIZZLE
- VEGGIE

### ANSWER KEY

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

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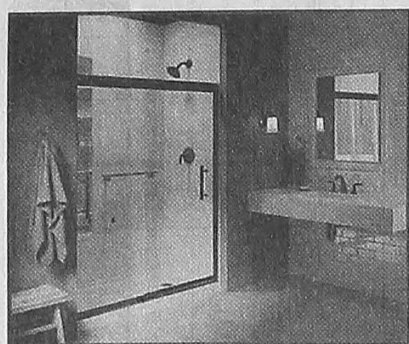
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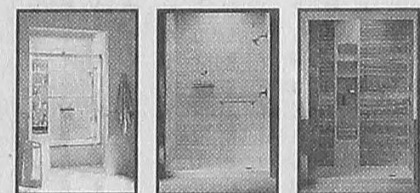
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**Beltone**

At your local Beltone, your health and safety remains our top priority as it has for many years.

As we reopen, we will continue to follow CDC guidelines in order to provide you and our staff with the cleanest and most professional environment possible.

In our smaller offices, we will continue to provide one-on-one appointments but will not be taking walk-in customers. And, we will be offering our Curb-Side-Service.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at **(248) 907-0884**

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