



CANTON

OBSERVER

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'It's like juggling knives'

Livonia braces for impact of coronavirus on budget

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan campaigned, she aimed to have her administration focus on roads, public safety and bringing the city into the future.

Now, she's the coronavirus mayor.

"It's like juggling knives," she said. "That's what it's like. I really do mean that because we're dealing with tragedy and loss of life every day in our city, and that is my primary focus."

"But then beyond that we have to start talking about what Livonia is going to look like."

Brosnan said her job is full of chal-

lenge and bad news these days, but she's happy she's the person doing the job. As the country looks for a way out of the coronavirus pandemic, she's thinking about Livonia's future.

"I am still in negotiations regularly with all three of our first responder units," she said. "I haven't stopped any of those conversations."

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Airsoft arena coming to Westland

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland City Council on May 18 gave Michigan Indoor Airsoft Arena unanimous approval to open a location at 34420 Ford Road.

Ali Hamade, who will run the arena, said he will wait to open until the state deems it safe because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We would not open or facilitate Michigan Indoor Airsoft Arena until we find out what's actually happening with the whole COVID-19 crisis," he said. "Once the state, of course, approves facilities like the one I'm trying to open and they allow us to open, then we would actually start the process of opening that facility."

The business is moving into the building that previously housed Superpetz. Airsoft is a competitive team gun sport, sometimes compared to paintball, that uses small plastic BBs as projectiles.

It's a sport presently lightly represented in metro Detroit. According to airsoftc3.com, there are eight official Airsoft arenas in Michigan, the closest to Wayne County being in Whitmore Lake, south of Brighton. Contact Front Airsoft in Livonia sells equipment for the sport.

The arena will be open seven days a week, have changeable settings, a game room area for people waiting and an area to eat pre-prepared food. The facility will have a small retail space, but no concessions.

Before approval, Hamade said staff will make sure all guns are Airsoft guns rather than live firearms.

Councilman Mike McDermott noted, "There are Airsoft guns available for public sale that have a, shall we say, realistic look to them in comparison to a real firearm."

"Prior to arrival, all Airsoft guns must stored securely and carried in a bag, case or box, no exceptions," Hamade said. "Once they get into the facility and before they even make it to the second door, we inspect the Airsoft rifle for the orange tips."

Further, Hamade said Airsoft guns would have to meet his business' safety standards and pellets will not be allowed to weigh more than 0.2 grams. The facility's BBs are biodegradable.

PLYMOUTH REMEMBERS



Charlie Cone, a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam, salutes the flag during the national anthem. While most communities canceled Memorial Day-related events in response to the coronavirus pandemic and Michigan's stay-at-home order, Plymouth proceeded with its parade. This year's plans route changed with the intention of avoiding large crowds. Members of the Plymouth-Canton chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America supplied volunteers to play Taps at the Veterans Memorial every 15 minutes all morning. See more photos from Plymouth's Memorial Day ceremonies on Page 3A. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Wayne looking to reconsider council ward system

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It seems like everybody in Wayne has an opinion about the city council ward system.

"The feedback I get from people is they want to get rid of them," Mayor John Rhaesa said.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the system, established by voters in November 2014, council decided to consider ballot proposals that could get rid of the system entirely during a recent city council meeting held online.

"I am one of the people who voted for the ward system and have since changed my mind, OK? I am just going

to put it out there," said Councilwoman Kelly Skiff. "... I just don't see it in our best interest."

The six-ward council system allows one city council member per ward. In 2014, people saw wards as a way to diversify council and put every neighborhood on equal footing when it came to campaigning. The mayor is elected at-

large from the city.

Nearly every council member and Rhaesa said they hear from residents who want to see the ward system gone. So, voters may have the option to disband it, keep it or change to in-ward-only voting in November.

See **SYSTEM**, Page 5A



Livonia police arrest 2 after pizzeria burglary

Susan Vela hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia police say they have found the woman underneath the double pompom-style, along with her sidekick, who starred in a video of a Toarmina's Pizza burglary last month.

An Inkster woman, 25, and a Farmington man, 53,

now face felony charges of breaking and entering.

Police posted a video of the April 23 crime online. According to the surveillance footage, a woman crawled through the pizza business's shattered door during the night.

She yanked a cash register from a desk before leaving the area in a minivan. The man apparently was an accomplice who drove the minivan.

The woman waived a preliminary exam and must resolve her case in Third Circuit Court in Detroit. She faces an additional felony charge of possessing burglary tools.

The man is scheduled for a probable cause conference later this month in Livonia's 16th District Court.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

Canton friends cure garage-cluttering 'can'demic

Ed Wright hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

An inconvenient byproduct of the coronavirus pandemic has been the fast-spreading "can'demic: the formation of mountains of empty cans and bottles in one's garage due to the state's no-return order.

Enter Canton entrepreneurs Brandon Leighton and Brandon Pritz, who will not only clear your garage of empties, but will pay you for them.

They call their project "Yes We Can."

"We look at it as a way to help the public, make sure the empties are recycled and not thrown away, and as a potential business opportunity," said Leighton, who works for an aerospace company. "Look, no one likes taking empties back so, in that respect, we are offering a service."

Leighton and Pritz's business plan is still in its infancy. They pay 2 cents per empty - they've already collected between 3,000 and 4,000, Leighton estimated - and haul away all of their customers' bottles and cans.

Like all start-ups, the idea has risks, Leighton said. "First of all, nobody knows when we'll be able to take all these empties back," he said. "It could be months. The longer it takes, the more we're going to have to pay for storage."

"My garage and Brandon's basement are already filling up pretty fast, so we're going to eventually have to pay for a storage unit."

"It's going to be a lot of work, picking them up, storing them and then, ultimately, returning them (for the 10-cent rate), but we're OK with that. We're hoping this could turn into a long-term business, even after the pandemic passes."

The duo's only method of marketing has been on social media and through word-of-mouth, but people seem to like it.

"Everyone who has contacted us (to pick up empties) has been, for the most part, thankful," he said. "Some people have been so happy to get their garages cleared out, they tell us we don't need to pay them."

Leighton has already learned a lot about the process - and people's choice of beverages - in the few short weeks his service has been in operation.

"We've figured out that the average bag has 75 empties in it," Leighton said, "so we normally don't go through and count each one before we pay the person."

"We've also noticed that the people who have a lot of kids-related empties also have a more-than-average number of alcohol-related empties. Not sure if that's a coincidence."

Leighton pledged that the collection process will include social distancing and the highest level of safety and cleanliness.

"Some people like our idea, but they're a little hesitant because, during these times, they don't like strangers going in their garage and touching stuff," Leighton said. "But we assure them that everything we do is with safety first."



Canton residents Brandon Pritz, left, and Brandon Leighton, buy empty cans and bottles and haul them away through their new business, "Yes We Can." They promise safety and cleanliness. COURTESY OF BRANDON LEIGHTON

Leighton said people interested in the service can contact him through Facebook.

Leighton and Pritz pay customers by Venmo or by placing a check in their mailbox.

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

"We look at it as a way to help the public, make sure the empties are recycled and not thrown away, and as a potential business opportunity."

Brandon Leighton Entrepreneur

hometownlife.com

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COVID-19 affects FSAs, workplace health plans



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Guest columnist

As a result of the coronavirus crisis there have been a variety of changes in rules and regulations that affect your personal finances. Some of these changes, such as the suspension of the required minimum distribution rules for 2020, or the suspension of loan payments on federal student loans through September of this year, have justifiably received a fair amount of publicity.

However, there have been other changes that have not gotten the press they deserve but are just as important. One of the changes you may have missed relates to the IRS guidelines regarding mid-year changes to workplace health plans and flexible spending accounts.

Normally, you are only allowed to make changes to your workplace health plan or your flexible spending accounts once a year during an open enrollment period. Typically, the enrollment period for an employer-sponsored health plan or a flexible spending account is sometime in the fall for the next calendar year.

The problem is that things change, and as a result what was good for you in the fall may not be beneficial for you the following year. Particularly with your flexible spending account, if you don't properly fund your account, you can lose out on some of the benefits by underestimating or overestimating your expenses.

If you underestimate your expenses, there can be a substantial penalty to you. The key with these flexible spending accounts is that you have to spend the money in your account during the calendar year, or you lose it. Most employers only allow you to carry over \$500 to the next year. This means if you withhold \$2,000 for the year from your paycheck and deposit that money into your flexible spending account, you must spend \$2,000 on qualified expenses in that year. If you only

spend \$400 during the year and you can only rollover \$500, you lose the remaining \$1,100.

However, because of the new rules, you have an opportunity to make changes. Under the new rules, you can change how much you're contributing to your flexible spending account. Therefore, for those who need extra cash flow, you can consider stopping your contributions, thus allowing you to increase your take-home pay.

Furthermore, many parents who have been allocating money for childcare services may find that with daycare centers and after-school programs closed, they don't need as much allocated for childcare services as they did before. These individuals can take advantage of the new rules and change their contributions to their flexible spending account.

The new change in the law also allows employees to sign up for an employer's health insurance if they haven't previously done so. It also allows workers to add or remove family members to or from their current plan, or even switch to a different healthcare plan. Particularly, for those who are on a spouse's or significant other's healthcare plan and that person lost their job and their healthcare benefits, this change in the rules can be a lifesaver.

Nothing is easy and there is a caveat that is important. The changes to the healthcare plan and the flexible spending accounts are not automatic; they do require employer approval. I would imagine most employers will choose to implement these rules; however, some may not. If you are affected by these rules and your employer does not allow them, it is a fair conversation for you to have with them as to why not.

If you have a flexible spending account, it is important to look at your situation and decide if changes are needed. This is a unique opportunity and you should take advantage of it. After all, the money you save ends up in your pocket, exactly where it belongs.

Good luck.

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



PLYMOUTH HONORS ARMED FORCES WITH PARADE



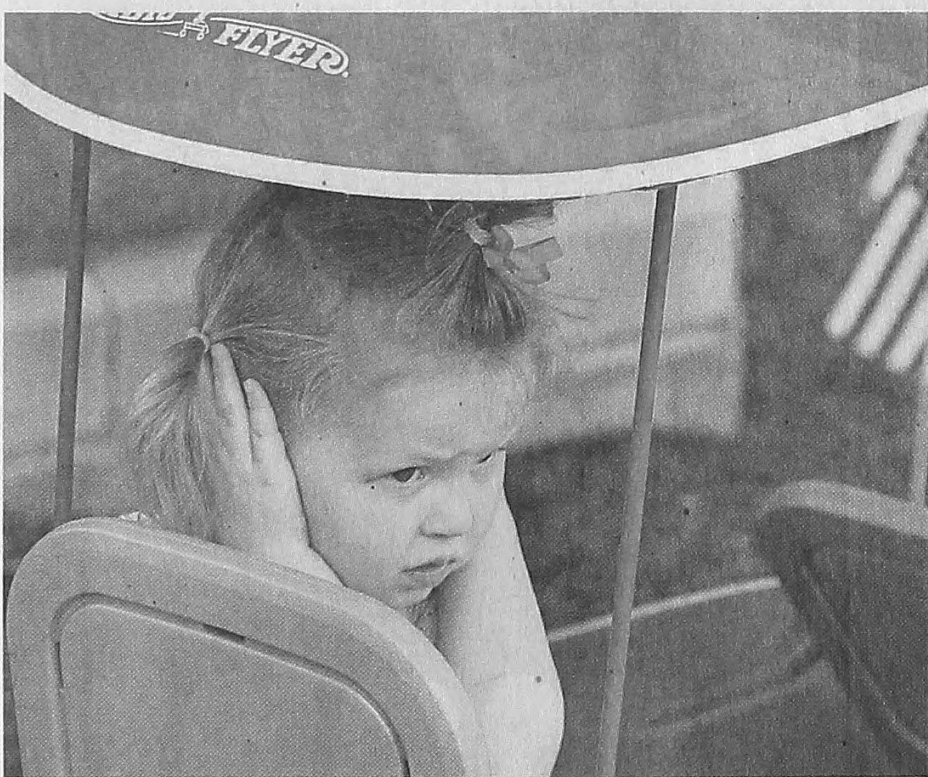
The Plymouth Memorial Day Parade kicks off from the PARC at about 10 a.m. May 25. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Vietnam War veteran Ron King, center, plays Taps before the start of the parade.



As Everett Smith, center, watches, Bob Garza gives Amy McAlister an American flag for her daughter to wave before the start of the parade.



Evelyn Manning, 3, covers her ears as a fire engine passes her during the parade.



WWII veteran William Mew smiles at onlookers as drives his SUV in the parade.

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Brotherhood of Bourbon growing

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wine is fine, but bourbon is better. Following the assumption that men need a beverage-based diversion from the pandemic as well as women, Canton resident Scott Linsner founded the Brotherhood of Bourbon club, an offshoot of the Sisterhood of the Traveling Wine, of which his wife, Sandy, is a member.

Although barely a week old, the club has already swelled to 31 members, a notable accomplishment considering Linsner is not using social media to market the idea.

"I was joking with my wife that since the women have their wine club, we should have something for men," Linsner said. "I doubt we'll get as many members as the wine club (it scaled the 2,000-member plateau last week), but that's OK. It's all about having some fun, even if it's on a smaller scale."

The club's guidelines are simple. Interested bourbon lovers can join by sending an email to Linsner at scott.linsner@gmail.com. Once they're officially in, members receive a list of fellow bourbon lovers (and their addresses) who they can surprise with a discreet drop-and-dash porch delivery.

Membership is limited to residents of Canton and Plymouth.

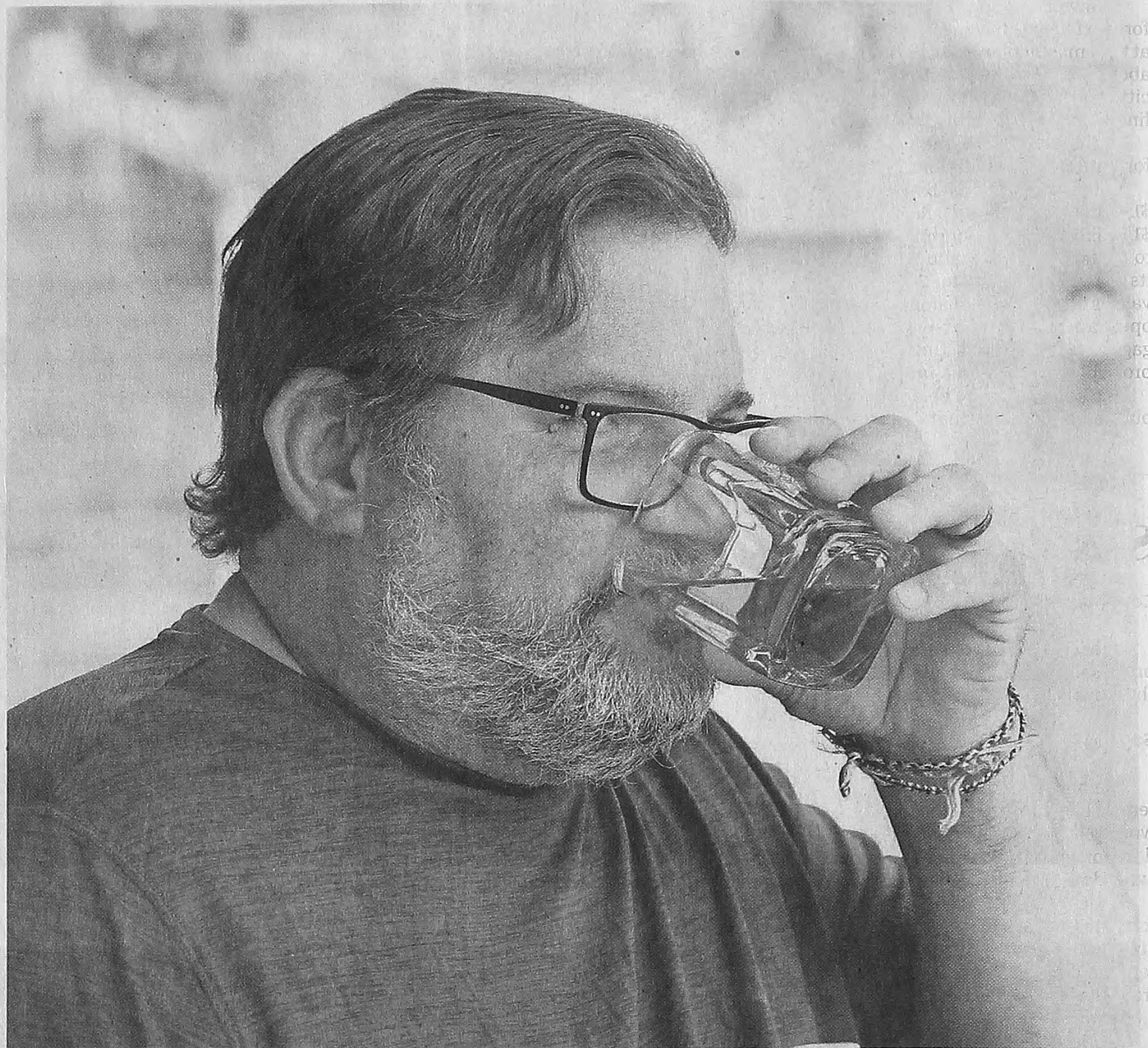
Each member of the brotherhood lists their preferences. Once a member receives a delivery, he is expected to return the favor to someone on the membership list.

"I have an Excel sheet all set up to keep track of who has made deliveries and who has received them," said Linsner.

Unlike the wine club, deliveries are limited to bourbon; scented candles and chocolates have been deemed non-essentials. However, when Linsner was presented with the idea of complementary items like beef jerky or sunflower seeds, he warmed to it.

"I kind of like that," he said. "But the bourbon is the only essential item."

Linsner said that, ideally, the gifted bourbon should cost a minimum of \$25, but members won't get booted from the club if they deliver a less-expensive



Scott Linsner has begun a Bourbon Bros club from his Canton home. Members leave each other gifts of the liquor to enjoy while stuck at home during the coronavirus pandemic. Here he takes a sip of Eagle Rare bourbon, made in Kentucky.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

brand. And bourbon delivered in fancy baskets is frowned upon, Linsner joked.

"A paper bag will do," he said.

One bourbon brother brought up to Linsner the idea of everyone in the club meeting at a bar or restaurant when it's

safe again for large groups to gather.

"I thought that was a great idea," he said. "Maybe this could be the start of a brotherhood that is long-lasting."

Linsner has already benefited (and returned the favor) from his idea. On the

afternoon of his recent birthday, he discovered a bottle of Angel's Envy had been dropped off on his porch.

And it didn't come from Amazon. Contact Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

Entertainment

Find it online at
hometownlife.com

Livonia

Continued from Page 1A

"I haven't stopped setting the budget for next year. I haven't stopped looking at that master plan and talking to people about what that looks like because this city is not going to stop. We are going to find a way through this."

In the near future, the city will move forward with fewer financial resources.

This year, Livonia expects to lose \$1.4 million in state shared revenue, \$1.1 million in road funding, \$1.5 million in fees and 15% to 20% of its water revenue. After 2020, property values could drop if businesses don't re-open and people can't pay their mortgages. Combined, all those losses will probably affect Livonia into 2022.

"No sooner will we be done with this public health crisis that we'll find our-

"... I haven't stopped looking at that master plan and talking to people about what that looks like because this city is not going to stop. We are going to find a way through this."

Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan

selves in the midst of an economic crisis," Brosnan said.

Even as municipal operations move closer to normal, the coronavirus will continue to cost the city extra money.

According to city Finance Director Mike Slater, Livonia has spent \$180,000 on things like PPE since the pandemic began. Officials expect future costs to

include flu vaccines, barriers and more.

"I do believe we've only begun to scratch the surface," Brosnan said. "We've had increased costs to the city as a result of COVID-19 and we're projecting that we're going to have increased costs, and we see that continuing."

The city will receive a fiscal stimulus from the state, but Michigan has not yet decided how to distribute its coronavirus relief funds. Livonia received \$196,155 from the CARES Act.

On the city side, there are not many ways to make up for lost revenue.

"To make money, we don't have any magic tricks for that," Slater said. "Those are either through property taxes or through state shared revenue. Until the economy gets back up to full speed, there will effects on our finances."

"There's not a way to manage our way out of that because it's something out of our control."

The city has cut or downsized capital

improvement projects that will save between \$4.5 million and \$5 million by deferring projects that don't affect technology, safety and protecting current assets. For example, the city is holding off on vehicle purchases and will not buy new furniture or equipment for its libraries and recreation center.

The city also furloughed 37% of its staff April 24, which saves about \$160,000 weekly.

Brosnan said as different parts of the economy return to business as usual, she plans to bring related staff back to work.

"At this point we remain committed to a furlough plan, which means that our goal is to bring everybody back," Brosnan said. "... the course of the disease is going to determine when that happens."

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

System

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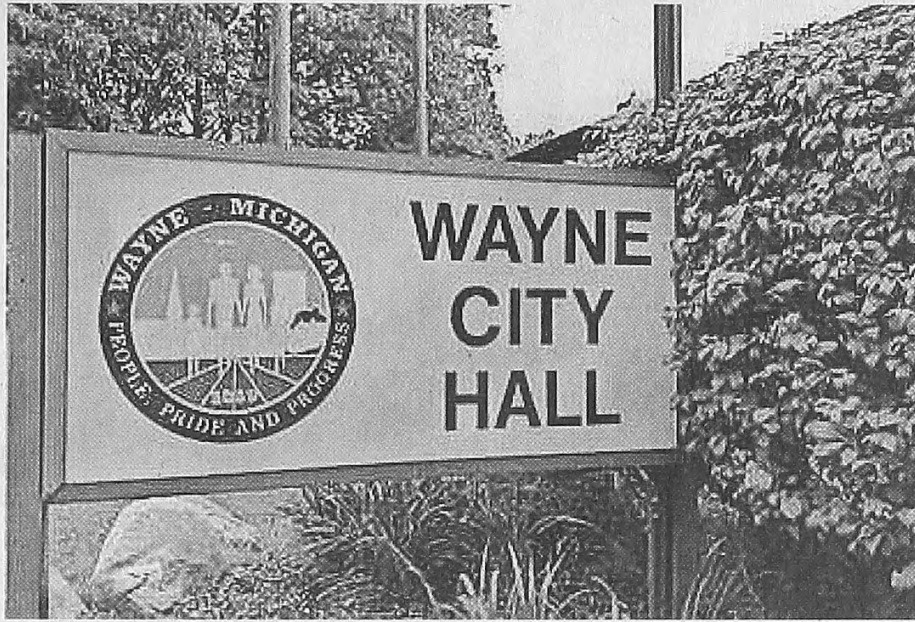
Officials plan to consider a few ballot proposals at a future meeting to decide the ward system's fate "once and for all."

Saying goodbye

The option to disband the ward system, if it is placed on November ballots, would allow voters to choose any candidate for council regardless of where the candidate lived.

Right now, the current system allows for voters across the city to vote on all six candidates, even those who do not represent their ward. But candidates from the same ward have to run against each other.

"We're not necessarily getting the best candidates in the city," said Councilman Jeremiah Webster. "Because you have people who live on the same block in the same ward that would be excellent additions to the council and we cannot have them (both) up there with the current structure."



Wayne officials plan to consider a few ballot proposals at a future meeting to decide the ward system's fate "once and for all." HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

In-ward voting

Skiff, who represents the city's fifth ward, said she often encounters voters from other wards who didn't realize they could vote for her.

"It's confusing," she said. "I run into

people who still don't understand how it works and they ... say, 'Oh I can't vote for you because you don't live in my ward.' They could've voted for me because it's at-large."

Another ballot proposal, should council decide to place it on ballots,

would propose a system where people could only vote on the council candidates from their ward.

Council members said this might help clear some confusion.

In November, if both in-ward voting and a disband of the system were to appear on the ballot and pass, whichever received the most "yes" votes would cancel out the other, city officials said during the meeting.

Leave things they way they are

The system as it currently stands could remain in one of two ways:

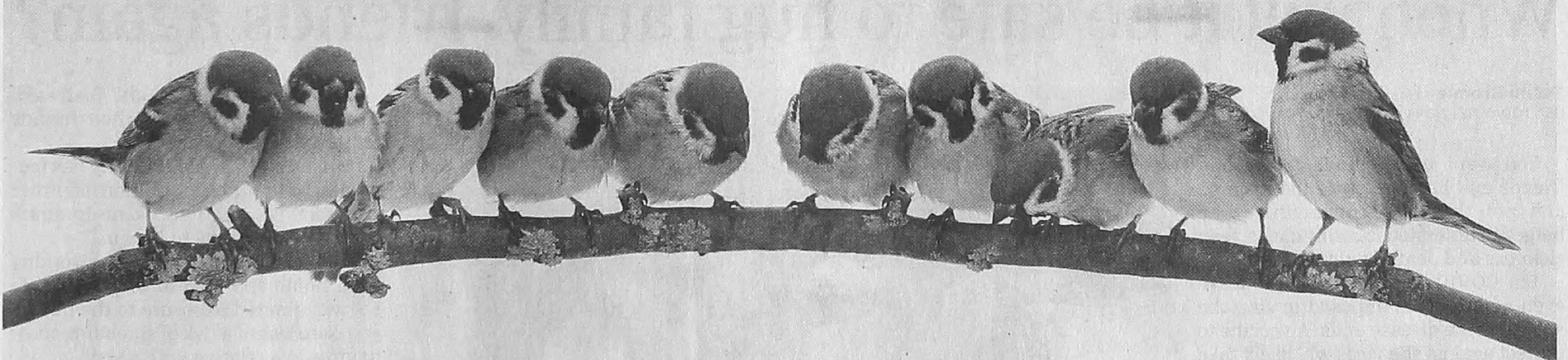
■ First, if council were to put both the in-ward-only and disbanding option on the same ballot, things would remain the same if both options were voted down.

■ Or, council may put just the question of whether the ward system should continue to exist and, if voters choose to keep it, an in-ward-only voting option could be put in front of voters at a later time.

"This needs to be settled once and for all," said Councilman Anthony Miller.

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

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Metroparks to reopen pools, splash pads in June

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Pools and splash pads at the metro Detroit metroparks could be open in a month.

Huron-Clinton Metroparks officials announced they are resuming plans interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, including preparations to open various water features including an aquatic center, splash pads and pools.

"We're already making adjustments to our summer schedule and policies in light of the COVID-19 emergency," Amy McMillan, Huron-Clinton Metroparks director, said. "These changes are necessary to help everyone stay safe and healthy while providing the broadest possible access to Metroparks facilities."

The water features are expected to be open by mid-June to early July, accommodating repairs that couldn't be completed during the state's stay-at-home orders meant to mitigate the spread of coronavirus. The anticipated openings are "subject to change."

The parks have remained open during the pandemic and on multiple sunny, warm days this spring, lines of vehicles waited to enter Kensington's full parking lots. Metropark officials said they would close individual parks to new visitors on days that became too crowded.

The news that pools and splash pads would reopen throughout the 13 parks operated in southeast Michigan by Huron-Clinton Metroparks was received with dropped jaws by Kensington park users.

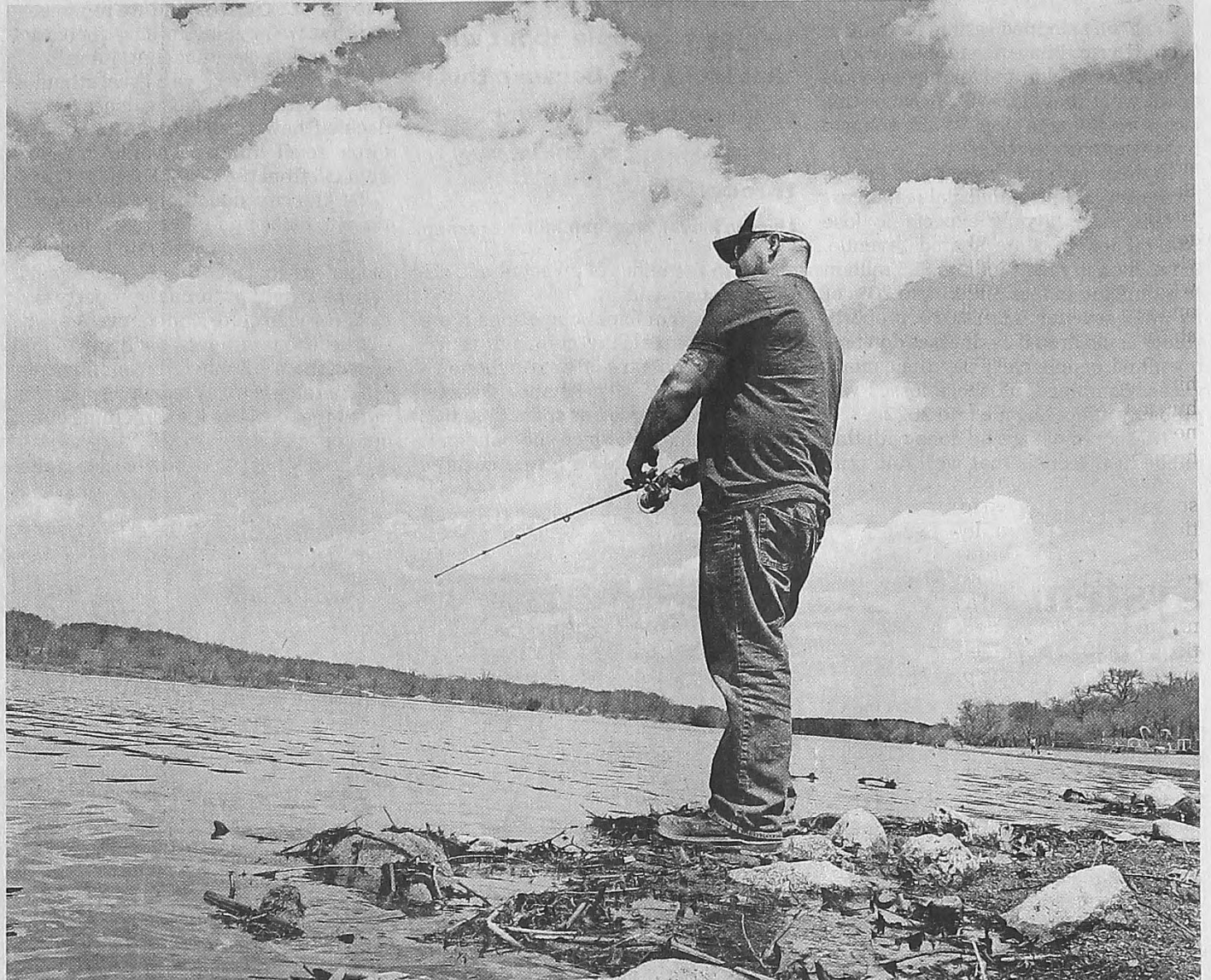
"I feel like we're going from nothing to everything," Carolyn Blair, a Fenton resident and mom of Owen, 7, and Jack, 4, said. "Pools are super close (proximity for users) and there's spitting, they're too confined."

"It's great that they want to open, but it's too soon," Angela Smith, a Fowlerville resident who brought daughter Delilah, 5, to the beach. "Kids are the healthiest of all of us, but we don't know what the virus will do, it's about limiting exposure. It's stupid to open something so public. Kids don't know the concept of washing hands and faces, we have to do it for them."

Tyler Norman of Novi, father of Blake and Cameron, said it was "too soon to reopen water features without a vaccine."

Others left open the possibility they would consider using park pools and other water amenities under the right circumstances.

Crystal Berens, a Milford mother of two, was unsure whether she would let



Eric Rugeja, of Livonia hopes to catch a bass at Kent Lake, off Kensington's Martindale Beach. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

her children use a splash pad by July, but leaned toward no if there were to be an abundance of people present.

"There are much less people here than in Livonia, but I don't want to pass (the coronavirus) on to people who would be devastated to get the virus," she said.

Her friend, Karen Eickhoff, who brought her son Colin to the park, said she would use the water features "as long as they are taking proper precautions and cleaning regularly."

Kensington has "Splash n' Blast" which the park's website promotes as "the ultimate relief from the warm, summer sun and loads of fun for the entire family." It includes two 240-foot twisted water slides and a spray ground with palm trees and cannons that spray water.

Colleen Carstens, who was enjoying the afternoon at the park with her 7-year-old son Ronan and 4-year-old twin

daughters Shea and Mave, took the news as a possibly good sign.

"I hope their optimism is on target," Carstens said. "It would be great if that's where we're at with this whole COVID mess."

Still, she said she definitely wouldn't feel safe yet taking her three children to a public pool. Using the splash pad, she said, would depend on how many others were also using it.

"I hate to live life afraid, but we do have to be careful, more careful than before."

Other park changes are coming soon, too:

- Beginning May 15, all Huron-Clinton Metroparks will resume normal tolling operations. Regular daily admission is \$10, or an annual pass is \$40 for access to all 13 parks.

- Park attendance will be limited to 60% of normal parking capacity.

- Access to lakes and rivers will re-

main open with ability to use watercraft normally permitted, including canoes, kayaks, motorboats and sailboats. Boat rental areas will remain closed.

- Park bathrooms are being reopened, but will remain open based on the ability of staff to restock toilet paper, soap and disinfecting supplies. It is recommended that park visitors wear a face mask in public restrooms.

- Interpretive programming is scheduled to restart June 16, but with changes to support social distancing.

- Annual fireworks shows are canceled, as well as all summer concerts through July 4 at Lake St. Clair and Stony Creek metroparks.

For full details of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks' current COVID-19 precautions, visit metroparks.com/march-13-2020-metroparks-implements-covid-19-precautions.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

When will it be safe to hug family, friends again?

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

You want to hug your family and friends and hang out with them again, and not this rude coronavirus, who barged in uninvited, causing chaos, fear, sickness and death worldwide.

But COVID-19 has no plans to leave even when orders imposed to stop the spread of the disease ends. A vaccine to protect against the virus will likely take at least a year to develop.

Will you wait that long to reopen your arms and homes to family and friends? Is it OK if you don't wait?

Ultimately, you will make the call. "You have to use your best judgment," Bill Mullan, spokesman for Oakland County, said. "No one can give a hard date of 'On June 25 or Aug. 1 you can do this.' ... It will be a personal decision based on your circumstances."

That decision, he said, should take into account the vulnerability of parties involved, particularly age and underlying health conditions that can cause more severe impacts to a person who contracts the coronavirus, as well as your own exposure.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's May 18 executive order allows reopening of some bars and restaurants in northern Michigan at half capacity, but the order also states that "subject to some exceptions, all public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring among persons not part of a single household are prohibited."

Some have decided the waiting is over.

Crystal Berens and Karen Eickhoff met up May 13 at Kensington Metropark with their children to bike and enjoy the park together. Berens said she felt safe because the families had been "doing what we're supposed to be doing."

Others are still weighing the risks in a



Ran Heicher hugs his mother, Lori, during the March 31 breakfast and lunch distribution at Novi High School. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

high-stakes game in which each player has their own unique circumstances to consider in making the best move.

Mullan noted the reality is a healthy person can also be a carrier and expose someone else who may go downhill quickly.

Kerry Maiolatesi, 27, was recently visiting Kensington Metropark to do some hiking. She lives with her parents in Howell but hasn't seen older siblings in the past two months. She works in a grocery store.

"I would love to hug my family, but I could be a carrier," Maiolatesi said. "Maybe when I get a few weeks off with hazard pay and isolate myself for a few weeks."

On Mother's Day, Brian and Kathy Durand of Livonia traveled to Kalamazoo to see their son.

Brian, a tinsmith at Detroit Diesel,

and Kathy, a school bus driver, have both been off work for two months, and their son has also been in quarantine. The family watched a movie together on the rainy day, but there was no hugging. Instead, they "elbow bumped."

Brian expected to be called back to work, but said doing so would affect his ability to see his 83-year-old stepfather.

Quin Fletcher, 22, of Royal Oak, lives with his parents, but is only seeing his grandparents outside.

"Hopefully we can see them more in a month or two," he said. "They're real old and we're trying to play it safe. My grandpa's almost 90."

Carolyn Blair saw her mom on Easter as she dropped gifts off on the porch for Blair's young sons, Owen, 7, and Jack, 4.

The kids, who used to see their grandmother four times a week, don't understand.

"It's very hard on the kids," Blair said. "They're also not seeing their friends and they're very confused."

Mullan said age alone is a big risk factor and "if Grandma in addition has other risk factors, you may want to think twice about visiting in person."

On the other hand, if you are working from home and plan to continue to do so, with limited exposure to the public, you pose less of a risk of spreading coronavirus to a relative with a visit.

All of the factors must be weighed, but he said regardless, best practices should still be in place: keeping a distance of six feet, wearing a mask, washing hands with warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds. Those practices should continue, even after the stay-at-home order is lifted.

Whitmer issued her first stay-at-home order two months ago and, after multiple extensions, it is set to end May 28. However, a state economic plan that gives some guidance on reopening of businesses remains vague on personal and social guidelines.

At-risk individuals are advised to shelter in place and others are advised to isolate from those at-risk individuals.

It's not until the final "post-pandemic" phase, in which "community spread is not expected to return, because of sufficient community immunity and availability of treatment," that all restrictions/recommendations on maintaining distance end.

"Staying home is still the safer decision, since COVID is with us until there is a vaccine or a cure," Mullen said. "Certainly we expect people to resume seeing their family, but again, use good judgment. If you are exposed to the public, you may not want to visit Grandma. If you're not, you still need to think about it. ... Evaluate those questions. In the pandemic era, it's better to err on the side of caution."

Traditions continue as farmers market returns



Walt Gajewski
Guest columnist

The Farmington Farmers Market is now officially open, operating every Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the corner of Grand River and Grove Street in downtown Farmington. Let's make that's clear because, well, let's just say that while we banged a drum at our May 16 opening, we didn't tell many people about it.

An insidious virus has driven us behind masks. Things feel and are more hushed as we quietly go about our business before scurrying back inside our homes.

May 16 was a surreal opening in the sense that we are used to grand celebrations when we open: live music, open cooking and people browsing rows upon rows of plants and flowers with a hot coffee in one hand and a Petey's doughnut in the other while kids tug impatiently to find the Little Sprouts corner or to run around in the park.

This opening wasn't like that. We wore masks. There were no plants or flowers or donuts, no children's play area – in fact, no children. The park was closed. Only one member per family was allowed to enter. In other words, it was a far cry from any previous market opening.

But one thing was on full display. While the coronavirus foisted layered restrictions on us, our traditions were clearly evident. Under clear and gloriously wide, blue skies on this sunny Saturday in the middle of May, a resolute rat-a-tat burst from a lone drummer ushered in Mayor Sara Bowman's steadfast welcome. That was followed by the singing of our national anthem – thank you, Rachel Rose, director of Farmington's Thistle Rose Academy of Arts – and the ringing of the market bell – thank you, Miss Farmington, Emma Hahn.

Meanwhile, a solitary, unflinching color guard member – Ray Berry of Farmington's Groves-Walker American Legion Post 346 – stood on the bricks of the market, quietly holding our flag high.

The insidious virus that still weighs on our daily existence and distances us from each other could not wrest our hands from over our hearts as we few stood together in community.

The insidious virus that still weighs on our daily existence and distances us from each other could not wrest our hands from over our hearts as we few stood together in community.

Drummer Zach Desjarlais may have summed it up best. Desjarlais is a 20-something percussion instructor at Farmington High School. On a normal opening day, he would have stood off to the side as a full percussion line followed uniformed veterans parading into the market with our flag held high while community leaders and a sea of vendors, volunteers and visitors cheered them on.

But on this opening day, there was just Desjarlais, who got us cheering with a brief but spirited drum-roll welcome. His exclamation-point finish with a two-handed, hands-over-head, final bang got us all clapping and cheering.

A half-hour later, Desjarlais reappeared. Drums gone, he stopped six feet from me and said: "I just wanted to say that, well, being here today, ... I just feel better about myself. ..."

The farmers market is free and open to the public. On opening day we welcomed more than 500 people. We learned a lot. Last Saturday, the second market day, we opened to plants and flowers and whole families, and more than 1,300 came.

"I think everyone felt safe being at the market," said volunteer coordinator Mary Martin. "Everyone was respectful, courteous and appreciative."

To that I can only add: Welcome to Farmington. Until next time, then and as always, here's saying: See you at the market!

Walt Gajewski is the Farmington Farmers Market manager.



Farmington Schools percussion instructor Zach Desjarlais welcomed visitors to the Farmington Farmers Market's opening day May 16 with an entertaining beat. COURTESY OF WALT GAJEWSKI



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Canton won't fill public safety director post

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Recently-retired Canton Public Safety Director Joshua Meier's office will remain empty for the foreseeable future after the township board of trustees voted to not fill the vacancy immediately.

Meier's salaries and fringe benefits were budgeted to total \$231,822 in 2020, according to Canton Township Director of Finance and Budget Wendy Trumbull.

Meier filed a lawsuit Nov. 7 in Third Circuit Court against Supervisor Pat Williams, Human Resources Manager Korreen Conley, the Board of Trustees and the Merit Commission, claiming the township erred when it reduced his pension from a 2.8 multiplier to a 2.5 multiplier.

A multiplier is the pension formula factor that determines the size of the lifetime annuity a pensioner receives, usually expressed as a percentage of final compensation times years of service, according to governing.com.

The department will move forward under the leadership of Deputy Director of Police Chad Baugh and Deputy Director of Fire Christopher Stoecklein, according to a statement released by the township.

Canton Emergency Management Coordinator Will Hayes has been actively leading Canton's Emergency Response Team and its efforts to keep the Canton community safe and informed during the coronavirus pandemic, the statement added.



Canton Township will do without a public safety director for now. COURTESY OF CANTON TOWNSHIP

"I am not aware of any raises to the individuals taking on additional responsibilities," Trumbull wrote in an email.

Hayes makes daily situation reports, providing details of the pandemic and the township's actions to address the crisis. He is in regular contact and communication with key stakeholders including the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Wayne

County Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Hayes began his career with Canton in 2017 after serving as the deputy special agent in charge from the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, for 29 years.

Stoecklein, a Canton native, began his career with the township's public safety department in 1996 as a public safety service officer and was promoted to firefighter one year later. In 2013, he was selected as the department's deputy fire chief before earning a promotion in 2016 to deputy director of fire.

As deputy director, Stoecklein helped the fire department to become the fourth department in the state to be accredited through the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Baugh has served as deputy director of police since 2016. He began his career with Canton in 1996 as a police officer. He was promoted to sergeant in 2008 and lieutenant in 2014.

As deputy director, Baugh has overseen the development of staff, policy and budget.

"The Canton Public Safety Department remains in fully capable hands," Williams said. "The leadership of Hayes, Stoecklein and Baugh has proven effective and efficient in the recent health crisis facing the community, and will continue in the days and months to come."

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

South Lyon names Livonia admin superintendent

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Steven Archibald is excited to get started as the new superintendent of South Lyon Community Schools, even in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic that has changed the face of education.

"People have said to me, 'It's a crazy time to be taking over,' but it's an exciting time," Archibald said. "Every school district is in a state of flux and uncertainty. ... There is a lot of big work from the beginning, but we will embrace it and it's an exciting opportunity."



Archibald

The South Lyon Board of Education chose Archibald, an assistant superintendent with Livonia Public Schools, as superintendent over its other finalist, Brandon Schools Superintendent Matt Outlaw.

The selection was the culmination of a process that began after Melissa Baker stepped down at the end of

2019 and will be completed with a negotiated contract. The base salary for the position is \$165,000 annually.

Treasurer Craig Dashner said the board received 157 comments from the community during the selection process. Dashner liked that Archibald comes from a larger district than South Lyon, which he felt would help with "stability, relationships and confidence."

"During the site visits, I could feel the emotion, the warmth," Dashner said. "In the end, we had two qualified candidates and it comes down to my gut, and Steve feels like the right person for us."

Secretary Anthony Abbate, a school principal in Livonia, agreed both candidates were "excellent," but chose Archibald, saying the "climate and culture pieces were important."

"Steve lives by the notion if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together," he said. "... We have a good team to get us through this crisis that is coming."

Outlaw had been praised by board members Randy Clark and Daniel Schwegler for his aptitude in helping

Brandon Schools through dire financial straits in the six years he has led that district.

South Lyon, along with all school districts in the state, will face a daunting budget challenge as a result of the pandemic. Reports have suggested 10%-25% or more may be cut from the per pupil state foundation allowance.

South Lyon is going to voters in August with a \$97 million bond for critical infrastructure needs.

The budget, running a successful virtual campaign for the bond, getting "up to speed" with the South Lyon staff and planning for fall are the major priorities right now for Archibald, who comes to South Lyon after a 30-year career in Livonia Public Schools.

Archibald doubts there is a straight path back to traditional education, but of one thing he is sure.

"I am ecstatic for the opportunity to join South Lyon Community Schools as superintendent," he said. "I can't wait to meet with folks face to face and I'm excited to get to work and look forward to what will be a bright and promising future for our district."



Alice Chavdarian spends time with five of her six grandchildren. Chavdarian died March 28 of COVID-19. COURTESY OF THE CHAVDARIAN FAMILY

Plymouth COVID-19 victim part of New York Times tribute

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

How would Alice Chavdarian have reacted to her name being included in a New York Times front-page tribute to COVID-19 victims?

"I bet she'd be so shocked, like, 'Me? Why me? Who am I?'" said Juliette Daniels, a granddaughter of Chavdarian.

Chavdarian died March 28 of COVID-19, alone in a Livonia St. Mary's hospital room. She was one of the first Michigan residents to die from the virus.

In addition to her name and state, Chavdarian's tribute said she was a "loving, generous and adventurous spirit."

Chavdarian's tribute is listed in the second column from the left, about one-third of the way down the page.

New York Times assistant graphics editor Simone

Landon said the tribute "was a way of personalizing the tragedy as readers and staff developed data fatigue from the constant reporting of the pandemic."

According to an article explaining the tribute, Landon led a team of researchers in searching obituaries in hundreds of United States newspapers, including the Plymouth Observer, that listed COVID-19 as the cause of death, and extracting names and key personal details "that depicted the uniqueness of each life lost."

At age 50, when most people are eyeing retirement, Chavdarian attended the University of Michigan to become a teacher. She taught at Plymouth's Bird Elementary, where her students affectionately called her "Mrs. Chav."

"She was a formidable woman," Daniels said. "Even in her death she's making a statement. I'm so proud to be her granddaughter."

ewright@hometownlife.com

Obituaries



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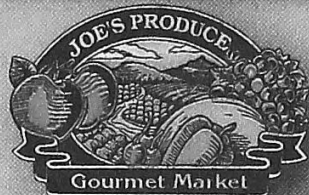
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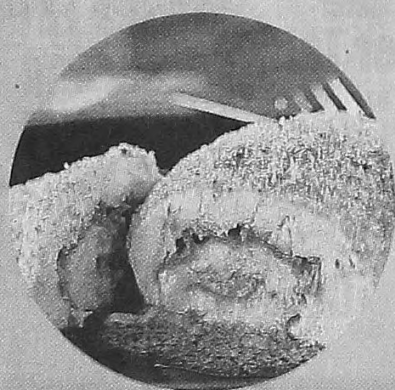
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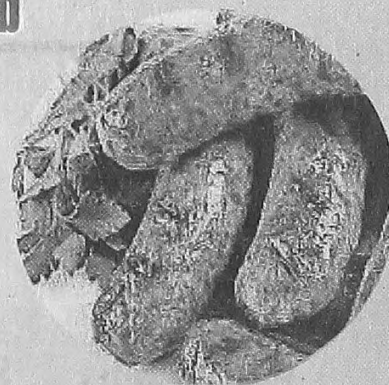
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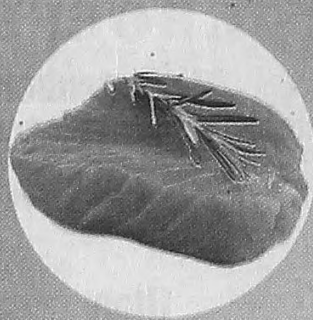


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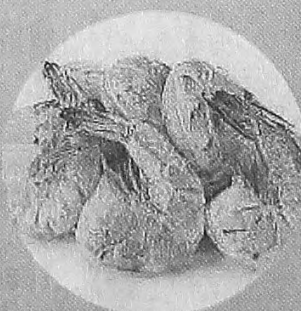


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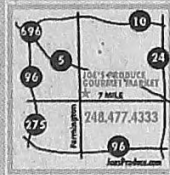
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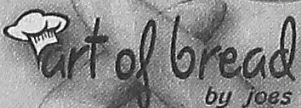
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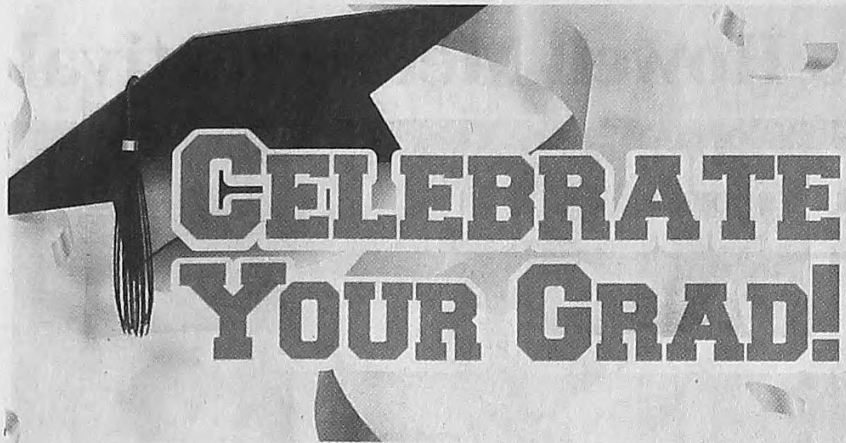
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Sports

Franklin pitcher signs with Eastern Michigan

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Alex Forry has known where he wanted to play college baseball for a long time.

The Livonia Franklin pitcher committed to Eastern Michigan University

back in fall 2018 and officially signed with the Eagles earlier this school year.

Two factors played an important role in his decision to sign with EMU: the team's coaching staff and his family connections to the school.

"They have an amazing group of guys over there, especially the pitching coach A.J. Achter," Forry said. "His knowledge

in pitching from being in the big leagues, I really liked how his knowledge is going to be passed on to me. That was honestly the deciding factor."

Achter had a career 3.92 ERA in the major leagues over a span of 45 games. He played professional baseball 2010-2017, most of which came with the Minnesota Twins organization before brief

stops with the Los Angeles Angels and Detroit Tigers. He totaled 308 games in his career after being drafted out of Michigan State.

Forry hopes to learn extensively from Achter so he can continue to build his game as a top-end starting pitcher.

See **PITCHER**, Page 2B



Trent Farquhar, foreground, watches his brother, Tate, at the plate. Both were in Lakeland's starting lineup during the 2019 season. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRAD FARQUHAR

Brothers forced to find new college homes

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Trent and Tate Farquhar are inseparable.

Even though they may be three years apart, baseball has brought them together. Both were in Lakeland's starting lineup during the 2019 season — Tate hit second, Trent hit third with their dad on the bench as the head coach of the Eagles.

Trent Farquhar graduated from high school after the 2019 season, continuing his baseball career at Bowling Green State University. Tate was not far behind, committing to the Falcons before he was even allowed to directly talk with the coaching staff, per NCAA rules and regulations.

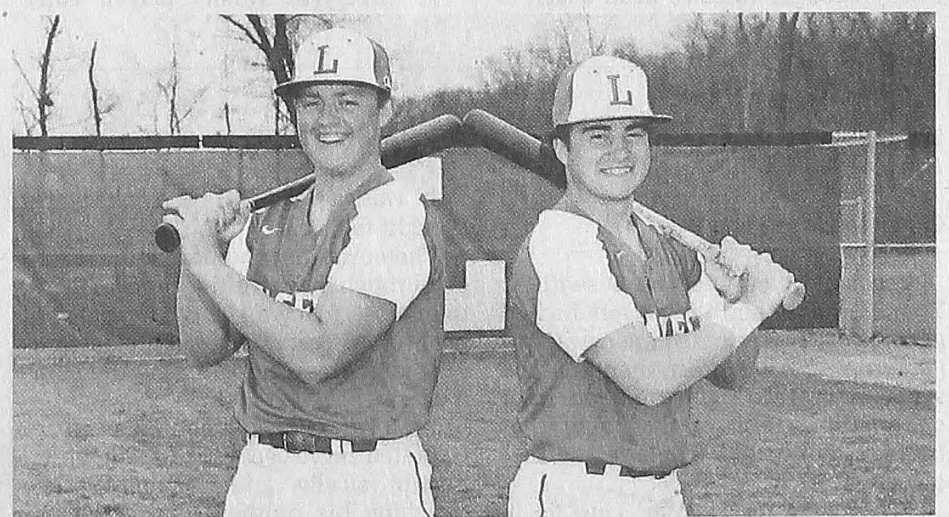
Trent and Tate Farquhar wanted their bond to continue at the college level. But May 15, their plans changed drastically.

Bowling Green announced it is discontinuing its baseball program effective immediately, shaving expenses from the athletic department's budget in a response to the economic losses due to the coronavirus pandemic.

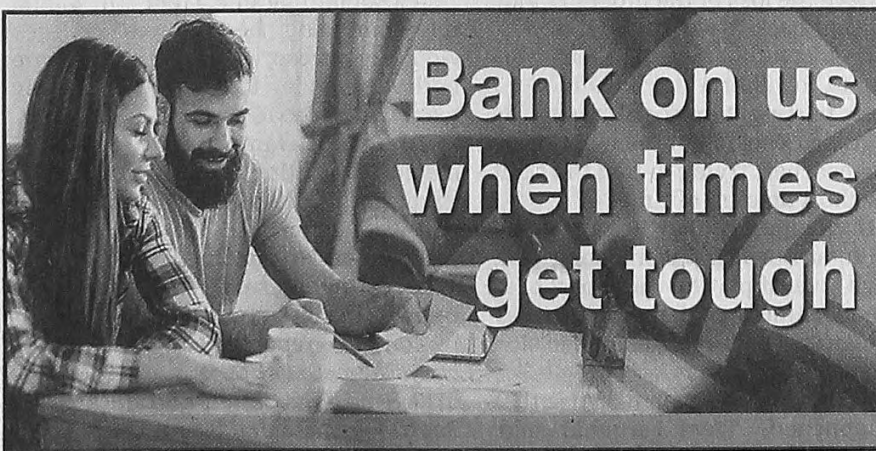
Now Trent Farquhar, after playing part of one season with the Falcons, is forced to find a new college home.

"We were blindsided," Farquhar said. "There had been no talk before. Our coaches hadn't heard anything from the athletic department before. They kind of just brought this out of nowhere."

See **BROTHERS**, Page 2B



The brothers planned to play baseball together at Bowling Green State University, but the school said May 15 it has discontinued its baseball program.



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Virtual race among changes to Howell Melon Festival

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With less than three months before the Howell Melon Festival is scheduled to take place, organizers are working on significant changes to the 60th annual event because of issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the largest changes is that the 43rd annual Howell Melon Run, which had 572 finishers last year, will be conducted as a virtual race.

During the week of Aug. 10, participants can run or walk 3.1 miles and report their times on the registration Web site. The results will be displayed on a leaderboard. The entry fee is \$25, plus a \$2.50 registration fee.

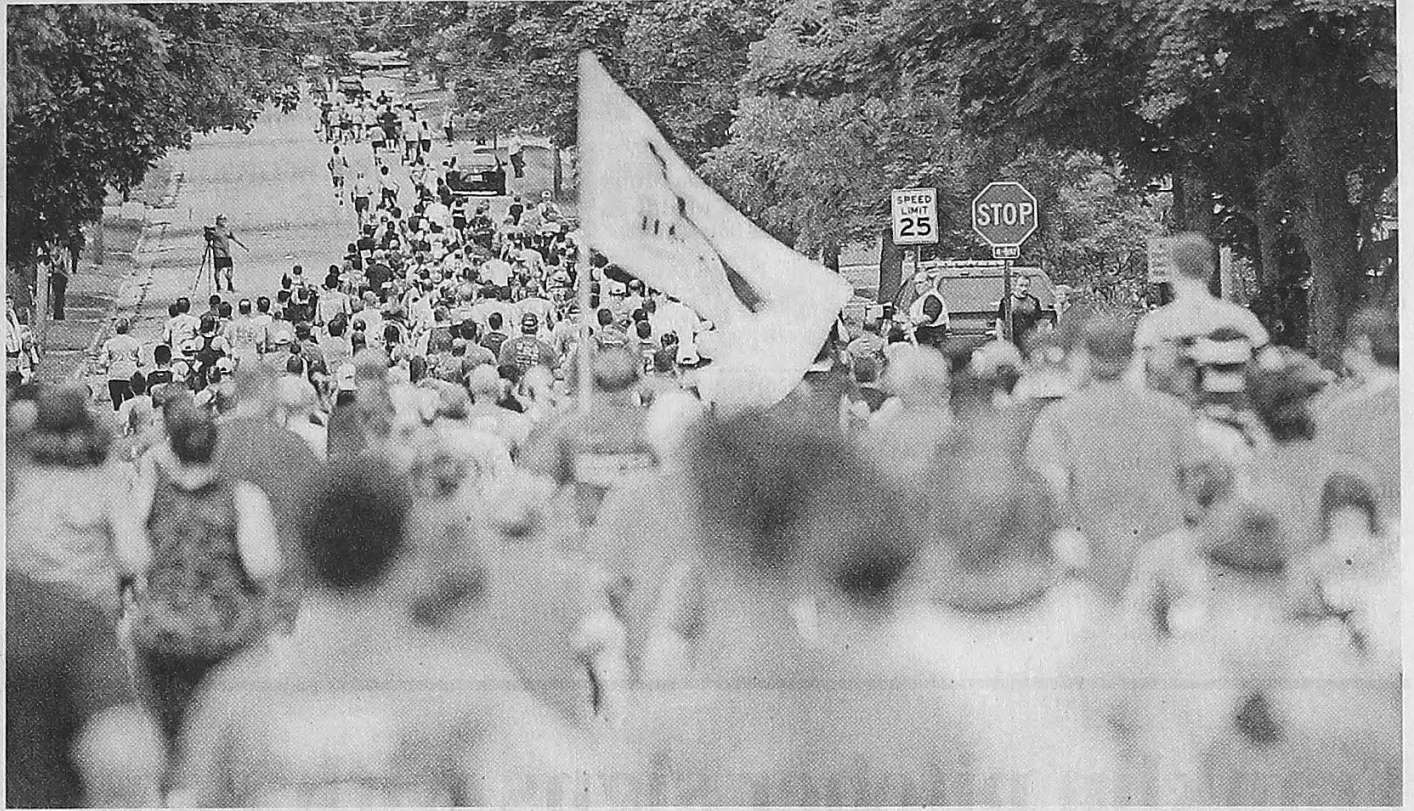
"There are a lot of costs that go into running the 5K and 10K," said Amelia Purdy-Ketchum, special events/festivals coordinator for the Howell Area Parks & Recreation Authority.

"We were looking at the benchmarks in our industry and looking at what other places are doing, trying to make the best decisions for us. It's just so many people. Any social distancing measure we could implement to make it safe would not fit into our footprint. Just the nature of our race didn't make it possible."

The in-person arts and crafts show and inflatable play areas for children have been canceled, with other programs being put on hold for the festival, scheduled for Aug. 13-16.

Potential programs include a drive-in movie or concert, scavenger hunts, and art and baking competitions. Some events will be scheduled throughout August to minimize crowds.

"We're working with community partners that are also interested in sup-



About 600 runners fill Clinton Street near the start of the Howell Melon Run in 2018. This year's race will be virtual.

LIVINGSTON DAILY FILE

porting events like this, talking to the Howell Theater to see what's available, what spaces are good for something like this, how we would keep everyone safe," Purdy-Ketchum said.

Planning the Melon Festival is a year-round project, Purdy-Ketchum said. Making major changes over the period of a few months will be a significant challenge.

"A lot of it is going back to the drawing board with our entertainers and

vendors and seeing if there's creative ways we can offer entertainment for our community this summer," she said. "Yes, it's definitely a big challenge, because we're at home and trying to work together."

Whatever form the Melon Festival eventually takes will look dramatically different than normal. The event attracts an estimated 60,000 people to downtown Howell, Purdy-Ketchum said.

"The weekend of the festival there is not going to be a physical presence mostly," she said. "We're looking at trying to do a food court still for one day. We're working with vendors. It's really hard, because a lot of vendors have called it quits for the summer. Maybe we'll pair food trucks with another event we're doing."

"It's kind of like a whole scramble trying to take everything we're doing and rework it."

Pitcher

Continued from Page 1B

He also is excited to follow the path that his dad took by being a student-athlete at EMU. His dad ran track at the school and had the opportunity to play baseball for the Eagles as well.

"My dad had a chance to play there for baseball but he decided to stick to track and field," Forry said. "It was cool being able to follow in footsteps of being able to play there."

His mom attended EMU too, making it a big Eagles household.

"It's nice fit and opportunity for him to go in and compete for an opportunity to pitch from the get-go," Livonia Franklin head baseball coach Matt Fournier said. "He was interested in playing close to home and pitching in front of friends and family."

Forry made his feelings toward EMU known earlier on in the recruiting process as Division 1 programs took interest in his hard throwing arm. He had offers from EMU and Toledo along with strong interest from Michigan State.

"It was actually very, very hard," Forry said. "When I went on my visit to Toledo, I loved the coaching staff, I liked the program, they were doing really well. They had just put up new facilities and all that. Looking back at it, I'm glad I chose Eastern over Toledo because their coaching staff ended up breaking off. Funny enough, Toledo's head coach is

now a volunteer coach at Eastern."

Forry is known for his high velocity fastball, which typically ranges 88-90 miles per hour. He said he's topped out at 91 officially. He also has a wicked curveball and now throws both a changeup and slider.

"Pitching-wise he's a big, strong, intimidating kid," Fournier said. "When he gets on the mound, when he's locked in, other team's know this is a guy that can throw hard. He's got a very good fastball and a nice curveball, when he gets that over, he's difficult to hit. He's got the velocity that they're looking for at the Division 1 level."

He could also swing the bat, serving as a power-hitter in the middle of Franklin's lineup. When he wasn't on the mound, Forry played in the outfield.

Franklin was supposed to have a core group of seniors that could all pitch this season. Both Fournier and Forry expected it to be one of the best years in recent memory for the Patriots before sports were shut down.

"This was kind of the top of the wave of what we had and had been building toward it knowing we had five seniors arms and two pretty good underclass arms," Fournier said. "We would've been able to run out quite a few arms to pitch, but now we don't have a season. We were expecting Alex to have a pretty good year."

"You can't teach senior leadership on the mound. That's what you work for. They were going to be the big fish."

A three-year varsity player, Forry



Franklin's Alex Forry, foreground, gathers with head baseball coach Matt Fournier and assistant coach Dan Hejka on signing day. COURTESY OF MATT FOURNIER

said this year's senior class was very tight-knit and was excited for what the spring had in store. Luckily for him, he still has a bright future ahead in baseball, but seeing his friends lose out on their final season was a tough pill to swallow.

"It was definitely difficult at first, but I sat down and thought about it and realized that I still have four years of

baseball ahead of me," Forry said. "I was more hurt for the other guys on the team, who this was their final year for sure. That got to me more than my own season being over. I've played ball with those guys for years upon years."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.

Brothers

Continued from Page 1B

The stages of grief were swift as Trent Farquhar and the players he had grown close to processed the news. Anger turned into disappointment that the school and athletic program could not do anything to save the thing that brought him to the school in the first place.

"They were my first offer. I just fell in love with the place when I was down there, talking with the coaches," Farquhar said. "I just knew they would take care of me the best they could when I was down there."

As a father, this was all Brad Farquhar could ask for: find a college program where his son would be treated well and that Trent would be given a chance to succeed.

Throughout his first year with the Falcons, Brad said Trent encouraged his parents constantly that Bowling Green was the best place for him.

"As parents, when you send your kids off to college, that's what you hope for. You hope they are in the right spot, in good hands and happy," Brad Farquhar said. "He was."

Accelerated curve

It was a spot Tate Farquhar also thought felt right.

The current sophomore at Lakeland got through the recruiting process faster than most, following in the footsteps of his brother Trent, visiting him on campus, attending camps during the summer.

Brad Farquhar described it as an accelerated curve because of Trent, growing physically and mentally while watching his brother go through the recruiting process.

The comfort was already there. He knew Bowling Green was where he wanted to be.

"I felt there was a weight off my shoulders," Tate Farquhar said of his early commitment. "I can just focus on playing and having fun and not focused on recruiting this, recruiting that."

While Trent found out during a Zoom call from the Bowling Green coaches and athletic director, Tate heard about the program's elimination from his father right at the start of his advanced placement test.

"I felt really stressed all of a sudden," Tate Farquhar said. "So needless to say, I probably didn't do too well on the test."

Tate's initial college decision came

early, thinking we was set knowing what college jersey he would put on.

And even though he has the time to change it, it does not hurt any less for the soon-to-be junior.

"God has a plan, and I trust that plan," Tate Farquhar said. "Wherever He wants me to land, I'll end up. I wouldn't say it was a blessing in disguise. It could be because that's his plan, but we are going to find out in the next few years."

Up in the air

For Trent, the future is more immediate.

He took just over 24 hours to process and grieve the loss of the program. May 16, he went back to work.

With his father's help, Trent Farquhar put together a training video for colleges, posting it on social media. He spent time researching schools, contacting coaches, trying to find the right fit in a short amount of time.

With the level of play he was introduced to at Bowling Green, along with the high level of play he was a part of at Lakeland, Farquhar believes he can play anywhere and hopes to make a decision in the next month or so.

"It's been a blessing in disguise that this happened," Trent Farquhar said.

"It's great to know that some colleges are interested in me and that I'm going to have a place to play eventually. Don't know where yet, though."

With two seasons left in his high school baseball career, Tate Farquhar is still trying to find the best place academically and financially, a place that he could develop as a player too.

A place like Bowling Green. "BG will always have a special place in my heart because now I think I have to prove myself more," Tate Farquhar said. "I have to find another school to play at."

As for playing in college together, that remains up in the air.

It's something that Trent still wants. It's something he believes colleges would want too, saying that they are both very similar: that both will help any team win baseball games.

To him, he wants to relive that 2019 magic: Tate hitting second, Trent hitting third. Both will have to wait and see if that will happen.

"I'd love to play with him again," Trent Farquhar said. "We'll see what God has in store for us."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

Farmington, North Farmington celebrate virtual signing days

Colin Gay hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Farmington Public Schools set aside time to bring normalcy back to its athletes, honoring seniors that have signed in the spring to play sports at the collegiate level.

In two separate ceremonies over Zoom, North Farmington and Farmington High School honored 17 athletes — five Raiders and 12 Falcons — who will play their respective sports at the next level.

Here is a look at the athletes who signed Thursday.

North Farmington

- Jon Brunette: Kalamazoo College for both football and lacrosse
- Jamal Hayes: Heidelberg University for basketball
- Eddie Lenton: Rochester College for football
- Lyric O'Steen: Alabama State for bowling
- Erin Sanders: Olivet College for swimming

Farmington

- Cameron Sims: Trine University for football
- Myles Hunt: Adrian College for football
- Alan Roberson: Adrian College for football
- Lia Munson: Illinois for swimming
- Maddy Carter: Alma College for swimming and lacrosse
- Nick Schmid: Davenport University for diving
- Brody Jamieson: Wayne State for swimming
- Thomas Brandon: Lawrence Tech for cross country and track
- Jacody Sikora: Grand Valley State for track
- Steve Guerriero: St. Clair Community College for baseball
- Lorren Pauch: Oakland Community College for volleyball

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.



Farmington's Jacody Sikora signed to join the track team at Grand Valley State in an online ceremony May 14. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Young Livonia lacrosse program stays strong

Andrew Vaillencourt
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia United girls lacrosse team was supposed to be defending its KLAA East Division title right now.

Instead, the young program is hoping it can keep its momentum going until the 2021 season.

Livonia United is in just its second year as a program. The varsity squad secured a winning record in its first ever season and drummed up enough excitement to nearly double the number of girls who signed up to play this spring, from 23 to 41.

That big boost was enough for varsity coach Chris Merucci to form a JV team. He made the final decision just one day before Michigan high school sports were shut down for the rest of the school year.

"We worked our tails off all fall and winter long to really promote the program and provide a lot of exposure," Merucci said. "The girls put in a lot of work, whether it was lunch tables at each school, passing out materials and informational stuff, Facebook pages and all that stuff."

Merucci also owns the Michigan Lacrosse Company, a lacrosse store and training facility, and runs the Triumph Lacrosse Club. He said lacrosse is his entire life, both personally and professionally.

The loss of this season has hit him hard, but knew his focus needed to be on his girls.

"It was incredibly difficult at first, it was like grieving a great loss," Merucci said. "It was very tough, but the most important thing for me was understanding the impact it would have on the girls. It was up to me to help them stay positive and be there for them."

He gave his team journals, set up zoom chats and even a team trivia night to keep everyone involved.

Tuesday's plan was to surprise his senior class with a caravan to each senior's house to deliver care packages, yard signs and to recognize each student. Cars were decorated and some closure to the season that never was, was to be given.

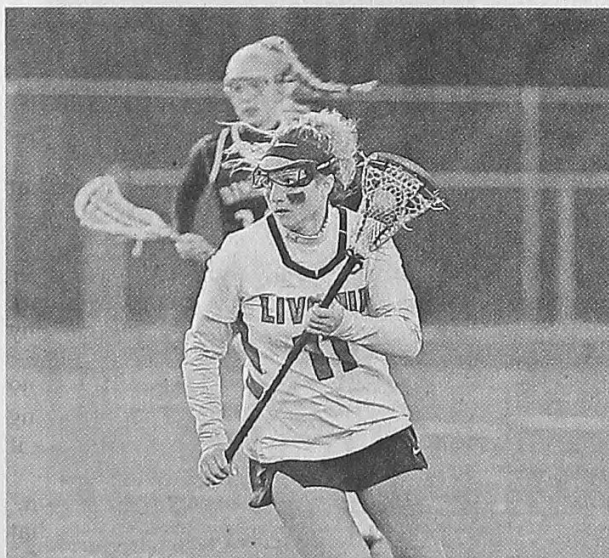
This year's team would have been the final high school season for star Maddy Champagne, who set records last season on the field and has committed to Grand Valley State to continue her lacrosse career.

"The opportunity to watch her play for another season has been ripped from a lot of people," Merucci said. "That would've been a special year, just like last season for her and the team."

The team plays at Livonia Stevenson High School, which has a new turf field. Merucci said the squad was looking forward to getting out there and playing on the new surface. Instead, that will have to wait until next year.

Despite being such a young program, Merucci says he doesn't think losing a season will hurt the program in the long run. He said there are a number of talented freshmen and 8th graders that have expressed interest in playing high school lacrosse. If anything, he sees the program growing in 2021.

"The true impact, if there is one, will not be seen until next winter or early spring," Merucci said.



Livonia United's Maddy Champagne and her teammates would have been defending their title if the coronavirus pandemic hadn't put a stop to sports. COURTESY OF MADDY CHAMPAGNE

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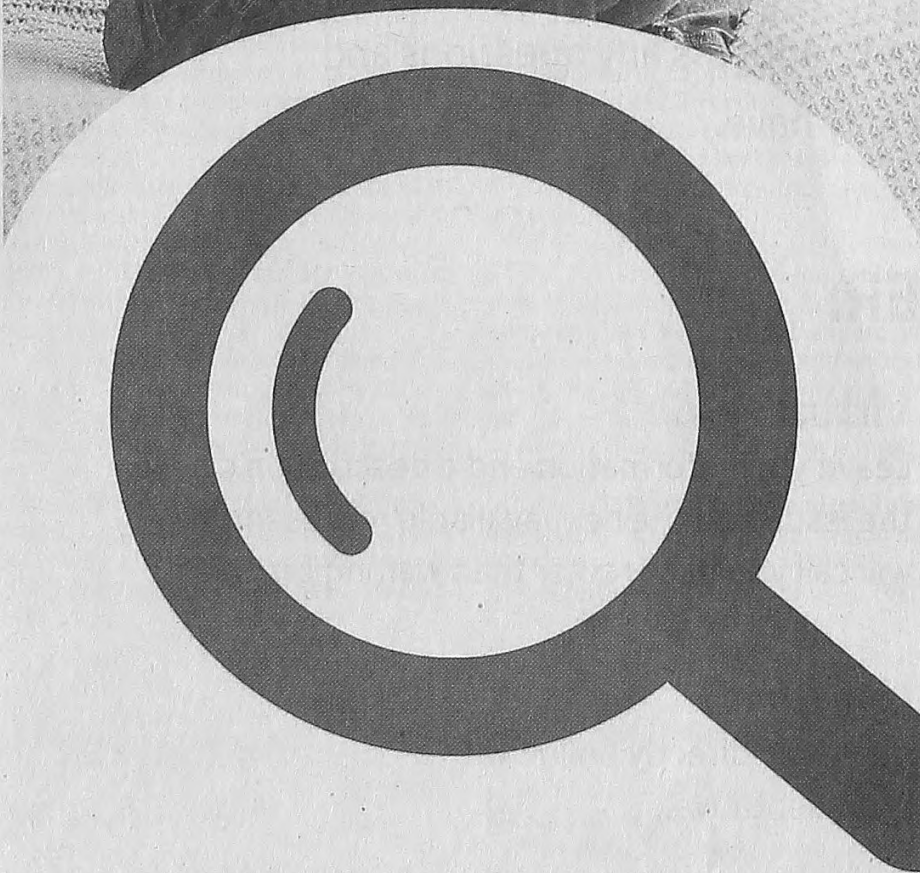
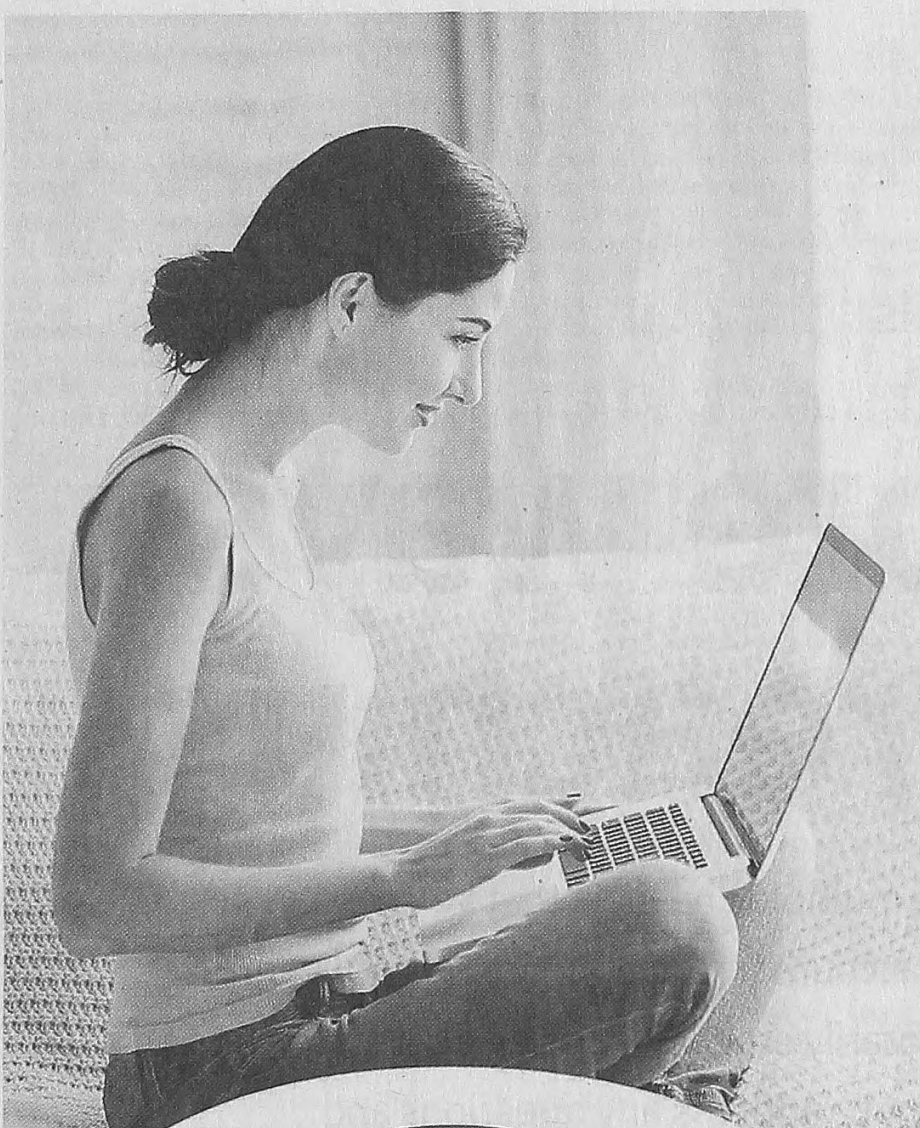
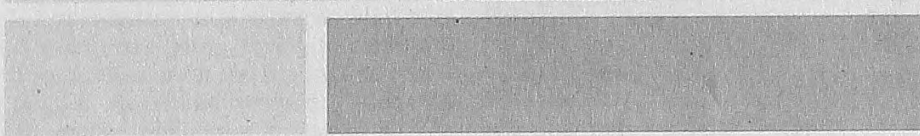
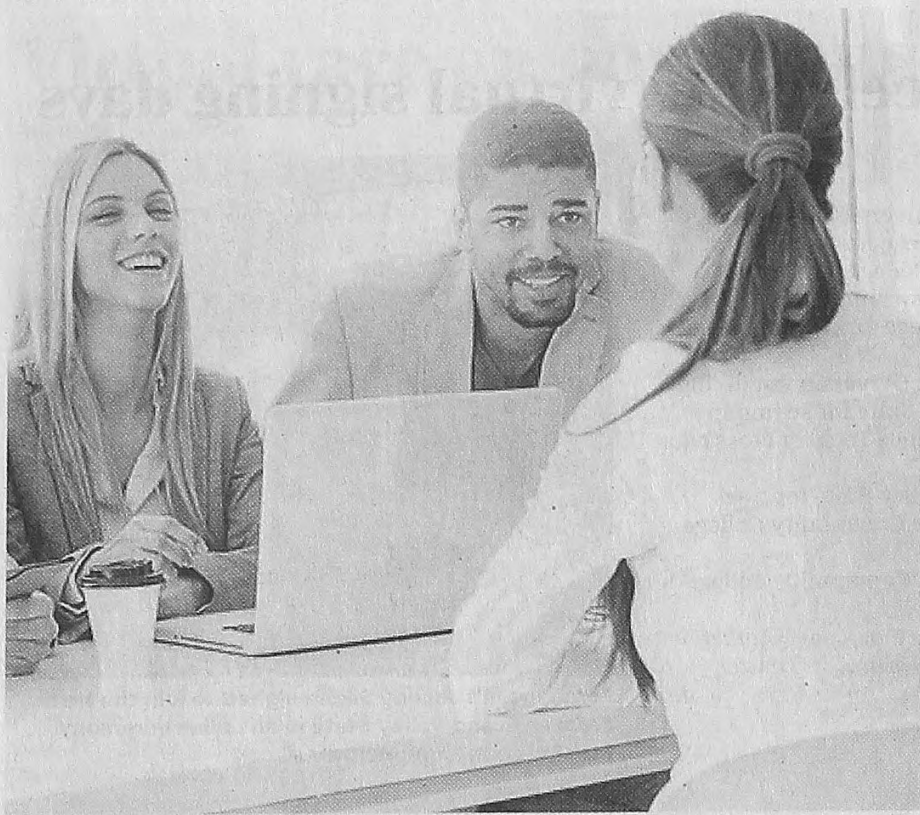


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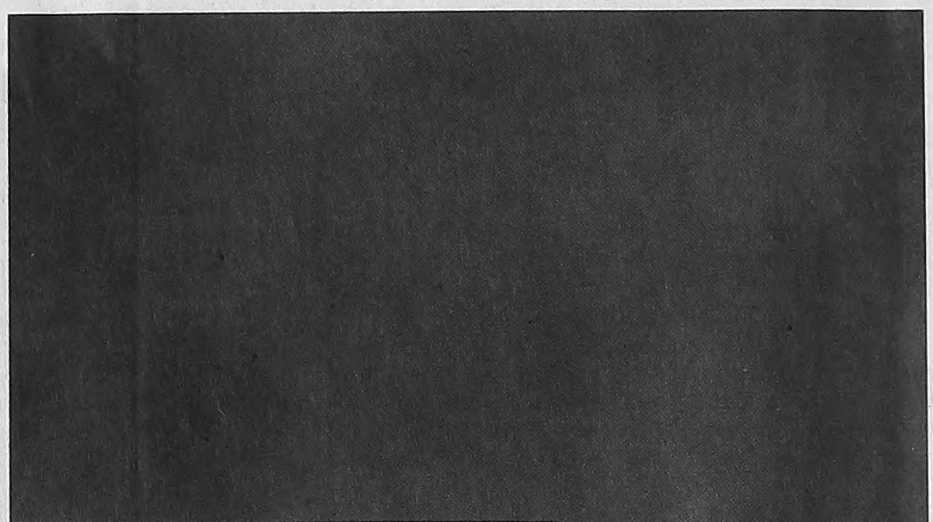
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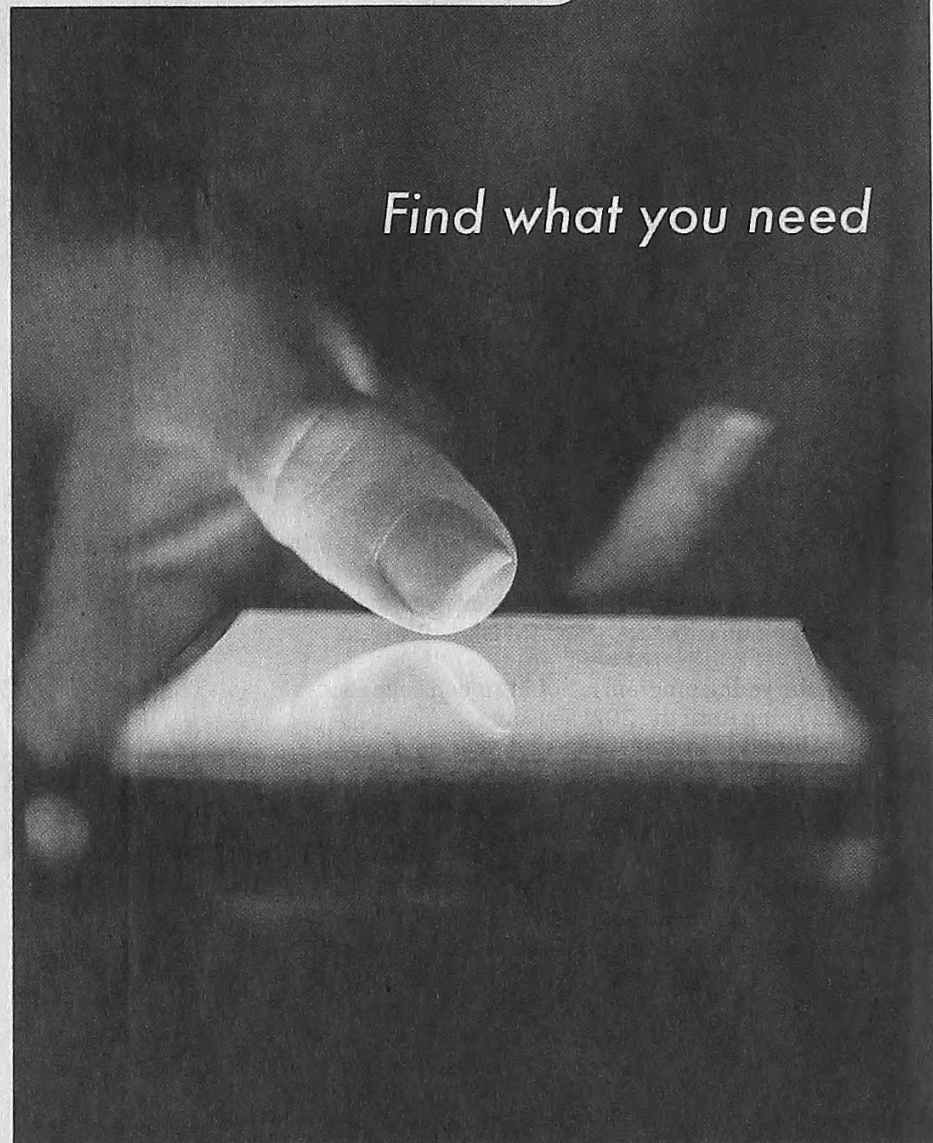
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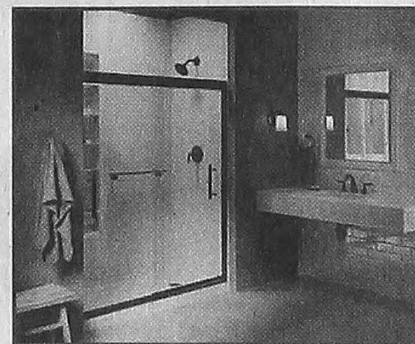


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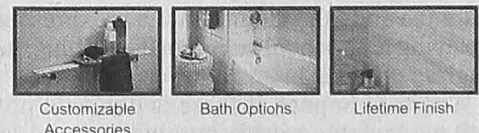
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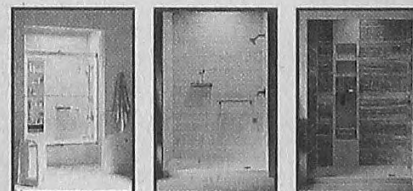
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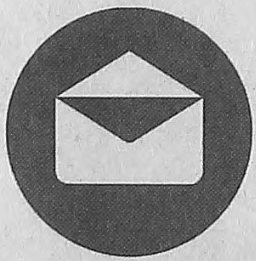
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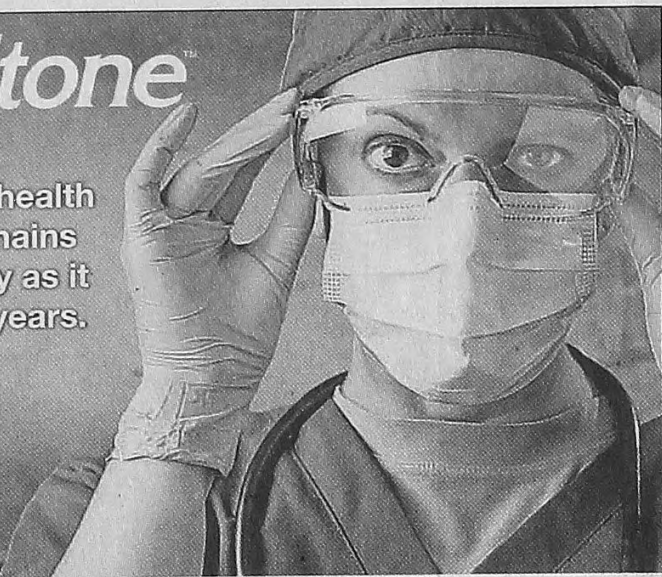
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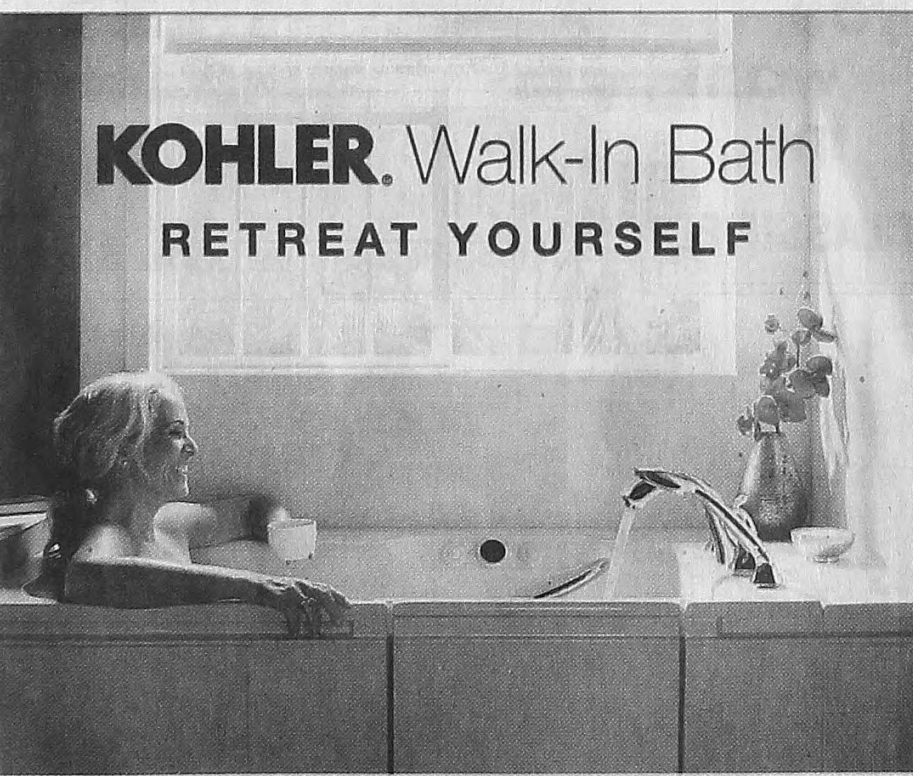
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Engineering & IT

American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc. has openings for **Analytical Engineer - NVH** at its facility in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

Job duties include:

1. Develop CAE (Computer-Aided Engineering) models based on CAD models such as NX/Unigraphics models, by using FEA (Finite Element Analysis), MBD (Multi-Body Dynamics), and other CAE tools, including Matlab/Simulink and ADAMS, for electric and hybrid vehicle driveline systems.
2. Perform automotive driveline system dynamics, kinematics and acoustics simulations to identify NVH risks that are related to gear train systems.
3. Perform design iterations and optimization studies to identify best design solutions to meet internal and customer requirements.
4. Correlate CAE model results to vehicle and job data.
5. Assist NVH project engineers in reviewing customer technical specifications relative to NVH performance and CAE modeling needs.
6. Develop new NVH CAE modeling methodologies and new procedures that are related to development of driveline products.
7. Create and present analytical reports that are related to Driveline system NVH performances to internal and external customers.

Position requires:

- Master's Degree in Electric-Drive Vehicle Engineering, or Mechanical Engineering, or foreign equivalent education, and 6 months experience in Automotive Engineering.
- 6 months of experience is required in the following:
 1. Working with modeling and simulation of electric and hybrid vehicles
 2. Working with Dynamics tools including Matlab/Simulink
 3. Working with automotive gear train systems
 4. Simulation of vehicle gear train system dynamics
 5. Working with control theory of electrical vehicles
 6. Working with CAD software including NX/Unigraphics

Experience may be obtained concurrently.

Applicants should apply on line at AAM.com/careers and reference job ID # 185863.

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Engineering & IT

American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc. has openings for **Senior Casting Simulation Engineers** at its facility in Detroit, Michigan.

Job duties include:

1. Using casting simulation tools such as MAGMASoft or Flow3D to setup correct models for HPDC and gravity casting process.
2. Analyzing solidification and flow results for aluminum alloy and cast-iron casting products in different stages, including casting design, tooling design, floor try out and production follow up.
3. Working with cross-function groups to design castings meet both structure performance and manufacture targets.
4. Working with interior/exterior casting suppliers to develop best performance gating and cooling tooling systems in order to avoid defects like porosity, misrun, soldering, cold flow and distortion.
5. Analyzing materials and floor data to find root cause of casting defects and using casting simulation results to provide accurate suggestions which can solve casting issues.
6. Writing technical reports and presenting casting simulation results to internal and external customers.

Position requires: Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Materials Engineering, Engineering Technology, or a related engineering discipline, or foreign equivalent education, and 6 months experience in the casting engineering field. 6 months experience is required in each of the following:

1. using MAGMASoft casting simulation tool to analyze solidification or Flow3D to analyze metal flow;
2. analyzing metal casting processes, including HPDC and gravity casting;
3. designing casting tooling process, including gating, runner, overflow and riser;
4. analyzing and solving casting defects like porosity and soldering;
5. enhancing the properties of metal by using different techniques, including heat treatment, grain refinement;
6. improving casting process, and modifying die lube chemical components to achieve better die life

Experience may be obtained concurrently.

Applicants should apply on line at AAM.com and reference job ID # JREQ-185862.

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Engineering & IT

American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc. has openings for **Senior Application Engineers** at its facility in Detroit, Michigan.

Job duties include:

- Overall design and application engineering, from concept design through full manufacturing launch, of driveline and powertrain products including axles, Power Transfer Units (PTU) and Rear Drive Units (RDU);
- Developing analytical design validation plan and working with CAE, gear, validation and NVH engineering teams to ensure that axles, PTU and RDU meet all requirements;
- Performing tolerance stack-up analyses to meet composite flange runout (CFRO), backlash, customer interface points and electronic actuator integration;
- Working with component engineering and suppliers on the design of cast housings, plastic molded components, bolted joints, seals and gaskets leading to Production Part Approval Process (PPAP);
- Working with manufacturing engineering to design for assembly and manufacturing, and specifying component and assembly GD&T for gasing feasibility.

Position requires: Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, or foreign equivalent education, and 5 years post baccalaureate progressive experience working in the automotive industry. 5 years of experience is required in each of the following:

1. Full cycle product launch from concept design to start of production for driveline or powertrain products;
2. Design and application of cast or molded components, bolted joints, seals and gaskets;
3. Root cause analysis and resolution of lab test and vehicle durability issues;
4. Working with product and component suppliers on technical reviews leading to PPAP.

Experience may be obtained concurrently.

Applicants should apply on line at AAM.com and reference job id # JREQ-185860.

Find what you want in CLASSIFIED!

Engineering & IT

American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc. has openings for **Technical Manager Embedded Software Engineering** at its Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), located in Detroit, Michigan.

Job duties include:

- 1) Define the technical criteria for Software Architecture, Detailed Design, Unit Construction and Testing in accordance with company software roadmap.
- 2) Embedded software development using Assembly/MISRA C/Simulink/Stateflow/Embedded Coder and AUTOSAR for 16 or 32-bit microcontroller for automotive driveline systems including locking differential, transfer case, and torque transfer differential.
- 3) Analysis, design and implementation of software requirements including diagnostics specification such as UDS/KWP/GMLAN standards using GENY, CANdela studio and ISOLAR A and B.
- 4) Develop embedded software build environment using Cosmic or Hightec compiler.
- 5) Troubleshooting of software algorithms and low-level drivers using Zap, CANape, CANoe, Vehicle Spy, In-circuit emulator and Oscilloscope.

Position requires: Bachelor's Degree in Electronic or Electrical Engineering, or foreign equivalent education, and 5 years of post-baccalaureate progressive experience working in the embedded software development field. 5 years of experience is required in each of the following:

1. Developing embedded software using MISRA C, Assembly programming language, Simulink, Stateflow and Embedded Coder for 16 or 32-bit microcontroller.
2. Embedded software development including requirements analysis, design, implementation, and testing of automotive driveline systems including locking differential, transfer case, and torque transfer differential.
3. Developing vehicle diagnostics software per UDS/KWP/GMLAN using GENY and CANdela studio with Cosmic/Hightec compiler.
4. Debugging of embedded software using tools including Zap, CANape, CANoe, Vehicle Spy, In-circuit emulator and Oscilloscope.

Experience may be obtained concurrently.

Applicants should apply on line at AAM.com/careers and reference job ID # JREQ-185871

We can sell it in CLASSIFIED!

Engineering & IT

Sr. RF Engineer for Farmington Hills, MI to design, analyze & verify automotive Radio Frequency (RF) equipment; develop & validate products; perform worst-case analysis & DFMEA; generate electrical schematics & Printed Circuit Board layouts; support system integration testing at vehicle level; predict part reliability; support continuous improvement activities; mentor junior engineers. Requires Bachelor's in Electrical, Electronics, or Electronics & Telecommunications Engineering or a closely-related field and 3 yrs experience designing, analyzing & verifying automotive RF equipment in compliance with FCC homologation regulations & performing root-cause analysis for automotive RF design. Mail resume to: Bridgett Steele, Huf North America Automotive Parts Manufacturing, Corp., 24860 Hathaway St, Farmington Hills, MI 48335



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ACROSS

- 1 Classic Pabst beer, brand
- 7 Place for hay or a choir
- 11 Facial mask offerers
- 15 Barter
- 19 Retort to "Am so!"
- 20 "La Traviata" solo, say
- 21 Many a smartphone message
- 22 By way of, for short
- 23 He played V in "V for Vendetta" [sci-fi writing]
- 25 Domain
- 26 German "a"
- 27 The, in Tours
- 28 Tamish
- 29 Galahad's title
- 30 Tina of pop
- 32 Mogadishu resident
- 33 "Rags to Riches" singer [Broadway]
- 35 Capital of Italy, in Italy
- 38 Golfers' positions
- 40 Built on
- 41 Jungian inner self

- 43 Stallion, e.g.
- 44 Yellow shade
- 46 "Little Birds" actress [Canadian music]
- 49 Longtime member of the Four Tops [off-Broadway]
- 54 Fred dancing in films
- 55 Tile locale
- 57 Fly of Africa
- 58 Rice dish
- 61 Walton who wrote "The Compleat Angler"
- 63 Leaves port
- 64 Rub roughly
- 68 Ventriloquist with the dummy
- 71 Horse pace
- 72 "Incredible!"
- 74 Delight in
- 75 Bus stop
- 77 She's asked to "peel me a grape" in film
- 79 Call to a pig
- 81 1982 Dustin Hoffman film
- 86 "Shameless" actress [television]

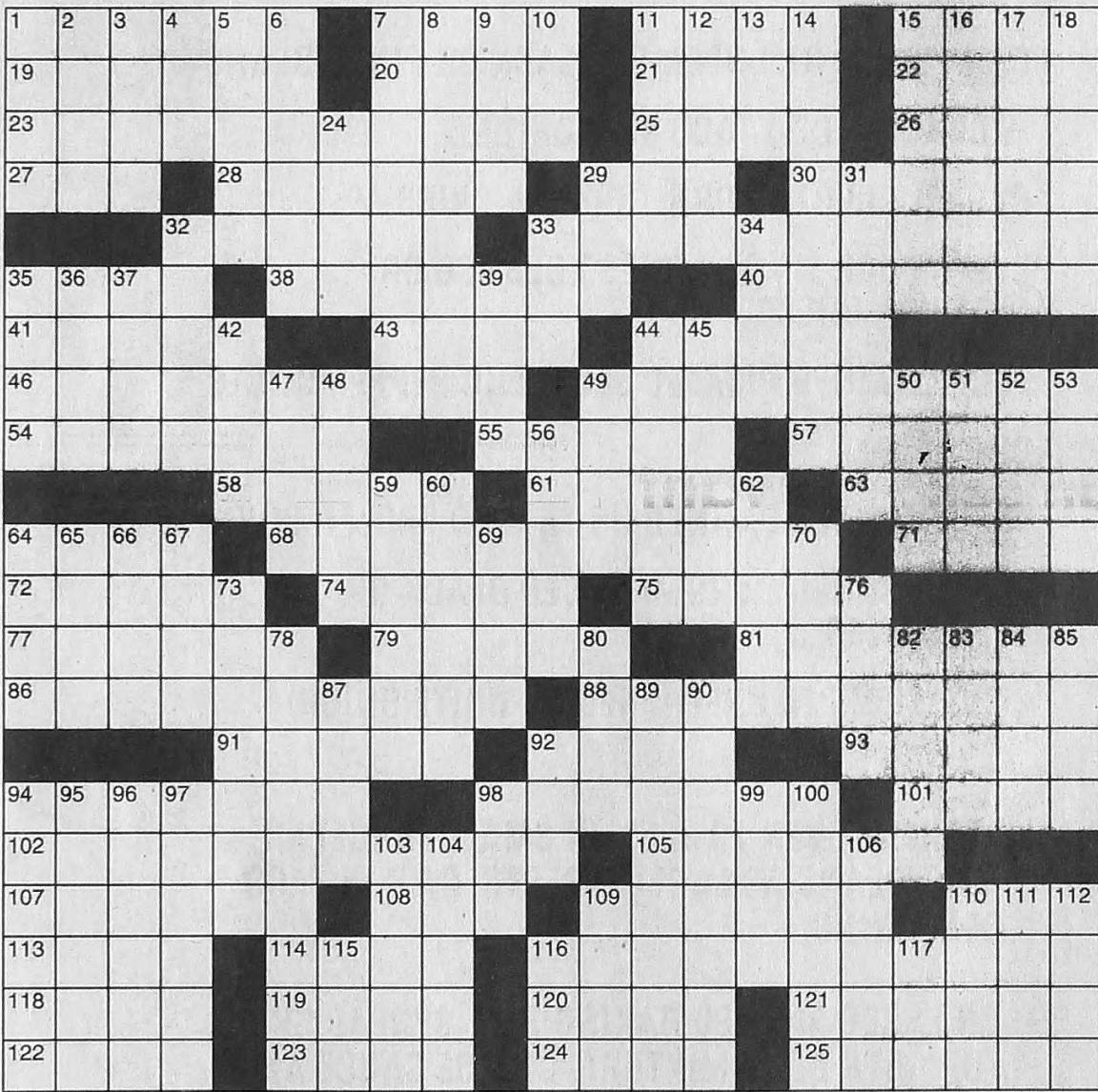
- 88 "The Picture of Dorian Gray" novelist [film]
- 91 Panache
- 92 La — Tar Pits
- 93 "The Piano" actor Sam
- 94 Remits in advance
- 98 Kids' racers on tracks
- 101 Lyric verses
- 102 American labor leader [French film]
- 105 Verbalized
- 107 Go- (no slouch)
- 108 Cager's hoop
- 109 Went flat
- 110 Be in arrears
- 113 Blind as —
- 114 Uncork, e.g.
- 116 What any of the eight people featured in this puzzle should be?
- 118 Dust particle
- 119 Blu-ray Disc producer
- 120 Work benefit
- 121 Puts into law
- 122 Squeezed (out)
- 123 Circus barker
- 124 Actress
- 125 Least refined

DOWN

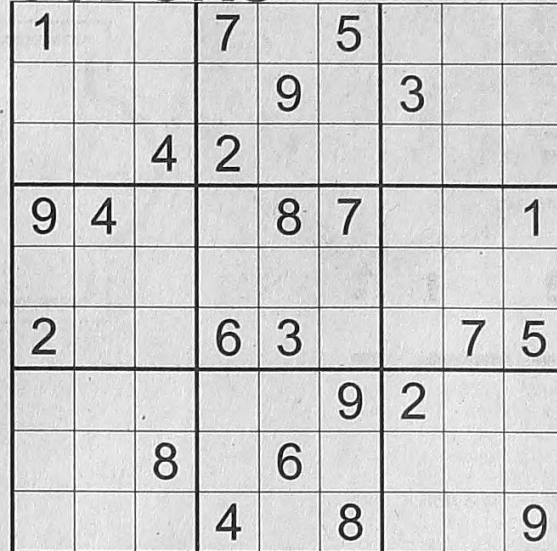
- 1 Witty Mort
- 2 Like facts
- 3 Rules, for short
- 4 1969 Beatle bride Yoko
- 5 "— I love thee?"
- 6 Cooks, as asparagus
- 7 Kitschy
- 1960s light
- 8 First
- 9 High-quality
- 10 Gift label
- 11 Tamish
- 12 "Firework" singer Katy
- 13 Tree toppler
- 14 Governor's fiscal concern
- 15 "Tristram Shandy" author
- Laurence
- 16 Complained childishly
- 17 Actor Will of "30 Rock"
- 18 — Rico
- 24 Amo, amas, —
- 29 Distress call
- 31 Strip down
- 32 Island group near Fiji
- 33 Summer shirt
- 34 Tiny toddler
- 35 Indian royal
- 36 Big burden

- 37 Breath freshener
- 39 Treble —
- 42 "Take — from me"
- 44 On the train, e.g.
- 45 Illusion on a hot road
- 47 Sandusky's lake
- 48 Merges
- 49 Seep out
- 50 In good order
- 51 Move a bit
- 52 Capital of Norway
- 53 Sticky home?
- 56 Cuba — (rum cocktail)
- 59 Tennis champ Andre
- 60 Courteous act, to a Brit
- 62 — secret (didn't blab)
- 64 Judge's wear
- 65 "Pardon me"
- 66 Done the backstroke, e.g.
- 67 Prefix with 104-Down
- 69 House unit
- 70 Jordanian queen
- dowager
- 73 Major combat
- 76 Word before hall or crier
- 78 Jesuit college in Worcester

- 80 Part of NYSE
- 82 Attach with laces, say
- 83 Lost traction on the ice
- 84 Waste time
- 85 Bioelectric fishes
- 87 Tiara go-with
- 89 Five-armed echinoderms
- 90 Lots to leave autos in, to Brits
- 92 "Lowdown" singer
- 94 World of Warcraft, e.g.
- 95 Nike rival
- 96 Grand home
- 97 Touched comfortably
- 98 Jewel
- 99 Blabbed
- 100 Meat sticker
- 103 Boxing venue
- 104 Plastic for a waterbed
- 106 Suburb of Minneapolis
- 109 —"Pea"
- 110 In time past
- 111 Makes moist
- 112 Word before while
- 115 "The Raven" poet
- 116 Inclined
- 117 Rustic denial



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!

HURRICANE WORD SEARCH

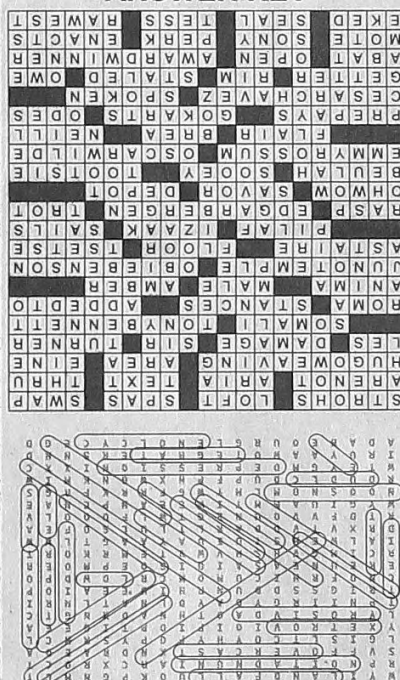
W Y I L A N D F A L L U O K P G N M C T
R P N O I T A D N U N I A R C X R O C T
S V F F O V E R C A S T X N D R A E D A
L G I S L T C O Y H Y F O P Y S R H C L
Y X E T R O V I O I F I O P T I G E E A
L Y R O S I V D A O T H N A D H N G T C
T P N I I R G Y O A Y D L N A T L N R I
T R I G S S D D U N R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

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

WORDS

- ADVISORY CENTER
- CIRCULATION
- CLOUD
- COASTAL
- CYCLONE
- DEPRESSION
- DIRECT
- EVACUATION
- EYE
- FLOODING
- GALE
- INDIRECT
- INUNDATION
- LANDFALL
- LOW
- MONSOON
- MOVEMENT
- OVERCAST
- REPORT
- SEASON
- SHELTER
- SURGE
- TARGET
- TRACK
- TROPICAL
- TROUGH
- VORTEX
- WALL
- WARNING
- WAVES
- WEATHER
- WINDS

ANSWER KEY

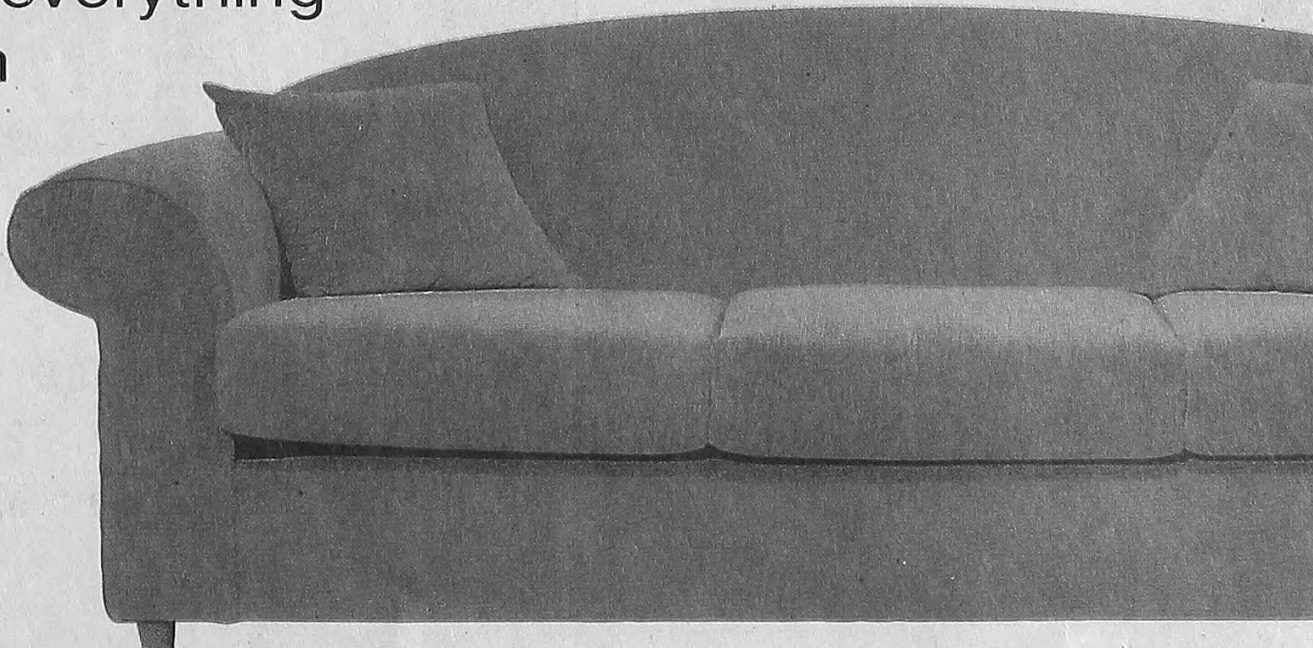


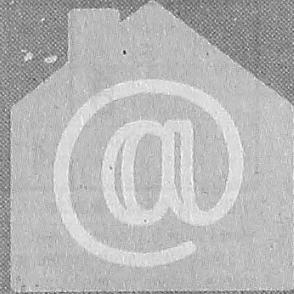
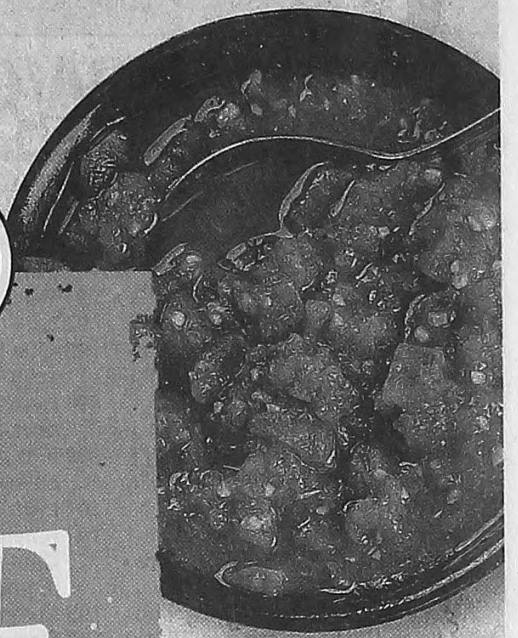
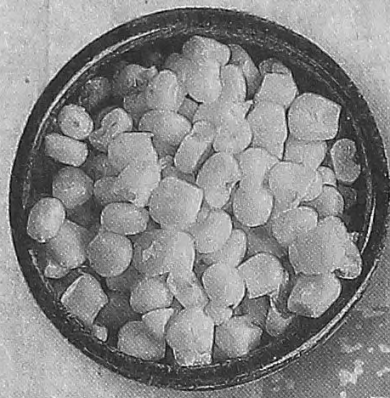
6	9	1	8	7	4	9	2	3
3	4	7	2	9	1	8	6	9
9	8	2	6	9	3	7	1	4
5	7	6	4	3	9	1	8	2
8	3	4	1	2	6	9	7	9
1	2	9	7	8	5	3	4	6
7	6	9	3	1	2	4	9	8
1	4	3	9	6	8	2	9	7
2	6	8	9	5	4	7	3	6

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

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@ HOME

Pantry Sheet Pan Nachos



PREP: 15 MIN BAKE: 5 MIN SERVES: 8

1 CAN (15 - 16 OZ.) REFRIED BLACK OR PINTO BEANS

1 PACKAGE (1 OZ.) TACO SEASONING

1 BAG (11 - 13 OZ.) CORN TORTILLA CHIPS

1 CAN OR JAR (15 OZ.) QUESO BLANCO OR SALSA CON QUESO

1/3 CUP DRAINED PICKLED JALAPEÑO PEPPER SLICES

1 CUP SALSA

1/3 CUP DRAINED CANNED OR THAWED FROZEN CORN

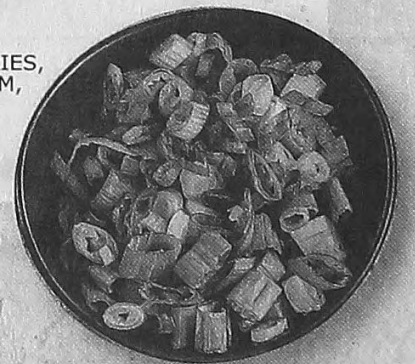
1/4 CUP DRAINED CANNED SLICED BLACK OR GREEN OLIVES

1/4 CUP CHOPPED GREEN, RED OR WHITE ONION

1. PREHEAT OVEN TO 325°. IN SMALL SAUCEPAN, HEAT BEANS AS LABEL DIRECTS; STIR IN TACO SEASONING.

2. ON LARGE RIMMED BAKING PAN, SPREAD CHIPS; TOP WITH BEAN MIXTURE, CHEESE SAUCE AND JALAPEÑOS. BAKE 5 MINUTES OR UNTIL HEATED THROUGH; TOP WITH REMAINING INGREDIENTS AND SERVE IMMEDIATELY.

APPROXIMATE NUTRITIONAL VALUES PER SERVING: 359 CALORIES, 17G FAT (4G SATURATED), 8MG CHOLESTEROL, 1491MG SODIUM, 45G CARBOHYDRATES, 6G FIBER, 3G SUGARS, 1G ADDED SUGARS, 8G PROTEIN



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