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VILLE **INRECORD**

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Northville Downs site plan hits speed bump

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The meticulous process of changing the landscape of an entire city was evident earlier this month when the Northville Planning Commission tabled Hunter Pasteur's planned unit development (PUD) and preliminary site plan application regarding the possible transformation of the current Northville Downs property.

The Downs, a mixed-use project that, if ultimately approved as proposed, will feature approximately 50 single-family homes, 180 town homes, 300 multifamily apartments and over 18,000 square feet of commercial space, was

deemed PUD-eligible at the planning commission's April 16 meeting - despite marked opposition from residents.

However, gaining approval for a preliminary site plan is a much more demanding challenge for developers.

"Essentially, the commissioners weren't satisfied with (Hunter Pasteur's) plan," said Northville City Planner Sally Elmiger. "They were concerned that the plan wasn't unique to Northville's distinct character.

"There is also concern about traffic and the proposed density of the plan, among other things."

See SITE PLAN, Page 2A



Go bananas over new Northville juice bar

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Robert Kasgorgis decided he would move his business to a healthier option in recent years.

Gone are the 10 Domino's Pizza franchise locations he owned across the state. He enjoyed them but felt he wanted something different, especially as dining trends began to shift.

Today, he and his partner, Jason Najor, have opened a franchise of Beyond Juicery + Eatery, smoothie and sandwich joint, in Northville Township, and are excited at the prospect of opening more.

"I was at Domino's for 10 years, and I see a trend: people eating healthier," he said. "And then I visited Beyond Juice at Somerset (Collection in Troy), one of their flagship stores, and I was mesmerized. Just mesmerized by how clean everything was and how fresh everything was, how good everything was for you."

Novi native Lauren Harrington, left, and her boyfriend, Daniel Thakur, are cycling from Maine to the west coast this summer. They stopped in Novi on May 28. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Novi graduate cycles across North America

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lauren Harrington and Daniel Thakur are giving new meaning to winging it.

The couple are in the midst of bicycling 4,400 miles across the country, in unpredictable weather, on unknown roads, often without a plan for knowing where they will stay the night after cycling up to 60 miles during the day.

"Pedaling is far from the biggest challenge," Thakur, a Pittsburgh native, said during a recent stop in Novi, where Harrington's family lives. "It's finding a place to sleep as we go."

The pair took off May 3 from Bar Harbor, Maine, and covered about 1,300 miles before arriving in Michigan three and a half weeks later for a weeklong break to see Harrington's sister graduate from Novi High School. Harrington is a 2013 graduate of Novi High.

It was a change from what came before - stays with kind strangers who host bicyclists through the "Warm Showers" app, less conventional accommodations at fire stations and churches, and even some public parks, where Harrington and Thakur camp out in a tent.

They carry the small tent in saddle bags on their bikes, along with their

See CYCLING, Page 11A

The shop at 20450 Haggerty in the shopping center just south of Eight Mile opened June 5, marking the Madison Heights-based company's first shop in Detroit's western suburbs.

Beyond Juicery + Eatery originally launched more than 10 years ago in downtown Birmingham and has stores in Bloomfield Township, Southfield and at Eastern Market in Detroit. It occupies the space formerly occupied by Schakolad Chocolate Factory.

The shop offers a wide range of healthy options, including smoothies made from fresh ingredients such as kale, spinach, strawberry, banana, honey and lime. Raw juices are made from cucumbers, celery, pineapple, orange and turmeric. Salads and wraps are created with fresh chicken, romaine lettuce and more.

"We use as much organic as possible," Kasgorgis said. "And we always source as much as we can from Michigan. We try to get everything grown locally if possible."

The Northville Township shop won't be the last for the pair: Kasgorgis said he plans to open another one at the former Starbucks building on Orchard Lake Road between 14 Mile and Maple later this summer, and hopes to open eight additional stores across southeast Michigan.

See JUICE BAR, Page 12A

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Volume 149 | No. 46 Home delivery pricing inside 02019





Hines Drive bridges reopen after year of repairs

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Four bridges on Hines Drive in Plymouth have been closed for more than a year. It appears the wait is over as two of them reopened June 10 and the other two are expected to reopen near the end of July.

One of the open bridges is near east Interstate 275 and the other is between Haggerty Road and Woods Drive.

All four structures received reinforcing steel beams and columns to support the concrete. The repairs are expected to keep the historic bridges standing for another few decades.

"I'd hope to get at least 20 to 30 more years out of what we've done," said Michael VanAntwerp, director of engineering for Wayne County. "But we will continually monitor these bridges."

Though the bridges were closed for over a year, Van-Antwerp said the construction only took about two months. Before construction could begin, the county had to conduct an investigative analysis, procure a design engineer, design process, bid for construction company, contract and then wait until the snow melted as well as work around inclement weather.

In finishing the repairs on the two remaining structures, VanAntwerp said rain has been a big delaying factor

"We've been getting so much rain and it just delays and delays us," he said. "So work can't happen depending on the work that's being done. You can't work in the rain, and this week alone has been crazy."

The construction funds for all four bridges rounded out to \$652,000, some of which was able to come from the sale of Pheonix Mill in the spring. VanAntwerp said he thinks the repairs will, he hopes, make it easier for people to enjoy all of the beauty that comes with Hines Drive.

"It's really providing access for the public to get to their recreation that Hines Drive and the Wayne County parks provide (like) soccer fields, picnic areas, group meetings, just outdoor activities," he said.

lane open in each direction. Access to businesses will

closure of both north and southbound lanes of Novi

Road at 12 Mile for reconstruction of the intersection

approaches. A date has not yet been announced for the

pleted by Mark Anthony Contracting of Milford and is

funded by RCOC and the City of Novi. Besides removal

and replacement of concrete at the intersection and

Novi Road approaches, the project includes recon-

struction of the 12 Mile Road turnaround just west of

Novi Road; drainage improvements; upgraded pedes-

trian crossing signals; and ADA-compliant crosswalks

The approximately \$1.1 million project is being com-

The second phase of the project will result in the

hometownlife.com

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Alimen, Consumer Experience Director Mobile: 248-396-3870 Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com Follow us on Faceboook: @OEHometown

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Site plan

Continued from Page 1A

date with a revised plan.

Hunter Pasteur was asked to return at a later

The property in question includes vacant parcels on the south side of Cady Street (between S. Center and Griswold), the

Northville Downs racetrack property south of

lot of back and forth between the developer and the planning commission.

With a PUD, developers are asked to provide public benefits in ex-

Roundabout on the way?

Among the developer's list of solutions to the projected traffic congestion is the construction of



With its patches, divots, and potholes, the intersection of Novi Road and 12 Mile in Novi has been known for vears for its bumpiness. Reconstruction of the intersection began Monday. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Novi and 12 Mile project underway

be maintained.

start of the second phase.

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi officials wanted to get the intersection of Novi Road and 12 Mile Road fixed sooner rather than later.

Sooner is here.

Reconstruction of the intersection began Monday. according to the Road Commission for Oakland County.

Motorists on Novi Road will be unable to travel through the intersection during the first phase of construction and will need to turn east or west on 12 Mile Road. Drivers can then use the 12 Mile Road turnarounds to head back to Novi Road.

Throughout the project, 12 Mile Road will have one and sidewalks.

Residents offer opinions

Residents of Northville have provided a vocal presence at each meeting focused on the future transformation of the site, which will continue to host racing at least into 2020, its owners insist.

Cady Street (between S. Center Street and River Street) and two areas on the west side of S. Center fits offered by Hunter Street.

Elmiger said that temporary setbacks are common for projects of this magnitude.

"It's not surprising to see plans tabled and revisions requested," she said. "Although you can't really characterize the process of any project because they're all unique, with a big project like this, you'd expect to see a

change for requested zoning deviations.

Included in the bene-Pasteur are an 8.4-acre linear park, the daylighting of a 1,100-foot stretch of the the Rouge River, a portion of which is covered by racetrack infrastructure, and an improved site for the city's popular farmer's market that would provide, according to the site plans, an additional 5,000 square feet for vendors and more parking.

a roundabout at the intersection of Seven Mile Road and Center Street.

A recent study conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety showed that 31% of drivers favored roundabouts and 41% opposed them - though data collected by the American Insurance Institute for Highway Safety showed roundabouts reduce injury crashes by 75% where stop signs or signals were previously used for traffic control.

Northville Public Schools **Request** for Proposal

The Northville Public Schools (also referred to the District or NPS in these documents) will accept sealed bids for:

Building: Cooke School Title: Cooke School - Classroom Improvements **General Trades Bid Categories**: Flooring Electrical

Sealed bids are due no later than 1:00 pm (EST) June 25, 2019

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 AM June 14, 2019 at 21200 Taft Rd, Northville, MI 48167. Bid documents are available online by going to the District's web site, www. northvillepublicschools.org and clicking on Departments then Finance and Operations. If not attending the pre-bid walk-through, bidders are encouraged to visit the site but must make an appointment. Contact Mr. Steve Banchero, 248-231-9879 or bancherost@northvilleschools.org.

Sealed bids should be submitted to Mr. Mike Zopf, Northville Public Schools, 405 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167. Bids are to be submitted no later than 1:00 pm (EST) June 25, 2019. The District will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for bid submission. Bids will be publicly opened immediately following the close of receiving bids. No oral, email, telephonic or telegraphic proposals shall be considered.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole or in part; or, for reasons of establishing uniformity, delivery time or preference, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

The contents of RFP and Bidder's (also referred to as Contractor in these documents) Proposal will become contractual obligations, if a contract ensues. Failure of the Bidder to accept these obligations will result in cancellation of the award. Award of a contract by the District is subject to the Contractor executing a Contract, which shall incorporate the contents of this RFP and the Contractor's Proposal and final approval if the same by the District's legal counsel.

In compliance with MCL 380.1267, the bid shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, or the superintendent of the school district. The bid shall also be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing whether the bidder is an Iran Linked Business in compliance with PA 517 of 2012. The Board shall not accept a bid that does not include these sworn and notarized disclosure statements.

Bids are to be submitted on our Bid Proposal Form, signed by the bidder, in a sealed envelope clearly marked. Three (3) copies of the Bid Proposal Form should be addressed to the attention of:

> Northville Public Schools-Attn: Mike Zopf 405 W. Main Street Northville, MI 48167 "Cooke School - Classroom Improvements "

Published: June 20, 2019

applicable, the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for your community. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. The FIRM and, if applicable, the FIS report have been revised to reflect these flood hazard determinations through issuance of a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), in accordance with Title 44, Part 65 of the Code of Federal Regulations. These determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to adopt or show evidence of having in effect to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. For more information on the proposed flood hazard determinations and information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, please visit FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe, or call the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for the City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, and Case No. 19-05-1154P. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) solicits technical information or comments on

proposed flood hazard determinations for the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where

Published: June 20 & 27, 2019

2019 CITY OF NOVI SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES

2019 CITY OF NOVI SUMMER PROPERTY TAX BILLS WILL BE MAILED THE WEEK OF JULY 1ST

If you have not received your property tax bill by July 15th, please contact the Treasurer's Department at 248-347-0440 and a copy will be mailed to you.

Payments must be received by the Treasurer's office on or before Saturday, August 31st to avoid an automatic penalty. Due to Saturday deadline and Labor Day holiday, payments will be accepted without penalty until Tuesday, September 3rd.

For your convenience, there is a drop box located behind the Civic Center for tax payments. Payments will be accepted in the drop box until midnight Tuesday, September 3rd

Property taxes payments can also be paid on-line at <u>cityofnovi.org</u> by credit card or electronic check (no fee charged for electronic check). Please be careful when entering your bank account/ routing numbers; payments returned after the due date will be assessed a penalty.

Please contact the Treasurer's Office at (248) 347-0440 if you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance.

POSTMARKS AND POST DATED CHECKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED

Publish June 20, 2019

Novi principal retires after 16 years

John

Heider Guest columnist

Novi's Parkview Elementary is a welcoming place. Welcoming of educators, staff, volunteers, students from more than 20 different countries and of Novi News' photoiournalists.

And 16 years ago it welcomed Jennifer Michos as only its second principal. Michos (pronounced "meekos") has been leading Novi's Parkview Elementary since she was 31 years old. Now at a mere 47 years of age she's decided to move on from the dynamic role of educational innovation and leading the school with its diverse student population.

Michos graduated from Hope College in 1994 with a degree specializing in special education and almost immediately took a job at Novi's nearby Meadows Elementary School as an instructor and soon added the role as the school's assistant principal. In 2003 Michos moved about 200 yards to the northwest and became principal of Parkview Elementary, replacing retiring principal Joe Emrick.

Not content to merely lead a large elementary school at the start of her 30s, she went back to school during her final years at Meadows and first years at Parkview to get a degree in Instructional Design Technology from Michigan State and also managed to fit in a Masters of Administration from Wayne State. Oh, and she also had her first of two kids in her second year leading Parkview. Whew!, right?

Michos explained the dedication that she and orate often and support her staff at Parkview show to their students: "While in Novi, what has left impression on me, is the level of excellence every single day for the people we serve. Coming from a background of special education it meant the world to me that we were here for each and every child - not just some kids. That we were about all kids." Parkview currently has 592 kindergarten through fourth graders and is a virtual United Nations in Novi's backyard. "We have a tremendous diversity here. And opportunity," said Michos. Something like 60% of Parkview kids speak English as a second lan-



Parkview Elementary Principal Jennifer Michos high-fives a student on both of their last days June 14 at the Novi school. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Jennifer Michos has left the staff and students in good shape. If the hugs and tears and heartfelt appreciations to Michos by her students, staff and the school's parents on her last day are any indication, they'll all miss her deeply.

guage. And while some might look at that as a challenge too difficult to fathom, Michos and her staff regard that as a potential to all learn from each other.

Michos also noted the importance of meeting Parkview parents' needs for them to value their kids. "One thing that keeps us all aligned is high expectations for those that they love the most. That love that we give to those students. You feel it when you enter the building. It's genuine. And we really believe it's important to get them to the point where they can learn on their own. Michos expects her

staff to work with, collabities each other as much as they can. "Because if they tough to stop by that day don't have a good environment, they can't learn as much," said Michos. Now here's where your humble photojournalist comes in. When I was laid off from Hometown Life in September 2017 thankfully for only 16 months — there were a

CITY OF NOVI

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SURVEY

2020-24 STRATEGIC COMMUNITY

RECREATION & MASTER PARK PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of

Novi has posted a public survey online at www.

cityofnovi.org/parksurvey to seek public input

for the Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural

Services' 2020-24 Strategic Community

Publish: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2019

Recreation & Master Park Plan.

stop by and inform of my change of employment status. Most of them were in Novi where I'd spent 21 years covering the town for the Novi News.

So a day after I was let go I swung by the City of Novi offices to say goodbye to those administrators I'd worked with over the years in getting news out about the town and its activities, and I also stopped in to Novi Woods Elementary; and sat down with its principal David Ascher - who'd always been exceedingly nice in welcoming me to his school for its assemblies and student activ-

But there was one Novi chool that was super

few places I wanted to tirety of that school was so welcoming to me: Its front office staff of Laura Lloyd and Nancy Lash (who'd always find upcoming events for me to photograph), accommodating teachers and unique, photogenic students who were always working on eye-catching projects like kindergarteners rehearsing for the upcoming spring musical or fourth graders working with engineers from Boesh on fun projects that gave me a warm home-away-from-theoffice many times a month over those years.

> My visit that day in 2017 was somewhat depressing and then immediately heart-warming as

Michos got at first tearyeyed at losing her school's dedicated photojournalist and then while still drying her eyes she and her staff immediately sprung into action with suggestions of job leads and career paths for yours truly. Not only was Parkview

providing me and the Novi News with lots of good feature stories, I was truly flattered how I'd be announced to the gymnasium full of kids awaiting the educator or entertainer, by Principal Michos as: "John Heider from the Novi News is here today, let's show him our appreciation!", and a roomful of students would cheer and wave and I felt like a rock star. A rock star I tell you.

That's the kind love that the school under Michos' tutelage engenders for everyone there: students, staff, administrators, cafeteria workers, parent volunteers, visiting musicians, book readers for March is Reading Month, school superintendents and even newspaper photographers.

Though Jennifer Michos is leaving Parkview, it's under her own power and she won't need my assistance or anyone else's suggestions in finding another gig as she's taking on a job opportunity in the educational administration and development field. Michos will now be leading an educational foundation from her home west of Ann Arbor as she'll take over the Galileo Leadership Consortium from its current director Dr. Joyce Fouts, who's retiring.

"They wanted to foster teacher leadership in our state," said Michos. She was one of Galileo's leaders way back in 1997, as the educational foundation began to explore new and different strategies to go about teaching in a rapidly changing, technology-heavy classroom. Dr. Fouts tapped Michos on the shoulder for the job because she saw evidence of these being implemented in her Parkview school in its embrace of constant innova-

So I will miss her quite a bit and can only hope that the school's next principal humbles me with booming introductions during assemblies something you just don't get when you photograph city council sessions.

But no matter who's named the next principal, Jennifer Michos has left the staff and students in good shape.

If the hugs and tears and heartfelt appreciations to Michos by her students, staff and the school's parents on her last day are any indication, they'll all miss her deeply. And they've taken her educational innovations to heart and will continue to work and rework their curriculum and incorporate Jen-isms like having "high expectations" and to "stick together".

As she dried her eyes in her office on June 14, moments after the last kids were whisked away by the buses, Michos concluded: "It's surreal to leave when things are going so well. I can't thank the parents and families and staff enough. For believing in me as a leader and they themselves have been unleashed with their leadership in this building."

John Heider has been a photographer and occasional writer for Home-town Life since 1996. Reach him at 734-972-6545 or jheider@hometownlife.com.

tion and collaboration.

and say goodbye to, and that was Parkview Elementary. And the reason why was that saying goodbye to its principal Jennifer Michos was going to break my tiny little photographer's heart.

l mean it wasn't just Principal Michos. The en-

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on July 9, 2019 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider:

PZ19-0022 (Siddiqui Properties LLC) 27250 Wixom Rd B, West of Wixom Road and South of Grand River Avenue, Parcel # 50-22-17-101-024 The applicant is requesting variances from the City of Novi Code of Ordinances Section 18-5(a) for the proposed installation of three wall signs for two tenants. 30-65 square foot maximum based on frontage, one sign per business allowed. Signs should be of common design per code. This property is zoned General Business (B-3).

PZ19-0023 (Bagley & Langan PLLC) Endwell St, West of Novi Road and North of Thirteen Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-02-359-035. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 5.11(1) A (ii) for a proposed 25 foot from yard setback for each front yard to allow for a new fence installation. By code fences shall not extend toward the front of the lot nearer than the minimum front yard setback, unless an existing house is already extending into the front yard. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ19-0025 (GreenTech Engineering) 25650 Taft Rd, East of Wixom Road and South of Eleven Mile Road, Parcel #50-22-22-100-026. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 5.12 for not having frontage on a public street for the entire width of the lot (80 feet frontage required, 44 feet proposed). This variance is required for creation of two parcels(C & D) and associated extension of Danyas Way that ends in a T-turn around. The variance would prevent impacts to the existing Wetlands. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

Publish: June 20, 2019



4A I THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 I O& EMEDIA (NNNR)

Novi man finds mother lode of morel mushrooms in yard

Susan Bromley Hometownlife com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

Ahmed Elhage has been living in Novi for a quarter century, but it wasn't until last month that he discovered treasure buried right under his nose.

Elhage was walking in his back yard on Anthony Drive near 11 Mile and Taft when he spied something out of the ordinary.

"I thought, 'What the heck is that?" Elhage recalled.

He walked to the edge of his lawn and kneeling down, recognized a morel mushroom, something he had hunted for years, but always up north. Stunned, he picked it up and stepped into the wooded preserve next to his yard, about 20-30 feet away from a pond, his eyes filled with the sight of dozens of morels.

"It was unbelievable," he said. "I couldn't believe how many and they were huge. It was crazy."

Elhage was so excited he began trimming them by hand, soon filling a large bowl. He sent his granddaughter for a second bowl, which he also filled, estimating he got about 10 pounds.

Morel mushrooms can sell for \$75 for 8 ounces, he said. A check on Amazon shows one seller offering a pound of the fungi for about \$160. Walmart has an online price of about \$300 for 8 ounces.

They can fetch those kinds of prices, said Will Jaquinde, sustainable agriculture instructor for MSU Extension, because no one has yet found a way to commercially cultivate morel mushrooms, along with other expensive fungi like European truffles.

"Their unique biology has so far foiled attempts to do that," Jaquinde said. "Some are associated with certain tree species or certain soil conditions that aren't replicable in a commercial system."

There are multiple different species of morels, and in some places in Central and South America, as well as Mexico, cultivation has been successful. But the



Novi resident Ahmed Elhage found Morel mushrooms in a wooded area at the back of his yard last month. SUBMITTED

morel varieties in Michigan remain a challenge.

Morel mushroom season in Michigan is typically April and May, but can extend to mid-June. The fungi typically appear in warm, moist conditions. This season has been rainier than normal, which Jaquinde said can help, but has also been colder.

Morel mushroom hunters tend to find their prey near dead elm or ash trees or old apple trees, Jaquinde said, although most foragers have their own secrets to success. They also often closely guard the locations in which they discover their treasures, returning year after year.

Jaquinde said this was a bountiful year for morels, and he found some himself at Kensington Metropark.

While northern Michigan is a popular place to forage for morels, he added there are quite a few in southeast Michigan and maps of locations can even be found at thegreatmorel.com or by joining the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Facebook group.

He cautions anyone who is lucky to find morels, particularly those who may be new to the discovery, to check with an expert to make sure they have correctly identified the fungi. He stresses also that some people have allergies, so it is best to eat a small amount at first, and to always cook the morels, never eating the mushroom raw.

His mushrooms are already gone, sauteed with pasta.

Elhage also took care of his, enjoying the delicacy in scrambled eggs, and sharing the rest with family, including the cousin he usually hunts mushrooms with up north.

Next year, he hopes to find more close to home.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

Oakland **County:** West Nile virus is in Pontiac

Ann Zanlewski **Detroit Free Press** USA TODAY NETWORK

Health officials in Oakland County are urging residents to take precautions against West Nile virus after it was recently found in a sample of mosquitoes in Pontiac.

Residents should use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent, wear protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirts and pants, and maintain window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of buildings, officials said. It's also a good idea to avoid outdoor activity at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are the most active.

People can help reduce mosquito breeding sites by removing standing water from areas around their homes.

The discovery in Pontiac is the first positive sample in Oakland County so far this season. There have been no human cases.

Most people who are infected with West Nile virus have either no symptoms or experience a mild illness such as a fever, headache and body aches.

However, some people can develop a severe illness that affects the central nervous system, such as encephalitis or meningitis. People 50 and older are more likely to develop serious and potentially life-threatening symptoms.

West Nile virus is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information, go to oakgov.com/health or follow @publichealthOC on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest.

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NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 I SA

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GA I THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 I OSEMEDIA (NHNR)

Smiles for Students makes all the difference at Northville High

Ewa Omahen

June is a month filled with many celebrations and high school graduations. On June 2, the Northville High School seniors put on their caps and gowns, received their diplomas and took their first step out into the adult world. Many will be venturing off to various universities soon while others have already made their way into the job market.

Some are leaving behind beautiful memories and lasting "gift of belonging" to very special members of the school community, students with various special needs and disabilities. Our son, Patrick Omahen, was one of these fortunate recipients.

We had no idea what to expect when Patrick first began attending the high school this past fall. The district initiated a new center-based autism program this year and Patrick is one of the first students to attend this program. As parents, we worried about how he would adjust to a new setting with over 2,700 students. Change is hard for most kids, but it can be especially daunting for students with autism who face daily struggles with communication, making social connections and maintaining relationships with peers.

Our son has the support of dedicated and skilled educators and an amazing peer community. In addition to daily interactions and exposure to typical peers provided through the Peer to Peer links program, Patrick also participated in the extracurricular Smiles for Students Club at Northville High School. He was able to participate in bi-weekly after school gatherings with typical peers and other students with disabilities.

The gatherings offered entertaining and engaging activities including yoga, scavenger hunts, arts and crafts, cooperative games, dance lessons and a variety of sensory friendly activities. Patrick has met new friends and enjoyed special times with a wonderful group of caring, engaging, and supportive peers.

With help and support of peers and staff, he has become a true member of the high school and developed a sense



Patrick Omahen and Aidan Torres enjoy the Smiles dance. SUBMITTED

of belonging to his school community.

The Smiles Club at Northville High School has been in existence since 2014. Then student Camille Tish initiated Smiles for Students with the mission of establishing a peer mentorship program to support students with disabilities. The membership grew from 20 members in 2014 to over 150 members this year. A group of student officer volunteers are in charge of running and managing the club. They have the support of the administration and staff including Karin Hogan, speech pathologist, and Kelsey Mikiciuk, Joanne Jackson and Becca Jurvelin, resource teachers at the high school.

The current student officers, including Ariana Nigoghosian and Silvia Robazza, the presidents; Maddy Lambert and Maya Hamati, vice presidents; Melanie Sarafian, treasurer; and Isabella Kakish, Hannah Shurtleff and Megan Lemke, social media representatives, had put a lot of time and effort into planning activities and events for the members ensuring that they are accessible and beneficial to all participants.

Smiles for Students was the winner of the 2017 Pacesetter Award from the Euro-Peds organization. Euro-Peds annually recognizes and awards five organizations who have made a difference in the special education community. Smiles was also one of the winners of this year's Education Excellence Award from the SET SEG Foundation and the Michigan Association of School Boards.

As Patrick's parents, we enjoyed occasional glimpses and snapshots of the fun-filled activities via pictures and notes posted on social media, the classroom teacher and staff. Patrick has made significant social growth this year and benefited immensely from the time and experiences with his peers.

We did not fully understand the powerful impact of the Smiles for Students Club on our son until we saw him and the way he interacted with his peers at the annual Smiles dance this year. It is an event meant to provide a school dance experience for students with disabilities, so that they get a "taste" of what their typical peers experience during their high school years. The dance is sensory-friendly and epilepsy safe making it accessible to all students. It has been a huge success with the number of students attending growing every year.

On the day of the Smiles dance, as soon as we walked into the cafeteria, a group of students approached us and led Patrick to the dance floor. He was dancing to the rhythm of music with a group of students enjoying each other's company. The typical peer mentors were always by their special friends' side to ensure their safety, participation and enjoyment. That image of a large group of high school kids, some of them in wheelchairs and others carrying communication devices, dancing and enjoying the experience is something we will never forget.

We met many wonderful young people that evening. Aidan Torres, who was Patrick's peer link and mentor this year, was one of them. Patrick has blossomed and came out of his shell over the last several months, thanks to Aidan's positive influence and involvement with him.

Aidan's words — "Patrick has really changed my life. He is an incredible person" — were beautiful and inspiring to us as his parents. These words conveyed a powerful message that every individual has something unique to contribute and gifts to share with others, regardless of their challenges and abilities. We also met Andres Garza, a freshman who has become very involved in the club this year and took the time during the Smiles meetings to hang out with Patrick, playing the ball, doing exercises with him and encouraging him to participate.

We look forward to the upcoming year at the high school with great hope and assurance that Patrick will continue to grow and learn so much more from his amazing peers in the Smiles for Students Club. We are certain that the Smiles members who are graduating this year will continue to spread the message of inclusion and acceptance wherever they go. Those who remain will embrace Patrick and other students with disabilities, contribute to their growth and enjoyment of the high school experience and will continue to make them feel right at home at Northville High School.

As a family, we will always be grateful for the "gift of belonging" that Patrick has been given this year.

Ewa Omahen is a mom of a child with autism in the Northville Public Schools. She can be reached at ewa.omahen10@gmail.com.



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(NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 J 7A

When you have to pay taxes on gifts



Money Matters ck Bloom

Dear Rick:

My grandson just graduated from Morehouse College. As you may have heard, during the graduation ceremony, the speaker announced that he was going to pay off all the student loans for the graduating class. Obviously, this was a great surprise and it was a wonderful gesture.

The question I have deals with any tax consequences that my grandson would have because his loan is being paid off. I am concerned, because my grandson was contacted by a company who told him that unless he did certain things, the money would be taxable to him. The company said that it would cost him \$2,500 for their assistance. The company sent him an article about people who had received a free car on Oprah's show, and they had to pay taxes on the gift.

My question to you is whether the money taxable and if it is, is there anything my grandson can do? Thank you.

Molly **Dear Molly:**

First, congratulations on your grandson's graduation. It is always a great accomplishment when someone graduates college, and you are right to be very proud of him.

With regard to the communication he received from the company willing to assist him for a fee, in my opinion, it is a scam and he ought to ignore it. The situation with the people receiving cars from Oprah is a totally different situation. When Oprah gave everyone a car, the reality of the situation was it wasn't Oprah gifting a car to her audience members, rather it was a promotion by General Motors.

Since this was a promotion from a corporation and not a gift, the IRS was correct to tax individuals who received the car. Receiving a promotion is no different than winning a lottery or winning on a game show. The gentleman who recently won over two million dollars on Jeopardy is going to be taxed on that money. The situation with the student loan payoff is different.

I believe the money provided to pay off the student loans will not be taxable to the students because it is a gift. Under our tax laws, it is not the person who Of course, whenever it comes to tax law there is a caveat, and there's one in this situation.

receives the gift who is taxed on the money; rather, it is the person who gives the gift. Therefore, as far as I'm concerned, for those students who are going to have their loans paid off, they will have no tax consequences.

There is a provision in our tax law that says if your debt is forgiven or discharged for less than what the outstanding balance is, the amount of the cancelled debt is treated as ordinary income and is taxable. However, I do not believe this applies in this situation because the debt is not being forgiven or being discharged for less than what is owed. The debt is being paid off in full, and thus it is clear that it is a gift. Because it is a gift, the students will not be taxed

Of course, whenever it comes to tax law there is a caveat, and there's one in this situation. According to a statement

I read from Morehouse College, the exact specifics of how the gift will be handled are still being worked out. Therefore, something could potentially change. However, I do not believe that the impact to the students will change. Whether the generous donor is going to be able to deduct anything on his tax returns is a different story. Typically, if someone makes a gift to an individual, as in the case at hand, there are no tax benefits to the donor.

At this point in time, my advice to your grandson is to do nothing and wait to hear from Morehouse College on how the transaction is going to be structured. If, for some unlikely reason the way the transaction is structured would require it be taxed to the graduates, whatever they would owe in taxes would be considerably less than their outstanding student debt. Therefore, no matter what happens, it was a wonderful gesture and a great graduation present.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email him at Rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

CBD-infused products arriving at Kroger stores

Susan Selasky Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Once you've picked up milk, bread and eggs at the grocery store, you can now buzz over to the health and beauty section for some CBD-infused products.

The Kroger Co., the nation's largest grocer, has started selling cannabidiolinfused products at stores in several states.

Rachel Hurst, corporate affairs manager for the Kroger Michigan division, said 92 stores in Michigan will have products.

Cannabidiol is best known and com-

monly referred to as CBD. Kroger, Hurst said, will be selling topicals, not ingestable CBD oil.

Kroger joins national retailers across the country such as CVS and Walgreens in selling CBD topical products.

"Like many retailers, we are offering our customers a highly-curated selection of topical products like lotions, balms, oils and creams that are infused with hemp-derived CBD," Hurst wrote in an email.

Here's what you need to know.

What is cannabidiol? A chemical compound that stems from the cannabis sativa (marijuana) plant. CBD is often used for its medicinal purposes.

What are considered topical products? Think lotions, balms, oils and salves. These are often applied to and absorbed through the skin.

Why do they matter? These types of products are believed by users to be therapeutic and relieve pain and soreness, without the "high" that comes from marijuana. CBD stems from the hemp and marijuana plants and is the non-psychoactive ingredient.

I What makes these less euphoric? It's minus the tetrahydrocannabinol or THC that is the psychoactive compound that provides users the high. CBD from marijuana plants have a higher THC concentration than hemp-derived CBD.



CBD-infused water is sold at Better Health Market in Novi . MANDI WRIGHT, DETROIT FREE PRESS

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SA I THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 I O& EMEDIA (NNNR)



At left, Novi K-9 Officer Stacey Simon poses with her new friend, partner and charge Becker, named after the late U.S. Air Force Maj. Andrew Christopher Becker, a Novi native. At right, Becker smiles for a close-up. PHOTOS COURTESY OF NOVI POLICE DEPARTMENT

Novi's new K-9 named after fallen warrior

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Her new partner's name can overwhelm Novi's K-9 Officer Stacey Simon.

Becker, the other half of the city's latest K-9 unit, is named after U.S. Air Force Maj. Andrew Christopher Becker, a Novi native who died two years ago during a flight training mission.

The import of his stats can be staggering: deploying with the Air Force nine times, flying 459 combat missions, logging 2,260 combat hours in areas including Afghanistan and Iraq, and receiving 22 Air Force service medals.

Simon and her German Shepherd friend, partner and charge are on task during training at Oakland Community College. It's during free time at home, when life flows more naturally, that Becker's name resonates.

"I have this dog that's representative of a veteran," she said. "Especially with Veterans Day and Memorial Day and all these holidays coming up, it's overwhelming. It makes me emotional sometimes. I can't believe I'm here. I'm lucky to be here. I'm excited to be here. It's truly an honor. It's a blessing."



Simon, 27, became a Novi police officer in 2015. A longtime dog lover, she began considering K-9 work while training at the police academy.

She was one of nearly 10 candidates who interviewed in the spring for the city's second of two K-9 positions. Shortly after the last round of interviews, Police Chief David Molloy called to ask if she'd like to be Novi's next K-9 officer.

"I smiled so big, I laughed," Simon said. "I was like, 'I would love that. Of course.' "

She and Novi's other K-9 officer, Mike Daisley, traveled in April to Shallow Creek Kennels in Sharpsville, Pennsylvania, to select a dog that would track narcotics and be a friendly presence at events.

Both were immediately drawn to a distinct German Shepherd born on June 1, 2018, in the Czech Republic. The pup had the drive and eagerness K-9 police officers look for.

A tail wagger, he didn't mind being petted. To demonstrate his friendliness, the pup jumped up to pat Simon on her chest.

"He's social," Simon said. "I know that's important, especially with Novi. I know that we're going to be do-

U.S. Air Force Maj. Andrew Christopher Becker greets his dog, Cheyenne, after returning from a combat deployment. Becker died on a flight training mission. COURTESY OF BECKER FAMILY

ing lots of demos, lots of appearances."

After choosing Novi's new police dog, Simon began reviewing about 300 name suggestions from community members. "Major" stuck out.

Major was the name of Simon's childhood pet, a







protective mutt belonging to her family, and the rank of the community's fallen warrior. Simon was torn between what the name meant to her and the sentiment shared by longtime Novi resident Gary Becker, who lost his son on March 14, 2017.

"Andy and (his wife) Shelly were active supporters of a couple of rescue dog organizations, helping get rescued dogs to new owners," he petitioned. "It would be a wonderful and lasting tribute to a Novi hero. The new K-9 police dog will help protect the citizens of Novi, just as Andy did in being in the military."

Simon chose the name Becker after talking to one of her sergeants.

"It's still representative of Maj. Andrew Becker," Simon said. "But it's a little bit more unique. It's a little bit easier for me to say for commands. I can shorten it down to Beck. It just comes out of the mouth a little bit easier than Major does. I don't think I'll ever meet another dog named Becker. I like that, too. I want him to be unique in my family and in the community."

Simon and Becker's intense K-9 training at the Oakland Police Academy will last until the end of this month.

Becker's treat for a job well done is permission to play with a ball attached to a strap. He's being trained as a passive narcotics dog, which means he'll sit and stare at illegal drug stashes when he finds them.

Becker is becoming known as one that can bark and bite sleeves with the best of them. He's still a puppy with a soft side. He likes to get his belly rubbed.

Gary Becker is looking forward to seeing Simon and Becker take to the streets.

"It's such an incredible tribute," the proud father said. "Becker will be a living tribute. It will be very heartwarming when we get to see him in action ... to know there's a Becker that's out there, that's still protecting and serving."

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.



Homeowners watch as firefighters from Green Oak Township and three other departments knock down a fire in the 13100 block of Gorget Drive on June 12. PHOTOS BY GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

No one hurt in house fire in Green Oak Township

Kayle Daugherty Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Green Oak home caught fire June 12

"We called a number of fire departments and and tankers because there are no hydrants in the area," he said. "A number of those departments assisted with just tankers, but we did have crews (NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 I SA



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afternoon after a barbecue smoker was placed too close to the house, fire officials said.

Green Oak Township Fire Department Kevin Gentry said the smoker caught the outside of the house on fire near the garage, and the fire quickly spread to the attic and basement.

The call came in just before 3 p.m from one of the residents who noticed the fire while inside, Gentry said. from South Lyon and Hamburg working as well."

No one was injured in the fire. Green Oak Township Fire Department was assisted on scene by Livingston County EMS, Hamburg Township Fire Department, Lyon Township Fire Department, South Lyon Fire Department and Northfield Township Fire Department.



A barbecue too close to a residence on Gorget Drive in Green Oak Township was thought to be the cause of a fire that damaged the home June 12.

Opening Incentives



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Sanitary sewage overflow in Northville Township cleared

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Wayne County Health Department were notified Thursday, June 13, in the aftermath of a sanitary sewer overflow in Northville Township.

Township officials received a report from a resident at approximately 11:30 a.m. that a sewer was overflowing from a manhole near Fox Hollow Court, off Beck Road south of 7 Mile.

Sanitary sewer overflows are releases of untreated or partially-treated sewage from a municipal sanitary sewer.

The township's Department of Public Services discovered that the cause of the backup was tree roots and sanitarypad debris. Debris entered a wooded park area near Pickford Meadow Park, however, private property was not impacted by this situation.

Equipment was utilized to remove the blockage and the sanitary sewer system was returned to normal that afternoon, the Department of Public Services reported in a release.

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

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Milford legislator wants to stop money for Gordie Howe Bridge

Kathieen Gray Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

LANSING - A Milford legislator wants the state to stop spending money on the Gordie Howe International Bridge, even though the state is getting reimbursed for all its expenses by Canada

State Rep. Matt Maddock, R-Milford, added language to a proposed state transportation budget that prohibits the state from spending money on the second span across the Detroit River, connecting Detroit and Windsor.

After being unable to get the Legislature to approve a plan for a second span, Gov. Rick Snyder negotiated a deal with Canada in 2012 to have Canada pay for the bridge in exchange for the revenues from the tolls.

The state has spent \$230 million on purchasing land and engineering work on the Michigan side of the bridge. But every penny has been reimbursed by Canada, said Jeff Cranson, spokesman for the Michigan Department of Transportation.

"Canada, through the Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority, is financing the Gordie Howe International Bridge because of the vital benefits it will provide to the flow of commerce between the two countries," Cranson said in a statement. "The project enjoys broad support from job providers and labor leaders across Michigan, and we are confident lawmakers know that."

The move to cut any type of state funding of the bridge has critics worried that work on the bridge could be stalled or stopped. But that is not his intent, Maddock said

"Are we getting reimbursed with a check, or are they issuing us toll credits that are going to take place in the future after the bridge is built?" he said. "We just want to create more transparency. ... And why should Michigan be the credit card for Canada?"

The language, which isn't included in the budgets offered by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer or the Senate, harkens back to



A rendering of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, showing towers rivaling the height of the Renaissance Center in Detroit, was revealed in July 2018. BRIDGING NORTH AMERICA

the protracted fight over building a second span across the river, which is one of the busiest crossings between Canada and the United States.

Republicans have long fought the bridge and have been helped in that fight by the family of Manuel "Matty" Moroun, owner of the Ambassador Bridge, which has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign cash to lawmakers in an effort to stop the second publicly owned bridge.

Those donations haven't stopped even though work has begun on the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

In the 2018 election cycle, the Morouns have donated to dozens of Republican lawmakers and their leadership political action committees, including: \$23,000 to state Rep. Shane Hernandez, R-Port Huron and \$12,000 to state Sen. Jim Stamas, R-Midland, who serve as the chairmen of the House and Senate

Appropriations Committee; \$6,000 to Maddock, who is chairman of the transportation subcommittee; \$40,000 to the House Republican Campaign Committees; \$95,000 to the Senate Republican Campaign Committee, and \$20,000 to Speaker of the House Lee Chatfield's leadership PAC.

The transportation budget approved by the House Appropriations Committee Wednesday on a party-line 17-12 vote, now moves to the full House of Representatives, which is expected to vote on the plan Thursday and then it will have to be reconciled with the Senate version of the budget. Whitmer also could exercise a line-item veto on the final budget approved by the Legislature.

House Democrats offered an amendment to strip the language from the budget, but it was voted down by Republicans, who hold a majority on the panel. "The bridge provides economic development opportunities through jobs and allows us to strengthen our relationship with Canada," said state Rep. Joe Tate, D-Detroit. "Michigan exported \$60 billion in goods, which supported 1 million Michigan jobs."

Maddock said the bridge won't be stalled or shut down because of the budget language.

"People are making a mountain out of a mole hill on this issue."

Also proposed in the House transportation budget is soliciting proposals to sell the Blue Water Bridge, which connects Port Huron and Sarnia, and shifting the .06-cent sales tax on gas to a fuel tax that would generate more than \$800 million a year for road improvements. Whitmer has proposed a .45-cent per gallon fuel tax to raise \$2.5 billion a year to fix the state's roads.

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HOME SECURITY YOU CAN TRUST WITH AN ADT MONITORED SECURITY SYSTEM FROM PROTECT YOUR HOME EMBEDIANS 94-foot screen at **Canton complex**

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Emagine Theatres are coming to Westland later this year. Sort of.

The Michigan-based movie theater chain is going through approval processes to bring the largest screen in the Midwest to western Wayne County.

Similar to the screen opened in 2017 at the Emagine Theatre in Novi, this screen, once constructed, would be 94 feet in width with 4K laser-projected images and paired with a Dolby Atmos immersive sound system.

Total area for the new screen would be about 14,000 square feet, and would also include a 24-seat screening room and party space.

The expansion would take place at the movie theater in Canton at 39535 Ford Road, though the proposed expansion would cross the township boundary and enter into nearby Westland, where a parking lot currently sits.

That expansion into the city is something Westland Mayor William Wild is pleased to see.

"I think it's exciting because it's going to generate a lot of attention," he said. "We enjoy working with other communities on projects and this certainly is going to be unique."

The plans continue to work their way through local governmental channels for approval.

The Westland City Council is expected to hold a study session June 17 regarding the project, the same night the Canton Township Planning Commission is expected to discuss the project as well.

The Westland Planning Commission voted 5-2 to recommend approval at its June 4 meeting, Wild said.

It now goes to the city council for its review and final approval.

"While some competitors are closing and others struggle to play catch-up, Emagine remains firmly committed to providing its guests with the finest moviegoing experience possible," said Paul Glanz, chairman of Emagine Entertainment, in a statement. "We are resolved to continually enhance the quality of the theatrical experience.

"Nothing beats watching a blockbuster film on a 94-foot screen from the comfort of a heated reclining chair."

Wild said the screen is expected to be bigger than an NBA basketball court once completed.

Once completed, the theater complex will be more than 90,000 square feet in area and contain 20 screens.

It's expected to open this December. The first movie expected to air on the new Super Emax screen? "Star Wars Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker," which hits theaters Dec. 20.

Emagine operates movie theaters across the Midwest, including several locally in Canton, Novi, Hartland as well as the Palladium in downtown Birmingham and the Riviera in Farmington Hills.

Wild said the project is one that's moved quickly through the city's channels: it was first brought up to him about a month ago. But with proper diligence, he said, projects like these can push back against the stereotype that wheels of government always turn slowly.

'Our two communities are working together pretty quickly on this," he said. "If you're business-friendly and you work with them, you can actually move these projects pretty quickly."

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

(NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM & THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 & 11A

Cycling

Continued from Page 1A

clothes, food, sleeping bags, a camping stove, and fuel.

In total, they each carry about 75 pounds of gear on their bikes, which have armored tires to reduce the number of flats along the way.

In planning their trip, they used a northern route mapped by the Adventure Cycling Association, with less-traveled roads and wider shoulders. Safety is utmost in their minds as they venture off the beaten path.

This is their second cross-country cycling tour together, and Thakur's third. In 2016, Thakur cycled 4,200 miles with detours from Yorktown, Virginia, to San Francisco. Shortly after, he met Harrington at Penn State, and she wanted in on the action. In fall 2017, they cycled 3,400 miles from St. Augustine, Florida, to Los Angeles.

On the first day of that trip, they planned their next one.

"The completionist in me, wanted to round it out with the north," Thakur said. "There is no triple crown of cycle touring, unlike hikes. This is the closest we could come."

Physical challenge, with a few twists

How do you train for biking thousands of miles over the course of just a couple months, on average seven hours a day, seven days a week?

You don't really, say Harrington and Thakur, but they have a few things going for them.

Thakur has never owned a vehicle, and bicycling has always been his chosen mode of transportation.

Harrington was a long distance runner and rower in college and likes cardio activities.

Some medical challenges - Thakur has a pacemaker for a congenital heart defect and Harrington has had eight knee surgeries - haven't slowed them down.

Harrington said the best training has come from their pauses between their travels to earn money for their next tour.

"We work out like anyone else, but waitressing in downtown Seattle is like running a marathon," she joked.



Lauren Harrington, a 2013 Novi High School graduate, pauses for a photo before she and boyfriend Daniel Thakur set up camp in Port Stanley, Ontario. SUBMITTED

Budget travel plan

Harrington and Thakur have been waiting tables for the past nine months, first at a restaurant in northern Michigan, then at a pizzeria in Washington state for five months, living cheaply and saving every dollar with their eyes on the cross-country tour.

They budgeted \$4,500 each, most to be spent on food, for the trip they anticipate will end in mid-August in Anacortes, Washington. They are trying to stick to \$25 per day per person and have overbudgeted, allotting for emergencies like a broken or stolen bike, a hotel room stay or an urgent care visit.

Although they were already in Washington, and a west to east route would have given them the benefit of prevailing winds at their backs, they would have encountered snow in the mountain passes. So they flew east, arriving in Maine to make their way back by bike, seeing the country in a way most never will.

"It's the old American dream to travel west, and we get to relive that," Thakur said. "I wanted something different for a reward, to start with the familiar and go to the unknown and be surprised by the grand scale."

They have had some magnificent views thus far: the White Mountains in

New Hampshire and Niagara Falls. They appreciate the smaller things, too.

"As thrilling as it is to come down a mountain, it's good to slow down, listen to birds, look at the trees, and notice the babbling brook," Thakur said.

Harrington enjoyed sleeping on the beach at Lake Erie two nights in a row and said they have learned to find and appreciate beauty in every location.

They are looking forward to seeing grizzly bear when they stop for a week in Glacier National Park in Montana, but they have already encountered a wide range of animals, including coyotes, beavers, foxes, turtles and snakes.

The wildlife has been welcomed, except perhaps for the roadkill, and they even take notice of carp in drainage ditches. Domesticated animals have presented more of a concern as dogs often chase them, forcing them to stop and talk the dogs down before walking their bicycles away.

The biggest worry of a life on the road is not the animals on four legs, but those with four wheels. Due to the vulnerability of sharing roads with motorists, Harrington and Thakur have mostly avoided traveling through major cities. They take as many bike trails as possible and never trust Google maps, which can put them on dirt roads, ones that turn to sand, or roads without a shoulder.

Thakur noted their two main strategies for safety are to ride predictably and to ride visibly. On his bike, he has a foam pool noodle, which extends about a foot out to the side to encourage drivers to give space when passing. They also wear bright orange construction worker-style vests.

Bare necessities of life

On the average day, Harrington and Thakur are awake with the sun, making coffee and Quaker quick oats on their campstove.

Typically, they have one warm meal per day at a restaurant and otherwise stick to the food they carry in their bags, like lentils, noodles, peanut butter and other cheap snacks.

Harrington's mom will also be shipping them a box of food out west to replenish their supply.

Harrington is a vegan, but said the diet restrictions haven't posed too much of a problem.

She does delight in visiting Taco Bell for cheap vegan carbs, while Thakur's favorite food stop is Tim Horton's, where he can find "glorious packages of sugar."

After biking the first 20 miles or so each day, they have to stop and have something to eat, typically a Snickers for Thakur and Oreos for Harrington, otherwise they "get snippy." They then travel another 15-20 miles until lunch. They average about 10 miles per hour, depending on hills and wind, and usually travel 55 to 60 miles in a day, though they've gone up to 85 miles when they know they have a host for the night, which usually means a shower and comfortable place to sleep.

The opportunity for a shower can never be passed up.

When it's hot, Thakur said, he takes a "hobo shower" in every gas station, at least washing his face, or he starts feeling "like the front end of a truck."

They usually can use a campground shower in an emergency and never want to get a hotel just for the opportunity to have a shower.

Harrington recalled that on their southern road trip, they had an extraordinarily stinky time.

"There was a point in Texas where Dan was like, 'You smell pretty bad,' she recalled. "And I was like, 'I know.'

See CYCLING, Page 12A



Can we have a word with you?

New puzzles daily





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Cycling

Continued from Page 11A

The couple had been holding out for awhile, planning to stay in a hostel, but they then learned their accommodation had been booked by people who were in town for a marathon. They were saved that time by a Warm Showers host who happened to be a librarian.

In praise of libraries and philosophy

Libraries in general have been a saving grace on all their journeys, with Thakur calling them "the only consistent resource you find in every community across America."

"Libraries are a consistent source of power, internet, air conditioning and bathrooms," he said.

They charge their phones there, although when riding, they use a threepaneled solar charger to keep connected with modern amenities.

Although they may be miles from civilization at times, they have some conveniences such as a Go Pro and Bluetooth, on which Thakur listens to Podcasts and audio books.

"Lauren is great, but this keeps me sane," he said. "I've covered almost all of 20th century western philosophy, which is great food for thought."

He is currently listening to "The Wisdom of Insecurity," the title of which he says summarizes well their current circumstances.

There may be a lot of pedaling on the road and a lot of time for thinking, but there isn't much time for planning ahead on where they will sleep.

When they stop cycling for the day, they often hang out in a library or in a park if the weather is fair. They often set up camp in a park "under the cover of darkness," Harrington said, adding that camping is not really explicitly forbidden, and most often if it's a rural area, "no one really cares."

She added, however, that sometimes they have to ask total strangers for assistance.

"You have to get really comfortable being uncomfortable," Harrington said. "You'll be like, 'I know this is awkward and you have no idea who I am,' but they love to be part of your journey."



Lauren Harrington checks a map at a crossroads on her bicycle journey across the northern U.S. and southern Canada with boyfriend Daniel Thakur. SUBMITTED

Follow their journey

Lauren Harrington and Daniel Thakur are documenting their journey at CycleforChange2019.blogspot.com.

They have dedicated their crosscountry ride to Youth Care, an organization that helps homeless youth. To make a contribution, visit crowdrise.com/CycleForChange2019.

Faith in humanity, belief in each other

Their "funny-looking bikes" draw a lot of attention, but they have also drawn moments of serendipity, Thakur said.

They've received offers of a place to stay from total strangers, and just recently they met a man in a hardware store in Yale, Michigan, while they were getting screws for one of the bikes, who let them stay in a unique accommodation.

"He was a 'Lord of the Rings' fan and his father built a shire on his property," Thakur said. "I was nerding out and we got to sleep next to a fireplace in a hobbit hole."

They were also grateful for the Canadian woman who hosted them and offered to sign up for a special on-demand

RE·BATH

IN TROY. MICHIGAN

subscription service just so her guests could see the final episode of "Game of Thrones."

The show, their cat and their own showers and laundry, are what they have missed most, but what they have found in people they meet is priceless.

While they have run into some less than kind people on the road, including one who flicked a lit cigarette at Harrington, and truck drivers who have blown their horns, they say 99% of people have been friendly.

"I've learned to trust people and gained faith in humanity," Thakur said. "That's only something you can appreciate when you make yourself vulnerable. It changes your worldview to think everybody's out there to help you."

The cycling and life partners are most dependent on each other. Harrington acknowledged she was needier on the first tour and reluctant to let the more experienced Thakur out of her line of vision. She is more confident now. They keep each other within eyesight, but also keep their own cadence.

Their relationship of now more than two and a half years was one of trial by fire in that first cross country trip, Thakur recalled.

"We saw each other hungry and tired, and we're with each other 24 hours a day, three months in a row," he said. "There couldn't have been a way to develop more confidence in a relationship. It's easier to see someone when they've taken a shower and gotten ready for a date. It's not as easy when you're setting up tent in the rain and haven't eaten for six hours."

Living in the moment

Still, here they are doing it again. The pair left Novi on June 3 and resumed cycling from Bay City on their way to Ludington. From there, they traveled up the coast of Lake Michigan before crossing the Mackinac Bridge into the U.P. and westward, crossing Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana, dipping into Canada just south of Banff, and then through Idaho and on into Washington, where they plan to end in Anacortes in mid- to late August.

The adventure has given them an opportunity to reach some far-flung places and see the country in a unique way.

Harrington said their travels have given them the chance to really appreciate everything America has to offer, including lush green forests, dry deserts and freshwater lakes.

When the bike tour ends, they will drive back to Michigan and put down roots in Ypsilanti, where Harrington will attend Eastern Michigan University in pursuit of an education degree. Thakur will be working, and his goal is to join her at EMU to study behavior science and get his bachelor's degree.

While they may stay for a couple years, they hope to bike in Asia upon the completion of school.

"Being comfortable scares me more than being homeless," Thakur said. "I worry that staying in one place for a long time, I will become complacent, and that is scarier than no home, no food, no water."

Harrington noted that they have no regrets over life on the road and the excitement of the unknown. For right now, they are living in the moment, just where they want to be.

"When I wake up, I am doing exactly what I want to do that day," Thakur said. Harrington agreed.

"I am able-bodied and I can, even though it hurts a lot," she said. "If you wait til you have time or money, you don't know what will happen. You have to do it while you're able."

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

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William and Aumet Gabriel and their son Joey, 12, enjoy smoothles at Beyond Juicery + Eatery with their nieces Chloe Photsios, right, and Alexa on June 13. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Juice bar

Continued from Page 1A

The store continues to hire and look for employees. Those interested can text "JOBS2756" to 411669 to begin the application process.

Stephanie Nurkala, a regional manager and trainer for the franchise, decided to leave a corporate store and began working with Kasgorgis at the Northville location. She said she's worked plenty of customer service jobs and decided she'd try out Beyond. Not expecting to stay for long, she ended up enjoying the work so much she decided to stay with the company.

"I planned on staying for six months," she said. "I just fell in love with my job. I love the kids I work with."

The Northville Township shop is open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday and offers mobile ordering and delivery through third-party delivery services such as Uber Eats. More information, including a menu, can be found at beyondjuicedetroit.com.

Renovations in the shop began earlier this spring, with the entire store being gutted with fresh paint and tile. Coming



An employee prepares raspberry, strawberry and pineapple juice drink at Beyond Juicery + Eatery.

in to the Northville community, Kasgorgis said, has left him feeling very welcomed.

"We just love the Northville community. It's amazing," he said. "Everyone here has been so supportive to us."

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

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Sports

GIRLS SOCCER



Novi senior Julia Stadtherr hugs junior Avery Fenchel, center facing camera, after Stadtherr scored to give Novi a 3-0 lead in the Division 1 state championship game against Plymouth. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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USA TODAY SPORTS



BASEBALL

Locals to play in all-star matchup

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Nearly a dozen area high school baseball players will have the opportunity to play at Comerica Park in the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association (MHSBCA) East-West All-Star Baseball Classic.

Two players from the Hometown Life coverage area will play on the West squad, while nine will play on the East team — which will be coached by Livonia Franklin's Matt Fournier and John Glenn coach Lawrence Scheffer.

It's a great chance for Michigan's top high school baseball players to face off against the state's best competition on a big stage in Detroit.

The players on the West team are:

- Trent Farquhar, Lakeland
- Nate Logan, South Lyon
- The players on the East team are:
- Nate Blain, Canton

Bobby Cavin, Livonia Stevenson
 Aaron Dolney, Detroit Country
 Day

- Alex Finney, Cranbrook
- Tito Flores, Brother Rice
- Cal Fournier, Livonia Franklin
- Nasir Frederick, Wayne Memorial
 Carlton Harper, Salem
- Chad Stevens, John Glenn

The game will be played at 7 p.m. June 20 at Comerica Park in downtown Detroit. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased at the gate.

win state championship

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Throughout the season, whenever Novi needed a big goal, it counted on junior Avery Fenchel.

Saturday afternoon's state title game was no different. Fenchel scored the game-winning goal to help Novi beat Plymouth 5-0 at Michigan State University's DeMartin Stadium.

It's Novi's second consecutive state championship, which the Wildcats won in dominating fashion.

With the win, Novi also finishes the season undefeated, compiling a record of 28-0-1. 23 of those 29 games ended in shutouts.

"I couldn't think of a better way to end the season," senior Jessie Bandyk said. "We had a phenomenal season, probably the best Novi has ever seen. We were able to end on such a great note and I couldn't be more thankful for that. We have such a great team."

Fenchel got it all started almost exactly midway through the first half. She received a perfect pass in the box from junior defender Sarah Katinas who dribbled far up the field. She then sent it past Plymouth's first half goalie Rebecca Przybylo to make it 1-0. It was her 27th

See CHAMPIONSHIP, Page 2B



Novi goalie Sammy Maday, right, scoops up the ball as it gets near her net.

Kensington Junior Golf Tour kicks off Monday

M.B. Dillon

Calling all junior golfers ages 6 to 18: The Kensington Junior Golf Tour summer tournaments are coming to Oakland, Wayne, Livingston and Washtenaw counties.

"Kensington is the most affordable junior golf tour in southeast Michigan. And it's the only junior tour that caters to all age groups and skill levels," said Farmington's John Dillon, assistant tournament director. "We expanded it further by opening a new age bracket for 6- to 9-year-olds last year. The 6- to 9-year-olds play with an adult or parent caddie, starting each hole at the 150-yard marker."

It costs \$60 to join the KJGT.

Members are eligible to enter any events they'd like, playing as many or as few as they want to. Fees average \$20-\$25 for 9-hole events, and \$30-\$35 for 18-hole competition. Golfers may register at www.kensingtonjuniorgolf.com.

"The 9-hole developmental division

See GOLF, Page 2B



Championship

Continued from Page 1B

goal of the year, a team high.

"That goal is what we needed," Bandyk said. "She's always able to put it in the back of the net whenever she has an opportunity. She's a phenomenal player, she can read the balls that get through, Sarah slipped through a phenomenal ball to her that she was able to finish."

With a little under three minutes left in the first half, Fenchel again was involved in the scoring. She passed the ball to senior Lexi Whalen who took a long shot from outside the box. It was a rocket and ricocheted off the goalie's hands and into the back of the net, giving Novi a 2-0 lead. It was a remarkable shot from Whalen, who ends the season with 10 goals.

Novi collected eight first half shots compared to the Plymouth's zero. That was it for first half scoring, but the Wildcats were far from done.

"I think I have the two best players in the state on my team in Avery Fenchel and Jessie Bandyk," Novi coach Todd Pheiffer said. "When there's voting for Miss Soccer, those two better be up there because they are phenomenal players. ... If those girls aren't up for Miss Soccer than it'll be a travesty because they are a phenomenal duo."

Novi had two great scoring chances earlier in the half, but was unable to score. Fenchel fired a shot off the crossbar and Whalen hit one off the post just minutes later. Undeterred, Novi continued to pile up the scoring opportunities.

With 27:56 to go in the game, senior Julia Stadtherr scored on a wild play in front of the net. She was assisted by junior Michelle Jecmen. Two minutes later, Novi struck again, this time it was Bandyk who found the back of the goal after an assist by Stadtherr.

Novi built up a 4-0 lead before Plymouth recorded its first official shot on goal, which came from Lily Tiplady with 22:30 left to play in the second half.

That wasn't all for scoring, however, as Bandyk took a pass from Stadtherr and sent in a high arching shot over the head of Plymouth's second half goalie, Ashley Bowles to make it 5-0. It was another incredible shot by Novi, which came from well outside the box. Bowles needed to be a foot taller to have a chance.

"I definitely did not expect (to win 5-0), the last two times we played them, they were tight games," Bandyk said. "They were battles to the finish, and this one, we just gave it our all and finished



Novi teammates hold the state trophy and celebrate their win over Plymouth. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Novi goalie Sammy Maday, left, hugs fellow netminder Abbey Pheiffer.

in a good way.

"It was like a fairytale moment," Bandyk said. "I turned around and a corner kick is going on and I saw Abbey. It was a crazy feeling. It's my senior year and this phenomenal goalie we had at the beginning of the year is back in. It was a touching moment for us."

Pheiffer was a vital part of the team and her dad knew that if they were fortunate enough to get a big lead, he would put her in at the end of the game.



our shots. When we were able to keep putting them away, it kind of buried them."

It's Novi's seventh state championship since 2005 and Pheiffer's second with the team. Novi is expected to finish the year as the No. 1 ranked team in the entire country according to Top Drawer Soccer and be named national champions.

"I think it's a culture that's created here," Pheiffer said. "When you come here, you want to be a part of the culture and continue on what's been started by the previous teams behind you. ... I'm so proud. Back-to-back champions, I would hope that TopDrawSoccer.com keeps us as the national champion. How many teams can say they are national champions, that is the pinnacle. These seniors going out on top, I'm glad I got to go along for the ride."

Enjoying the moment

With about three minutes remaining, Pheiffer made the surprising decision to put his daughter Abbey into the game at goalie. She had been the team's starting goalkeeper through 19 games (only allowed three goals and had 16 shutouts) but was sidelined after she tore her ACL against Hartland.

Teammates were visibly shocked -

"She has been so pivotal this year in those first 19 games, we got the national ranking when she was in goal," Pheiffer said. "She has been the biggest cheerleader, the biggest coach on the sideline, she's out there every day working with our goalkeeper coach and our goalies to help bring them up. You never know when you might get this opportunity again. ... I told her just go in the goal and enjoy this moment because you deserve it."

Third time not the charm

Novi was well aware of the old saying that it's hard to beat a team three times, but that's what it did against Plymouth.

Facing a KLAA team in the state final for the second year in a row, this team a division opponent (that even shares the same mascot: Wildcats), Pheiffer knew it would be a challenging game, but had confidence in his girls.

Novi had already beaten Brighton and Hartland three times and Livonia Stevenson twice. For Plymouth, which has been hot in the playoffs and a very strong regular season, this game seemed up for grabs.

"We play in the toughest division in the state," Pheiffer said. "This is the

Novi's Jessie Bandyk, left, and Plymouth's Audrey Kananen tear after the ball June 15 at MSU. Novi won the match and their second straight title, 5-0.

third team we've had to beat for the third time this year and that is incredibly hard.

"All the girls kept hearing was that Plymouth wanted to beat us, third time's the charm, they want to beat us etc., and our girls used that as motivation."

While the offensive was impressive, he was effusive in his praise towards his defenders, which helped freshman goalie Sammy Maday secure the shutout and have been stellar all season.

"I cannot tell you how proud of my back four I am," Pheiffer said. "The back four defenders and goalkeepers, they just pride themselves every single game with limiting the other team's shots and giving up no goals. ... We only gave up eight goals the entire year." Senior Lauren Calhoun, who is a four-year starter, is the leader of the defense and has anchored the unit throughout the season. She shared a long hug with Pheiffer after the game while the team received their medals.

"This is a big win," Calhoun said. "We lost to Plymouth in the regional finals when I was a sophomore, so just to be able to beat them now in states is incredible. The fact that Abbey even got to go in goal for a little bit is great and other players who might not have had enough time on the field got to come out tonight. I know I made my school proud and all the parents out here and of course, coach."

Contact Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or &10-923-0659. Twitter: @AndrewVcourt.

Golf

Continued from Page 1B

we added last year was met with resounding appreciation," said KJGT founder Nathan Oake, Hartland High School boys' varsity golf coach and a 20year PGA professional. "This group will tee off at 150 yards on par 4s, 200 yards on par 5s, and usually play the shortest tee on par 3s. We will use the 'double par' rule, and we certainly encourage parents to caddie/coach their kids while they play. The emphasis is on learning the game and the flow of playing a round of golf.

"We also offer these playing opportunities for junior golfers: 18 holes for 15- to 18-year-old boys; 18 holes for 12- to 14year-old boys; 18 holes for 12- to 18-yearold girls; and 9 holes for 7- to 11-year-old girls and boys," Oake said.

"The Kensington Junior Golf Tour started with a 12-event summer golf schedule in Livingston County in 2006. Three years later, we added 10 events in Washtenaw County and have since added events in Oakland and Wayne counties," Oake said. "Our mission is to provide a local, affordable, organized and fun competitive junior golf schedule for young players to develop their golf abilities and fall in love with the game.

"Local high school golf coaches have heaped praise on our organization as a great way to help students learn the competitive side of golf prior to entering high school and trying out for the golf team. Many courses on our schedule are host sites of high school matches and tournaments," added Oake.

Kensington also is making it possible of for junior golfers to play courses at a m greatly discounted rate, and to receive entry to the formation of the second sec

" 'Youth on Course' is an initiative in conjunction with the Golf Association of Michigan to help remove the financial barrier for kids to play golf," Oake said. "Our organization purchases a YOC membership for each player, and they also receive a free GAM membership. More than 60 Michigan golf courses allow YOC card-holders to play golf for \$5 during certain windows at the courses. It's a wonderful initiative to help grow the game."

Golf lessons are available through the Golf Leadership Academy. "The Golf Leadership Academy is a wonderful group of golf coaches who completely support our mission," said Oake. "They offer outside teaching/coaching at Walnut Creek in Lyon Township and Western Golf and Country Club in Redford Township, in addition to indoor, yearround instruction at their facility in Farmington Hills. We fully endorse their work on character education as well as golf instruction, and they do the same for our program."

KJGT events are set for June 21 at Lyon Oaks GC; June 24 at Coyote GC in South Lyon; June 25 at Eagle Crest GC in Ypsilanti; June 26 at Hartland Glen GC in Hartland; June 27 at Hilltop GC in Plymouth; and June 28 at Kensington GC in Brighton.

For details and information on July competition and championship play in August, visit Kensington's website or Facebook page.

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SOFTBALL

Howell's state title dreams end

BIII Khan Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

EAST LANSING - Molly Carney would've rather watched the softball go sailing over the fence toward the Red Cedar River than off the tip of her glove.

That would've been easier to accept than the final tiny cut in the slow bleed that deprived Howell of an elusive state championship.

The ball never left the infield in the bottom of the eighth inning as Warren Regina beat Howell, 3-2, in the state Division 1 championship game Saturday at Secchia Stadium.

Regina won its seventh state title under legendary coach Diane Laffey when freshman Adriana James singled off the glove of Carney in the pitcher's circle with the bases loaded and one out. The ball caromed over to second baseman Maddie Gillett, who didn't bother to throw to first base, because it wouldn't have mattered.

"There was probably no play," Carney said. "The girl on third had wheels. Just winning on that kind of (stinks). She could have hit a grand slam, and I'd be happier."

The winning rally began when Marisa Muglia reached base on an infield error. Her pinch-runner, freshman Jenna Holt, kept running for third when third baseman Rosie McQueen fielded a sacrifice bunt by Mia Konyvka.

"I looked over and saw the base was empty, because the third baseman fielded the ball," Holt said. "I was like, 'Oh, my gosh, I have to go, because I might not get a chance like this again.'

"I still can't believe this just happened."

Howell coach Ron Pezzoni had Carney intentionally walk Abby Hornberger and Kiley Dulapa to load the bases and create a possible force out at the plate.

Admittedly a bundle of nerves as she came to the plate, James hit the first pitch off the glove of Carney to bring home Holt with the championship run.

"It was definitely nerve-racking," James said. "We were all in the dugout shaking. I actually peeled my nail polish off. I was so nervous. It paid off. That's



Howell's AJ Militello doubles home a run in a 3-2 loss to Warren Regina in the state Division 1 softball championship game. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

the best feeling."

So, how did James overcome her nerves?

"I just took a deep breath," she said. "A few, actually. I was like, 'All right, let's go. You've just got to get the job done.' That's the biggest key — you've got to do your job. My dad's a coach. He's always told me, 'You do your job, no matter if you're on the bench or playing.""

Regina (30-11) took a 2-0 lead in the second inning, with only a two-run sin-

gle by Jacqueline Jozefczyk getting out of the infield. The Saddlelites loaded the bases with a hit batter and two walks to set the stage for Jozefczyk.

Howell (36-4) got one run back in the fifth when AJ Militello doubled home Maddy Heilner with two outs. The Highlanders tied the game when Maddie Gillett led off the sixth with a single and scored on a sacrifice fly by Maddie Springer.

Howell had runners on second and

third with two outs in the eighth, but Regina pitcher Marisa Muglia got her 12th strikeout of the game to end the threat.

"The girls know softball is just a game," Militello said. "We don't find our value in softball. It's just something that we do, it's not who we are. It stinks losing, and it stinks losing that way. We out-competed them, but kudos to them. They found a way and they did it. I'm proud of Regina, and I'm most proud of Howell."

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GIRLS SOCCER

Plymouth needed to rally past Troy to earn finals berth

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Members of Plymouth's girls soccer team took coach Jeff Neschich's preovertime message to heart during the June 12 Division 1 semifinal clash with Troy.

"Jeff told us if we're not ready to work, get on the bus right now," recounted Wildcat senior captain Kennedy White.

So Saturday morning the Wildcats got on a bus bound for East Lansing, the site of the Division 1 girls soccer championship game, thanks to equal parts hard work and heart.

Trailing 2-0 with under 13 minutes remaining at Troy Athens High School, Plymouth roared back to deadlock the game at 2-2 before ultimately winning a shootout, 4-1, to claim a 3-2 triumph.

"My heart is so happy," said White, whose penalty-kick goal with 7 minutes and 15 seconds left in regulation forced a pair of 10-minute overtimes and the one-sided shoot-out. "This team is so amazing. It never gives up."

"At one point tonight, it looked like we were kind of out of it," said Neschich. "But as we've done several times this season, we started bouncing back, we changed formations a little and we got on a roll. The way we were playing the last 10 minutes, I honestly thought we were going to get 'em in regulation."

Neschich said he felt confident heading into the shootout.

"We have a keeper who's really good at stopping PKs and we don't miss PKs," he said, smiling.

One of the Wildcats' many heroes was junior goal-keeper Ashley Bowles, who watched the first half from the sidelines before getting the call at halftime to replace Rebecca Przybylo, who was moved to the attack for the second half and the overtimes, before going

See PLYMOUTH, Page 5B



Players battle for a 50-50 ball during the first overtime June 12 during the Division 1 Plymouth-Troy state semifinal game. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM







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Plymouth

Continued from Page 4B

back between the pipes for the shootout.

It would take more than the fingers on one hand to count the point-blank Troy scoring opportunities Bowles erased with quick reflexes and strong hands.

"I had no idea I'd be going in until Jeff told during halftime," Bowles said. "Becca is so versatile. When she's in goal, she makes amazing saves and when she's on the field, she makes a huge impact."

Does Bowles' heart rate accelerate once she gets the words she's going in?

"A little bit, but at the same time I trust my team and I know we're a comeback team that really works hard," she said.

"Some of my saves are luck, a lot are due to a lot of practice. But it's not just me making the saves. My defense works so hard. Half the time, they're what save me.

Wednesday semifinal was scoreless until the 16th minute when Troy's Tahra Brodbine one-timed a cross from Olivia Rush into the net to give the Colts a 1-0 lead.

Plymouth's Audrey Kananen created some anxiety for the Troy faithful four minutes later when she juked a pair of Colt defenders 40 yards out, pushed the ball up the left sideline and laced a cross in front of the net, but no Wildcats could connect on the other end.

Thirty minutes in, White rocked a shot that Troy keeper Kendal Zeiter stopped but couldn't corral. Zeiter eventually won a race with Plymouth's Eve Davis to the ball, which rolled dangerously close to the goal line.

With Przybylo joining White at the top of the Wildcats' attack at the outset of the second half, Plymouth's offense started clicking.

The Wildcats repeatedly pounded the Colts' defense with well-organized surges, but they couldn't quite finish the deal - a predicament that turned daunting when Troy sophomore Charlotte Sobotka settled a clearing kick from Bowles, who had ventured far from the goal line, and lofted a carefullyplaced dagger into the net, doubling her team's advantage to 2-0.

Little did they know it, but Colts had just opened the door to the comfort zone



Plymouth junior keeper Ashley Bowles, at right in pink, made several point-blank saves during the second half and both overtimes June 12 during the Division 1 state semifinals against Troy. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Plymouth's Sophia Zelek zeroes in on tha ball.

for the Wildcats, who two weeks earlier rebounded from a two-goal deficit against Canton to win their district tournament.

play better when we're losing by two goals," said Plymouth start defender River Smyth. "We like drama, I guess." Plymouth's rally got kick-started

"I'm not exactly sure why we seem to with 12:46 left when Sophie Zelek

nudged in a rebound shot following a textbook corner kick from Emma Lennig, cutting the Wildcats' deficit to 2-1.

The Wildcats appeared to tie the match at 2-2 at the 7:47 mark, when an unidentified Plymouth player poked home a rebound goal that had struck the cross bar and dropped down.

However, the officials ruled that the ball had kissed off the soccer cross-bar and the football cross-bar that was situated just a few feet higher than its soccer counterpart, negating the goal.

"That pumped us up more than deflated us," White said about the ruling. "Even the Troy girls saw that it only hit the soccer cross bar because they were made and walking toward midfield."

Thirty-two seconds after the negated goal, the Wildcats scored one that couldn't be disputed: an untouchable penalty kick off the foot of White. Morgan Buroker set up the PK by getting fouled in the penalty area.

Following two back-and-forth, scoreless 10-minute overtimes, the teams settled in for a championship berth-deciding shootout.

Zelek and Sobotka both netted their respective teams' initial PK.

Brianna McNab then gave the 'Cats a lead they would never relinquish when she popped in a right-sided shot while the Colts' goalie leaned left.

Troy's next two PKs hit the right post and missed the frame entirely, while Lennig and Smyth nailed their opportunities to set off a joyful celebration among the girls wearing Plymouth black.





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GIRLS SOCCER

Novi's Bandyk wins Miss Soccer

Fenchel, White, and **Eichenlaub** make **Dream Team roster**

Andrew Valiliencourt Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Just two days after winning the state championship, Novi soccer has received more good news: senior Jessie Bandyk has been named Michigan's Miss Soccer.

The star midfielder edged out her teammate, junior forward Avery Fenchel for the award.

Bandyk had an outstanding season as one of the team's senior leaders. She scored 13 goals and recorded 18 assists while also being a standout defender.

She got the news Monday morning at her club team's practice.

"It was a thrilling moment for me, surrounded by all my friends and family being given such a special award," Bandyk said. "I've always just tried to work hard and give it my all out on the field and I can't think of a better word to describe my feelings other than grateful. It's nice knowing that others around me believe I'm deserving of such an honor."

In the division one final, Bandyk scored two goals in Novi's 5-0 win over Plymouth. She will play soccer at Ferris State next year.

"I'm thrilled for her," Novi coach Todd Pheiffer said. "She is one of the most dynamic, hardworking players that I've ever had the privilege of coaching or watching play. She is such a huge asset to our team. Playing center mid, sometimes those players get lost in the middle because people get into the forwards and who's scoring the goals or the de-



Novi's Jessie Bandyk dribbles up the field against Grand Blanc in the regional final. Novi won 4-0. MICHAEL VASILNEK | SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

fense making stops - she's the motor for us in the middle of the field and I've never seen a player work as hard as she does on the field."

Fenchel herself, who is committed to Ball State, had a case for the honor, scoring 27 goals and notching 14 assists while leading the Wildcats offensive attack. She scored the championship game's first goal and was the team's goto attacker all season long. Her play earned her a spot on the Michigan High

School Soccer Coaches Association (MIHSSCA) Dream Team.

"I've said for a long time now that we were lucky to have two of the best players in the state on our team," Pheiffer said. "(Bandyk and Fenchel) work so well together. ... Avery just has that knack of finishing goals, every year she keeps scoring more and more goals, even though other team's know she's our goal-scorer."

He added that Fenchel was thrilled

for Bandyk and will miss her on the field next year.

Joining her on the team are Plymouth's Kennedy White, who scored 32 goals and had 17 assists this season and Marian's Jansen Eichenlaub, who made the team for the third straight year. White will play soccer at Bowling Green.

"When I got the text from my coach my stomach dropped and I was just overwhelmed with excitement," White said. "It made me think about all the coaches and teammates I've had that believed in me and pushed me to be better. I'm so blessed to be included on the Dream Team, it means a lot to me. I'm extremely happy with the honor and I couldn't have done it without my coaches and teammates along the way."

Eichenlaub led Marian to the division two state championship, and scored five goals in her team's playoff run. She was named the Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of Michigan after tallying 23 goals and seven assists for the Mustangs. She is signed to play soccer at Virginia.

"Jansen is as talented a player as we've had at Marian over my past 18 seasons," Marian coach Barry Brodsky told Gatorade.com. "She is one of the most dangerous players on the attack in the state. Her goal-scoring ability forces our opponents to account for her all the time."

Joining Bandyk, Penchel, White and Eichenlaub on the Dream Team are:

- I Maya Etienne, Midland
- Chloe Woodbeck, Shrine Catholic
- Reagan Wisser, Gull Lake
- Maison Fenech, Williamston

Danielle Wolfe, Walled Lake Northem

Paige Webber, Grand Blanc

Elyse DeSchryver, Forest Hills Northern

Novi earned title berth with shootout victory

Andrew Vaiiliencourt USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

GIRLS SOCCER

Novi took down Grand Rapids Forest Huis Central June 12 at Holt High School after winning a penalty kick shootout 2-0, which made the final score 3-2. After the Wildcats and Rangers played to a 2-2 tie after regulation and 20 minutes of overtime, the two teams went to a shootout. Novi coach Todd Pheiffer made the bold decision to change goalies, going to freshman Grace Dziedzic - and it paid off. She didn't allow a goal after facing four shots and Novi stormed the field in celebration. "It doesn't matter if you've been practicing for a month, you cannot create the kind of pressure you're going to feel after playing 80 minutes, then 20 minutes of overtime and then trying to regroup for PKs," Pheiffer said. "It takes a bunch of special athletes to be able to step up in that situation and finish those opportunities."

Forest Hills Central finished the season 21-3.

Here are three takeaways from the game:

Novi co-Captain Jessica Bandyk, left, and Forest Hills Central midfielder Grace Kline both pursue the ball. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Novi starts strong

Novi picked up right where it left off last week when it clobbered Grand Blanc. The Wildcats scored two first half goals - both from All-American junior Avery Fenchel.

The first goal came just two minutes after Forest Hills Central botched a huge scoring opportunity. Fenchel received a free kick and booted it in to give Novi the lead.

It was a complete switch in momentum after the Rangers got a ball past Wildcat goalie Sammy Maday, but it dribbled just wide of the net and out of bounds.

"Our free kick, we've been practicing those in practice, so I knew where I was going to put it, it was just a matter of if it went in or not," Fenchel said. "It went it so that was great. Great teamwork getting it up there and I was able to finish the opportunity."

Fenchel came back nine minutes later, with 16:10 left to play in the half, and connected on a header to give Novi a 2-0 lead. It was a phenomenal play after Jenna Daschke sent a cross out in front of the net. She picked up the assist. Fenchel now has 26 goals this season.

"I don't remember the last time I had a header goal," Fenchel said. "I was in shock honestly. It was a great cross in

from Jenna."

While it seemed Novi would cruise to another easy win, everything changed in the second half.

Forest Hills Central stays alive

Forest Hills Central came out hot in the second half. Lauren Koczenasz connected for a quick strike just 18 seconds into the half to make it 2-1, which completely changed the momentum of the game.

Novi looked tired, while Forst Hills Central remained energized. With 15:03 left in regulation, FHC's Ashley Ward put a shot just over the head and out of reach of Maday. That tied the game up, where it would stay.

Novi had two incredible chances within regulation's final three minutes but was unable to score on any of them. Both of those chances involved senior Lexi Whalen.

With around 2:35 left to go, Whalen fired a shot that hit the crossbar. A minute later, she crossed a pass to Fenchel, who attempted to head the ball in for a hat trick, but the ball sailed just over the goal

In overtime, Novi continued to keep pressure on the Rangers, maintaining possession for nearly all of the the 20

minutes. Its best scoring opportunity came with two minutes left in the second period, when Whalen shot the ball over the net on a wide open goal. It was a stunning moment that would've won the game. Instead, the two squads went to a penalty kick shootout.

"We have a big bench, but we don't have a lot of experience or a lot of depth, especially in the midfield," Pheiffer said. They were kind of in the same boat, we didn't sub a whole lot and they didn't sub a whole lot. At this point, you're counting on your seniors and your starters to step up."

Stressful shootout

Forest Hills Central would shoot first, and most people in attendance were surprised to see Novi trot out a different goalie. Maday had played the entire game and didn't play poorly. However, Pheiffer said both he and his team knew exactly what would happen should a shootout arise. Dziedzic - just a freshman - would step into one of the most pressure filled moments a high school athlete could ever face.

"We've been working on PKs for about a month now because we know it's always a possibility," Pheiffer said. "Shout out to my goalkeeper coach Luke McDonald, he's been working with our goalies."

She was brilliant. Between a combination of saves and shots that missed the net, Dziedzic held the Rangers to zero goals while her teammates got the job done on offense.

Senior Julia Stadtherr scored on Novi's first kick and senior Jessie Bandyk connected on the team's second. Junior Nevada Larson was stopped, but it didn't matter. With a two goal lead after three rounds, all Novi needed was one

final save, which it got. "It was a great win," Fenchel said. "Grace stepped up for us big time. She made big saves for us. We were lucky that they missed a couple, but we finished our chances. Grace came up big, it was really exciting."

Fenchel and senior Lauren Calhoun, the team's defensive leader, would've received Novi's final two penalty kicks if they were needed.

It was an incredible contest between two of the state's best teams, and the game's ending will be up there as one of the most exciting of the entire season, regardless of what teams were involved.

Contact Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @Andrew Vcourt.



(NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 I 78



Northville's Ben Shuart in the 110-meter high hurdles. PHOTOS BY XIN WAN

Area schools have strong showing at track state finals

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Area track and field team claimed a pair of individual all-state finishes as well some top eight performances June 1. It was a rainy and windy day at the MHSAA Division 1 Track and Field Finals at East Kentwood High School.

Host East Kentwood was crowned the team champion for the third year in a row as the team scored 63.5 points. Ann Arbor Pioneer, last year's runnerup, was second again this year with 43,







Angel McCray in the 4x100 relay.

followed by Alpena (31), Lansing Waverly (30), Rockford (30), Milford (24), Grand Blanc (24) and Plymouth (23).

The meet experienced two weatherrelated delays as thunderstorms and wind passed through the area.

"We talked with the boys about not letting the weather get to them, to use it to their advantage," Northville coach Tim Dalton said. "They went out there and competed and that's all I will ask of them."

The Mustangs were led by the 800meter relay team who took third place and lowered their school record as they clocked in at 1:28.75. The relay, made up of all seniors, led off with Zack Phillips, to Demetri Zervos, Nolan Knight and was anchored by Brandon Kearney.

In the 800, senior Nick Couyoumjian ran a personal-best 1:52.87, good for fourth place. Couyoumjian, who will compete at Indiana University next year, also finished fourth in last year's state finals.

"Nick went after it," Dalton said. "He had big goals for this race and he ran his fastest time ever. I'm really pleased with how he competed today."

In the 110-meter high hurdles, senior Ben Shuart ran a personal-best time of 14.71, good for sixth place and a podium finish.

"This season, Ben really worked hard to become an all-state athlete," Dalton said. "He's a top five hurdlers in school history, but more than that, he's a terrific kid. Ben's the type of kid that you wish you could have on your team every year. I'm thrilled for him."

Jacob Pichler qualified for the finals in the long jump and placed ninth. Pichler, a junior, set a new personal-best in event with a leap of 21 feet, seven inches.

"Jacob just started long jumping this season for the first time, so for him to qualify for the state meet and then qualify for the finals was really, really impressive," Dalton said. "It's been exciting to watch him grow and excel in the event. We're anxious to see what he will accomplish next year."

Northville's 4 x 100 relay of Shuart, Phillips, Zervos and Kearney finished 10th in 43.12.

"These boys had big goals all season, but today just wasn't our day," Dalton Northville's Demtri Zervos and Brandon Kearney after the 4x200 relay.

said. "It's unfortunate and I'm disappointed for those four, but they've accomplished an awful lot this spring. They've supported each other throughout the season and have a lot to be proud of."

Kearney also ran the 200, clocking a time of 22.87.

The Mustangs recorded a pair of 11th place relay finishes with the 4×800 of Raymond Jiang, Liu, Alex Beloiu and Couyoumjian (7:56.79) and the 4×400 of Liu, Couyoumjian, Knight and Kearney (3:25.58).

Local male top finishers

400: 6. Berry Matthews (Salem), 49.68; 7. Tyler Burrell (Walled Lake Central), 49.82.

800: 1. Miles Brown (Novi), 1:51.83; 2. Patrick Byrnes (Plymouth), 1:51.83.

1600: 2. Byrnes (Plymouth), 4:12.25. 4. Carter Solomon (Plymouth), 4:16.33; 6. Harrison Grzymkowski (White Lake Lakeland), 4:16.74.

3200: 3. Evan White (Milford), 9:12.30.

110 hurdles: 3. Carson Jenson (Milford), 14.51; 8. Malcolm Caldwell (Plymouth), 14.81.

300 hurdles: 6. Gavin Check (Detroit Catholic Central), 38.57; 8. Caldwell (Plymouth), 39.47.

1,600 relay: 3. Milford (Nolan Preis, Jenson, Grant Ballard, Gunnar Gustafson), 3:21.51; 4. Brighton (Scott Spaanstra, Brenden Edoff, Matt Jontz, Will Jontz), 3:21.71.

3,200 relay: 3. Milford (Ballard, Gustafson, White, Kazuma Bowring), 7:49.47; 4. Novi (Matthew Whyte, Matthew Gustitus, Blake Maday, Brown), 7:51.90; 5. Brighton (Nolan McGahan, Matt Jontz, Spaanstra, Jack Spamer), 7:51.92.

Discus: 5. Tanner Crookston (Walled



Northville's Olivia Harp in the 4 x 800 relay.

Lake Central), 152-08; 6. Donovan Wright (South Lyon East), 152-04.

High jump: 8. (tie) David Vella, 6 feet, 3 inches (White Lake Lakeland).

Pole vault: 7. (tie) Evan Carter, 14 feet, 0 inches (Canton).

Long jump: 4. Caden Domzalski, 23 feet, 1 inch (Canton).

Girls earn four all-state performances

In the girls meet, the Mustangs recorded two individual and two relay allstate performances.

Oak Park repeated as the team champion as it scored 74 points. Detroit Renaissance was runner-up with 71, followed by Rockford (69), host East Kentwood (42) and Ann Arbor Pioneer (30). The Mustangs tied with Bay City Western, each with 14 points.

"I'm really, really proud of how our girls competed," Dalton said. "All of our girls live within our school district. We're really proud to compete with them and have such a strong showing at the state finals.

Northville's 4 x 800 relay finished third with a time of 9:14.51. The team of Emily Gordon, Olivia Harp, Gina Couyoumjian and Yasmine Mansi recorded the second fastest time in school history.

"These girls ran really well today," Dalton said. "Olivia (Harp) capped off her career with her best race all season. I'm really happy for her to do that."

The 4 x 100 relay of Marisa Porco, Angel McCray, Lauren Marshall and Melanie Sarafian took fifth, clocking 49.02.

Abby Dunn capped off a strong season as she placed eighth in the 300-meter hurdles in 45.11, the third fastest time in Northville's team history.

"Abby has been a good hurdler for three years now, but today she cemented her place as one of the best hurdlers our program has ever had," Dalton said. "She stepped up this year and now competes in four events for us. She'll be really exciting to watch her next year."

Northville also placed in the 1,600 as Mansi finished sixth in 4:54.61. That time is the second fastest ever by a Northville runner, behind only Rachel Coleman who was the 2014 state champion in the event.

"It was a big day for Yasmine," Dalton said. "She ran really well in the relay and then ran two more good races. She'll continue to be a big part of our team these next two years."

Local female top finishers

100: 7. Reghan Draper (Plymouth), 12.42.

200: 8. Draper (Plymouth), 25.54. 400: 5. Mackenzie Sullivan (Far-

mington Hills Mercy), 56.67. 800: 4. Victoria Heiligenthal (Mil-

ford), 2:13.28; 8. Maddie Brown (Brighton), 2:14.59.

3200: 8. Madeline Rehm (White Lake Lakeland), 10:48.97.

100 hurdles: 1. Grace Stark (White Lake Lakeland), 13.43; 6. Kennedy Jackson (Walled Lake Western), 14.58.

4 x 200: 8. Livonia Churchill (Jessica Maladecki, Elizabeth Tracy, Melissa Meadows, Iamani Moultrie), 1:44.32.

4 x 400: 8. Milford (Abbie Kozel, Heiligenthal, Paige Saiz, Abby Knapp), 4:02.31.

Shot put: 7. Valadian Pallett (Farmington), 40 feet, ¾ inches.

Discus: 2. Pallett (Farmington), 137 feet, 0 inches; 6. Cecile Steck (Novi), 125-8.

High jump: 2. Jackson (Walled Lake Western), 5 feet, 4 inches; 4. Makayla Ward (Salem), 5-4; 8. Taryn Marshall (Milford), 5-4.

Pole vault: 4. Catherine Visscher (Livonia Churchill), 11 feet, 0 inches.

Long jump: 1. Jackson (Walled Lake Western), 18 feet, 10 % inches; 3. Autumn Glover (South Lyon Bast), 18-6%; 7. Josie Ransley (Livonia Franklin), 17-5%.

Reach Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.





Four things to experience at Lake Powell

Scott Craven Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK - ARIZONA

Lake Powell in Northern Arizona is a marvel of cliffs, towers and bluffs sculpted from stone smoothed by eons of wind and rain. • Visitors can spend days aboard a houseboat exploring the many coves and bays along its shores, setting anchor in a secluded spot and enjoying the gentle lap of water against the hull. • Or you can tackle the opposite end of the vacation spectrum and rent a powerboat for a day or two. Spend the hours waterskiing or wakeboarding. Should you want to explore under your own power, settle into a kayak and paddle as far as your arms will allow. •But there is more to do at Lake Powell than enjoy the water. Here are four things worth experiencing when exploring Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in northern Arizona.

Enjoy the marinas

Lake Powell boasts five marinas, and two of them (Wahweap to the south, Bullfrog to the north) offer lodgings not far from the water. Wahweap also has four restaurants and a lounge, from fast food to fine dining. You also may rent all sorts of watercraft, including power boats, jet skis and, of course, houseboats. Or take a guided boat tour of the lake's highlights. Several options are available, including a dinner cruise and trips to Rainbow Bridge.

Details: www.lakepowell.com.

Journey through Antelope Canyon

When the light hits the smooth, curving walls of Antelope Canyon just right, they appear as if a pastel watercolor that should be hanging in a museum.

Visitors often have to walk single file as those undulating walls close in every now and then, offering a spectacle found almost nowhere else.

The canyon is on Navajo land, and a guide and permit are required. Numerous operators offer tours, many of them originating in Page. Expect to pay around \$70. Reservations are recommended as tours usually fill up. Details: navajonationparks.org/ guided-tour-operators/antelope -canyon-tour-operators.

See Horseshoe Bend

Just 3 miles south of Page, Ariz., Horseshoe Bend (so name for the distinctively shaped turn in the Colorado River) has become a very popular tourist destination thanks to millions of Instagram posts.

The city recently renovated the parking lot and, while



The Colorado River's Horseshoe Bend is downstream from Gien Canyon Dam.

spaces are more plentiful, it's still best to arrive before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. for your best chance at nabbing a space. Cost is **\$10** per vehicle. Once the lot is full, visitors will be turned away.

Be sure to bring water. The parking lot is roughly a three-quarters of a mile from the canyon rim, over a hill along a sandy trail. There's no shade along the trail and it is hot in summer. But the view is well worth the walk. You may safely enjoy the scenery from the viewing deck. If you continue on to the edge, keep your distance from the sheer drop. People have fallen to their deaths, perhaps overwhelmed by the landscape. Details: horseshoebend.com.

Visit Lees Ferry

This is where the Colorado River's canyon walls cede enough room to provide a way to cross. Ferries began



Rafters depart from the boat launch area at Lees Ferry in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

taking people across in 1872, and it was especially popular with Mormon pioneers traveling between the Arizona and Utah territories.

Several historic structures remain, evident from the mile-long River Trail. Ambitious hikers can tackle the steep, 2.2-mile Spencer Trail, which climbs a set of switchbacks to a stunning view.

Lees Ferry also is popular with anglers, boaters and kayakers who want to spend a few hours upriver on placid waters. Grand Canyon rafting tours also launch here.

Lees Ferry is part of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, so visitors should stop at the automated kiosk on the entrance road to pay the \$30 fee if they haven't already. Credit cards only, and the fee is good for seven days.

Details: www.nps.gov/glca/ planyourvisit/lees-ferry.htm.



In the first guarter, flipped houses sold for a median price of \$215,000. The median purchase price stood at \$155,000. GETTY IMAGES

Home flipping rate may be bad sign

Activity at nine-year high but market is cooling

Daivin Brown USA TODAY

The rate of buying, fixing up and reselling a house - also known as flipping - hit a nine-year high with more than 49,000 single-family homes and condos selling in the category in the first quarter.

However, experts warn that's not necessarily an indicator of the housing market's overall strength.

A report released June 6 by the property database Attom Data Solutions found that flipping activity represented 7.2% of all home sales nationwide during the start of 2019. That's up from 5.9% in the previous quarter and up from 6.7% this time last year, representing the highest home-flipping rate since the start of 2010.

Still, that's only part of the picture.

The total number of homes that were flipped was down 8% from the first quarter of 2018, and the number of investors engaging in the activity also was on the decline. Experts say that an uptick in home flipping activity could indicate that conditions in the housing market are worsening.

"While the home flipping rate is in-

creasing, gross profits and ROI are starting to weaken, and the number of investors that are flipping is down 11% from last year," Attom's chief product officer Todd Teta said in the new report. "If investors are seeing profit margins drop, they may be acting now and selling before price increases drop even more."

In the first quarter, flipped houses sold for a median price of \$215,000. The median purchase price stood at \$155,000, making the gross flipping profit just \$60,000, which is a threeyear low.

In the same quarter last year, the gross flipping profit was \$68,000.

That may be why some investors decided to sit on the sidelines.

"With interest rates dropping and home price increases starting to ease, investors may be getting out while the getting is good, before the market softens further," Teta said.

Last year, researchers told Market-Watch the real estate market may be cooling, describing home-flipping as a "canary in the coal mine" as the high velocity of transactions give flippers real-time data on the direction of the market.

The time it took to flip the house also was slightly down from a year ago, 180 days compared with 182 days, Attom found.

Wild ideas will bug me in a good way

Eating insects could be the next, newest thing



Columnist USA TODAY

"Save the world, eat bugs," her card said.

There I was, in The Hague (the city, and not, fortunately, the international criminal court). In front of me were sumptuous trays of lobster and steak and wine, and as I jostled for a seat, I saw an opening and found myself next to what turned out to be two amazing entrepreneurs.

Daniela Arias Rivera and Alejandro Ortega are partners in an impressive Costa Rican venture called CRIC, the Costa Rican Insect Company. As they explained it to me, they are raising crickets and other bugs to create a healthy, sustainable flour and other affordable, high-quality, nutritional food products.

"The environmental benefit of using insects as a source of food has been proven to be not only the option that benefits the most people but also the only option that is scalable and sustainable for the future," they say.

Apparently, Daniela and Alejandro are not alone; according to PrecisionNutrition.com, edible bugs and insects just might be the future of food.

Think eating bugs is gross? Think again. A new generation of chefs, farmers, sustainability experts and adventure eaters is embracing entomophagy (insect-eating)." Why? "Bugs are nutritious and delicious. And more than that, they are a sustainable, ecologically viable food source."

I was in the Netherlands, speaking and participating in the Global Entrepreneurship Summit. The GES is an amazing event that is put on every year by the U.S. State Department and different host nations. Last year, it was in India. Before that, Kenya, and so on.

The great idea is to boost entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship around the globe, foster innovation, facilitate fund-



Steve Strauss gets a selfie with Danie Arias Rivers at the summit in the Netherlands. STEVE STRAUSS/USA TODAY

ing and relationships, create economic ties and altogether be a beacon of prosperity and ingenuity.

Indeed, if I was to make a word cloud for the event, the top words would be sustainability, opportunity, gender empowerment, climate change and so on. Yes, everyone wanted to make a profit, but that seemed almost secondary to making a difference.

I have been around enough entrepreneurs to know that that is the rule and not the exception. Most entrepreneurs are passionate visionaries who want to change the world, or at least their world, and in the process, plan to make some money.

Or, as the famous Apple commercial once put it: "Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can praise them, disagree with them, quote them, disbelieve them, glorify or vilify them.

"About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. ... Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do."

So kudos to Alejandro and Daniela, and all of the other entrepreneurs out there who are just crazy enough to think they can change the world.

Because, while some might see them as crazy, we see genius.

Steve Strauss is an attorney, popular speaker, and the bestselling author of 17 books, including "The Small Business Bible." Connect with him on Twitter at @SteveStrauss and on Facebook at The-SelfEmployed.

ASK HUMAN RESOURCES

A performance action plan should be clear

The aim ought to be improvement, not goals



Johnny C. Taylor Columnist USA TODAY

Johnny C. Taylor Jr., a human-resources expert, is tackling your questions as part of a series for USA TODAY. Taylor is president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest HR professional society.

• The questions are submitted by readers, and Taylor's answers below have been edited for length and clarity.

Question: I was put on a performance action plan at work. I did everything to improve. However, my manager keeps adding more goals to the plan. Because of that, I believe they are setting me up for termination. When an employee is put on a performance improvement plan, isn't the employer expected to stick with the original plan and not keep adding to it? - Anonymous

Johnny C. Taylor Jr.: A performance improvement plan is intended to help an employee improve or correct his or her behavior and performance. It should be clear and agreed to by both the employee and the employer.

Such a plan is generally a set of defined, short-term improvements that must be met by a specific date. But that doesn't mean there is only one level. Sometimes an employee's performance gap is big enough that gradually increased goals with steps or benchmarks are required.

That said, an employer is not building trust with an employee if information is not effectively communicated and new or higher goals are being added continuously.

Without trust, it's unlikely the employee will ever have a high level of engagement or performance, and the impact will be felt beyond the individual employee. Other employees will be affected, and so will the workplace culture as a whole.



Many organizations, both public and private, require individuals to have a break in employment for three to six months before they are rehired. **ORBON ALIJA/GETTY IMAGES**

Given what you shared, it's possible your employer or manager is not using a performance improvement plan as it was intended, or a case is being made to support your termination.

In either case, you should first separate effort and activity from results and achievement. You say you "did everything to improve," which indicates you're trying. But a performance improvement plan doesn't measure trying. It measures improvement. Focus on improving your performance to produce the desired results.

Also consider whether your manager is truly adding objectives in areas that need significant improvement, or if what is outlined are goals to be pursued and accomplished. Your manager could be combining performance improvement needs and goals and isn't clear on the difference.

If you are meeting performance tar-

gets but new goals keep being added, ask for a meeting with your manager and an HR representative to clarify their intent.

Are the expectations for near-term improvement, or do they intend to set continually moving targets? If nearterm improvement is the focus, you can return to a normal cadence of setting routine goals and priorities with your manager once you complete the plan. However, if the performance targets will continue to change, it might be time to start looking for another position.

Q: I want to work part time and not completely retire. My company won't allow that. It wants employees to formally retire for a few months and then come back part time. Why? -Denise

Taylor: It's hard to know for certain, based on what you have shared. But there are several reasons why this might be.

One reason could be staffing and your employer's preference not to have a part-time workforce.

The practice also could have to do with the specifics of your company's retirement saving plans.

A third possibility could lie with the IRS and rules about drawing retirement benefits while working.

I'll explain more about that. But first, I suggest you talk with the HR department to better understand the policy. This will help you decide how to proceed.

Now, about the IRS: Many organizations, both public and private, require individuals to have a break in employment for three to six months before they are rehired. That's because an employer's defined benefit pension and 401(k) plans might lose their tax-deferred status otherwise.

If that happened, it could cost the employer - and employees - plenty in penalties and extra taxes.

In an opinion on a specific case, the IRS said it's not really retirement when employees stop working with the expectation of being rehired shortly after. Thus, they aren't eligible for early retirement benefits, and, if they are paid, the defined benefit plan could be disqualified.

The IRS also addressed a related issue involving 401(k) plans and voiced the same opinion. In other words, you can't collect retirement benefits when you're not retired.

So, to protect the qualified, tax-deferred status of defined benefit and 401(k) plans, many employers require workers to terminate their employment and have a formal break before being rehired.

As you consider what's ahead, you might explore a reduced work schedule. Such a phased retirement would allow you to continue employment while reducing your workload.

There's a benefit for your employer, too. In a transition phase, you could share your work-related skills and knowledge mentoring others - until it's time for your full retirement.



The Art Foundation in Plymouth is in the process of negotiating with Wayne County to purchase the Wilcox Mill at Hines Drive and Wilcox Road at the north end of Plymouth's Old Village. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Art complex pitched for Plymouth's Ford mill site

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Could an old, empty historic auto mill become a thriving arts center in western Wayne County? One prominent artist thinks so and has the vision to create something like no one's ever seen.

The Art Foundation in Plymouth is in the process of negotiating with Wayne County to purchase the Wilcox Mill, located at Hines Drive and Wilcox Road in Plymouth. If the purchase receives the appropriate approvals from local and county officials, the plan is to turn the mill, which hasn't been used since the 1940s, into a thriving art center.

"It really, wholeheartedly, feels like my life's work has come to this," said Tony Roko, a Plymouth artist and founder of the Art Foundation.

The plan would include sculptures designed by Wayne County children and crafted by local artists that would dot the landscape, and the interior of the mill would turn into an art gallery, a space for art workshops and classes and the headquarters for the Art Foundanecessarily a full park around that."

More details on the project are expected to be revealed at a public meeting about the proposal, which will take place at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Penn Theatre at 760 Penniman in downtown Plymouth. There, representatives from both the Art Foundation and Wayne County will be on hand to answer questions and showcase the project and its plans.

There, the foundation hopes to answer questions from supporters and those who may be against the sale of the project.

"We don't have anything to hide," Hoffman said. "We are trying to bring something beautiful and exciting and a source to pride to this area. And really change the landscape of what people have looked at for the last 70 years."

The Wilcox Mill is one of three mills Wayne County has marketed for sale to private investors in Hines Park. Phoenix Mill in Plymouth Township has already been sold to a developer that will turn the facility into a banquet hall, with some of those funds going to help repair

some bridges in Hines Park. The other

The sale of the mills, launched pub-

mill, Newburgh Mill in Livonia, is still

being marketed and ideas for the site

licly in late 2018, has drawn the ire of

some area residents who have protested

continue to be hammered out.

against the sale of the mills.

The mill began as a flour mill in the 1800s before the land was acquired by the Ford Motor Company. It then manufactured engine taps for vehicles until the mid-1940s, when it was sold to Wayne County. It's been essentially vacant since, with the county using the building as storage.

Khalil Rahal, a Wayne County assistant county executive, said the county received several proposals for the land and believed the Art Foundation was the best use for the property.

"There is a real great feeling toward what the foundation was doing with atrisk youth, and how that has a real residual effort on the community regionwide," he said. "What we determined was that the art foundation really provides a use that is a really strong amenity for the public and the park."

City, county epprovel needed

In addition to the art space, amenities for local bicyclists and fishermen and women are also planned. Gone from the proposal are residential condominiums, which were discussed at one point but are no longer part of the project, Hoffman said. If approved, the plans would take several years to hash out before any events or sculptures could be created at the site. The foundation would also need to work with contractors to rehabilitate the site and try to make it look similar to what it looked like when it was last used in the 1940s. Part of the purchase agreement would include the foundation's pursuit of national historic designation for the mill, something it currently does not have.

ty development director, said no official plans for the site have been turned in to the city for official review, though a preapplication meeting with city staff was held to discuss the project.

Buzuvis said while nothing has been decided from the city's perspective yet, he said the proposed use makes great sense for the mill on the north side of the city.

"It's a reasonable proposal and it makes sense to adaptively reuse that building," he said. "The amenities as I understand them that are proposed will help to increase opportunities and really reactivate that corner."

The project, which is expected to go through a planned unit development process with the city, which would require it be reviewed by the city's planning commission and then go to the city commission for its final approval. Hoffman said the Art Foundation hopes to appear before the planning commission before the summer ends.

The sale of the property still also needs approval from the Wayne County Commission as well before closing can take place. No timetable for that has been set, Rahal said.

tion, which is currently inside the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex.

"Based on our research so far, it'll be the first of its kind," said Greg Hoffman, the executive director of the Art Foundation. "There are examples of childdesigned sculptures around, but not

Obituaries

Anthony V. Rizzo

NORTHVILLE - Anthony V. Rizzo, age 83, longtime resident of Northville, passed away June 13, 2019. He was born March 10, 1936 in Rochester, New York; son of Guy and Anna (nee Ponari) Rizzo. Following graduation from the Dearborn School system Tony earned a bachelor's degree and later a master's degree in Geography, both from Wayne State University.

Tony worked as a professor at Wayne State University and at Schoolcraft Community college where he taught Geography for 12 years. He then changed careers and became a real estate broker and appraiser

with his own firm called Rizzo Realty, located in Northville for 18 years. Tony also built houses in Southeastern Michigan for many years before retiring in 2008. He was highly respected in the real estate community for his knowledge of zoning laws and land development.

Tony was an outdoorsman; he was a good fisherman, many times flying into remote locations in Canada with his buddies and had many fun stories to tell from those trips. Tony also enjoyed off the grid camping with his family. He enjoyed going to the casino. Tony was a great storyteller; he loved to talk and write. Some of his articles have been published in the Detroit Free Press and most recently Tony was a contributor to the Kings Mill Grapevine, a neighborhood newsletter. Tony was an advocate for human rights; he was a highly respected teachers union negotiator, a researcher and advocate for healthcare system pricing, and most recently advocating successfully for senior housing lease reform.

Tony is survived by his loving daughters, Sharon Rizzo and Carol Rizzo; his sisters, Lydia Rizzo and Clara (Arturo) Costa; his granddaughters, Maria Westfall and Erin Conklin; and his great grandchildren, Ayden, Weston, and Harlee. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate memorial contributions to Michigan United Conservation Clubs, 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI 48912. Please share condolences at www.casterlinefuneralhome.com



John Buzuvis, Plymouth's communi-

Creating such a unique space, Hoffman said, shows the level of commitment to the area coming from Roko and the foundation.

"It's to show that this isn't yet another bar or restaurant," he said. "It's activating a creative campus, an arts campus that, over time, with the growing reputation of Art Foundation and Tony Roko ... we hope to be bringing in artists from all over the country or potentially all over the world that can showcase their artwork in that setting."

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



Tony Roko holds up an artistic vision of what he hopes to bring to the Wilcox Mill property in Plymouth. The Art Foundation, of which Roko is a founder, is in the process of purchasing the historic auto mill from Wayne County. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

(NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 I 118

Your home won't fund retirement



Ken Fisher Columnist USA TODAY

On April 5, USA TODAY reporter Paul Davidson wrote a piece on the big gains folks reaped buying starter homes as housing markets rebounded from the long 2006-11 housing crash.

Buying in low-cost suburbs, folks could upgrade to larger "forever" homes in just several years. They used starterhome gains to fund bigger down payments. It was a great financial win for young families. It also supports one of the most controversial things I've ever said here: Owning a home is wonderful, but don't bank on real estate as your chief retirement investment.

People looking to real estate today for retirement riches often point to those big post-crisis gains. Trouble is, you can't buy past performance. And the recent past probably isn't a blueprint for the next 10, 20, 30 years or more.

After the housing bubble popped in 2006, prices tanked for five years, bottoming in 2011. Returns since that time are a near-perfect V-shaped recovery a point that a chart in Davidson's story shows. As a general but not perfect rule, what gets hammered the hardest on the way down rebounds the strongest. Starter homes were punished most in the crash. So they rallied most in the recovery. But this bounce effect has largely matured.

Like all assets, home prices move on supply and demand. The key to both? Location, location, location.

The housing market isn't uniform nationally or even within the same city. Anyone looking to hop onto San Francisco's property ladder or other coastal hot spot knows this. Coloradoans may have scored entry-level homes for roughly \$200,000 in 2012, but no such luck for would-be first-time homebuyers in Californian metropolises or New York. The cost of Silicon Valley starter homes can come close to \$2 million, depending on style and neighborhood. That's your first clue real estate is a geographically fragmented game.

Even where it's cheaper to buy, eye-



Like all assets, home prices move on supply and demand. The key to both? Location, location, location. GETTY IMAGES

popping gains aren't guaranteed. If you buy where new construction is limited and job opportunities are humming, keeping supply low relative to demand, you may do very well.

But what if you buy where construction eventually outpaces job creation and population growth? What if a city is focused on one or two industries, and what if they fall from favor and fizzle? What happens to San Jose prices if tech crashes and burns? What of Houston when the energy industry hits the skids? What if your neighborhood school system takes a perceived quality dive relative to nearby communities?

Counting on real estate for your retirement nest egg is a very long-term bet on weak real estate development plus good economic fortune – both in one location. You're betting your town will attract people with good jobs and maintain schools long-term –and that politicians will limit new development. You're betting some hot new suburb won't steal your hamlet's thunder.

Instead, if you see a home purchase as merely guaranteeing a roof over your head and protecting against rising rents, things look different. You don't shun a neighborhood because more housing construction might constrain property values. If all the jobs move, you can too, even if that means having to rent for a few years. You needn't stress about timing your purchase just

right or not picking the highest-flying neighborhood. You can simply go where you and your family feel most at home –whether it's a green suburban neighborhood or a hip urban townhouse.

Homes are great. Banking on them for retirement income isn't.

Ken Fisher is founder and executive chairman of Fisher Investments, author of 11 books, four of which were New York Times bestsellers, and is No. 200 on the Forbes 400 list of richest Americans. Follow him on Twitter: @KennethLFisher

The views and opinions expressed in this column are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of USA TODAY.





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the job network

Managing a demanding manager: A workplace survival guide

Kate Lopaze thejobnetwork.com

When you're applying and interviewing for a new job, everyone's on their best behavior. You're (professionally) dressed to kill and making eye contact like a boss while you talk about your many qualifications. The hiring manager is basically an ambassador, working on selling the organization to you. And even though you might have a sense of the day-to-day of the position and the general company culture, you can't really prepare for the realities of a difficult boss

Like any interpersonal relationship, there may be a honeymoon period before your boss's Type A side emerges. (Or ... it may happen on day two.) Whatever the case may be, dealing with a demanding boss can add stress and subtract from your job satisfaction. Let's review some strategies for dealing with a difficult manager.

Set realistic expectations

This has to be the baseline communication between you and your manager. Things can easily spiral out of control if you're not meeting expectations, while also not working with your manager to create a manageable workload. Instead of letting a demanding boss pile work on your desk, make it an ongoing conversation. "I can handle this, but this other thing may need to wait until next week - is that okay?" Keeping an open dialogue about expectations can help keep the necessary communication channels open.



formance on an unreasonable number of tasks or projects, make sure you're clear about what you need to succeed. For example: "I'm going to need the intern's help to handle this part of the project, if we want to stay on schedule." Or

versations. It's important that your boss knows you're willing to work with them to achieve what needs to be done. Don't be a doormat, but do be polite. If your relationship turns into conflict after conflict, productivity is going to go down — and your career might suffer for

Anticipate your boss's next move

If you're dealing with a micromanager, working on your psychic skills may help save your professional sanity. If your boss is constantly asking for reassurance that something is done, send proactive emails letting her know that X is done — before she has to ask. After a while, you should be able to anticipate the kinds of questions your boss will ask and what responses they want. Once you know that pattern, it's easier for you to give your boss what she wants. If she has the reassurance that things are happening just as she wants them to, it can get you some much needed peace.

Set clear boundaries

If you're always reading (and responding) to emails late at night, your boss may start to take that for granted and expect you to be on call all the time. Some managers are better about respecting personal boundaries and work-life balance than others. Maybe your boss is a workaholic who answers work emails while brushing his teeth in the morning, but if you want a healthier line between Work You and Not-at-Work You, it's important to say so - and be firm about it. His work style may not be yours, and that's okay. Don't answer non-emergency emails during off hours, and if necessary, let your boss know that you'll be off the grid during certain times

Check-ins with your boss can help manage these boundaries: "Just a reminder that I'm going to be out tomorrow, but I'll handle this first thing Monday," or "I'm planning to have this part of the project wrapped up before I leave tonight, but this other piece may trail until tomorrow." Much of the time, your boss just wants to know that things are being handled, so if you're clear about how you're handling things and when you plan to do them, that can help.

Cut them some slack

This can be the hardest strategy of all - after all, they're the problem, right? Yes and no. A demanding boss can make your job much more challenging than it needs to be. But we all have our own styles of doing things, and your boss may not even realize she's being overbearing. Think about whether she's genuinely being unreasonable, or if it's a (perhaps unintentional) tone that makes you think she's being unreasonable. It's important to think of your boss as a person with their own needs, goals, and priorities. Is she under pressure from her own boss? Trying to see the situation from a broader perspective (and not just one of the put-upon employee) can help you manage the situation bet-

"I'll need information from this other team, but it's unlikely they'll be able to provide that before next month." If you don't have the right tools, you won't be able to deliver what your boss wants or expects, and that will reflect badly on you. So speak up!

Don't be combative

Be open about your needs

If you feel overwhelmed because your boss is demanding high-level per-

If you feel cornered and overwhelmed by a boss with a strong personality, it can be tempting to let that misery and frustration out in your con-

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Having a demanding boss can stress you out and make you think about jumping ship. But before you do something drastic, see if there are small ways you can change how you interact with your boss, making things easier for both of you.

Kate Lopaze is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com where this article was originally published. She investigates and writes about current strategies, tips, and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.

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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!

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