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STEM-based play center opens in Northville

IVILLE

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

In the cold of winter, Northville residents and friends Kristin Arneson and Andreea Harrington were trying to figure out what to do with kids.

Instead of defaulting to a place that would only let them burn off their phys-

ical energy around the beginning of the year, they were looking for somewhere their children to learn and challenge their minds.

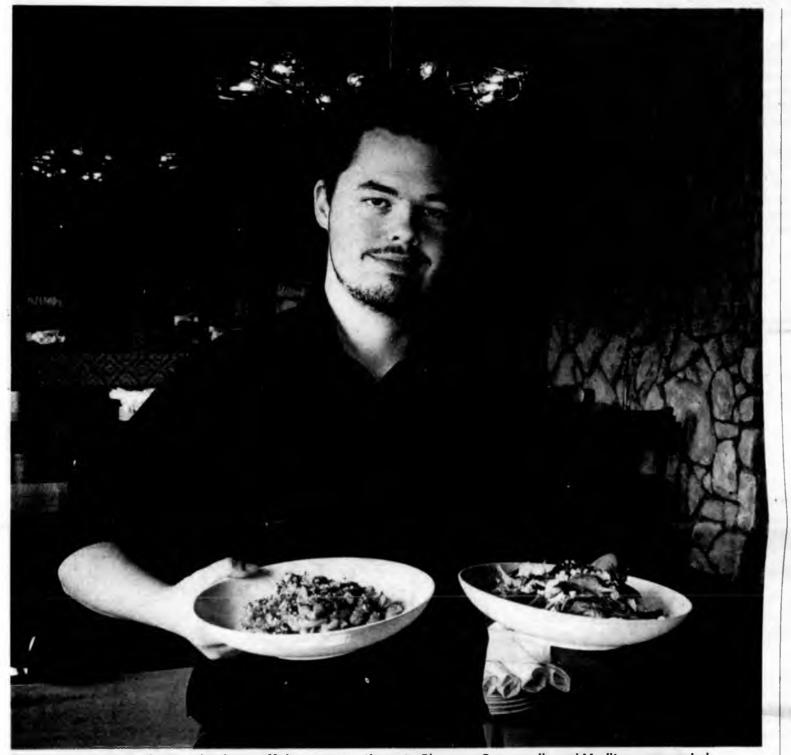
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"We were like, 'There's really nowhere to go for your kids to go have fun and do something," Arneson said. "We wanted to create something that was more for burning mental energy." After six months, some renovations and some testing, the project of that idea is born. Enter in Stemville, a play space for children that opened June 24 at 141 N. Center in downtown Northville.

Named for the four fields of science, technology, engineering and math, the space is filled with imaginative toys and building materials to let children work their inner engineer or scientist. From building with Magformers to simple programming to an five-foot-tall light board similar to a Lite-Brite, there's plenty for children to explore and expand their minds.

The concept is one, the two said, that

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Teen accused of killing mom must wait on appeals court

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Visits with attorneys and his father break the monotony for Muhammad Al-Tantawi, a Farmington Hills teen living at a juvenile jail, accused of killing his mother.

His supporters report the teen is doing OK ... when he's not entirely discouraged. But they would prefer to see him walk freely again, miles away from Oakland County's Children's Village.

Al-Tantawi was a top student at the highly-acclaimed International Academy West in White Lake Township before he was sent to juvenile jail.

He would be applying to colleges, celebrating his faith and spending quality time with his family if his mother hadn't died on Aug. 21, 2017. She was 35; her son, 16.

"I think he wants to continue his life," his appellate attorney Clarence Dass said. "He wants to be out in the world doing what young people do. All these things that kids want to do ... he can't do because he's sitting in a jail somewhere. "He's been discouraged. He is discouraged. He wants to get out. He feels like his life is being wasted now by being in a jail cell for two years."

Bar Verona server Jordan Brooks shows off the restaurant's pasta Giuseppe Campanelle and Mediterranean salad. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Bar Verona: Italian cuisine off the M-5

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The first time Nicole Miller's 6-yearold daughter ate the food at the restaurant her mother manages, it made her cry.

But not in a bad way, said the Macomb Township resident and director of hospitality at Bar Verona in Commerce Township. These were tears of joy.

"She said, 'I don't want to tell you." And I'm like, 'What?' " Miller said. "She

said, 'I like it better than yours.' " Miller and the rest of the staff at the Commerce Township restaurant, located at 500 Loop Road along the M-5 freeway just north of 14 Mile, hope the food

at the restaurant leaves such a lasting impression on its customers, tears or no tears.

The restaurant, which opened Monday, replaces the former Johnny Carino's Italian restaurant in the area just north of Novi that closed earlier

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Becoming an adult

Because of passions he inspires in his father and attorneys, Muhammad Al-Tantawi's life of limbo is starting to stir.

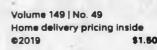
On Friday, attorneys will argue before a three-judge Michigan Court of Appeals panel whether an incriminating video and interview with Farmington Hills police will be suppressed from the teen's murder case.

Dass is optimistic since the appellate court has agreed to hear oral arguments before the murder case proceeds in Oakland County Circuit Court. There, Judge Martha Anderson already has ruled there's no legal reason to suppress the video and police interview from trial evidence.

"Without those two pieces of information, I don't think there is a very strong case," Dass said. "This is a very critical moment for Muhammad. The case could either go very well or it could return back to the trial court. It's make-or-break for the case."

See TEEN, Page 3A

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Center

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they've never seen elsewhere before. They've spent time at hands-on museums and enjoyed those, but decided to put some of those elements into a completely different space.

"We kind of took the things that our kids enjoy to do and we started researching," Harrington said. "It would be nice for them to go somewhere and have those types of things."

In addition to having an open play area, Stemville will do a few special projects a month with children. The first such project involves creating a lava lamp from water and oil. Staff members, many of them in high school or college, lead the activity. Those children can then receive a patch for completing the activity if they're a part of the patch program that can go on a white lab coat children can sign up and receive.

Finding such a space was perfect for 10-year-old Logan Williams and his father, Mike Williams. Fresh back from a trip to Italy, they heard about the space the day it opened and decided to check it out and beat the jet lag.

After just a little bit of time inside, they signed up for a monthly membership.

"This is his sport," Mike Williams said about his son. "He doesn't have to got to a soccer field. He can just go here."

For adults, coffee from Great Lakes Coffee Roasting Company is served, and there are tables for adults to work or read. The center also has WiFi.

Children can come to the space for a flat fee for two hours of playtime, and an unlimited monthly subscription plan for individual children or families is also available. The space is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, with the room available to rent for parties on Sundays. More information can be found at its website, stemvillemi.com.

The space is designed to inspire children to be creative, something, the two co-owners said, may not happen at home as often because of busy schedules.

"We'll take on the mess, we'll take on the exploration," Arneson said. "We want to see kids just have a space so they can come and just see what their imagination comes up with."

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At left, Stemville co-owners Kristin Arneson, left, and Andreea Harrington, pause for a photo as they talk about the new Northville play center. At right, Logan Williams, 10, of Northville, controls a robot at Stemville. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Stella Zgourov, 6 of Novi, works with an Ozobot during her play time at Stemville on June 24.



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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 **Recreation & Master Park Plan.**

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



Stemville, which opened June 24, features play areas for children, and coffee and wi-fi for their guardians.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PROVISIONS OF THE **NOXIOUS WEED ORDINANCE**

TO: All owners, occupants or possessors of subdivided lands or lots:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush, or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of eight (8) inches, growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City of Novi, shall be cut down, destroyed or removed as the case may be, at least twice in each year, once during the last half of the month of May and again during the last half of July of each year and more often as may be necessary.

If the owner or occupant, or any person or persons, agent, firm, or corporation having control or management of any subdivided land or lots or any other non-subdivided parcel of land upon which any building or buildings have been erected shall fail, refuse, or neglect to comply with the above mentioned Code provisions, the city shall cause the weeds, grass, brush, deleterious, unhealthy growths, rubbish, to be cut down, destroyed, or removed. Provided, further, that any lands which are situated within the floodplains or any natural streams or watercourses, or any area between the lower or upper banks of such streams or watercourses shall be exempted from the provisions of such Code provisions. The expense incurred by the City in the cutting, destruction, or removal of same, together with an administrative charge established pursuant to resolution of City Council, will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

> Charles Boulard, Building Official City of Novi

Publish: July 11, 2019

(NR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019 I 3A

Teen

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Paul Walton, Oakland County's chief assistant prosecuting attorney, disagrees.

"The case is more than just the defendant's statements," he said. "(And) we've already gotten a lower court's opinion that this was properly admitted evidence."

The Court of Appeals ultimately will mull the Farmington Hills police officers' actions with a teenage Al-Tantawi during the oral arguments in downtown Detroit. An appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court is still possible.

"We won't be commenting on the Muhammad case as it makes it(s) way through the courts," Chief Chuck Nebus said in a statement.

Family under pressure

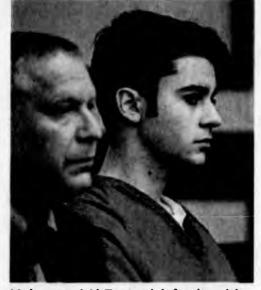
Muhammad Al-Tantawi's father tries to visit his son at least once a week at Children's Village. Bassel Al-Tantawi said in a statement he blames the Farmington Hills police officers for his son's arrest.

"My son has been devastated by what has occurred," he wrote. "And for what? Because the police never bothered to follow up on any leads in this case. Whether it stems from their laziness, incompetence or prejudice, an innocent boy has lost two years of his life and must fight to prove that he didn't do anything to his mom. This is a grave injustice that keeps ripping the lives of my family apart."

Bassel Al-Tantawi and his wife Nada Huranieh had lived in separate residences for more than a year when she flew out a second-story window at 36933 Howard Road, where she lived with Muhammad and his two younger sisters, and landed on the patio.

An officer has testified that he saw no blood on the patio, nor did he have any blood on his hands after he checked under Huranieh's head for signs of injury. He also was bothered to find Huranieh face up, which seemed odd if she had fallen from the open window above her body.

He inspected the guest room with the open window. There was a small stepladder and bottle of glass cleaner near the window. The window had spray



Muhammed Al-Tantawi, left, sits with attorney David Kramer at a preliminary exam last year. Al-Tantawi is charged with first degree murder in the death of his mother, Nadia Huranieh. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

marks but no smudge signs.

Autopsy results ultimately showed Huranieh was smothered and dead before she landed on the patio. She was a certified fitness instructor at the Franklin Athletic Club in Southfield and known by friends as a bundle of energy trying to move on with her life.

Her husband was a former Cantonbased doctor who pleaded guilty in a medical fraud scandal. His sentence was one day in jail and an order to pay fines of \$278,355.

He also pleaded guilty to a domestic violence charge involving his wife and was wearing a tether when she died. The case was dismissed months later.

A juvenile's mind

When Huranieh's death happened, some stories portrayed Bassel Al-Tantawi as a traditional Muslim critical of American culture whose son was becoming most like him. Dass knows Muhammad as a well-spoken teen interested in politics.

"No one has any idea how this could have happened," the attorney said. "There's a disconnect somewhere here. We don't know what that is. But it's a prosecutor's job to prove the case. We just have to show that it didn't happen the way that the prosecutor thinks it happened." According to court records, on Aug. 22, 2017, the day after Huranieh's death, police officers returned to Howard Road to confiscate video that would portray shadows and evidence of a man's presence in the second-story guest room.

Dass said a search warrant hadn't been issued and, in lieu of that, no clear consent was given.

At least three armed police officers interviewed Muhammad Al-Tantawi that day. The teen changed his story, inserting inconsistencies, as the 40-minute interview proceeded and, toward the end, "Mr. Altantawi placated the Farmington Hills Police by agreeing to their theory that he was helping his mother and she accidentally fell off the ladder," Dass writes in a court brief.

Teen-age testimony

Here is one officer during the transcribed interview:

"Because if ... I'm not saying, a lie, but if you say something that's not truthful, even though you know it's an accident and then we, we prove that it wasn't an accident, you know ... Accidents can be looked at one of two ways. They can be looked at as an accident, or they can be looked at that somebody did it on purpose. And I would like to know that this was just an accident."

Muhammad: "Yeah, ah, I'm, it has to be an accident, yeah."

Officer: "But, we need to know the person ... from the person that was in that room, how it happened. That's what we're getting at."

Muhammad: "I, I really ... I really ... I don't know what to say. I mean ... "

Officer: "I just want you to say the truth. And if that ... 'cause ... if what you've been saying is the truth, and that's the truth, then that's fine. I just don't want to prove something wrong down the line, and then, "Okay, well he didn't tell you ... He wasn't truthful there. Well then, maybe it wasn't an accident." That's what we're trying to figure out."

Muhammad: "Yeah."

Officer: "We know that somebody was in the room. And we're about 99.9 percent sure it's a male that was in the room ... "

Muhammad: "Uh-huh."

Several pages later, Muhammad Al-Tantawi tells police: "I'm not ... It's, it's what you're saying. I'm just gonna agree with what you say." Dass said police officers unfairly pressed Al-Tantawi for answers, forcing him to buckle under the strain of his mother's death, a lack of food and water, no family by his side and police officers saying they were there to help.

"His version is that he didn't understand what it was exactly that they were trying to get at," Dass said. "If you look at the interview ... they tell him it was an accident. They're kind of like, 'If this was an accident, then just let us know and we can help you.'

"He starts in his head thinking, "They're here to help me. Let me tell them what they want to hear so I can get help and get out of the situation.' That's our version of what happened. The reality is he didn't really understand that this was an actual interview for criminal investigation purposes."

Judge Anderson said during a November decision denying requests for suppressed evidence that the teen was free to get up to get water during the interview, was never handcuffed or restrained and at various points declined to talk any further in response to various questions.

"Even during the questioning, the defendant appears to be a very bright young man," Anderson said. "I think he understood what was going on. Was he afraid to talk to police due to his age? I don't get that impression. He clearly understood what information to give."

Road ahead

Muhammad Al-Tantawi may not be able to attend the appellate hearing that could determine his future.

Dass plans to seek permission from court authorities.

"No one knows better about the interview than him," the attorney said. "We want to be able to talk to him."

The judge's decision to not give the teen any bond has devastated his father.

"Within a day of losing his mother, he was accused of killing her," Bassel Al-Tantawi wrote. "So, instead of graduating from the International Academy and looking at colleges, my son is locked down and unable to receive an education. My daughters have not only lost their mother but have to deal with their own brother accused of the unthinkable."

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



Commerce Township's Bar Verona has seating at the bar for about 24 customers. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Bar Verona

Continued from Page 1A

this year. After the former Italian restaurant closed, the crew with Bar Verona came in and revamped the space, making improvements to the bar, dining area and exterior of the restaurant and brought in a new menu full of traditional favorites and new twists on classical food.

Coming into the space in Commerce Township was a deliberate move, Miller said, as the restaurant's ownership believe the area is in need of such a place to eat.

"We think that we a really nice market here," Miller said.

The space was perfect for Bar Verona, headed by celebrity chef Fabio Viviani, who launched the restaurant.

Viviani, who appeared on Bravo's "Top Chef" in 2008, is expected to pop in at the restaurant every once in a while to check in and help with keeping the restaurant running. When he's there, he's engaged in the operations, said restaurant manager Brian Hill.

"He's in the kitchen, he's working with everybody," the Ann Arbor resident said.

As for the menu, the restaurant hopes to draw in a wide range of guests, from casual diners to the serious Italian food fanatics. The dishes, brought to life by executive chef Johnathan Lynch, are designed to bring out the best in flavor and presentation.

"It's the approach to food that I'm a fan of," he said. "The attention to details



Bar Verona, a new Italian restaurant, sits off M-5 near 14 Mile Road.

are inside of the food so that when it comes out, it looks very simple, but the taste has that complexity to it."

Dishes include traditional spaghetti, lasagna, fettuccine and melon salad, among others. Dishes designed to be noticeable include the Verona pizza, the pie designed to stand out among the unique plates at the restaurant, Lynch said.

While the restaurant is only open for dinner, the hope is to eventually open for lunch later this summer, Miller said. That menu is still being worked on and will be revealed at a later date.

The restaurant is the first of several Bar Verona's planned for metro Detroit. Another restaurant is expected to open in October on Van Dyke Avenue in Washington Township, as well as locations in hotels in Shelby Township and Detroit.

More information, including how to make reservations, can be found at barverona.com.

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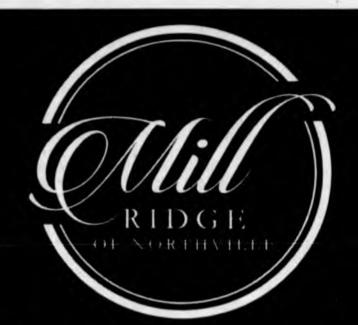


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Joseph Samona and his family received a letter from their homeowners association stating that this Virgin Mary statue and other religious decor in their yard is a violation of policy. PHOTOS BY KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Family angered by request to remove Virgin Mary statue

Homeowners association says it violates policies

Emma Keith and Andrea Perez Balderrama Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

Every morning, each member of the Samona family stops to pray in front of a small statue of the Virgin Mary that adorns the flower bed in the yard of their Novi home.

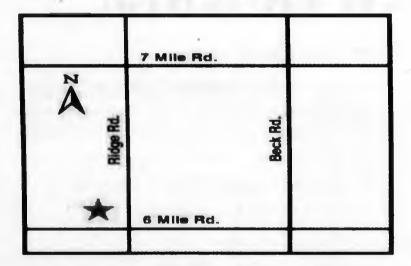
"There is no doubt in my mind that this is an attack on our religion."

Joseph Samona who lives at the Novi home with his parents

The letter said the family is in violation of the association's bylaws but doesn't cite the specific section.

However, the group's "Declaration of Easements, Covenants and Restrictions" found online notes that "no lawn

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*Pricing featured above only available on home site #47 Please see our New Home Consultant for further details for a complete list of pricing and features. Information contained herein accurate at the time of publication. We reserve the rights to change or discontinue promotion without notice or obligation. They pause again in front of the tiny statue when they return home at day's end. It's been part of the family's routine since they moved into the Tollgate Woods neighborhood in 2003.

On Tuesday, the Samonas received a letter from their homeowners association, stating that the Virgin Mary figure and other pieces of statuary in their yard were in violation of neighborhood policies.

The family believes it's discrimination.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this is an attack on our religion," said Joseph Samona, who lives at the home with his parents. "We have already received an outpouring of support from friends and family, and we are prepared to fight this tooth and nail."

It's not the first time the group has targeted their religious decorations.

In 2005, they tried to make the family remove their lawn nativity scene. They pushed back, bringing in a lawyer and drawing widespread media attention until the association backed off.

In 2009, the homeowners association asked them to remove the Virgin Mary statue. The family never responded and the group never followed up on its request.

Tollgate Homeowners Association representative Debbie Laudermilch did not respond to repeated requests for comment. statues, ornaments or outdoor art shall be placed on any lot without prior approval" which may be withheld for "purely aesthetic reasons."

Samona said the family is considering taking legal action.

But one real estate lawyer said the case might be complicated.

"It would only be illegal if the homeowners association was arbitrary in its enforcement of the rule," said attorney Mark Linton of the Advanta Law Firm in Southfield. "They have the right to prohibit homeowners from putting up these items in their yards."

As far as city ordinances go, Novi spokeswoman Sheryl Walsh said that no ordinance exists prohibiting a statue of religious nature.

"If the homeowners association came to the city asking for support, the city would not be able to do that because this rule is not a city ordinance," she said.

Samona said his parents are deeply religious and deeply involved in their local faith community. They immigrated to the U.S. from Iraq decades ago to escape religious persecution for their Catholicism.

"We're just looking to let people know that no matter what your faith is whether it's Catholicism, Islam, Judaism — don't let anyone tell you that you have to back down from that," Samona said.



Joseph Samona sits on the front steps of his Novi home, near religious decor.

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It's Your Moment to Get More During Toll Brothers National Sales Event Personalized Incentives and Exceptional Financing Options Available for a Limited Time in July

Toll Brothers, the nation's leading builder of luxury homes, just kicked off its National Sales Event on Saturday, July 6. The event will run through Sunday, July 28 in participating communities throughout the country.

During the National Sales Event, home buyers can browse an expansive variety of homes and take advantage of limitedtime incentives.

With its impressive list of select savings on products featured in its homes, Toll Brothers offers buyers the unique benefit of the builder's long-standing partnerships with leading brands such as Kohler, Timberlake, DalTile, and many more during this event.

"The National Sales Event invites buyers to visit one of our Toll Brothers' communities in Ann Arbor, Canton, Northville, or Novi and take advantage of community and manufacturer incentives exclusive to this event," said Nadia Mekled, Regional Sales Manager for Toll Brothers. "The superior savings allows you to add even more luxury and value to your purchase. There has never been a better time to build your dream home."

Interested buyers must make a deposit between July 6 and July 28, 2019. Limitedtime incentives vary among communities and will comprise of a package of savings created specifically for this event, so buyers should contact their community of interest and speak with a sales representative to

Resort-class Amenities in Canton Westridge Estates is the only new community in Canton offering resort-style amenities, including a clubhouse with fitness room, gathering room, kitchenette, locker rooms, pools, sand volleyball court, children's play park and walking paths. Westridge Estates is located just south of Ford Road west of Ridge Road, and home prices start in the upper \$400,000s. For more information, visit WestridgeofCanton.com or call 734-844-0279.

learn more.

Selling Fast in Canton

Hamlet Pointe and Hamlet Meadows are located within the existing community of The Hamlet offering an exceptional location close to Plymouth-Canton schools, the Ford Road Shopping District, expressways, parks and the quaint Cherry Hill Village.

At Hamlet Meadows, pricing starts in the upper \$300,000s. Two-story home designs range from 2,411 sq. ft. to more than 2,842 sq. ft. Brand new, open-concept designs are now available. Hamlet Pointe features large home sites and side-entry garages. Homes are priced from the upper \$400,000s. For details, visit The-Hamlet.com or call 734-398-5939.

Low-maintenance Villas in Novi Located in the heart of Novi on the east side of Novi Rd., just south of Ten Mile Rd. is Ridgeview Villas of Novi. Several luxury villa designs range from 2,041 to 2,676 sq.



Learn about limited-time savings during this event that you can use to personalize one of our open-concept designs like The Bethesda - Available at North Oaks of Ann Arbor.

ft. with first- or second-floor master suite options. Residents enjoy low-maintenance living and paved walking paths leading to The Sports Club of Novi, a dog park, and Novi Ice Arena. Pricing begins in the mid-\$400,000s. Final home sites have been released so buyers should hurry in for best selection. For details, call (248) 904-8515 or visit Ridgeview Villas.com.

Luxurious Living in Northville Now offering two amazing

single-family communities in Northville. Toll Brothers at Montcaret is located on the south side of Seven Mile Road, 1¹/₄ miles west of Beck Road just minutes from the historic downtown. Toll Brothers at Dunhill Park is on the corner of Beck Road and 8 Mile Road

across from Maybury State Park. Both prestigious communities offer a range of home designs with an exceptional list of features on grand oversized home sites. Prices start from the low \$700,000s to the upper \$700,000s. Call 248-924-2601 or visit TollBrothersAtMontcaret. com or LiveAtDunhillPark.com for details.

Popular Villas in Ann Arbor

Located on the north side of Scio Church Road, just west of Maple Road, the lowmaintenance luxury villas an , exceptional list of included features in a stunning setting with pricing from the upper \$400,000s. The final two opportunities with first-floor master suites are available for immediate move-in. For details,

call (734) 224-6686 or visit Kensington-woods.com.

North Oaks of Ann Arbor is the region's premier resortclass community situated in a stunning 109-acre setting. Two collections of homes are available. Townhomes from the upper \$300,000's and Villas from the low \$500,000s

The Villas range from 2,041 to 2,631+ square feet and offer first or second-floor master suites, island kitchens, open layouts, loft space, and more. The Townhomes range from 1,861 to 1,890+ sq. ft. and include a 2-car garage, finished lower level, and the option to add a rooftop deck. A clubhouse with a fitness center, yoga room, billiards, great room with fireplace, verandas overlooking the lap and wading pools, locker rooms and a play park is now open. North Oaks is located minutes from the University of Michigan's north campus, the VA Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, and downtown Ann Arbor. Children attend acclaimed Ann Arbor Schools with the elementary and middle schools just 3 minutes away. For details, call 734- 224-6686 or visit North-Oaks.com.

Single-Family Homes from \$399,995 in Ann Arbor

Trailwoods of Ann Arbor, a new community of singlefamily homes tucked into a gorgeous setting with Ann Arbor schools and low Scio Twp taxes is now available. Two collections of homes offer all new open-concept designs with an impressive list of included features. The Village Collection is priced from \$399,995 and The Parkside Collection is priced from \$499,995. Two gorgeous models are available to tour and quick move-in homes are available. For more information, visit TrailwoodsOfAnnArbor. com or call (734) 995-5503.

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Milford Village salaries

Milford Village Council recently approved 2% raises for non-union employees. Here's the new pay structure.

Deputy clerk	\$38,177	\$41,040	\$49,630		
Finance/accounting asst.	\$33,968	\$36,515	\$44,158		
Deputy treasurer	\$38,177	\$41,040	\$49,630		
Admin. asst./records clerk	\$38,177	\$41,040	\$49,630		
Asst. public services director	\$56,710	\$60,963	\$73,723		
Building official/zoning administrator	\$61,463	\$66,073	\$79,902		
Asst. village manager/village clerk	\$61,463	\$66,073	\$79,902		
Finance director/treasurer	\$68,240	\$73,358	\$88,712		
Public services director	\$80,006	\$86,006	\$104,008		
Police chief	\$80,006	\$86,006	\$104,008		
Police services coordinator	\$41,132	\$44,217	\$53,472		

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC SILVER WORK

Milford employees get a 2 percent raise

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Non-union Village of Milford employees are getting a raise.

The village council unanimously approved a 2% increase to the salary schedule for all full-time management and administrative employees, as well as for part-time administrative/clerical employees, code enforcement officers, police service aides, police service cadets and crossing guards.

Village Manager Christian Wuerth said the raises for about 40 full- and part-time employees equate to about a \$26,000 increase in the village budget. The pay increases take effect July 1.

In a memo to council, Wuerth noted that in 2015, the village had updated the

compensation structure for management and administrative (non-union) employees following a compensation study by the Michigan Municipal League. The system allows for the pay structure itself to be adjusted within the budget process each year while individual employees receive pay increases based upon a combination of length of service and performance.

Employees receive step increases for their first four years with the village and thereafter receive performance-based raises that can range from zero to 2%.

An employee must serve at least seven years before reaching the maximum range on the pay scale as shown in the Milford Village pay schedule. Contact Susan Bromley at

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.



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Feldman Chevrolet in New Hudson was recently approved for an auto body shop in Lyon Township. COURTESY OF FELDMAN CHEVROLET

Feldman Auto Body shop coming to New Hudson

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A 26,136-square-foot auto repair shop is coming to Lyon pending special land use approval by the township board.

The planning commission unanimously approved a site plan for Feldman Auto Body at its Monday meeting. The project will move forward if the township board approves the special land use the commission recommends for the facility, which would be located on a 10.6 acre vacant parcel on the north side of Interstate 96 and Pontiac Trail, east of S. Milford Road.

Commissioner Jim Chuck said a presentation on the Feldman proposal during a March public hearing was "one of the worst" he had seen, but added that on Monday, all his questions had been answered.

"You are Michigan's number one Chevy dealer," he said. "It needs to look nice, and I think you guys answered the bell."

Feldman Automotive had proposed paying into a sidewalk fund rather than establishing a sidewalk on the property's frontage that would have no adjacent property connections. Commissioner Patricia Carcone noted at the meeting that while it was essentially "a sidewalk to nowhere," she preferred it be put in anyway with an eye on the future and possible restaurants established in the area near a trailhead.

Planning Chair Mike Conflitti wondered if the 304 parking spaces allotted for the site would be sufficient, suggesting it was more likely the shop would need space for more than 400 vehicles.

Under the company's proposal, vehicles can't be stored for more than two days at a time, and will be inspected within 24-48 hours of arrival and removed within seven days from the parking lot.

Gary Letkemann, representing Feldman Chevrolet, said cars would be dropped off and prepped from Feldman's New Hudson store, as well as from other stores.

"Cars will be moved in and out," he said. "The parking situation at all of our stores is at critical mass and this will be good relief. Our goal is to sell, and the inventory terms are pretty good."

To address potential traffic issues, Feldman has worked with the Road Commission for Oakland County and will extend a center left turn lane for the frontage on Pontiac Trail.

(NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019 I 7A



At left, a young artist works on a project at the Art In The Park festival in downtown Plymouth. At right, eye-catching art was visible throughout the 2018 festival. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS

Here's what to look for at **Plymouth's Art In The Park**

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth's 40th annual Art In The Park is expected to draw more than 300,000 people to the space locals refer to as DTP.

Billed as the second-largest art festival in Michigan, the event in downtown Plymouth will feature more than 400 artists from across the country and Canada.

This year's hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 12; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 13; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 14.

Shuttles will run continuously all weekend from the south lot at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia. The shuttle fee is \$3. Kids 12 and

younger ride free.

Here are four attractions you need to

The Living Mural

check out:

Former Canton resident Kristen Dillenbeck Zipp, who now calls Portland, Oregon, home, will create a living art mural at booth No. 500 near the intersection of Ann Arbor Trail and Main Street.

Zipp has combined body painting with her love for live murals to create a three-dimensional mural.

George Tait's Stand Still Theater

George Tait's unique brand of enter-

tainment will be hard to miss all three sketched with chalk onto the pavement days of the festival from 1-5 p.m. on the and will be a work in progress all weekcompass at the intersection of Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail.

Dressed as a a gray statue while standing on a stone platform with an umbrella cane in hand, Tait transforms every 15 minutes from a motionless figure to a statue coming to life. The statue, er, Tait, manages to read minds, challenge perceptions and stop time.

Chalk Mural

Near the corner of Main Street and Penniman Avenue, local artist Erin Dillenbeck and D&M Art Studio will be back creating a chalk art masterpiece. The street-art demonstration will be

end.

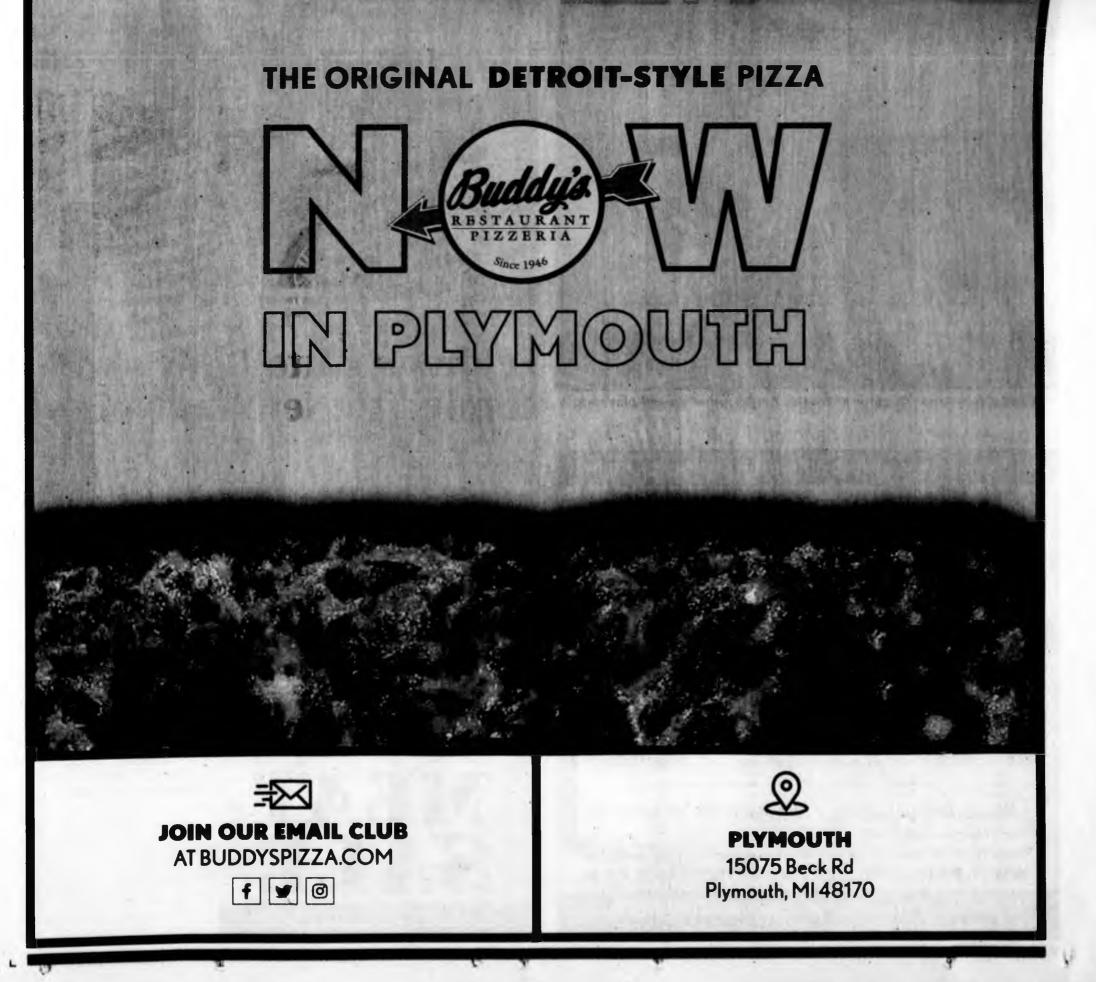
Several D&M Studios artists will be on hand to assist with the chalk mural.

Meet Princess Caroline

Join Princess Caroline as she inspires and encourages boys and girls to be good, kind and giving. Princess Caroline will share stories, songs and more.

Art In The Park attendees are encouraged to bring their cameras to pose with the princess, who has a gift of enchanting and delighting little ones.

For schedules and updates on all things Art In The Park, visit www.artinthepark.com.



CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY IN MILFORD



Matt Tibbs, left, carries the American Legion flag in the Milford Fourth of July parade. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Miller-Mittig Scottish Dancers perform along the parade route.



Declaring his Freedom to Spray Silly String on the Assembled, Kurt Hay rides an old-fashioned bicycle and has some fun with those along the parade route.



Abbygayle Hoffman tosses out a handful of candy to the kids lining the Fourth of July parade route.



٦

Elle Close, 10, center, and sister Charlotte, 8, right, wave their American flags before the start of the Milford Fourth of July Parade on Thursday morning.



Kaitlyn Krolikowski and daughter Charlotte, 3, enjoy red-white-and-blue cookies.



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With their red-whiteand-blue dresses, sisters Ava Rose, 2, left, and Chioe Fay Lundberg, 3, walk their dog, Belvie, along Milford's Main Street before its 2019 Fourth of July parade.

Griffin Claw partners with Detroit Zoo on beer

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Griffin Claw Brewing Company is taking the phrase "zoo brew" to a whole new level this summer.

The Birmingham-based beer maker has teamed up with the Detroit Zoo to create a series of beers, entitled the "Survival Series," highlighting the institution's work on conservation across the globe. Four beers are planned for the rest of the year inspired by the zoo's work in conservation.

"They came up with it because they wanted to raise awareness," said Christopher Lasher, the brewery's marketing manager. "They came to us and said, 'We have a big project in mind.'

"The more we got into it, the more (we realized) this could be a big help."

The first, Piping Plover Pilsner, is now for sale in the brewpub at 575 S. Eton in Birmingham, and is expected to hit store shelves soon. Described as a crisp, refreshing beer, Lasher said the brewery thought a pilsner would make a great kickoff beer for the series in the middle of summer.

Plus, it's just fun to say with the alliteration.

Three other creatures will be featured later on this year with their own brews: Grauer's gorillas, Panamanian golden frogs and Partula snails.

Creating such a partnership with Griffin Claw, said Detroit Zoo CEO Ron Kagan, made the most sense given the brewery's involvement in the annual Zoo Brew and other events at the zoo in Royal Oak. Creating such a program, he said, brings awareness to a younger generation that might not be as knowledgeable about the zoo's conservation efforts.

And beginning with the piping plover, a bird native to Michigan, is a deliberate move to make people realize there's plenty of threatened animals here at home.

"But the first one that we're celebrating is one of the animals in Michigan we're saving," Kagan said. "Most people, when they think about endangered species, they think about something in Africa or somewhere else. But we have some in Michigan, too, and the piping plover is one of them."



Griffin Claw Brewing Company marketing director Christopher Lasher holds a four-pack of their Piping Plover Pilsner that will be sold to help the Detroit Zoo raise funds for the endangered bird species. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The four animals selected for the series are ones that have seen success from the zoo's efforts in recent years, and aren't necessarily animals many people think of when they think of threatened species, Kagan said.

"We think sometimes, an animal might be a bit obscure, like a piping plover. People know about polar bears," Kagan said. "We think it's important people understand that conservation is not a beauty contest." The zoo has sent zoo workers from across the country each year up to the Michigan's Biological Station in Pellston to work on the captive-rearing effort for the piping plover. Through its efforts, the piping plover has gone from 20 known pairs in 1986 to 63 pairs in 2018, which is close to half the goal of having 150 pairs in the wild.

The beer will be sold in four-packs across southeast Michigan, and the hope is to carry it at the zoo for special events. It can also be purchased in fourpacks of cans at the Birmingham brewery on Eton between 14 Mile and Maple.

Other brews in the series are still being determined, though they could include a stout and a ginger pale ale. The brewery also plans to donate money to the zoo at the end of the run to help the conservation efforts.

"All (the customers) have to do is drink beer," he said. "But now, they can feel good about it."

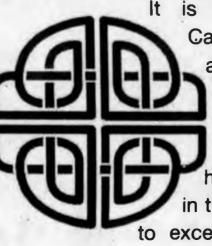
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What's next for recreational marijuana?

Kathleen Gray Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Another milestone for legal weed happened this week when the state released the rules and regulations that will govern the recreational marijuana market in Michigan.

Michigan voters approved legalizing marijuana for adult recreational use in November 2018 and the use, possession and growing of up to 12 cannabis plants individually officially became legal on Dec. 6. But pot is still only commercially available for sale to the 287,094 Michiganders who have qualified for medical marijuana cards.

While the rules released by the Michigan Regulatory Agency deal primarily with the business side of the industry, here is what they mean for the average marijuana consumer:

How soon can I buy marijuana?

The state will begin accepting applications for recreational business licenses on Nov. 1 and expects to award licenses later in that month.

That means that some marijuana retail stores will be open for business before the end of the year. But don't expect a pot shop on every corner anytime soon. It will take a while for the market to establish itself.

Who can buy marijuana?

At recreational marijuana retail stores, anyone over 21 can purchase legal weed with some form of state identification.

At medical marijuana dispensaries, there are no age limits on people who can buy pot, as long as they have a qualifying illness, such as cancer, PTSD, epilepsy or chronic pain, and have gotten a medical marijuana card from the state. While the state doesn't release demographic statistics on medical cardholders, other than the county where they live, there are children who have qualified to use marijuana products, especially those with seizure disorders.

For a complete list of illnesses and disorders that qualify for a medical marijuana card, go to: https://tinyurl.com/ y59jhouh.



Tina Danza marijuana buds are just one of a variety sold inside Botaniq, a medical marijuana dispensary in Detroit. Shops with medical marijuana licenses will be the first to qualify for recreational licenses. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Can I buy medical and recreational pot at the same shops?

Yes. Shops with medical marijuana licenses will be the first to qualify for recreational licenses.

But the retail stores will have to separate medical and recreational products.

The two categories will be taxed differently. Both are subject to the state's 6% sales tax, but recreational marijuana will carry a 10% excise tax while medical marijuana has no excise tax.

And there may be different potency standards for the two categories of pot.

Currently, medical marijuana has a potency limit of 50 milligrams of THC tetrahydrocannabinol or the element that provides the "high" for users — per serving of edible product, such as gummies, chocolate bars or mints.

In other states, such as Colorado, recreational marijuana has a potency limit of 10 milligrams of THC per serving and Andrew Brisbo, director of the MRA, said those limits for recreational pot will be set soon.

In which communities can I buy marijuana?

That depends on communities, which have the ability to say yea or nay to marijuana businesses. About 506 communities have said they don't want pot businesses in their towns.

But officials in some of those municipalities have also said they were waiting for the state to release the rules for the market.

Residents have the chance to reverse those decisions made by city officials by gathering signatures of registered voters that represent 5% of the vote cast in that city for governor in 2018. If the signatures are valid, a question on allowing marijuana businesses into the town can be put on the ballot for the next election.

If a community has given the thumbs up to legal weed, retail stores will probably soon come. And the state also will allow for special licenses for marijuanathemed events, such as the Cannabis Cup competitions, which have been held, but not sanctioned by the state.

Marijuana will be able to be sold and used at those events.

Where will I be able to use pot?

Your home is your castle. You can grow and use marijuana there, unless, of course, you have a landlord who bans smoking or growing pot in your rental. The answer then would be edibles or other non-smokable forms of marijuana.

While there is no public consumption of pot, such as walking down the street or in the grocery story, the new rules allow for the licensing of public social clubs, where people at least 21 can gather and smoke a bowl, vape, or eat an edible. Those clubs must get approval from their local communities and the businesses will NOT be able to sell pot or any other products, such as drinks or snacks. It will be a strictly BYOM, although retail marijuana shops will be able to offer delivery services of marijuana to homes or to social clubs.

How easy will it be to get a pot license?

It'll be easier with these new rules. Under state law designed to ensure that the businesses would succeed, medical marijuana applicants had to prove that they had assets worth \$150,000 to \$500,000, depending on the license, to qualify for the industry.

But the recreational market rules don't have any capitalization requirements, which state officials believe will open the market to people who haven't been able to qualify, so far, for a license.

Application fees for both the state (\$6,000) and local communities (\$5,000), as well as regulatory assessments of \$66,000 are charged for medical marijuana licenses.

The comparable regulatory assessments for the recreational market will be based on a tiered systems, with larger businesses being charged more and smaller companies less. That fee schedule will come out later this year.

And a smaller business license — for micro-businesses, which can grow up to 150 plants, process and sell the product at one facility — is geared toward people who have been growing marijuana for medical patients, but haven't had enough capital to qualify for a medical marijuana dispensary license.



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Schoolcraft cafe manager becomes certified master baker

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Following an application approval, written exam and a grueling 14-hour, two-day practical exam, Heather Moore can now call herself a certified master baker.

Moore, adjunct faculty and the cafe manager for Schoolcraft College, is the first from the school to earn the certification. There are less than 200 master bakers in the country, and Moore can now say she's one of them.

Simply, it's like the Ph.D. of baking. "It's somebody who has mastered that craft, so to speak," Moore said.

In April, Moore traveled to San Antonio to take the practical exam hosted by the Culinary Institute of America, which was her second attempt to get the certification. She passed with flying colors this time and received her certification from the Retail Bakers of America in May.

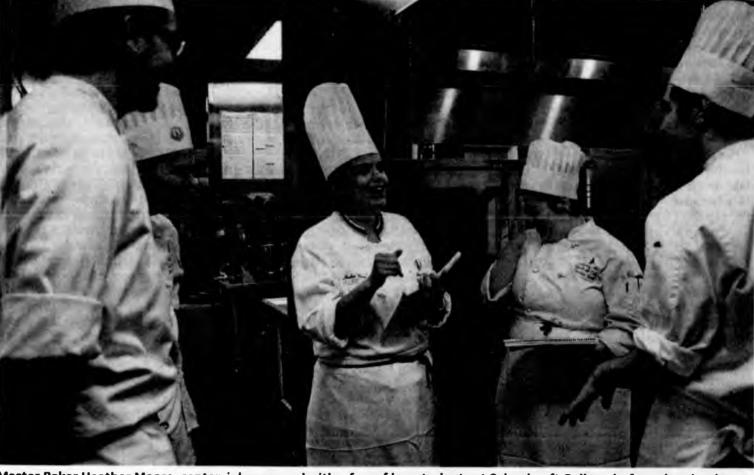
As a former student at Schoolcraft, she feels especially proud to be the school's first instructor to become a master baker.

"I'm just super blessed that I can work here because Schoolcraft is an environment like no other," Moore said. "It's really neat to see the students coming through and you remember being there."

Moore said she spent months preparing for the practical exam, during which she baked things like cookies, muffins, quick breads, yeast breads, rolls, rye bread, challah, baguettes and croissants on the clock. She also had to decorate a cake and do a six-minute split, fill and ice of a cake.

"One of the judges actually put it the best," Moore explained. "She was saying, 'It's like a day at work where everybody has called in, you don't have your tools and you've got to knock out all this stuff.' It's not ideal conditions."

She was able to prepare for some elements beforehand, but other parts were a complete surprise.



Master Baker Heather Moore, center, jokes around with a few of her students at Schoolcraft College before class begins. Moore became Schoolcraft's first master baker in May. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"I knew that I was going to have baguette, I knew that I was going to have a quick bread, I just didn't know what kind," Moore said. "Some of it, you don't know until you get there. One of the surprises was a rye bread. It's just to see if you have truly mastered the craft of baking."

Aside from the food, she said it was a challenge to cook in a Texas kitchen instead of the Michigan one she is used to on Schoolcraft's campus.

"The hardest part of the exam is just going out of your element and being in a new environment," Moore said. "The kitchens were much hotter in San Antonio than what we keep our kitchens at,

so my breads were moving a lot faster."

While the certification is exciting, Moore is also looking forward to forwarding her students' educations. Also a certified executive pastry chef, Moore teaches baking, food chemistry and manages four cafes at Schoolcraft.

"I think that it gives them reassurance in knowing that they picked a culinary program where their instructors take their craft so seriously," she said. "That's what pushed me to do it because all of my colleagues just pursue excellence all the time."

Moore also wanted to set a good example for the ladies in the kitchen.

"I wanted some of the female stu-

dents to see that the women chefs can go and pursue that excellence as well," she said. "I want my daughter to see that. That was like a big thing for me."

Pursuit of excellence is common among Schoolcraft culinary faculty. Known for its culinary program, the college is also the workplace of four master chefs and one master pastry chef.

"We're human, we continue to learn, we don't know everything," Moore said. "We're trying to better ourselves and master our craft. Hopefully that inspires them to do the same."

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

Beaumont opens five new urgent care facilities

Beaumont Health has acquired five urgent care centers from Urgent Care 1. The converted and upgraded facilities opened as Beaumont Urgent Care in metro Detroit on June 25.

The five sites are in Farmington Hills at 29263 Orchard Lake Road; in Garden City at 6200 Middlebelt Road; in Novi at 43535 Grand River Ave.; in Taylor at 9870 Telegraph Road; and in Woodhaven at 18930 West Road.

The new centers allow patients to access providers and facilities in the Beaumont Network quickly for minor injuries and illnesses at a reduced cost compared to an emergency room visit. Patients will get fast, efficient care. Expanded services like an in-house lab, X-ray and fiberglass splinting are also available.

"Beaumont is working with Well-Street, a company experienced with running patient-focused urgent care centers. We are eager to serve patients and families by providing quality care on their terms, with easy access at lower cost," said Dr. Bernice Sessa, medical director of Beaumont Urgent Care.

While services are not limited to Beaumont patients, the medical team at Beaumont Urgent Care centers can access the Beaumont Network electronic medical record to help doctors and nurses provide coordinated care. Patients are also encouraged to find a primary care physician, and staff can assist with coordinating necessary care for patients and physicians.

WellStreet CEO Ron Lavater said, "Beaumont Urgent Care Center's talented providers and staff are very focused on our patient's experience. It is our goal to have patients in and out of our centers within an hour or less. We are thrilled to serve the communities in the new locations."

The locations opened June 25 in Far-

mington Hills, Garden City, Novi, Taylor and Woodhaven. They will be open daily. The hours for each are:

Farmington Hills: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

■ Garden City: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Novi: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Taylor: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Woodhaven: 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

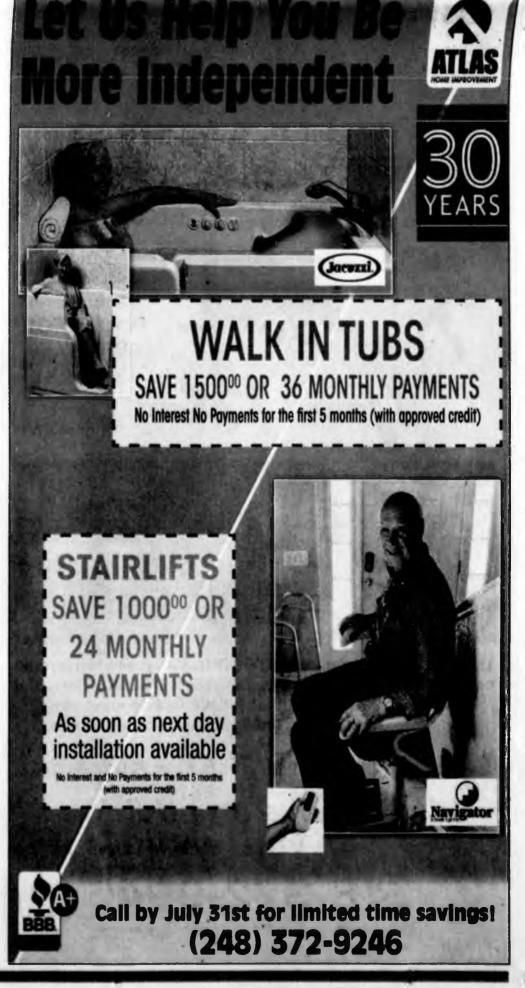
Weekend and evening hours allow recently hospitalized patients an opportunity for earlier evaluation and intervention. This easy access can reduce hospital readmission rates and decrease health care costs for patients and employers.

Urgent care centers are most appropriate for cough, cold, sore throat, rashes, skin irritations, fever or flu-like symptoms, minor lacerations, minor orthopedic injuries and mild intestinal illnesses.

Patients experiencing signs of a heart attack, stroke or other serious symptoms should go directly to an emergency room. Always call 911 or go to an emergency room if you are experiencing severe or life-threatening medical symptoms.

Visit www.beaumont.org/where-togo for more information.

This year, the Beaumont Network is growing to include 30 urgent care centers throughout southeast Michigan. To learn more about Beaumont Urgent Care, visit BeaumontUrgentCare.com to view a list of current and upcoming locations.



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Russia wants swap, but not for Novi man

Kristen Jordan Shamus Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov called on the U.S. on Monday to free Russian pilot Konstantin Yaroshenko from prison in exchange for Americans it is holding, Interfax news service reported.

But Ryabkov stopped short of saying Russia would be willing to release Michigander Paul Whelan - who was arrested in December and charged with espionage - as part of the trade.

Ryabkov told the RIA news agency that it wouldn't be right to include Whelan in a prisoner swap with the U.S. because Whelan has not yet been convicted in the Russian court system.

Whelan's detention has continued for more than six months as Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) investigators look for evidence the former U.S. Marine was spying during his trip to the country late last year.

The U.S. State Department declined to comment Tuesday on Ryabkov's offer.

"The U.S. government continues to closely follow all cases of imprisoned U.S. citizens in Russia," a State Department spokeswoman told the Free Press in an email. "We do not read out our private diplomatic discussions."

Yaroshenko was arrested in 2010 by U.S. special forces in Liberia and later convicted of conspiracy to smuggle cocaine into the United States. He was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison and is serving time in a low-security correctional facility in Danbury, Connecticut.

His release has been long-sought by Russian authorities.

Tatiana Moskalkova, the Russian Federation's high commissioner for human rights, sent a letter to U.S. President Donald Trump in 2017 asking for a pardon for Yaroshenko. It was denied.

The news comes as U.S. officials grow increasingly concerned about Whelan's health in Moscow's Lefortovo prison. The 49-year-old global security director for Auburn Hills-based auto supplier BorgWarner has not been seen by an independent doctor, said Andrea Kalan, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, in a tweet.

His condition, she said, is worsening. Whelan's family has declined to share details about his health condition out of concern for his privacy. But his twin brother, David Whelan, said the Russian prison doesn't offer much beyond basic first aid and emergency medical care.

"And they appear only be able to provide it in the Russian language," David Whelan said. "Like many people in their late 40s, Paul has health concerns that need professional attention, to avoid them becoming emergencies. The Russian Foreign Ministry rejection of the US government request that an Englishspeaking physician be allowed to examine Paul is disappointing."

A State Department spokeswoman said the agency is continuing to press for "fair and humane treatment, due process, and access to appropriate medical care. We take allegations of mistreatment seriously, and will continue to raise Mr. Whelan's case at every opportunity. The Department has no higher priority than the welfare and safety of U.S. citizens abroad. We urge the Russian government to guarantee a fair and transparent judicial process without undue delay, in accordance with its international legal obligations."

Whelan, who lives in Novi, denies he is a spy and has told reporters during court appearances that he is a victim of political kidnapping.

At a detention hearing in late June, Whelan asked President Trump to intervene on his behalf.

Although Trump has yet to make a

statement (or tweet) about Whelan, others in his administration - most recently U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton — have spoken out against the continued detention of an American citizen without evidence from the Russian government to support its claims of espionage.

The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) alleges Whelan was caught in possession of a flash drive containing classified information at his hotel in Moscow. Whelan has told his lawyers that the flash drive came from a Russian friend, and that he was under the impression that it contained photos of the friend's hometown.

He will continue to be held in a Moscow prison at least until his next court hearing at the end of August, his lawyers have said. A trial date has not yet been set in his case.

David Whelan said Tuesday that the family has not discussed with U.S. officials the possibility of a prisoner swap.

"We haven't spoken with the U.S. government about swaps or sanctions, or any other tool of diplomacy they might use to bring Paul home," he wrote in an email to the Free Press. "We are leaving it up to the professional diplomats to work out the tool and the timing. Hopefully, it will be sooner than later."

Drake Road bridge closed through fall for construction

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

Heads up, commuters.

Through fall, traffic around the Drake Road bridge in Farmington Hills will move slower as the structure receives a partial replacement and other repairs.

The bridge closed Monday and work is expected to continue through October.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is putting \$11.8 million into road and bridge work along 10 miles of M-5 between Eight Mile and 13 Mile roads.

The nearby Grand River Avenue bridge, closed since April, reopened.

The work, which will ultimately extend the life of the bridge, will include concrete repair and replacement, pavement conditioning, asphalt replacement, curb and gutter repair, concrete deck overlay, approach work, drainage structure repairs, sign replacement and replacing half of the bridge.

The half needs replacement due to "high-load hits" that caused damage to the bottom of the structure.

"MDOT is increasing the under clearance of the Drake bridge, the height, due to the fact this bridge has had a number of high-load hits, (which is) vehicles too tall hitting the bridge. We expect this bridge repair will help with that," project manager Jeff Pitt wrote in an email.

As the Drake bridge will be closed through October, traffic will look different for a few months. Northbound drivers on Drake Road will be detoured to E. Nine Mile Road, N. Farmington Road and W. Freedom Road.

Southbound drivers will take a detour through E. Freedom Road, S. Farmington Road and W. Nine Mile Road.

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



Commuters will have to find a way around the Drake Road bridge closure during construction. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Precautions mean peace of mind for vacation travelers



Money Matters Rick Bloom Guest columnist

Schools are out, summer has finally arrived, and many of us will be taking summer vacations. It is important in today's world to take some precautions before and during your trip to protect yourself.

In the old days when you traveled, you were mostly concerned with pickpockets and other types of petty crimes. and you protected yourself by getting traveler's checks; unfortunately, that is no longer sufficient. Just like at home where you have to take precautions to protect your sensitive information, the same thing applies when you travel.

In fact, you can make the argument that it applies even more so when you travel, because the thieves know that we all tend to put our guard down when we're on vacation.

Before you go on a trip, it's a good idea to clean out your wallet. You don't have to take every charge card or other piece of information you carry in your wallet on your trip. My advice is to limit yourself to two charge cards. Obviously, you need some proof of ID such as a driver's license, but as far as I'm concerned, less is more. I also recommend that before you go, you make a copy of your driver's license and charge card along with the emergency phone number for the credit card company. If something happens on your trip, you'll have the information to immediately contact your charge card company.

I also recommend making a copy of your passport if you are bringing one.

Obviously, you don't want to keep the copies of this information in your wallet; you need to keep it elsewhere. It is also not a bad idea to leave a copy of these documents with someone at home and also to notify your charge card company as to where and when you're going. This will provide you a certain level of protection.

Before you go on your vacation, I also recommend that you do some research

as to the current scams that are happening in the area where you are headed. You'd be surprised how much aggravation you could save yourself by doing a little research.

For example, those of you who are going to Europe this summer need to be aware of the friendship bracelet scam. In many European cities, people come up to you and put a friendship bracelet on you. Of course, when you don't pay them for it all hell breaks loose. The bottom line, spend a few minutes before you go on vacation to see what the current scams are in the area you will be visiting.

Just like at home, you also have to be very careful regarding WiFi when you travel. The scam artists these days can very easily create a fake WiFi hub and use that to gain access to your personal information and passwords. Be extremely careful regarding what WiFi site you use, and be careful about transacting sensitive business on any public Wi-Fi.

In the old days when you traveled, you took traveler's checks to protect yourself. Today, that's not as much of an issue because ATMs are everywhere around the world. Of course, you also have to be careful about the ATMs you use. Many scam artists set up bogus ATMs which, once again, are meant to get your password and other sensitive information from you. Be very careful about the ATMs that you use. When I travel, I only use ATMs that are at financial institutions. Yes, I may pay a little extra in fees, but it's worth the protection.

Vacations are meant for us to relax and enjoy ourselves. However, that doesn't mean we can ever afford to let our guard down. The scam artists are out there and they are waiting for you to let your guard down, allowing them let them take advantage of you; don't let that happen.

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, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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NHL

Northville native drafted by Toronto

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's been a long road for Northville's Nick Robertson — literally.

After being born in southern California on Sept. 11, 2001, Robertson and his family moved to Northville in 2010. It was a better hockey situation for Robertson and his brothers and close to his father's hometown of Grosse Pointe. He played three seasons with the Little Caesars hockey organization, one with Belle Tire and one over in Windsor.

Following that, Robertson started

playing in Toronto, where he spent time briefly before finding his way to the OHL.

On June 22, a lifelong dream of Robertson's came true when he was selected by the Toronto Maple Leafs in the second round of the NHL Draft with the 53rd overall pick.

"It was kind of a sigh of relief," Robertson said. "Before the draft you never know where you're going to go, whether you'll go the first day or early the second day. When you hear your name picked, it's kind of a sigh of relief to get it over

See TORONTO, Page 3B



Nick Robertson, center, was drafted in the second round of the NHL Draft by the **Toronto Maple** Leafs. COURTESY OF NICK ROBERTSON



FISHING

Proposed legislation pits anglers against each other

Emma Keith Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan anglers may get some stiff fishing competition with new legislation that could allow commercial fishers to cast a wider net.

Right now, only Michigan's recreational fishers can legally catch most

Northville graduates Brennan Sweeney, left, and Connor Sweeney, who are twins, play lacrosse for Guilford College. COURTESY OF GUILFORD COLLEGE

Northville's Sweeney twins shine at Guilford College

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

Twin brothers Brennan and Connor Sweeney, both from Northville, recently concluded their third season with Guilford College's men's lacrosse team.

Brennan, a 5-foot-7, 165-pound attackman, led the Quakers in points (67), goals (38) and assists (29). His 67 points stood seventh among Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) leaders and ranked 10th on Guilford's single-season scoring list. He was eighth in the league in assists and 10th in goals. Sweeney also had 26 ground balls and three caused turnovers as a 17-game starter. He scored a season-high eight points in on six goals and two assists in Guilford's 17-9 win over crosstown-rival Greensboro College. Sweeney also had eight points on four goals and four helpers the following game in a road win over ODAC-rival Ferrum College. He scored at least one point in all but one game and had 11 contests with at least two goals. Sweeney enters his senior season ranked 10th among Guilford's career assists leaders with 61 in 49 games.

Connor, a 5-foot-9, 195-pound attacker, was second on the team in points (61), goals (34) and assists (27). He also had 14 ground balls and three caused turnovers in 17 games (16 starts) for Quakers. Sweeney ranked among the ODAC's best in assists (10th), points (11th), and goals (15th). One of his best games this season was a three-goal, five-assist performance in the win over Greensboro. Sweeney tallied at least one point in all 17 Guilford games and had 11 games with two or more goals. He scored a personal-best five goals and picked up a season-high three ground balls in the Quakers' 12-9 win over Methodist University.

Both brothers are also accomplished students who earned Academic All-ODAC, dean's list, and Guilford Spring 2019 Student-Athlete Honor Roll commendation.

Coach Mark Crisco's Quakers posted an 8-9 overall record (2-7 ODAC). He expects up to 33 returning players next season, including the Sweeneys.

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

game fish, which include sunfish, walleye, lake trout and more.

Commercial fishers, who harvest fish to sell wholesale or to stock their own fish markets, are allowed to catch only one type of game fish, perch, from Saginaw Bay.

A pair of bills being weighed by the state Legislature would allow Michigan's commercial access 10% of the state's catchable lake trout and 20% of walleye, based on quotas from the Department of Natural Resources.

Proponents of the bills say the industry operates under outdated rules set nearly 40 years ago. The population of sport fish since has grown so much that it threatens the one species - perch - that the industry is allowed to harvest.

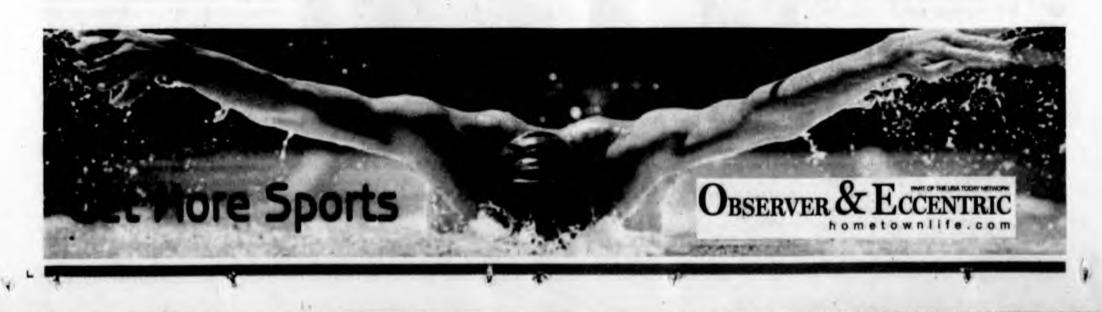
Commercial fishers also are accidentally catching lake trout or walleve they can't legally keep, and are throwing fish back into the lakes by the thousands, said Scott Everett, legislative director for the Michigan Fish Producers Association.

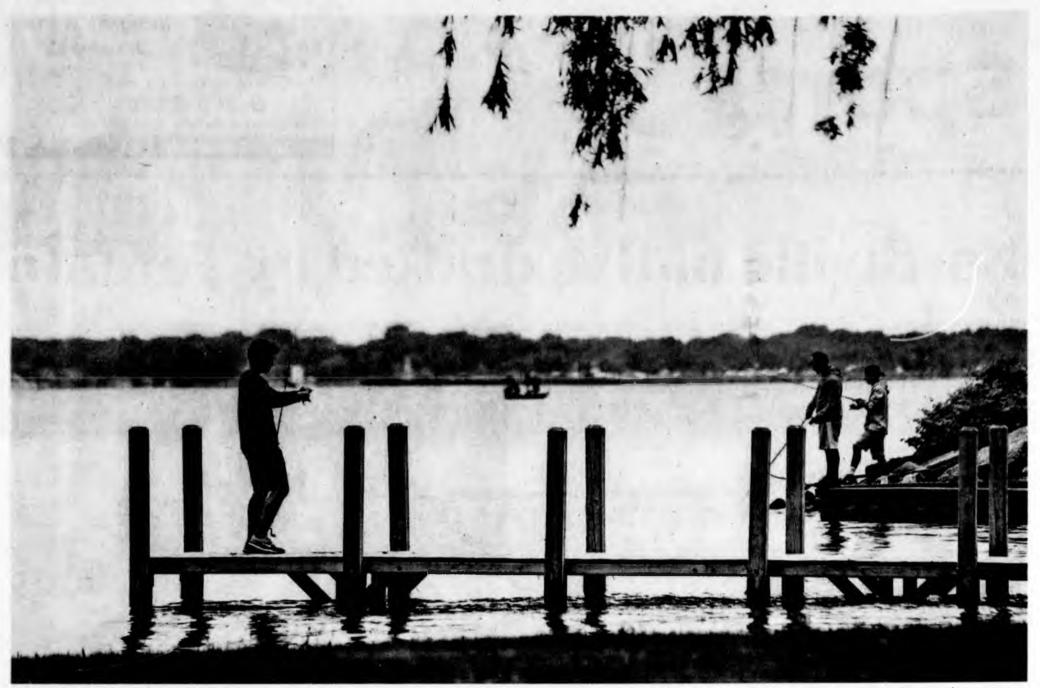
When these lake trout are brought up in these trap nets ... the lake trout die anyway," Everett said.

Critics contend the change could drive down bag limits for sport anglers and lower fish populations in the Great Lakes, dealing a significant blow to Michigan's recreational fishing industrv

"When we start dipping into those sport fish quotas, what the economic impact is, we don't know," said Nick Green, public information officer for Michigan United Conservation Clubs. "It could be very substantial when you start looking at the percent that com-

See FISH FIGHT, Page 2B





Michigan United Conservation Clubs estimates recreational fishing, which brings in licensing fees, taxes and tourism, adds \$2.3 billion yearly to the state's economy. PHOTOS BY KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Fish fight

Continued from Page 1B

mercial anglers are asking to be able to harvest."

Essential industries

The state only has access to a certain quota of fish annually, since it splits fishing resources with Michigan's sovereign tribal nations.

While thousands of commercial anglers fished the Great Lakes in the early 20th century, the Michigan industry has dwindled to a little more than 50 licensed commercial fishers, with only 13



businesses that actually harvest fish annually.

State and tribal commercial fishing is valued at \$10-\$12 million annually, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

Most commercial fishing operations aren't huge corporations, but family owned businesses that have passed fishing licenses down through generations. Everett said lots of commercial fish harvests feed northern Michigan tourists.

Sport fishing is, comparatively, a huge state industry. Michigan United Conservation Clubs estimates that recreational fishing, which brings in licensing fees, taxes and tourism dollars, adds \$2.3 billion to Michigan's economy annually.

The state is home to six of the nation's top 10 bass fishing lakes, according to a recent ranking, and has repeatedly ranked among the best U.S. flying fishing destinations.

"I'm from Up North, and there's a town called Wellston on the Manistee River. If it weren't for steelhead and salmon, that town probably wouldn't exist," Green said. "It depends on that fishery, and that's the same story all over Michigan. Lots of our coast towns depend on those game fish."

It comes down to money

Because recreational fishing excise taxes and fees mainly fund management of Michigan's sport fish, Green said these bills would allow commercial fishers to access resources they don't pay for.

Current commercial fishing fees barely pay for the state to oversee the industry, Green said, and do not help with game fish management, planting or rearing.

"You're talking about this product, these fish, that are subsidized by licensed angler dollars that are now going to be utilized and exploited by commercial anglers to sell," Green said.

Commercial fishing fees do need to be increased, said Everett, whose organization is advocating for SB 0389 and HB 4790. Fees haven't been updated in decades and are "laughable," Everett said.

The two proposed bills introduced in June, Senate Bill 0389 and House Bill 4790, would up commercial fees and

Christian Szumanski, 17, of Macomb Township, weighs a bass he caught near a boat launch at Lake St. Clair Metropark in Harrison Township. Recreational fishing excise taxes and fees mainly fund management of Michigan's sport fish.



Commercial fishers are accidentally catching lake trout or walleye they can't legally keep, and are throwing fish back. ELLEN CREAGER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

would put some commercial catch profits back into the DNR, Everett said.

"Commercial fishermen are willing to pay more, especially if they can catch a few more species," Everett said.

Fighting back

Michigan United Conservation Clubs, along with the state's Department of Natural Resources, is backing a different set of bills — House Bills 4567-69 — that would also increase commercial fishing fees and would specifically prohibit commercial fishers from going after walleye, lake trout, perch and more, designating them as game fish.

The bills would make commercial fishers disclose their nets' locations, and would penalize any game fish catches those fishers do make. Since Michigan has not updated commercial fishing laws since the early '70s, Green said the bills could also bolster the state's regulations on the industry.

Everett said the three bills would also mean that even the five Saginaw Bay fisheries that have been licensed to catch perch for generations would be out of business.

"If they were to pass these bills and cite them in the law, I would maintain the state of Michigan is going to probably have five lawsuits simultaneously for the taking of those licenses," Everett said.

Commercial fishers also take issue with the three bills' stipulation that they report how much they sell their catches for and to whom and worry that disclosing their net locations will open them to vandalism, Everett said.

The legislation is still in committee.

Everett said the issue doesn't have to be an "either/or" fight — everyone can win, he said.

"There is a solution to all of this," Everett said. "Given that there's only 13 commercial fishermen in Michigan, there's room for both here. But the option of sport fishing looking at commercial fishing and saying 'zero, none — you can't have any' is, I think, a disservice to the Michigan public."

Toronto

Continued from Page 1B

with but it's also exciting to start another chapter of my life and having my parents there."

Robertson was projected to either be a late first round pick or early second round selection, so he was in attendance at the draft in Vancouver. He sat through the first round on Friday night without hearing his name called, but being picked by the Maple Leafs — who didn't have a first round pick — made up for the wait.

"Once I put the jersey on and started getting interviewed and taking pictures it felt real," Robertson said. "I was definitely excited, I'd been looking forward to it for a very long time. When you're stressing out about it during the year, to know where you're going and know you're in good hands with the Toronto Maple Leafs, it's a good feeling."

Robertson was at the draft with his parents, two sisters and one of his two brothers.

Toronto was one of the teams he was hoping would take him, especially given how interested the team was in him throughout the pre-draft process. He added that he wouldn't have minded playing in Los Angeles either.

"The organization is first class, to be a part of it and to see the guys who are in the organization, just to be in their caliber someday is something special," Robertson said. "You want to go to a team that shows a lot of interest in you."

Robertson, a 5-foot-9 forward, played for the Peterborough Petes in the OHL last season and was second on the team in both goals and total points. He played in 54 games and scored 27 goals and tallied 28 assists.

He's expected to play with the Petes again this fall, where he will continue to develop in hopes of reaching the NHL in a few years.

Even though he left Northville to play hockey in 2015, his family still owns a house in town. His older brother Jason Robertson was drafted by the Dallas Stars in the second round of the 2017 NHL Draft and led the entire OHL in scoring this past year, notching 48 goals and 69 assists in 62 games for the Niagara Ice Dogs.

Having a family member go through the draft process before him certainly



Northville native Nick Robertson skates during Toronto's Development Camp. COURTESY OF TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

make the path a little less stressful. His biggest words of advice to Nick were to simply enjoy the process and stay calm.

Now, Robertson is focused on having a strong camp and preseason. Even though he was the first pick in the draft for Toronto — one of, if not *the* biggest hockey market in the world, he says he doesn't feel any extra pressure.

"I don't feel any pressure," Robertson said. "I think being a second round pick there's less pressure than being a first round pick. It's a blessing in disguise, you can have more confidence and not worry about the pressures of being a first round pick."

Before the season starts, he has two big dinners on his to-do list, one with his family and another with his billet family, who host him during the hockey season. He said it's an unwritten rule for hockey players that get drafted to treat those who have been so supportive of him throughout his hockey journey.

"It's been my dream to play in the NHL," Robertson said. "People I know have said it's amazing and I want to experience that. Looking forward to everything, playing in front of 25,000 fans, playing the game I love, everything about it. You just try to trust the process during the time to get there. Hopefully I can make it and play for a long time."

Contact Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Twitter: @AndrewVcourt.

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RUNNING

McGahan siblings win Hungry Duck

Bill Khan Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK -- MICHIGAN

Nolan and Marissa McGahan became the third and fourth members of their family to win a race in the Hungry Duck Run Thursday in Brighton.

Nolan, who just completed his senior year of track and field at Brighton High School, won the five-kilometer run in 15 minutes, 58 seconds.

About an hour later, Marissa crossed the finish line as the winner of the women's half marathon in 1 hour, 35 minutes, 15 seconds.

Two of their sisters were 5K winners in the past, Paige winning in 2010 and Kirsten winning in 2016 and 2017.

Their mother, Jeralyn, was the women's masters winner in the half marathon with a time of 1:43:30.

Samuel Parlette of White Lake became the first male to repeat as half marathon winner in 1:15:59. He took 2:37 off his time from last year. Two-time winner Mike Andersen of Brighton was runner-up for the third time with a time of 1:17:34.

Katie Johnson of Northville was the women's 5K winner in 19:55.

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com.

Hungry Duck Run age-group winners

Half marathon

Male overall: Samuel Parlette, White Lake, 1:15:59

Female overall: Marissa McGahan, Brighton, 1:35:15

Male masters: Jeff Rothstein, Ann Arbor, 1:34:15

Female masters: Jeralyn McGahan, Brighton, 1:43:30

Male 15-19: Nolan Kozinski, River Hills, Wis., 1:27:04

Female 15-19: Emily Finkbeiner, Saline, 1:51:08

Male 20-24: Garret Zuk, Milford, 1:41:27

Female 20-24: Danielle DeMarco, Brighton, 1:49:03

Male 25-29: David Frazier, Holt, 1:42:18 Female 25-29: Samantha Brish, Brighton,

1:38:29 Male 30-34: Mike Andersen, Brighton,

1:17:34

Female 30-34: Petagaye English, Southfield, 1:43:05

Male 35-39: Simon Gore, South Lyon, 1:25:57

Female 35-39: Leslie Leemgraven, Howell, 1:36:13

Male 40-44: Brian Galindo, Canton, 1:41:42

Female 40-44: Jenni Krieter, Rochester, 1:51:29

Male 45-49: Chris Keyes, Livonia, 1:39:27

Female 45-49: Marcy Sacks, Albion, 1.45:34

Male 50-54: Bjorn Soderstrom, Commerce Twp., 1:42:52

Female 50-54: Cindy Estell, Ypsilanti, 1:58:07

Male 55-59: Greg Miller, Brighton, 1:42:18

Female 55-59: Geneva Stephens, Rochester Hills, 2:02:17

Male 60-64: Rick Newsom, Livonia, 1:55:00

Female 60-64: Myrna Carll, Northville, 2:08:24

Male 65-69: David Eicken, Golden, Ill., 2:02:08

Female 65-69: Cindi Holman, Brighton, 2:51:38

Male 70-over: Richard Peluso, Troy, 2:31:26

5-kilometer run

Male overall: Nolan McGahan, Brighton, 15:58

Female overall: Katie Johnston, Northville, 19:55

Male masters: Andrew Kamin, Northville, 21:27

Female masters: Carol House, Brighton, 23:28

Male 14-under: Luke Campbell, Brighton, 19:28

Female 14-under: Lauren Hunter, Haslett, 20:38

Male 15-19: Dan Campbell, Brighton, 16:55

Female: Kaia Johnson, Brighton, 20:52

Male 20-24: Greggory Stopchinski, South Lyon, 35:27

Female 20-24: Sydney Brief, Howell, 26:00

Male 25-29: Tyler Partridge, West Bloomfield, 16:45

Female 25-29: Kate Rau, Brighton,

Male 30-34: Chris Elsey, Brighton, 18:11

Brighton, 26:00

merce Twp., 22:31

22:25

Lyon, 28:42

ton Hills, 26:24

Female 65-69: Jennifer McCauley, Brighton, 30:31

Male 70-over: Maury Dean, Commerce, 26:30

Female 70-over: Nina Bovio, Brighton, 33:51

FIELD

Michigan Elite Throws Club to hold clinic

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan Elite Throws Club will hold a clinic this weekend at Canton High School for athletes looking to improve in field events such as shot put, disc, hammer and javelin.

The club is led by former Olympic Trial qualifier and world champion power lifter Nia Henderson.

The two-day clinic costs \$65 per day or \$110 for both days (July 12-13). Club members get a discount. It will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. both days.

You can register by emailing Henderson at summerthrowscamp@ gmail.com or michiganelitethrowsclub@gmail.com. Include the athlete's name, age, T-shirt size, any allergies and how many days they'll be attending the camp.

"As a two time Olympic Trials qualifier, world champion in power lifting and over six years of coaching experience, I have established some key fundamentals that may help a beginner thrower as well as the advanced thrower," Henderson said. "This twoday camp will be filled with information, drills, multiple coaching aspects and skills that may help any developmental thrower continue to improve throughout the year and in the long run."



The Michigan Elite Throws Club will hold a two-day a clinic this weekend. COURTESY OF NIA HENDERSON

22:42

Female 30-34: Anne Santa Maria,

Male 35-39: Jamie Rasmussen, Com-

Female 35-39: Jenni Kammer, Brighton, 24:27

Male 40-44: Jason Stanyer, Brighton, 23:59

Female 40-44: Jaime Chewning, Brighton, 24:58

Male 45-49: Jack LaPan, Brighton, 22:54

Female 45-49: Denise Barr, Brighton, 25:08

Male 50-54: Scott Monte, Brighton,

Female 50-54: Julie Bedford, 24:06

Male 55-59: Jeff Corkins, Brighton, 21:40

Female 55-59: Jane Brooks, South

Male 60-64: Michael Tucker, Farming-

Female 60-64: Lori Vecchioni, Brighton, 25:12

Male 65-69: Paul Doby, Howell, 24:55

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Tigers' decision to extend Avila contract premature



Andrew Vailliencourt Columnist USA TODAY NETWORK – MICH

In the midst of the holiday weekend, the Detroit Tigers surprised fans by announcing that the team had signed general manager Al Avila to a multi-year contract extension on Friday afternoon.

The announcement was followed up by a press conference with Avila and without owner Christopher Ilitch, who instead of showing up to defend the move, released a written statement.

"It's clear to anyone that follows Tigers baseball that our organization is undergoing a significant transformation," Ilitch said. "I've been impressed with Al's leadership and focus, and the steadfast way he has led our baseball operations since becoming general manager.

"Al has methodically implemented his plan, and the execution of that plan has demonstrated progress and results in scouting, drafting, player development and analytics. I am especially pleased with the progress we have made in securing a stable of talented prospects which bodes well for our future. Al has a proven track record in this game, and his nearly three decades of experience is paying dividends in this rebuilding phase."

The number of years added on to Avila's current contract, which doesn't expire until the end of the 2020 season isn't yet known, but given it's a multiyear deal Avila will now be in Detroit until at least 2022, and likely longer.

Average tenure thus far

As the team's general manager, Avila has been average. He's made some good decisions along with some bad ones and has this team fully committed to a rebuild. But the problem is this extension is coming too early. Avila simply hasn't made enough moves to put this team on track to be contenders again and hasn't earned an extension.

Avila might turn out to be this team's savior and have all the right prospects in the minor leagues, so my gripe isn't with the extension itself, but rather when it is



Tigers general manager Al Avila, left, shakes hands with third basemen Nicholas Castellanos at the Southfield Fire Department in Southfield during an event in 2018. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

occurring. For it to happen right before the team's most critical part of the rebuild, the trade deadline, is asinine.

The Tigers have been rebuilding since Avila took over in 2015, days after former general manager Dave Dombrowski traded away David Price, Yoenis Cespedes and Joakim Soria. Dombrowski did well in those trades, nabbing Matthew Boyd, Daniel Norris, Jacoby Jones and Michael Fulmer. Avila has yet to net any prospects close to contributing in ways those players have.

Avila's first big moves on the job were to sign Jordan Zimmerman, who continues to look worse and worse, and Justin Upton, who Avila later traded for scraps.

Some people say that the rebuild didn't truly begin until the trade deadline in 2017, but one year of decent baseball in 2016 doesn't change the fact that the team was clearly on a path downward, meaning the rebuild began as soon as they started trading away highlevel players in 2015.

Avila is now is his fourth full season with the Tigers, and doesn't have much in the way of MLB ready prospects to show for it. The rebuild is going slower than anticipated and doesn't have an end in sight. It was reasonable before this year to expect the team to be ready to compete again in the 2021 season, but there is plenty of work to do if that is to remain possible.

There was no reason for the Tigers to extend Avila now. Instead, they should have waited until after the trade deadline, to see what kind of return he could get for the team's three trade chips: Boyd, closer Shane Greene and outfielder Nick Castellanos.

After seeing what the team gets in return, then Ilitch and the organization could make their evaluation on whether or not the team wanted to extend Avila. Boyd and Greene should fetch a haul capable of accelerating the rebuild, while Castellanos likely won't bring back much more than a mid-level prospect.

Questionable returns on trades

Avila's signature trade was sending Justin Verlander to Houston. He got back what was considered a decent group of prospects in return in Franklin Perez, Jake Rogers and Daz Cameron, but failed to get other higher rated players from the Astros. Now, Perez, despite his talent, can't stay healthy, Cameron is hitting .231 at AAA Toledo and Rogers, who is by all accounts a phenomenal defensive catcher, is struggling at the plate in Toledo as well, batting .212. Rogers will be the first one of the trio called up, likely later this season.

Avila's best move as GM was receiving Jeimer Candelario and Isaac Paredes from the Chicago Cubs for Alex Avila and Alex Wilson. The Tigers are hopeful Candelario can be their third baseman of the future despite his struggles this year, while Paredes has moved up to become the team's No. 4 prospect and has high potential as an infielder.

That same summer, he practically gave away J.D. Martinez to the Diamondbacks and Justin Upton to the Angels. Not a single player he received for those two players will ever become fulltime starters in Detroit.

For the most part, Avila's free agency signings have been awful (see Zimmerman, Tyson Ross, Josh Harrison, Jordy Mercer, etc.) Only two in recent years have worked out, Mike Fiers and Leonys Martin, who were both successfully traded last summer. Shortstop Willi Castro was the big fish the Tigers got in return and has a chance to be the team's starter next season.

One area Avila appears to be doing well in is the draft. His four first-round picks all look to be impact players, though none have reached the majors yet. Casey Mize was the obvious first overall choice last year and outfielder Riley Greene has a bright future ahead of him, but is at least three or four years away from contributing. Matt Manning is becoming a star in the minors and has a chance to be the team's No. 2 starter of the future behind Mize, while Alex Faedo could end up a solid No. 3 or 4 starter after the Tigers took him in the 2017 draft.

While it's easy to look at the draft now and remain positive, we won't know for sure if any of these players are any good until they get an opportunity in the league. For now though, I'll give Avila the benefit of the doubt.

The bottom line, however, is that Avila hasn't done enough yet to put the Tigers in a position to compete for championships and warrant an extension. After Boyd, Greene and Castellanos are traded, there will be less than five or six players on the entire roster with a future in the Tigers organization. Sure, the minor league system is considerably better than it's been in a long time but the team needs that to translate to the major leagues, and it hasn't yet.

This is the last chance the Tigers have to make trades that can significantly impact their rebuild. There simply won't be anyone left to trade next year. Boyd (likely the top starter available) and Greene (one of the top relievers) represent the only two players on the roster that other teams would give up top prospects for and Avila must cash in. At minimum, Detroit needs to receive two MLB top 100 prospects that can anchor the lineup of the future.

Extending Avila before he proves he can do that is premature.

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

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Logan Neaton of Brighton keeps his eye on the puck during a scrimmage at the Winnipeg Jets' development camp last week. PHOTOS BY JONATHAN KOZUB/WINNIPEG JETS

Brighton goalie Neaton evolves into NHL draft pick

Bill Khan Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Logan Neaton couldn't have been any further from being a National Hockey League prospect than he was in the fall of 2013.

Having been cut from his travel team the year before, Neaton was the backup goaltender as a freshman for Brighton — Brighton's junior varsity team.



NHL

He was the JV starter as a sophomore and, as he put it, "barely made varsity as a junior."

Struggling for time in the crease was nothing new to Neaton, who stood 5 feet, 3 inches in ninth grade.

"I was always a small kid, always a kid that wasn't known as the best at his age group," Neaton said. "For me, I just love the game, honestly. That was the best thing for me. I love coming to the rink every day. I love the process. If you can love the process of working out every day and skating every day and truly enjoying your development, that's what kept me through the hard times growing up."

Each day on the ice, each day in the weight room built upon the previous day throughout Neaton's four years at Brighton.



He left Brighton as a 6- Neaton foot-2 two-time all-sta-

ter, winner of Michigan's 2017 Mr. Goalie award, a state champion and with big dreams.

Those dreams took him first to Fairbanks, Alaska, for a season in the North American Hockey League, then to Prince George, British Columbia, last winter to play in the British Columbia Hockey League.

He earned an NCAA Division I scholarship to the University of Massachusetts-Lowell and took a huge step toward the ultimate dream June 22 when he was selected in the fifth round of the NHL Draft by the Winnipeg Jets.

Neaton, who is now 6-3, was on a dock in Kentucky during a family vacation when he received the news.

"My phone just started absolutely blowing up," he said. "Hundreds and hundreds of messages. It was actually quite absurd, to be honest. People I haven't heard from or talked to in years.

"All of a sudden, a Winnipeg, Manitoba number pops up on the phone. To have that moment, especially with family there and to be surrounded by some friends on vacation was a moment I'll never forget the rest of my life."

Brighton has sent numerous players to Division I programs, but coach Paul Moggach said the Bulldogs have never had an NHL draft pick.

Neaton left Brighton as a two-time all-stater, winner of Michigan's 2017 Mr. Goalie award, and a state championship.

"The amazing part of all of this is he was never given anything," Moggach said. "He had to earn it at every step, and at every step he was focused on what he had to do and how to get better and, more importantly, how to make his team better.

"He's won at every level. Every place he's gone has been a better place because he played there. There's something about his character and integrity that has taken him to this level. He's very humble. He doesn't take any of this to make himself any bigger, but is appreciative of what the program meant to him and where he was in juniors. He's a thankful kid who has worked hard at every level."

Being drafted meant Neaton's vacation was cut short. He had to drive eight hours back to Michigan and be on a plane to Winnipeg the following day to attend the Jets' development camp. NHL development camps are for recent draft picks and undrafted players who are getting tryouts.

"They're happy to have me, happy to be able to get me," Neaton said. "That's something I'm really proud to hear. They said I need to keep developing, keep getting better as a person and hockey player. "I still have a long road. I still have a lot to accomplish. At the end of the day, getting drafted doesn't mean anything; it's how you prove yourself after that. It's one thing to get drafted, another thing to have a hockey career."

It isn't lost on anyone that Neaton is following the same path as the one forged by current Jets starting goalie Connor Hellebuyck.

Hellebuyck was a Michigan high school goalie, playing for Walled Lake Northern. He was also a fifth-round pick of the Jets and played for UMass-Lowell.

Neaton and Hellebuyck also share the same goalie coach, Randy Wilson.

"We actually trained together last summer with Randy Wilson," Neaton said. "We got to know each other last summer. It's not necessarily that I'm trying to walk in his footsteps; it happened to work out that way. It's good to have somebody who kind of carved a path for you. I'll try to carve a way for the next high school goalie to make his own path."

After graduating from Brighton, Neaton's path took him far from home. He moved to Alaska to play his first season of juniors, going 17-4-1 with a 2.00 goals against average for the Fairbanks Ice

Dogs.

He switched teams and leagues last winter, getting himself on the radar of NHL teams after going 32-8-5 in the regular season and 16-1 in the playoffs for Prince George of the BCHL.

"There are definitely some tough times being that far from home," Neaton said. "I know there's a cliché saying, 'You leave for juniors as a boy and come back as a man.' It matures you a lot. You change a lot through that transition. You have to learn how to take care of yourself and handle yourself around other people."

It takes several years for all but a select handful of NHL draft picks to arrive in the league. For now, Neaton will head to UMass-Lowell looking to continue his improvement, most likely as the backup for his first season behind 2016 New York Rangers sixth-round pick Tyler Wall.

"It's been a long time since I've been in a classroom," Neaton said. "It will be nice to get back in the swing of things and get my mind sharp again and develop as a human being. The thing about going to college is you grow as an athlete and a person."

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@ gannett.com.

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GOLF

Hartland grad hopes to make US Amateur

Bill Khan Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Beau Breault is in his final days as an amateur golfer and eager to begin playing professionally.

But the former Hartland High School all-stater wouldn't mind postponing the start of his pro career just a little bit longer.

The time table for when he turns pro is dependent on whether he qualifies for the U.S. Amateur, which will be held Aug. 12-18 in Pinehurst, N.C.

Breault will compete for one of two spots in the U.S. Amateur field in a qualifier July 22 at Walnut Creek Country Club in South Lyon.

"This is probably the last summer I'm going to be an amateur," Breault said. "I'm trying to wrap up my amateur career. At the latest, I would turn pro mid-August or early September. If I make it to the U.S. Am, that's right around Aug. 15. Hopefully I do. If I don't, I'll start my professional career a little bit early."

Qualifying for the U.S. Amateur is the final box left unchecked in Breault's amateur career.

He hoped to repeat as Michigan Amateur champion, but fell two victories short with a 2 and 1 semifinal loss to Georgia Tech golfer Ben Smith, the eventual winner, on June 22 at Oakland Hills Country Club.

The Michigan Amateur has suited Breault well, as he took second in 2017 and first in 2018 before reaching the semifinals this year.

"Match play's just so much fun," he said. "You don't get to play much of it. Most of your competitive tournaments are just stroke-play events. When I get into match play, I'm able to go into this zone where I just lock in on what I'm doing and nothing seems to bother me. I can focus better on match play when I'm playing one opponent. It's just completely different than stroke play, but in a fun way."

Breault tied for 20th during qualifying with rounds of 72 and 71 before winning three matches. That included a victory in the Round of 32 over Baker Stevenson, a former teammate at Hartland. Hartland coach Nathan Oake caddied



Beau Breault of Hartland made the semifinals of the Michigan Amateur and hopes to qualify for the U.S. Amateur before turning pro this summer. GREG JOHNSON/GOLF ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

for Stevenson in that match, which Breault won, 4 and 3.

"Looking at the bracket when it came out, we saw if we won our first match in the morning we'd be playing each other in the afternoon," Breault said. "We both tried to make sure we won so we at least got the chance to play each other.

"We had a blast. We didn't play very well, but just to get in a tournament where it really matters and to play each other was a lot of fun. We wanted to play well and have one person beat the other guy, instead of us both playing bad. It was just a pillow fight. It was still a lot of fun. You don't get to experience that

very often. We play each other all the time in the summer, but nothing like playing in the Michigan Amateur for a chance to go to the Sweet 16."

Another former Hartland golfer, Bryce Messner, finished third during stroke play by shooting 68 and 70. Messner was eliminated in his second match.

Breault plans to qualify for some Mackenzie Tour events in Canada before playing in the U.S. Amateur qualifier.

He will not only be bidding farewell to his amateur career when he turns pro, but to the state of Michigan. Breault will move to Florida to have the opportunity to play golf year-round.

Breault had the opportunity to play down south occasionally while competing for Eastern Michigan University, but not on a consistent basis.

"Most of the time we were hitting off mats in the snow," said Breault, who was the Mid-American Conference Golfer of the Year as a senior this spring. "You can't putt or chip. Much of your game gets a little rusty. This will be the first year it will be 70 degrees when I wake up every single day. I'll be able to go to the golf course every morning, and there won't be snow on the ground."

TSA PreCheck making the festival circuit

Dawn Gilbertson USA TODAY

CHICAGO – The neon green fanny pack strapped around Annabel Hess' skinny jeans carried all the essentials for a music festival: credit card, driver's license, phone, Chapstick.

And her passport.

The 25-year-old concertgoer wasn't headed out of the country after Miranda Lambert closed the first night of the annual Country LakeShake festival. She brought it to sign up for TSA PreCheck, the government's expedited airport security program.

Hess, a regular traveler, had been meaning to sign up so she no longer has to beg other passengers to cut the security line when she's running late for her flight. Her roommate has had PreCheck since college and saw the festival's pitch about enrolling on-site and getting a fast pass through festival security as a bonus.

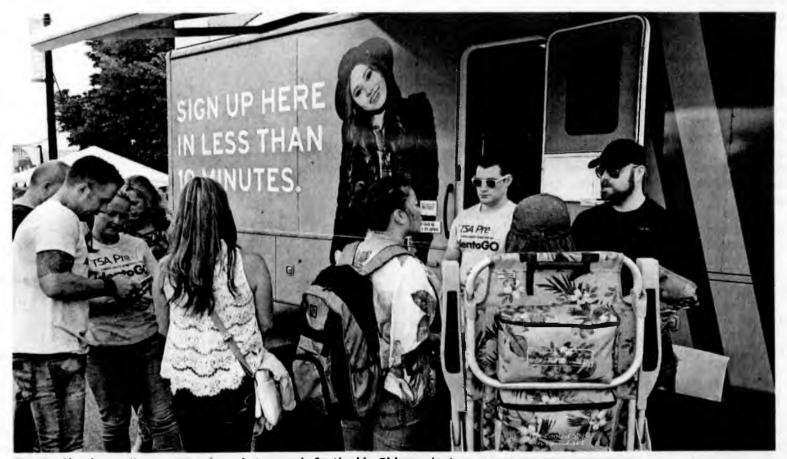
"This was an easy opportunity," Hess said. "So here I am."

She signed up inside the green and purple Identogo RV outside the festival gates in about 10 minutes and headed for the fast-pass line to get into the festival.

Identogo by Idemia, which handles TSA PreCheck enrollment under a government contract, has been trying to boost PreCheck enrollment by offering sign-ups at nontraditional locations. Most people sign up at an airport or a universal enrollment center run by Idemia. In addition to music festivals, Identogo has expanded enrollment to office supply retailer Staples and sporting events including, beginning this year, Boston Red Sox games at Fenway Park.

"What we're trying to do is make it more convenient for people to enroll," said Charles Carroll, senior vice president at Idemia. "Take away all the friction points."

PreCheck sign-ups began at festivals a few years ago in a partnership with concert promoter LiveNation and have been ramped up this year, with LiveNation and at other events, he said. The RV was parked at the BottleRock Napa Valley musical festival in northern Califor-



The PreCheck enrollment RV stopped at a music festival in Chicago in June. DAWN GILBERTSON/USA TODAY

nia in late May and spent the first weekend in June at CMA Fest in Nashville, Tennessee.

Angie Hamblen, senior manager of marketing and event promotions for Idemia, oversees the PreCheck RV at events around the country. She said the mobile enrollment centers fielded a lot of questions about what PreCheck is in the first few years, but now people are familiar with it.

"Now it's, 'How do I do this? How do I sign up?"

In a one-hour span at the LakeShake festival, 10 concertgoers filed into the RV to sign up, including a mother and her two daughters and the wife of a frequent flier who already had PreCheck.

The festival sign-up lineup continues in mid-July with the Forecastle music festival in Louisville, Kentucky. This fall, concert-goers will be able to sign up for PreCheck at Moon River Festival in Chattanooga, Tennessee; Music Mid-

town in Atlanta and Voodoo Music + Arts Experience in New Orleans.

Carroll said the nontraditional venues tend to draw more vacation travelers to PreCheck, compared with frequent business travelers at airport locations.

Festivals also help to draw in millennials, such as Hess and Kate Hansell, a 28-year-old Chicago resident who also enrolled at LakeShake.

Hansell, who has attended the threeday festival ever since it debuted five years ago, travels a few times a year and was tired of being stuck in the standard TSA line at the airport.

"People I travel with all seem to have it, and they seem to get through faster than me," she said.

Hansell completed the online application for PreCheck earlier this year, but the closest enrollment center to her office had closed. Members have to visit a center for a background check and fingerprinting. When she heard about sign-ups at LakeShake - the festival promotes the program heavily as part of Identogo's sponsorship - she decided to bring her passport and sign up.

She was approved a week later and used the PreCheck lane at O'Hare International Airport on Friday.

Identogo has a schedule of the mobile enrollment RV stops on its website. Information about enrolling at Red Sox games is also online.

Rather visit a Staples? Identigo has a list of stores currently offering the service.

You can make an appointment and fill out the PreCheck application online, but neither is required.

When visiting an enrollment center, be sure to bring proof of citizenship, such as a U.S. passport or a birth certificate; a driver's license and a credit card to pay the \$85 enrollment fee.

The PreCheck membership is good for five years.

Ethics concerns hinder facial recognition

Body-camera maker will forgo the technology

Madeline Purdue USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES – A major supplier of body cameras to law-enforcement agencies across the country has decided to forgo selling facial-recognition technology with its products.

Axon, which supplies 48 police departments in major cities with body cameras, made the decision after the company's ethics board concluded the technology was not accurate enough to be implemented in the field and could potentially cause major trust issues between law-enforcement officials and their communities.

In a 42-page report, the ethics board detailed concerns with the inaccuracy of the software, saying results showed it was less accurate when identifying women, younger people, and "worsens when trying to identify people of color compared to white people, a troubling disparity that would only perpetuate or exacerbate the racial inequities that cut across the criminal justice system."

The board is composed of experts from different professions, including law enforcement, robotics and policy, and advises Axon on the potential effects its technology could have on society.

"Some police departments are sophisticated and would understand the limitations on (facial recognition) and would put their own guardrails in place around the use of that technology by their officers.

"But there are some police departments that would not take those same precautions and may not appreciate the implications of using a technology that's not ready yet for prime time," said board member Jim Bueermann, who was a police officer for more than 30 years and is now president of the National Police Foundation.

Axon CEO Rick Smith said the company is "moving cautiously" because of these implications.

"There are companies out there actively promoting using facial recognition on body cameras," Smith said.



Privacy fears have made some cities skeptical of facial recognition. GETTY IMAGESGETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

"From our perspective, we believe taking the time to do the ethical analysis up front in the product design process will have much better outcomes in the long haul."

Smith says the company might reconsider incorporating the technology in their products in the future once the inaccuracies are solved, but must balance that with privacy and safety and put in "safeguards" to avoid misuse of facial recognition.

"We don't believe that the right answer is that the police should deploy face recognition with no controls and go wild with it, but similarly we don't believe that it makes sense to say police should never use face-recognition technology because there's many cases where it's pretty universally known that it will be a good thing," Smith said.

Facial recognition has been a hotbutton topic around the country as concerns about privacy and accuracy have made some cities skeptical of the technology, leading San Francisco to ban it altogether, with cities such as Oakland and Berkeley considering following suit. California may enact a statewide ban if Gov. Gavin Newsom signs the Body Camera Accountability Act this summer. The Somerville City Council in Massachusetts banned facial recognition just last week.

While these cities are turning their backs to this technology, others are welcoming it. The Orlando Police Department is testing Amazon's 'Rekognition' software, although not in public or for investigative use.

According to The New York Times, Detroit signed a \$1 million deal to set up facial recognition in the city's surveillance cameras with broad rules on how law enforcement can use the footage.

Bill Johnson, executive director of the National Association of Police Organizations, compares facial-recognition software to when law enforcement started using DNA testing as an investigative tool.

"There was a lot of concern then as well about 'the government is going to have my DNA, they're going to know all about me, how is this going to be used?' and I think today those fears have generally gone by the wayside," Johnson said.

Johnson says facial recognition can be used in the same way DNA testing is — to confirm identities, solve crimes and exonerate the innocent.

"I don't think it's providing the government any more identification (information) than they already have," said Johnson. "I think if people are concerned about surveillance, they've kind of missed the boat."

Facial recognition is being used by more than law enforcement.

The New York school district will be the first in the country to deploy the software for added security, including to identify potential school shooters and sex offenders.

"AI is so powerful, it is going to be either the greatest or the worst thing we as a human species has ever developed, and using such a powerful tool, I think the developers of that should have a mechanism of objective, interested people they can rely on to say, 'Just because we can do this, should we?'" Bueermann said.

High-tech gadgets can help clean up

Jennifer Jolly Special to USA TODAY

If you own a home, there's a good chance you're working on some kind of fix-up project right about now. Americans spend more than \$400 billion a year on residential renovations and repairs, according to a recent report from the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University – and June is one of the busiest times of the year for upgrades.

Whether you're fed up with a leaky washing machine, or trying to figure out which neighbor's dog is using your lawn as a personal porta-potty, here are a handful of impressive, new AI-powered gadgets that can do most of the thinking – and even some of the heavy lifting – for you.

Take a load off

Short of hiring a maid to do your laundry – we can always dream! – Whirlpool's Smart Front Load Laundry Pair (starting at \$1,499 for each) is like a stain-fighting magical genie. Equipped with the Load & Go Dispenser, the washer automatically manages both laundry soap and fabric softener for up to 40 loads on a single fill-up, so you just toss a load in and get on with the rest of your day. The washer senses how big each load is on its own, and adds just the right amount of detergent.



Whirlpool Smart Front Load Laundry Pair uses Al. WHIRLPOOL

A touchscreen remembers what settings you use the most and, with the Whirlpool app, you can store up to 35 personalized cycles and access them in an instant. I especially like the built-in Alexa features so I can control the washer and dryer with simple voice commands from just about anywhere in my home.

"Hey Alexa, tell Whirlpool to order a pizza!" Just kidding, it can't do that ... yet.

Guardian gadgets

The new Vivint Outdoor Camera Pro steps up its home guardian game with built-in "Smart Sentry" technology to detect creepers by the way they move, how long they linger, and other tells that let you know someone's up to no good – then lets them know they're not welcome with a red light and warning tone.

It also sends alerts straight to your Vivint app and automatically records clips, too.

The camera's onboard AI does a good job of distinguishing among people, animals, and cars, and has a wide 140-degree field of view that captures all the action day or night.

The Camera Pro works in concert with Vivint's wall-mounted Vivint Smart Hub control panel, which has an integrated 7-inch HD display. If you already have Vivint Smart Home service, the new camera costs \$399, including installation.

Is it possible to love a vacuum?

No really, I'm asking that seriously, because the Tineco PURE ONE (starting at \$449) smart cordless vacuum cleaner actually makes me enjoy vacuuming every single day. Like maybe a little too much.

A special sensor that Tineco calls the iLoop detects hidden dirt as much as four times smaller than a grain of sand. Then, it automatically adjusts suction power based on the surface, size of dirt or dust, and soil level.

One of my favorite features is a spotlight on the bottom front of the vacuum head base that illuminates every speck of dirt and pet hair on the floor in front



Tineco PURE ONE Cordless Vacuum Cleaner detects hidden dirt. TINECO

of you. As you pass over it, you see the clean path you're making as you vacuum, in a really satisfying way.

It also stays charged longer than any other cordless stick vac l've reviewed, as in what seems like hours longer.

And, it's so quiet compared with most other vacuums, that I can actually talk on the phone while I'm vacuuming.

If it keeps up this kind of performance over the next several months, it will be one of my favorite gadgets of the year.

Designed to declutter

Between warranty slips, set-up guides, and instruction manuals, you need a whole room just to store all the documentation that came with every appliance and gadget in your house.

The HomeServe app is the ultimate home organization hack because it replaces every manual and how-to guide with digital versions that live inside your smartphone.

The free app is easy to use: Just snap a photo of the product ID on any gadget in your home, from your refrigerator to your TV, and the app delivers the matching user manual, warranty info, and even DIY repair videos instantly. It will even help you find replacement parts if something breaks, and store photos of your product receipts so they're always handy.

You can even use the app to store paint names and brands after repainting a room, so you'll never forget what paint you used.

Robot litter box is the cat's meow

Inviting a four-legged furry friend into your home is a joy on so many levels, but cleaning up after kitty-kitty isn't anyone's idea of a good time.

Litter Robot 3 (\$449) – yep, it really is called the "Litter Robot" – is basically magic.

It senses when your feline friend has done his business, and then, after either a three-, seven-, or 15-minute delay – enough time to let your cat saunter away with satisfaction – the "globe" portion of the robot rotates, sifting out the waste and storing it in a drawer for easy disposal.

The Litter Robot app makes upkeep even easier by telling you how full the waste drawer is and letting you know as soon as you need to empty it.

The only downside here, aside from the price tag, is the size. It's 2-and-ahalf feet tall and nearly that wide, so there's no discreet tucking it out of site.



The Litter Robot 3 sifts out waste for easy disposal. LITTER ROBOT

Explorer's tires seal their own holes

Mark Phelan Detroit Free Press Auto Critic USA TODAY NETWORK

The 2020 Ford Explorer will offer tires that fix themselves. Drivers may not even know they ran over a nail, but here's what they should know:

The tires allow them to keep traveling after a puncture, in some cases for days without a repair. They use different technology than run-flat tires, which have been criticized for rough rides.

Most drivers won't even know they had a puncture until they notice a nail stuck in the tire or tire-pressure warnings alert them to a gradual loss of air pressure days after the puncture, according to Michelin engineers.

The concept of self-sealing tires has been around for years, but recent improvements - and automakers' eagerness to save weight by eliminating conventional spares - means we're going to see more of them.

"Self-sealing tires are designed to handle the most common tire puncture - a small object penetrating the tire in the tread area," said Woody Rogers, director of tire information for online retailer the Tire Rack.

Michelin makes the Explorer's selfsealing tires. It also supplies them to the Chevrolet Bolt. Most major tire makers have tires with the technology, and the number of choices is only likely to grow.

The inside of the tires is coated with viscous goop that flows into punctures to seal them.

"When the sealant works as designed, most drivers never know it's working. There is no pressure loss, and odds are the driver doesn't see the object in the tire or it's fallen out," Rogers said.

Creating the rubbery sealant was tricky, Michelin engineers said. It must flow into punctures, but it can't pool at the bottom of the tire when it's parked. The material also must form an airtight seal, and flow at temperatures from scorching desert blacktop to a frigid winter night.

Unlike run-flat tires, which have stiff sides that allow them to keep rolling after the air leaks out, self-sealing tires



The 2020 Ford Explorer will offer tires lined with an environmentally friendly rubber sealant designed to fill most common tread punctures from nails and screws, dramatically slowing the rate at which air leaks. FORD

similar object punctures them.

Run-flats, which first became common on sports cars that didn't have room to carry a spare, wear out quickly after losing pressure. They may provide a range of just 50 miles or so before the tire must be replaced.

Michelin's tires theoretically can keep going for days, though they will eventually need to be repaired or replaced, depending on how severely the puncture damaged the tire. Neither technology is much help when the tires' sidewall is shredded, as can happen with potholes.

Michelin calls the technology Self-

can keep going for days after a nail or seal. Continental, which supplies selfsealing tires to brands from Volkswagen to Bentley, calls its version ContiSeal.

> Michelin's tires can seal punctures up to a quarter-inch. Continental makes a similar claim: one-fifth of an inch.

> The tires will be standard on the 2020 Explorer Limited hybrid and Platinum models and optional on the Explorer Limited.

Other tire brands that offer self-sealing tires include Hankook and Pirelli.

The Tire Rack charges about \$27 more for a self-sealing 20-inch Michelin Primacy all-season tire for the 2020 Explorer Limited than for the same tire without sealant.

"It's important to remember selfsealing tires are not run-flat tires, and run-flat tires are not self-sealing tires," Rogers said.

"Conventional and self-sealing tires go flat without air, and the self-sealing tire works to hold in all that precious air by sealing a tread area injury. But if the puncture hole is too large, or the damage is in the sidewall, then self-sealing tires don't solve the problem."

Expect U.S. sales of self-sealing tires to grow rapidly.

Continental and Michelin both recently installed equipment to add the sealant at U.S. tire plants.

Now's a great time to pick up some stocks

Economic fundamentals largely remain strong

Nancy Tengler Special to USA TODAY

Day to day, stocks seem to flail around like lotto balls in a gravity-pick machine. Frenetic, directionless and wild. Over the long term, however, stock prices are fueled by economic and earnings growth and behave rationally.

Let's examine the facts.

Unemployment is at a 50-plus year low. Tech employment, which makes up just less than 4% of total U.S. jobs, is growing much faster than overall employment.

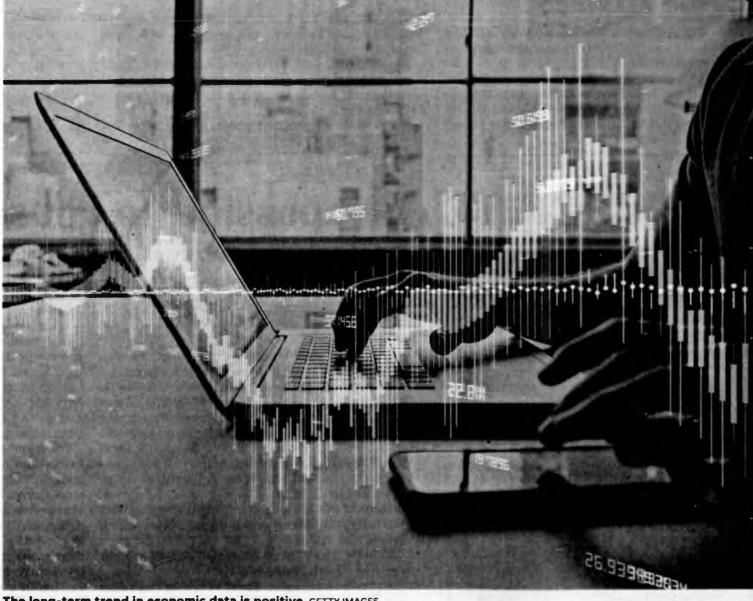
This is good news for investors. Why? Because technological innovation increases worker productivity, which then allows corporations to produce more goods per employee. And despite rising wages due to a scarcity of job seekers, improving productivity allows corporations to maintain profit margins and earnings growth - an important driver for stock prices.

Interest rates as measured by the 10year Treasury have declined from almost 3.3% last fall to 2%. Lower interest rates can hurt savers but help spenders and boost the demand for housing. Low rates also make stocks more attractive.

The legendary investor Bill Miller, in a recent interview with Barron's, said that "stocks are ridiculously cheap" compared with bonds and cash. The market's current price-to-earnings multiple of about 17x is higher than the historical average since WWII of 15x, but the average is distorted by periods of high inflation, Miller argues. With low interest rates and low inflation, he would expect the multiple to be closer to 20x.

Robust retail sales sparked by a healthy consumer - whose balance sheet looks pristine compared with the previous decade - continue to surprise. Since the consumer is two-thirds of overall GDP, strong spending is good for economic growth. The last time consumer spending was this strong, individuals were borrowing against homes and piling up credit card debt.

That is not the case today. Americans



The long-term trend in economic data is positive. GETTY IMAGES

who want to work are employed and have higher disposal income thanks to lower taxes, lower levels of debt and modest inflation. All of this bodes well for discretionary spending and economic growth.

To be sure, the economic data is volatile in the near term and even more so thanks to the trade war with China and ongoing threats of tariffs. But the longterm trend in economic data is positive. supported by the fundamental strength in the economy. Reaching an agreement with China would relieve the pressure on waning CEO confidence which has resulted in reduced capital expendi-



The daily noise can be disconcerting. Pay attention to the facts supporting your long-term investing objectives.

tures (capex drives productivity). But even without a China deal on the table, the economy is growing above the trend of the last 10 years.

Expect continued day-to-day stock market volatility. Stocks are marked to market every second and that volatility is exacerbated by the computer algorithms that drive big trading programs. But if you are investing for the next three to five years rather than the next three to five minutes, then the shortterm volatility should not "scare you out of stocks," as the great Peter Lynch cautioned.

Lotto may be fun, but it's random and risky. Investing in stocks is ultimately logical and strategic.

The daily noise can be disconcerting. Pay attention to the facts supporting your long-term investing objectives.

Nancy Tengler is chief investment strategist at Tengler Wealth Management and ButcherJoseph Asset Management. She is the author of "The Women's Guide to Successful Investing."



Lighthouse CEO Ryan Hertz, left, retired Lighthouse CEO Noreen Keating, and Bill Sullivan of Flagstar Bank meet at the M1 Concourse for the Better Together Celebration to recognize Lighthouse's merger with South Oakland Shelter. DIANE K. BERT/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Event celebrates merger of Lighthouse, S. Oakland Shelter

Diane K. Bert Special to Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

As the merger of Lighthouse of Oakland County and South Oakland Shelter (SOS) became official, 250 supporters, including board members and people who invest in and serve in the organizations, came to the Better Together Celebration at the MI Concourse. Flagstar Bank sponsored the event.

The merger brings together 75 years of combined service helping struggling families overcome poverty, homelessness and hunger.

Poverty does exist in Oakland County. Nearly 3,000 people experienced homelessness in 2017. Many families are food insecure. Many Birmingham area churches, synagogues and mosques house SOS clients throughout the year.

The guests at the event had the privilege of enjoying

Also present was Rep. Mark Koleszar, who serves the Plymouth, Canton, Northville area. He serves on the committee in Lansing with Carter.

Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner appeared with his two sons.

He said, "We need to meet the challenges head on and not sit back while kids go hungry."

Ryan Hertz, president and CEO of Lighthouse, said, "Our hope for this evening is to bring key stakeholders in both organizations to start the merger on the same page. Thanks for joining us. It is great to see familiar and new faces.

"Lighthouse will focus on four areas: basic needs, stability services, systems change, and community engagement. Along with this, we are hitting the ground running with a \$15 million affordable housing development in Oak Park and the relaunch of our Centers for Working Families program in Pontiac."

gether Celebration.

Is it possible to not seek revenge?

An honored guest and member of the host committee was Noreen Keating, retired CEO of Lighthouse. As she was introduced, there was a round of vigorous applause as many present recognized her leadership in shaping Lighthouse into a diverse service agency. The Pontiac Area Transitional Housing (PATH) program for homeless women, victims of domestic violence and their children was founded under her leadership.

Cynthia von Oeyen, longtime volunteer at Lighthouse fundraising events, noted, "It was a tent full of people excited about the message of the new mission of Lighthouse and South Oakland Shelter. Our old friends reconnected, and we made new friends, all connecting in support of the new Lighthouse."

It was a pleasant evening for the guests to see classic cars, enjoy popcorn, chat with friends, have photos taken, see fireworks, and experience a simulation of driving a Enzo Ferrari race car. Ryan Conroy drove the race car simulator and said, "This is fun and realistic. The seat even moves in response to turns as you drive the car." Many guests had fun experiencing driving the car.

appetizers and dinner and dessert while hearing speakers address the need for services for needy Oakland County citizens. Roop Raj was the emcee. Sen. Gary Peters endorsed the work of Lighthouse and especially honored veterans who were present. Each was given a medal.

Yvette Transou gave a stirring rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." An honor guard appeared during the opening ceremony.

Pontiac City Councilman Randy Carter welcomed the guests. State Rep. Brenda Carter, 29th District, who is his wife, described her agenda of dealing with poverty and the Oakland County Poverty Task Force.

Jim Ceroli, vice president and CFO of Flagstar Bank, added, "We are happy to support this merger building stronger communities and helping those most vulnerable develop self-sufficiency. We are all better together.'

The bank gave \$25,000 in support of the event. All donations given by guests will go directly to support the programs of Lighthouse.

Russ Russell, chief development officer for Lighthouse, encouraged donations and expressed the goal of reaching \$50,000, adding \$25,000 to the generous Flagstar donation.

Marci Fitch coordinated planning the Better To-

One of the chief tenets of Christian ethics is to

The Apostle Paul says in Romans chapter 12,

Think of a time a person or organization has hurt

1. Don't strike back or seek revenge against

As Taylor Swift says, "There's nothing I do better

Dean Johnson

Guest columnist

On the day after the event, Ryan Hertz said, "Thank you to everyone who joined us last night at the Better Together Celebration at the MI Concourse. We felt so grateful to be surrounded by so many supporters ... and we were able to raise nearly \$45,000 toward our \$50,000 goal."

To be a part of Lighthouse's response to poverty as a donor, volunteer, or advocate, call 248-920-6000.

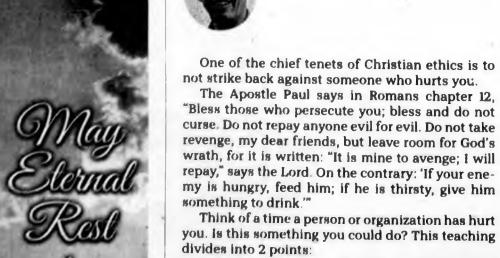
Obituaries

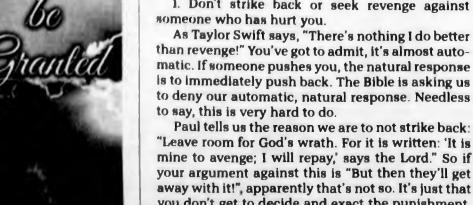


Diane St. George

NORTHVILLE - Diane passed away peacefully on July 6 at the age of 76. Beloved sister of Carolyn Jerkins. Loving aunt of Jacqueline Ripley, Joseph M. (Christina) Jerkins, and Julie Jerkins. Dear great aunt of Irene Ripley, Lauren Ripley, and Joseph W. Jerkins. A funeral mass was held on Wednesday at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome. com.

GRIFFIN





Paul tells us the reason we are to not strike back: "Leave room for God's wrath. For it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord." So if your argument against this is "But then they'll get away with it!", apparently that's not so. It's just that you don't get to decide and exact the punishment. Could you trust God enough to leave it in his hands?

> Notice that Paul's plea here is not to pretend that it doesn't hurt.

Think of the hundreds of Christians killed at the churches in Sri Lanka on Easter. God will handle this. He's done us the favor of taking it out of our hands. As Gandhi said, "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind." I find it's actually a relief to live this way. Vengeance is someone else's department. It's one thing to not strike back, but the Bible takes it a step further:

2. Not only don't retaliate, but actively bless them. This is even harder! It's one thing to forgive some-

one or not seek revenge, but can you imagine doing something that will bless or help the person who hurt you? A lady in my church told me that if someone at her job hurts or insults her, she goes to Panera and buys one of those big wrapped chocolate chip cookies and gives it to them the next day. She says "It really does make me feel better!"

To repay evil with evil is to immediately lose the battle to evil. The only way to defeat evil is by doing good to the one who has done you harm. In other words, if you hate a person who has wronged you, then that person has won! One of my favorite authors, Tim Kellar, says: When we identify "evil" too closely with the "evildoer," we believe we need to destroy the evildoer in order to destroy evil." If you use Sauron's ring to try to do good, he's got you.

There's a woman who has hurt me a number of times through the years. Recently I saw that she had started a GoFundMe page to cover some personal medical expenses, so I decided to donate. I don't know if she saw it, but I felt like I was doing what God asked. Of course, Jesus is the best example of this. They beat and cursed him, and on the cross he still said, "Father, forgive them" and took our sin upon himself.

How are Christians doing at this - at not striking back, at forgiving, at blessing a person who has hurt them? We struggle. To be honest, that's why we go to church - to be reminded of these things, and to encourage one another in them. As Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount,

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

St. Maarten resorts are better than ever

Melanie Reffes Special to USA TODAY

The comeback kids in St. Maarten, Sonesta Ocean Point Resort and Sonesta Maho Beach Resort, Casino & Spa, are open for business after monster Hurricane Irma pummeled the dual-nation island nearly two years ago.

The island known as St. Martin in English is divided between the French Saint-Martin and Dutch Sint (St.) Maarten on the southern side of the island, which is where the Sonesta Resorts are.

After extensive and expensive rebuilding, the beachfront resorts are bigger, better and armed with an array of vacation must-dos.

With legions of loyal fans, the adjacent all-inclusive resorts on the southwestern shore of the island are conveniently located within minutes of Princess Juliana International Airport, the main airport on the island.

The accommodations

A tour de force with a combined 550 rooms and suites, the sister resorts are the largest on the island, with 420 rooms on 10 floors at the family-friendly Sonesta Maho Beach Resort and 130 suites on six floors at the adults-only Sonesta Ocean Point Resort.

At Sonesta Maho Beach Resort, rooms are outfitted with balconies, rain showers and comfy beds. Rooms run the gamut from the "superior" that easily sleeps two adults and two kids to the larger "deluxe one-bedroom suite" with ocean views and a pull-out sofa.

At Sonesta Ocean Point, suites include a "junior suite king" all the way to the "luxury butler penthouse" with a palatial 2,600 square feet of living space and gorgeous views from the wraparound terrace. Butler service is offered in the top-tier categories.

Sips and snacks

LV

At Sonesta Maho Beach Resort, there are five bars and five restaurants, including Maho Cafe and Napoli Pizzeria, where 200 pies are baked each day. Ocean Terrace is buffet central for breakfast, lunch and dinner; Palms Grill



Edge Pool is for guests staying at the adults-only Sonesta Ocean Point Resort. SONESTA RESORTS SINT MAARTEN PHOTOS

is family fun for dinner cooked tableside on a hot volcanic stone plate, and for fine dining, The Point impresses with ocean views and an Italian menu.

Standouts include weekly barbecues on the beach, and for those who want to shake it up, pub grub at the Ascot Pub & Sports Bar and Asian fare at Jing's Kitchen are outside the resort in Maho Village yet included in the all-inclusive plan.

For cocktails in myriad fruity flavors, Oasis Swim-Up Bar is holiday heaven, and for those who like to test Lady Luck, Latitude Bar is outfitted with slot machines.

In addition to the restaurants and bars at the Sonesta Maho Beach Resort, there are other options for those bunking at Sonesta Ocean Point.

Kickstart the morning with breakfast and a rum-fueled Caribbean coffee at Azul perched at the edge of a cliff. For lunch and dinner, the menu changes daily. On top of Azul, Casà Blue Tapas is casual chic with 360-degree views, minty mojitos and small plates. Aptly named, Sunset Lounge is all about the sweeping views of Maho Bay and a Maho vice cocktail gussied up with rum, mangoes and strawberries. For a night-

cap, Martin's bar fits the bill and for an anytime nibble and nosh, room service is available 24/7.

Plane spotting on the beach

For adults-only, the cliffside, manmade beach at Sonesta Ocean Point invites an afternoon siesta. A 10-minute walk from the resorts, Mullet Bay is a local favorite and where you'll find beach volleyball games and vendors hawking icy beer from makeshift coolers.

On Maho Beach; one of the three dozen beaches that rim the 37-square-mile island, take your pick from a sun lounger on the sand or a towel by the water's edge.

One of just a few places in the world where fans get up close and personal with big jets and smaller planes, Maho Beach is a must for plane-spotting enthusiasts. Diehards claim the pilots fly so close to the beach they wave from the cockpit as they take off and land from the adjacent Princess Juliana International Airport.

For extreme spotters and those who travel with them, Sunset Bar and Grill at the end of the runway is where flight schedules are posted and enthusiasts can enjoy a cocktail.

Peak viewing times are between 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. when the 747 jumbo jets make a graceful grand entrance over the beach.

Pool time and family fun

At Sonesta Maho Beach Resort, pool perches include the sprawling Oasis pool, adjacent kids' pool and petite aqua park.

For the adults at Sonesta Ocean Point, a trio of pools were conceived by master aquatic designer Joan Roca (yes, that's a real job). The Edge hosts poolside parties with floating cocktails and canapes; Point Pool is outfitted with chaises and cabanas; and the Meandering Pool is for those staying in swim-out suites.

At the Beach House Kids Club, there's plenty of fun stuff for kids up to 12 years old, including splashing around on animal-themed water slides, sweating it out in junior fitness classes and meetand-greets with Iggy Iguana and Penelope Pelican.

For the older set, Teen Zone is a crash pad with social media suites, air hockey and foosball.

Activities and relaxation

Appealing to vacationers of every stripe, an all-inclusive stay goes beyond unlimited food and drinks with a daily roster of activities from martial arts classes and beach bocce ball to cardio kickboxing, poolside games and earlymorning runs.

Dance wannabees take Zumba and salsa lessons while the more pensive opt for aerobics in the pool and yoga in the gazebo. For underwater explorers, snorkeling gear is available to rent.

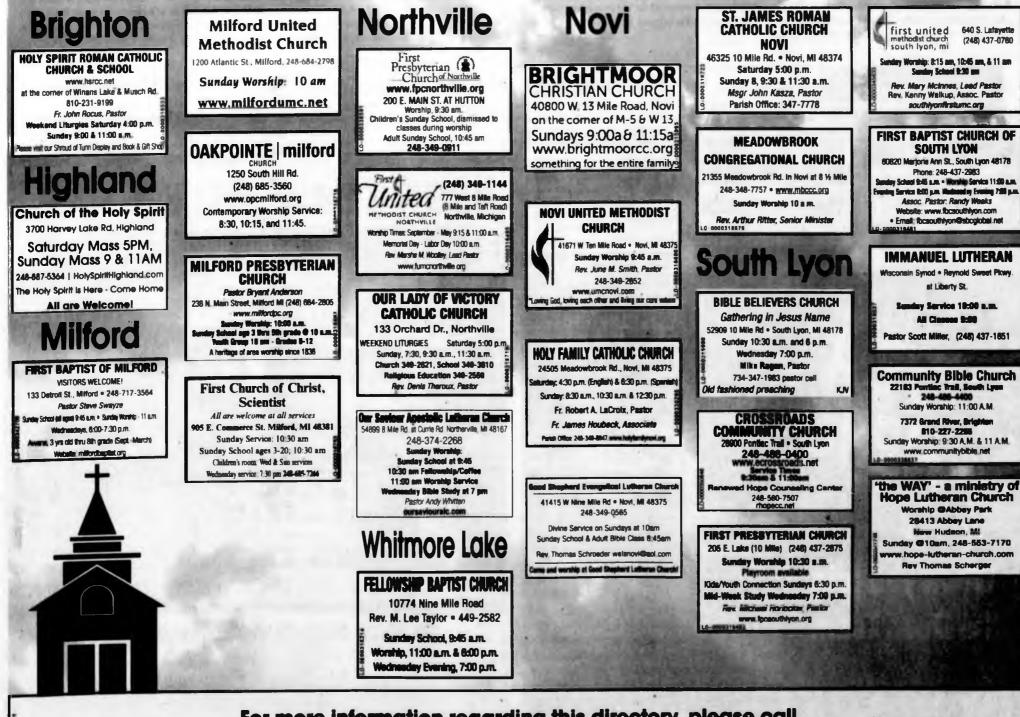
At the Serenity Spa, island chill-out splurges include the guavaberry and sugar scrubs fragrant with the small red berries that grow in the hills and a calming lavender and vanilla massage.

For those staying at Sonesta Ocean Point, Serenity Point offers open-air massages, and to burn off those pesky breakfast buffet calories, the fitness center offers workout instruction on modern equipment.

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4 important tips for rescheduling an interview

Eric Titner

thejobnetwork.com

When we're on the job hunt, most of us focus our time and energy on getting our foot in the door for interviews and making sure that we make a lasting and positive impression while in the room. We pour untold amounts of blood, sweat, and tears into crafting the perfect resumes and cover letters, work overtime to ensure that our pre-interview communication with hiring managers is pitch perfect, and in the days leading up to interviews do everything we can to ensure that we're polished and prepared. But sometimes fate intervenes in unexpected ways and interrupts our grand plans - even when it comes to job interviews. Although we're eager to give off the impression that we're always available and unwaveringly reliable to interviewers along the job trail, sometimes life happens, and rescheduling an interview is necessary.

Some of us have been indoctrinated into believing that rescheduling an interview is a real red flag for hiring personnel and about as egregious a move as taking our shoes off during an interview. But this simply isn't true, if you handle the situation appropriately. Yes, ideally you should do your absolute best to adhere to an agreed-upon interview schedule, but if something unexpected comes up and you absolutely must reschedule, then make sure you take the appropriate steps to minimize the impact. Consider the following strategies if you find yourself in this position.



breaker, a last-minute schedule change is by no means putting your best foot forward or the best way to make a great first impression.

3. Be flexible

When communicating the situation to your contact, be sure to offer some possible date and time alternatives in a friendly and helpful manner, all to minimize the amount of follow-up and backand-forth needed. Remember, you want to make things as easy and pain-free on interviewers as possible, especially when asking to reschedule. If they reply with an alternate date and time, make every effort to be available for it. The best way to rebound from a schedule change is by being flexible.

4. Kill them with politeness

Make sure that you expressly show your appreciation for an interviewer's willingness to reschedule an interview. Thank them in writing, thank them again in person, and then it wouldn't hurt to thank them one more time in

1. Have a good reason

Yes, we're going out on a bit of a limb to let you know that rescheduling an interview is not the end of the world. That

GETTY IMAGES

said, it isn't something to do frivolously or take advantage of on a regular basis (or multiple times for a single interview). Make sure you have a good reason for needing to reschedule — a family or medical emergency, for example that simply cannot be avoided or worked around. Use your best judgment here — if it's something that can be put off until after the interview, then do so. But if there's simply no way around it, then any reasonable interviewer should understand and not hold it against you.

2. Follow up quickly

Once you become aware that you have an unavoidable conflict and need to reschedule your interview, contact the individual you've been working with and let them know about the situation. Don't put it off because you don't want to deal or you're afraid of their response — delaying the inevitable will only make matters worse. Also, do your absolute best (we mean it) to avoid having to reschedule on the day of the interview although it may not be an absolute deal your follow-up correspondence after interviewing. Remember, you want to convey that you're aware that the interviewer's time is valuable and that you sincerely appreciate their attention and flexibility. Failure to do so might just make the sort of bad impression you're worried about.

If you're thinking about rescheduling an interview, use the strategies and advice presented here to help you pull it off without a hitch. Good luck!

Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education- and career-related topics. He currently lives in New York City.



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