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THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Tim Ouellette points to a survey marker near his Indian Garden Lane subdivision home on June 2, where the Saginaw Trail gas pipeline will be the end of a few old trees located within his 10-acre property. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Oakland County townships prepare for new pipeline

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Tim Ouellette will lose many beloved trees when Consumers Energy replaces a decades-old gas pipeline this summer.

The project, with its workers and heavy equipment, will consume the back part of his Indian Garden Lane property in Milford Township.

"There's really nothing I can do about it," Ouellette said. "I've got mixed feelings. But it is what it is. You can't really fight the power company."

Oakland County's Holly, Rose, Highland and Milford townships, along with Grand Blanc Township in Genesee County, have been preparing for the fourth and final phase of the \$610 million Saginaw Trail pipeline replacement.

Heavy-duty pipeline work began in Grand Blanc Township last month while work is underway in Holly and Rose townships. Officials expect heavy work



This DTE gas pipeline substation is a quarter mile from Ouellette's home.

See PIPELINE, Page 4A

Northville Township opens new biking trails

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As a biking renaissance surges throughout southeastern Michigan, Northville Township displayed impeccable timing Friday with the opening of a beginner-friendly mountain bike trail located on wooded property near Haggerty and 7 Mile roads.

A second set of trails, which are being groomed just west of the property, is scheduled to open in the fall of 2020.

"This is an important trail," noted Motor City Mountain Biking Association member Jeff Oles, who played in the key role in the building of the new township trails. "A lot of trails are built in a manner for more regional use, but this trail is more of a neighborhood trail that residents can ride their bikes to without having to drive."

"This is a beginner-friendly trail, too, so new riders can get the hang of it before moving on to more challenging trails. The west trails we're working on will have a more challenging flavor to them."

Oles said the MCMB has been working with the township since 2010 to make Friday's opening possible.

"When the township started the master plan of this property, it was actually not designated as a mountain bike park," Oles said. "But the township asked us if we'd be able to help it put trails in on the eastern part of the property and we jumped at the chance."

The MCMB not only helped build the trails, but it will be at the forefront of maintaining them.

"The feature I like most about this trail is that it's a relatively short neighborhood trail that people can use, say, after they get home from work, if they're looking for a 20-minute ride through a forested area," said MCMB member Loren Konkus. "It's perfect for people who may just need a break from the stress of their lives."

"There's all kinds of wildlife in the woods; you'll see everything from young fawn and deer to several kinds of birds, including pheasants. It's great for beginners because the paths are relatively flat."

In addition to the biking trails, the Northville Township site includes a

See TRAILS, Page 4A

Cars line up hours before Chick-fil-A opens in Novi

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Thirty minutes before its grand opening June 18 in Novi in front of Twelve Oaks Mall, Chick-fil-A employees got a glimpse into what their first weekend would be like.

As early as 6 a.m., cars were lined up, wrapping around Twelve Oaks Drive just to get their first taste from the popular chicken restaurant chain's first location in west Oakland County, joining other locations in Allen Park, Okemos and Troy.

However, many had waited much

longer just to be first in line.

Ian Kinnard, who said he lives about five minutes away from the mall, drove by at midnight just to see if there was a line that was building up. After seeing that the parking lot was still being cleaned, Kinnard left, returning with a full car of people at 4:30 a.m.

"I thought it would be way more packed at 4:30," Kinnard said. "Our goal was to be the first people here — we were fifth, but I thought it would be way more. After 4:30, 20, 30 minutes, it went from zero to 60."

See CHICK-FIL-A, Page 5A

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JUNE 22 THRU AUG 2 2020

Milford Memories, summer concert series canceled

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Due to the pandemic, Milford is losing more community events in 2020.

Word spread early last week that Milford Memories, a summer festival filled with art, music and activities, was canceled due to pandemic realities.

Organizers said the difficult decision concluded hours of discussing and evaluating options.

"We ran through multiple scenarios to see if a scaled down event or some other option existed to hold a safe and successful event this summer," the Milford Memories committee announced in a Facebook post. "With the current uncertainty around holding large events and unknown guidelines and requirements for events in August, we are unable to be fully confident in the fact it will be safe or permitted."

"We wanted to wait as long as we could before making a final decision. We are going to start working now to bring you an amazing Milford Memories 2021!"

It doesn't stop there.

Village Council met virtually June 15 and decided, 5-2, with Kevin Ziegler and Harley "Butch" Maxwell being the minority, that there are too many risks to allow the township's 2020 summer concert series, Movies in the Park and Fall Picnic.

"They should have been here," Council President Jerry Aubry said. "We discussed this in April. They knew that we were going to discuss this at this meeting. If they want us to be the bad guys and say no concerts, then we'll be the bad guys and say no concerts."

In April, soon after the nation had switched into pandemic gear, Council voted to cancel village-sponsored events through July 4. That meant no Memorial Day procession or Independence Day parade, and no start to the summer concert series.

The Friday Night Live 2020 summer concert series is done for the year, too.

Meanwhile, Milford Farmers' Market opens Thursday with some pandemic-inspired changes such as no entertainment and spaced-out booths.

Sidewalk Sales also remains set for the second weekend in July.

"A lot of the merchants are really getting very anxious," said Gina Salaski, owner of Gina's Bridal Boutique and representing other business owners. "They count on Milford Memories to make enough money to pay for everything that they purchase for the holiday season."



A rendering, shared during the Northville Planning Commission meeting June 2, shows what the proposed three-story building at North Center Street and Dunlap would look like. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF NORTHVILLE

New 3-story building planned for downtown Northville

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The entrance to downtown Northville along North Center Street could have a very different look in the coming years.

A proposed project would bring a three-story building at 156 N. Center St., and construct an additional floor on the building that currently houses the Tuscan Cafe at 150 N. Center St.

If approved, the new building would contain a restaurant on the first floor and residential living units on the second and third floors. Additional living units would be created in the additional floor above the Tuscan Cafe, which would continue to operate in its current space.

Robert Miller, a Northville-based architect, said the plans are to show some design elements that are relative to the old opera house that used to sit on the site but was torn down many years ago.

"It's actually a stunning building," he said. "It's a shame this building isn't in Northville anymore."

The new project, reviewed June 2 during an online planning commission meeting, would add seven residential units between the two buildings: four in the new building and three in the addition above the Tuscan Cafe, which already has some residential units.

That figure could be reduced, though, as two of the units are below the minimum square footage allowed in the special land use district and would require a variance from the city's Board of Zoning Appeals.

Commissioner Jeff Gaines said he was pleased with how the building design came about, especially reflecting part of Northville's history in some of the elements.

"Your design is allowing the Tuscan Cafe to be prominent," he said. "Reflecting on a couple of elements of the former opera house, even though it's long gone, is a nice (touch) to have."

The commission voted to send the issue to a public hearing regarding special land use that will be heard at some point in the future.

The restaurant would have its main entrance off Dunlap and would have outdoor seating along North Center Street. What restaurant will occupy that space has not yet been determined.

Raffi Kuredjian, the petitioner for the project, said he's seen how buildings make for great entrances to shopping districts and downtowns across the country, and believes his project will complement downtown Northville greatly.

"I've always thought that corner needed something a little better than what it had," he said. "I think, hopefully, we'll bring that to fruition."

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Russia sentences Whelan to 16 years

Kim Hjelmsgaard and
Deirdre Shsgreen
USA TODAY NETWORK

American Paul Whelan, a former Marine, was convicted by Russia of spying June 15, receiving a 16-year prison sentence in a maximum-security prison colony.

Whelan pleaded not guilty to the espionage charges and claimed he was set up in a sting operation orchestrated by Russia's intelligence services. He was visiting Russia for the wedding of a friend when he was arrested in December 2018 after receiving a USB flash drive that allegedly contained classified Russian information.

Whelan's trial began March 23, but the proceedings have been closed to the public, and many of the case's details have emerged through his lawyer, Vladimir Zherebenkov.

"This is slimy, grubby, greasy Russian politics. Nothing more, nothing less," Whelan said before the sentencing. Prosecutors asked for an 18-year prison sentence.

Zherebenkov said Whelan would appeal the verdict. The U.S. Embassy in Moscow denounced Whelan's trial as unfair and said no evidence for his alleged crimes was provided. In Russia, a maximum-security prison colony is akin to a labor camp.

Whelan, 50, is the director of global security for a Michigan-based auto supplier. He was born

in Canada to British parents and grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He holds U.S., British, Canadian and Irish passports. The U.S. ambassador in Moscow, John Sullivan, described the allegations against Whelan as spurious and the court case as a "mockery of justice." Former CIA agents told USA TODAY that Whelan does not fit the profile of a covert U.S. intelligence operative and that it's more likely the Russians nabbed him as leverage against the Trump administration in a game of geopolitical chess.

"If Paul were being tried in Washington — or Dublin, London, or Ottawa — then I might have some anxiety about the outcome. A conviction would reflect evidence of guilt, a sentence would reflect the severity of

Paul's actions," Whelan's brother, David, wrote in an email to reporters before the verdict. "But this is Russia. A conviction merely reflects that the defendant did not confess. And the sentence, whatever it may be, says more about the legal system than it does about the defendant's actions."

Whelan said he is a victim of "political kidnapping" and begged President Donald Trump to intervene on his behalf. "Mr. President, we cannot keep America great unless we aggressively protect American citizens wherever they are in the world," he said from inside a glass enclosure in Moscow City Court in June last year.

Whelan said he has been threatened, abused and unable to access medical care during his imprisonment in a czarist-era Moscow prison.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on Moscow to release Whelan last week during a brief media availability.

Pompeo said later he was "outraged by the decision of a Russian court today to convict U.S. citizen Paul Whelan after a secret trial ... without appropriate allowances for defense witnesses."

City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **July 14, 2020 at 7:00PM** to consider:

PZ20-0021 (Maen Jabhoori) 26181 Mandalay Circle, East of Beck Road and North of Eleven Mile Road, Parcel #50-22-16-300-086. The applicant is requesting variances from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.2 for a 14 foot variance for a proposed 21 foot rear yard setback, 35 feet required by code and a 10 foot variance for the 30 foot aggregate total side yard setbacks, 40 feet required. Section 4.19 E-iii for a variance of 890 square feet for a proposed 1890 square feet of garage space, 1000 square feet of garage space allowable by code. These variances will accommodate the building of a proposed second garage and portico. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-1).

PZ20-0022 (Robert Cummings/ Jim Ascencio) Maudlin Street, West of Old Novi Road and South of South Lake Drive, Parcel #50-22-03-453-011. The applicant is requesting variances from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.5 for a 9 foot variance for 16 foot aggregate total side yard setbacks, 25 feet required. A 4% increase of lot coverage for a total proposed lot coverage of 29%, 25% allowed by code. These variances will accommodate the building of a new home. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ20-0023 (William DeCoste) 22430 Southwyck Ct, East of Beck Road and North of Nine Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-28-351-007. The applicant is requesting variance from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.2 for a 5 foot variance for a proposed 30 foot rear yard setback, 35 feet required. This variance will accommodate the building of a proposed screened-in porch. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-1).

PZ20-0024 (Curtis Marshall) 330 Ludlow Drive, East of West Park Drive and South of West Pontiac Trail, Parcel #50-22-03-129-027. The applicant is requesting variances from The City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 5.11.1A ii to allow the installation of a fence to the property line. Fence shall not extend toward the front of the property nearer than the minimum front yard setback distance by code. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

In compliance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-75, as of the date of this notice, Zoning Board of Appeals members are expected to log in Zoom and conduct the meeting remotely. As Executive Order 2020-75 will expire on June 30th, 2020, please reach out to the Community Development Department on July 7th, 2020 to be apprised of changes to the location of meeting.

Publish: June 25, 2020

LD-00001682/8 342 8



CITY OF NORTHVILLE NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 06-01-20

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Northville City Council has adopted **Ordinance No. 06-01-20** — an ordinance to amend the Emergency Ordinance that adopted amendments to Chapter 18 Businesses to prohibit marijuana establishments within the City limits of the City of Northville. The Ordinance was set to expire June 30, 2020. Ordinance 06-01-20 amends the ordinance duration date to expire June 30, 2021. All other provisions of the Ordinance remain in effect.

The ordinance was introduced for first reading on June 1, 2020 and was adopted by the City Council on June 15, 2020. The ordinance shall become effective on June 26, 2020. The complete text of the ordinance is available for public inspection on the City's website at www.ci.northville.mi.us (go to Government, Governing Documents, Code of Ordinances).

DIANNE MASSA, CMC, CITY CLERK

Publish: June 25, 2020

LD-00001683/0 342 8

Livonia woman to walk to Lansing in support of Black community

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Beth Navas said seeing the video of George Floyd's death was her breaking point.

"I was always one of those people who kind of sat back and watched things," she said. "I never really, I guess, was a doer. I am more outraged now. You know, the whole George Floyd killing is terrifying and that's the first thing that kind of made me wake up and realize what's going on. So I wanted to do something."

In an effort to raise awareness and make a gesture of support to Black Americans, Navas is walking from her Livonia home to the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing. She plans to start the 76-mile trek 7 a.m. Saturday with the goal of arriving at the capitol building 10 a.m. Monday, June 29.

She'll be posting on social media along the way and said participants are welcome to join the group of what is now about 20 people at any time. She plans to make a stop near Livonia City Hall to pick up folks who want to join.

"Yes, you do have to have some kind of endurance," she said. "That's why people are invited to join at the end if they want. It's going to be tough. I don't even know how my body is going to respond because I've never done anything like this."

Though Navas is a marathoner and recently ran one in her neighborhood to raise money for coronavirus relief, she expects journey will be difficult. She plans to walk 35 miles both Saturday and Sunday.

"I'm gonna try to keep pushing through because this is very worthy," she said. "I mean, this is civil rights. This is human-born rights that they should have already."

Navas expects the march will be a peaceful one. She hopes the local Black community will see the march as a gesture of support and push lawmakers like Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to advocate for change. When the group arrives in Lansing, Navas said people will be welcome to speak, pray, have a moment of silence or put signs in the ground.

"I know racism in Livonia is real just by the neighborhoods and the impressions I've gotten from people," she said. "So walking from Livonia, I think, shows



Beth Navas plans to walk to Lansing from her Livonia home beginning June 27 to highlight her concerns about how Black Americans are treated by society. "I wanted to do something that would bring more awareness and advocate for more change. We're going right to the capitol where they can make something happen," she said.

JOHN HEIDER/
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

that people in these predominantly white communities do still care about folks in the black community.

"I wanted to do something that would bring more awareness and advocate for more change. We're going right to the capitol where they can make something happen."

Navas said she also finds it significant the march will head through Howell. The city has had seen Black Lives Matter demonstrations in recent weeks and has some history connected to the Ku Klux Klan; a former grand wizard for the KKK lived just outside of the city decades ago.

"I think that's really significant," she said. "If we can march through Howell and spread the word out there supporting the black community, that's important."

Navas has organized a GoFundMe called "Black Lives Matter march to the capitol" where people can donate to pay for sleeping arrangements for the marchers. People can also follow the march on Instagram @BLMTakesOnLansing.

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

How should board of directors deal with collection agency?



Robert Meisner
Guest columnist

Q: I am a member of a board of directors and request your input, because our management company insists upon hiring a collection agency whose fee charges seem to be excessive. There is also an agreement we have to sign as a board, allowing the company to collect their fees from the delinquent co-owner before the remainder is forwarded to us. Do you have any comments?

A: Instead of retaining experienced legal counsel, some community associations contract with a collection agency to pursue delinquent assessments without understanding the major differences between the two approaches.

Think of a collection agency like a sawmill, where collection matters are run through the same process without examining them individually. There is little incentive to take a look at the details

and provide a customized approach, which experienced community association attorneys can offer. And will a collection agency go to the trouble of advising you how your governing documents can be improved to support your collection efforts? Don't bet on it.

Additionally, the association's control may be compromised by a requirement to allow the collection agency to hire third party services such as attorneys, maintenance workers for foreclosed homes, or real es-

tate agents to sell foreclosed homes. Who are these people, what are their qualifications, and what are the details of their relationship with the agency that may have led to a no-bid contract advantage for them (and possible liability for the association)? Most associations will not know the answers.

However, most importantly, a collection agency takes its fees out of any payment from the delinquent co-owner before the association gets any money, whereas an attorney will presumably forward all of the money collected to the association client first and then bill the client for the services rendered. An attorney's legal fees may also be less

than what the collection agency charges.

You should seek independent legal advice from someone unaffiliated with your management company to give you an assessment of not only the propriety of the

fees being charged by the collection agency, but also whether that collection agency is the most effective way of dealing with delinquent co-owners, particularly with the advent of the pandemic.

Robert M. Meisner is

the principal attorney of The Meisner Law Group, based in Bingham Farms. He can be reached at 248-644-4433 or bmeisner@meisner-law.com. Visit the firm's blog at www.meisner-law.com/blog.

CITY OF NORTHVILLE PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

2020 CITY OF NORTHVILLE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES, DUE JULY 1, 2020, WILL BE PAYABLE WITHOUT PENALTY TO THE CITY OF NORTHVILLE FROM JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2020.

Taxes may be paid by mail, addressed to City of Northville, PO Box 674505, Detroit, Michigan, 48267-4505, in person at the City Clerk's Office, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, Monday through Friday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., or via internet. Tax information, including payment status, will be available online as of July 1, 2020 at www.ci.northville.mi.us.

Forms of payment accepted will be cash, check, money order, and credit card. Please note if paying by credit card convenience fees apply.

On September 1, 2020 a two percent (2%) penalty will be added, plus an additional 1/4 of 1% interest per month beginning October 1st, 2020. All payments received after 4:30 p.m. August 31, 2020, regardless of postmark, will be subject to penalty and interest.

City of Northville
Tax Department

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LD-00205883M 3x3 8

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2020 CITY OF NOVI SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES

2020 CITY OF NOVI SUMMER PROPERTY TAX BILLS WILL BE MAILED THE WEEK OF JULY 1ST

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

Payments must be received by the Treasurer's office on or before Monday, August 31st to avoid an automatic penalty.

For your convenience, there is a drop box located behind the Civic Center for tax payments. Payments will be accepted in the drop box, without penalty, until midnight Monday, August 31st.

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

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

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May's unemployment report gives hope for economy



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

The newly-released May unemployment report was shocking. The consensus of economists and experts was that the United States would lose another eight million jobs in May and that the unemployment rate would soar to 20 percent. In fact, the exact opposite happened.

The U.S. economy but actually created 2.5 million new jobs, the best one-month job gain in history, and unemployment fell to 13.3 percent. As a result

of the better-than-expected jobs report, the financial markets continued their impressive run. In fact, the S&P 500 recently closed in positive territory for the year, and the NASDAQ market closed at an all-time high. As opposed to talking about what happened in the labor markets, I thought I'd give you some general observations that I think are important to you.

Although the new job growth was great, we still have a long way to go before our economy recovers all the jobs lost because of the coronavirus. We cannot forget that tens of millions of Americans are still out of work and that our unemployment rate is higher than it was during the Great Depression. In addition, we are still in the crisis, and the un-

employment numbers can easily turn south for June.

It is great to see that the NASDAQ market is trading at an all-time high and the S&P 500 is in positive territory year to date. When you couple that with the fact that the Dow has had an incredible run over the last two-and-a-half months, you may get the impression that all is well in the stock market. I believe there will be greater than normal volatility for the near future.

There are too many issues, such as progress on a COVID-19 vaccination, that can cause the market to turn on a dime. Investors need to remind themselves that to be successful, they must be disciplined.

For me, what was so shocking about

the unemployment numbers was how far off the experts were. That being said, I've learned that although experts may be good in their particular field, they're rarely good at making projections. Whether it's projecting how many deaths would occur in the United States because of COVID-19, or projecting May's unemployment rate, the experts are wrong frequently. That shows how difficult it is to project outcomes. I bring this up to remind you that particularly when it comes to your investment decisions, projections even by the so-called experts are still guesses.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

Trails

Continued from Page 1A

one-mile hiking trail for residents who prefer to leave their wheels at home.

Biking surge

Orders for new mountain bikes — triggered for the most part by the hunger for exercise during the coronavirus pandemic — have outpaced supplies, creating as much of a six-month wait for new products.

Managers from Northville Township's Recreational Equipment, Inc., who were on hand for Friday's ribbon-cutting ceremony, said staff is assembling up to 20 bikes a day in their facility.

The trailhead is located off Wayne Avenue and weaves through the 50 acre woodlands west of the Hawthorne Center along Haggerty Road.

Parking is available along Wayne Avenue and across Haggerty Road in the Schoolcraft College parking lot.

The MCMBA and its host of bikers created the trails with contributions from REI, Cooper Standard and others. The organization constructed a trailhead sign and both trails — named Chinkapin (for hiking) and Belle Creek Branch (for biking). Trail names were chosen for their historic connection to the park.

Maps of the trails are posted at the trailhead and on the MCMBA website. A picnic table has been installed and benches will be built for the area. Plans are underway for connection to the trails on the West end of the 7 Mile Property, which will make much of the park available to the residents.

Outlying buildings formerly associated with the former psychiatric hospital near the trails will be removed as finances become available, Northville Township Clerk Marjorie Banner revealed.

The township announced that a contest to name the entire park is open to residents ages 10 to 110.

"It is time the property had an official name following its purchase in 2009, and residents are encouraged to participate.

Residents are urged to send naming suggestions to clerk@twp.northville.mi.us, or mail to Northville Township Clerk, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168.

A window for submissions will run through Aug. 1. The winning entry will be announced Aug. 10.



The Seven Mile Park Trail features separate trails for hiking, on the right, and mountain biking. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Finn Banas and his father, Jon, hit the Bell Branch Loop trail at the Seven Mile Loop hiking and biking trail.



Northville Township Supervisor Bob Nix cuts the ceremonial ribbon Friday afternoon. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Pipeline

Continued from Page 1A

in Milford and Highland any time now.

About 500 workers are replacing the 12- and 16-inch steel pipe in the ground since at least the 1940s with new 24-inch U.S. steel pipeline. If everything goes as planned, construction will be completed for the next winter heating season. Restoring the properties affected by the project should continue in 2021.

Township officials said they've spent years working out the details with Consumers Energy so the project has few, if any, hitches. They've also spent time making sure residents' questions and concerns are addressed.

"It's definitely a necessity, so no matter what the problem is, it's worth it," Milford Township Supervisor Don Green said. "They have to get gas safely from Point A to Point B. (The pipeline has) reached its life expectancy."

He recently provided a tour of the township, pointing out the stakes and fencing installed near Rowe and Dawson roads and other thoroughfares.

"It's going to come down through here, shoot that way and then cross into the village," Green said near a point on Commerce Street, west of Highland Avenue.

He also drove through the Milford Pine Meadows development west of South Milford Road.

"Some of the people in this subdivision are going to lose their decks because they built them in the easement," said Green, who noted that owners of about 50 township properties will have to surrender to the pipeline project.

Replacing of the pipeline will conclude at Maple Road. The fourth phase stretches for 28.2 miles.

In Holly Township, Supervisor George Kullis said the project will require boring at least 60 feet under the Shiawassee River.

He visited the work site in Grand Blanc Township in late May. He was able to watch cranes drop a 320-foot-long piece of pipeline into the ground.

"It was incredible to watch," he said. Kullis doesn't expect problems once the work intensifies in Oakland County.

"They have all their permits. They have everything in order," Kullis said. "They've been very good to work with.

It's an incredible project. Is it needed with the growth that coming to this area? Absolutely."

Consumers Energy officials have been emphasizing the need for the 78-mile replacement project, which began in Saginaw and Genesee counties in 2017.

"These projects are wonderful examples of a win-win for our customers and the environment," spokeswoman Debra Dodd said in a statement. "By installing new pipelines, we modernize our system, enhance natural gas safety and reliability for customers and help lower methane emissions.

"At the same time, we've taken numerous steps to ensure that we protect the land and numerous animal species around the newly installed pipelines."

Prep work began at Kensington Metropark in early spring. That has included tree clearing near the Milford Road tollbooth entrance and near the equestrian trail areas on the north end of the park.

Consumers Energy said site prep will intensify in the park by late June. Prep work for the pipeline is slated for early July. Installation within the park is supposed to happen later that month.

Park spokeswoman Danielle Mauter has reviewed a map that shows several pink zones marking the spots where the pipeline crosses the trails between General Motors and Buno roads. At individual times, those pipeline work zones could be closed — at different times — to park users for a handful of days.

Already, park users have been experiencing trail closures in other parts of the park because of hike-bike trail improvements running through some of July.

"At this point, we do not have worries of the project causing major interruptions or disruptions," Mauter said.

Highland Township Trustee Brian Howe is a biker who has noticed the stakes marking the oncoming pipeline.

He's considering approaching Consumers Energy officials to propose a bike path where land has been cleared for their project.

Bikers, Howe said, need a less treacherous north-south route between Milford and Highland townships.

"I don't know if it's even doable," he said. "(But) we're kind of locked up here. I just haven't talked to the right people yet."

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

Chick-fil-A

Continued from Page 1A

Gavin Nastwold, Jaxson McEliggett and Keegan Young, all students from Charyl Stockwell Preparatory Academy in Brighton, could describe that better than anyone.

The group had made the 15- to 20-minute drive, arriving at the Twelve Oaks Mall parking lot at 2 a.m., being one of the first two cars in the two-lane drive-through.

With school closing early due to the coronavirus, Young said this was a nice change of pace than what had become reality for the friends, even though he said it may have not been the smartest thing to do.

"Really, us waiting here all night, admittedly, it was pretty stupid, but it's fun to do this type of stuff," Young said. "I really enjoy it, just being able to do this for the first time since the virus has started has really been fun."

For Jordan Gray, who has lived in Wixom since he was in high school, getting in line early was the smartest thing he could do.

"First things first," Gray said, "I am smarter than to wait three hours when I am awake for chicken."

Gray said he has a running joke with his girlfriend, who lives in Denton, Texas, that Chick-fil-A is "God's chicken."

"This is the most heavenly chicken you'll ever have," Gray said. "No apologies go to KFC or anything like that. It doesn't compare to your normal chicken sandwich."

Gray described the atmosphere in the community as a "mini field trip," saying that people have come from all different areas of metro Detroit just to be a part of the opening of the restaurant.

Kinnard thought it was more like a sporting event.

"Everybody just kind of forgets everything that's going on," Kinnard said. "Everyone wants to be here. There's a lot of traffic, but everybody is happy to be here, wants to be here. It's a good time."

For Sonya Martin, that atmosphere fit her car's description.

Even though she was near the back of the line — arriving right when the store opened at 6:30 a.m., Martin, a Commerce native, was honking her horn, yelling out the window.

For Martin, it was more than just the



A long line of cars snakes along Twelve Oaks Mall's outer ring drive June 18 as customers wait in line for Chick-fil-A.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

first experience with Chick-fil-A. It was what it was coming to bring to the community of Novi.

"I think it's exciting simply because they are a family business," Martin said. "And we have our family here as far as being able to come out and be together as a family, just to get our morales up, right, during this time. I think it's very important."

Chick-fil-A is not done with planting stores in the metro Detroit area, looking to establish a restaurant on Haggerty Road between 7 and 8 Mile in Northville Township in the near future.

But with every Chick-fil-A it may be awhile before people can stop in for a quick bite to eat.

Kinnard said he pictures the line of cars going all the way to the NOVi Road exit at I-96, forcing it to be blocked off.

Even for those who were first in line — the trio from Brighton — they know it may be awhile before they can get another chicken sandwich.

"I sure hope it will be ridiculous because this is my favorite chicken sandwich anywhere," Young said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.



Alex Stephens tucks into a Chick-fil-A sandwich at the Novi restaurant June 18.



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Six people and dogs escape South Lyon fire

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Six people and their dogs escaped from an early morning duplex fire along Brookfield Drive in South Lyon on June 16.

Fire Chief Robert Vogel said firefighters were dispatched to a reported duplex in the 22100 block of Brookfield Drive around 3:30 a.m.

Upon arrival, they discovered flames had consumed both sides of the duplex.

A smoke alarm roused a mother and her daughter, and everyone was able to escape.

Only one person sustained injuries. Her hand and arm received burns when she tried to extinguish the fire with a garden hose.

She was treated at the scene. A firefighter also was treated at the scene for heat exhaustion.

Fire, smoke and water damage wrecked the structure, along with two vehicles. A single-family home next door also sustained damage.

Red Cross helped the duplex occupants with alternative housing and other needs.



Fire ravaged a Brookfield Drive duplex in South Lyon early on June 16.

Vogel is estimating up to \$300,000 in damage.

Although the Oakland County Sheriff's Office is investigating, Vogel does not suspect arson.



Fire, smoke and water damage wrecked the duplex and two vehicles. A home next door also sustained damage. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOUTH LYON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Police: Mating turtles became thief's easy prey

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kensington Metropark police say they've found the person suspected of stealing snapping turtles from the Milford park grounds.

It's the turtles mating season, and Lt. James Belmonte said police recently began receiving reports that someone was taking advantage of the turtles' preoccupation with finding the proper mate and spot to lay its eggs.

Police talked to witnesses, who said a man was entering the park, finding turtles on the side of the road and leaving with them.

Police made contact with the man when he revisited the park last week. That's when they found him with a turtle inside a bucket in the back of his vehicle.

The man was cited for three violations because of at least three allegedly stolen turtles. State law does not allow individuals to take snapping turtles.

Prosecutors are now reviewing evidence for possible charges. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources also investigated the case.

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

Milford man has another run-in with local police

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Milford man is facing some big ifs because of his relationship with his local police.

Jeremy Ray Linn, 40, was arraigned last week on four felony counts of assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer and a misdemeanor count of malicious use of a telecommunications service in connection to a June 5 incident.

A police report indicates officers were called to his wife's residence being told Linn was threatening to shoot her. They are living separately, and he was violating law enforcement orders by visiting his family.

When police arrested Linn, he allegedly cursed and insulted police officers. He would not answer questions or comply with requests to sit down.

He also yelled "Black lives matter"



Linn

for several minutes and, at one point, fought with officers who were trying to sit him up.

Linn was scheduled for June 24 probable cause conference on the felony charges.

He also was sentenced June 18 for misdemeanor charges of making threatening, harassing phone calls in March, including one to a police cadet.

Judge Robert Bondy of Novi's 52nd District Court sentenced him to 180 days total for the two misdemeanor charges Linn pleaded no contest to.

He also was sentenced to 93 days on a misdemeanor charge of domestic violence stemming from an April episode.

Bondy gave him credit for 22 days in jail, but court staff say it will be up to jail officials to decide whether the misdemeanor sentences run concurrently or consecutively.

Dad says seizure caused teen to crash into Milford library

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Milford teen seems to have experienced a seizure at the wheel before he crashed into the Milford Public Library earlier this month.

According to a police report, officers visited the Family Drive building around 9:24 p.m. June 12 after they saw a vehicle with extensive rear damage nearby.

The driver's father said he was helping his son, 16, practice how to navigate parking spots and drive between lines when the crash happened.

When backing out of a parking spot, the teen seems to have suffered a sei-

zure, stepped on the gas pedal and backed into the library.

There was damage to both the vehicle and building. Library officials said some wall repairs are needed. They provided this report on Facebook:

"Last night there was an incident at the library and a car ran into the building and into the office of the Head of Youth Services. Fortunately, there were no injuries but there is debris in that parking lot and repair work will be starting in that area soon."

The teen driver with a supervised learner's license has a history with seizures. He was seizure free for six months when the crash happened.

He was not injured.

Crash sends 3 people to hospital

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Oakland County Sheriff's deputies are investigating a June 18 three-car crash in Lyon Township that required hospital care for at least three people.

Deputies said in a report a 27-year-old GMC Sierra driver from Hazel Green, Alabama, disregarded a red light at the Ten Mile and Milford roads intersection around 10:56 p.m. and crashed into a 2020 Ford Fusion trying to turn.

The Alabama resident was westbound on Ten Mile Road, and the Ford Fusion driver — a South Lyon resident, 41 — was trying to turn east onto Ten Mile Road from southbound Milford Road.

The GMC Sierra driver then struck a 2019 Toyota Highlander operator — a

44-year-old Chicagoan — stopped for a red light along eastbound Ten Mile Road.

The GMC caught on fire after the second crash. The driver, whom deputies suspect was driving drunk, was able to exit.

The GMC driver was taken to a hospital and then transferred to the University of Michigan burn center, where he was listed in stable condition.

The Chicagoan and his passenger, also from Illinois, were transported to Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi, where they were in stable condition.

Lyon Township firefighters treated the Ford Fusion driver for minor injuries.

An investigation continues. Occupants in the three vehicles were wearing their seat belts.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supports school request

I am a lifelong member of the South Lyon Community (Go Lions, Class of '92) and am in full support of our 2020 bond. The bond will benefit all in our community. Whether you work for the school or have a child in the district, our entire community is better when the quality of education is improved across the board.

Our children and staff here deserve the best learning environment. The \$98.725 million no-tax increase bond proposal would allow for improvements in six major areas including building additions, student safety, technology upgrades, building updates, site improvements and improved athletic, arts & academics.

My son specifically attends Salem Elementary and this bond would provide much needed technological upgrades and an additional 4 classrooms to be added to the school. Although my son will be moved on to middle school soon this is vital for the success of Salem Elementary going forward. Investing in our schools is investing in our future. Please join me in voting "Yes" on Aug. 4.

Crissy McNulty
Salem

School bond supports safety

I believe the South Lyon Community Schools are doing everything it can to protect children at their schools. However, like all parents, providing necessary safety precautions is important to me. The Aug. 4 bond proposal includes updates to safety and security measures that enhance security throughout the school district. Updates include upgrading fire alarm systems, adding additional fencing, security systems, lighting for sidewalks and parking lots and enhancing security measures at building entrances.

Please vote Yes on the SLCS Aug. 4 bond proposal.

Stephanie Buhagiar
South Lyon

School proposal makes sense

I am voting Yes on the South Lyon Community Schools' Aug. 4 bond program. Building principals and adminis-

trators met with construction, technology and architectural specialists in 2019 to develop an in-depth facility study to address both short and long-term facility needs. Parents, community members, staff and students all helped to provide input and develop the final proposal.

The proposal makes sense for our community. It does not increase the tax rate, and it will protect our property values by keeping South Lyon a place where families want to live. Please vote yes.

Jeff Atkins
South Lyon

New grad wants bond passed

I'm a recent South Lyon High School graduate. I am going to be voting in my first election this summer. It may not seem like something a little kid would get excited about, but voting is something I've looked forward to my whole life, ever since I was about seven and my mom took me to the voting center and I saw her 'I Voted!' sticker. Over the years, my excitement to turn 18 and get involved in my community did not abate. And now that I really am 18 and I'm able to vote, I'm excited to use my voice to help support my school district. I've seen firsthand as I've grown up that not everyone has a voice, even those who are impacted by the vote. Younger students who aren't eighteen won't be able to make their voices heard in this election. So if you are 18 or will be by election day, I believe you should register to vote and make your voice heard, so, together, we can create a better future for the rest of the students who are following in our footsteps, and take a stand on issues we believe in.

I can attest to the fact that the status of technology in our schools is less than ideal. It was a common occurrence at school for students to not be able to get work done because of poor WiFi connection. My math teacher even had a problem with her projector, in which it would turn on and off, so we couldn't take notes. It took almost a year to get fixed, so all year it was hit or miss with the way we took notes. If we vote to support this bond, issues like this can get easily resolved in all of our schools, and make a better learning experience not

just for high schoolers, but for our younger students as well.

Together, we should all vote to support this bond and create a better learning environment for future students.

Katelyn Schang
South Lyon High Class of 2020

Study up on bond plans

I support the South Lyon Community Schools' Aug. 4 bond proposal. If you want to learn more about the bond proposal, go to www.slcs.us and click on 2020 School Bond Election. At this site, you will find answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the bond, a list of projects that will be completed at each school and how the bond proposal will benefit our students and the community.

You can vote by absentee ballot after June 20th through Election Day or at the polls on Aug. 4. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Carrie Hanshaw
Lyon Township

Absentee support an option

You can vote Yes for the South Lyon Community Schools' Aug. 4 bond election either in person or by absentee. To vote by absentee there are two simple steps:

Step 1. Complete an application to vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballot applications are available at www.michigan.gov/vote.

Step 2. Once you complete the absentee ballot application, a ballot will be mailed to you from your local Township/City Clerk. Complete the ballot (voting Yes for the South Lyon Bond Proposal) and return your ballot by mail to your Township/City Clerk or, drop your completed ballot in the drop box at your Township/City office.

The entire process is simple. Just make sure your ballot is returned by 8 p.m. on Aug. 4.

Brooke Frendo
South Lyon

School plan won't increase tax rate

Our school board continues to demonstrate their commitment to being fis-

cally responsible. At their June meeting, the board unanimously voted to reduce the current debt rate from 7.90 mills to 7.10 mills. That's a .8 mil reduction! They were not required to reduce the tax rate. They chose to do so because it was the right thing to do.

When across the nation, people aren't trusting their elected officials, I am proud of our school board. They have reduced the tax rate. On the August 4 ballot, they have a no tax rate increase bond proposal to protect the community's investment in our schools. I am voting yes. I hope you do too.

Laura Hewitt
Lyon Township

Supports Breen for state House

Kelly Breen has been an activist in Novi for several years now. She has advocated for the needs of her local community and delivered real solutions during her time on the Novi City Council over the last three years. Kelly is now running to be the next State Representative from the 38th House District to advocate for the entire district.

During her tenure on the Novi City Council, she secured new funding for the Novi Fire Department to replace outdated equipment. She proposed the city's first wildlife study since 1993 to gather information on the effects of overdevelopment in the area. Kelly also championed the city's policy which requires that the city and its contractors not discriminate against the LGBT community.

Kelly knows how to get things done and has the record to prove it.

Kelly is an advocate, a lawyer, a wife and a mother. She is a strong supporter of our public schools and in 2018 lost her bid for the state House by only 588 votes. Our current state representative is term limited and we have a real opportunity to make positive change in our area. I know Kelly is the most experienced candidate and will be a strong voice in Lansing for all of us.

I urge you to request an absentee ballot from your local clerk, and support Kelly Breen in the Aug. 4 primary election.

Karen Zyczynski
Novi

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Ronald Bassey of Bloomfield Township shows some of the stamps in his collection. His most valuable stamp, an inverted Jenny, will be auctioned July 1.
PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Rare Inverted Jenny stamp heads to auction after collector hid it 43 years

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A Bloomfield Township man secretly owned one of the world's most famous postage stamps for more than four decades.

Now, Ronald Bassey's secret is out as the rare stamp, printed in error and known as the "inverted Jenny," is going to auction, expected to sell for at least \$200,000.

"It's time," Bassey said of his decision to sell. "I've had it for 43 years."

The "inverted Jenny" postage stamp, one from a sheet of 100 printed in 1918 for the first U.S. airmail service, depicts an upside down biplane and had a face value of 24 cents.

"There are many stamps that are rare, but none are more famous or more in demand than the inverted Jenny," said Scott Trepel, president and owner of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., which will sell Bassey's stamp July 1. "... Some stamps, there are only seven or eight known, but those don't bring the price that the Jenny does."

Trepel has sold through his auction house, based in New York City and Dallas, about 57 of the stamps with the inverted Jenny, named for the model of the plane depicted, the Curtis JN-4H.

Most of the 100 stamps with the error are accounted for, he said, including three of four that were stolen.

An inverted Jenny stamp sold in March for \$271,400. Bassey said others with the upside-down airplane have sold far north of that price, including one for roughly \$1.5 million.

The value of a rare stamp depends on multiple factors: when and how it was issued and most critically, Bassey said, its condition.

"The tiniest flaw reduces value," he said. "Condition is the overwhelming factor — whether the gum is still there, if there is a fold, hinge marks, how centered it is."

Bassey, a tax attorney and CPA, began collecting stamps as a child, eventually amassing what he estimates to be "a couple hundred thousand," but only got serious about investing in stamps in the mid-1970s. In 1977, he bought the highly sought-after "Inverted Jenny" at auction for \$36,000.

Bassey describes his hobby as "one step above sleeping."

"It's a hobby that keeps you awake, but doesn't require hard brain work," Bassey said. "Most of my career was practicing law, and I'd think hard all day long. I... would sit down with my stamp collection and it was very restful. There's just a sense of satisfaction, fill-



Bassey holds a photocopy of the real inverted Jenny stamp he has secretly owned for 43 years and kept in a bank vault.

ing up squares with something of color."

The inverted Jenny stamp went into a bank vault after Bassey took a few photos of it, never touching it, as did other valuable stamps he began acquiring.

Bassey, 81, sold the lot of valuable stamps this spring, with the exception of the inverted Jenny. The highest valued stamp, one from a series issued between 1908-1922 with images of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, garnering \$7,000.

The original sheet of 100 stamps with the upside-down plane was snapped up at its \$24 face value by William T. Robey on May 14, 1918, the first day it went on sale, at a Washington, D.C. post office window.

A few days later he sold the sheet for \$15,000 to a dealer who immediately sold it for \$20,000 to Col. Edward H.R.

Green, a famous collector and son of Hetty Green, a business tycoon. At the request of Green, the dealer divided the sheet for sale to collectors, lightly writing on the back of each stamp its original position on the sheet.

Bassey's inverted Jenny stamp, which held position 11 on the original stamp sheet, retains its gum and rich colors, with some slight natural wrinkling and a small thin spot at the bottom right.

According to the Siegel description sheet, "Despite the great rarity and value of Inverted Jenny stamps, many of the original hundred have been mistreated by collectors over the years. Colonel Green himself allowed moisture to affect some of the stamps he retained. Eight straight-edge copies that Klein was unable to sell and returned to Colonel Green were found in Green's estate

stuck together in an envelope (they were soaked and lost their gum). Other examples have become slightly toned from improper storage and climatic conditions. Hinge removal has caused thins and creases in numerous stamps, and one was physically Scotch-taped to an exhibit page. Another was nearly lost to philately forever when it was swept up in a vacuum cleaner."

This is only the fifth time the position 11 stamp has been offered at auction.

"I always wanted to tell someone about it, but I decided I wasn't going to tell anyone I owned them until I was selling it," he said.

To learn more about the auction, visit www.siegelauctions.com.

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



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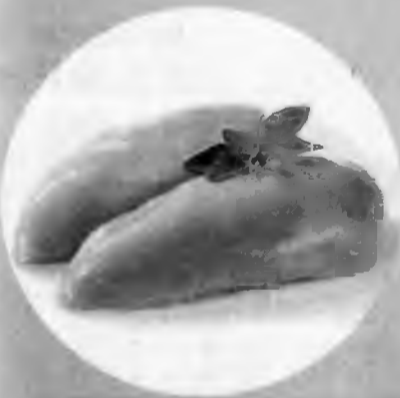
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Novi soccer coach Todd Pheiffer, right, stands with senior Avery Fenchel, who has been named the Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of Michigan. "It's not by chance that she got there," Pheiffer said. "... She's worked really hard for this."
 COURTESY OF GEORGE SIPPLE

Salem soccer back on the field

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The 2019 season did not end how Salem wanted.

Making their first state semifinal appearance since 2002 — coming in after a 2-1 shoot-out victory against Ann Arbor Pioneer in the regional final — the Rocks fell short in the state semifinal against eventual champion Troy Athens.

Instead of reflecting on the loss at least until the club season started in the spring, both Andrew Schwartz, Nolan Chaput and the rest of the returning Salem soccer players were forced to stay inside due to the coronavirus pandemic.

But as soon as the players were permitted to start training again, even if it meant without head coach Kyle Karns on the sideline, Salem boys soccer were eager to get the sour taste out of its mouth, congregating at Independence Park in Canton for player-run practices.

"All quarantine, it kind of bugged me that I couldn't really do anything," Chaput said. "As soon as we got the OK, we were all like, 'All right, finally we can come back.'"

These player-run practices did not look much different than a normal practice at Salem's field would, starting with warm ups and drills to work on that will make the team better in the fall.

And even though Karns is not allowed to be physically in attendance, he is in communication with those leaders on the varsity team, telling them things to work on and things to hone in on ahead of the season.

However, Salem's head coach said the team, right now, is in good hands with both Schwartz and Chaput.

"I'm a bit spoiled in the sense that I have enough leaders on this roster that can kind of take charge and lead the group during this crazy time," Karns said.

Early on in the team's practice schedule, much of the focus has been on getting players back in shape.

With the "stay-at-home" order and quarantining, Schwartz said this has been a problem all over the soccer world. Watching Premier League soccer, he noticed that the quality of soccer is not as good when fitness levels are down with the players.

Schwartz said the focus of these practices is to play soccer, but abiding by the rules and regulations, maintaining social distancing and not making these practices mandatory.

However, Schwartz sees these first practices being extremely valuable moving forward.

"Starting earlier, we get a better grip on what we have to do to be prepared," Schwartz said. "Everyone's fitness

Novi senior Fenchel named Gatorade Player of the Year

Andrew Vaillencourt
 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi's girls soccer team wasn't able to play its season this spring, but star senior Avery Fenchel was still able to take home some hardware.

The team captain and leading scorer for each of the past three seasons was honored this week by being named the 2020 Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of Michigan.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Fenchel as Michigan's best high school girls soccer player. She is now a finalist for the prestigious



Fenchel plans to attend Ball State. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See FENCHEL, Page 2B

See SALEM, Page 2B

Madonna releases updated 2020 football schedule

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Adhering to the guidelines made by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, Madonna football announced Friday its changes to the

schedule for the upcoming 2020 season, the first in program history.

Reducing 11 regular season games to nine, per the response to the coronavirus pandemic made by the NAIA on June 10, the Crusaders will play their first game as a program on the road

against Saint Xavier University in Chicago on Sept. 12.

Madonna will hold its home opener against Missouri Baptist University on Sept. 19, and will host its first homecoming game Oct. 10 against Lawrence Tech.

Half of NAIA member football teams

must gain clearance to play from university and local authorities for the season to start as scheduled on Sept. 12.

All home games will be held at Livonia Churchill High School.

See SCHEDULE, Page 2B

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Fenchel

Continued from Page 1B

Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award, which will be announced at a later date.

"It's not by chance that she got there," Novi coach Todd Pheiffer said. "If you look at her body of work over the last four years, she's proved why she has been recognized. This is the most prestigious award you can win in the state. She's worked really hard for this."

Fenchel scored 25 goals and tallied 14 assists as a junior last year and scored 59 goals to go with 29 assists in her high school career. She very likely would have led the Wildcats in scoring once again this season.

"She has a work ethic like no other," Pheiffer said. "She's got the determination that she wants to be better. The last couple years, everyone has been saying how good she is, but she doesn't rest on that. She isn't just satisfied with people thinking she's good. She wants to keep getting better. That's what separates her from a lot of other players. There's a lot of great players in Michigan, but where she separates herself is that determination to keep wanting to get better."

Fenchel said she found out she won the award Wednesday morning (June 17) right after she woke up. She saw an email in her inbox from Gatorade and ran to her parents' room to tell them the news before texting several of her close friends and supporters. She's the first player from Novi to win the award.

"It's really great for the recognition for all the hard work I've done," Fenchel said. "I'm really excited about it. It's also to show my team's accomplishments and what we've done over the last few years as a program, the multiple state championships. So, I think it's a whole team accomplishment as well."

Fenchel has maintained a weighted 4.02 GPA in the classroom and has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Ball State University.

"She's one of the top players to ever play at Novi," Pheiffer said. "People knew how good she was, and they still couldn't stop her. That shows you how good of a player she is."

Novi went undefeated last season and won its second straight state championship. Fenchel scored the game-winning goal to beat division-rival Plymouth in last year's title game.

She has started since she was a freshman, switching positions to help the team after an early-season injury to a teammate. She still led the team in goals that year despite missing a large chunk of the season due to an injury of her own. At Ball State, she expects to play attacking center mid.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting all my teammates," Fenchel said. "I've met a few of them that live in Michigan and I really enjoy being around them. So I'm excited to make some new friends and play for another school. I'm excited for the next step, I'll have to build my way back up, I'll be a freshman so I have to prove to them how I can play and what I've got."

She committed to Ball State during her sophomore year, and despite her rising profile in the state, remained faithful to the Cardinals.

This year, Novi would have had another great shot at capturing a state title. With 12 seniors returning, Fenchel admits she will always have the question of "what if?" in the back of her mind when it comes to this year.



Novi's Avery Fenchel, right, scored 25 goals and tallied 14 assists as a junior and scored 59 goals to go with 29 assists in her high school career, and likely would have led the Wildcats in scoring again this past season. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Fenchel, center, stands with her parents at Novi's field. COURTESY OF GEORGE SIPPLE

"It was really disappointing (to not have a season)," Fenchel said. "We were going to have 12 seniors back so it was going to be a good year for us, a possible three-peat. I was a bit shocked at first and was like 'this can't be happening'

because I really wanted to play my last season and finish it out. I wanted to end on my own terms and not because of a pandemic. I think that was really tough to get over at first."

Gatorade Players of the Year in Michigan

- 2020 — Avery Fenchel, Novi
 - 2019 — Jansen Eichenlaub, Marian
 - 2018 — Jansen Eichenlaub, Marian
 - 2017 — Emily Ashby, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern
 - 2016 — Hannah Jones, Port Huron Northern
 - 2015 — Hannah Jones, Port Huron Northern
 - 2014 — Megan Buckingham, Northville
 - 2013 — Madi Lewis, Plymouth
 - 2012 — Madi Lewis, Plymouth
 - 2011 — Olivia Brannon, Troy Athens
 - 2010 — Annie Steinlage, Spring Lake
 - 2009 — Annie Steinlage, Spring Lake
 - 2008 — Laura Heyboer, Hudsonville Unity Christian
 - 2007 — Laura Heyboer, Hudsonville Unity Christian
 - 2006 — Lauren Hill, Northville
 - 2005 — Danielle Underwood, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern
 - 2004 — Marissa Sarkesian, Salem
 - 2003 — Nicole Cauzillo, Northville
 - 2002 — Lindsay Tarpley, Portage Central
 - 2001 — Robyn Anne Morrell, Canton
 - 2000 — Anne Morrell, Canton
 - 1999 — Kristin Fisher, Rochester Adams
 - 1998 — Alison Rackley, Birmingham Seaholm
- Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659.

Salem

Continued from Page 1B

gets up, everyone's working together better. It makes us more prepared."

But for Salem soccer players, it's simpler than that.

Karns had his schedule all planned out: he would coach the girls team in the spring, take a few weeks after the season to decompress and shift his attention to the boys team ahead of the fall. Without the girls season, Karns said he has an itch to return to the sideline.

He said it's the same thing with his players.

"They are ready to get out of the house," Karns said. "They are ready to go play."

And even before mandatory practice have begun, Salem players -- from the freshman team to varsity -- have taken the initiative to not end their season like a season ago.

"You can start to get the boys all on the same page and have everyone with the same mindset of wanting to win," Chaput said.

cgay@hometownlife.com



Salem's soccer team holds unofficial practices at Independence Park in Canton. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Schedule

Continued from Page 1B

Madonna's 2020 football schedule

- Week 1: Madonna at Saint Xavier University; Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
 - Week 2: Madonna vs. Missouri Baptist University; Sept. 19, 12:30 p.m.
 - Week 3: Madonna at University of Saint Francis (Ind.); Oct. 3, TBD
 - Week 4: Madonna vs. Lawrence Tech; Oct. 10, 12:30 p.m.
 - Week 5: Madonna at Taylor University; Oct. 17, TBD
 - Week 6: Madonna at University of St. Francis (Ill.); Oct. 24, TBD
 - Week 7: Madonna at Olivet Nazarene University (Ill.); Oct. 31, TBD
 - Week 8: Madonna vs. Trinity International University; Nov. 7, 12:30 p.m.
 - Week 9: Madonna vs. Indiana Wesleyan University; Nov. 14, 12:30 p.m.
- Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Howell baseball's Mrakitsch commits to CMU

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Losing out on his junior season of high school baseball didn't keep college recruiters from pursuing Howell's Adam Mrakitsch.

He showed enough promise as a sophomore on the varsity in 2019 and during summer ball to get early offers from NCAA Division I programs.

Mrakitsch has his college future set after making a verbal commitment to Central Michigan University, which won the Mid-American Conference regular-season and tournament championships last year.

"The first time I was there, what stood out was the atmosphere, how it felt a lot like home," Mrakitsch said. "I was up there for one of my baseball tournaments. Also, I've been able to have a tour of the campus."

Mrakitsch will be able to play this summer with the Diamondbacks Elite under-17 team, based out of Dearborn Heights, and his senior season at Howell without the weight of auditioning for a college scholarship.



Adam Mrakitsch was 3-4 with a 3.00 ERA as a sophomore pitcher in 2019. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

He could have waited to see what other offers came along, but is glad to have the recruiting process over.

"Really, it's just to relieve some pressure of feeling like I had to perform," he said. "Obviously, there's still going to be work to do and wanting to win, just with less pressure."

Mrakitsch was recruited by CMU as a pitcher. The lefthander continues a recent line of Division I pitchers at Howell that includes 2017 graduate Sam Weatherly (Clemson), 2018 graduate Ty Weatherly (Ball State) and 2019 graduate Luke Russo (Eastern Michigan).

Sam Weatherly was a third-round pick of the Colorado Rockies last week, providing Mrakitsch with a hometown role model.

"Having him come from Howell is something to look up to, set an example, follow in his footsteps," Mrakitsch said. "He came out to a few of our practices, so I got to see him there."

At 6-foot, 160 pounds, Mrakitsch said the emphasis of CMU coaches is for him to hit the weight room and add some size.

Mrakitsch made an impact as a sophomore at Howell, ranking second on the team with a .371 batting average and third with 21 runs batted in. He struck out only five times in 115 plate appearances. He made second-team All-Livingston County as an outfielder.

As the team's No. 2 pitcher behind Russo, an all-state Dream Team pick,

Mrakitsch went 3-4 with a 3.00 earned run average and 34 strikeouts in 37 1/3 innings.

He was expected to be one of the top players in the county this year before COVID-19 fears wiped out spring sports.

"It was definitely a bummer," Mrakitsch said. "Playing with the seniors one last time would've been fun. We all had high hopes for the season. We thought we could've done well. It's definitely disappointing."

Mrakitsch will make the leap from a young sophomore on a veteran team to a senior leader without a junior year to make that transition.

"It's going to be different," he said. "Having the experience as a sophomore, I'll have a little bit of an idea how things work and can learn how to lead from the seniors from my sophomore year."

Howell coach Jason Ladd doesn't expect Mrakitsch to have any trouble making the transition.

"He's played a ton of high-level baseball," Ladd said. "He's a great leader, both on and off the field. He's like a 3.8-plus student. He's everything you could ask for from a kid in our program."

Howell basketball's Wendel commits to Albion College

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Every day she woke up, Kaylee Wendel was reminded of where she wanted to end up in basketball.

"Ever since I was little, I had a little Post-It note on my wall saying my goal is to play college basketball," she said. "I'd do the little things each day to work toward my goal. It kept me motivated, that's for sure."

Wendel, a four-year starter for Howell, has realized that goal, even if circumstances prevented her from finalizing her college decision until recently.

Wendel will play for Albion College, arriving at her decision after a recruiting process made more challenging because campus visits weren't allowed because of COVID-19 fears.

It helped that she could get input

from former Howell students already at Albion, including basketball player Josh Palo and football player Matt Hornyak.

"I was deciding between a couple schools, including a (Division II)," Wendel said. "With the whole epidemic, it was kind of hard to do some of the visiting and stuff like that, because you couldn't do as much. I used other tools. I did some virtual stuff. I know quite a few people who go there, so that helped me make my decision."

While most athletes in the Class of 2020 made their college commitments long ago, Wendel was confident she would end up landing a scholarship before school starts in the fall.

"I wasn't too worried about it," she said. "I knew I would make the right decision. I know Albion has a really good medical program and business program. Those are the two majors I'm de-

cidating between."

Wendel started for Howell teams that went 63-23 over the past four seasons, winning at least 16 games three times. She was a first-team All-Livingston County pick each of the last two seasons after receiving honorable mention as a freshman and sophomore.

She averaged 11.3 points as a senior, collecting 84 rebounds, 48 assists, 48 steals and 35 deflections.

"Playing at Howell shaped me into the person I am today," Wendel said. "I was able to compete against some very good players. That helped me throughout the years. Basketball isn't all just wins and losses. I felt like I've taken a lot out of the sport in terms of life lessons and character building. It shaped me into who I am, which I'm thankful for. I have teammates and coaches to thank for that."



Kaylee Wendel, a four-year starter for Howell, will play basketball at Albion College. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

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New track being installed at Howell High School

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Howell runners talk about their favorite lanes on the high school's track like some people might talk about a favorite bike in a spin class or favorite easy chair.

That's because, while all outdoor tracks are a uniform distance, some hold up better than others over time.

The track at Howell has been deteriorating for years, worn down to the cement in certain areas, particularly in Lane 1 on the final turn.

Athletes tend to avoid that lane as much as possible in training.

"I think I like Lane 2 the best, because there were no holes," said Ava Donnelly, who will be a senior on the cross country and track and field teams in 2020-21. "If you were in Lane 1, you had to jump over (a hole). It makes workouts pretty difficult. There's definitely favorite lanes."

Howell runners soon won't have to dodge patches of damaged track.

Installation of a new track is taking place this week, and should be complete within the next two weeks, Howell Athletic Director John Young said. There will also be new runways for the long jump and pole vault, and a refurbished high jump area.

"It's super exciting," Donnelly said. "We've been talking about it for two years. The whole team is really excited, because there are different pockets of cement and no rubber to run on. Everyone's really excited to have a really nice track to be able to practice and compete on."

The track is part of a significant upgrade of the Highlanders' athletic facilities made possible by the passage of a \$39 million bond for overall school improvements in May 2019.

The stadium will also get a new sound system and lights.

Restrooms, concessions and new bleachers will be built in the baseball-softball complex. A new training center will be added to the field house next year, Young said.

Howell will also be one of the few schools in the region with its own fully-automated timing system for track meets.

"It's becoming more and more com-



The track at Howell has been deteriorating for years, worn down to the cement in certain areas, particularly in Lane 1 on the final turn. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

mon and more and more in demand," Young said. "A number of people do that for a living, but they're really stretched. We felt like it would be a good investment for us. We'll teach somebody to run the system. Once we get that done, we'll be one of the leaders in the field."

With a new track, Howell hopes to host larger conference, regional and invitational meets.

"We like to host things," Young said. "Howell has been a great host to many MHSAA events over the years. Certainly, upgrading our facility allows us to do things, not only with the MHSAA, but allow coaches to attract some AAU meets in the summer. That, in turn,

helps grow our program."

Clay Woll, the Highlanders' track distance coach and boys cross country coach, said the last time the school hosted anything besides a dual meet was the 2007 Kensington Valley Conference meet during his freshman year at Howell.

"Our stadium is awesome," Woll said. "We've got so much space on the outside for throwing events, jumping events. Having a fresh new track with a brand new football field, we want to make it a mecca for track and field. We really want to make it a place where we can host some big meets and really get some buzz going."

Woll said the current track was installed in 2004. Young said repairs were scheduled to be made to the track last fall, but the company wasn't able to do it before cold weather arrived.

The company was scheduled to come out during the third week of March, but spring sports were shut down a week earlier.

"We didn't feel it would be safe enough this spring without making those repairs," Young said.

"There was no sense to spend money to repair it when a new one was coming in a few months."



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CC wrestling alum Beazley returns to help coach

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kevin Beazley knows the tradition of Detroit Catholic Central wrestling.

His father David was a head wrestling coach at Montrose, and growing up, Kevin remembers watching the Shamrocks in the state tournament.

After spending the first two high school years at Farmington Hills Harrison, Kevin Beazley transferred to Catholic Central, finishing his last two seasons as a state finalist, and winning the 2012 state title at 189 pound weight class his senior year.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Beazley took to the coaching route, taking his first job as an assistant coach at Old Dominion University under head coach Steve Martin. But after the Monarchs wrestling program shut down April 2, Beazley was forced to continue his coaching career elsewhere.

He ended up returning to the school where he earned his state title.

Catholic Central wrestling announced May 29 that Beazley would join the staff as an assistant coach.

"I just want to be a part of something and keep giving back to kids," Beazley said. "I love the sport so much that, you know, coming back and being a part of CC, it's an honor."

Change in plans

Beazley learned a lot from being a coach's son. And when he got to the college level, he put what he learned from his father, Catholic Central head coach Mitch Hancock and assistant coach Anthony Biondo into practice.

At the college level with the Monarchs and one graduate season at Michigan, Beazley was an All-American at 197 and a three-time NCAA state qualifier.

With the success and the guidance he received along the way, Beazley knew he wanted to do that for future generations.

Beazley said coaching is all about trust, something he had with members of the Old Dominion roster and staff when he returned as an assistant coach this past season, three years removed from his final season with the program.



Kevin Beazley served as an assistant wrestling coach at Old Dominion prior to taking a job at Catholic Central. COURTESY OF KEVIN BEAZLEY

"It's all about developing a little bit of trust and having those guys buy in and believe in the system," Beazley said. "I think it was easier for me to get those guys to buy into Old Dominion's system because it did work for me. I did become an All-American in that system, and so it was easier for me to preach it because I practiced it as well."

At the beginning of April, Beazley had been helping plan for the future of the Monarchs wrestling program, holding Zoom calls with potential recruits in the 2020 class.

However, on April 2, after returning from a run with his fiancée, Beazley found that his future had completely changed.

After a call with Martin and the Old Dominion athletic director, Beazley found out that the Monarchs wrestling program was shutting down to cut down the athletic budget in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Beazley joined Catholic Central seniors Marc Shaeffer and Steven Kolcheff, who had committed to Old Dominion, in not having a wrestling home for the up-

coming season.

"It took a little while to set in just because we didn't understand why," Beazley said. "We weren't given a chance to fight, and as athletes, and as wrestlers especially, usually that's all we know is how to fight. To have that taken away from us without even a chance, it stunk pretty bad."

Coming home

Hancock's first priority was not to convince Beazley to come coach for him. It was to make sure his former player was all right.

"I can't remember if it was text messaging or talking, but obviously, I reached out to him to make sure he was OK, to see where he was at mentally and make sure that he understood he has a path in life and not to give up on that," Hancock said.

While he looked for open collegiate coaching positions, Beazley's path led him back to Michigan with his fiancée, a Brighton High School graduate, who wanted to return home to be closer to

friends and family.

After finding a full-time job in the area, Beazley made his return official, something Hancock was hoping for from the start of his former player's job search.

"Just energy, passion, a love for the sport," Hancock said of what Beazley brings to Catholic Central's wrestling room. "He's an athlete's coach, he's relatable, he's diverse culturally. He's experienced wrestling at every level, and I think he has a laugh... that's contagious. Just hearing his laughter in the room, I think, will bring some positive energy to our guys."

Beazley's goal is to continue to develop the culture he experienced as a wrestler with the Shamrocks: the culture that Hancock has helped build and establish.

But Hancock's goal for Beazley seems to exceed the role of just an assistant coach.

"I've been here over 15 years, and I'm getting older and older. Kevin's definitely someone who has the ability to take over a program like this," Hancock said. "I'm not sure if that's on his radar as of yet, but at the same time, he's experienced success at every level and I think he would make a great candidate in the future."

Hancock said he still has goals to complete with the Shamrocks, but that coaching at an elite level is very difficult and time consuming. The head coach's focus is to leave the program better than he inherited it, with the foundation set by former head coach Mike Rodriguez.

Beazley said this is something Hancock has joked around with him about, but that there is no long-term plan set in place.

However, coming into the program as an assistant coach, trying to help wrestlers replicate what he did with the Shamrocks, he sees potential for continuing what Hancock has helped build.

"If you just buy into what he does, the system that he creates, you are going to find success," Beazley said. "I just want to help keep developing that."

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

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Strawberry U-pick farms opening across metro Detroit

Susan Selasky Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The arrival of ripe-for-picking strawberries is a sure sign that summer is on its way, and metro Detroit U-pick farms are open and ready to accommodate Michiganders who are eager for an outdoor adventure in the wake of the COVID-19 lockdown.

However, as a result of the pandemic, farm visitors can expect some changes during this picking season. Strawberry growers are taking precautions and following guidelines set by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Farms will avoid hosting large crowds and will limit the number people in retail areas and at checkouts. Customers standing in lines will have to maintain 6 feet of social distance. Farm employees will be wearing masks, and customers will be required to wear masks except when they're in the field picking berries. Some farms will have handwashing stations in the fields.

At Whittaker's Berry Farm in Ida, operators Bill and Marilyn Whittaker have a system in place that promotes social distancing. Customers are spaced 6 to 8 feet apart and assigned to pick from every other row of berries. Flags are placed where customers start and

stop picking.

At Blake Farms in Armada and Almont, the 2020 picking season is looking good, said marketing director Elena Dinverno. Staffers will be wearing face masks and monitoring customers in the fields.

"It's an outdoor activity, it can be done in a safe way, and families can make it a day event," Dinverno said. "We've received positive feedback about U-pick and people looking forward to coming out."

Blake Farms will provide customers with trays, and there will be a minimum of \$20 in produce per car as the season goes on.

Bob Tritten, veteran Michigan State University Extension district fruit specialist, said consumers can expect a good strawberry crop this season. The season should be under way by this week, he said, depending on farm locations. (Tritten retired in May, but continues to work on a part-time basis for the MSU Extension.)

"We have a tremendous crop going on with a good number of berries that are thimble size and larger," said Tritten, who believes the demand for strawberries and buying local will be strong this year.

"People want food as safe as it can be," he said. "Growers are working really hard in this time of un-

certainty to keep people safe."

Where to pick

- DeGroot's Strawberries, Bull Run, Gregory. 517-223-3508. degrootstrawberries.com.
- Diederich's Berry and Produce Farm, 3537 Morrice Road, Webberville. 517-521-4667.
- Blake's Almont U-Pick Farm and Garden Center, 5590 Van Dyke, Almont. 810-798-3251. blakefarms.com/almontgardencenter/.
- Blake's Big Apple Orchard, 71485 North Ave., Armada. 586-784-9710. blakefarms.com/bigapple/.
- Blake's Orchard & Cider Mill, 17985 Armada Center Road, Armada. 586-784-5343. blakefarms.com/orchardcidermill/.
- Middleton Berry Farm, 4790 Oakwood, Ortonville. 248-831-1004. middletonberryfarm.com.
- Rowe's Produce Farm, 10570 Martz, Ypsilanti. 734-482-8538. rowesproducefarm.com.
- Spicer Orchards, 10411 Clyde, Fenton. 810-632-7692. spicerorchards.com.
- Verellen Orchards & Cider Mill, 63260 Van Dyke, Washington Township. 586-752-2989. verellenorchards.com.

Obituaries

Anne L. Dales

NORTHVILLE - Anne L. Dales, age 92, of Northville, passed away on June 19, 2020. She was born on August 16, 1927 in Miami, Florida; daughter of Fred E. and Nina (nee Hicks) Logan. Anne graduated from Redford High School, class of 1946. Following graduation, she attended Ohio Wesleyan University. Anne was united in marriage to Richard Dales in 1956; they were devoted to each other for over 26 years until his death in 1982.



Anne moved to Northville in 1959. She was a very active resident who was a long-time member of the Northville Garden Club and she worked at M.A.G.S in downtown Northville for a number of years. Anne was a dedicated homemaker who loved spending time with her family. She was an incredible mother who was always there for her boys. Anne was an energetic hockey mom and grandma. After her husband died Anne travelled all over the world with the NOMADS group. Anne was a loving, fun, and patient wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend.

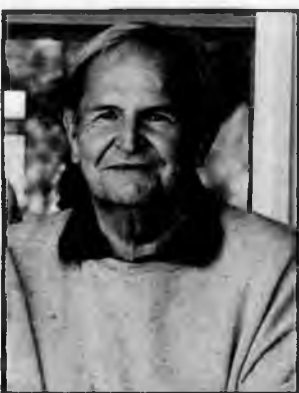
She is survived by her children, James (Jennifer) Dales and Donald (Nancy) Dales; her brother Jim (Carolynn) Logan; and her grandsons, Brian, Austin, Griffin, Jimmy, and Patrick. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her infant son Dennis.

A celebration of life will be held Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 1pm at The Post Bistro, 844 Penniman, Plymouth, Michigan. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to a charity of choice.

During this difficult time, please make sure to reach out to the family by leaving your thoughts online, with a card or a phone call.

Michael Eric Laho

WEST PALM BEACH, FL - Michael Eric Laho was born May 21, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan. He passed away June 2, 2020 in West Palm Beach, Florida, surrounded by his wife and four of his daughters. He lost his battle against pancreatic cancer after being diagnosed December 6, 2019.



Mike is survived by wife Janisse of 25 years, daughters Michelle (Dale) Rynnanen, Andrea (Rand) Peterson, Elizabeth (Larry) Niemela, Heather (Wil) Stone, Vicki (Matt) Diemert and daughter-in-law Angie Laho, stepsons Joseph (Shayna) Spagnuolo, Tony (Vanessa) Spagnuolo, brothers, James (Noreen) Laho and Daniel (Valerie) Laho, sisters Margaret (Melvin) Turovaara and Marie Hietala. He is also survived by 31 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Paul and Bernice (Koski) Laho, sister Marie Hermanson, and son, Michael P. Laho.

He was raised in Michigan. He resided in Brighton, MI and, after he retired, wintered in Florida.

He had a variety of jobs. He worked for the water department, police department, car sales, Detroit News, and the United States Postal Service where he had a rural route for about 15 years.

A celebration of life will be held on July 4th at 10:00 am at Manly Bennett Park (East Concession Area) at the Hamburg Township Offices, 10405 Merrill Rd., Whitmore Lake, MI 48189.



Cans and bottles were being returned at a fast and furious rate Monday at Kroger on Canton Center Road. PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Brett Weaver had six months' worth of empties.



Linda and Richard Ford made multiple trips to Kroger to return their empty cans and bottles.

Residents line up to return cans, bottles after 3-month wait

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Richard and Linda Ford already have plans for the money they'll inherit from the bags of empty cans and bottles they returned June 15 at Kroger on Canton Center Road.

"We're going to buy a new car," Richard Ford quipped, flashing a huge smile. "Actually, I'm just happy to get them out of my shed. It was getting kind of difficult to work around all the bags."

The Fords were among the first people in line to return empties following the three-month return stoppage triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered the halt in returns so that stores could assign more employees to in-store operations and for the social distance issues the returns create.

"We got here at 7 a.m. because that's when the store opened," Richard Ford said. "When we found out the return room wasn't going to open until 8, we went back home. When we got back here at 8:20, the line was all the way back to that black gate (about 25 yards from the entrance)."

"I was surprised they had all the machines open today. I thought it was going to be every other one open so that it was easier to distance. But I'm not complaining. The faster everyone can get in and out, the better."

Tom Emmerich, chief operating officer of Schuppan & Sons Recycling, told the Detroit Free Press earlier this month that the number of unreturned empties in Michigan grew by approximately 70 million every week.

Schuppan & Sons Recycling, with processing fa-

cilities in Wixom and Wyoming, processes aluminum cans and plastic and glass bottles from Michigan's beer and pop distributors, who in turn pick them up from the supermarkets, party stores, gas stations and other places where people redeem their 10-cent deposits.

Restrictions put in place by Kroger and other grocery store chains for returns beginning last week limited deposits of \$25 or less per person and group fundraisers were told they had to wait to return their massive collections until a later date.

Ypsilanti resident Brett Weaver waited in line with two grocery carts filled with nine garbage bags, each of which was stuffed to capacity with empties.

"We usually return them every three months, and mid-March was when we were going to make a return," Weaver said. "Then the coronavirus hit, so I actually have six months' worth of empties right here. I hope I'm under the \$25 limit."

Kroger ramped up its deposits machines technology, adding a no-touch mechanism to increase safety in the age of COVID-19. Plexiglass was also secured between each station.

Canton resident Terri Nicosia actually brought her growing hill of empties back last week before finding out she had jumped the gun.

"I was walking out of Kroger a couple weeks ago and I saw someone else bringing empties in, so I figured they must be accepting returns again," she said. "So I packed all the bags into my car before finding out that I was a week early."

"That's OK, though. I'm just happy to get these out of my basement."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1133.

Some firms see profits in pandemic

Some take advantage of uncertainty in outbreak

Christopher Elliott
Special to USA TODAY

It turns out you can profit from a pandemic. At least that's what travelers are discovering after dealing with some airlines, cruise lines and hotels during the pandemic. They claim travel companies are taking advantage of them during the COVID-19 outbreak. Sometimes they're right.

No, it's not all travel companies. Most of them have done the right thing, issuing refunds and delivering terrific customer service as the world locked down. But a few pandemic predators have found ways to enrich themselves by exploiting gray areas in their contracts or creating rigid refund rules.

Some profit from confusion

Confusion can be profitable. When the outbreak happened, many airlines took advantage of the fact that their customers didn't fully understand the refund rules. They claimed you could only get a ticket credit, even though federal law requires a full refund if an airline cancels a flight.

Agness Walewinder had tickets on Frontier Airlines from Seattle to Austin during the pandemic. The airline sent her multiple messages urging her to cancel her flight and accept vouchers. What Frontier didn't say was that if she waited until the airline canceled her flight, she'd get her money back. Walewinder, a travel blogger, accepted the credits — and afterward, Frontier canceled her flight.

"I feel as if Frontier has taken advantage of me," she says.

Frontier did not respond to a request for comment about its refund notifications.

Gray areas can be exploited

Some companies have tried to exploit ambiguities in their contracts, according to customers. Agreements between travel companies and customers rarely address a pandemic. So when the COVID-19 outbreak happened, some companies interpreted their agreements in a way that favored them.

At least that's the opinion of Susan Fox, who paid more than \$14,000 to celebrate her fifth anniversary at Sandals Grenada. When the pandemic hit, Sandals refused to refund a penny. Instead, it told her she could rebook her vacation within a year. "Sandals forced us to make them an interest-free loan, which is absolutely unconscionable during



Agness Walewinder feels that Frontier Airlines took advantage of her during the pandemic. GETTY IMAGES

Are you dealing with a pandemic predator?

Here are the signs you're working with a less-than-reputable travel company

Is it upfront about its policies? Many travel companies made up the rules as they went along, taking customers' hard-earned money with them. "Lack of transparency from any travel providers should be a big red flag," says Eran Shust, CEO of Splitty, a travel site. "Companies need to disclose their vendors, pricing and policies regarding COVID-19 and beyond. If you ask questions and do not get adequate answers, do not do business with that company."

What do the reviews say? Travelers aren't shy about telling the world how they feel about a pandemic predator. "Have you seen the review sites?" asks Andrew Taylor, who runs a legal services company. "I've given multiple bad reviews now to vent my frustration with the service I have received. I think quite a few travel companies, airlines and booking agents will not bounce back from their current status."

Do they skip the details? "Pay attention," advises customer service expert Laurie Guest. "Check out their social media accounts. Are they active and engaged, or are the accounts stale or nonexistent? Avoid companies that don't disclose their service fees up front or insist on travel terms that don't offer flexibility during these uncertain times."

these hard economic times," she says.

Sandals spokeswoman Maggie Rivera says its agreement with guests allows it to keep their money and that most customers were happy with the offer to reschedule. She notes that Sandals agreed to refund optional extras Fox purchased, such as a private moonlit dinner and a couples massage.

"We are committed to guest satisfaction and would be happy to continue to work directly with this customer and be as flexible as possible in order to accommodate future travel plans," Rivera says.

Tough-luck policies

Travelers are surprised when companies say one thing but do another. That was Alexandra Sutton's experience when Norwegian Cruise Line canceled her Caribbean cruise.

It offered her a refund or credit. She requested a refund through her travel agent and got confirmation she would receive one. But NCL offered her only a credit, claiming that her agency hadn't notified it in time. Sutton, a teacher from Towaco, New Jersey, tried disputing the

charges on her card without success.

"No one will take responsibility for this mistake," she says, "And no one will help us resolve it."

NCL says it asked customers such as Sutton to make a choice between a cruise credit and refund by March 23 and gave them more than a month to do so. "Our records indicate that neither the guests nor the travel agency completed the form," a NCL spokesman says. "They automatically received the 125% refund of the fare paid in the form of a future cruise credit, which can be applied toward any future cruise through Dec. 31, 2022."

Norwegian is hardly the only company to create rigid rules that benefit itself rather than the customer. If you don't believe me, try converting your voucher to a cash refund. Didn't get very far, did you?

No one is actually profiting from this nonsense, at least in the traditional sense. Practically every travel company will report a loss for the first half of this year, and maybe longer.

It's how you fail that matters. Do you take your customers' money with you, believing it's only fair that they should suffer, too? Or do you do the right thing and offer a prompt and full refund?

I'm certain that the travel companies with customer-friendly refund policies will see a quicker recovery. Travelers will remember who treated them well — and who tried to pocket their money.

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Deadlines: Thursday at 4pm for Sunday Monday at 4pm for Thursday

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D&R ROOFING Call Don 517-376-2044

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Garage-Tag Sale
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Plymouth: 14473 Robinwood Dr., 625-627, 10am-4pm. Tools, furn., housewares & much more! Social Distancing Required.
Plymouth Moving Sale: 428 Blunk St. 625-627, 9am-4pm. Excellent condition home goods, 2 black shelving units, linens, clothes, shoes/purses, 36 year old infant basket & much more!

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Convergent Science in Northville seeks a **Sr. Technical Account Manager** with advanced knowledge of CFD engineering to sell CFD software and provide technical assistance to users. <49% travel req'd to visit in-state customers & attend conferences. Must have Master's degree in CFD-related engineering + seven years of work experience in programming and performing CFD modeling on CFD software. Must demonstrate technical communication skills & sales success. Email resume to jobs.northville@convergaecfd.com. Include all qualifications & code STAM-NEWS.

Engineering & IT

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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Binary
 - 5 GPS guesses
 - 9 White stuff that falls
 - 13 Gum rub-on for toothaches
 - 19 "One-l lama" poet
 - 21 Sported
 - 22 Nullify
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 Noteworthy periods
 - 26 Crony
 - 27 Fisher of "Star Wars"
 - 28 U.N. medical agcy. based in Geneva
 - 29 Words before roll or tear
 - 30 Hockey glove
 - 32 Riddle, part 2
 - 36 "Washboard" muscles
 - 37 Cut of beef
 - 38 2001 bankruptcy company
 - 39 Sushi bed
 - 40 Squalid room
 - 42 4.0 is a good one, for short
 - 45 Golden ager
 - 47 Riddle, part 3
 - 54 Tom, Dick and Harry, maybe
 - 55 Puzzles
 - 56 Not abridged
 - 57 Spares no expense
 - 61 Hack off
 - 62 Prez after HST
 - 63 See 42-Down
 - 64 Noteworthy periods
 - 65 Riddle, part 4
 - 69 Bakery buy
 - 70 Luau souvenir
 - 71 Prevarication
 - 73 Flier of myth
 - 74 Bogs, e.g.
 - 77 Ice homes
 - 79 Tel Avivian, for one
 - 82 Used to be
 - 83 Riddle, part 5
 - 89 Skylit lobbies
 - 99 Small, as Abner
 - 100 End of the riddle
 - 105 Guy
 - 106 Give a new hue to
 - 107 Rock producer Brian
 - 108 Hit the sack
 - 109 Affront, to a hip-hopper
 - 110 Java is one
 - 112 Riddle's answer
 - 117 Money in the form of coins
 - 118 Author Wiesel
 - 119 Player of multiple records, of sorts
 - 120 "Mad" one in Wonderland
 - 121 Star studier's sci.
 - 122 Figure skater Lipinski
 - 123 Leisure tops
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Wall Street index
 - 2 "Yecch!"
 - 3 Gradually accepts
 - 4 Release upon to attack
 - 5 Lieut.'s subordinate
 - 6 Bit of body art, in brief
 - 7 Waste barrel
 - 8 Wheat bundle
 - 9 Move as an eddy does
 - 10 "Sorry, I'm in a hurry"
 - 11 "The Orchid Thief" novelist Susan
 - 12 Pint-size
 - 13 Ten squared
 - 14 Transplant, as a perennial
 - 15 Of yore
 - 16 Knighted actor Derek
 - 17 Of national origins
 - 18 Alain-René — ("Gil Blas" author)
 - 20 None at all
 - 24 Lead-in to lateral
 - 28 "Orlando" novelist Virginia
 - 30 Actress Helgenberger
 - 31 Certain steel girder
 - 32 Taiwan tea
 - 33 Feudal estate
 - 34 2010 Super Bowl MVP
 - 35 French for "stop"
 - 37 Horse, when running
 - 41 Organic part of soil
 - 42 With 63-Across, boomer's kid
 - 43 Mile High Center architect
 - 44 Some Christians
 - 46 Austrian "a"
 - 48 New Age pianist John
 - 49 In a frenzy
 - 50 Stare stupidly
 - 51 37th president
 - 52 Abject fear
 - 53 Feudal laborers
 - 57 Former baseball boss Bud
 - 58 Brand of pasta sauce
 - 59 One of the boxing Alis
 - 60 Meadow mother
 - 62 Meadow mother
 - 66 Guess qualifier
 - 67 Petty of "Tank Girl"
 - 68 Cookie bar from Mars
 - 69 Lariat
 - 71 Pillage
 - 72 "Uncle!"
 - 75 Collegately stylish
 - 76 Tilt weapon
 - 78 44th president
 - 79 Pocatello's state
 - 80 Psyche part
 - 81 Went first
 - 84 Have a link with
 - 85 Horse's gait
 - 86 Mistreatment
 - 87 Nullify
 - 88 — Stanley Gardner
 - 92 A bit weird
 - 93 Place to be pampered
 - 94 Egg-based dish
 - 96 They follow Marches
 - 97 Subject of a 2016 U.K. referendum
 - 98 With 115-Down, she sang "All Alone Am I"
 - 101 Lamp spirit
 - 102 Frisky water animal
 - 103 Bakery buy
 - 104 Put up, as a tent
 - 105 "I — think so!"
 - 109 Cloning stuff
 - 111 Make believe
 - 112 Briny deep
 - 113 Outmoded TV accessory
 - 114 "I solved it!"
 - 115 See 98-Down
 - 116 Soon-to-be grads: Abbr.

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

SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

TIDAL WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- ALGAE
- ANEMONE
- ATOLL
- BARNACLE
- CLIMATE
- COASTAL
- CORAL
- CYCLONE
- ECOSYSTEM
- EVAPORATE
- KELP
- MINERAL
- OCEAN
- PLANKTON
- POLLUTION
- PREDATOR
- SALINITY
- SCUBA
- SEAGRASS
- SHORELINE
- STARFISH
- SURF
- TIDE
- WATER
- WAVES



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ADOPT A PET
GET A JOB
FIND A HOUSE
BUY A BOAT
FIND A TREASURE
GET A MASSAGE
HIRE A HANDYMAN

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