CANTON CBSERVER

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020 I HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Livonia Family YMCA permanently closes

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Effective Friday, the Livonia Family YMCA at 14255 Stark Road permanently closed.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit chose the Livonia and Lakeshore locations for closure because both have operated at a deficit for nearly a decade. According to the YMCA, Livonia has lost \$1.2 million in the past 10 years and needed \$5 million in improvements.

"As we navigate the COVID-19 international health crisis, we must reimagine how to best serve metropolitan Detroit," said Helene Weir, president and CEO of YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit. "This means our YMCA has made the very difficult decision to permanently

close two of our branches."

Members of both branches will receive free memberships to other YMCA locations for the remainder of 2020. Other campuses are located in Farmington, Milford, Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Detroit and Royal Oak.

The Livonia campus, which has been in the city for about 60 years, may still operate a summer day camp this year. Weir said the decision will, she hopes, help the YMCA rebound as all locations have remained closed throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

"We are hopeful that our YMCA can stabilize and recuperate from losses compounded by COVID-19 and its residual fallout," she said. "Our sole aim is to have a financially strong YMCA able to meet growing community needs."



As she awaits the flyover by the Michigan Air National Guard 127th Wing, Novi Ascension Providence Hospital nurse Gabrielle DoPico, right, takes a selfie with some of her compatriots from labor and delivery. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Air National Guard thanks health workers with flyover

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

As the coronavirus continues to make an especially stressful work environment for health care professionals, military servicemen and women are the latest group saying thank you to what's become known as the "front line" of the pandemic.

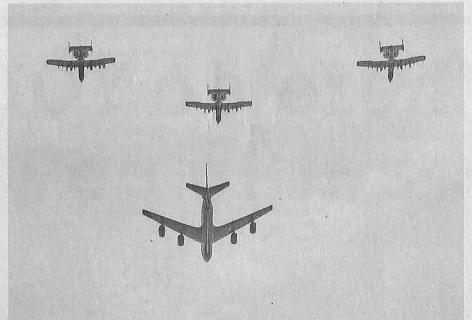
The Michigan-based Air National Guard 127th Wing unit out of Selfridge Air National Guard Base conducted a flyover of metro Detroit hospitals to show appreciation May I3.

The flyover included St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia and Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi, among other spots in southeast Michigan.

In Livonia, cars were lined up and down Five Mile Road as four planes flew overhead. Much of the St. Mary Mercy staff came outside to watch.

Bob Stine, a registered nurse working

See FLYOVER, Page 4A



Aircraft with the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard fly over St.

Mary's Hospital in Livonia on May 13 to show appreciation for healthcare
employees during the coronavirus pandemic. MELANIE MAXWELL/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Canton puts end to birthday drive-bys

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Public safety department birthday drive-bys – one of the rare positive offshoots of the coronavirus pandemic – have come to an end in Canton Township.

Community Relations Officer Patty Esselink said Saturday was the final day her department provided a procession of public safety vehicles driving by the homes of children celebrating their birthdays during Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's stay-at-home order.

"It's gotten to the point where we can't keep up with the demand," said Esselink, who has participated in several of the drive-bys since mid-April. "Some days we've had up to 13 to 14 requests. We don't want to get to a point where we have to pick and choose which requests we're going to honor."

Esselink said the department has met nearly all of the requests for surprise drive-bys, the majority of which are birthday-related.

"I think we did one or two for high school graduates," she said. "One resident wanted us to do a drive-by for her

See DRIVE-BYS, Page 5A

Farmington Film Festival goes virtual

The Farmington Hills-based nonprofit organization kickstART Farmington has announced the 2020 Greater Farmington Film Festival will take place online.

The virtual festival takes place May 28-31 with viewers having the opportunity to watch films from the comfort of their homes.

The festival had been planned for March but was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

More information about the festival and tickets are available at kickstart-farmington.org.

See FESTIVAL, Page 5A



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to get country going

Does every day feel same to you? You are not alone. Media, along with state and local government, has overwhelmed Michigan with fear. Fear is not a way to lead.

Two parades, Memorial Day, and Fourth of July were canceled by the Milford, Village Council acted as if everyone will get COVID-19. I didn't elect them to be my nanny. Will they cancel Milford Memories or other events on June 15? Do they understand how statistically small the chance of dying from the coronavirus is?

Ten million Michiganders live in the state and only $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% have gotten the virus with 4,900 deaths or 0.05% and a 56%-plus recovery rate or 28,000 who are now immune to coronavirus. Death is always sad, but the only guarantee when we are born is death.

In World War II, over 415,000 American Soldier lost their lives. Spanish Flu of 1918, killed 675,000, or 0.65% of U.S.A. America didn't shut down com-

merce then. Were we mentally stronger and tougher as a country?

Staying at home is okay, and if you feel sick or don't want to go out, stay home. But don't keep me from pursuing my dreams of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

I found out long ago, FEAR is an acronym: false, evidence, appearing, real.

Have courage to stand up for rights and get business back to work. The Paycheck Protection Program is a government bandaid, and not a solution. Why is the government able to pick winners and loser saying some business are essential and other need to remain shut down? This is America, home of the brave and free.

State governments can't even keep up with unemployment benefits so people are going hungry. Government won't let restaurants seat people inside (carryout only). People don't get this flu at restaurants, bars, hair salons, shoe stores, bike shops and other small business. Yet many of these small business owners will suffer from government

overreach

They were getting it through constant, continued exposure at large hospitals, airports, airplanes and cruise ships. People are recovering in record number with over 274,000 in the U.S. to date. Let's not make 2020 the bye year. Make America great again by getting Americans back to work in Michigan and save our small businesses and community.

Doug Klingensmith *Milford*

Class of 2020 misses out

During the Covid 19 Pandemic, we have all experienced a loss of some sort. Many have paid the ultimate price with their lives being cut short by the virus. Others have been forced to close their businesses resulting in loss of income to them and their employees. Jobs have been lost and incomes have disappeared. Our savings accounts have been reduced and we have lost our freedom of movement and our peace of mind.

But today, I am writing to the Class of 2020, a special group who have suffered a great loss. This was supposed to be your year, the culmination of all of your hard work for the past 13 years. It was supposed to be the time when you completed your senior year classes and in exchange received a diploma as you walked across the stage. In the audience, your family and friends and some of those who helped you along the way would have watched as you stepped into the next chapter of your life. It is always a beautiful moment and it should have belonged to you.

You were robbed of the opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to your classmates. The chance to have a final conversation with your teachers was taken from you.

We acknowledge your loss. I know I can speak for others when I say how truly sorry we are that your senior year was not what it was supposed to be.

Sincerely,

Janet Dersey
Plymouth

hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist

Mobile: 248-396-3870 Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com Follow us on Faceboook: @OEHometown

Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50 \$104 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737 Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon Afterhours, leave voicemail Email: custserv@hometownlife.com

Advertising Policy:

All advertising published in this newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department. We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our ad-takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an ad constitutes acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Get ready for auto insurance changes



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

I don't know about you, but I am getting somewhat tired of talking and writing about the COVID-19 crisis. It's unfortunately going to be with us for a while; however, there are other pressing issues we need to deal with, like the changes to Michigan's no-fault insurance law that take effect in the beginning of July.

The law affects everyone who drives a car and therefore, it's important to understand the changes and options available to you. Like everything else, there's no one right option for everyone; the key is what's best for your situation.

The main change to Michigan's nofault insurance law deals with the personal injury protection (PIP) portion of your auto insurance premium. PIP is the coverage that pays for your medical expenses if you're injured in an auto accident. Currently, the state of Michigan has unlimited coverage, which means that all of your medical expenses, including the cost of a caregiver, would be covered if you were in an auto accident.

Under the new law, there are six options for PIP coverage. You can choose to keep your unlimited PIP coverage or select one with \$500,000 benefits, \$250,000 benefits; for people on Medicaid a \$50,000 PIP; a Medicare opt-out option, where if you have Medicare A&B you can opt out and pay zero PIP premiums; and qualifying health coverage exclusion for certain households.

Regardless of what you choose, your PIP auto insurance premium will be discounted by a minimum of 10% or as high as 100%

Unfortunately, too many people will select the option with the lowest cost. The lowest cost option may not be the option that is best for you. You should select the option that best fits your situ-

ation and that coordinates with your health insurance coverage.

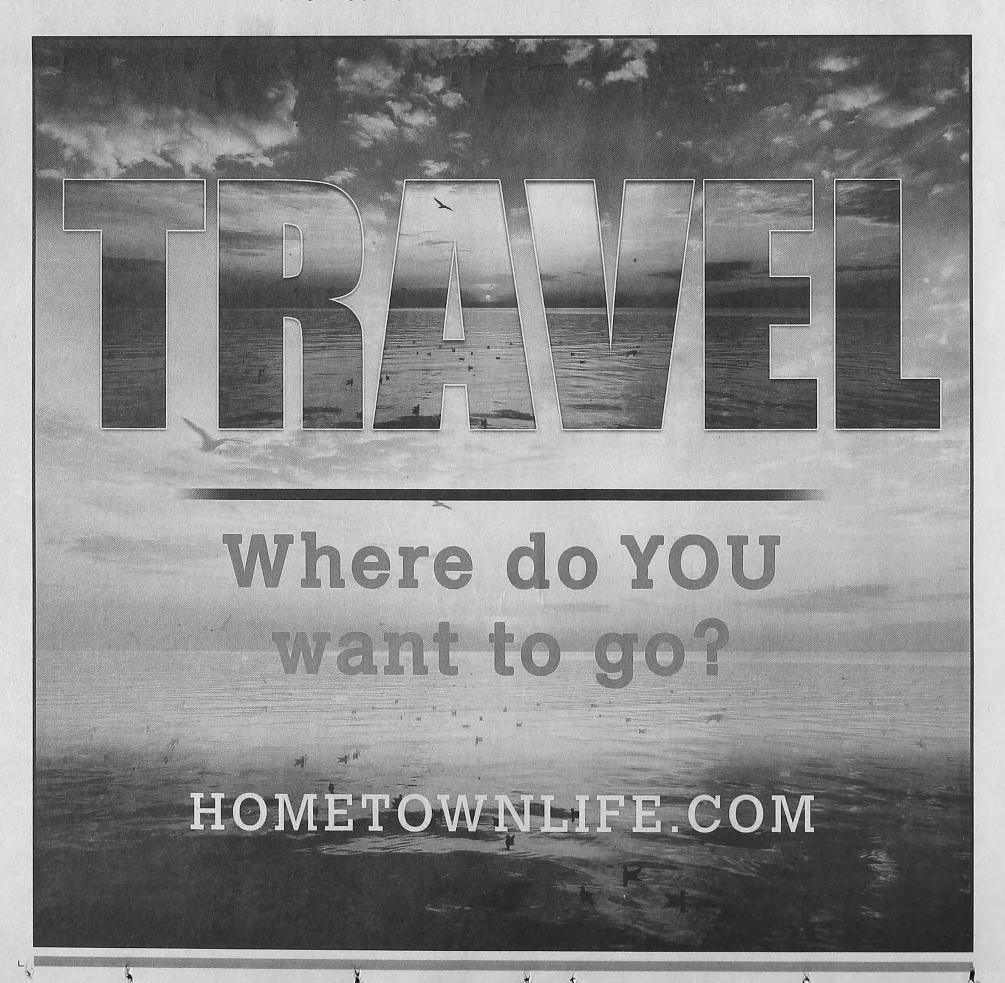
There are ads floating around that suggest they can lower your auto premium upwards of 45 percent. This is not accurate. The reduction in premium that you hear only applies to the PIP portion of your policy.

This is the time to determine whether your auto insurance agent is worthwhile. If your auto insurance agent can't explain the changes and how they relate to you, it may mean you need a new agent.

The law affects all policies that take effect after July 1. Therefore, you still have time to learn about the new law. Take the time and remember, what's good for your next-door neighbor is not necessarily the best option for you.

Good luck!

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



Westland hopes to start Hix Road project soon

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Summer will bring some improvements to North Hix Road between Ford and Warren roads in Westland. Over a two- to three-month period, the stretch will see

The city received a grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation to do the work. Grant funds

will pay for \$1,275,700 of the project, and the city will use \$285,600 from its major street funds.

Ramzi El-Gharib, the city's public service department director, said he hopes the project will begin this month, but added that timing will depend on MDOT.

"I don't think it will start until the lockdown is lifted by the governor," he said. "Our expectation is maybe the end of May. They have to find a contract with the state and the state are the ones who will initiate the

While work is being done, the north- and southbound lanes will be closed at different times. While the northbound lane is closed, drivers will use Ford to Newburgh Road as a detour. While the southbound lane is closed, drivers will use Warren to Newburgh.

"All businesses will have access to their places at the same time, as will emergency vehicles," El-Gharib

Livonia couple celebrates 70 years of marriage

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At 90 and 93 years old, Sarah and William Niffin are

a living picture of love's ability to endure. On April 8, they celebrated 70 years of marriage.

"She supports him and cares for him to the Nth degree," said Ani Niffin, a daughter-in-law of the couple. "And he in turn is just the kindest, nicest man I think I've ever met.'

The Niffins have lived in their Livonia home on Munger Drive for about 55 years, having moved there from Redford. They raised five kids: Bill, Susan, Jim, John and Jeff, all of whom are Stevenson High School graduates. They have 13 grandchildren and eight greatgrandchildren, with two more on the way.

Though celebrating the milestone isn't possible in a typical way because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Niffins still had a chance to mark the occasion in person with their family.

"We came by and they came out on the porch," Ani said. "We all stood on the lawn and just had a visit."

The family did a similar set-up for William's 93rd birthday on April 28, that time bringing pizza and setting up a Zoom call for faraway family members.

"All of my adult kids are very supportive," Sarah said. "I'm very blessed."

Sarah said she didn't grow up thinking William, the son of her parents' good friends, would be a good match for her. But William, a World War II veteran and longtime Ford employee, has been the picture of kindness every

just thought he was too different from me because I was more social were married in 1950. than he was," Sarah said.

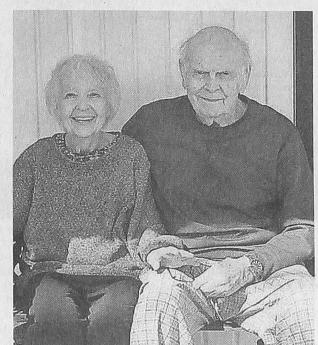
"But anyhow, it must have lasted because it's been 70 years now. In 70 years, he has never had a discriminatory or cross word about anybody. I think that's partly due to his good nature, but also his Christian

William and Sarah Niffin

Their faith has been the centerpiece of their marriage. Sarah has supported William as a Sunday school teacher and distributor of devotional booklets.

The couple also thinks compromise is necessary to making marriage last. Sarah and William don't boss each other around, either.

"He's never once told me what to do," she said. "I think that's very remarkable."



The Niffins recently celebrated 70 years of marriage at their home in Livonia. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANI NIFFIN

Help2Help group makes thousands of face masks for first responders

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton teen Jenny Rong had serious questions about whether news about the coronavirus pandemic was blown out of proportion until the number of confirmed cases steeply spiked.

She heard first responders were dying and nurses

were pleading for masks.

The 15-year-old, her younger sister, Sunny, and their parents wanted to help.

Already steering a new nonprofit group, Help2Help, they began planning how to address the crisis.

Since the pandemic arrived, the group of about 100 members has made and collected more than 10,000

Safety Department and local medical facilities and been making, collecting and delivering protective nursing homes.

Individuals and families in need can contact the group by Facebook if they need masks, too.

"I feel really grateful," Rong said. "I'm also very

proud that we can help so many people." She and her relatives officially formed Help2Help

last fall. The group has a pay-it-forward mission, hoping that those who receive help will then help others.

Before the pandemic, the group's activities included reading to youngsters and participating at the International Festival.

Learn more about the group on Facebook. To find the group, search for "HelptoHelp Fdn."

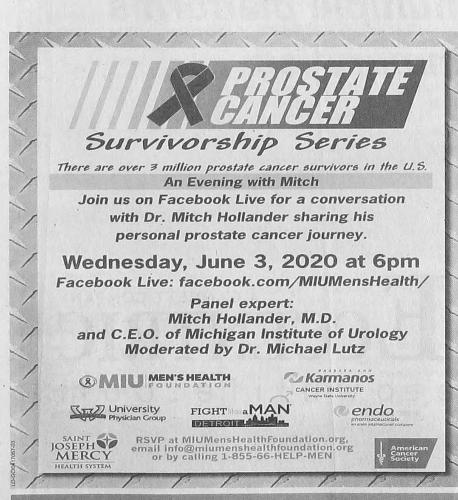


Recipients include the Canton Township Public Jenny Rong, left, and her younger sister, Sunny, have face masks as part of their nonprofit Help2Help. COURTESY OF HELP2HELP

"I feel really grateful. I'm also very proud that we can help so many people."

Jenny Rong Founding member of Help2Help









Novi Ascension Providence hospital personnel await the flyover of the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Flyover

Continued from Page 1A

with coronavirus patients, said the community's support has been heartwarming.

"We are so happy to be part of this whole team to fight this COVID-19 that's really hurting this whole community," he said. "The flyover is very supportive and we really do appreciate that."

As the community has rallied around health care professionals with donations, meals and messages, staff in Livonia have been overwhelmed by the support.

"I have absolutely been amazed at the outpouring of support by our community," said Sarah Gilbert, the senior vice president of operations at the hospital. "Knowing that the Michigan National Guard is going to be flying over this afternoon is just another show of love."

Gilbert said the pandemic has been stressful on the staff and they worry about their families, but they've continued to come into work and do their best.

"Our staff has just really rallied," she said. "They've been working a lot of overtime, long hours and extra shifts to take care of people."

On the other hand, Gilbert said, the hospital is starting to see a decline in cases and is getting back to some sort of normalcy. She said it's nice to see the hard work and sacrifice pay off."

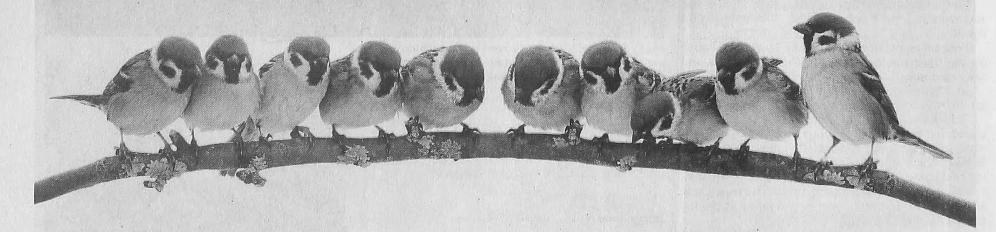
"It would be easy just to give up and stay home, but they came through," she said. "I feel very blessed to work at this hospital and (in) this community."

stankersle@hometownlife.com



Novi Ascension Providence personnel await the flyover near the hospital.

Forget the Tweets - Follow Trusted News



We provide news on multiple platforms connecting you to communities, people, and places.

Observer & Eccentric

hometownlife.com

St. Mary Mercy reinstates some time-sensitive services

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Mercy Health system, which includes Livonia's St. Mary Mercy Hospital, is working toward a "new normal.

The health system reinstated some services previously on hold during the coronavirus pandemic, including timesensitive surgeries and procedures. The system's emergency rooms and virtual appointments are continually available.

For the past two months, the system was only treating coronavirus and emergency patients. St. Joseph Mercy Health has locations in Livonia, Ypsilanti, Brighton, Canton, Chelsea, Pontiac and Howell

Finding a new normal

Dr. Matthew Griffin, St. Mary Mercy's chief medical officer, said it may be a while before the system goes back to normal, but reinstating some procedures is a step in the right direction.

'We'll continue in phase two for probably quite a period of time," he said. "I know that's frustrating for all of us because we don't really know how long it'll be. A lot of it depends on when we reopen the state and people start to get closer to starting to live in the new nor-

Griffin said St. Mary Mercy has been one of the busiest hospitals for COVID. The hospital has treated and discharged 317 coronavirus patients since March.



St. Mary Mercy Hospital on Five Mile Road in Livonia, part of the St. Joseph Mercy Health system, has announced that it will resume time-sensitive services. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

On May 15, the hospital had 26 active cases and 33 under investigation.

Financial struggles

A slow return to normal will also help the system return to a typical financial state. In March, Trinity Health lost \$50 million and in April lost \$84 million because of a 70% decline in outpatient

"While we do see an increase in CO-VID patients and a fair amount of activity on the inpatient side, we saw a decline in other services and revenue," said Dave Spivey, the president of St.

In an effort to cut costs, the Livonia hospital furloughed 150 positions, which were "by and large" non-clinical. Spivey said he's hopeful to bring all of those staffers back as the hospital starts to offer more services.

Keeping every patient safe

Griffin said he fears people have been afraid to seek medical treatment.

"We know that there are patients who have died from COVID but we also fear there are many patients who had less than ideal outcomes or died because they failed to seek medical care." he said. "We really do need to get confidence restored in the community that we have a way to care for you and do it in a safe fashion."

With that in mind, the partial reopening will include visitor restrictions, deep cleaning and a mask requirement for everyone in each campus. Staff who work with coronavirus patients do not work with other patients, and coronavirus patients are separated from other patients.

"What we have are clear pathways and clear, safe entryways for patients," Griffin said. "Initially they are screened to ensure they don't have COVID and then they come into the facility to get the care and procedures that they need."

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

Garden City Hospital to resume non-emergency procedures

Following newly-released COVID-19 guidelines announced by state and local health officials, Garden City Hospital, a member of Prime Healthcare, has begun scheduling elective surgeries and pro-

Saju George, CEO of Garden City Hospital, said a careful and structured move toward restarting clinical care operations and procedures has begun in order to address the needs of the community and expand access to medical and surgical care.

"The hospital will be carefully monitoring the virus's ongoing impact to the community and will maintain its ability to properly respond to the coronavirus as we begin serving patients with the essential care they need," George said. "We want to assure our patients and community that we are implementing best practices and will do everything we can to keep them safe.'

Steps are taken to minimize any risks and make certain that COVID-19 patients are isolated from non-COVID-19 patients. New policies have been developed and will be reevaluated and reassessed as needed. Staff and patients will be screened and tested for the virus.

Surgery patients are allowed one visitor to the hospital to accompany them to the waiting area.

The hospital's emergency department remains open for all those seeking emergency care. Following physical distancing guidelines for COVID-19 does not mean ignoring the signs or symptoms of a medical emergency.

"Those experiencing signs of a heart attack or stroke, for instance, such as difficulty breathing or sudden muscle weakness, should still call 911 or visit the emergency room immediately," said Dr. Christopher Doig, D.O. and Chief Medical Officer. "We are well-prepared to handle non-COVID-19 emergencies as well as able to deal with an influx of potential COVID-19 cases. We are following all state, local and federal guidelines to safeguard our staff and other patients from exposure."

Continued from Page 1A

dog's birthday, but we had to decline. If we started doing that, it could have opened up a whole new can of worms."

The drive-bys' effects spread far beyond just the honorees, Esselink said.

"The smiles on the young kids' faces have been amazing," she said. "What we found, though, was that entire neighborhoods come out ... to see what's going on. The reactions have been truly heart-warming. ...

"We did one for a man who was turning 90. He was just as thrilled as the

There was no cost to the township for providing the drive-bys, except for fuel, Esselink said.

"The comments on our Facebook page were 100% positive," she said. "We're seeing a lot of comments like, 'This is a great use of tax payers' dollars

Drive-bys young children."

The practice ignited zero negativity on social media, according to Esselink.

during this time!' ... things like that."

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

Festival

Continued from Page 1A

The film lineup includes:

'Normie'

Directed by Kurt Neale

(Documentary feature, 74 minutes) When Annemarie looks in the mirror, she sees Down syndrome. To her, the diagnosis is a giant barricade keeping her from the independence and intimacy she desperately desires. She embarks on a journey of self-discovery as she tries to understand what it means to be normal.

'Driveways'

Directed by Andrew Ahn (Narrative feature, 83 minutes)

Kathy (Golden Globe nominee Hong Chau), a single mother, travels with her shy 8-year-old son Cody to Kathy's late sister's house which they plan to clean and sell. As Kathy realizes how little she knew about her sister, Cody develops an unlikely friendship with Del (Golden Globe and Tony winner Brian Dennehy), the Korean War vet and widower who lives next door.

'Skid Row Marathon'

Directed by Mark Hayes

(Documentary feature, 85 minutes) When a criminal court judge starts a running club on LA's notorious skid row and begins training a motley group of addicts and criminals to run marathons, lives begin to change.

"Skid Row Marathon" follows four runners as they rise from the mean streets of LA to run marathons around the world, fighting the pull of homelessness and addiction at every turn.

'By the Grace of God'

Directed by François Ozon

(Narrative feature, French with English subtitles, 137 Minutes)

A gripping drama follows three men who band together to dismantle the code of silence that continues to protect

a priest who abused them decades ago. 'By the Grace of God" compassionately illustrates the varying effects of trauma on survivors and their families in this urgent portrait of resistance, the power of mobilization, and the mysteries of faith.

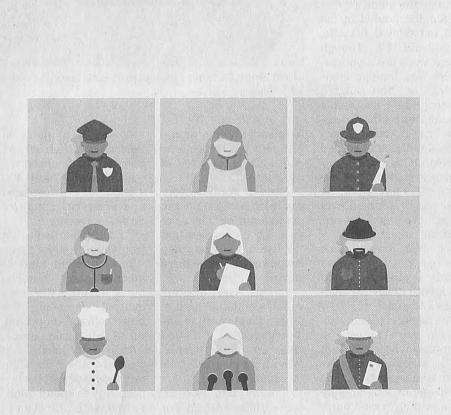
'The Euphoria of Being'

Directed by Réka Szabó

(Documentary feature, Hungarian with English subtitles, 83 minutes)

Human Rights Award, Sarajevo Film

Festival, 2019 "Throwing all caution to the wind, I asked a 90-year-old Holocaust survivor to create a dance theater piece with me," said Szabó. "I wanted everyone to see Éva Fahidi and to provide a space for her traumas in a dialogue with a young dancer, Emese. Where would the boundaries of understanding, of finding common ground lie? Would they be able to slip into each other's skin? Can we ever learn from the past?"



Thank you

To the everyday heroes who continue to go to work, so we can stay home.

We appreciate you.

Hometown Life

hometownlife.com

Unleashed Pet Care moving clinic to Livonia

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A clinic for four-legged family members is coming to Livonia: Unleashed Pet Care plans to turn the former Turowski Funeral Home on 9300 Middlebelt Road into a veterinary office.

Unleashed plans to use all of the 4,750-square-foot building for pet care. The clinic currently operates in Westland, caring for cats, dogs and "pocket pets" like rats and guinea pigs.

The site will include X-ray service, a kennel, surgery, dental services, a pharmacy and six exam rooms. Dr. Kari Nugent said she's hoping to offer more ser-

vices to the clinic's loyal client base.

"We've outgrown the building here," she said. "It's two exam rooms, very small and has limited space. So

we're actually looking to open an integrative veterinary center. So we'd be expanding services and adding on additional veterinarians.

The city council approved plans May 11.

"I think this is going to be a really nice development for that area," said Livonia City Council Vice President Scott Bahr at council's April 27 meeting. "I appreciate the landscaping plans they have here and I think it'll be



Unleashed Pet Care in Westland is moving its facility to Middlebelt Road in Livonia. JOHN HEIDER/ HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

Developers plan to remove some parking to add green space facing Hathaway, and the north drive entrance will be removed, leaving two driveways on the

southern end of the property. The clinic does not plan to keep animals overnight or keep animals outside for extended periods of time.

stankersle@hometownlife.com

NYX Inc. CEO, philanthropist Sandhu dies after cancer battle

Shelby Tankersley

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Chain Singh Sandhu lived the epitome of the American Dream. After a storybook life, the CEO of Livonia's NYX Inc. and longtime philanthropist died May 16 following a battle with cancer. He

When Sandhu was 5, his father was murdered during the partition of India. His mother raised him on a small farm in Punjab. Despite his modest upbringing, Sandhu was a dreamer.

He felt drawn to the United States by opportunity and the call of a young president by the name of John F. Kennedy who wanted to land a man on the moon.

Sandhu landed in the U.S. in 1969 with his wife, child and \$8. Though there were few opportunities for foreign engineers in the United States, he eventually found a job on the assembly line at General Motors. Sandhu later earned a position as a GM development engineer. At the time of his promotion, he was the first Indian ever to achieve a senior engi-

neering title at GM. In 1986, Sandhu took the opportunity to run a small company named NYX with declining revenues and a cash crisis. By 1989, he purchased it. His dream was to create a company where people of all backgrounds, religions and languages would be welcome as long as they were willing to work hard.

Today, the Livonia-



Chain Singh Sandhu, right, stands with Livonia Chamber President Dan West. Sandhu died May 16 at age 78. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

based automotive supply company has 17 locations and 4,200 employees in five countries.

Sandhu started every day with a walk on the manufacturing floor to visit his employees and "to listen to what they have to say because there is wisdom there."

In his last meeting with his senior NYX executives, he gave some enduring advice: "If you take care of the people, everything else will take care of itself."

Sandhu was also an active philanthropist. For example, through his

scholarship program at Brother Rice High School, assisted hundreds of stu-Sandhu has financed the dents and families immi- wife Satwant, his brotheducation of nearly 100 grating to the U.S. He er Ram, his sons and students. He also created a scholarship fund for Butler University.

"I have learned a lot from Chain, and for me he was a different kind of businessman: humble, but at the same time very focused on being the best," said Bo Andersson, the CEO of Yazaki Europe, Africa and North and Central America. "I'm proud to have had the opportunity to spend quality time with him even in the end."

For decades, Sandhu Sandhu. worked to provide an imcommunity mediate landing spot and professional growth opportunities, taking pride in watching the children of his employees become doctors, engineers, valued members of their communities.

Sandhu spent his final days at home on his farm in Northville surrounded by family. He was preceded in death by his brother, Raghbir Sandhu, and his daughter, Ramandeep

He is survived by his their spouses: Jay (Roop) and Mick (Jessica); his four grandchildren who were the apples of his eyes: Nirvair, Naveen, Rajan and Rohan; as well as the 4,200 employees of NYX he considered his family, and the indelible mark he left in a circle of people far and wide.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448.

Organizers cancel St. Andrew's Highland **Games**

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

The coronavirus pandemic has taken down another summer festival.

Organizers announced May 8 the 171st annual St. Andrew's Highland Games have been canceled. The event was scheduled for July 31 and Aug. 1 in Livonia's Greenmead Historical Park.

"We just did not feel it was socially responsible to continue with this," said Cathy Hasse, the event's chairperson.

Hasse said the decision was not an easy one. The event is the longeststanding highland games in North America and has been held through both world wars and the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic.

"We certainly spent a lot of sleepless nights trying to decide how we could do it," Hasse said.

Next year's event is scheduled for Aug. 6-7 at Greenmead. The event usually draws 10,000 people.

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

Obituaries

Carl Richard Groth

Carl Richard Groth, a longtime resident of Livonia Michigan, passed away on May 8, 2020. He was born May 8, 1928. Carl joins his loving wife Stella and son Kenneth. Survived by his long loving companion Flora; son Karl; daughter in law Lori; grandchildren Zachary, Jonathan, Emily and Christopher. Carl enjoyed many active years with the VFW. He was an avid golfer and hunter. A private interment was held at Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit. Memorial donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity Detroit. www.mannsfuneralhome.com



Westland cancels Blues, Brews and BBQs

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Westland officials announced May 14 that the city will not hold its major summer events, including the popular Blues, Brews and BBQs event.

"At this point, we just have to be concerned about being able to put on an event that requires a lot of sponsorship from our local business community and right now they're going to have a lot on their hands as far as getting their businesses open, so we just didn't feel it was right at this

time to lean on them for sponsorship," Westland Mayor Bill Wild said.

The full list of canceled

Memorial Day parade, which had been scheduled for May 24. Westland Craft Beer

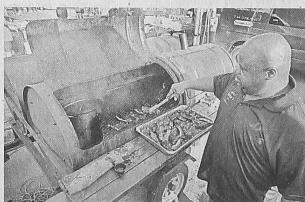
and Wine Festival, scheduled for May 30. Relay for Life, sched-

uled for June 6-7. I Splash Bash, scheduled for June 23.

■ Smooth Summer Nights, scheduled for

July 23. Blues, Brews and BBQs, scheduled for Aug. 7-8.

The decision follows



Blues, Brews and BBQs, which usually features professional and hobbyist grillers alike, has been canceled. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

those made by several nearby communities that have canceled or postponed popular summer festivals and parades because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Wild said he hopes to hold some events once it's safe to do so.

'What we want to do when it's safe is do some kind of community event to honor those in our community that we've lost to COVID-19," Wild said. "We're trying to figure out what would be appropriate and when it would be appropriate."

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



Fresh · Local · Natural

Joe's Produce Gourmet Market & Catering

Our produce is hand-selected, so you get the freshest and finest fruits and vegetables available, throughout the year!



33066 W. Seven Mile Rd. Livonia. MI 48152 248.477.4333

STORE HOURS: MON-SAT 9-8, SUN 9-7



While Supplies Last • Prices subject to change. Largest Fresh Meat & Seafood Counter in the Area!

MEAT

Premium Fresh All Natural Pork Steak

Save 60¢

Fresh All Natural

Boneless Pork Roast Save \$1.00

> **Premium Fresh All Natural Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast**

Premium Fresh All Natural Western Style Country Rib

> **Fresh Housemade Italian Chicken Cutlet**

> > **Fresh Housemade** Sausage Sheboygan or Jalapeño Cheddar

Joe's Ready to Grill Burgers **Bacon Cheddar or** Jalapeño Cheddar \$10.99 m

Joe's Ready to Grill **Marinated Chicken Kabobs** Italian, Herb & Garlic, **Mesquite or Teriyaki**

CenSea

Cooked Shrimp

16/20 Count

Save \$2.00

SEAFOOD

WINE CELLAR

The Rosé Display is **Back with Several New** Selections

Barefoot 750 ml Excludes "Bubbly"

Ménage à Trois Reg Price

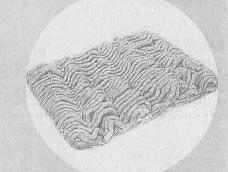
> Pietra Nera **Pinot Grigio** \$5.99

Joel Gott Cabernet or Merlot \$14.99

Gnarly Head All Varietals \$8.99

Chateau Grand Traverse Late Harvest Riesling \$12.99





Premium Fresh All Natural

Save \$1.00

Pollock Fillet 1 lb Package Save \$1.00

CenSea **EZ Peel Shrimp 16/20 Count**

Save \$2.00

Fresh Bakkafrost

Save \$5.00

Lobster Rangoon

Save \$1.00

Fresh Wild Caught Tuna Steak Save \$2.00

Wild Caught Sockeye Salmon Fillet

Save \$3.00 Crab Rangoon

Save \$1.00

33048 Seven Mile Road-Livonia 248-477-4311

Hours 9AM-6PM, Monday: Closed

Made from Scratch Herb & Oil

Focaccia

Save \$1.00

Save \$1.00

Croissant

Save \$1.00



Fresh • Local • Natural

Joe's Produce Gourmet Market & Catering

Our produce is hand-selected, so you get the freshest and finest fruits and vegetables available, throughout the year!



Hanging Baskets \$14.99 a Un 33152 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152 248.477.4333

Sale valid 5/20/20-5/26/20 MON-SAT 9-8, SUN 9-7



Largest Fresh Meat & Seafood Counter in the Area! Highest Quality Hand-Selected Fruits and Vegetables Over 1080 Items from Gourmet & Domestic Cheeses to Premium Deli Meats & Freshly Made Salads

Art of Bread-Fresh House Made Everyday-Using Non GMO Flour

Driscoll's Blackberries

Roma

Tomato

Washington Honeycrisp Apple

Vidalia Sweet Onion

Driscoll's Blueberries

Canadian Seedless Cucumbei

ORGANIC

Organic Green Onion

> **Organic** Lemon

Organic Mini Carrots 1 lb Bag

Organic Red Delicious Apple

MEAT & SEAFOOD

Dearborn **Smoke House Ham**

Save \$3.00

Oven Roasted Turkey

Save \$3.00

Swiss Cheese

Save \$2.00

Old Tyme

Sahlen's

Save \$4.00

Hard Salami

A Hoffman's

Boar's Head Honey Smoked Turkey

DAA

Save \$3.00

Dearborn **Homestyle Chicken**

Save \$2.00

Dearborn **Honey Turkey**

Save \$3.00

Alexander & Hornung **Bavarian Ham**

Save \$1.00

Old Tyme **Muenster Cheese**

Save \$2.50

Premium Fresh Joe's Ready to Grill II Natural **Marinated**

Italian. Herb & Garlic Mesquite or Teriyaki Save 60¢

Fresh Housemade Sheboygan or Jalapeño Cheddar

Save \$1.00

Premium Fresh Boneless Skinless

Save 70¢

PASTA

Fresh Housemade Pasta \$4.99 III



Deer Creek Rattlesnake

Save \$4.00

Triple Cream

Save \$3.00

Artikaas **Smoked Goat's** Milk Couda

99 b Save \$2.00

CenSea **Cooked Shrimu** 16/20 Count Joe's Gourmet

Save \$2.00

Pollock

Save \$1.00

Wild Caught Sockeye Salmon Fillet Save \$3.00

EVERYDAY GOURMET

Chicken Breast

Save \$1.00

Farfalle Pasta Salad Chicken **Faiita**

BBQ **Chicken Wings**

Save \$1.00

Save \$1.00 Save \$1.00 Chef's Feature

American Goulash \$6.99 b Save \$1.00

Hero

GROGERAY Hengstenberg Fruit Nectar Beverages Bavarian Sauerkraut 35.2 oz Rapsflower

Breitsamer Blossom Honey

Ritter Sport Chocolates

Catering & Events

Weddings, showers,

graduations, cocktail parties,

picnics or meetings...

hatever your event

Visit us at:

www.joesgourmetcatering.com or the Knot

> Litaly **Sparkling Beverages**

\$1299@

Delallo **Canned Beans**

CAUDE

Joe's Fresh Roasted Weekly Coffee Special

Hawaiian Coconut \$6.99 In Save \$3.00 **Pitted Dates**

Save \$1.00

Cinnamon Sticks Save 500

Fresh Fruit Tart Save \$5.00

> **Bark Thins Snacking Chocolate**

Mini Cookies 18 pack

PASTRY

Magic Bar

ea Save 50¢

Joe's Homemade Cherry Pie

Save \$2.00

5349 ea Save 50¢

Herb & Oil **Focaccia**

248-477-4311

Made from Scratch

8

Hours 9am-6pm

Monday Closed

Pizza Roll

Save \$1.00

Best Buy of the Week

The Rosé Display is Back with Several New Selections Pietra Nera Ménage à Trois

\$4.99 ea

Save \$1.00

Pinot Grigio

All Varietals

Joel Gott Cabernet or Merlot



Save \$1.00 Croissant

Barefoot 750 ml Excludes "Bubbly"

1

\$1.00 Off Reg. Price



Joe's Meat & Seafood & Joe's Produce has all your BBQ favorites, plus:

Joe's own house-made dips
Fresh fruit bowls ready to serve
Order ahead specialty deli trays

Stop by to grab & go or choose curbside pick-up for your Memorial Day feast.





Livonia Franklin's Evan Pittenger sacks Stephenson quarterback Ray Kastl. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Franklin LB hopes for D1 hance in college footba

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

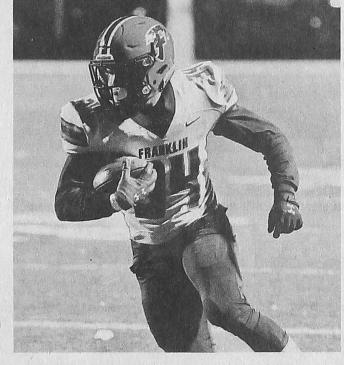
It's been a strange spring for nearly everyone in sports as the world adjusts to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

One area that's faced especially difficult challenges is football recruiting.

Evan Pittenger, a junior at Livonia Franklin, picked up four scholarship offers in April to play football in college. He first received an offer on April 10 from Lawrence Tech, and followed that up with offers from Trine, Olivet and Northern Michigan.

"I was just waiting for that first offer and then the Lawrence Tech offer came and a bunch of other coaches started DMing me and texting me," Pittenger said. "That's when everything started to roll. I didn't know what to say when the Lawrence Tech coach called."

See FOOTBALL, Page 2B



Pittenger takes the ball down the field against King in the 2019 playoffs. He received four scholarship offers in April to play football in college, from Lawrence Tech, Trine, Olivet and Northern Michigan.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM **GIRLS SOCCER**

How Novi's 2018 state title ignited a dynasty

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coming out of a 4-1 state semifinal win against Troy in 2018, Novi was not known as the powerhouse like now.

The Wildcats came into the state final with four losses and as the underdog, playing against heavy favorite Grand Blanc, who won 25 of 27 games that season.

All Novi head coach Todd Pheiffer heard about in the 2018 season was Grand Blanc: their 17 Division 1 athletes, their No. 1 ranking, their likelihood to win it all according to coaches and media from around the state.

Then the Wildcats got some bulletin board material.

Pheiffer came to practice ahead of the state title game, saying Midland head coach Rodrigo Barassi, having just lost to the Bobcats, 1-0, in the semifinal, guaranteed to reporters an easy victory for Grand Blanc in the fi-

Abbey Pheiffer, a sophomore goalkeeper at the time, remembers that was all she and her teammates were talking about. They were annoyed and angry about the comments made, but that it created a sense of focus, a sense of drive.

'We need to prove to them that we're not just a team that got here by chance," Abbey Pheiffer said.

And that was what the Wildcats showed.

After scoring its first goal late in regulation, the Wildcats being forced to fended off a feisty Bobcat offense in the final three minutes, bringing pure ecstasy, and relief, across the Novi bench, having just secured what people deemed as impossible.

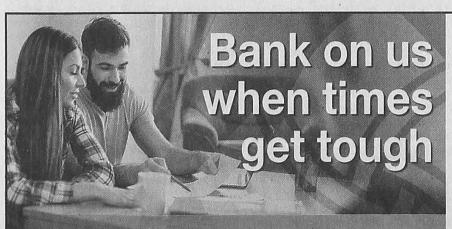
Little did they know that this one

win would ignite a dynasty., Novi has not lost a game in more than 700 days — dating back to before the 2018 playoffs — finishing the 2019 season with a second-straight state ti-

The Wildcats had expected that trend to continue well into the 2020 season, with 16 returning players, including 12 seniors. However, a chance of a three-peat for Pheiffer and her Novi teammates was thwarted when the season was canceled due to the emergence of the coronavirus.

In his 20 years coaching soccer, Todd Pheiffer has never had to deal with anything like this. He said, in the back of his mind, there is always that

See DYNASTY, Page 2B



For over 65 years, Community Financial Credit Union has been here for you and that's not going to change.

Now more than ever, we're committed to keeping banking easier.



Federally insured by NCUA, @2020 Community Financial

CFCU.ORG/COVID (877) 937-2328

Football

Continued from Page 1B

The special moment was exciting for Pittenger, who plays tight end and line-backer for the Patriots. Last season, he recorded nine catches for 146 yards and a touchdown on offense and totaled 70 tackles, 12 tackles for loss, four sacks, a forced fumble and one interception on defense.

He's hoping, however, that those four offers are just the beginning. He has his sights set on earning a Division 1 scholarship offer, something he feels he can do with a strong senior season this fall.

"That's what I'm striving for, that's my goal," Pittenger said. "I'm trying to prove that I belong at that D1 level."

He's received interest from a couple D1 schools so far in Air Force and Navy, while also hearing from Illinois State, Saginaw Valley State and others. He went to a camp at Western Michigan and is interested in the Broncos.

Due to the current situation, however, Pittenger and other rising seniors are unable to attend camps and attend junior days, which are some of the most critical junctures in one's recruiting journey.

It's put Pittenger and a number of his own teammates, who are also hoping to play in college, in a tough position as they weigh their current options.

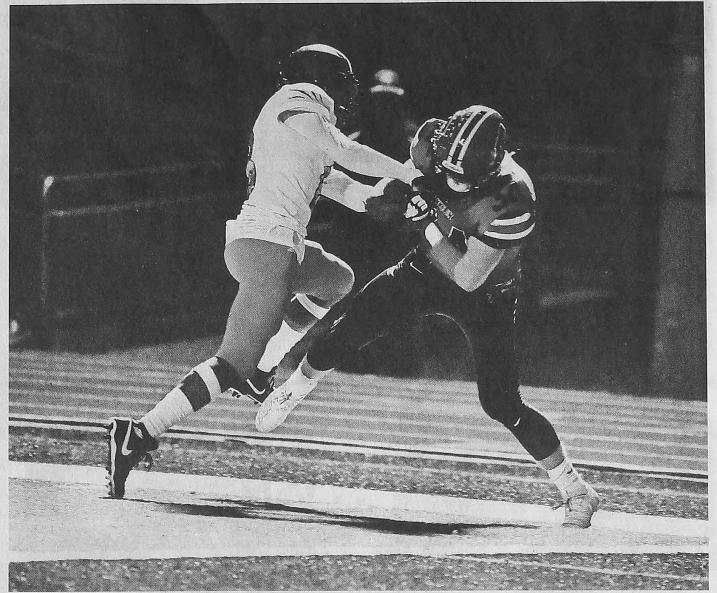
"It's already real different because most schools during spring recruiting, they come in and sit down and talk to the kids, give them all the camp information," Livonia Franklin head football coach Chris Kelbert said. "They're kind of doing it virtually. ... The biggest thing they're going to miss out on is the ability to go to camps and perform in front of those coaches. They're probably not going to have those opportunities."

Pittenger is mainly being recruited as a linebacker. He's 6-foot-1 and 215 pounds, which is a solid size for the position.

"I feel like I know the game very well and I play with a lot of heart," Pittenger said. "I want to win every single play, every single game."

Kelbert added that one of Pittenger's best traits is his leadership both on and off the field

"Leadership is the No. 1 thing right now," Kelbert said. "In this offseason



Livonia Franklin's Evan Pittenger secures a touchdown catch against Belleville. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

he's already done a couple things. We do a weekly meet and he gets that organized and gets the kids on board."

He also said that Pittenger absolutely has the potential to play DI football, but that he would benefit from a strong senior campaign and by getting a touch faster

"His speed is definitely one of those things that could propel him over the top, and his strength which is difficult for everybody right now," Kelbert said. "The weightlifting is the biggest thing people are missing out on in this lockdown. You can have some dumbbells in your house, but not many people have a

full gym in their house so they can train the way they need to train."

To help improve his speed and agility, he also plays basketball and runs track for Franklin.

Last summer, Pittenger was able to attend a camp at Wayne State and the Pro Bowl Combine in Florida, which invited 650 kids from around the country to participate. He had plans to attend several more this summer, but most have been canceled.

High schools can't begin any summer team activities until June 1 at the earliest, but it will depend on school facilities being open for use. Teams normally get 15 days to participate in football activities like team camps and 7-on-7 tournaments.

Both Pittenger and Kelbert are hopeful that the fall football season will go on as scheduled.

"That would be awful (if football was canceled)," Pittenger said. "Me and my friends were talking about this earlier today how the seniors don't have graduation and prom, but we'd rather lose graduation and prom than lose football season."

Contact reporter Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659.

Dynasty

Continued from Page 1B

aspect of "What could have been?"

But as he looks back at what Novi's 2020 class accomplished during their four years with the program, that is not the thing is his most focused on

"It's tough, but we try and reflect on everything that's good, that our program has accomplished," Pheiffer said. "I think about the last four years these seniors have been a part of the program. We've experienced a lot of things kids or coaches rarely get to experience."

Big target

Senior Avery Fenchel had watched her older sister play for Novi girls soccer prior to joining the team in 2017

From the stands, she could sense from the moment the team took the field, the team had a target on its back.

After winning the state championship in 2018 as a sophomore, Fenchel came out for the 2019 season saying that target had been greatly magnified.

"It wasn't anymore, 'Oh, we can just beat Novi.' It's, 'We can beat Novi and they are the No. 1 team in the state. We can beat them both,'" Fenchel said. "It put an even bigger target on our back and made us compete harder every game."

Abbey Pheiffer said there was a sense of nervousness heading into the 2019 season. Fenchel described it as Novi being faced with their opponents' best each and every night, trying to secure what people deemed as impossible, much like the Wildcats did against Grand Blanc.

But that did not happen. The Wildcats won 28 of 29 games in the 2019 season -- tying once.

Novi outscored opponents 14-1 in the playoffs on its way to the team's second straight state title, with the help of graduating seniors Lauren Calhoun and 2019 Miss Michigan Soccer recipient Jessie

Senior Michelle Jecman thinks Novi has always had the talent to succeed, but the long-term dominance is mostly due to the chemistry on and off the field.

"The girls are really willing to work for each other," Jecman said. "Everyone, from the goalie to the defense and up to the forwards, is very strong and capable players who work well with each other



Novi captured the Division 1 state title in 2018 with a 1-0 victory over Grand Blanc at Williamston High School.

and day out.

so we can build and pass the ball from the back to the forwards as a unit and as a team."

Todd Pheiffer describes it as more of a family atmosphere.

"There's a lot of people that say, 'Oh, you know, our team's a family,'" Pheiffer said. "But everything I have witnessed with this group in particular, these seniors, seeing things like players adapting to new positions, willing to take on new things for what's best for the program, best for the team, they are willing to do, and that's part of the reason why they have been so successful."

Stopped by COVID-19

Going into the 2020 season, the Novi girls soccer team felt it had even a larger target on its back, with a chance to win three straight titles like the program did from 2005-07.

"There's nobody except for ourselves that want us to win three times in a row,"

Fenchel said. "Every other team is going to try and stop us."

Novi had its rallying cry, an opportunity to prove, as a team, that it had the talent to beat other teams' best day in

But the Wildcats did not lose. They did not get stopped by an opponent. They got stopped by COVID-19.

"They didn't get to end on their terms," Todd Pheiffer said. "No matter what would have happened in the state tournament — win, lose, whatever — they still would have been able to go out on their terms."

For Jecman, it was her final opportunity to play soccer. After her four years at Novi, she knew she would be done playing, shifting her focus to academics and college at the University of Michigan

"My fourth year on Novi soccer would have been like my senior year, my year to sort of say goodbye, to give it my all and know that that's how I would leave my soccer career," Jecman said.

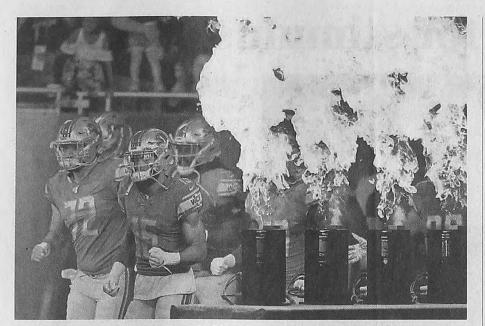
Fenchel is one of a few members of the Novi soccer team to commit to play soccer in college, signing to play at Ball State. Neysa Lyon is signed to play at Schoolcraft, Nevada Larson will play at Detroit Mercy and Sarah Katinas will play at Ferris State.

But for the four returning members of the varsity team, that streak remains alive. And even though there were no games played in 2020, the expectation for Novi remains.

However, it's something that Abbey Pheiffer, an upcoming senior, who missed the end of her sophom season with a torn ACL and was healthy and ready to go for the 2020 season, is not ready to think about yet.

"It will definitely be a challenge, but I don't think it's anything that we won't be able to handle."

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



The Detroit Lions run onto Ford Field at the start of a game. GETTY IMAGES

Lions announce preseason schedule

Dave Birkett Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

After an offseason made unrecognizable by the coronavirus pandemic, the Detroit Lions won't waste any time getting on the field this preseason.

The Lions announced dates and times for their four preseason games Friday, and will play their opener against the New England Patriots on Thursday, Aug. 13, the first day games can be played in the preseason outside of the Hall of Fame game.

The NFL has said it plans to open the regular season on time, but teams are making contingency plans in case the start is delayed by the coronavirus pandemic

Typically, teams are allowed to open training camp 15 days before their first preseason game.

The Lions and Patriots held joint practices last summer in Detroit, and the teams are expected to practice together again this year, if possible.

The Lions play the entire AFC East in the preseason, with games at Ford Field against the New York Jets (Aug. 20), at the Miami Dolphins (Aug. 27) and home against the Buffalo Bills (Sept. 3) also on the schedule.

The Jets game will be broadcast nationally on ESPN (8 p.m.), and games against the Patriots and Dolphins kick off at 7:30 p.m. The Lions-Bills kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Michigan and Massachusetts have been two of the states hit hardest by COVID-19, with Boston mayor Marty Walsh saying this week he won't allow events to be played in front of large gatherings of fans this summer.

The Patriots play in Foxborough, Mass., about 30 miles south of Boston.

"I don't think they're going to ask me (how much time we need to get ready for the start of the season)," Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford said Thursday. "I think they're going to pick a schedule and go, 'Hey, here's when you get to be back and here's when we're stating, so saddle up.' And that's fine. That's fine with me. If they told us we had to start the season tomorrow and you had to fly to Detroit and go put the pads on, I'd be thrilled and happy to go do it. Just any opportunity at any time, with it being safe, I'm ready to go."

Gov. Whitmer: No full stadiums before vaccine is available

Evan Petzold Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer doubled down Friday on her stance on fans attending sporting events this fall: No full stadiums until a vaccine is available.

"We're going to be in a new normal for quite a while," Whitmer said during her weekly news conference, "and it doesn't mean that sports is over. Sports is not over."

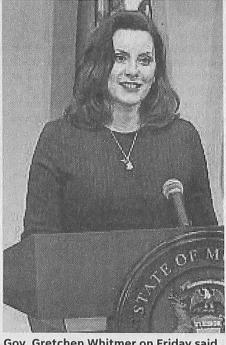
"We need a vaccine, and we need mass quantities available to be able to test and acknowledge we have some immunity built up. We're not there yet. Until that happens, I think all the organizers of these leagues understand how important it is that we act responsibly here."

Whitmer's response echoed her comments from a radio interview Tuesday, in which she stated she doesn't think capacity crowds at events will be allowed this fall.

There are more than 50,000 cases of COVID-19 in Michigan and more than 5,000 people have died. Of those deaths, more than 2,000 come from Wayne County, where Detroit's major professional teams play. Right now, Michigan's stay-at-home order runs through May 28.

The MLB, NBA and NHL shut down team activities in March, but the NFL has continued its offseason as scheduled, albeit with a virtual draft and virtual offseason programs. The league released its full schedule May 7 with no delays planned, though the schedule is reportedly built to allow late changes.

The Lions still plan to hold training camp this summer, begin the preseason Aug. 13 and open the season Sept. 13 at home against the Chicago Bears. While Whitmer is adamant about limiting fans, the NFL has said it plans to play the 2020 season with patrons in attendance.



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Friday said, "We're going to be in a new normal for quite a while, and it doesn't mean that sports is over. Sports is not over."

COURTESY OF MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

Other leagues also are reopening. MLB owners pushed a proposal to the players' union Monday which could lead to an early July opening day with an 82-game season and 14-team postseason.

"Major League Baseball is pursuing a shorter season in stadiums where people can watch the games on television, not in person," Whitmer said. "That may be how we have to operate for a while."

The NHL and NBA seasons have been postponed since March and remain without a timetable to return to competition, though daily conversations are percolating throughout each league. As of Wednesday, 10 of the NBA's 30 teams have taken part in voluntary workouts.

"We can have sports," Whitmer said, "just the way we observe them might look different for a while."



1 1 3

IRS has new deadline for stimulus checks

If you want money faster, share direct deposit info



Susan Tompor Columnist

Still waiting on your stimulus stash? The IRS has a new deadline to urge you to act soon if you're considering entering direct deposit information online at "Get My Payment."

The Internal Revenue Service wants people to take action by noon Wednesday if they want a shot at receiving stimulus cash more quickly via direct deposit. Bank account information can be entered at "Get My Payment" at IRS

And in other news, the IRS said automatic payments will be sent soon to those receiving Social Security retirement, disability benefits, Railroad Retirement benefits, Veterans Affairs benefits or Supplemental Security Income. No specific timetable was given

If things go as expected, most eligible Supplemental Security Income or SSI and veterans will spot Economic Impact Payments via their Direct Express card no later than mid-May, according to a fact sheet dated May 5 from Direct Express, which is a prepaid card offered to those who do not have bank

Many people already have received stimulus payments of up to \$1,200 for singles and up to \$2,400 for couples, plus \$500 for dependent children ages 16 and vounger.

The Treasury Department and the IRS said Friday that about 130 million individuals nationwide received payments worth more than \$200 billion in the program's first four weeks. But more than 20 million payments remained to be sent out.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus relief effort has triggered a great deal of frustration and confusion for many people who are still waiting for stimulus cash after watching neighbors receive their money in the past four weeks or so.

Many older adults are furious. Some claim it's highly unfair for those in need



While tens of millions of people still haven't received stimulus payments, the money is expected to continue going out via checks through June. SUSAN TOMPOR/USA TODAY NETWORK

to be waiting weeks, while others who were working in the past few years received their money more immediately.

Several seniors who have direct deposit of their Social Security benefits wonder why the federal government hasn't been able to use that information to deposit their stimulus cash into their bank accounts yet. Many continue to

Some seniors did get that money if they had provided bank account information earlier to receive direct deposit of a tax refund for 2018 or 2019 tax returns. But if you owed money or received a paper check for a tax refund, well, you could very well still be waiting.

All eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for 2019 or 2018 will receive the payments automatically, according to

Payments also are automatic for those who receive Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits (SSDI), Railroad Retirement benefits, as well as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Veterans Affairs beneficiaries who didn't file a tax return in the last two years

The problem is all the money isn't arriving at once or even close to the same time. The program's payments will be spread out from roughly April 10 through June. Some will receive checks; others will get the money via direct de-

Many will receive checks if the IRS doesn't have direct deposit information associated with a tax refund for 2018 or 2019. If you owed taxes those years and paid, the IRS would still need direct deposit information.

One way around this is to supply the IRS with direct deposit information via 'Get My Payment.'

To be sure, the "Get My Payment" tool has had its fair share of technical issues that generated a great deal of an-

ger among many users.

The IRS has updated that tool, which went online April 15, and some had success later in the game.

To use the "Get My Payment" tool, you need information from your 2019 return, if filed, and your 2018 return. You'll also need such things as your payment status and your bank account information.

The IRS stated Friday that the number of paper stimulus checks flowing into mailboxes will increase sharply starting later this month.

The noon Wednesday deadline is designed for those who want to avoid waiting weeks or months to get a check.

The IRS wants people to visit "Get My Payment" by noon Wednesday to check on their payment status and, when available, provide direct deposit information online at IRS.gov.

"For many taxpayers, the last chance to obtain a direct deposit of their Economic Impact Payment rather than receive a paper check is coming soon," the IRS stated.

"Time is running out for a chance to get these payments several weeks earlier through direct deposit," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig in a state-

After noon Wednesday, the IRS said it will begin preparing millions of files to send to Bureau of Fiscal Service to handle the paper checks that will begin arriving through late May and into June.

The "Get My Payment" tool does not solve all problems or apply to everyone.

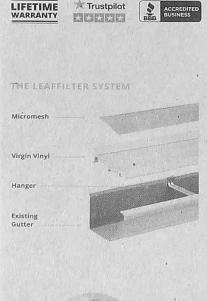
For example, the IRS has had to consider the possibility of identity theft. So it will not allow you to change direct deposit bank account information already on file with the IRS.

'If we issue a direct deposit and the bank information is invalid or the bank account has been closed, the bank will reject the deposit," the IRS stated.

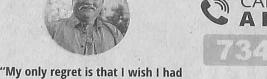
"We will then mail your payment as soon as possible to the address we have on file for you. 'Get My Payment' will be updated to reflect the date your payment will be mailed. Typically, once the payment is mailed, it will take up to 14 days to receive the payment, standard mailing time."

Follow Susan Tompor on Twitter @tompor.





LO-GCI0420518-02



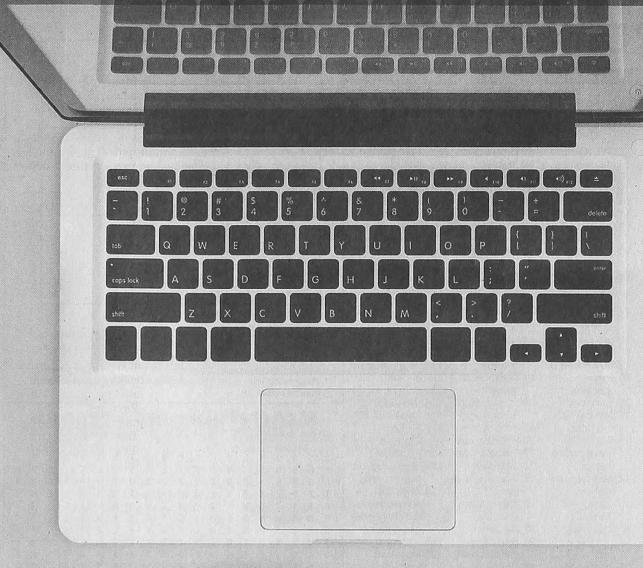


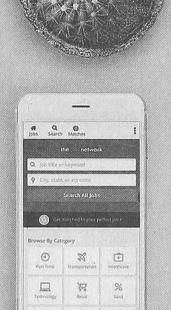
ADDITIONALLY

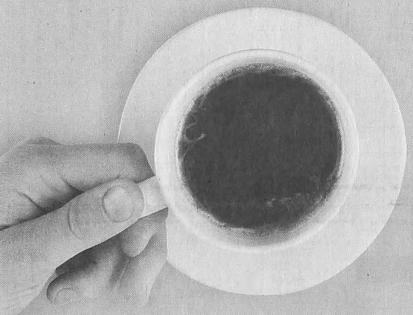
SENIOR &











hometownlife

ORE Media

PART DE THE USA TO DAY NET WORK

the job network

Finding work shouldn't be work.

Introducing the first personalized JOB NETWORK. Create a profile to see which jobs you're perfect for.

jobs.hometownlife.com

ASSIFIEDS

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC



JOBS







THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Chartbusters 8 Farthest point in an
- orbit 14 Uncommon 20 Salary
- reductions 21 Child raiser
- 22 Add insult to injury, maybe 23 Question in 1 Corinthians
- 15:55 26 Europe-Asia border river
- 27 Wood splitter 28 Ski lift part
- 29 Prefix with lock 30 Supplicate on
- behalf of 35 — polloi (commoners)
- 37 Sermon topic 38 Suffix with Sudan
- 39 Massage 40 Old booming jet, for short 41 "- changed
- man!" 43 Designer
- Geoffrey 45 Salon
- colorists 47 "Is this actually
- happening?" 50 Oviedo locale 53 Situated over 100 Abrupt 56 Brine source 101 Body pouch

20

23

26

30

38

50

58

62

71

95

100

109

116

122

128

131

51 52

87 88 89 90

- Hampshire academy 58 "I'm going
- through the same thing!" 61 Shipping
- charge, e.g. 62 Steering part 112 Crucial on a ship
- 63 Long (for) 64 Vikings' org. 66 Refusing to be cheerful
- 71 Regarding 72 Agree 76 Pop's mom
- 77 Actress Amy 79 SSNs, e.g. 80 Pressing tool 81 Fig treat from
- Nabisco 83 Seeming eternity 85 DNA-studying 129 Agee of the
- partner of James Watson 87 "My turn is
- coming right up' 91 He KO'd
- many rivals 93 Ball-
- hammer 94 Forrest Gump DOWN
- player 95 "Quantum Leap" actor 98 Bend down

39

- 102 Secretive U.S. gp. 105 She bleats 106 Part of
- UCLA 109 33rd prez 110 Restaurant
- bill addition component
- 116 Long (for) 118 Boyfriends, in Paris
- 120 Dir. opposite 7-Down 121 Viking org.
- 122 Tune whose opening lyric, and lyricist, begin eight answers in
- this puzzle 128 Motion detector part
- old Mets 130 Small eating alcove
- 131 Waiters take them
- 132 Like training at the location itself

3 "Sure thing,

cap'n!"

21

40

54 55

24

63

53

96

101

129

132

59

72 73

83 84

110 111

123

118

- 33 James 133 Occupy fully
 - 1 Wedded partner 2 Chennai, before 1996

- opera house) 5 Crude abode
- 6 Biblical verb
- suffix 7 NYC-to-Miami dir. 8 High points
- 9 Peeling tools 10 Raw metal 11 Allstate rival
- 12 Put into a hall of fame 13 Kett of old comic strips
- (iazz fusion band) 15 Prefix with

14 — Gyra

- gender 16 Utah ski spot 17 Slide in again 18 Go on with
- 19 Train operator 24 Barn feed
- 25 Cymbal pair in a drum kit 31 Nathaniel
- Hawthorne's Hester 32 Feel remorse over
- Garfield 34 Consumer protection agcy
- 36 Wild Alpine goats 42 Soccer great Hamm

28

48

56

74

93

102 103 104

120

124

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

47

60

80

85

112 113

- 44 Summer, in Soissons
- 45 Royal crown 46 Worried 48 E-cig's lack
- 49 Busy insect 50 Its capital is Damascus
- **51** 16 ounces 52 Lindley of The Ropers" 54 NYC stage
- awards 55 Small bunch of flowers
- 59 Spock and Seuss: Abbr. 60 Alternative to
- "his" or "her" 61 Go by plane 64 Nary a soul
- 65 Backyard borders
- 67 Open, as a present 68 Language of
- "mea culpa" 69 Be a rapper? 70 BoSox rivals
- 73 Freud's "one" 74 Ensnare 75 "Cannon" has
- three 78 The Brady kids, e.g.
- 82 Restated 84 Gambling parlor, briefly 85 Chick- -- -A
- 86 Prefix with 87 "No kidding?"

22

49

75

81

99

125 126 127

105

130

133

25

35

61

42

15

36

43

66

82

94

68

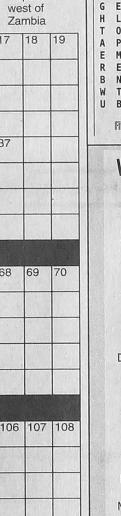
76

121

29

- 88 Artist known for
- illusions 89 Boston area with the Paul Revere statue
- 90 UFO crew 91 Alias abbr.
- 92 Find by chance 96 In line with 97 One or more
- 99 Be indebted 103 "Belt out that tune!"
- 104 She founded the U.S. Shakers
- 106 Crude abode 107 First phases
- 108 Long looks 111 Letter-shaped girders 113 PSATs, e.g.
- 114 "No kidding!" 115 Deep-seated 117 To be, to
- Claudius 119 Regarding 123 Blue Jays, on scoreboards
- 124 Abbr. for someone with only one
- given name 125 34th prez 126 Firewood
- 127 Repub. west of Zambia

box



SUDOKU 3 8 5 8 6 2 4 2 1 4 6 3 5 5 6 5 9 4 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!

E N T G N E M S L G 0 P R I Z

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

WORDS

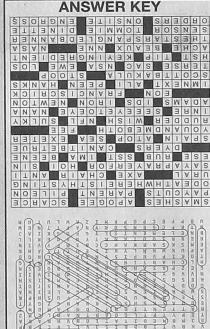
ASANA ATTENTION **AWARENESS** BALANCE **BREATH CATCHES CHAKRAS** CHANTING COGNITIVE COMFORT DEVELOPMENT **ELEMENTS** HEALING HINDU **HYPNOSIS IMAGERY** JAPA **MANTRA MEDITATION** MENTAL **MINDFULNESS** NIRVANA SACRED **SENSORY SESSION**

SPIRITUAL STRESS

TRAINING TRUST

YOGA

ZEN



1	3	8	9	9	1	Þ	2	6
1	Þ	9	2	6	3	L	9	8
7	9	6	Þ	L	8	3	1	9
9	6	7	3	Þ	9	8	L	1
8	L	セ	1	9	6	2	9	3
9	1	3	L	8	2	9	6	t
6	7	L	9	3	t	1	8	9
Þ	8	9	6	1	L	9	3	2
3	9	1	8	7	9	6	t	L

Careers Jobs new beginnings...

Engineering & IT

Test Lab Engineer for Farmington Hills, Michigan auto supplier to support prod testing activities. Reg's Bachelor's in an Eng or Eng Tech field. Will accept a single degree or any combination of degrees, diplomas, professional experience determined to be equivalent by a qualified evaluation service. Position also reg's 2 yrs exp in auto testing-related position(s) following ISO17025 & IATF16949 testing guidelines; adhering to auto OEM test specs; conducting validation testing for auto thermal comfort prods, incl env, flammability, durability, accustics, components, & full sysperfe testing; rvw'ing test specs; creating test scheds; analyzing test data; compiling test reports; implifing test feeling. For accustics, conducting root cause analysis of failures & warranty returns; operating & maint'ing test equip, incl climate chambers, flammability chambers, data acausistion stations, power supplies, function generators, and durability testers; and mentoring ir team members. Mail resume to Katlin Mathews, Gentherm Incorporated, 21680 Haggerty Road, Northville, MI 48167.

We can sell it in **CLASSIFIED!**

The Classifieds

Your source for everything new and used in your local area.

1













O HONE

Pantry Sheet Pan Machos



PREP: 15 MIN BAKE: 5 MIN SERVES: 8

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

1 PACKAGE (1 OZ.) TACO SEASONING

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

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

1/3 CUP DRAINED PICKLED JALAPEÑO PEPPER SLICES

1 CUP SALSA

1/3 CUP DRAINED CANNED OR THAWED FROZEN CORN

1/4 CUP DRAINED CANNED SLICED BLACK OR **GREEN OLIVES**

1/4 CUP CHOPPED GREEN, RED OR WHITE ONION

PREHEAT OVEN TO 325°. IN SMALL SAUCEPAN, SEASONING.

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

AND SERVE IMMEDIATELY.

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



É follow us on social for weekly recipes and tips!

ANN ARBOR-MAIN ST. ANN ARBOR-PLYMOUTH RD. CANTON CLINTON **FARMINGTON HILLS** DEXTER LIVONIA **PINCKNEY** PLYMOUTH/NORTHVILLE NOVI ROCHESTER HILLS SALINE SOUTH LYON **TECUMSEH WEST BLOOMFIELD**