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JUNE 22 THRU AUG. 2, 2020

CANTON

# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Redford Union names interim superintendent

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Redford Union Schools will have a temporary leader this summer as it looks to find its next permanent superintendent.

Jasen Witt will become the district's interim superintendent July 1. Witt, who currently serves as assistant superin-

tendent of human resources and labor relations, will take on the district's top leadership role after current Superintendent Sarena Shivers leaves at the end of the month. Shivers recently accepted a position as deputy executive director of the Michigan Association of



Witt

Superintendents and Administrators.

Witt said it is a challenging time for education and for the northern Redford Township school district.

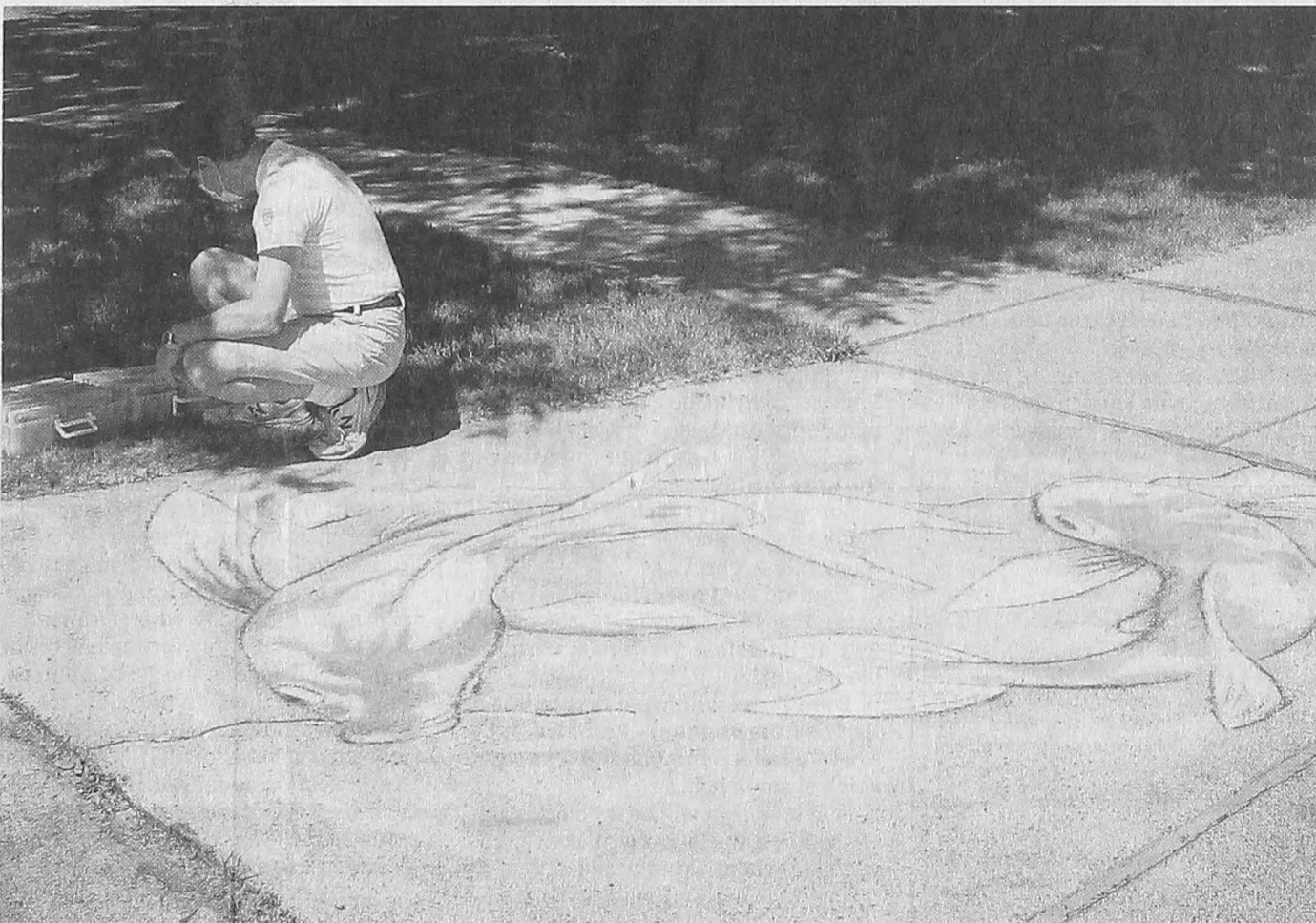
"I understand this is a big role and a big responsibility at this time with the school district," he said. "I'm up to the task."

The district's board of education voted unanimously Monday night to ap-

point Witt to the position.

Shivers came to the district back in 2015, replacing former superintendent Ron Stoneman. During her time as superintendent, she began the Redford Union Early College program, as well as expanding alternative learning programs.

See INTERIM, Page 4A



Sidewalk artist Tim Cory said he completed this koi fish scene in about two hours. Cory's work has been brightening the streets of his Canton Township subdivision during the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Eye-popping sidewalk art dazzles Canton neighbors

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With a sidewalk as his palette, artist Tim Cory is bringing much-needed joy to his Canton Township neighbors during the coronavirus pandemic.

A creative director for the Channel-Net advertising agency in Dearborn, Cory creates new drawings on his Heritage Road driveway and sidewalk every two to three days, rain or shine, much to the delight of the residents of his southeast Canton subdivision.

"The beauty of this palette is that when rain washes away one drawing, I can start on another," Cory said. "People will tell me, 'Awww, it just rained,' wiping out a drawing. But I'll say, 'That's OK, I'll start another one.'"

Cory's inspiration for his sidewalk art ranges from current events to subjects that evolve from his favorite artistic eras.



Cory adds to definition to his koi fish sketch on a sidewalk in Canton Township.

See ART, Page 4A

## Woman plans 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."

"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."

Beth Navas

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 at 7 a.m. Saturday with the goal of arriving at the capitol building about 10 a.m. 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 the journey will be difficult. She plans to walk 35 miles both Saturday and Sunday.

See WALK, Page 4A



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

Colin Gay [Hometownlife.com](http://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 building up. After seeing that the parking lot was still being cleaned, Kin-



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. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

nard left, but he returned 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."

Gavin Nastwold, Jaxson McElligett 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., to be one of the first two cars in the two-lane drive-through.

With school closing early due to the coronavirus pandemic, Young said this was a nice change of pace from what had become reality for the group of 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 adventure 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 analogy fit the 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 first experience with Chick-fil-A. It was what it was coming 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. The company is 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 Interstate 96, forcing it to be blocked off.

Even those who were first in line - the trio from Brighton - know it may be a while before they can get another chicken sandwich.

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



Robert Meisner  
Guest columnist

## How should board of directors handle use of collection agency?

**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, even higher than what our attorney firm charged. There is also an agreement that we have to sign as a board, allowing the collection 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 an understanding of the major differences between the two approaches. Most attorneys in community association collections would obviously disfavor the use of a collection agency in lieu of legal counsel for a number of reasons.

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 estate 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.

Most importantly, as you have recognized, 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 much less than what the collection agency charges.

*Robert M. Meisner is the principal attorney of The Meisner Law Group, based in Bingham Farms.*

### hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by  
Observer & Eccentric Media

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#### Subscription Rates:


Newsstand price: \$150  
\$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

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**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE  
PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020  
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN**

**TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH:**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that any qualified elector of the City of Plymouth who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the City Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote) and mailed to the City of Plymouth City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at [www.expressSOS.com](http://www.expressSOS.com).

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, July 20, 2020.**

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the City of Plymouth Clerk's office, located at 201 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170 at the following times:

- Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, August 1, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, August 4, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a Primary Election will be conducted in all voting precincts and qualified electors in the City of Plymouth will be voting for the following:

- Candidates for the offices of:  
United States Senator  
United States Representative in Congress - 11th District  
Representative in State Legislature - 20th District  
Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney  
Wayne County Sheriff  
Wayne County Clerk  
Wayne County Treasurer  
Wayne County Register of Deeds  
Wayne County Commissioner, 10th District  
Delegates to County Convention  
Judge of Circuit Court - Non-Incumbent: 3rd Circuit (2 seats)
- The following 2 ballot proposals:

**WAYNE COUNTY PROPOSAL - Proposition O - OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL**  
To renew the millage authorized in 2009, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2019 rollback rate of 0.9529 (about 95 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2020 through 2029), and proceeds used to continue existing County services, including programs for arrest, detention and prosecution of criminals, juvenile court and related services, public health, recreation, County parks, job training, senior citizen services, and programs for meeting medical needs of the poor, the disabled, and the aged? This renewal is projected to generate \$42,129,703 in 2020.

YES   
NO

**WAYNE COUNTY PROPOSAL - Proposition P - PARKS MILLAGE RENEWAL**  
To renew the millage authorized in 2016, shall Wayne County levy this millage at the estimated 2020 rollback rate of 0.2459 mills (about 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for five more years (2021 through 2025) to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park, and improvements to municipal parks in the 43 communities as provided in an implementing ordinance through an annual allocation by commission district of the greater of \$50,000 or 15% of the total funds generated from that district, on the condition that, for any year for which this continued levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from other sources an amount equal to its 1995-1996 fiscal year appropriation for parks? This renewal is projected to generate \$10,871,753 in 2021.

YES   
NO

The official list of candidates, full text of these proposals and sample ballots may be viewed at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote). Sample ballots may also be obtained at the City of Plymouth Clerk's office, 201 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170.  
Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and needing accommodations should contact the Clerk's office at: 734-453-1234 x234 or x203.

Maureen A. Brodie, City Clerk  
City of Plymouth

Publish: June 25, 2020 LC-0000356832 3x10

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Consideration of a Brownfield Plan for the property at 41661 Plymouth Road, Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan #2360-0520

**APPLICATION NO.:** #2360-0520  
**DATE OF HEARING:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 (Board of Trustees Meeting)  
**TIME OF HEARING:** 7:00 P.M. (Eastern Daylight time)  
**PLACE OF HEARING:** Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth Township, MI 48170

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth will hold a Public Hearing on July 14, 2020 at 7:00 P.M., to receive public comment on the consideration of a Brownfield Plan for the property located at 41661 Plymouth Road, Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan (formerly known as the Courthouse Grille site), as proposed by Jonna Properties, LLC.

The subject site is zoned the C-2, General Commercial District and is currently under review by the Township for approval of a Planned Unit Development (PUD). The PUD would permit two, five-story residential buildings (with a first-floor parking garage), for a total of 88 residential units. Final approval for the PUD has not been granted by the Township; the applicant (Jonna Properties, LLC.) requested a PUD extension in February of 2020 to pursue the subject Brownfield Plan. The following legal parcel is included in the "eligible property":

Parcel ID: R-78-029-99-0002-000

The property consists of one parcel of land occupying approximately 3.06 acres and is bound by the following roads: Haggerty Road, Plymouth Road, and Edward Hines Drive. The total cost proposed to be reimbursed to the Developer is \$1,840,178. Proposed brownfield activities include:

- Phase I, II and baseline environmental assessments;
- Excavation, treatment, transportation and/or disposal of contaminated soil;
- Specialized foundations; and
- Preparation of the Brownfield Plan and 381 Work Plan.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that persons interested may attend the public hearing and/or send correspondence regarding the application to Plymouth Township Hall, attn.: Clerk Jerry Vorva. Pertinent information relative to the application and a copy of the Plan, which includes a site map and legal description of the parcel, is on file at the Plymouth Township Public Services Department (second floor counter) and may be viewed during regular business hours from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. All aspects of the Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing.

The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon one week's advance notice by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth Township, MI 48170; (734) 354-3201.

Publish: June 25 & July 2, 2020 LC-0000356827 3x7

# Westland police investigating homicide

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Monday night argument in Westland led to a fatal shooting and the death of a 29-year-old Westland man, police said.

Westland police responded to a 911 call regarding an argument and shoot-

ing at a home in the 28000 block of Van Born Road, near Inkster Road, at about 8:25 p.m., they said in a report.

They arrived to find a man with significant gunshot injuries, officers said. The man died at the scene.

Officers arrested another Westland man, 48, at the Van Born Road home without incident.

"This was not a random act," police said. "Both the suspect and victim resided at the home where the incident occurred."

No other information was available. An investigation with Michigan State Police assistance continues.

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

# M-14 crash causes fire, kills one

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A semitrailer struck three vehicles stuck in backed-up M-14 traffic in the Plymouth region Friday morning, causing one vehicle to burst into flames and killing at least one person, according to state police troopers.

The crash happened at approximately 9:30 a.m. in the stopped and slowed eastbound lanes between Sheldon and Haggerty roads, troopers said in a Tweet.

# Car in high-speed chase on I-96 also involved in Redford incident

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A 28-year-old West Bloomfield man is expected to face several felony charges following a police chase on eastbound Interstate 96 on June 16.

A Livingston County Sheriff's Office deputy stopped a 2011 Chevrolet Malibu about 10 a.m. on M-59 near Burkhart Road in Howell Township, according to a news release.

The car was listed as wanted from a previous fleeing and eluding incident in Redford Township on June 9, according to the release.

Officials said the driver refused to get out of the car or provide identification.

The man told police he was trying to make it to his mother's house in Pinckney, but then drove away.

A short chase ensued as the man entered eastbound I-96 and reached a speed of 110 miles per hour. Deputies terminated the chase as the man exited at D-19 and continued south toward Pinckney.

Deputies, along with officers from Hamburg Township Police, Pinckney Police and Michigan State Police, responded to the area the man said he was heading to and located the car, which had been abandoned.

The man was located at his mother's residence in Putnam Township at approximately 11:45 a.m., hiding in a garage.



A Livingston County Sheriff's deputy talks to residents on Thornapple Drive in Putnam Township, where a 28-year-old West Bloomfield man was arrested after police say he fled a traffic stop June 16. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

He was taken into custody without incident and lodged at the Livingston County Jail, officials said.

Police are asking prosecutors to authorize charges of fleeing and eluding,

resisting police and driving with a suspended license, according to the release.

# 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. They found him with a turtle inside a bucket in his vehicle.

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

## LEGAL NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH 2020 SUMMER TAXES

Summer taxes are due July 1, 2020 and payable through September 14, 2020 without penalty. Make all checks payable to: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH. Payments may be made in person at Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office, or on-line. Payments can also be placed in the 24-hour white drop box located along the circular drive.

### AVAILABILITY OF SUMMER TAX DEFERMENT

MCL 211.51 provides for the deferral of property tax payments on the principal residence of **qualified individuals**, without penalty or interest, until February 15, 2021.

**Qualified individuals** are identified as people having:

A gross household income for the preceding calendar year that did not exceed \$40,000 and who also meet at least one of the following criteria:

62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death; or

A paraplegic or quadriplegic; or

An eligible serviceperson, eligible veteran, or their eligible widow or widower; or,

A blind person; or

A totally and permanently disabled person

Persons applying for a deferral must certify that they qualify for the deferral on a form that is available through the Treasurer's Office or on the website at [www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org). That form must be completed each year to have the taxes deferred without penalty in any given year and it must be filed with the treasurer's office NO LATER THAN September 14, 2020 to receive the deferral.

**Mark Clinton, Treasurer**  
Charter Township of Plymouth  
9955 N Haggerty Road  
Plymouth MI 48170

Publish: June 25, 2020

LO-0000356585 3x5



## NOTICE OF ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020 CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020. THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

### AT THE FOLLOWING POLLING LOCATION:

ALL PRECINCTS [ 1, 2, 3 & 4 ] PLYMOUTH CULTURAL CENTER, 525 FARMER ST.

All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities. Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and needing accommodations can contact the City Clerk's office in advance of the election. To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats should contact the City Clerk's office in advance of the election.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a Primary Election will be conducted in all voting precincts and qualified electors in the City of Plymouth will be voting for the following:

- > Candidates for the offices of:
  - United States Senator
  - United States Representative in Congress - 11th District
  - Representative in State Legislature - 20th District
  - Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney
  - Wayne County Sheriff
  - Wayne County Clerk
  - Wayne County Treasurer
  - Wayne County Register of Deeds
  - Wayne County Commissioner, 10th District
  - Delegates to County Convention
  - Judge of Circuit Court - Non-Incumbent: 3rd Circuit (2 seats)

> The following 2 ballot proposals:

**WAYNE COUNTY PROPOSAL - Proposition O - OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL**  
To renew the millage authorized in 2009, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2019 rollback rate of 0.9529 (about 95 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2020 through 2029), and proceeds used to continue existing County services, including programs for arrest, detention and prosecution of criminals, juvenile court and related services, public health, recreation, County parks, job training, senior citizen services, and programs for meeting medical needs of the poor, the disabled, and the aged? This renewal is projected to generate \$42,129,703 in 2020.

YES   
NO

### WAYNE COUNTY PROPOSAL - Proposition P - PARKS MILLAGE RENEWAL

To renew the millage authorized in 2016, shall Wayne County levy this millage at the estimated 2020 rollback rate of 0.2459 mills (about 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for five more years (2021 through 2025) to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park, and improvements to municipal parks in the 43 communities as provided in an implementing ordinance through an annual allocation by commission district of the greater of \$50,000 or 15% of the total funds generated from that district, on the condition that, for any year for which this continued levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from other sources an amount equal to its 1995-1996 fiscal year appropriation for parks? This renewal is projected to generate \$10,871,753 in 2021.

YES   
NO

The official list of candidates, full text of these proposals and sample ballots may be viewed at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote). Sample ballots may also be obtained at the City of Plymouth Clerk's office, 201 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170.

All qualified electors who are registered with the City of Plymouth are eligible to vote at this election. Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the local clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot. **The Clerk's office will also be open the Saturday prior to the election, August 1, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to issue and receive absentee ballots.**

Questions should be directed to the City Clerk's office at 734-453-1234, ext. 203 or 234.

Maureen A. Brodie, City Clerk  
City of Plymouth

Publish: June 25, 2020

LO-0000356633 3x10.5



## CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TESTING OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020, 4:30 P.M.

Plymouth Cultural Center  
525 Farmer Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170

To the qualified electors of the City of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Public Accuracy Test for the optical scan voting equipment that will be used in all precincts in the City of Plymouth for the PRIMARY ELECTION to be held on TUESDAY, August 4, 2020, is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 4:30 P.M. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer programming used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of Michigan election law. Election Source from Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been contracted by the City of Plymouth to conduct the testing to assure the equipment has been programmed appropriately. This is an open testing session and any interested person is encouraged to attend.

If there are any questions, please direct them to the City Clerk's office at 734-453-1234, ext. 234 or 203. The Plymouth Cultural Center is in compliance with the American Disabilities Act and is handicapped accessible.

Maureen A. Brodie, City Clerk  
City of Plymouth

Publish: June 25, 2020

LO-0000356641 3x5

# Art

Continued from Page 1A

This spring alone, he has drawn giant, 20-foot tributes to health-care workers, while mixing in fun-loving images of T-Rexes and Disney characters.

A detailed drawing of koi fish that currently decorates his driveway took roughly two hours to complete, he said, while larger drawings – the T-Rex, for example – can take as long as four hours.

“The T-Rex drawing was a favorite of the neighbors because when you stand in front of it and take a photo, it appears as if you’re being chased by the T-Rex,” he said. “Kids loved that one, as did adults.”

Cory is a huge fan of the Art Deco era, which is reflected in a detailed portrait of a woman on the sidewalk that runs parallel to his Heritage Drive home.

“With a drawing like that one, I have to stretch it to give it perspective,” Cory said. “Most people will be looking at it from a 25-degree angle, so everything farther away from them has to be stretched so that it appears three-dimensional.”

Once he secures an idea for a drawing, he searches for a photo of the subject matter to use as a guide while he creates a temporary masterpiece.

“My favorite time of the year is probably around Halloween,” he said. “One of my neighbors loved the movie ‘It,’ so I drew a large, 20-foot image of Pennywise on his driveway right before Halloween. It added a nice touch to the atmosphere because we get a lot of trick-or-treaters in this subdivision.

“One of my neighbors has 7-year-old twins, so I drew a series of superhero drawings the day before their birthday, so when they came outside the next day they saw it.”

Cory revealed that he doesn’t use chalk for his sidewalk art, but bonding agents that can be purchased from anywhere, art stores to Wal-Mart.

“The quality varies, obviously, along with the price,” he said. “For instance, the sticks I used for the woman’s face were \$4 to \$5 per stick. I also buy sticks in bulk that cost about 20 cents apiece.”

Cory said he has been uplifted by the number of people – especially kids – who are picking up the hobby during the COVID-19 crisis.



Sidewalk artist Tim Cory’s recent work has included a tribute to healthcare employees. COURTESY OF TIM CORY

“I’m reading that there is an increase in this medium going on across the country,” he said. “It’s a way for people of all ages to express their feelings.

“These drawings are very uplifting for people, especially during the COVID crisis. Everybody is looking for something that can boost their spirits.”

Cory said he’ll continue to draw late into the fall and early winter, as long as the temperature is at 50 degrees or higher.

“I actually got to do some Christmas drawings this past year because the weather cooperated in Decem-

ber,” he said.

Cory said he started his sidewalk art several years ago and will continue to brighten up his property’s sidewalk slabs long after the coronavirus pandemic is history.

“Art is not what I do,” he said. “It’s who I am. I love all art, whether it’s chalk art, my advertising, or music. With this kind of art, I can express happiness to my neighbors, and that makes me happy.”

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.

# Interim

Continued from Page 1A

She was also a finalist for the superintendent position for Farmington Public Schools last year.

Witt said he plans to keep doing his job as assistant superintendent of human resources and labor relations, though he said he has some people lined up to assist him.

The board will begin the process of searching for a new superintendent soon, complete with hiring a firm to help aid in the search.

“We really will want to hire a superintendent search firm to help us,” said Board President Lisa Gubachy. “It’s a lot of work.”


A decision on a firm, as well as a timetable, will come at future school board meetings.

Board Vice President Evelyn Pridemore said she spoke to several building administrators across the district about Witt, and he was recommended.

She said while the last search for a permanent superintendent may have yielded results in just a few months, the reality of hiring someone during the coronavirus pandemic could prove to be trickier and take a little longer.

“We’re not at the ideal time to look for a superintendent,” she said. “Our world doesn’t look the same. And we need to keep that in mind.


“We really could be looking at an interim superintendent for the entire school year.”  
[dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com); 734-678-6728



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# Walk

Continued from Page 1A

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

Navas expects the march to be peaceful. 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 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 hap-



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. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

pen.” Navas said she also finds it significant to walk through Howell. The city has 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 [stankersley@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersley@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.

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# Sellers added to Farmington Farmers Market



**Walt Gajewski**  
Guest columnist

We have 10 farmers coming to market this Saturday. Over the coming weeks they'll be joined by the Gass Centennial Farm, the McCoy Farm, Imperial Farms and Odie's Flowers & Vegetables, which will all wagon their way into our community with abundance. For me, that means it's farm inspection season.

Farm inspections are necessary to preserve the integrity of the market. They mean back roads, dusty wheels and slow rolls past rural mailboxes, squinting in search of an address. They also mean getting to know our farmers a little better. Though I wear the badge of inspector when I arrive, I leave humbled, reflecting on the life of a farmer.

It was a beautiful morning with the sun shining against a tall blue sky when I stepped out of my ruby red pickup truck, boots down on the land of Lake Divide Farm. Volunteers Peggy Castine and Alexander Steward spilled out alongside, clipboards in hand. We were quickly met by Jim Neumann and Helen Chandler, who have been developing and farming their 54-acre parcel in Stockbridge for the past five years.

The two came to Michigan by way of New Jersey, where they owned and operated the Whistling Wolf Farm. They were looking for the perfect soil that would fulfill a dream. Jim and Helen are certified organic farmers. And it shows.

"We looked a long time to find soil right for vegetables," said Jim as he reached down for a handful of loose, rich earth that ran easily through his fingers.

The short story of inspecting a farm is fairly simple. When a farmer submits an application to come to market, a list of everything the farm plans to grow and sell is included. I use that same list when I visit, asking to see where everything is planted. It sounds straightforward, but it isn't. There's a lot more to



**Helen Chandler and Jim Neumann slow down long enough for a portrait in front of a piece of abandoned farm machinery.**  
COURTESY OF ALEXANDER STEWARD

farming than planting seeds and bringing what grows to market.

"I'm using more of my engineering background now than I did when I was a working engineer," Jim said.

As we walk and talk, we learn a lot. Jim had some surgery early in the year, so Helen took on more of the load. Then she fell ill for five weeks. Coronavirus? Maybe. It definitely was the virus that set back efforts to hire farmhands. The weather didn't cooperate. Projects piled up. Things needed fixing. New plants demanded attention. Learning to operate and maintain a farm is chock full of life lessons.

The sun continued to rise as we walked. I tipped my baseball cap to capture a bead of sweat and took note of Helen's and Jim's creased hands and the dirt under their fingernails. It felt good to walk the farm with them. And good is what is coming up at Lake Divide. The earth here has been kind to their efforts and fueled their passion for sustainable farming while preserving the natural ecosystem that predated their arrival. From radishes to radicchio, from peas to parsnips, the grow list at Lake Divide is impressively long.

The season may have gotten off to a slow start, but now "everything is in the

ground and growing," assured Helen. In the meantime, "we bring what we can" to market, she said.

Jim chimed in: "It's kind of fun being scrappy."

The Farmington Farmers Market is free, open to the public and takes place every Saturday, May through October, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the corner of Grand River and Grove Street in downtown Farmington. For more information, please visit [farmingtonfarmersmarket.com](http://farmingtonfarmersmarket.com) and take a minute to "vote for the best farmers market!"

Walt Gajewski is the Farmington Farmers Market manager.

## What to do with a reverse mortgage if home value drops



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

**Dear Rick:**

About 15 years ago, my mother did a reverse mortgage on her home. The money went to me for seed money to start my business. Fortunately, the business has done well, and I wanted to pay off the reverse mortgage so my mom would own her home free and clear.

When my mom did the reverse mortgage, her home was worth approximately \$250,000 and she was able to do the reverse mortgage for \$100,000. When I went to pay off the reverse mortgage, I was surprised at how large the outstanding balance was. Because her home has gone down in value, the current value of the reverse mortgage is worth more than the fair market value of the home.

Should I just give the money to my mom outright? I am also curious as to my mom's responsibility for the mortgage, and since I'm her only child, if she passes away with the reverse mortgage outstanding, am I responsible for it?

Thank you, Joe

**Dear Joe:**

In answering your second question first, the answer is no. Neither you, being the heir to the property, nor your mom will be responsible for the difference between what the house eventually sells for and what the balance is for the outstanding mortgage. If there is a shortfall, that is the responsibility of the lender.

Because the property is worth less than the outstanding mortgage, it would seem to me that it would not be a very good strategy for you to pay off the reverse mortgage. I would think a much better strategy is to give that money to your mother and let her use it during her lifetime to improve the quality of her life. This way, she has full access to the money.

Unlike a traditional mortgage where you make monthly payments on principal and interest, in a reverse mortgage there are no payments. As long as you live in your home, you never have to pay off the mortgage.

Typically, the reverse mortgage is

due either when the homeowners move out of their home or upon death. In the case at hand, if the house is worth less than the balance of the outstanding mortgage at the time of your mother's passing, the lender will take the home. There will be no obligation from the deceased or their family to cover the shortfall. On the other hand, if upon death the home is worth more than the outstanding mortgage balance, the home can be sold, the mortgage paid off, and any excess amounts go to the family.

I have no problem using reverse mortgages in the right situation. My general view is that reverse mortgages should only be used to increase the quality of life of the homeowner. I'm generally not a fan of doing reverse mortgages to use the proceeds to loan money to others.

I probably would not have recommended the reverse mortgage. When you do a reverse mortgage, you are using the equity in your home, and you won't be able to use it in the future. Because we never know how long we're going to live, and we don't know what our cost of living will be in the future, I am very leery about using equity in the home for purposes other than for the homeowner.

For many seniors a reverse mortgage is a lifeline in the fact that it allows them to maintain the quality of their life. It can be a great way to increase cash flow to a senior. I have recommended reverse mortgages for such things as paying off first mortgages, paying off credit card debt and providing additional cash flow.

On the other hand, if you're going to use the proceeds from a reverse mortgage for non-essential items such as vacations or to give or lend to family and friends, think twice. Having equity in your home that you can tap is a great resource in times of need.

For those of you who are thinking about a reverse mortgage, my advice is to learn all you can before you proceed. When you deal with a reverse mortgage company, make sure you understand the fees involved. In addition, it also makes sense to get competitive bids.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at [ricker@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:ricker@bloomassetmanagement.com).

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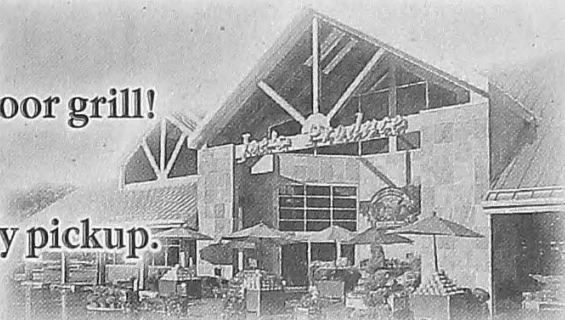
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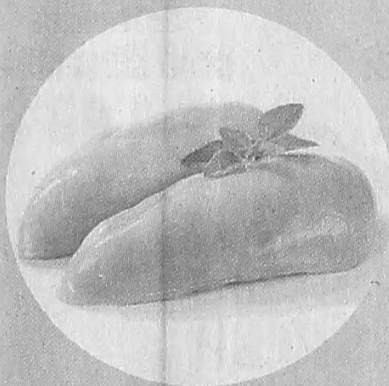
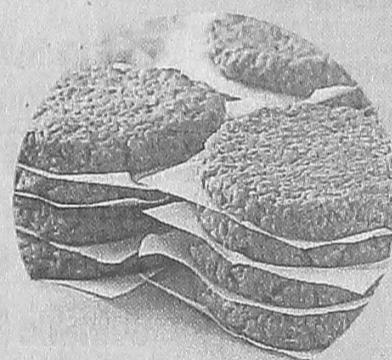
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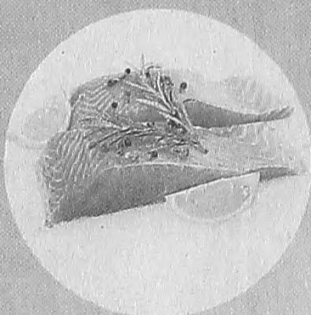


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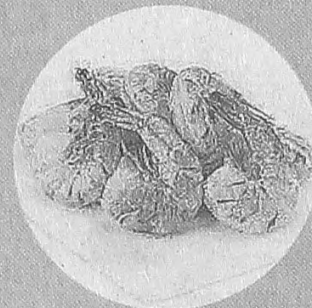
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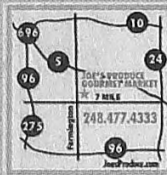


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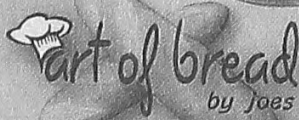
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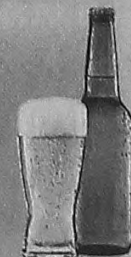
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# SPORTS



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

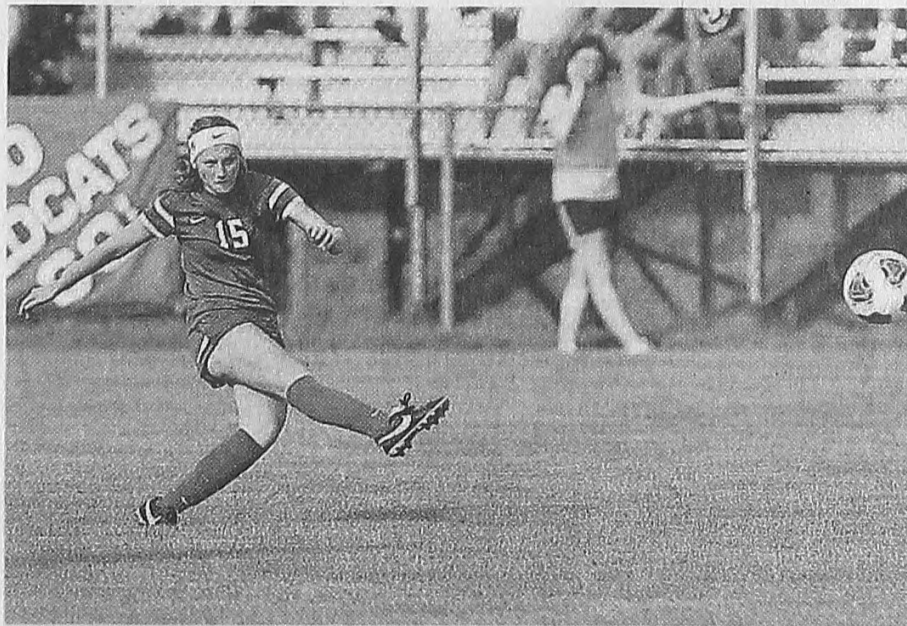
## Novi senior Fenchel named Gatorade Player of the Year

**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

## 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

See SALEM, Page 2B

## Madonna updates its 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 12 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

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."

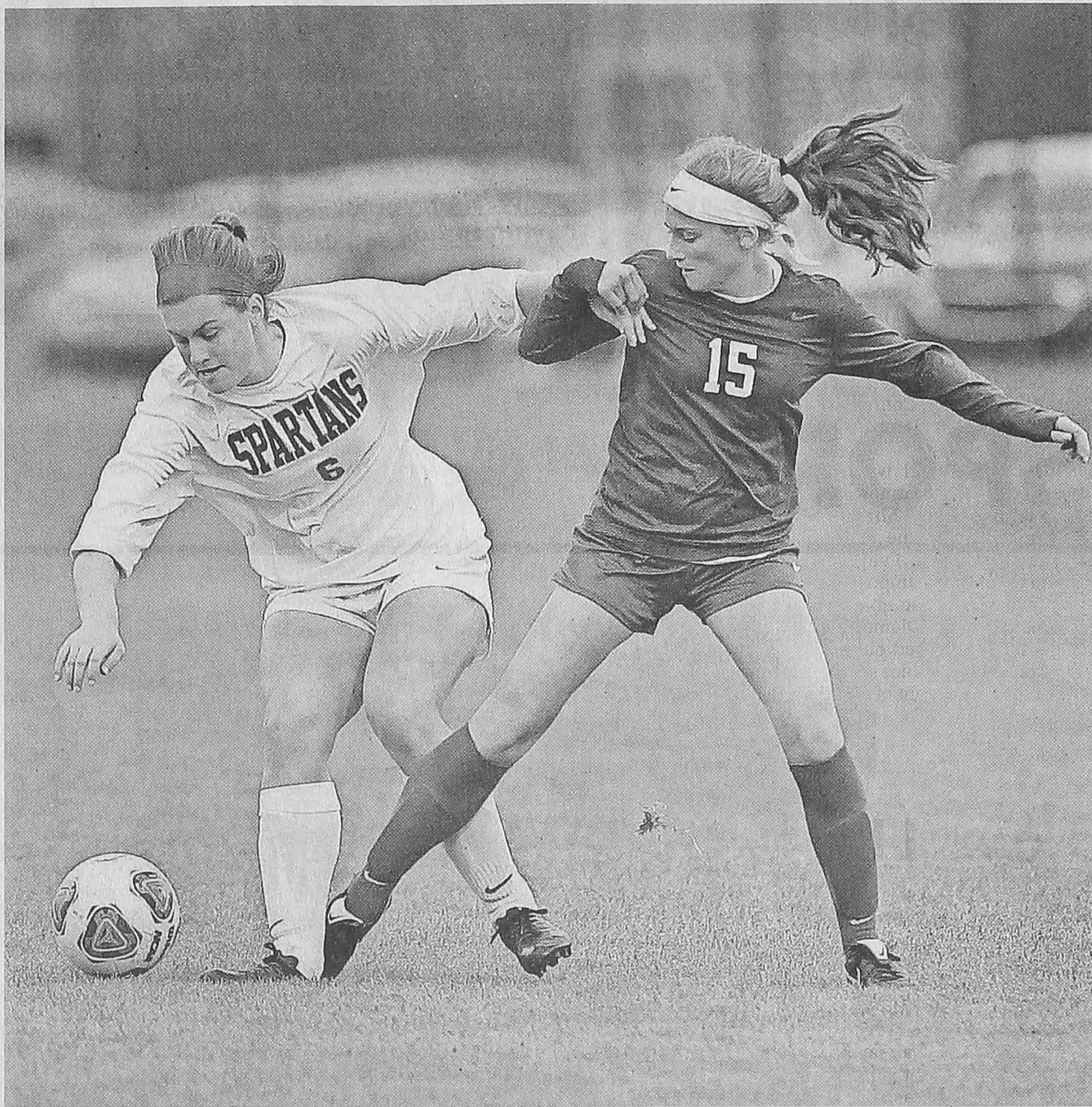
Novi went undefeated last season and won its second straight state championship. Fenchel scored the game-winning goal to beat division-rival Plymouth in last year's title game.

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.

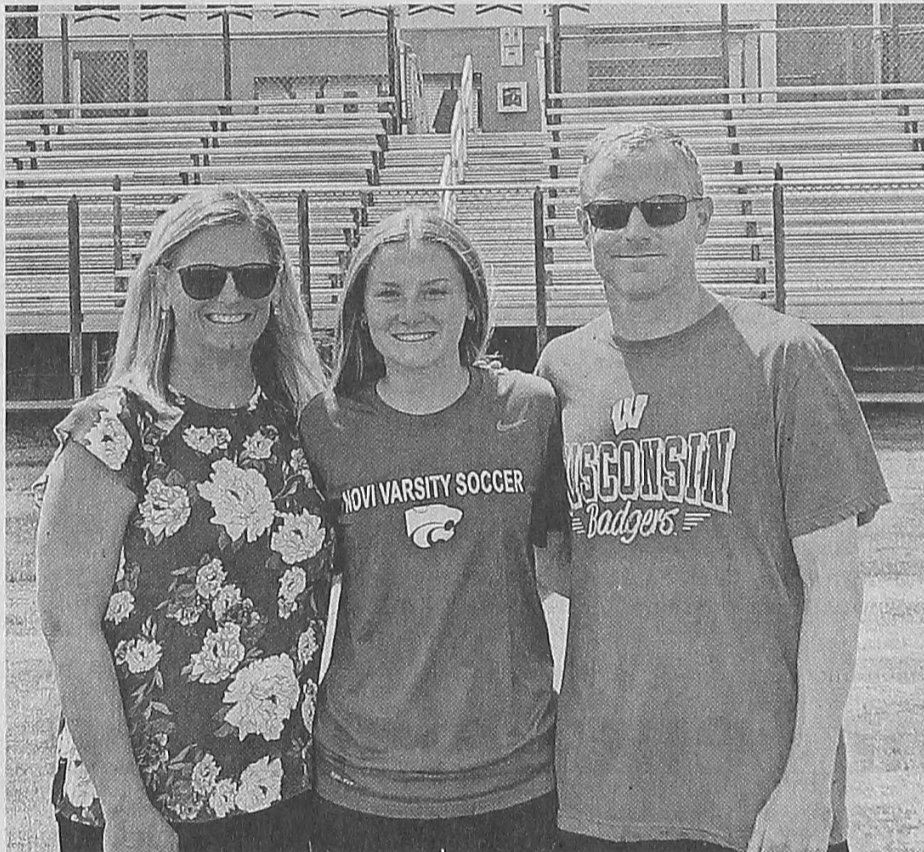
"I'm really looking forward to meeting all my teammates," Fenchel said. "I've met a few of them that live in Michigan and I really enjoy being around them. So I'm excited to make some new friends and play for another school. I'm excited for the next step, I'll have to build my way back up, I'll be a 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 Vaillien-court at [availlienc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlienc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659.

## Salem

Continued from Page 1B

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



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

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 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.

## Schedule

Continued from Page 1B

for the season to start as scheduled on Sept. 12.

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

### 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.

# Howell baseball's Mrakitsch commits to CMU

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

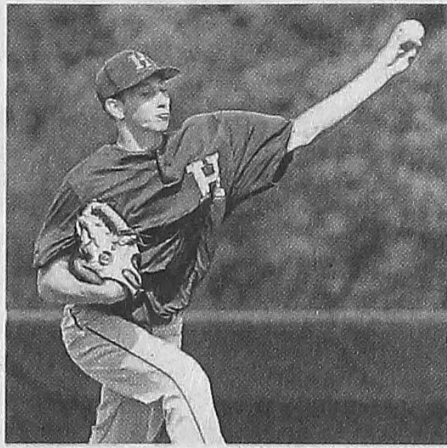
Losing out on his junior season of high school baseball didn't keep college recruiters from pursuing Howell's Adam Mrakitsch.

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.

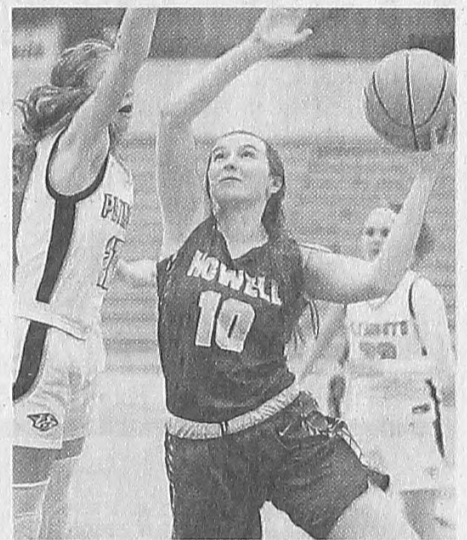
"I wasn't too worried about it," she said. "I knew I would make the right decision. I know Albion has a really good medical program and business program. Those are the two majors I'm de-

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

# 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 common 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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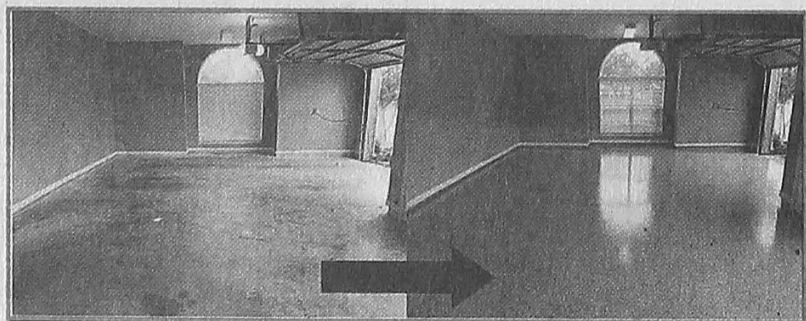
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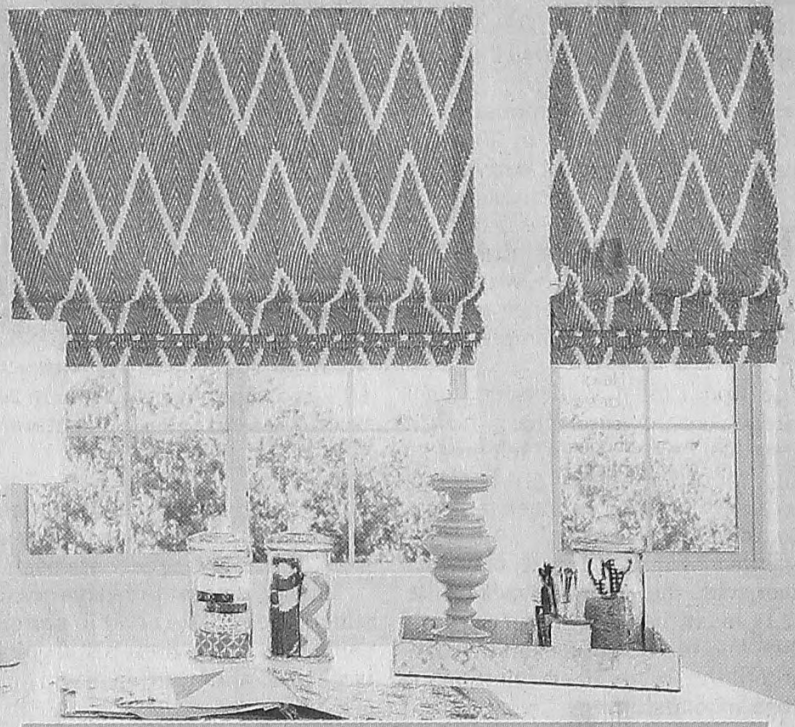
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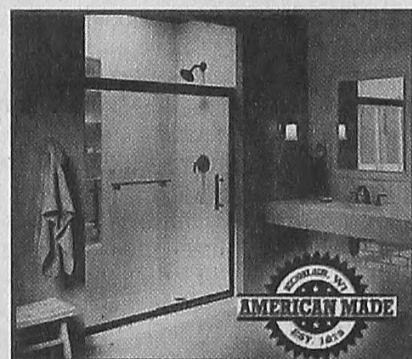
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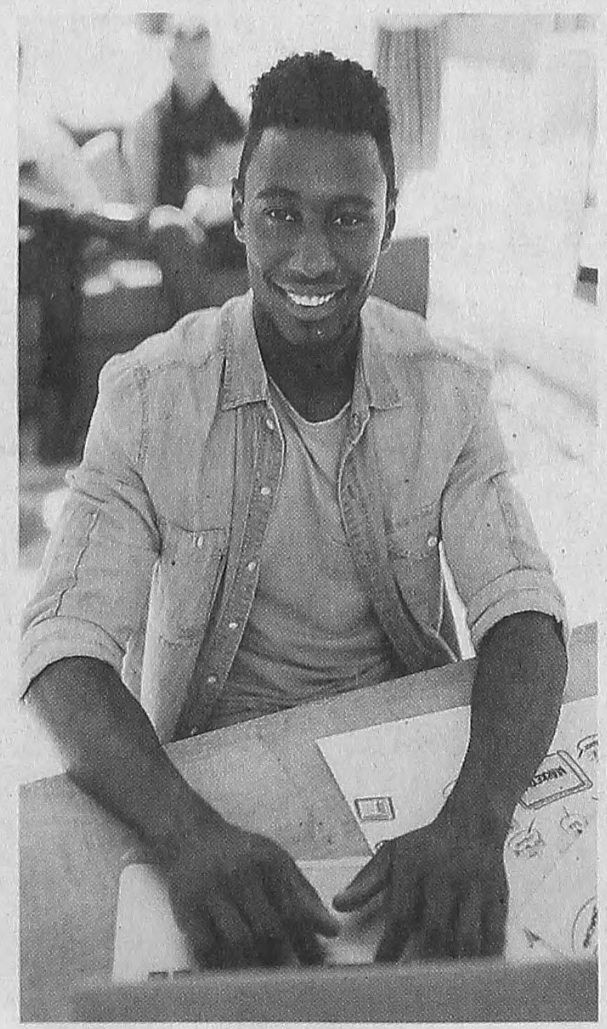
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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## 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
- 90 Put turf on
- 91 Give a new hue to
- 92 2004-11 Laker Lamar
- 95 Place to "dry out"
- 98 Be a sign of
- 99 Small, as Abner
- 100 End of the riddle
- 105 Guy
- 106 Give a new hue to
- 107 Rock producer
- 108 Hit the sack

### 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
- 12 Pint-size hip-hopper
- 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
- 30 Actress Virginia 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
- 67 Petty of "Tank Girl"
- 68 Cookie bar from Mars
- 69 Lariat
- 71 Pillage
- 72 "Uncle"
- 75 Collegiately stylish
- 76 Tilt weapon
- 78 44th president
- 79 Pocattello'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
- 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.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
19				20					21			22										
23								24				25										
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110							111							112			113	114		115	116	
117														118			119					
120														121				122				123

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or [smcclellan@michigan.com](mailto:smcclellan@michigan.com). Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at [QuillDriverBooks.com](http://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 ★★★ 6/25

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!

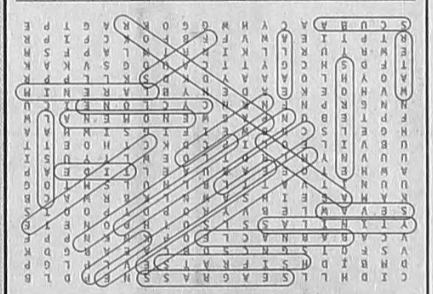
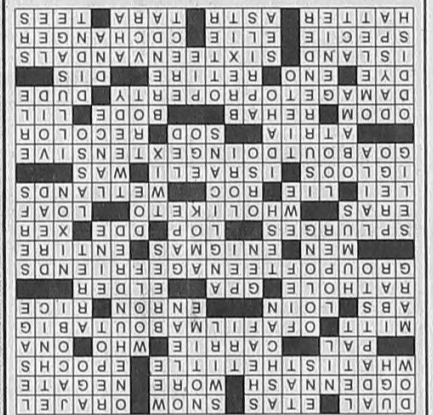
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C I D B H L L S E A G R A S S N E P D L B  
V M B I D H S I F R A T S E V L P L G D K  
S F O T S G N C S D B C A E A R G G D K  
V C A B A R N A C L E O P K N K N P P F  
Y T I N I L A S S L S O T H P O N E T E  
S E V A W L E B V Y R O P O T P O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



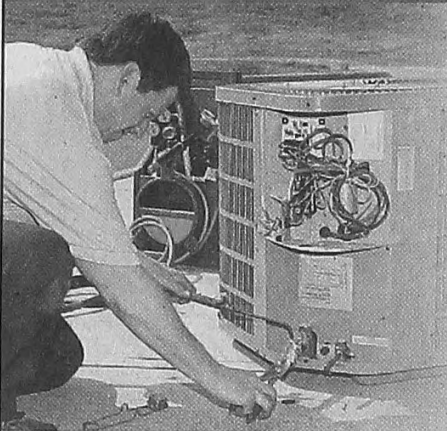
2	3	5	9	4	1	7	8	6
8	7	9	3	6	1	2	4	
1	9	4	2	7	8	9	3	
5	9	7	3	2	4	8	6	1
4	1	7	8	6	9	3	9	
3	2	6	1	9	5	4	7	
4	8	2	1	7	3	6	9	9
7	5	3	6	9	8	7	2	
6	1	9	4	1	9	8		

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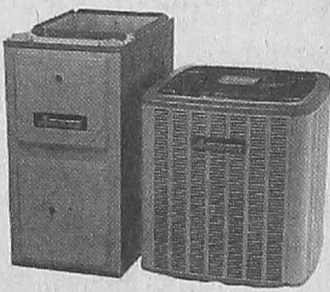
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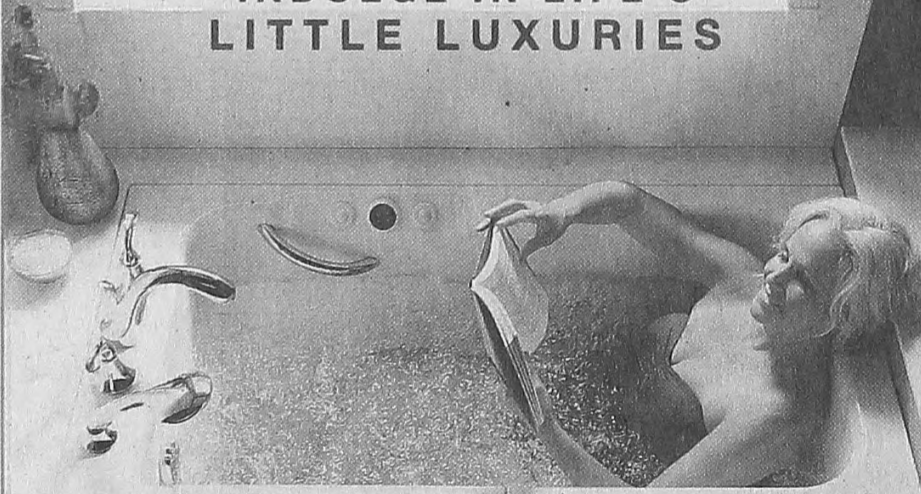
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