

Decimated by pandemic, convent still inspires others

INSIDE, 2A

CANTON BSERWER

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7th graders' response to COVID-19 adversity:

BRING IT ON!



Seventh graders from Plymouth's Pioneer Middle School worked on pandemic-themed video projects this past spring. From left are Jada Jones, Radha Modi, Max Beehler, Rohit Mahesh, Evan Poon, Jackson Love and Kirsten Alston. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

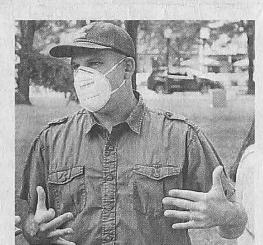
As if the identity-searching, acnelaced, drama-infested middle-school years weren't already challenging enough, along came this relentless bully named COVID-19.

One minute, that civics final exam was the toughest test you've ever put a No. 2 pencil to; the next minute, you're trying to tackle a real-life advancedplacement pandemic quiz whose multiple-choice answers change daily.

It wouldn't have been nearly as bad for tweens and teens trying to conquer seventh grade in 2020 if they had their friends' support to fuel the battle, but those were taken away as well by selfisolating mandates.

As daunting as the past four months have been for America's most-susceptible generation, Plymouth-Canton's Pioneer Middle School educator Jason Kaye has found, along with peers around the globe, his students' resilience is often times stronger than gold.

Kaye's students' perseverance shone through the gloom during a postschool-closure project he called the "COVID-19 Diaries" that asked the middle-schoolers to create short films, digital slams or action plans that depicted their experience during the pandemic.



Pioneer Middle School teacher Jason Kaye talks about his students' spring video projects.

"We're learning how the pandemic feels and looks to people from all kinds of backgrounds, including young people who are coming of age at an extraordinary time."

Betsy Sneller MSU sociolinguistics professor

The final results would make for a digital time capsule, of sorts, that people will be able to look back on and learn from 20 years from now to gauge the unusual vibes that 2020 has offered.

"Heading into my 25th year of teaching, I've been blessed with some amazing students who have produced exceptional creative content, but it's safe to say that the 'COVID-19 DIARIES' has been one of the most unique, challenging and rewarding campaigns I've ever been a part of," Kaye said.

"I think the challenge during these times is that it's difficult to get into a creative flow under a lot of different circumstances. It's tough enough to create and edit a project under normal circumstances. The resilience these kids have shown has been amazing."

To say that the Pioneer seventhgraders' videos were thought-provoking would be an understatement.

For instance, Jackson Love created a video that follows him walking eerily down a deserted dirt road before cutting into a path lined by dense trees. He is then shown unscrewing the lid off a safe house, where life-sustaining products are stored.

'To be honest, the fact that we have short films like Jackson's with such high

See RESILIENCE, Page 4A

Livonia still confronting reputation for racism

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia was once considered a sundown town, meaning it practiced policies that encouraged discrimination through laws and, at times, violence. Researchers have identified several Michigan cities, including Livonia, that once had sundown poli-

Residents say not enough has happened to shed that past.

Livonians, Black and white, still worry about their Black children on the roads. They say they've experienced various forms of bigotry in their hometown. As more communities grapple with racism, residents say their elected officials are not doing enough or as much as other communities.

"The whole nation is in a race revolution," one speaker, Rian Johnson, said at city council's Aug. 5 meeting. "This is a conversation that you cannot be silent on. It's not something you can take a back seat on. You have to respond to what's going on."

Johnson and other residents or activists, some of whom stood outside Livonia City Hall while council conducted its meeting remotely, called for officials to declare racism a health crisis, as nearby communities like Westland have, and create a citizen review board for the police department.

Not enough

"Racism has been a health pandemic. It is a crisis and you need to address it," Johnson said. "You cannot be silent anymore."

Some council members have noted in meetings the mayor is Livonia's executive body, not council. Council does have final say on things like local ordinances and the city's budget.

"I'm a preschool teacher and I have a feeling you would get a lot farther than I would with addressing issues of transparency and accountability," a speaker identified as Sara O. said at the Aug. 5 meeting. "I think that is where the frustration is coming from from people ... There's a lack of ownership of your own power and responsibility and complicity in the

See REPUTATION, Page 4A

Plans submitted for Chick-fil-A in Canton

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Get ready, Canton: Chick-fil-A could come to Ford Road.

The fast-food restaurant known for its sandwiches and for enticing metro Detroiters plans on opening a new restaurant along the busy road between Haggerty and Lilley roads.

Mike Mans, a managing partner on the project, said the restaurant would be located on an empty out lot near Buffalo

Wild Wings. He said he was approached about possibly locating an eatery there several years ago. Several factors played a role in identifying a spot for a new restaurant, he said.

"All those numbers work for Chickfil-A," Mans said. "That location has a very high traffic volume."

A special land use application was submitted last month to Canton Township, which appeared on the township's planning commission meeting agenda for Aug. 10 for a staff referral. It's expected a public hearing on the project will See CHICK-FIL-A, Page 4A

come before the township's planning commission in the future.

In a statement sent to Hometown Life, Chick-fil-A said they could not confirm if they would open a restaurant in

"We are always evaluating potential new locations in the hopes of serving existing and new customers great food with remarkable service," the company said in a statement. "While we hope to serve the Canton, Michigan community



Alex Stephens tucks into a Chick-fil-A sandwich at the Novi restaurant on June 18. Another Chick-fil-A could come to Ford Road in Canton. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

OCC to give 3,500 laptops to students

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

College students get a lot of free stuff thrown at them. But Oakland Community College is taking that cliché to a new level.

The community college announced Thursday announced it would use its federal coronavirus relief funds from the CARES Act to buy up to 3,500 laptops, worth \$1 million, for students who need

The giveaway is for students who take 12 or more credits through OCC in the fall semester and is an effort from the college to help its student body as many classes move online during the coronavirus pandemic.

In the fall semester, all OCC students will be able to access software platforms needed for course work and can access internet for free on campus. OCC has campuses in Farmington Hills, Auburn Hills, Royal Oak, Waterford and Southfield.

Interested students must apply by Wednesday, Sept. 16. Students who qualify will receive a laptop, manufactured by DellCQ, the week of Sept. 21. Students will be able to keep the laptop after the fall ends.Students can apply oaklandcc.edu/occ-cares and email careslaptop@oaklandcc.edu with questions.

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

Township woman, 58, arraigned on forgery charge

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Karen Lynne Rotondo, 58, of Plymouth Township was arraigned Tuesday on a felony forgery charge related to an absentee voter ballot applica-

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel is alleging Rotondo forged her daughter's signature on an application.

The younger woman, living out of state, apparently was unaware that an application was filed in

The township clerk contacted state officials upon noticing a discrepancy on the application.

The clerk did not send an absentee ballot to Rotondo because of evidence that the daughter did not

submit or sign the application. If convicted, Rotondo could spend up to five years in prison and face a fine, according to Nessel.

Rotondo is scheduled for two court appearances later this month

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Since the pandemic began, 30 nuns — more than half of the 57 living in their Livonia convent — have come down with COVID-19. Of those, 13 have died, including one who recovered, but then relapsed. They are pictured here. FELICIAN SISTERS OF NORTH AMERICA

Livonia nuns find support

Coronavirus devastation inspires people to help

Frank Witsil **USA TODAY NETWORK**

When Lisa Zervos heard 13 religious sisters living together in a Livonia convent died of coronavirus, she felt heartbroken.

She sent the Catholic order a donation, brought flowers to the sisters' graves at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Southfield and kneeled down to pray for the repose of their souls.

"I was so sorry they suffered, and I know there are some sisters (who) are still ill," Zervos, 52, of Northville, said. "Their whole lives were devoted not to themselves but others. It helps when you think about what they did with their lives — to be a better person yourself."

Religious sisters who dedicated their lives to the care of others are now in need of support, and Michiganders like Zervos, and many from as far away as Norway, are offering sympathy notes and donations.

The deaths, which have garnered national attention, are a reminder of how vulnerable the elderly are to the virus and the challenges of living close together in independent living facilities and nursing homes.

To help, the Catholic Foundation set up a fund, hoping to raise \$100,000, which, the creators said, could go a long way to help care for the sisters and, if invested, generate \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year for them.

Beginning in the 1930s, the sisters founded schools and hospitals in Livonia, when the Detroit suburb was just a small town and farms. For generations, they taught toddlers their colors and held the hands of the terminally ill as they took their last breaths.

The nuns took vows of chastity, obedience, and poverty — and, some say, an unofficial vow of humility.

But since the coronavirus pandemic began, 30 nuns — more than half of the nuns living together in their Livonia convent - have come down with COVID-19. Of those, 13 died, including one who recovered, but then relapsed.

"They are reluctant to say they need anything," said Angela Moloney, president and CEO of the Foundation, Catholic who was moved to tears as she talked about the sisters. "They are so selfsacrificing, they never think of themselves first. They're always saying, 'What can we provide the community?'

On top of the challenges of raising money for the charitable work they do for others, the aging sisters also face the costs of funerals, extra face masks, and gloves to keep them safe, and hot meals, medicine, and caregivers as they recover from the virus.

So far, Moloney said, people have given about \$9,000 to the fund, and many donations have been \$10 and \$20 from strangers.

'They have such strong faith'

Officially, the nuns' order is the Congregation of Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalice Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi.

But that is commonly shortened to just Felician sisters.

Initially, the sisters immigrated to North American in the late 1800s, mostly from Poland, said Marcia Wallander, the order's director of development for North America. They came at the request of a priest who was concerned children needed more educational opportunities.

In Livonia, they founded Madonna University, a Montessori school, St. Mary Child Care Center, Angela Hospice, and Marywood Nursing Care Center, as well as the allfemale Ladywood High School, which closed as a result of declining enrollment in 2018.

The sisters also sponsor the Senior Clergy Village, the Felician Children's Center in Jackson, Deo Gratias Ministries in Detroit, and the Maryville Retreat Center in Holly.

By the order's count, there are now only 469 sisters living in 60 convents in North America.

Before April, there were 57 sisters living in the Blessed Virgin Mary Convent in Livonia. their social distance. That's down to 44, with five international students from other congregations staying with them to study at Madonna University, one of the nation's largest Franciscan colleges.

"You have this group of women who are called by God to serve," Wallander said, adding that they believe God will provide what they need. "They have such strong faith that they're joyous in their sisters passing on into eternal life."

To limit any further spread of the deadly virus, Wallander said, the sisters are mostly isolated and quarantined in the convent and allowed few visitors, not even family have been permitted to go inside. She added they are grateful for whatever anyone has sent.

Wallander said she recently had permission to deliver a box of potato chips packages that a donor had given them, and the sisters were so excited to receive the treats, "you would have thought I brought them bags of gold."

'Could have been any of us'

In addition to Michigan, contributions have come from people living in Arizona, California, Maine, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas - and Washington, D.C. Two donations came from Norway.

One donor — who gave

\$25 and identified himself in the note as a "gay, Jewish man living in L.A." and "probably not your typical supporter" — said he wanted to help because his heart hurt for the pain the sisters have endured.

The sisters certainly are not alone in their suf-

There have been more than 80,000 coronavirus cases in Michigan and nearly 6,200 deaths. Moreover, about a third of these deaths have been linked to the state's nursing homes.

And, like many organizations, the sisters have had to take pandemic precautions, such as wearing protective equipment and learning to use more digital communication to maintain

"The Felician sisters have labored to bring the love and message of Jesus to innumerable souls in the Archdiocese of Detroit," Archbishop Allen Vigneron told the Catholic Foundation. "Jesus assures us, 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

Moloney, who started to cry as she remembered the sisters who died, said that to her, their story is not just a Catholic story, but a personal one because "it could have been any of us: Our sister, our mom, our aunt, ourselves. That's what hits home."

"These women have sacrificed their wants and needs for the greater community," Moloney said. "They've given up the material stuff that the rest of us take for granted. They've given up relationships."

And in the end, she added, they sacrificed their lives for others.

Zervos - who attended Madonna University and has a teenage daughter who she hopes to enroll there next year — said that something sweet happened at the cemetery while she was pray-

A beautiful, little butterfly began flitting in the sunlight about among the headstones. As Zervos watched the butterfly open and close its wings, she realized they were blue and gold, Madonna University's school col-

PUBLIC NOTICE PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING AND PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF MILLAGE RATES ON AUGUST 18, 2020 7:30 P.M.

TO BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY PURSUANT TO EO 2020-154

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its Regular Meeting and Preliminary Approval of Millage Rates on August 18, 2020. The 2021 millage rates will be the subject of that meeting. As permitted by Executive Order 2020-154, the meeting will be offered electronically. Interested persons may access the Zoom and Conference call as follows: +1 312 626 6799, https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82052758937 Meeting ID: 820 5275 8937, Passcode: 311077. Please see agenda on website www.plymouthlibrary.org. The agenda will be posted

The District Library Board will provide auxiliary aids and services of materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Carol Souchock, Director, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 at 734 453-0750 x 218.

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The transformation from an office park to hotel park has finally happened for the space along Hamilton Court in Farmington Hills.

Southfield-based Group 10 Management opened its third and final hotel on the site July 30, a Residence Inn by Marriott. The 111-room extended stay hotel opened its doors at 33163 Hamilton Court and expected to see some guests spend the night immediately during its first weekend.

"When somebody stays at our hotel, they're going to compare it to all the other ones," said Tracy Murley, regional director of sales for the property management company. "And they're going to come back."

The hotel joins a Holiday Inn and Courtyard by Marriott on Hamilton Court, all visible from Interstate 696 and replacing a former office park at 12 Mile and Farmington roads that was torn down several years ago. It took about two years for the Residence Inn to complete construction.

The new, pet-friendly hotel is a bit larger than other Residence Inns: Murley said they typically are less than 100 rooms. Rooms types include studios, one bedroom and two bedroom, and all rooms are outfitted with brand-new furniture and kitchen equipment. Studio rooms come with a kitchenette that includes a refrigerator, dishwasher, mi-



Farmington Residence Inn by Mariott at 33163 Hamilton Court. JOHN HEIDER/ HOMETOWN

crowave and more; while larger rooms include a oven for a complete kitchen. The hotel also offers a grocery shopping service for guests.

Other amenities include coin-operated laundry, as well as a fitness center and pool, though those two are currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the new hotel caters for business clients traveling — a norm for the region, especially with the heavy auto industry presence - the hotel also serves leisure travelers and even those needing somewhere to stay in between real estate transactions that may have already sold their home but have not yet gotten the keys to their new home or if there's an issue with their home that requires them to be out of their house while repairs take place.

"People are getting stuck where they don't have a home. So this is an option for them to definitely come and stay," she said. "It's people who are looking for an extended stay, not just a hotel."

The property management group is planning on constructing another Residence Inn in Ann Arbor. Other groups manage Residence Inns locally in Novi and Livonia. In addition to the Residence Inn in Farmington Hills, Group 10 Management operates other hotels in Romulus, Troy, Lansing and two in Livonia: the Hampton Inn along Schoolcraft east of Middlebelt and the Holiday Inn near Six Mile and Interstate 275, which was recently rebuild and celebrated its grand opening early last year.

Final hotel on site

The work to build the three hotels on the site of the former office park is a specialty for Group 10 Management, Murley

said. The site was selected and acquired after the former buildings became outdated and the space overgrown and planned it for rehabilitation.

"Our ownership really does specialize in finding land that has been left and just forgotten about," she said. "They take and tear down those buildings and build beautiful hotels."

The Holiday Inn has been open for two years and the Courtyard hotel has been open three years, Murley said. The opening of the Residence Inn marks the completion of new hotels in the Farmington Hills area for Group 10 Man-

The opening is more subdued than some of the other hotel openings in recent years because of COVID-19. Grand opening celebrations have been pushed back to 2021, Murley said, and breakfast is being served on a "grab-and-go" basis instead of opening the breakfast dining area each morning. Hotel staff are cleaning more thoroughly and focusing on cleaning common spaces.

'We're touching community spaces every 30 minutes versus (every couple of hours)," she said. "We're training the front desk and housekeeping staff to make sure that those spaces are constantly clean."

Guests are also provided face masks if they don't have them when they arrive, as Marriott requires everyone in their buildings to wear one when in a common space, Murley said.

Those looking to book a reservation can do so by visiting marriott.com.

Livonia looks to build cycling path leading into Hines Park

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Next year, it'll be a little easier to be a cyclist in Livonia.

In partnership with St. Mary Mercy Hospital and Healthy Livonia, the city plans to build a biking path or lane along Stark Road. The planned pathway would stretch between the Stark Road recreation area, which includes Ford Field, and would lead into Hines

Once on the Hines trail, cyclists can head into Northville, Westland, Plymouth or Dearborn Heights.

"I think Hines is a pretty popular area and something we want to link up to in our regional trail network," said Ted Davis, the city's parks and recreation superintender

Unlike some of the city's popular park trails, like those at Rotary Park or Clements Circle, the Stark Road pathway would connect cyclists to a larger trail network. The project is park of the city's Bike and Walk Plan, which is meant to foster more non-motor travel throughout the city.

"This is a great step for our Bike and Walk plan," said Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan in an email. "Providing a safe pathway for people in Livonia to enjoy the Hines Parkway has been a priority for our community. We appreciate this grant for essentially expanding Livonia's park system with new accessibility to Hines Park."

Davis said the city is unsure wheth-

er the pathway will be a trail alongside Stark or a separate lane in the road. Right now, officials are focused on design work and hope to finish the project in 2021.

St. Mary Mercy contributed \$50,000 in grant funds to the project, and Davis said the city will chip in some of the \$300,000 it has budgeted for non-motor transportation this year. Healthy Livonia; a collaboration between the hospital, the city, Livonia's parks department, Livonia Public Schools and the city's Chamber of Commerce; will also support the pro-

"That's the goal - to provide for connectivity and safety in the biking routes," said Dave Spivey, the president and CEO of the hospital. "It's increasingly popular, people are taking oility for their own health We're fully supportive of that and that's a large part of what we're about."

Davis said he's grateful for the support the city's biking and walking initiatives have received from entities like Healthy Livonia. As cycling becomes increasingly popular, he hopes the Stark pathway will see a lot of use.

"It's always encouraging when people are making use of recreational opportunities provided to them," Davis said. "In this day and age, with everything we've gone through, we've seen the importance of outdoor recreation."

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

Here's who pays the most property taxes in Westland

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In government, taxes make the world go round.

Last year, the City of Westland collected \$93,879,944 in taxes between the summer and winter collections. Over \$7.5 million of that came from just 10 businesses. These businesses employ, house, power and receive business from residents of the city and its surrounding communities.

Taxes bring in money that help fund cities, schools, libraries and more. It's up to elected officials to decide how that money is spent.

"In Michigan, it's generally around 60 to 70 percent of their operating budget," said Tim Hodge, a professor of economics at Oakland University. "Property taxes make up the lion's share."

In Westland, those big payers include DTE Energy, the Westland Mall, Consumers Energy and a number of apartment complexes.

A property's tax bill is determined by its taxable value; which is determined by things like longevity of the owner, inflation and market value; multiplied by the various millage rates landowners

"Whatever the millage rates are for the city, the schools, the county, the community colleges, all of those are put on there and calculated based on the taxable value of the property," Steve Smith, Westland's finance director,

Because ownership longevity is a factor, two properties that serve the same function might have two very different tax bills.

"You can't compare a taxable value on a property from one to the other even if they're the exact same structure," Jennifer Stamper, Westland's city assessor, said. "They may have been sold at different times, which is going to affect the taxable value, one may have added a small addition to it that changes the val-

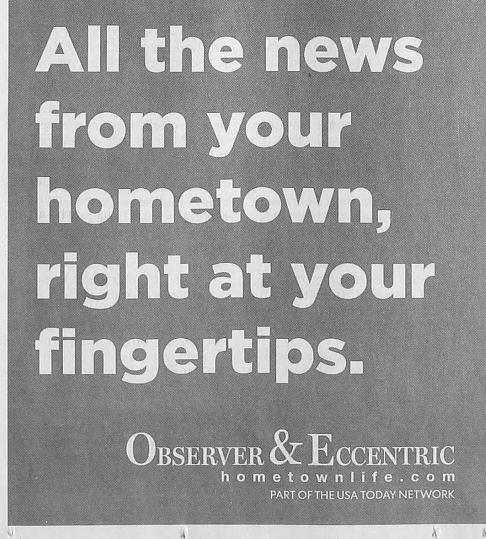
Businesses can appeal their state equalized value with their state, which, if lowered, can lower their taxable value and therefore their tax bill. But according to Stamper, exemptions are few and far between.

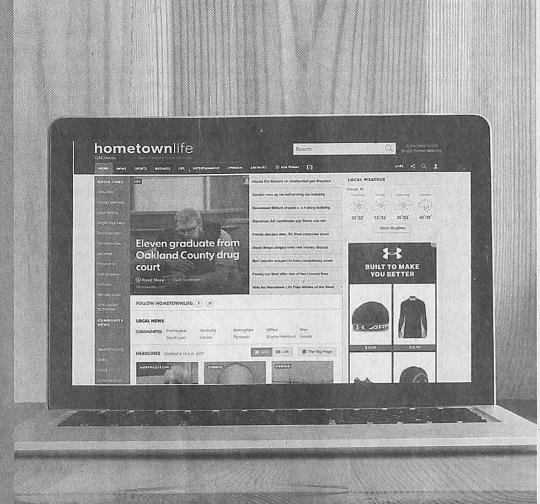
According to the state department of treasury, none of Westland's top 10 taxpayers were approved for any of Michigan's major exemptions during either collection in 2019.

"There are certain exemptions under state law, but they are very few," Stamper said. "We as a city cannot just decide that we're going to give an exemption on a certain property because we feel like we want to help them out."

Stamper and Smith said the city cannot decide how much a landowner pays in property taxes, no matter how much business certain properties may bring

"We can't arbitrarily decide what to charge them for taxes," Smith said. "It's all based on formulas and laws."





New Canton cafe serves up nitro coffee

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Opening a cafe was always in the plans for Kevin Kilgore and the team at Tapped Coffee and Craft Beverages. The COVID-19 pandemic hastened those plans.

"It was in our future goals to do retail, but we didn't know it was going to be so quick," said Kevin Kilgore, the company's owner. "When COVID happened, I started looking for newer ways for bringing in money so we could stay afloat. And that's when I started testing out baked doughnuts."

The business, which provides craft drink services for events and offices, has also opened up as a cafe in its space at 39481 Joy in Canton, near the border with Plymouth Township, Westland and Livonia. The space opened in early July, serving up nitro coffee and dough-

nuts made in-house every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Kilgore, a Canton resident who formerly delivered the *Canton Observer*, said he began the business with others about five years ago. They worked in Detroit in a shared space before they were informed they were too big an operation and needed their own shop. They began looking all across the region, from Detroit to Ann Arbor to Royal Oak, and found the space in the Pine Tree Plaza at Eckles and Joy.

They acquired the space last year and began renovating, originally planning to just use it as a wholesale location. Kilgore — who also works as a firefighter/paramedic at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport in Romulus — said they planned to open in March, but delays in receiving the proper approvals bled into the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown that lasted several months.

With the pandemic shuttering offices, the business pivoted toward its retail offerings and used the time during the shutdown to prepare for walk-in customers.

The refreshed cafe is as modern a coffee shop as you'll find. Drinks there are poured for the 21st century: most of them come from taps and are served in a nitro style, which makes them creamier and smoother than others. The doughnuts are baked not fried, giving them a more rich texture. They've even switched up the classic breakfast sandwich: instead of the usual sausage, egg and cheese, customers can customize a sandwich with items such as spinach, red onion or tomato.

Kilgore said the plan is to try and have the best, freshest ingredients and keep the food as healthy as possible.

He said the originally got into the hot coffee business, but saw there was a lot

of competition and wanted to pivot. Seeing nitro coffee becoming bigger elsewhere, he began offering that as a service.

Many customers, he said, did not know what it was until Starbucks began serving it in its cafes several years ago.

"I had issues trying to explain what nitro coffee was," he said. "Then Starbucks released it and people started to know."

Kilgore said expansion for the brand is coming in the future: he hopes to have some space in downtown Detroit and other communities as well.

The shop is open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m. to noon Sunday. Kilgore said he's hopeful the shop will soon open for customers seven days a week, but did not have an estimate as to when. More information, including a menu, can be found at tappedbeverages.com.

Reputation

Continued from Page 1A

problems that occur in the City of Livonia."

On Aug. 5, council members unanimously approved a resolution denouncing racism and affirming a desire to be welcoming to all people. Council also received a progress updated from Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan regarding the city's Human Relations Commission. Both received mixed reactions.

When it came to council's resolution denouncing racism, residents said they'd like to see more meaningful change. Councilman Jim Jolly, who proposed the resolution, had said at a previous meeting it would be mostly symbolic.

One speaker, activist Trische' Duckworth, said she wished Jolly and others would have consulted the Black community and other people of color before drafting the resolution.

"Racism does not affect you," she said. "It affects a person of color. So you in your privilege stating what you feel is best is not what's best."

Council Vice President Scott Bahr said he thought council had listened, though some speakers felt they were talked down to. Many were also met with points of order from Council Presi-



Protesters rally in Livonia on June 4. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

dent Kathleen McIntyre while speaking.

"I actually think we've been very patient throughout audience communication over the last several weeks listening to those concerned on this call in addition to community conversations that I'm sure many of us have had," Bahr said. "I know I have."

Richard Glover, the chair of the Human Relations Commission, said while he appreciates the listening, he thinks council should take initiative to do something more meaningful.

"I've heard you guys talk about checks and balances around federal spending and those are all great things," he said. "But I do encourage you to have that same excitement or mission when it comes to this movement and the current space we're in right now because it's going to become very important ... I think people are just looking for some type of response."

Livonia and racism today

On the topic of the Human Relations Commission, Bahr and Brosnan disagreed on how deep racism does or doesn't run in the city. According to Brosnan, racism "permeates" Livonia.

"I don't deny that racism exists," Bahr said. "It does. But to say that racism is perceived in every part of our community? That's not the Livonia I know and I see. I struggle with that word."

Brosnan said she doesn't struggle with it, noting every city department has received complaints of racism over the years.

"I don't struggle with it, and here's why: Because to permeate means that it goes deep and it runs deep," she said. "This is a problem that runs deep and while it might not run through every single fiber of our community, Vice President Bahr, I do think that it is a problem and has been around for a very long time."

Bahr also said he wished the Human Relations Commission, of which the members are collectively younger, included some members of the city's large senior citizen population. Brosnan, who has previously said she looks for youth in commission applicants, said racism is an issue young people have led the way on.

"This is the world that we stand in today," she said. "These are the opportunities that we have available to us today. Today, 16- to 28-year-olds are deeply engaged in this issue. Today, 16- to 28year-olds ought to be our target market when we talk about how to work to bring about change."

Resilience

Continued from Page 1A

quality of care ... it just blows my mind," said Kaye. "It's one of the finest short films I've seen a student create in all my years of teaching."

Love's mom, Carrie, revealed the CO-VID chaos that accompanied the timeline of the project added to the degree of difficulty.

"Jackson struggled with the concept at first, and he went through a few different scripts," Carrie Love said. "The main struggle was with using limited staff/actors/crew/locations, because of the shelter in place and how to create a compelling story line with such limitations.

"After Jackson turned in the project and got (Kaye's) feedback, we went for a walk and he said to me, 'I realized from doing that project that I can make something that's good, and beautiful, and creative.' He has been inspired to do more things."

Sharing a theme unwrapped in the 2001 movie "Castaway", soon-to-be-eighth-grader and budding volleyball star Tara Creekmore merged her reallife love of sports into a video that features her conversation with a volleyball, whose name, fittingly, is COVID, not Wilson.

"I did not know what to do at first," Creekmore admitted. "But once I thought of the 'Castaway' idea, it took me about one day to film it and a little while longer to edit. I think it turned out well."

Creekmore said she powered through the early weeks of the pandemic by diligently completely her online school assignments and hitting a volleyball against a wall in her home.

"I'm afraid that there's not going to be a middle school volleyball season this fall," Creekmore said. "It would hurt if we don't play because it's my last year in middle school, but I understand why they'd call it off if it comes to that."

Raw emotions were unleashed in several of the finished projects. Jada Jones, who works through anxiety issues on a regular basis, described how



Student Tara Creekmore with the virus-symbol volleyball prop that she used in her video project "2020 Starring COVID."

spending time with horses helps carry her through her most challenging days.

"When I get anxious, I try to focus on positive things, which is what I tried to show in my short film," she said. "Once I figured out my topic, my feelings about the project went from anxious to passionate. Horses have a therapeutic effect on me."

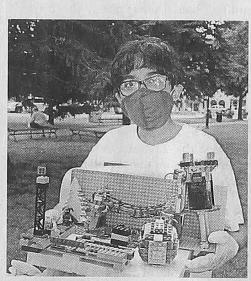
"Jada's project explores a number of personal matters like mental health, anxiety and stress, societal conditions that are affecting a lot of people these days," Kaye said. "To take on something you're faced with and dealing with and weave it into your work? Wow, what a significant message."

Kiersten Alston's project focused on her straight-from-the-heart poems, some COVID-related, others not.

Rohit Mahesh produced a stop-action animated film using LEGOs that projected how a vaccine may be distributed once developed.

Radha Modi produced a tribute to front-line workers, thanking them for their selflessness during these times.

Kaye's students' work is gaining statewide notice. The videos were presented to Michigan State University's



Rohit Mahesh holds a Lego stop-action diorama that he created for his pandemic film project this past spring. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

sociolinguistics lab's COVID-19 Diaries project and accepted with open arms by MSU's Dr. Betsy Sneller.

"We were really impressed with the Pioneer Middle School students' videos," Sneller said. "Like the audio diaries we receive, they're a personal and tangible response to the strangeness of this moment. We're learning how the pandemic feels and looks to people from all kinds of backgrounds, including young people who are coming of age at an extraordinary time."

Talks are also in the works between Kaye and the managers of Plymouth's Penn Theater to hold a film festival featuring the projects as soon as social-distancing restrictions are loosened.

Jackson Love feels the film-making projects will resonate 20 years from now, when middle-schoolers in a different era yearn to learn about the tumultuous year of 2020.

"There are always pros and cons with times like these," he said. "One of the pros is that we were able to produce these films under tough circumstances. And among the cons is that we weren't able to go on normal vacations.

"But, overall, I think we'll all be stronger in the long run after getting

through the COVID-19 crisis."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com

Chick-fil-A

Continued from Page 1A

in the future, we do not currently have any locations to confirm."

If a Chick-fil-A does open in Canton, it would be the third in Detroit's western suburbs. A restaurant opened in Junenear Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and another is planned along Haggerty Road between Seven Mile and Eight Mile in Northville Township. Prep work at the Northville Township site appears to have begun.

Another standalone restaurant opened its doors earlier this year in Allen Park, and the restaurant operates inside several structures across metro Detroit, including in Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport and the Somerset Collection in Troy.

The development comes as the area's hunger for Chick-fil-A grows. The Georgia-based restaurant group is known for its chicken sandwiches across parts of the United States, but has been slow to enter Michigan. Several restaurants around Lansing and west Michigan have opened up in recent years, and standalone restaurants have begun to pop up around metro Detroit.

Mans said there's no timetable for when the restaurant could break ground or open its doors. Construction is delayed several months across the region because of the pandemic, he said.

He said locating such a restaurant to Canton is an exciting move for the region.

"I think it would be very good for the area and I think it would be good

for Canton Township," he said Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

The Georgia-based restaurant group is known for its chicken sandwiches across parts of the United States, but has been slow to enter Michigan.

Betty Campbell

PLYMOUTH - February 20, 1933 - June 2, 2020

Betty (Phillips) Campbell, of Plymouth, passed away peacefully on June 2, 2020.

She was born on February 20,1933 to the late Ada and Bert Phillips, immigrants from Cornwall England. Betty grew up in Plymouth, attend-



ed Plymouth schools and in 1947 while at The Music Box, a teen center at Church and Adams, was introduced to Edwin James (Ted) Campbell who was to become her husband of 51 years. Ted preceded her in death in February 2002. Betty and Ted were active in the Plymouth community and First United Methodist Church. Betty was a loving mother to Kevin (Lorena) Campbell, Karen Campbell, Kathy (Bill) Armstrong and Kirk (Laura) Campbell. Betty was cherished grandmother to Angela Arnold, Rochelle DeSmet, Lyndsay Forsmo, Caitlin Siegel, Sheree Revoir and Courtney Campbell and great grandmother to nine. She passed with knowledge and delight that there would be three more great grandchildren added to her family in 2020.

Betty was a devoted sister and friend. She is survived by her sisters, Stella Smith and Shirley Scrimger.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Douglas Phillips, Ronald Phillips, Charles Phillips and her sister, Molly Phillips.

Family will hold a private memorial service on August 17, 2020

Roberta "Bobbi" Jean Fox

WESTLAND - Roberta "Bobbi" Jean Fox, age 70, of Westland, Michigan, passed away August 7, 2020, at Angela's Hospice in Livonia. Born on December 17, 1949 in Northville, to William Robert Fox and Harriet Renner Fox, and is preceded in death by them, along with her sister Pa-



tricia Gray and her nephew Justin Canady. She graduated from Plymouth High on June 13, 1968 and from beauty school in July 1969. She worked for Ford Motor Company at the Sheldon Road Plant for 20+ years where she retired. She loved dogs and enjoyed crafting, music, Elvis, foxes and angels. Surviving family members are niece Trisha (Keith) Fulp, nephew Robert Willnow, great nieces Olivia Canady, Allie Fulp and Faith Willnow, great nephews Lance Willnow and Travis Sidell, her Aunt Carol Renner and numerous cousins. Her wishes were to be cremated and placed with her parents. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela's Hospice in Livonia.

Kurt W. Sielaff

Kurt W. Sielaff, follower and servant of Jesus the Christ, age 69, passed away somewhat unexpectedly on August 4, 2020 due to complications from congestive heart failure. Firefighter, paramedic, hard-worker. A man who looked forward to heaven with great anticipation. He is



great anticipation. He is survived by his spouse Jean, sons Jason, Kevin, and David, grandsons Connor, Lucas, Trevor, and Tyler, nephew Rob, grandniece Elizabeth, and many others. Visitation will take place at Lynch & Sons, 600 E. Main St., Brighton, MI 48116, 1-2 pm on Saturday, August 15, followed by an outdoor service that same day at Herbst Rd Cemetery, 6901 Herbst Rd., Brighton, MI 48114, 2:30-3:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, his family requests monetary donations, which will be split 75% / 25% between the Glorious Freedom Mission, a ministry that Kurt loved wholeheartedly, and defraying funeral service costs. Donations may be made here: http://paypal.me/pools/c/8rvcyvEXWf

Marianne Heaton

Marianne Heaton, age 83, died August 4. View obituary and share memories at www.greastlansing.com.



Gary Thomas DeMoss

GARDEN CITY - Age 82 August 9, 2020. Beloved husband of Alice for 60 years. Dear father of Gregory (Lesli), Deborah (Jim) Denison, Douglas (Kim), and Elizabeth (Richard) Rowe. Loving grandfather of 7 and great grandfather of 6. Gary's grandchilden will miss his loving bear hugs and everyone will miss his holiday dinner. He was a member of the K of C and enjoyed golf and cooking. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

Judith Ann Hayward

Judith Ann Hayward ("Judy") of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan died on Wednesday, August 5 at the age of 86. A lifelong resident of Michigan, she grew up in Royal Oak, the daughter of Dr. Arthur J. Seaborn and Margaret Seaborn. Judy was a graduate of Royal Oak High School and The University of Michigan. In 1955 she met John G. Hayward ("Jack"), the love of her life, and they were married in December, 1956, and for the next 59 years. Jack and Judy raised three children together, and were happiest at their cottage on Walloon Lake, or spending time traveling. Travel was one of Judy's passions, and she and Jack visited



numerous countries over the years. Not only did she love planning trips for her family but also for others while she worked as a part time travel agent for 23 years. Judy was a past President of the Junior Friendly League, past President of Lone Pine Road Estates, and chair of many committees at the Village Club. She served on the Board of Directors of the Village Club for a number of years both as Secretary and as First Vice President. Through these organizations she met some of her closest lifelong friends, whom she cherished. Judy was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak, the Birmingham Athletic Club, the Village Club, and the Walloon Lake Country Club. As well as being an inveterate traveler, she was an avid bridge player, golfer, and tennis player. Mostly, Judy was a wonderful mother to her children and wife to her husband. Her family was what she was most passionate about. Judy is survived by her children Doug Hayward, of San Francisco, California, Anne Hammond (Ed), of Beverly Hills, Michigan, and Julie Armstrong (Jim) of Richmond, Virginia; her grandchildren Emily Hammond Olson (Chad), John Hammond, Sarah Hammond, Jack Armstrong and Caroline Armstrong; her sister Jeanne Gaub of Ft. Myers, Florida; and one great granddaughter Charlotte Olson. Thanks to Cedarbrook Senior Living/Bloomfield for the wonderful care their staff provided Judy these last few years. There will be a private family burial, and at a later date, a memorial service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Village Club Foundation, 190 E. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 248-549-0500.

Please sign Tribute Wall at AJDesmond.com

REST

Ronald Earl Wood

GRAYLING - Ronald Earl Wood, 88, formerly of Midland and Plymouth, passed away peacefully on August 6, 2020.

Ron was born to Earl and Wilda (Failing)
Wood on September 18,
1931, in Grayling. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Kathleen and her husband David
Warren, and grandson Jamison Wood.



teaching certificate in Industrial Education. After moving to Plymouth he earned his Master's Degree in Industrial Arts from Eastern Michigan University.

Ron was a teacher at Redford Township's Thurston High School where he taught industrial education, specializing in auto mechanics, for 34 years. Ron and his wife Kay were long time members of the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth. He served the Plymouth community as a volunteer firefighter for 36 years with the Plymouth Fire Department. He retired from teaching in 1993 and moved to Grayling, where Ron and Kay built a home on his long time family property in Beaver Creek Township. In Grayling, Ron continued his community service by becoming a reserve deputy for the Crawford County Sheriff's Office and served as a volunteer firefighter for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Ron is survived by his wife Kay of 62 years, children Steven (Jennifer) Wood and Julee Dean, grandchildren Nicholas Wood and Kelsee (Mitchell Thompson) Dean, great-grandson Tatum Thompson and several nieces and nephews.

Ron was liked by everyone and was always eager to greet anyone who visited. He was a gentle soul, extraordinarily kind and a hard worker. His love was the outdoors, working to keep his 60 acres of land in Grayling a place to invite guests to walk the woods and enjoy life.

Services are pending due to Covid-19. Arrangements by Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home.

Sorenson Lockwood

Heather Ann Pinto

PLYMOUTH - Heather Ann Pinto of Plymouth, Michigan, age 76, passed away on July 30, 2020, after a heroic battle with pancreatic cancer. She passed at home, surrounded by family and her devoted husband, Joseph.

Heather was born Heather Ann Duke on



November 23, 1943 in Detroit, Michigan, and later moved to Grosse Pointe. She married the love of her life, Joseph, on December 30, 1966. Heather is a graduate of the University of Detroit and practiced as a dental hygienist before devoting her time and energy to her family, friends, community and church.

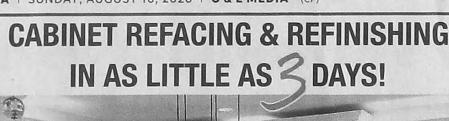
Heather is preceded in death by her parents, Karl and Mary Monica Duke. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Joseph Pinto, and her children Mark (Jennifer), Perry (Jennifer) and Jeffrey, as well as five adoring grandchildren: Allison, Joey, Ethan, Eva and Peter. She will also be missed by her siblings as well as many nieces and nephews, neighbors and friends.

Due to the Covid pandemic, a family ceremony celebrating her life will be held on Friday, August 14 at 11:00 a.m. Please join the family via a live stream of the ceremony, which can be accessed by searching for Heather Pinto through the obituary section of the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home website (www.Schrader-Howell.com). A private interment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate gifts in her memory to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (www.pancan.org). Please designate that it is in memory of "Heather Pinto." To honor her memory by cooking one of her favorite recipes, a few can be found on her CaringBridge site at https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/heatherpinto.









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Schoolcraft College Announces Angileri Quality Institute



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choolcraft College is pleased to announce the launch of the Angileri Quality Institute made possible by through a philanthropic gift from Mr. Frank Angileri. The Institute will feature the Angileri Quality Institute Symposium for students to explore and seek viable solutions to problems related to quality issues within the automotive industry. Targeted

at interested students, faculty and industry individuals, it aims to engage and advance learnings of those considering or engaged in the automotive



industry. It is an opportunity to hear from industry leaders, but also network with those in the auto, manufacturing and technology fields.

The inaugural symposium is slated for October 30, 2020 at the VisTaTech Center on Schoolcraft's Livonia campus.

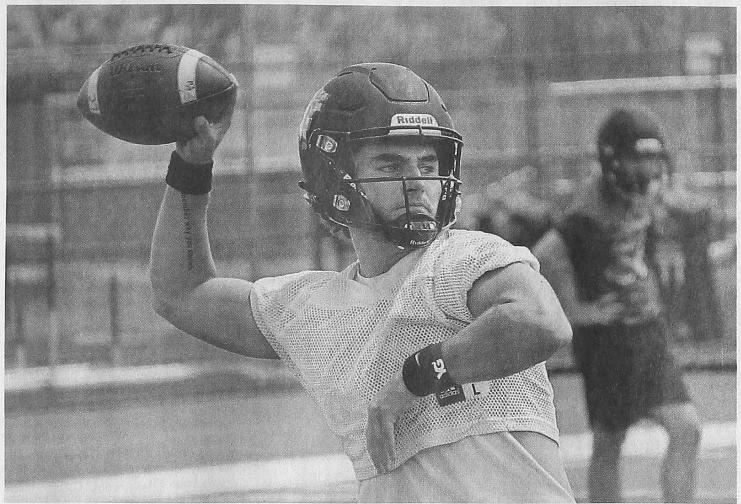
Housed in Schoolcraft College's Occupational Programs area, the Angileri Quality Institute will host annual presentations and interactive panel discussions on current automotive issues and their relation to quality control. The ultimate goal is to challenge existing industry practices and seek advancements in automotive quality control.

The Angileri Quality Institute is named in honor of Frank Angileri. Born in Sicily, he holds a degree in economics from the University of Palermo and had a career in quality engineering for 50 years.

For more information: Schoolcraft's Occupational Programs at 734.462.4685.

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Churchill quarterback Gavin Brooks gets ready to throw a pass during a team practice Monday. Without the certainty of a senior season, he is using the coronavirus as the chip on the team's shoulder. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

An unknown season awaits Churchill

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Churchill's first football practice seemed normal: installing offensive schemes and techniques, stretching, running.

But with every mask worn by the coaching staff, every medicine ball used to separate contact between the offensive and defensive linemen brought a level of reality, a level of uncertainty to the field Monday afternoon.

However, that did not take away from senior safety/wide receiver Jimmy Targoz's return to his home field.

"It was amazing. I loved every second of it," Targoz said. "I was dying out there; it was hot, but it was great."

The Michigan High School Athletic Association permitted teams to return to the football field Monday after limiting players to conditioning and skill work without contact over the summer due to the coronavirus.

"It was nice because we haven't been

See CHURCHILL, Page 3B



Medicine balls helped separate offensive and defensive linemen during drills.

What to watch for in the **KLAA East**

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Teams in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association continue to prepare for what could be a normal, delayed or possibly canceled fall football season in the middle of the coronavirus pandem-

As teams wait for guidance from the Michigan High School Athletic Association - which is supposed to make a decision regarding the season by Aug. 20 here is a look at what Hometown Life teams in the East look like this season.

Livonia Churchill

Head coach: Bill DeFillippo, eighth season

2019 record: 7-5, fourth in KLAA East Season opener: Aug. 28 at Salem

Season outlook: The story of Livonia Churchill's 2019 season is pretty well documented: Starting with one win in its first five games, the Chargers won four straight games for a playoff spot and scored 88 points in its first two playoff games before losing to Walled Lake Western by seven points in the regional

That was 2019. Heading into 2020, expectations are extremely high for a group with a lot of returning and experienced players.

"They've been through all of the experiences: from playing some of the best teams in the state, to having heartbreak losses against some of the best teams in the state. They've experienced all that stuff, so they know what it takes," head coach Bill DeFillippo said. "They've been in big ball games and played well and they have a lot of confidence. There are pretty high expectations within our program."

Now, DeFillippo's message to the team is to continue doing what brought the Chargers to this point.

He said that starts with the team's leaders, like senior quarterback Gavin Brooks and senior safety Jimmy Targoz, making sure the focus is on the details and not the macro goal.

While the head coach believes the sky is the limit for his team in 2020, that is not how the team talks in practice. Instead, Churchill focuses on game-bygame, week-by-week.

See KLAA EAST, Page 2B

What metro Detroit football could look like in 2020

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Stevenson head coach Randy Micallef passed out helmets Aug. 6, he said the players were excited: excited to get back on the field, excited to play foot-

While Micallef shares in the same level of excitement, he also knows what reality looks like.

This is something he has been honest

with his players about from the start: that any little change in the situation at the school, in the district or across the state could lead to players giving their helmets back.

'Understand that this could change at any point," Micallef said he told his team. "'So we are going to enjoy every moment we have together, every opportunity we have to participate in football and kind of let the cards fall where they may.' "

While programs wait for a decision to

be made by the Michigan High School Athletic Association regarding the upcoming 2020 season in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, players and coaches still seem to be in the midst of the transition from conditioning to footballspecific drills after one week of practice.

Physical adjustments

After a summer filled with virtual team meetings, Northville head coach Matt Ladach admitted that his players, like players on many other teams across the state, are behind physically.

"From a physical standpoint, I think all coaches are concerned," Ladach said. "Literally, we haven't been able to take a snap from under center or hand a ball off or practice blocking. Everybody is be-

hind." Seaholm head coach Jim DeWald described his team as "way behind the eight ball," running an offense that is

See METRO DETROIT, Page 2B

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COVID-19 cases delay start of Seaholm practices

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

While schools from around the state of Michigan start football practices ahead of the 2020 season, Seaholm will have to wait a bit longer.

Seaholm High School delayed the start of football practices for the team after three players tested positive for COVID-19

According to head coach Jim De-Wald, the Maples hope to get back onto the field Thursday, pending approval from the school district.

Seaholm finished the 2019 season with a 9-4 record, falling to Detroit King in the state semifinals.

The Maples are scheduled to open their football season at Byron Center Aug. 28.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is scheduled to make its decision regarding the fall season schedules for football, volleyball and boys soccer by Aug. 20.

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

KLAA East

Continued from Page 1B

But a level of confidence from last year remains.

"That kind of approach worked really well with our guys last year," DeFillippo said. "But I'd be lying if our kids don't have pretty high expectations of their own."

Livonia Franklin

Head coach: Chris Kelbert, 19th sea-

2019 record: 8-3, third in KLAA East Season opener: Aug. 28 at Hartland Season outlook: Heading into his 19th season as the head coach at Franklin, Chris Kelbert has never seen an offseason like this one.

"Not being able to train the way we usually train and just kind of all the uncertainty, trying to keep the kids motivated through all that has been very challenging," Kelbert said. "Just from a coaching perspective, getting prepared, but not knowing what to prepare for has been a challenge."

Despite the uncertainty, the Patriots do have a sense of certainty on its roster heading into 2020.

One year after averaging 38.5 points per game, Franklin returns four of its five offensive lineman, despite having youth in skill positions such as quarter-back and running back.

Kelbert said the Patriots offense will continue to do what has made them successful in recent years, with either Zac Olesuk or Aidan Johnson at quarterback, both of whom the head coach said has adjusted well and grown through this unusual offseason.

Defensively, Franklin is returning eight of its II starters from a year ago, something that Kelbert said will be valuable.

"Just knowing the checks we make on defense, the formations and being to get us in the right coverages and the right alignments," Kelbert said. "That comes with time, so having that many guys back will definitely be in our favor."

Heading into 2020, Kelbert's goal for Franklin is to continue being the team that other teams in the KLAA are forced to prepare for and circle on their calendar

"We always want to compete to win our division, and I think we have the team that can do that," Kelbert said. "We want to continue to make long playoff runs and just be one of those contending teams each year. I think with the kids we have back, we can just continue that."

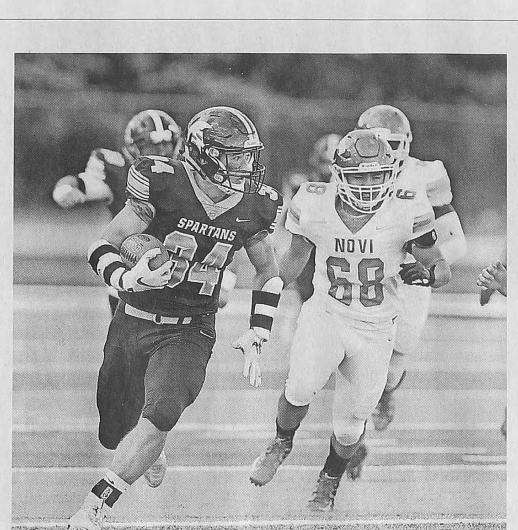
Livonia Stevenson

Head coach: Randy Micallef, eighth season

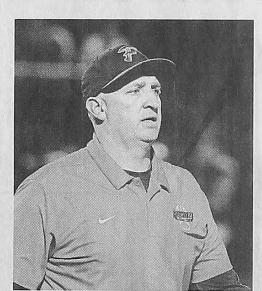
2019 record: 4-5, sixth in KLAA East Season opener: Aug. 28 at Northville Season outlook: From 2004-17, Stevenson went to the playoffs 11 times, making the state title game in 2007. In that span, the Spartans missed the playoffs only three times, including a two-season span in 2010 and 2011.

Heading into the 2020 season, Stevenson has missed the playoffs for two consecutive seasons, combining for five wins in 2018 and 2019 combined.

However, with 22 seniors returning, along with a group of juniors in which many have seen playing time, the Spartans are confident they will not miss the



Caden Woodall, left, is going to be an important piece in the Stevenson offense in 2020. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTO



Franklin head coach Chris Kelbert comes into the 2020 season looking for a new quarterback. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

playoffs for a third-straight season for the first time since 1996-98.

"We're encouraged based on their experience, which has been nice and helped us," Stevenson head coach Randy Micallef said. "If we were a very young group or a new staff, that would have made this summer very difficult."

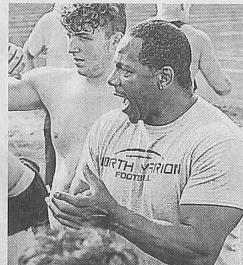
The Spartans will be led by senior running back Caden Woodall, who ran for 1,110 yards on 159 carries with 16 touchdowns last year.

Micallef also mentioned senior defensive end Landen Macek and senior quarterback Ray Kastl as important for Stevenson's success in 2020.

In 2019, Micallef thought there were many moments Stevenson could have been a playoff team, holding a lead or a slim deficit into the fourth quarter of many games.

In 2020, the goal and the rallying cry of the Spartans is to get over the hump of games they were not able to win a season ago.

"Coming into this season, I know the kids are very motivated," Micallef said.



Calvin Griggs, John Glenn's new head coach, has helped lead teams to three conference titles in six seasons in Oregon. PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN GRIGGS

Wayne Memorial

Head coach: Jari Brown, second sea-

2019 record: 1-8, eighth in KLAA East Season opener: Aug. 28 at Novi

Season outlook: Coming in last season with four years of head coaching experience at Ann Arbor Pioneer, Jari Brown knew Wayne Memorial would be a project

The Zebras have made the playoffs twice since 1950, last competing in the postseason in 2003. Since then, Wayne Memorial has finished with a winning record only once and have recorded six winless seasons.

"We knew it was going to be tough to be competitive, but what we wanted to do was just focus on, each week, focus on small things that would help us improve, and we were looking at the future knowing it was going to be a tough year," Brown said.

The Zebras ended 2019 on a high note, defeating Salem, 20-14, for their first win since Aug. 26, 2016.

With a full offseason and training schedule with his players, recruiting multiple players from inside the school to join the team, Brown said Wayne Memorial looks to build off momentum from its six-point win.

"We just have to continue to take a step," Brown said. "I think we should be much improved from last season. I think we had a great offseason despite everything. The one thing I have picked up from the kids is that the kids are very hungry and they love football."

Losing eight seniors from a season

Losing eight seniors from a season ago, Brown said he will rely on players like Ryan Mihalik, an athlete that played tailback and quarterback for the Zebras last season, and could play anywhere from linebacker to defensive back on defense.

Brown also mentioned many members of the offensive and defensive line, including four-year varsity player Henry Givens, who the head coach said has made "a total 180" from 2019.

Heading into his second year with the program, Brown is eager to do what he was hired to do: push Wayne Memorial players in a way they had not been pushed before.

"I don't know if you can tell them anything, they don't know anything, they don't remember last season," Brown said. "All I know is that we will come out and be a lot more competitive this fall."

John Glenn

Head coach: Calvin Griggs, first season

2019 record: 1-8, seventh in KLAA East

Season opener: Aug. 28 at Howell

Season outlook: John Glenn has not made the playoffs since 2014, winning only 10 games in the last five seasons.

Calvin Griggs is looking to change that in his first year with the program, taking the job after leading turnaround high school football programs in Oregon.

In his first few practices, Griggs said he has seen a lot of progress.

"The kids, they are all bought in and are working hard and are just ready and willing to do whatever it takes, if we have a season," Griggs said.

The first-year head coach said he has seen two returning seniors step up in a major way: middle linebacker/wide receiver Marco Deliso and outside linebacker/wide receiver Justin Hart, saying both have made the transition easy for him, helping players get up to speed with the new style Griggs brings.

Griggs has high expectations for his team heading into his first year, but, watching as the Rockets practice and work in conditioning sessions, the head coach has been impressed with what he has seen.

"I truly, truly feel, with all my heart, that this is one of the best football teams I have ever coached, with athletes, pure athletes," Griggs said.

With what he has seen, Griggs thinks the expectations are warranted, feeling as though there will be a new feeling surrounding John Glenn football in the fall.

"Our kids are fighters," Griggs said.
"We have a load of talent and now it's just putting that all together, getting them to believe in themselves... and actually going out and doing it. We have a lot to prove. A lot of people don't know about us, but we have a lot to prove."

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

Metro Detroit

Continued from Page 1B

centered around a quarterback under center, finding the mesh point on an option after thousands of reps.

Ladach still does not know what onfield play would look like if there were to be a season, but expects to see a bit of a drop off in terms of fundamental skills on both offense and defense.

However, what the Northville head coach did say the Mustangs were ahead on was the mental aspect of the game.

"I'll tell you what: mentally, I think our players are further ahead, maybe than we've ever been," Ladach said. "We've used Zoom, and I give our players and our coaches a lot of credit. We've done a really good job of using technology to make sure our kids know what they are

South Lyon head coach Jeff Henson said the Lions have been doing a lot of walk-through and mental reps, focusing on not only what the offense and defense is installing for the upcoming season, but why.

"I think it's forced us to kind of slow down a little bit and, A, hammer home the fundamentals because that is really the only thing we have been allowed to do and, B, we've been able to take our time with installs and make sure kids understand what we're doing, why we're doing it and the schemes we are running," Henson said.

To Bloomfield Hills head coach Dan Loria, all teams are in the same boat.

The Black Hawks have been on the field since mid-June, running seven weeks of conditioning outside with 70-plus players training for the upcoming season.

"They worked hard," Loria said. "I give them credit because I feel confident that we will be playing, I'm hoping that's what's going to end up happening. Over the summer, you didn't know. They just kept showing up and working hard."

kept showing up and working hard."

After the first official practice, Loria pulled his team aside, preaching the

message of "We're in this together."

Loria is confident, no matter what the product on the field looks like, that the seven weeks of conditioning and these first August practices are not for nothing.

"'We got to do the little things,' "Loria told his 2020 varsity team. "'When you go home, we all have to be smart – coaches, players – in the things that we do. Stay socially distanced, wash our hands.'

"'It's on us to make this thing hapoen.'"

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

Tone from MHSAA an encouraging sign for fall sports



Bill Khan Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

I choose to remain optimistic, but I have no idea how this will end.

Neither do you.

Neither do the decision-makers at the Michigan High School Athletic Association who will ultimately determine which, if any, high school sports are played this fall.

The cloud of uncertainty that has hung over high school sports since March 12 continues to hover over our young athletes as they begin practices this week for a fall season that may never happen or could be significantly altered.

The first day of football practice, which took place Monday, is usually like Christmas morning for everyone who loves high school sports. It's a sign that the games and pageantry we enjoy so much on fall Friday nights are right around the corner. It's a day of optimism and new beginnings.

But coronavirus fears continue to lurk like a Grinch ready to keep Christmas from coming - right down to the last can of Who Hash.

When the pandemic brought winter state tournaments to a screeching halt five months ago and wiped out an entire spring sports season, we figured that surely fall sports would be immune from the reach of COVID-19.

We were told back then that we just needed to "flatten the curve" and everything would be fine. Well, the curve was flattened, but then the term "second wave" was introduced - and the goal posts have kept moving.

I remain positive we will see some sort of fall sports season, even as every day brings more gloom and doom on the college front.

Here are two reasons for my opti-

1. I prefer to have a positive mindset, not wallow in misery like so many of our fellow citizens. Nothing good comes from being constantly negative.

2. The MHSAA isn't giving up fall sports without a fight.

What I choose to believe doesn't matter, but the efforts of the MHSAA do.

The MHSAA will have the final say on whether to green-light fall athletics, which have competition scheduled to begin Aug. 19 for sports other than football.

Since that's the case, it was encouraging to read a blog written by MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl that was posted Aug. 7 at MHSAA.com.

It did not sound like a man ready to throw in the towel like so many others.

He expressed his desire to find a way to somehow have fall sports, citing several realities that get overlooked by those who prefer to have everyone locked up in a bubble indefinitely.

He noted that athletes are going to find a way to compete somewhere this fall. Many soccer and volleyball players will certainly turn to playing for clubs if their schools aren't offering sports. Some of those clubs might adhere to safety protocols, but not as reliably as they would be enforced by schools. And while that may be an option for families that can afford this option, it isn't accessible to everyone.

Another point is that schools have been holding conditioning workouts since June without a massive outbreak taking place. Athletic departments have been hammering home the need to wear masks and take precautions so that a season could take place in the fall. It would be a shame if kids did everything right all summer, only to have the rug pulled out from under them.

Uyl also brought up a serious subject that gets overlooked by the obsession over the daily coronavirus statistics. Nobody wants to talk about the mental and



Football practice began Monday for Northville and MHSAA member schools. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTO

emotional toll it takes on kids when they don't get the opportunity to be around their friends competing in school sports.

A University of Wisconsin study found that two-thirds of high school athletes experienced depression and anxiety because of canceled sports in the spring. Researchers said the impact can result in higher rates of substance abuse and lower graduation rates. A coach told me that several parents remarked how much better their sons were doing once they had an opportunity to be back with their teammates for summer condition-

The MHSAA isn't rushing to make a decision, waiting until Aug. 20 to decide if football games scheduled to begin a week later can happen.

The MHSAA is at least trying, coming up with guidelines to make fall sports safe, like limiting the number of teams or participants on site for sports like cross country, golf, tennis, swimming and vol-

Some might argue that the MHSAA is delaying the inevitable, raising false hope for players and wasting the effort they've put in since June. I say nothing will have been wasted. Athletes have been back together with their friends and teammates for two months after being apart for three months. There is much value in the sweat they expended together this summer, even if it doesn't ultimately prepare them for a season. Would they have been better off moping in their bubbles for those two months?

You get only four years to play high school sports and only one senior year. You can't red-shirt like in college or get special dispensation from the NCAA to come back next year. You can't postpone retirement like a pro athlete to take another shot at your dreams.

As football practice began Monday amid so much uncertainty, I thought about two Livingston County teams in particular.

Pinckney has been looking forward to opening its season at Michigan Stadium against Clarkston, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Even if the season gets delayed one week, that game won't hap-

Then there's Fowlerville, which has an outstanding senior class and has been looking forward to 2020 ever since walking off the field with a one-point loss in the second round of the state

This could be a special fall for Fowlerville and a special memory for Pinckney. Let's hope they still happen.

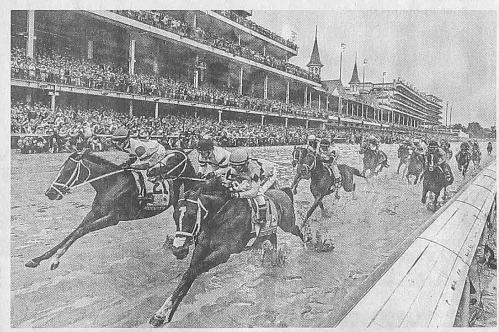
Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gan-

Freelance sports reporters sought

As the high school fall sports season strong writing skills, general knowl-(maybe) gets underway, the Hometown Life sports team is looking to build up its cache of freelance sports writers. If For more information, reach out to high school sports scene, this is a chance to get even more involved.

edge of sports and be able to cover football games (usually) Friday nights.

you're interested in metro Detroit's sports reporter Colin Gay at @Colin-Gay17 on Twitter or at 248-330-6710. Send writing samples to Editor Phil All-No prior newspaper experience is men and Gay at pallmen@hometownnecessary, but applicants must have life.com and cgay@hometownlife.com.



Luis Saez rides Maximum Security across the finish line during the 2019 Kentucky Derby. MICHAEL CLEVENGER AND MICHAEL GOODWIN/USA TODAY NETWORK

Churchill

Continued from Page 1B

able to really do much football stuff except throw a ball to each other all summer," Churchill head coach Bill DeFillippo said after the first of two afternoon practices. "It was nice to kind of get to the normalcy of football practice a little bit, not really have any restrictions except being in helmets."

The Chargers have been itching to return to the football field, especially after last year. After starting the 2019 season 1-4, Churchill rattled off six straight wins, falling to Walled Lake Western by a touchdown in the regional final.

In 2020, the majority of that team, including Targoz and quarterback Gavin Brooks, are looking to go further.

Without the certainty of a senior season, Brooks is using the coronavirus as the fuel for success, as the chip on the team's shoulder.

'You just got to look at it as another piece of adversity," Brooks said. "It's a little different than other ways we have fought adversity, but, at the end of the day, it's another thing we have to fight around and keep striving to be great every day. It's all you can do real-

Brooks said that with limited football capabilities during the quarantine period, he prepared himself mentally: learning and growing by watching

But during summer conditioning, Churchill saw a massive turnout, with Brooks crediting that players just wanted to get out of the house. The senior quarterback said those sessions really helped the Chargers get physically ready for whatever football they

"We're there," Brooks said. "We've been grinding for the past couple weeks and I think we are right where we should be and we're looking to have a really good year."

Targoz said he was working on his own even before the summer conditioning sessions started, converting his garage into a gym and gaining nearly 20 pounds heading into his final year with

The senior safety/wide receiver -Churchill's 2019 defensive most valuable player - said the fact he was heading into his final year was what drove

"You never know if you are playing or not. You never know if you are getting ready for a season or you are just getting ready for nothing," Targoz said. "But you always have to have that mentality of you are getting ready to play, you are ready to play whenever."

DeFillippo said every team in the Kensington Lakes Athletic Association and every team in the MHSAA is in the same boat. Everyone seems to be starting from a similar spot.

What Churchill can control is what they do on the field, taking momentum from a Cinderella playoff run a season ago and transforming it into something special in 2020.

"Really, all we can do is prepare as if we have a game in two weeks," Brooks said. "Whatever happens, happens. It's out of our control. All we can do is try to be the best that we can and get ready to

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

Kentucky Derby to be held with limited fans

Jason Frakes Louisville Courier Journal **USA TODAY NETWORK**

Churchill Downs officials announced Wednesday a 62-page operations plan that will limit attendance for the Sept. 5 Kentucky Derby to less than 23,000

The plan includes no general admission, and the infield will be closed. Prepurchased general admission tickets will be refunded. Reserved seating will be limited to a maximum of 40% occupancy. Standing-room-only tickets have been eliminated.

Temperature checks, medical questionnaires, physical distancing, and mandatory face coverings will be required upon entrance. Each guest will receive a courtesy "Healthy at the Track" bag, which will include a disposable mask, a pocket-sized hand sanitizer, and a personal stylus for non-contact self-service wagering.

Churchill Downs said offenders will receive a warning; repeat offenders will be escorted from the property.

"The opportunity to safely welcome back a limited number of guests to

Churchill Downs on the first week of

September is a privilege that our team doesn't take for granted," said Churchill Downs racetrack president Kevin Flanery. "Our extensive plan meets or exceeds all recommended state and local guidelines. We've received an exceptional level of support from regulators, medical experts, and public health authorities and we'll continue to carefully work with them to ensure we're doing everything we can to keep our customers, employees, and communities safe."

Churchill Downs officials announced March 17 that the 146th Kentucky Derby would be postponed from May 2 to Sept. 5 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but were confident the delay would allow fans to attend.

"We feel confident that we are going to run the Kentucky Derby and we are going to run it with a crowd," Churchill Downs CEO Bill Carstanjen said in March. "The Kentucky Derby is a participatory event. Its energy and its magic really comes from everyone participating and being there to enjoy it."

In June, Gov. Andy Beshear announced Churchill Downs had submitted a plan that called for limited attendance, including up to 24,268 people in the infield on Derby Day.



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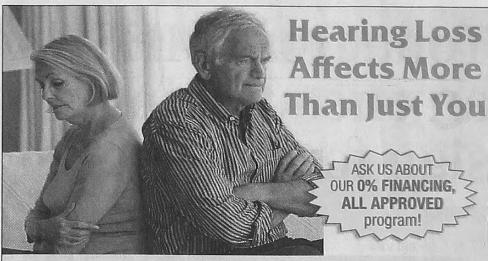




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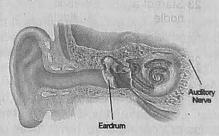
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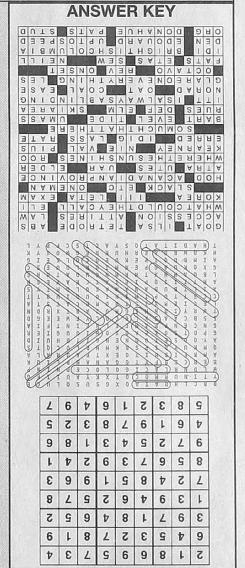
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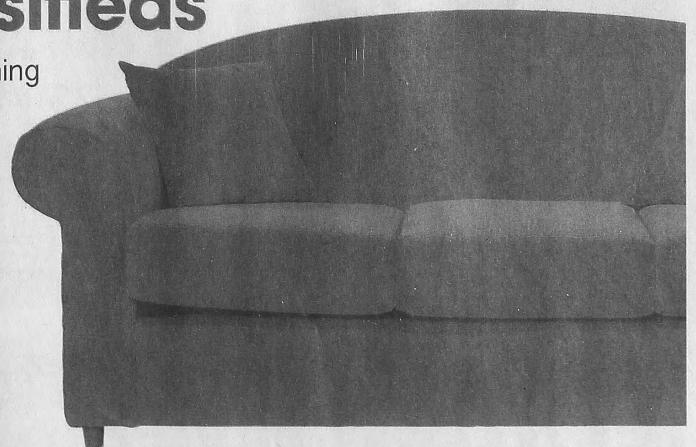
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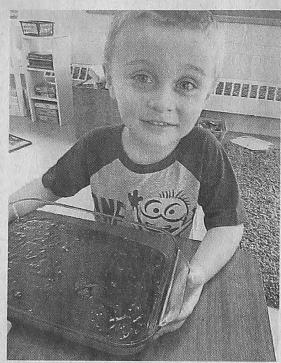


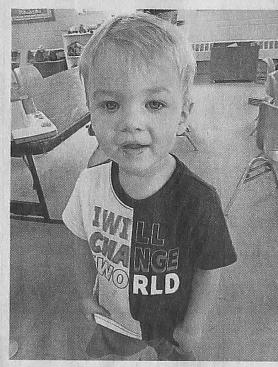
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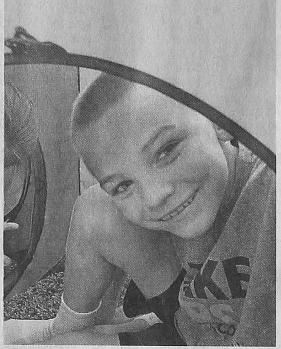
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