

Longtime Schoolcraft employee to lead college

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A longtime Schoolcraft employee will be the college's next president.

The college's board of trustees unanimously voted Glenn Cerny into the top spot July 1. Cerny, who has been with Schoolcraft since 2010 as the vice president and chief financial officer, will take

over Aug. 1.

"I'd like to express my deep appreciation to the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees for their confidence in me to lead Schoolcraft College as the next president," Cerny said in a release. "I am grateful to have this opportunity and look forward



Cerny

to helping Schoolcraft College students, faculty and staff reach even greater heights."

Cerny will succeed Conway Jeffress, the college's president since 2001. Jeffress announced his retirement in January.

"Our rigorous and in-depth screening and interview process, which included valued input from Schoolcraft College

faculty, staff, students, the Schoolcraft College Foundation board and the wider community, informed our decision," said Brian Broderick, chair of Schoolcraft's board of trustees, in a release. "All of our finalists were of the highest quality, and in the end, we feel Dr. Cerny is the right choice to lead Schoolcraft

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Genuine Toy Company manager Kyla Doak, left, rings up Rob Innis, who came to the Plymouth store during a recent afternoon to purchase a Ticket to Ride Rails and Sails board game for his son, Drew, who came with him to the shop.

Sales up at toy shop after being on mask 'naughty list'

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

All Elle Dare wants to do at work is have fun.

Since she and her husband, Charles, own a toy store, that wasn't typically a problem until a nationwide argument over protective face coverings made its way to the downtown Plymouth business's Facebook page.

Genuine Toy Company, 550 Forest, began seeing post after post a few weeks ago from people going after their policy of requiring customers to wear a face covering in the store to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, Dare said.

"I couldn't keep up with it," she said. "It was like, 'delete, delete, delete.'"

After dealing with the posts - which came after the shop was named on a list advocating the boycott of shops requiring face coverings - she began noticing another trend: support for the store came in from all across the country.

People sent and posted messages to her page supporting the decision, and



Genuine Toy Company store co-owner Elle Dare, left, and Doak at the register.

PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"We have people walk in and say, '... I saw the post and I want to buy something.' People kind of came together to support us."

Elle Dare Co-owner, Genuine Toy Company

See **TOY SHOP**, Page 4A

Canton park makes slow progress, as expected

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Five years after the proverbial ink dried on its official master plan, Canton Township's Patriot Park is just a shell of its future self.

Greg Hohenberger, the township's director of leisure services, is neither surprised nor disappointed in the 134-acre property's status, citing an expected absence of funding for the park's snail-like progression.

"We knew when we were developing the plan for the park that there was no identified funding and that it was going to be a future project," said Hohenberger. "We would all love to see the park developed tomorrow, but there are only so many funds available. That said, I'm excited about the pieces we have been able to put in place."

The township's ultimate plans for the property north of Ford Road and west of Ridge Road are ambitious as reflected in the park's 2015 master plan. In addition to limestone pathways and 2.5 kilometers of walkable nature trails, its blueprint calls for six soccer fields, two basketball courts, a fishing pond and pier, and 90-square-foot concession building with restrooms, to name a few features.

With the cooperation of construction companies looking for places to transfer excess commodities like dirt and gravel, the township has been able to get a jump start on the park's foundation.

"We've had builders approach us from time to time, asking us if we need their excess resources like dirt and gravel," Hohenberger said. "For instance, one developer let us know they had dug out a bunch of basements and that we could have the dirt."

"They transported the dirt to the site of the park and we were able to level it out and seed it where the future soccer fields will be located. It's nice because once we are able to secure funding for the park, this will be ready to go."

A gravel entrance drive off Ridge Road and a connecting parking lot have also been laid.

While the property will remain a passive park for the foreseeable future - hiking trails have been established

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"I am grateful to have this opportunity and look forward to helping Schoolcraft College students, faculty and staff reach even greater heights."

Glenn Cerny
Vice president and CFO, Schoolcraft College,
on being selected as the college's next president

Schoolcraft

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College into the next era."

Before coming to Schoolcraft, Cerny worked at North Central Michigan College, Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Lansing Community College and the University of Michigan. He has spent almost his entire career working in higher education.

When Cerny takes the reins in August, the college will plan events for students, staff and the community to get to know him.

stankersle@hometownlife.com

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist
Mobile: 248-396-3870

Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

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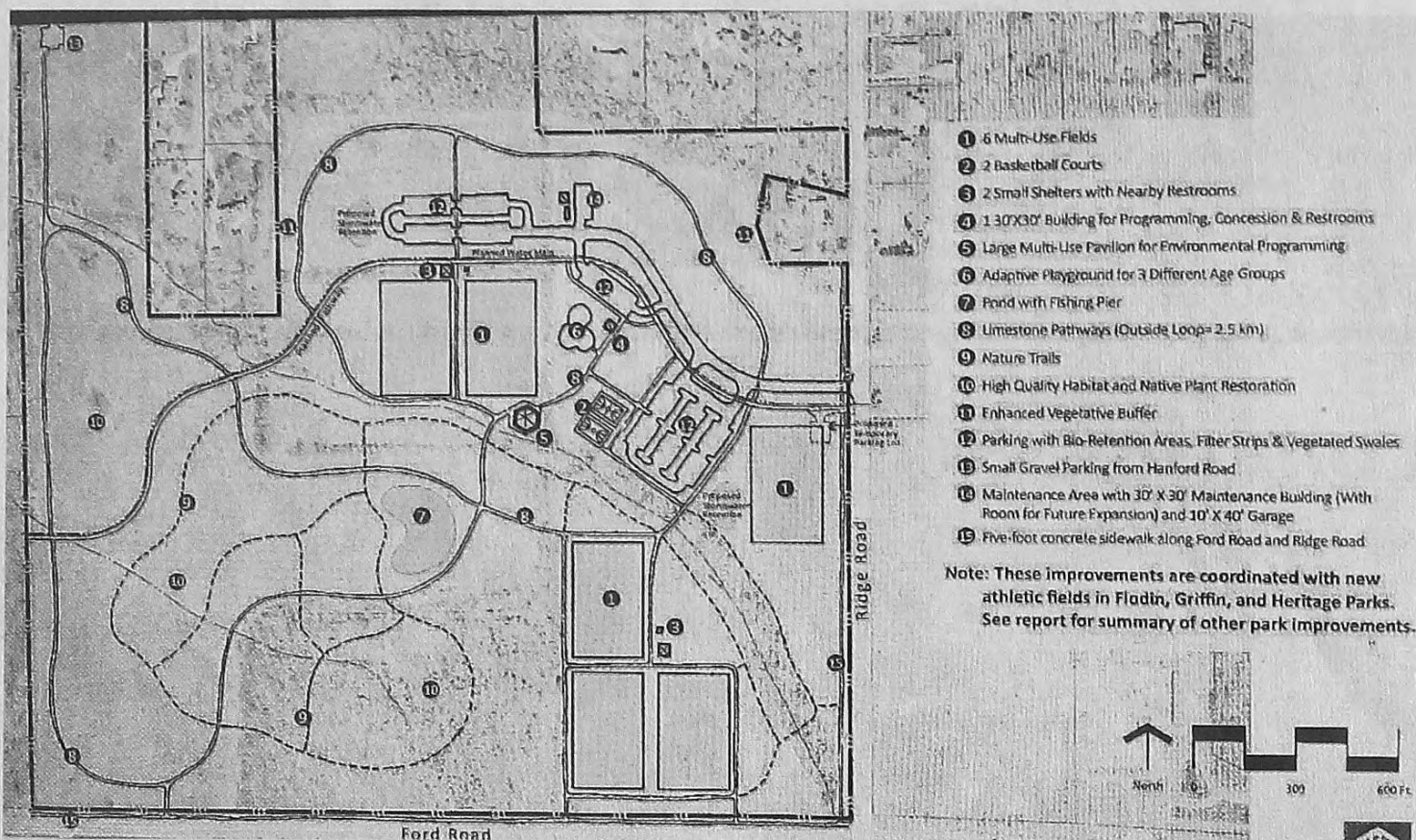
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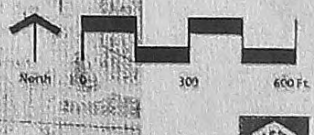
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- 12 Parking with Bio-Retention Areas, Filter Strips & Vegetated Swales
- 13 Small Gravel Parking from Hanford Road
- 14 Maintenance Area with 30' X 30' Maintenance Building (With Room for Future Expansion) and 10' X 40' Garage
- 15 Five-foot concrete sidewalk along Ford Road and Ridge Road

Note: These improvements are coordinated with new athletic fields in Flodin, Griffin, and Heritage Parks. See report for summary of other park improvements.



An overview of the features that will ultimately be included in Patriot Park. COURTESY OF CANTON TOWNSHIP LEISURE SERVICES

Park

Continued from Page 1A

just west of the parking lot – the higher-profile amenities like soccer fields and pavilions are years away from becoming reality.

In August 2000, the township acquired the land in two separate parcels, one being the former Gilmore farm. The 134-acre property was purchased with grant funds from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, with the ultimate purpose being the construction of a large community park that combined passive features with active recreation opportunities.

Hohenberger explained the park's features were implemented into the master plan after Canton Township residents were polled regarding what they'd like to see.

"The No. 1 feature residents want to see is more hiking trails," Hohenberger said. "So Patriot Park will answer those needs."

As with all natural-setting projects, nature can provide some obstacles. At



Patriot Park's landscape is still in its natural form. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the Patriot Park site, tick sightings have been higher than usual due to the warm, dry winter southeast Michigan experienced.

A sign warning visitors to dress accordingly and practice protective measures for themselves and their pets has been posted next to one of the entrance signs.

"We urge visitors to the park to cover as much skin as possible and use bug spray," he said.

Hohenberger said the township needs approximately \$7 million to com-

plete the park's master plan and that private donors are encouraged to donate funds to help speed the project's timeline.

He said naming rights could be established given the dollar amount of donations.

On a brighter note regarding township parks, construction of a smaller neighborhood park in east Canton – Kopper Park – is moving along nicely.

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

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Campaign says it caught man stealing yard signs

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The husband of a candidate for U.S. Congress in the 11th district says he caught an election sign thief red-handed on video, just one month before the primary election.

Brian Williams, husband of Republican Congressional candidate Whitney Williams, allegedly caught on camera Canton resident Andrew Folgmann stealing Republican candidates' signs July 5.

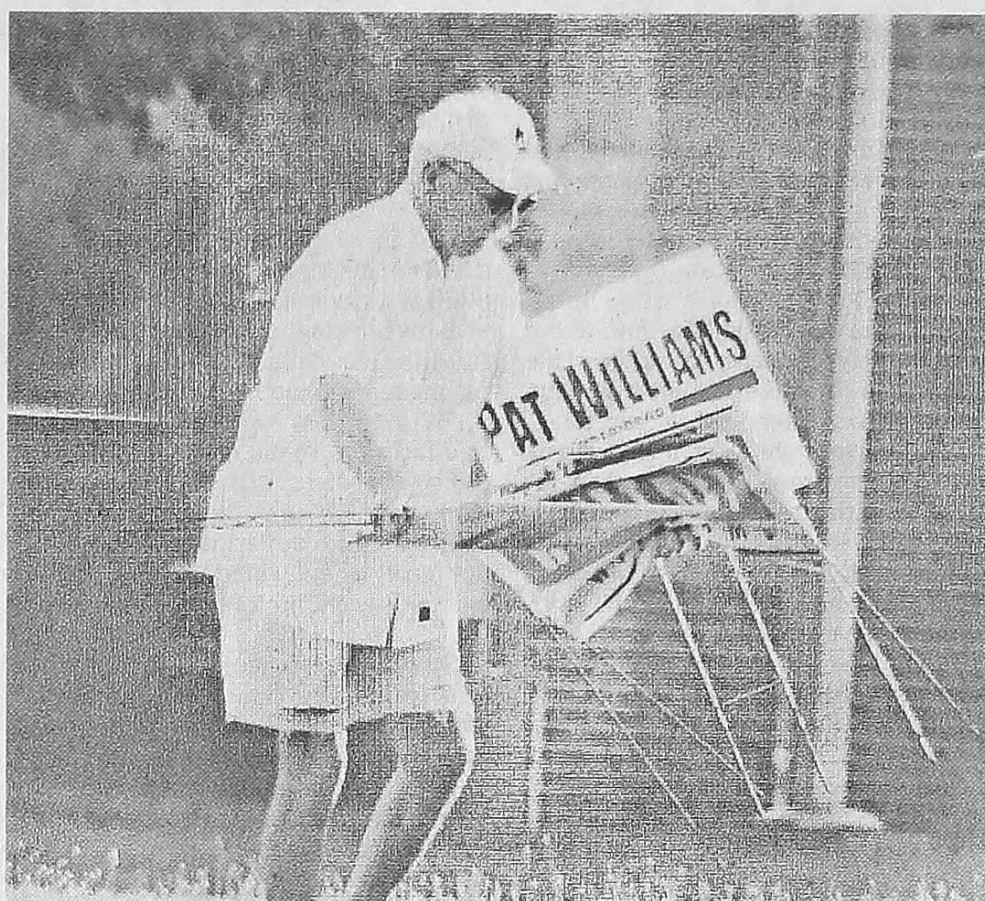
Whitney Williams said Brian camped out near the site of the sign theft after signs had been stolen from that vicinity on other occasions.

The 50-second video is posted on YouTube as a campaign video. The video starts with Williams approaching as Folgmann walks by carrying several campaign signs. Williams confronts the man, asking him why he's taking signs off private property. The other man said he was taking signs he could get rid of and implied he would return them, although the video doesn't show if or where the signs were then placed.

Folgmann said he took the signs because he thought they were illegally placed on Plymouth-Canton Schools property (the intersection near where the signs were placed is approximately 100 yards from Discovery Middle School).

"I had no idea it was a crime (to take the signs)," Folgmann said. "When the man with the camera asked me to put them back, I put them back."

Whitney Williams' campaign filed a



The Whitney Williams congressional campaign has filed a police report saying it caught someone stealing campaign signs. COURTESY OF BRIAN WILLIAMS

police report with the Canton Police Department. The department said it is investigating the report.

During the last few weeks, numerous yard signs have gone missing from the area.

Pat Williams said that several of his

campaign's yard signs placed with permission on private property have been swiped, along with larger, more expensive six-foot banners.

"All I want is for my private property to be returned," Pat Williams said. "I'm not going to press charges."

Theft of campaign signs occurs most election cycles, with candidates from all political parties reporting missing signs on social media or to police. Many communities have sign ordinances limiting the time or placement of signs, usually prohibiting sign placement in the road right-of-way.

"Considering that radical leftists want to destroy America's history, censor opposing views on social media, and shout down any form of debate, stealing yard signs seems par for the course," said Whitney Williams. "With half-baked ideas such as defunding the police and the green New Deal, it's no wonder why the left would rather silence their opposition instead of allowing voters to make informed decisions."

Stealing or defacing signs is a misdemeanor in Michigan that can carry a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine or imprisonment of up to 90 days, according to state law.

Williams is in a five-candidate primary campaign to represent the Republican Party in the November general election for the 11th Congressional District race, which includes much of western Wayne and Oakland counties. Also on the Republican primary ballot are Frank Acosta of Northville, Kerry Bentiolo of Milford, Eric S. Eshaki of Birmingham and Carmelita Greco of Northville.

The winner of the Aug. 4 primary will face Democrat Haley Stevens in the general election. Stevens is wrapping up her first term in office.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com.

Storage business planned for former Toys R Us in Livonia

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Did you purchase a Furby or Cabbage Patch Kids doll from the Toys R Us in Livonia back in the day? You may have a chance to bring it back to the place you bought it from, albeit in a box.

The Livonia Planning Commission recommended approval for a climate-controlled self-storage facility to go in the space formerly occupied by Toys R Us at 29150 W. Seven Mile, just east of Middlebelt.

The commission took up the item during its meeting online June 23, voting to recommend approval for a waiver use at the site for a storage facility with several hundred units of varying sizes.

The proposal would keep the building in place but make major renovations and modifications to improve its look and functionality. Much of the parking lot for the former toy store will be removed, being replaced by green space and a retention pond on the north end of the property.

"Literally the entire site is currently paved. Quite a large section of the property's asphalt would be removed," said Mark Taormina, the city's planning director.

The site would contain about 650 units of varying sizes and would only be accessible from within the building; no exterior doors to units would be created. It's also expected that the interior would be divided into two stories to allow for more storage units, Taormina said.

Brandon Grysko, an attorney with

Northville-based Fausone Bohn, which represents the proposed self-storage developers, said the space was designed to improve the look of the building and make it attractive for the area.

"I think this is a nice piece of architecture, unique architecture that you don't see everywhere along Seven Mile Road," he said.

Toys R Us liquidated its stores in 2018, including the Livonia store, which had operated for decades.

Other area Toys R Us stores have already been converted into shopping destinations: the former store in Westland is now a Volunteers of America thrift shop and the old toy store in Novi became Bob's Discount Furniture.

The recommended approval sends the issue to the city council, which will make the final determination.

Commissioner Peter Ventura said he was pleased to see the way the building looked as it was brought before the commission.

He said a vision meeting held early in the process to promote the project showed a very different look than what was displayed during the meeting.

"Looking at the product the petitioner is bringing to us tonight, it's substantially improved," he said. "I simply want to extend my compliments to the architect and the petitioner and to thank them for their responsiveness to the input that they've been given."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.



GNC announced the store at 30983 Five Mile in the Livonia Plaza was among nearly 250 other GNCs in North America to close. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

GNC on Five Mile in Livonia part of nationwide closures

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Yet another national retailer has closed a local shop after filing for bankruptcy.

GNC announced the store at 30983 Five Mile in the Livonia Plaza shopping center will join nearly 250 other stores across North America to close.

The company filed for Ch. 11 bankruptcy earlier this month, a step taken in large part due to the coronavirus pandemic's strain on the company as it attempted to streamline its business.

"As a result, we felt the best opportunity for us to continue to improve our capital structure and address certain operational issues was to restructure through a Chapter 11 reorganization,"

reads a statement on the GNC website about the closures. "This gives us the opportunity to improve our balance sheet while continuing to advance our business strategy, right-size our corporate store portfolio, and strengthen our brands to protect the long-term sustainability of our company."

The shop was completely cleared out and empty June 25.

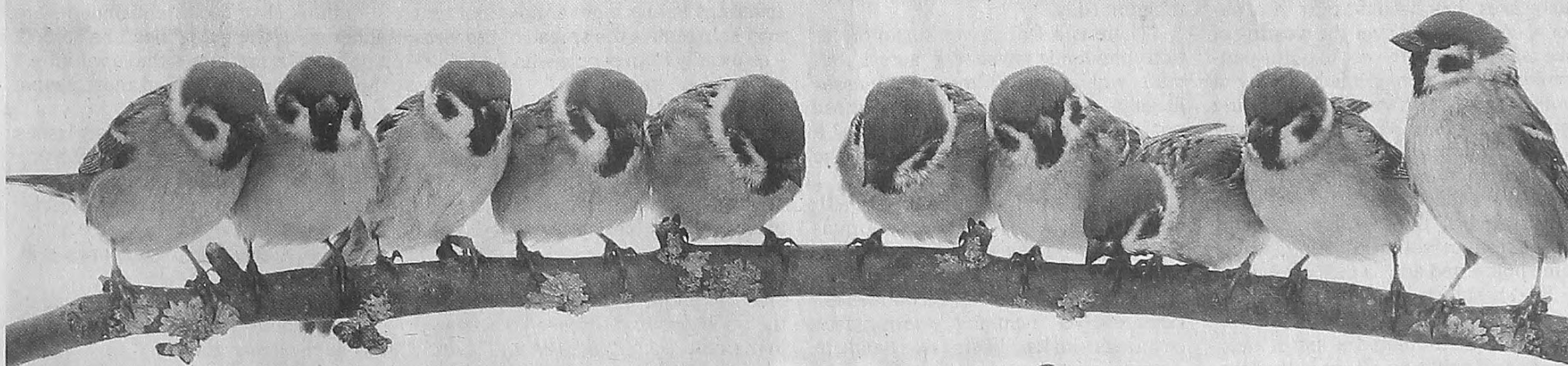
In addition to the Livonia store, several other GNC stores across Michigan will close their doors as a part of the restructuring. Those include stores in Ann Arbor, Caro, Greenville, Rochester Hills and Sterling Heights.

Several GNC stores remain open across the region, including others in Livonia, Redford Township, Westland, Canton and Novi.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

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What led to Michigan's teacher shortage

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's no getting around it: Michigan is in the middle of a teacher shortage.

"Within the last decade, you could see it coming," said George Heitsch, retired Farmington Public Schools superintendent.

As the shortage became more widespread, teachers also found their job wasn't what they originally signed up for. When the coronavirus pandemic broke out, teachers had a new set of stress-inducing responsibilities as education suddenly moved online.

Plus, not every subject is a popular one for would-be educators.

Special education, advanced math and advanced sciences see particularly low applicant pools. Shortages also tend to affect low-income or rural areas more than affluent, suburban ones.

"Our teaching institutions tend to turn out more teachers in the elementary field and English and social studies and physical education," said Ben DeGrow, director of education policy for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. "There are far less defined teachers who can do math or high level science."

The shortage is caused by a number of things, and there's not one solution, either. Here's what local districts are facing and what they're doing to keep teachers in the classroom:

A changing field

A major contributor to the shortage is young teachers who leave the field after about five years. Lack of economic mobility and respect factor into that, and so does the job's transformation in recent years.

"As a young teacher, the demands of the profession are much higher when you actually get into the job than the perception is when you're outside of it," Heitsch said.

Today, students have more emotional- or trauma-based needs than they did a decade ago. This has changed the job in more than one way.

"Our student population is different, so the demands on the teacher have

changed quite a bit in the last five to 10 years around students that come to us who have trauma or mental health issues," Heitsch said.

Aside from all that, teachers found themselves leaving their classrooms and running virtual classes in a matter of weeks when the coronavirus pandemic shut down the state.

Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Andrea Oquist said her staff found it "extremely challenging" to recreate classes and the relationships that stem from them on a computer screen.

"The biggest shift for our teachers was to move from that in-person instruction with our students in the classroom where we can provide one-on-one support ... to keep that classroom community alive and well in an online environment," she said.

Penny pinching

As the job consistently changes, pay disparity often turns people away from teaching.

"If you look at over the last five to six years of what's happened to funding for our schools, we haven't kept up with the rate of inflation," said Chris Wigent, executive director of the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators.

Heitsch said low pay relates to other contributors like benefit packages, lack of pensions and fewer young teachers. He acknowledges Oakland County school districts can often afford to pay more than outstate districts and may not face as many problems with enabling new teachers to pay off their college loans.

"I think there's a balance between accumulating college debt and what your job is going to be," he said.

The educators all agreed they place blame on the pay disparity on the lack of state funding school districts get, which varies widely from district to district.

Little help from the state

"Michigan is literally ranked 50th in the overall investment in public education, which has led to wage stagnation for staff while the demands on them

really continue to grow," said Oquist.

Josh Gignac, principal of Johnson Elementary in the Huron Valley Schools district, said his district has had the same amount of state funding since 1994. Because of the coronavirus, schools will likely see cuts in that funding. Without federal help, local school districts are bracing for cuts as big as \$700 per student.

Between stagnant funding and lower full-time equivalency (FTE) numbers, paying teachers more is highly difficult.

"With the last few years and the cuts in education, that's made it very, very difficult for districts to reach the type of compensation that teachers deserve," Wigent said. "Superintendents would do more, they would provide higher compensation, but the state has to help us."

Statewide changes in funding has also resulted in a loss of the pension teachers once enjoyed as a benefit and has lowered the quality of health insurance educators receive. Gignac said even if pay remains stagnant, these factors make it so people are keeping less of their paycheck.

"For funding reasons and whatnot, compensation has remained flat," he said.

With that low pay and historically poor benefit system, it can be hard to recruit teachers and then keep them for more than five years.

Finding people and getting creative

Oquist said Livonia perhaps hasn't felt the impact of the shortage as much as some other districts, and she thinks that's partially because the district tries to make employees feel valued and provide opportunities for professional development.

"I think it's essential that we value the role of an educator and that we do that in a few different ways," she said.

Heitsch and Gignac added that treating people well, being transparent and communicating are critical in persuading young teachers to stick around.

"I think the quality of workplace that you create within your district, the kind of culture you have, makes you a desir-

able location," Heitsch said. "You can't control how much money you get from the state, but you can control how you use that money and how you treat people."

The next generation

As people leave the field in higher numbers, fewer students are entering teaching degree programs, as well.

"What we're seeing kind of at the national level with the polling data on young people is the number of those interested in the teaching profession are going down," DeGrow said. "We're seeing fewer who are enrolling in traditional teaching certification programs."

DeGrow and Wigent both suggested using traditional college programs to create teachers might not be the best method.

DeGrow suggested it could be worthwhile to create incentives for people to pursue hard-to-fill positions like advanced math.

Both men also pointed to teacher cadet programs for high-schoolers and career tech programs in college as things that could help get young people interested in the profession.

Educators typically see their job as important and noble, and they hope young people will see that, too.

"Teachers positively influence the lives of students every day," Heitsch said. "The gift of reading that an elementary teacher provides kids opens their world up. Secondary teachers create relationships with students that may not happen anywhere else."

Gignac said he and his teachers routinely go to student dance recitals and hockey games. Even though things might be harder in some ways than they used to be, he thinks those relationships make the job great.

"It's one of the most noble professions and the rewards, the intrinsic rewards, are still there every single day," he said.

While there's no one solution, educators hope to take their own steps and work with the state to make sure classrooms are well staffed in the near future.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

Toy shop

Continued from Page 1A

she said business has picked up since the online spat.

Seeing such support, Dare said, has meant a lot to her.

"People are saying, 'I don't live there, but I support you' or 'I'll make it a point to come to Plymouth.' We have people walk in and say, 'You know, I don't really need anything, but I saw the post and I want to buy something,'" Dare said. "People kind of came together to support us."

Genuine Toy Company, which has been around since 2009, reopened its shop for walk-in customers last month after several months of being closed. Even before then, the Dares did everything they could to reach customers, including posting items for sale on their Facebook page, a practice Elle Dare continues for those customers not yet comfortable with coming in.

She's maintained a contact-free curbside pickup table at the front of the store with gloves and hand sanitizer. Dare said she has even held up items through the front window of the shop to customers outside to help them figure out what they were looking for.

"We're just trying to be safe," she said. "And if you can't wear a mask, we understand that. And there are other ways that we'll try to help you."

Debate over mask-wearing

The toy store, along with other area businesses, has become part of a national conversation over the wearing of face masks during the coronavirus pandemic. The virus has infected tens of thousands of Michiganders since first being detected in March. The debate over wearing masks – a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help keep droplets created at the mouth from being spread from person to person – has become politicized across the country.

The toy shop is among those targeted by a group called "Michigan United for Liberty," which created a list of businesses and public buildings in the state that require customers to wear masks.

The group, which also organized protests in Lansing over the stay-at-home orders earlier this year, says those on the "naughty list" are discriminating il-



The Genuine Toy Company is filled with plenty of toys, as well as a wall of board games. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

legally against those not able or wanting to wear masks.

Businesses in several area communities are on the list, including some in Plymouth, Livonia, Westland, Wayne, Canton, Birmingham, Novi and Farmington Hills.

"There is a fear-driven misinformation pandemic sweeping across our state, which has resulted in businesses illegally discriminating against those not able or wanting to wear masks," a message above the list reads on the group's website.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, on an informational flyer on the state's coronavirus website, states that as more is learned about the coronavirus, recommendations evolve, including wearing face coverings inside businesses and in areas where keeping six feet apart from others is difficult.

"As we learn more about COVID-19, sometimes recommendations change. There is increasing evidence that people without symptoms may be able to

spread the virus, and that droplets produced when breathing, speaking, or singing may spread COVID-19 from person to person," the agency wrote. "This evidence informed the decision to recommend face coverings. The use of face coverings is one more simple tool that may help reduce the spread of the virus – especially from people who are infected and don't know it yet."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued an executive order in April requiring face coverings inside shops. Children younger than 2 years, those who have trouble breathing or those unable to remove a mask without assistance should not wear masks.

Plymouth has seen 71 confirmed coronavirus cases and nine deaths since the virus was first discovered in March in the state, according to Wayne County.

Compliance

Tony Bruscato, the director of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, said he has not heard of visitors

coming downtown having any issue adhering to the new guidelines. He said the addition of expanded outdoor seating at restaurants has helped diners come back, and that most people are respectful of the new normal.

"I think all of our establishments are adhering to the guidelines," he said. "I think for the most part, that's working. I think you're going to find most people complying with that."

Dare said she has not seen any issues inside the shop since seeing the posts on Facebook and that customers have been respectful in following the guidelines. She said she believes the positive messages that came in response may have helped.

"I think when they (posters complaining about the mask policy) saw all the support we got, they saw that it wasn't going to work," she said. "We're just following what the governor said and trying to be safe."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Twitter: @davidveselenak.

Obituaries

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Theresa "Terri" Kane

MESA, AZ - Theresa "Terri" Kane, age 86, died on June 8, 2020 in Mesa, Arizona.

Terri was born on August 26, 1933 in Philadelphia, PA.

Terri is survived by her daughter Eileen Kane and son Stephen Murray of Chandler, AZ; granddaughter Genevieve (Jason) Parker and great-grandson Peter Parker of Canyon Country, CA. She is preceded in death by her husband John Kane and son Sean Kane.

She traveled with her husband during his career in the motion picture business to Indianapolis, IN, and Birmingham, MI before retiring in Chandler, AZ. Committal is scheduled at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona with her husband, John, a WWII USMC Veteran.

May
Eternal
Rest be
Granted
Upon
Them

George Alan McConnell

TRAVERSE CITY - George Alan McConnell, 91, of Traverse City passed away June 26, 2020 with his family by his side under the wonderful care of Hospice of Michigan.

George was born on May 15, 1929 in Detroit to the late George and Hildegard (Nybeck) McConnell.

George served honorably in the United States Army in California and Maryland.

George graduated from Cooley High School in Detroit. He then earned his bachelors degree in Physics from Wayne State University and his Masters in Engineering Systems from the University of Michigan. He worked for 43 years for Vickers which later became Eaton Corporation as an Electrical Engineer.

On July 1, 1967 George married Marion Gaber at St. Martha Parish in Dearborn. Together they enjoyed traveling all over the world. Some of their favorite destinations included Hawaii, Alaska, China, Australia, New Zealand, Bora Bora, South America, and Europe.

George was a member of St. Francis Catholic Church and was a 4th degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus.

George was preceded in death by his parents and brother Don.

George is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years Marion; sons Brent C. (Karen) McConnell and Dr. Ryan P. McConnell; grandchildren Riley, Drew, Carly, Macy and Loyal; sister Lois Krutz and many dear and close friends.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday July 15, 2020 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City. The Knights of Columbus will lead the rosary at 8:00 pm.

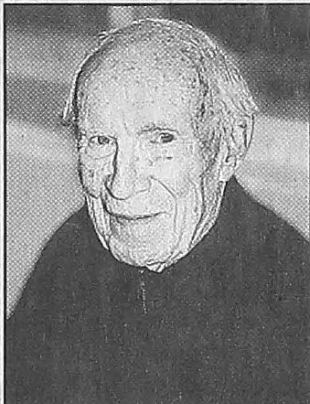
Visitation and prayers will also be held on Thursday July 16, 2020 at 10 am at Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home. The family will then proceed to St. Francis Catholic Church for mass at 11:00 am.

Interment will take place at a later date at Guardian Angels Cemetery in Oakland Township.

Memorial contributions in honor of George may be directed to The St Francis Church Knights of Columbus Council #13958.

Please visit www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com to share your memories and condolences with the family.

REYNOLDS JONKHOFF
Funeral Home & Cremation Services



Harold (Hal) Charles Ravenna

Harold (Hal) Charles Ravenna, died June 11, 2020 at his cottage in Northern Michigan in the company of his four sons. He was 85 years old.

Hal was born on Christmas 1934 during the Great Depression in Bedford, Indiana to Margaret and Julius Ravenna. At his birth, his father, Julius, "didn't have 5c to send a letter home to tell his family that he had a new child." Hal was unusually slim, and his family gave him the nickname, "Gandhi," after Mahatma Gandhi. He never outgrew that nickname.

At 18 Hal graduated from Bedford High School and "volunteered to be drafted" in the army. He spent two years at the US Army base near Dachau Germany; the infamous concentration camp that was liberated by the US at the end of WWII. His experience in Germany were formative times for the young man from Indiana, and would lead Hal to a life travelling the world.

After his honorable discharge with the rank of Corporal, Hal took advantage of the GI Bill, attending University of Indiana, in Bloomington, Indiana studying business administration. He graduated in three years.

Upon graduation, he joined Ford Motor Company, where he would eventually spend his career in a variety of responsibilities, mostly in finance. While working in Louisville, Kentucky, Hal met Martha Lee Chatfield. Martha and Hal would marry in 1961, have four children (all boys) and would remain an inseparable couple for 41 years until Martha's premature death in 2006.

Hal and Martha moved to Detroit, shortly after marriage and then to Livonia, MI. In 1962, their first born son, Joseph was born, followed by John (1963), William (1964) and Peter (1967).

Hal and Martha were adventurers and Hal's career would lead them to work assignments in Brazil, UK and Belgium with kids always in tow.

In the mid-1960's Hal and Martha's first-born, Joseph, was diagnosed with autism. So began their lifelong advocacy for the developmentally disabled.

After returning from his last international assignment to Antwerp, Belgium in 1992, Hal retired from Ford. Hal and Martha had a very active and happy retirement, travelling regularly and splitting time between their family cottage on Mullet Lake in Northern Michigan and Livonia near Joe.

Upon Martha's death in 2006, Hal struggled at first, but always remained a devoted and caring father and grandfather.

In the last few years Hal had various health issues, at times bringing him perilously close to death but he always bounced back. He eventually succumbed to COVID19 related pneumonia.

Hal is survived by two brothers, James and Paul; a sister Marilou; four sons & spouses, five grandchildren & spouses, two great-grandchildren, countless friends and extended family.

Hal will be remembered for his friendly charming personality, quirky wit, intellect, devotion and generosity. He loved cooking, eating, traveling, home projects, lively conversation and doing taxes. He was a great example for his children and will be dearly missed. His funeral will be held at St. Colette's Parish on July 25, 2020.

Hany J Will Funeral Homes

Joseph Otto Sellinger

Joseph Otto Sellinger, beloved, dearest son of Michael and Lisa Sellinger; cherished younger brother to Gina, died July 2, 2020 from an accidental overdose. He struggled with the disease of addiction for years, always hopeful that he would one day overcome.

Joe was born January 14, 1994 in Southfield and grew up in Livonia, MI.

Joseph leaves behind the love of many - his parents, sister, his grandmother and dearest Aunts, Uncles, Cousins. He touched everyone he encountered with his bright spirit and endearing crooked smile. His countless friends in the recovery communities he was a part of are all woven into the fabric of his beautiful life. He will be so deeply missed.

Services for Joe will be at Nie Funeral Home, Liberty Road Chapel-3767 W. Liberty Road, Ann Arbor, on July 8, 2020. Visitation from 11-2; a private ceremony at 2, family only. Joseph would want hope and love to be his legacy, for us to not judge and to pray for the addicts who suffer so deeply.

Memorial contributions in Joe's honor can be made to Dawn Farm, 6633 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 or Home of New Vision, 3115 Professional Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.



Dorothy Ann Rodemeyer

LIVONIA - Dorothy Ann Rodemeyer of Livonia. Age 93. July 7, 2020.

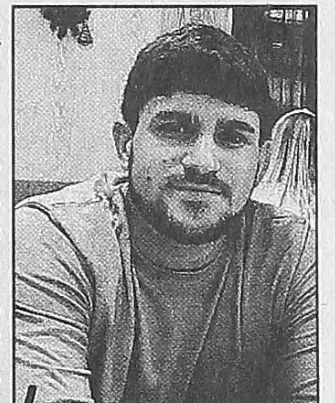
Beloved wife of the late Robert D. Loving mother of Mark (Marianne), Dawn and Bob (Dee). Dear grandmother of Robert W. (Angline), Patrick John (Sarah), Christine (Jason) Seaver and Matthew. Great grandmother of 6.

Memorial Gathering will be held Monday, July 13, 2020 at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd, Livonia at 10:30 AM until Dorothy's Memorial Service at 11:30 AM.

Dorothy along with her husband, Robert, owned and operated a Sporting Goods Store and Golf course.

Memorial Contributions may be directed to Penrickton Center for the Blind or Angela Hospice.

Please share a memory of Dorothy on her tribute wall.



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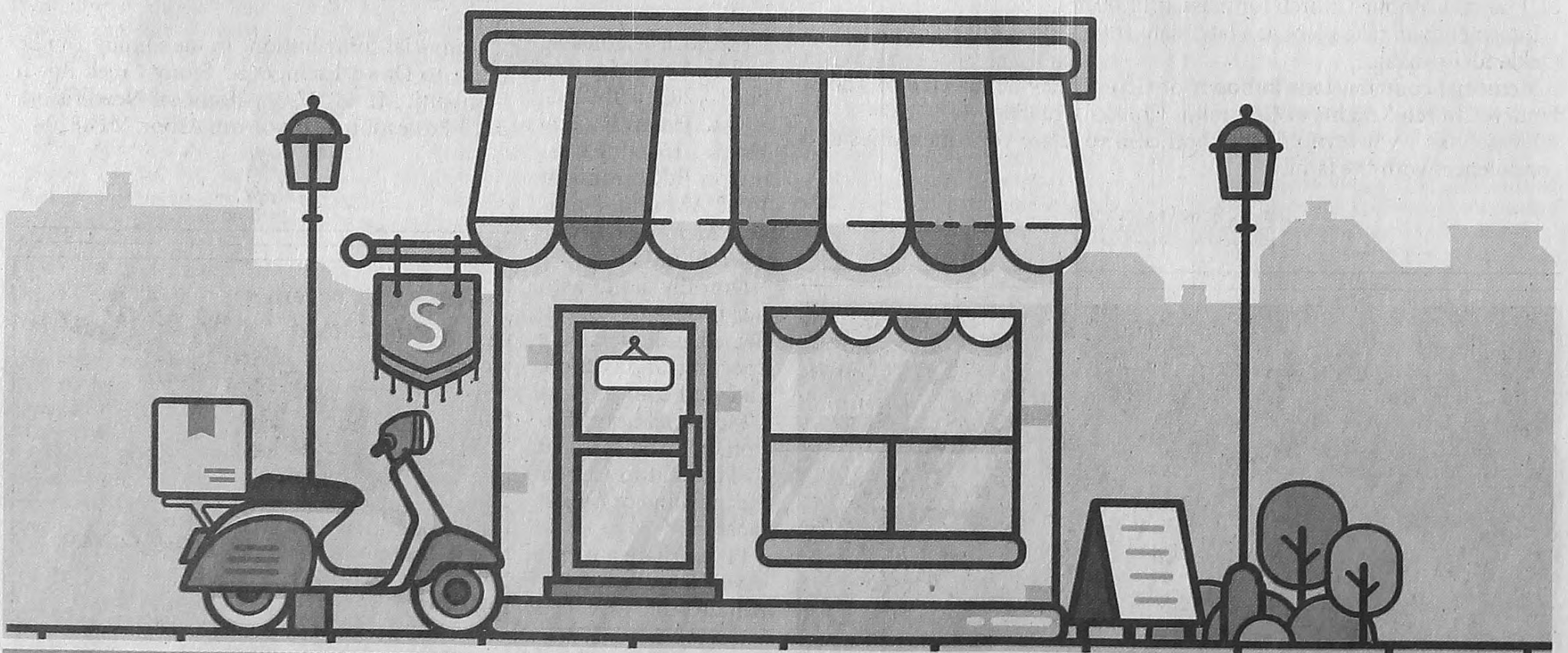
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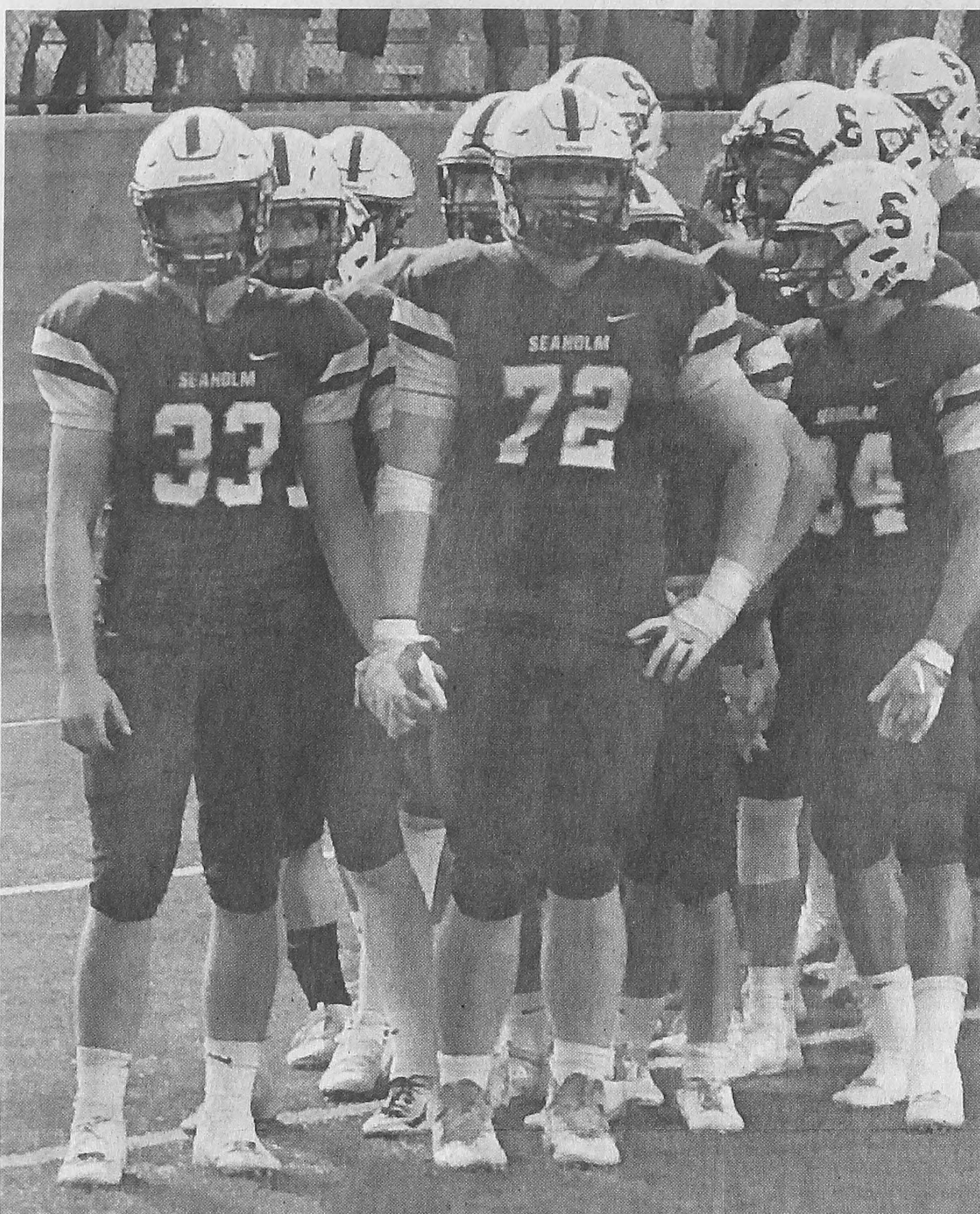


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SPORTS



Seaholm teammates and brothers, James, left, and Caden DeWald, get ready to lead their team onto the field in 2019. COURTESY OF CADEN DEWALD

Seaholm brothers' college picks create divided house

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The DeWald family has long been a Western Michigan household.

Both Jim and Erin DeWald attended Western, where Jim played football, and have raised their kids as Broncos fans — but that changed over the weekend.

Caden DeWald, a rising senior at Seaholm High School, committed to play football at Central Michigan. The offensive guard will be a preferred walk-on for the Chippewas. He joins his older brother James, who is a linebacker, as a division one football recruit.

"I loved the coaching staff right when I met them at junior day," Caden said. "I've been talking to Coach (Mike) Cum-

mings a lot, he's the offensive line coach there. He's been really nice ever since I met him. I think Coach (Jim) McElwain has done a great job and it felt right."

James, however, followed in the footsteps of his parents and will play football at Western Michigan this fall.

See **BROTHERS**, Page 2B

HS baseball, softball programs prepare for possible fall season

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Livonia Churchill head softball coach Abe Vinitiski heard Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer encouraged spring non-contact sports to be moved to the fall during the coronavirus pandemic, his mind immediately went to his calendar.

"All of a sudden I'm like, 'So is it Feb. 15 right now?'" Vinitiski said. "I think about what I was doing on Feb. 15 to prepare for the season: We are conditioning, we are doing optional workouts, four-on-ones. And it's like wow, that's crazy to think."

The decision based on Whitmer's recommendation is in the hands of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and is scheduled to be made some time July 20-25.

But area baseball and softball coaches are already in the midst of preparing for what could be a fall season, even if it may not be their first choice.

'The short end of the stick'

Lakeland head baseball coach Brad Farquhar remembers he heard rumblings about a possible season switch as early as May. But those rumors quickly got shut down by the MHSAA, seemingly putting those thoughts to rest.

While he was a bit surprised by the state recommendations, Farquhar said he understands how hard of a decision the MHSAA has to make in the coming weeks.

"It's a weird situation for everybody," Farquhar said. "I trust that the MHSAA will have the kids' best interest in mind when they are making any decision. And that includes all kids, not just baseball, softball, football. All spring sports and all fall sports. I trust that they will do what's right and I trust that they will do their homework and make an educated decision."

But that does not mean Farquhar would be a fan of moving the high school baseball season to the fall.

After his players lost the 2020 spring season due to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Farquhar said there is still no certainty whether a fall season for any sport will happen at all, putting spring sports in a position to possibly lose two seasons in a row.

This aspect has been on the minds

See **PROGRAMS**, Page 2B

P-CEP field hockey team awarded grant for new jerseys

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Great Lakes Regional Field Hockey announced its first ever grant awards to support growing the game of field hockey in the Great Lakes region. Five Michigan based programs received grants, including the young Plymouth-Canton

Educational Park squad. The total award of the grants is \$3,200 and will provide teams with uniforms and coach education training.

"We are very happy to so quickly fulfill part of our mission to actively grow field hockey in the Great Lakes," Great Lakes Regional Field Hockey Treasurer and Trustee Laura Jones said. "Field hockey has been a ladder that has

helped so many female athletes in Michigan reach for their higher aspirations. Less than a year into our development as an organization, making these grants is a giant step towards fulfilling the first part of our vision. We are excited to help these programs grow and thrive."

Field Hockey is an emerging sport in Michigan, with new teams being added

at the high school level every year. Several of the inaugural awardees are member programs of the Michigan High School Field Hockey Association. One is a middle school program.

Plymouth-Canton was a new team that started in 2018. It was awarded a 2020 grant to obtain new uniforms.

See **GRANT**, Page 3B

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Canton baseball will try and win its second-straight district title in either fall 2020 or spring 2021. COURTESY OF MICHAEL VASILNEK

Programs

Continued from Page 1B

of many coaches in the region.

"Here's the deal: if you are a junior and you lost this year for the pandemic, if we switch seasons and for some reason we start and shut back down, that's going to be two seasons that a junior will lose out on," Churchill head baseball coach Lawrence Scheffer said.

Canton baseball head coach Mark Blomshield does not feel as though the risk of moving a season and possibly having to cancel two in a row is worth the potential reward.

Blomshield is not only thinking about this school year, but also the 2021-22 athletic schedule. After playing a potential season in fall 2020, he said that spring sports may have to wait until spring 2022 to play again.

"Either way, I think we are getting the short end of the stick just to maybe get a season in just because it's not safe for football to do that yet," Blomshield said. "That's above my pay grade. I'm glad I'm not making that choice, but I would like to keep it the way it is."

Not perfect, but feasible

While moving seasons may not be the most agreeable option, coaches believe that the switch is feasible. It is actually something that most coaches have been preparing for.

Farquhar said he and his staff have come up with three separate contingency plans based on what the MHSAA decides later this month.

Vinitski said he quickly reached out to the rest of the members of the coaching staff, confirming that this season switch could be a real possibility.

Without running camps and get to know the members of the freshmen class ahead of the season, Blomshield, who led the Chiefs to a district title a year ago, said teams will be in a time crunch between when the MHSAA

makes its announcement and the start of the season.

However, the Canton head coach said scheduling should not be much of an issue, shifting a spring schedule to the fall and responding to any conflicts that may come up.

"It would not be perfect, but it's feasible," Blomshield said. "Definitely the time constraint and not doing it before, it would be new for everybody."

Instead of the normal March to June season, area teams are speculating an August to October season, inherently reversing the normal weather pattern players are used to.

Farquhar is hoping for more of a condensed season, holding the state finals in the last week of October.

"A lot of planning goes into that, but we could get a full schedule in," Farquhar said. "It would just be pretty packed with games as opposed to practices, but I know players would love it."

If the season starts in August, many players would be coming off of summer seasons in which they played as many as four or five games per weekend.

Vinitski said he would come into the 2020 fall season worried about the durability of his players playing back-to-back softball seasons.

"Part of me is like, 'What are we going to get?'" Vinitski said.

Farquhar knows what he expects to get: better baseball.

He said after a competitive baseball season, players are not just coming out of the gym, but are stretched out and are in peak physical shape.

Even though some may feel fatigue is something to worry about, especially late in the season, Scheffer, who is in his first year with the Chargers baseball team, expects players to be itching to return to the baseball diamond.

"I know they would be excited to get back on the baseball field for their high school, and represent their high school," Scheffer said. "I think there would be some extra juice to represent their high school."

Now, players are just waiting to hear



Like many other baseball and softball teams in the state, Livonia Churchill is preparing to possibly play its schedule in the fall. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

if they will represent their high school in the fall or in the spring.

There are many questions that still need to be answered ahead of the start of the 2020 fall season, no matter if baseball and softball are played or not.

To encourage his baseball team, Farquhar continues to preach the message of becoming one percent better each day, on and off the field.

"That really holds true in a time like

this," Farquhar said. "You don't know what tomorrow brings, so control today and get one percent better today, wake up the next morning and do it all over again. Take care of that because that's about the only thing that you can control."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17.

Brothers

Continued from Page 1B

"Hopefully I can play against him one day, I'm looking forward to it," Caden said. "We call it a house divided. Our parents are supportive both ways."

The fierce rivalry between WMU and CMU now extends to their house. After committing, Caden was able to get a "Fire Up Chips" cheer out of both his brother and dad. The next step is getting his dad, who is also the Seaholm football coach, into some CMU clothes.

"I hope he'll get in the Fire Up Chips gear," Caden said. "He'll look good in it."

Caden's recruitment really heated up over the winter and ramped up after attending CMU's junior day on Super Bowl Sunday.

He said he had some offers from other programs, but like James, wanted to play at the D1 level.

A year younger, Caden was able to watch his brother's recruiting process up close and get a feel for the way things work. His key takeaway was to work hard and stay patient and good things



Erin DeWald, center, stands with her two sons, Caden and James.

COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

will come.

On the field, he said his preparation is a big part of what makes his successful.

"I'm a student of the game," Caden

said. "I love studying film and love the game itself. I love the grit of the offensive line life, I take pride in it and love playing with passion."

James, who will also be a preferred walk-on, committed to the Broncos back in February. Between the family ties and desire to play in the MAC, WMU was the perfect fit. Ferris State was his runner-up, but he couldn't say no to the Broncos.

He's spent his offseason training and focusing on getting faster before heading off to school later this month.

"I'm probably going to be one of the shortest linebackers on the team, but I think my game sense and knowing what's going on and picking it up on the fly, I think that's what separates me," James said.

James has started some friendly rivalry banter with his brother but at the end of the day, he said he's extremely proud of Caden.

"It's different, he's always been a Western fan, so it's weird hearing him say Fire Up Chips," James said. "I'm very proud of him, I'm happy for him. I know it's what he wanted to do."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send story ideas to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Milford cancels Labor Day 30K, citing 'close calls'

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Milford Labor Day 30K is canceled after 19 years.

Not just this year, but "forever," says race organizer Doug Klingensmith.

It's the latest event to go by the wayside in 2020 as the world suffers from a pandemic, but when the village council unanimously denied on Monday the 18.6 mile race, the coronavirus was scarcely mentioned.

Instead, Police Chief Tom Lindberg cited safety concerns that centered around close calls between vehicles and runners in recent years in a race that has been continued for 19 years in the village without the closing of streets.

"I know the race organizer thinks I don't like races, but most of my life I've been running races," Lindberg said, noting he has participated in races in both New York and Detroit. "They need to be done safely."

Klingensmith dismissed the chief's safety concerns as "perception."

"Perception is just that," he said. "Nineteen years of over 500 runners and participants proves it is a well-organized race."

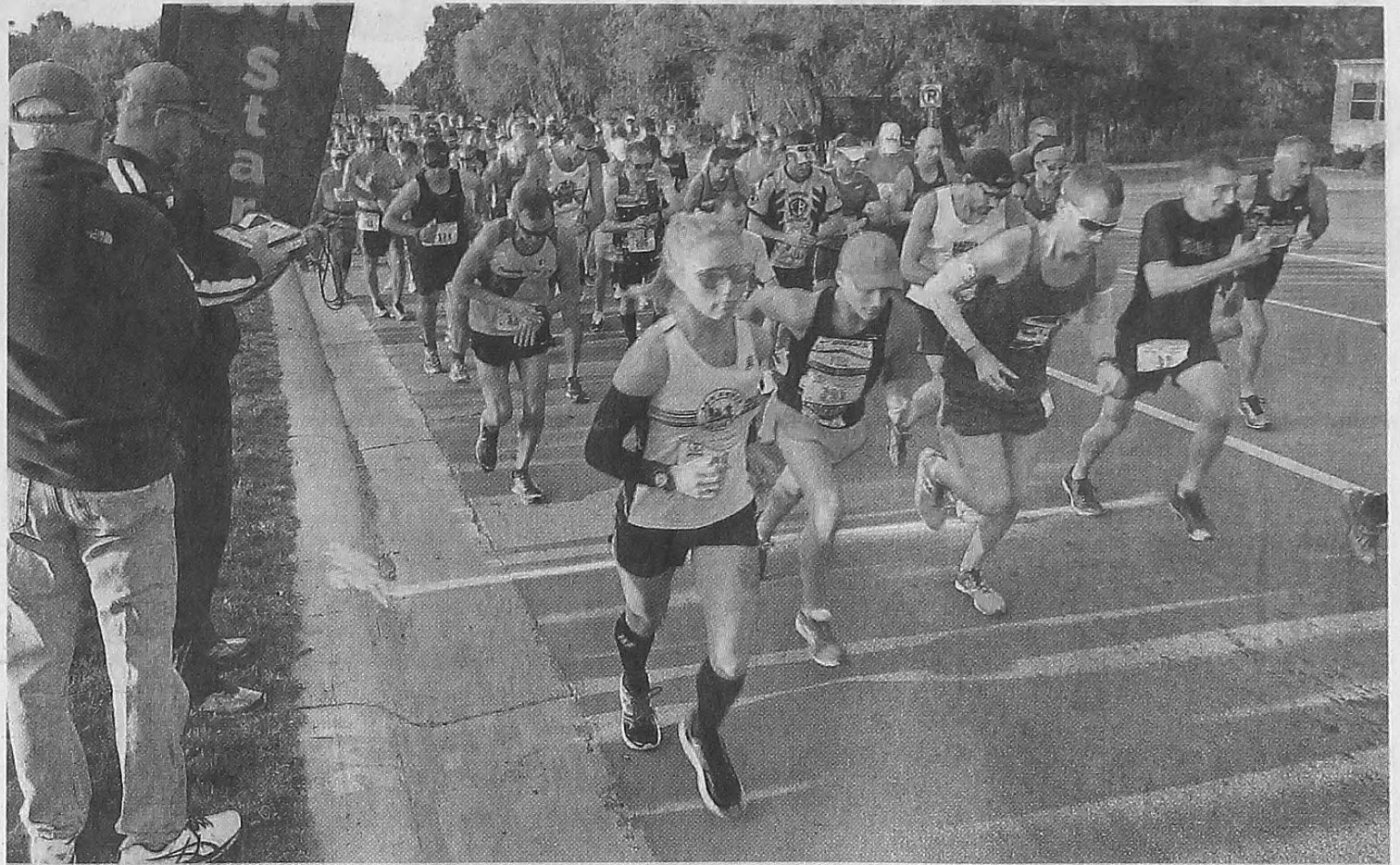
The Milford Labor Day 30K includes the 30K bike race that starts from Bakers of Milford, followed 15 minutes later by the 30K run, and then after another 15 minutes, a 10K.

The routes are the same for the 30Ks, an 18.6 mile distance that goes through at least 10 intersections, Lindberg explained, and also includes bicyclists that reach speeds of 20-25 mph.

He said that after receiving complaints the last few years from Milford staff and police officers who have said it is not run safely, he went to the race himself to see what is going on and has "significant concerns" about cars and races intermingling.

"This is the only race where they come on the roadway," Lindberg said, adding that he saw a near miss with racers and a Jeep at an intersection where kids were also standing and texting.

This is a scenario he said is found throughout the race course with multiple intersections he said should be closed to vehicular traffic during the race, but aren't. He also witnessed three



Runners at the start of the 2017 Labor Day 30K in Milford. After 19 years, the 30K has been canceled over safety concerns.

COURTESY OF DOUG KLINGENSMITH

women jogging northbound on Main Street and within 10 feet of them, a semi-truck with more runners behind the truck.

Lindberg said it would take at least 11 police officers to cover the major intersections for the race to ensure safety, something that wouldn't even be possible for the Labor Day weekend event because the department isn't large enough, and it would also be cost-prohibitive for double time.

He suggested as safer alternatives, running the race through Kensington or Island Lake parks, where there is plenty of room for both vehicles and racers.

"I hope you will not approve the event in the way it is written this year, and take into consideration these suggestions and get it somewhat going next year," Lindberg said.

Village Manager Christian Wuerth agreed, saying he was not comfortable

with the event, and noting "Clearly there are COVID issues that have risen."

Klingensmith compared the 30K race to a Black Lives Matter march last month, an event the police chief supported. While Village Council President Jerry Aubry said the 30K event was different, Klingensmith countered that it wasn't different, it was "an event to promote health and safety."

He also said race participants must sign waivers and are responsible for their own health and safety with the freedom to run on public streets.

Village Attorney Jennifer Elowsky said the waivers do not exempt the village from liability and added that the police chief's "perception" of safety and risk is his job.

Additionally, it falls under the village's authority "to make sure health, wellness and safety measures are met in its right of way," she said. "Waivers don't

make the village immune."

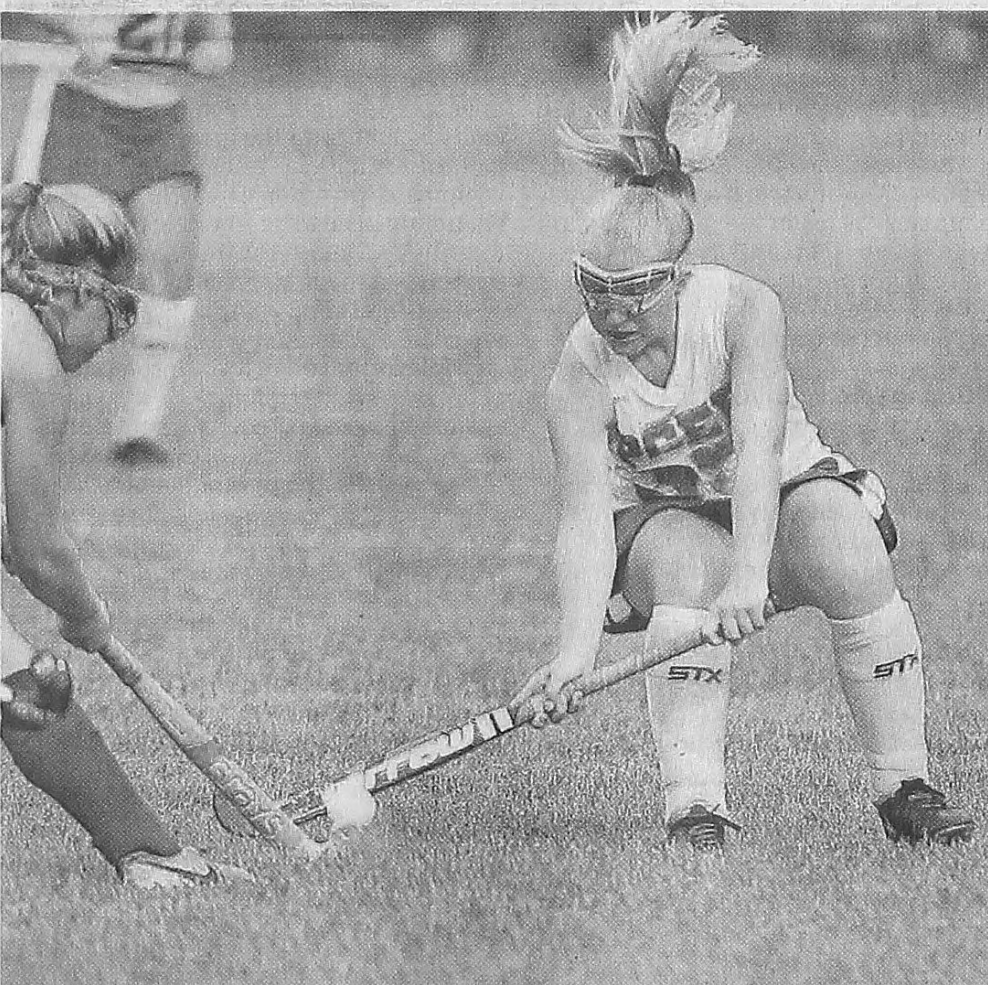
Klingensmith argued "It makes you immune from anything, including this COVID-19," adding that the village council's decision will continue to impact Milford, including loss of financial benefits created by the bringing racers into town. He called "the cure worse than the disease."

He shot down the idea of hosting the race at Kensington MetroPark, saying it wouldn't bring money to the village.

"I'm perfectly fine with you ending the event. Fine, close it after 19 years," Klingensmith said. "I'll never do it again."

A virtual race remains an option this year. For further details, visit labor-day30k.com.

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



PCEP's Olivia Koogiena, right, plays field hockey last season. The team recently was awarded a grant that will allow it to buy new jerseys. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Grant

Continued from Page 1B

"As a new club, this support will make an immeasurable impact." PCEP High School Club Team President Amanda Curtright said. "As a self-funded program being built from the ground up, this financial support will allow us to continue to grow while keeping the program affordable for our athletes. In addition to the financial support, our selection for this grant continues to highlight our warm welcome into the field hockey family."

PCEP serves a combined student body of over 6,000 students in the Plymouth-Canton-Salem school district. The 2018 PCEP field hockey team had 45 athletes, and the 2019 team fielded 60.

The GLRFH grant program is part of the organization's commitment to help build thriving field hockey programs in the region. In addition to jerseys for Ply-

mouth-Canton, this first round of grants benefited Rockford High School's inaugural team, (home and away jerseys), Pinckney High School (home jerseys), Pinckney Middle School (skorts) and Academy of the Sacred Heart (professional development).

Founded in 2019, Great Lakes Regional Field Hockey is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. GLRFH serves all ages and abilities of the indoor and outdoor field hockey community through high quality coaching, programming, skill development, fitness training, and play. Additionally the GLRFH sponsors coaching education, specialty workshops, leadership training and other educational opportunities to support development. Finally, the work of the GLRFH may include development of facilities and training venues.

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at availlien@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter, @AndrewVcourt. Send story ideas to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

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5 reasons you should invest in employee development

Kate Lopaze
thejobnetwork.com

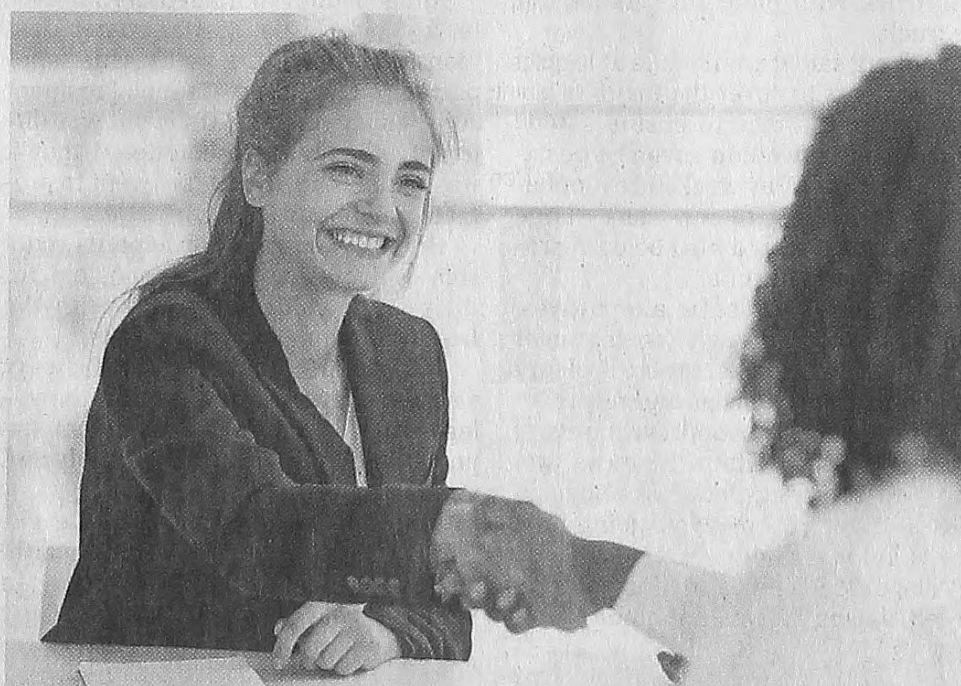
With everything so uncertain right now, it may be hard to see how your organization moves forward and where you should be focusing your resources. Many companies are concerned about the impacts of coronavirus and the economic downturn on their bottom lines, and the idea of focusing precious time and money on employee development may not be top of mind. Still, your organization should consider investing in your employee development right now. Let's take a closer look at why.

1. It's building your organization's future

Honestly, many workers are just happy to have a job right now, and many companies are content to stay afloat while navigating choppy waters. However, things will likely calm down soon, and as the new normal settles in you'll want to be prepared with the best workforce possible. Focusing on employee retention and development takes advantage of questions you're likely already asking, such as what kind of leadership is working for your organization, what you need from your employees, and what kind of changes are coming your way.

2. It improves your employer brand

Employee-focused organizations get more positive feedback from current and former employees. In a world where online word of mouth can be everything, this is how you appeal to the best talent. When your team knows that you're invested in their needs and their develop-



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ment, it builds good word-of-mouth and keeps great employees from seeking opportunities elsewhere.

Employee retention is one of the biggest challenges for any organization. If you're retaining your best employees and keeping churn low by meeting employee needs and expectations, it enhances your reputation as a great place to work.

3. It gives you more insight into your employees' potential

Part of any employee development program is assessing the strengths and weaknesses of your current employee pool and identifying both areas for improvement and for the potential for pro-

motion. This legwork helps build a pipeline of internal candidates for promotions or for open positions within the company.

Similarly, knowing any weak spots improves your fortunes as well – better to nip any issues in the bud at an early stage, when intervention can help you put the right people in the right places or move people away from areas where they're not going to perform well.

4. Engaged employees are productive employees

Employee boredom or restlessness is rarely a good thing in any organization. It either hurts productivity as employees start to become emotionally distant

from their jobs or leads to quality employees looking elsewhere for a more satisfying job. The feedback and data you get during an employee development audit and implementation are essential to help you find ways to keep employees engaged and invested in the organization's success.

Training programs, skill development programs, and asking employees for feedback are all ways to keep your workers from feeling disengaged or stagnant in their daily work.

5. Employee development makes good financial sense

Hiring is typically one of the biggest resource investments for any organization – searching for talent, interviewing, hiring, and onboarding are intricate processes that involve many touchpoints and significant costs. Having in-house talent you can use to fill leadership roles (or lateral roles in the company) helps cut down on the external hiring processes that you would otherwise need to do.

Whether you're trying to attract new talent to your changed organizational landscape or keep the great employees you already have, a strong employee development program can help you get where you need to be – both in the short term and the long term. The time and attention you focus on growing employee skill sets and supporting their potential are some of the most important strategic tools you have as a hiring professional.

Kate Lopaze is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com where this article was originally published. She investigates and writes about current strategies, tips, and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.

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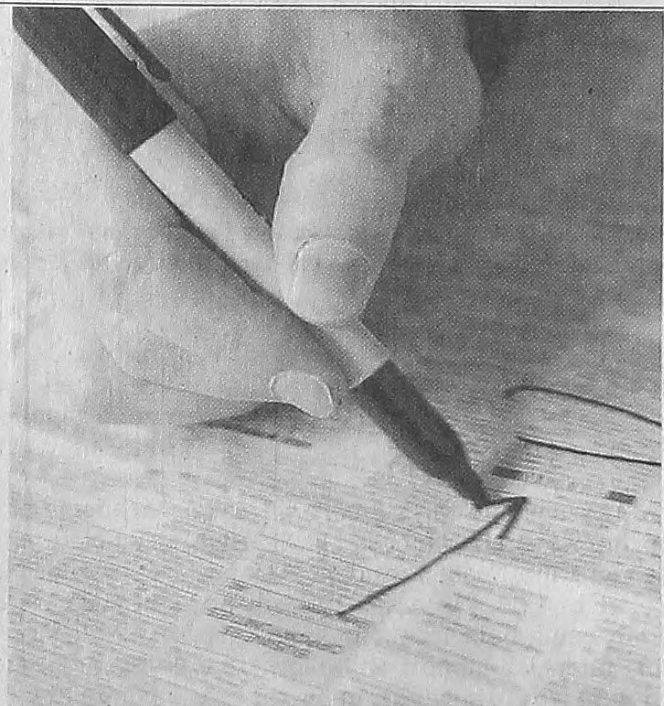
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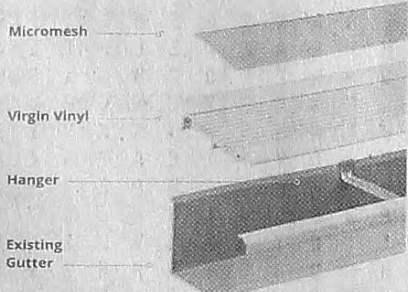
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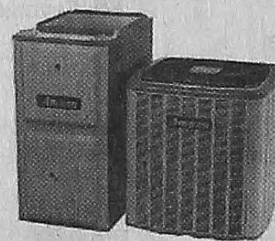
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