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**VIEW PHOTOS TAKEN BY MONROE COUNTY RESIDENTS**



SPORTS | B1  
**VIRUS FORCES CHANGES TO MONROE HIGH FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

# THE MONROE NEWS

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**NONE OF 13 ARRESTED MEN WERE FROM MONROE COUNTY**

## Local lawmakers: Governor kidnap plot 'shocking,' 'disgusting'

By Ray Kisonas  
 Monroe News regional editor and The Associated Press

LANSING – While more details about the kidnap plot against Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer have been revealed, lawmakers serving Monroe County said the case involving 13 suspects was 'shocking' and 'disgusting.'

"The planned attack against our governor and our state is absolutely disgusting and appalling," said State Sen. Dale Zorn, R-Ida. "There is no room for violence in our free society, and I denounce and condemn the groups responsible for this shocking plot."

County lawmakers in Lansing and Washington,



Whitmer

D.C., are all Republican, but party lines mattered not when threats of violence are made against the Michigan governor.

"The arrests of people who planned to carry out violence against the governor is shocking," said State Rep. Jason Sheppard,



Zorn



Sheppard

R-Temperance. "We can disagree on policies and politics but violence is never acceptable to settle those disagreements. Human life is sacred and I will never condone anything that jeopardizes someone's life."

Meanwhile, it was reported Friday that law enforcement

took steps to protect Whitmer and her family as authorities tracked the men who allegedly plotted for months to kidnap her, the state's attorney general said Friday.

Dana Nessel disclosed the detail to "CBS This Morning." She said the Democratic governor was consistently updated about the investigation over the past couple months.

"She was aware of things that were happening," Nessel said. "At times, she and her family had been moved around as a result of activities that law enforcement was aware of."

Authorities announced Thursday that they foiled a stunning plot to kidnap Whitmer in a scheme that involved months of planning and even rehearsals to snatch her from her vacation home before the Nov. 3 elections.

Whitmer's first term as governor does not end until 2022.

"We are grateful for the investigative work buy all the law enforcement agencies involved in the arrests," said State Rep. Joseph Bellino, R-Monroe. "And I am relieved Governor

Whitmer and her family are safe. Those who were involved should be held accountable for their behavior and prosecuted to the highest degree. There is absolutely no place in our society for such violent and threatening actions."

Six men were charged in federal court with conspiring to kidnap the governor in reaction to what they viewed as her "uncontrolled power," according to a federal complaint. Separately, seven



Bellino

others linked to a paramilitary group called the Wolverine Watchmen were charged in state court for allegedly seeking to storm the Michigan Capitol and seek a "civil war," including four who allegedly helped to surveil Whitmer's house.

The two groups trained together and planned "various acts of violence," according to the state police.

Surveillance for the kidnaping plot took place in August and September, according to an FBI affidavit, and four of the men had planned to meet Wednesday to "make a payment on explosives and exchange tactical gear."

"We thought it was time to move in before anybody lost their lives," Nessel said.

Whitmer, who was considered as Biden's running

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Emmy Fahrbach engages with peers during a classroom Zoom video-conference meeting. Emmy is a remote kindergarten student at Manor Elementary School. "Mrs. Taormina does a fantastic job helping her sweet kindergartners stay on track," said Kelly Fahrbach, Emmy's mother. [COURTESY PHOTOS]

## Having fun with change

Students still interacting in non-traditional school formats

By Caitlin Taylor  
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School during a global health pandemic has been marked by increased sibling camaraderie.

Well, that and pajamas.

There's a lot to be said about the changes to the 2020-21 academic year, but one glaring benefit is that every school day can be pajama day – at least according to fourth-grader Brielle Fahrbach, a Manor Elementary School student learning remotely.

Brielle and her sisters, Addy, a sixth grader, and Emmy, a kindergartner, now spend their days together in front of their computer, mingling with teachers and classmates through Zoom videoconferencing.

While the coronavirus pandemic certainly has halted



Jameson Layne, a fourth grader, and his brother, Sullivan, a kindergartner, are learning lab students at Waterloo Elementary School.

traditional learning methods for Monroe Public Schools, students still are enjoying their interactions with peers

See STUDENTS, A7

## Whitman Center a big focus for MCCC, president says

By Blake Bacho  
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Monroe County Community College President Dr. Kojo Quartey reaffirmed the school's commitment to the Whitman Center, its satellite campus located in Temperance, during a brief appearance at Bedford Township's virtual board meeting on Tuesday.

Quartey asked for the board's support as the college looks for Monroe County residents to pass a levy renewal of .85 mill that would last five years. The renewal request is on the November ballot, and if passed would help fund safety, accessibility, technology and maintenance projects.

Raising nearly \$5.5 million for MCCC within the first year if passed, the millage would help implement Phase 2 of the college's plan to address infrastructure and technology needs. This includes updates and maintenance at the Whitman Center.

"As you know, we're the only college in this county," Quartey said. "Our purpose is to embrace the entire county, and do as much as we can to educate individuals in our entire county."

Quartey highlighted several programs that run out of the Whitman Center, as well as the improvements that MCCC made to the satellite campus when it



Quartey

originally passed its millage request back in 2016. These include the installation of an emergency generator, overhauling the building's security system and replacing the roof.

In addition to continued structure remediation and renovation, the millage renewal would pay for the college to install an energy efficient geothermal HVAC system to the Whitman Center, as well as a new unisex bathroom. As for what the Whitman Center will be used for moving forward, Quartey said the college is currently conducting a survey of Bedford Township residents to see what they want out of the building.

"In terms of academics I talked with (Bedford Deputy Supervisor) Al Prieur and others in Bedford of perhaps having a place where individuals starting their own business, or interested in starting their own business may want to go there to utilize that space," Quartey said. "There would be resources available, and office space available. A criminal justice academy is something else we're thinking about."

"There's a lot of what we have planned for South County," Quartey continued. "South County is a very viable part of who we are as a college. I came here seven years ago, and from the very beginning said we would keep that place open and make it even more viable. With your help, we can do that."

Bedford Township

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OBITUARIES | A7

• Alvin Trent Van Houten, 93

# OBITUARIES

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## Alvin Trent Van Houten

Jan. 24, 1927-Oct. 6, 2020



Alvin Trent Van Houten, born January 24, 1927, dedicated husband of Jeanette (née Ostyn), loving father of Susan (Tim) of Palm Beach Gardens FL, Gary (Susan) of Kirkland WA, Thomas (Roxanne) of South Lyon, MI, Jeffrey (Philip) of Sonoma, CA, Jim (Linda) of Greenville, MI and Patricia (Chris) of Chicago, IL, passed away peacefully October 6th, 2020. He also left behind 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. He was surrounded in love with his family by his side. Al, a life-long resident of Carleton, Michigan was an avid outdoorsman, hunter and fisherman who's main joy was spending time with his family both at home and at his cabin up north. He also enjoyed the occasional golf game with friends and family. After

graduating from Carleton High School in 1944, Al was a sergeant in the U.S. army. He then went on to work several years at Detroit Edison. Al retired in 1988 after a 25+ year career as an Operating Engineer with Wayne/Michigan Disposal. He married the love of his life, Jeanette Ostyn, on August 28th, 1954, and from there they built their life together raising six adventurous children. He was a member of Carleton United Methodist and was known by all for his generosity and jovial personality. He will be missed dearly.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Carleton United Methodist Church. His cremation took place at "The Witness Crematory" located inside of Michigan Memorial Funeral Home (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646.

www.mimemorial.com

## County, city back college millage renewal

By Dean Cousino  
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Monroe County commissioners have given their nod to backing a renewal of a property tax levy for the Monroe County Community College in the Nov. 3 election.

Tuesday night, commissioners voted 8-0 to support a renewal on the ballot for five years (2021-2025) to levy .85 of a mill in taxes for a renovation and upgrade of the infrastructure and facilities at the campus off S. Raisinville Rd. The levy would raise \$5.5 million the first year and will go for projects to improve safety, accessibility, technology, maintenance and learning environment.

The City of Monroe also voiced its support for the millage renewal, unanimously approving a resolution backing the ballot issue during Monday's virtual council meeting.

"The Monroe City Council recognizes MCCC's importance in providing high-quality education opportunities at an affordable cost for students in the greater Monroe community, along with the numerous workforce development programs benefiting local students, residents, and businesses," the resolution reads. "The ongoing reinvestment in MCCC facilities is necessary for their continued success

in serving the education needs of the greater Monroe community."

Dr. Kojo Quartey, president of the college, requested the county board back the renewal as it did in 2016 when voters approved the millage for the first time.

"Four years ago you supported us," Quartey told commissioners during their zoom meeting. "We are your Monroe County Community College, the only college in the county. We seek your endorsement of this maintenance and replacement millage."

The president noted that the college's nursing program was ranked No. 1 in the state among community colleges.

Commissioner Dawn Asper said "it's not about cost, it's a return on our investment. They are tops."

J. Henry Lievens, board chairman, said the college has made "remarkable strides" in post-high school education.

"A four-year degree may not be the best to match people's talents and abilities," Lievens said. "You're helping people come out with a nice-paying job and not a six-figure loan."

Money raised since 2016 was used to implement Phase 1 of a plan to address infrastructure and technology needs. Funds raised from the renewal will be to launch Phase 2 of the plan.



MCCC's Whitman Center in Temperance. [MONROE NEWS FILE PHOTO]

## CENTER

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Supervisor Paul Pirrone said he and the rest of the board appreciate MCCC's commitment to keeping the Whitman Center open.

"You guys could have

closed the center five or six years ago, and you chose to move forward, and really bring it back to life and make it a place we all can be proud of," Pirrone said. "We're super proud of the work you guys are doing over there and the things that are happening, and we know it's only the start of what's to come."

Do your part. Please recycle.

## Whitey Ford, 91, pitcher who epitomized mighty Yankees, dies

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Whitey Ford, the street-smart New Yorker who had the best winning percentage of any pitcher in the 20th century and helped the Yankees become baseball's perennial champions in the 1950s and '60s, has died. He was 91.

A family member told The Associated Press on Friday that Ford died at his Long Island home Thursday night.

Ford had suffered from the effects of Alzheimer's disease in recent years.

Nicknamed "The Chairman of the Board," Ford was a wily left-hander who pitched from 1950-67 in the major leagues, all with the Yankees. He was among the most dependable pitchers in baseball history.

He won 236 games and lost just 106, a winning percentage of .690. He would help symbolize the almost machinelike efficiency of the Yankees in the mid-20th century, when only twice between Ford's rookie year and 1964 did they fail to make the postseason.

"Whitey earned his status as the ace of some of the most memorable teams in our sport's rich history," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "Beyond the Chairman of the Board's excellence on the mound, he was a



FILE - In this June 12, 2016 file photo, former New York Yankees pitcher Whitey Ford waves to fans from outside the dugout at the Yankees' annual Old Timers Day baseball game in New York. A family member told The Associated Press on Friday that Ford died at his Long Island home Thursday night. [AP PHOTO/KATHY WILLENS, FILE]

distinguished ambassador for our national pastime throughout his life."

Ford's death is the latest this year of a number of baseball greats: Al Kaline, Tom Seaver, Lou Brock and Bob Gibson.

Ford's death occurred in a month when he for so long soared on baseball's biggest stage, and hours before his Yankees played Tampa Bay in a decisive Game 5 of the AL Division Series.

"He would have been the starting pitcher in this game for the Yankees in years past," former teammate and World Series MVP Bobby Richardson told The Associated Press.

The World Series

record book is crowded with Ford's accomplishments. His string of 33 consecutive scoreless innings from 1960-62 broke a record of 29 2-3 innings set by Babe Ruth. Ford still holds records for World Series games and starts (22), innings pitched (146), wins (10) and strikeouts (94).

Ford was in his mid-20s when he became the go-to guy in manager Casey Stengel's rotation, the pitcher Stengel said he would always turn to if he absolutely needed to win one game. Ford was Stengel's choice to pitch World Series openers eight times, another record.

Ford's best seasons came in 1961 and 1963, in the midst of a stretch of

five straight AL pennants for the Yankees, when new manager Ralph Houk began using a four-man rotation instead of five. Ford led the league in victories with 25 in 1961, won the Cy Young Award and was the World Series MVP after winning two more games against Cincinnati. In 1963, he went 24-7, again leading the league in wins. Eight of his victories that season came in June.

He also led the AL in earned run average in 1956 (2.47) and 1958 (2.01) and was a six-time All-Star selection.

Ford did have his World Series disappointments. He spoke bitterly of the 1960 championship, when he shut out Pittsburgh twice but was used by Stengel in Game 3 and Game 6 and so was unavailable for the finale, won 10-9 by the Pirates on Bill Mazeroski's home run in the bottom of the ninth. In 1963, Ford was outmatched twice by Sandy Koufax as the Los Angeles Dodgers swept the Yankees.

Unlike Koufax, Ford was not an overpowering pitcher. Instead he depended on guile and guts, rarely giving hitters the same look on consecutive pitches. He'd throw overhand sometimes, three-quarters other times, mixing curves and sliders in with his fastball and changeup.

## STUDENTS

From Page A1

and teachers, area parents say, whether it be socially-distanced or virtually.

"The most interesting thing for all of the students, I'm sure, is adjusting to going to school during COVID-19," said Renee Layne, another area mother. "But my boys are so happy to be at school with their friends."

For the 2020-21 school year, Monroe Public Schools is offering three learning models as part of its strategy for mitigating the spread of COVID-19: student-paced virtual learning, remote learning with teacher instruction and in-person learning labs following a cohort model to limit virus exposure.

Layne's children, Jameson, a fourth grader, and Sullivan, a kindergartner, are enrolled in a learning lab hosted at Waterloo Elementary



Addy Fahrback is a remote sixth grade student at Manor Elementary School. [COURTESY PHOTO]

School.

All district buildings support about 15 learning labs, accommodating more than 1,000 in-person learners. The labs use a cohort model which pairs sibling groups with neighbors or other residents who, ideally, already were in close contact, to attend school together.

The learning lab students follow daily, structured schedules monitored by learning lab leaders and engage virtually with teachers and remote students. The cohorts also take breaks

"We have to wear a mask and social distance."

Jameson Layne, student

such as lunch and recess together, but the district generally keeps eight feet of social distance between students who don't live in the same household.

Learning lab students also undergo daily temperature checks and are asked to sanitize before entering their school building.

"We have to wear a mask and social distance," Jameson explained, adding that school is a little different than it was last year. "We also stay with our brothers and sisters all day."

He doesn't mind spending time with his younger brother, Sullivan, though, he said. In fact, he explained that his favorite part about the learning labs so far is playing with his brother and classmates outside.

Sullivan, a

kindergartner, said the most interesting part of school so far was meeting his teacher, Mrs. Perkins, virtually using Google Meet video conferencing.

Also in kindergarten, Josephine Webb, a Raisinville Elementary School student, is learning remotely at home, rather than attending a learning lab, explained her mother, Jenna Webb.

Remote learners still are assigned a teacher and interact virtually with other remote learners as well as students in learning labs. They engage with digital classrooms and sometimes small group virtual sessions.

Even remotely, one of Josephine's favorite parts about school, her mother explained, is interacting with her teacher and classmates, especially reading books.

Remote learners also are encouraged to spend time outdoors, Webb said, explaining that Josephine also spends time outside playing with his younger sister, who's not of school age yet.

## PLOT

From Page A1

mate, has been widely praised for her response to the coronavirus but also sharply criticized by Republican lawmakers and people in conservative areas of the state. The Capitol has been the site of many rallies, including ones with gun-toting protesters calling for her ouster.

"Grateful to our law enforcement agencies for their strong investigative work and that Governor



Walberg

Whitmer is safe from harm," tweeted U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Tipton.

"There is absolutely no

place in society for such threatening and violent behavior, and those who perpetrate it should be held accountable."

The FBI quoted one of the men accused of conspiring to kidnap Whitmer as saying she "has no checks and balances at all. She has uncontrolled power right now. All good things must come to an end."

That same man, Adam Fox, who was described as one of the leaders in the alleged plot, livestreamed a video to a private Facebook group "in which he complained about the judicial system and the state controlling the opening of gyms," according to the federal complaint.

Whiter closed gyms in March but reopened them in some areas in June and statewide in September.

Authorities said the

plots were stopped with the work of undercover agents and informants. The men were arrested Wednesday night. The six charged in federal court face up to life in prison if convicted. State terrorism charges the other seven men face carry a possible 20-year sentence.

Andrew Birge, the U.S. attorney in western Michigan, called the men "violent extremists." They discussed detonating explosive devices — including under a highway bridge — to divert police from the area near Whitmer's vacation home and Fox bought a Taser to use in the kidnapping, Birge said.

A few hours later, Whitmer pinned some blame on President Donald Trump, noting that he did not condemn white supremacists in last week's debate with Joe Biden and instead told a

far-right group to "stand back and stand by."

"Hate groups heard the president's words not as a rebuke but as a rallying cry, as a call to action," Whitmer said.

Trump tweeted that the governor "has done a terrible job" and again called on her to "open up your state." He also tweeted: "I do not tolerate ANY extreme violence."

Whitmer had put major restrictions on personal movement and the economy to control the spread of the coronavirus, although many of those limits have been lifted since spring.

The governor has exchanged barbs with Trump before on social media, with the president declaring in April, "LIBERATE MICHIGAN!" There is no indication in the criminal complaint, however, that the men were inspired by Trump.