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# Morning Sun

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Tuesday, April 9, 2024 \$3.25 [FACEBOOK.COM/MPMORNINGSUN](https://www.facebook.com/MPMORNINGSUN) [TWITTER.COM/MPMORNINGSUN](https://www.twitter.com/MPMORNINGSUN) [themorningsun.com](http://themorningsun.com)

ALMA

## Downtown tree replacement work begins

Project takes root after nearly three years of preliminary planning phase

By Greg Nelson  
[gnelson@medianewsgroup.com](mailto:gnelson@medianewsgroup.com)

After nearly three years of studies, planning, discussions and preparation the downtown Alma tree replacement project has started.

Department of Public Works employees began the process early Monday morning in the 300 block of East Superior Street between

Pine Avenue and Gratiot Avenue. Crews plan to complete one block per day on Superior Street moving west. On Tuesday work will take place between Gratiot and Woodworth Avenue, then from Woodworth to State Street and from State to Prospect Avenue on Wednesday.

Plans call for trees to be removed in the 300 block of North State Street between Superior and

Center streets on Thursday. Detours around the project areas will be set up each day but all businesses will remain open with parking available in rear municipal lots.

Crews are scheduled to begin work early each day with the hopes of finishing by 1 or 2 p.m.

This is the first phase of the tree removal project, which will

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Department of Public Works crews began the city of Alma's three-year downtown tree replacement project Monday. It will continue through Thursday with a total of 22 trees being removed during the first phase and 10 being replaced.

GREG NELSON — MORNING SUN

### 2024 Solar Eclipse



# THE DAY THE SUN DISAPPEARED

Once-in-a-lifetime celestial event captivates skygazers, astronomers, mystics and the just plain curious

By Sue Knickerbocker Field  
[sfield@medianewsgroup.com](mailto:sfield@medianewsgroup.com)

Ellie Ruble was a toddler during the solar eclipse in 2017, too young to remember it.

When the eclipse happened on Monday, Ellie and her family, residents of Mt. Pleasant, were ready.

Ellie, her brothers and her father, Jeremy Ruble, went to Veterans Memorial Library to get a few more pairs of eclipse glasses for the rare

event, and left with planet stickers and other eclipse memorabilia so they'd never forget.

Ellie, 8, recently went to an eclipse booth at a local science fair and learned how to make a pinhole projector to safely watch the phenomenon, but planned on watching with safe glasses with her family.

During the trip to the library to check out some books and collect planet, sun and moon stickers and other eclipse swag, Ellie sat down

in front of a huge screen to watch a NASA live stream during the library's "Total Solar Eclipse Through the Eyes of NASA" party.

Andrea Graham, who heads up family programming at V M L, handed out eclipse glasses to those who wanted to go outside the building near downtown Mt. Pleasant to get a look.

Because the weather was warm and sunny, Graham didn't expect too many peo-

ple to watch the live stream but was on hand wearing an eclipse T-shirt, encouraging everyone who came in to the annex room to learn more about solar eclipses through NASA.

"If the weather was bad, this would probably be the place to watch," Graham said, while telling visitors the event in central Michigan would probably only last five to 10 minutes.

Graham said the CRDL obtained a grant to buy 1,000 pairs of eclipse glasses to hand out at all library

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FERNANDO LLANO — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MT. PLEASANT

## Work set to begin on Town Center expansion

By Sue Knickerbocker Field  
[sfield@medianewsgroup.com](mailto:sfield@medianewsgroup.com)

A project in downtown Mt. Pleasant is expected to provide an accessible area for events, gatherings and social interaction while offering more parking and electric vehicle charging stations.

Construction is set to begin April 22 on the Town Center project, which will transform the area at Main and Broadway streets by closing the portion of Mosher Street that runs south and west of Main and Broadway, and adding 18 additional parking spaces, electric vehicle charging stations, an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant public restroom and other amenities.

Town Center will replace an under-used area into a "vibrant, multi-functional, and universally accessible area, encouraging year-round events, activities, and social interaction," Mt. Pleasant spokeswoman Darcy Orlik said Monday.

Expected to be completed Aug. 29, Town Center is designed to be a multi-purpose community hub with expansive green space and enhanced urban greenery, green infrastructure and sustainability measures that will be universally

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GRATIOT COUNTY

## Police: Wheeler man is killed in traffic crash

By Greg Nelson  
[gnelson@medianewsgroup.com](mailto:gnelson@medianewsgroup.com)

A Wheeler man was killed early Monday morning in a traffic crash in Gratiot County's Pine River Township.

According to a report for the Gratiot County Sheriff's Office, Duncan Clark, 30, was traveling west on M-46 and had stopped his motorcycle at the traffic signal at the intersection of Alger Road.

A pickup heading east was in the turn lane on M-46 and had a green arrow giving him the right of way to turn north onto Alger, the press release stated.

At that point Duncan proceeded through the red light and struck the pickup head on.

He was transported to MyMichigan Health in Alma where he later succumbed to his injuries.

The intersection was closed for about two hours while the investigation was taking place.

Deputies were assisted at the scene by the Alma Police Department, Michigan State Police Accident Reconstruction Team, Alma Fire Department and MMR.

ABOVE: The moon covers the sun during a total solar eclipse in Mazatlan, Mexico, on Monday.